

Planning



Sunday, November 5 – Saturday, November 11 • 2023

Learning Leaders

With the Matthean community, we hear the integrity of leadership is to ask questions and keep learning.

This Week...

Ecumenical prayer calendar

Fiji, Melanesia, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia, the Solomon Islands

As listed in *Pilgrim Prayer: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, edited by Ester Pudjo Widiastih and Karen L. Bloomquist. (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2018). <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> offers valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

Special day (commentary on p. 136)

November 11 – Remembrance Day (Canada, UK, Australia)

November 11 – Veterans' Day (USA)

Personal reflection

Each of us learns differently. Some of us are visual learners. Others are auditory learners or kinetically inclined. Others thrive in reading and writing so that when we encounter a story, it becomes real differently for each person. Play with the stories you encounter this week on the radio and from your neighbours. How might you paint it or sing it? How would you tell it through movement or write it on the page? What might you learn from this tiny shift?

The planning page is provided in text format for copying, adapting, and adding to your bulletin or online worship resources or website or social media (see Text folder, Worship Outline).

November 5, 2023

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 26 (31)

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Revised Common Lectionary (Year A)

Joshua 3:7–17

Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37

1 Thessalonians 2:9–13

Matthew 23:1–12

the focus in age-level materials



Seasons of the Spirit™
is based on semi-
continuous readings of the
Revised Common Lectionary.

Liturgical colour Green

The Season after Pentecost is a time to tell stories about God and who we are as Christ's disciples. Use the Storytelling Starters each week as an opportunity to encourage new stories. "[Living, Learning, Leading](#)" on page 137 is a reflective story that might be shared in worship, council meetings or small groups to wonder what we are learning as leaders in our church, family and community.

Online Resources

Lesson Connection

Essays and discussion prompts linking current events with this week's scriptures. Use for sermon preparation, Bible studies, and small groups or share on social media at <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/10/>.

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home


An easy-to-share, weekly online resource supports the spiritual lives and faith formation of individuals and families at home. It is provided in the [Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home](#) folder.





Joshua 3:7–17
 Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37
 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13
 Matthew 23:1–12
 the focus in age-level materials

Community-creating God, may we slow down enough to allow our actions to proclaim your teaching in our words and deeds. Amen.

 Seasons of the Spirit™ is based on the semi-continuous readings of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Learning Leaders

This week's scripture readings highlight leadership as a critical factor in the life of communities of faith. Leadership matters. Leadership is service. Leadership cultivates a loving community of equals. Disciples – learners and leaders together – grow as they love God and neighbour.

Joshua 3:7–17 Following the death of Moses, the story of the people of Israel continues under the leadership of Joshua. Joshua's leadership becomes significant. For everyone to cross the water into a new land and life safely requires shared responsibility. There are some challenging questions concerning the inhabitants of the land. However, we have strong depictions of the presence of God with the people and of effective leadership.

Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37 offers praise for the constant loving presence of God, even when the people turn away and forget the trust that resonates through this psalm.

Matthew 23:1–12 begins the final major section of Matthew (23:1–25:46), which has the overarching theme of the present and coming judgment of God. It is addressed to Jesus' disciples and potential disciples rather than to Jesus' opponents. The scribes and Pharisees represent the Jewish leadership in the time of Matthew's community and not necessarily in Jesus' time. It indicates the growing tension between synagogue and church in the latter part of the first century.

Particular critical attention is directed to those who "sit on Moses' seat." M. Eugene Boring reminds us that "'Moses' seat' is a metaphorical expression representing the teaching and administrative authority of the synagogue leadership, scribes, and Pharisees." They are not criticized because they know the Torah and its importance in their lives but because of their behaviours (*The New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes*, vol. VIII, p. 431).

The function of the priests ceased after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple. Still, Matthew suggests that demands placed on the people to live out their vocation as a priestly nation became focused in the wrong direction.

Instead of being a blessing, the requirements of traditions and rituals became too hard for ordinary people to fulfill. Jesus' expectations turned people to the life-giving and liberating direction initially intended.

The final criticism concerns the motivation for actions rather than the actions themselves – the desire to do something to create a good impression, not because it is the right thing to do. For Jewish people living in a pluralist society, it became important to be recognizable, distinctive, and unique for survival as a faith community. The increasing tendency to favour those identifiable leaders risked overlooking the "little ones." This was particularly challenging for the emerging, egalitarian Matthean community.

After these criticisms, the attention turns to Jesus' followers in the Matthean community. Take heed that you do not adopt those practices and deceptions, which undermine the community of equals.

The Matthean community are leaders in the Christian community. They are servant leaders. They do not look for accolades, titles, public recognition, social advancement, or promotions. Family heritage is not relevant. In the Christian community, all are children of God and siblings of Jesus the Christ. Leadership is known in serving the community, in the way Christ leads.

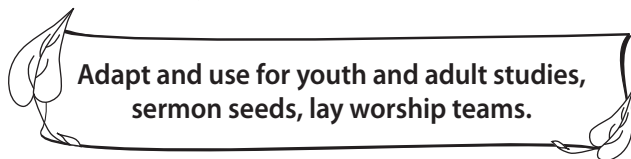
1 Thessalonians 2:9–13 offers a character reference of those who have shared the gospel with this community. This is not baseless boasting. The response of the Thessalonians confirms that their words and actions witness to God's work in and through them.

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This week's readings remind us of the countercultural nature of Christian leadership. To be a Christian leader is to attempt to be Christ-like in how we live. It is to be faithful to God alone. It is to live with integrity the way we proclaim when we teach. Who are the leaders we thank for their authenticity in living what they teach?



Reflecting on the Word



Connecting with life

“Who you are speaks so loudly I can’t hear what you’re saying” (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

In today’s digital world, leaders are closely scrutinized, and we can become cynical as what our leaders say can be drowned out by what they do.

- **What do you consider to be essential qualities, attitudes, and values for responsible leaders?**

Scripture

Joshua 3:7–17 describes the religious leaders acting together to enable the people to move into the new land where they are to establish themselves as a nation. It’s a picture of service, patience, and trust.

- **The priests had to get their feet wet (v. 13) before they could stand on a dry riverbed. What situations do you think are like this in your community or congregation?**
- **How have you experienced leaders working together to enable people to move into a new situation?**

Matthew 23:1–12 Clergy in many traditions are understood to have a symbolic nature to their role. It is part of the reason for liturgical robes, stoles, and clerical collars: to identify the order among the whole body that calls us all into faithfully living God’s Way.

- **For the clergy: What practices and approaches help you carry the burden of calling the whole people into**

faithful discipleship through your words and enacting them?

- **How do you identify and encourage lay people among your community to enact their leadership alongside their fellow disciples?**
- **For the laity: What is your experience of clergy modelling authenticity in teaching and living?**
- **How do you support and affirm your clerical and lay leaders as they seek to live what they teach with integrity? Is there something more you and your community could do?**

1 Thessalonians 2:9–13

- **To what extent did Paul’s leadership activities resonate with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 23:1–12?**

Connecting scripture and life

We are called to act in ways that reveal the way of God, and Jesus’ ethical and egalitarian way of living.

Our world is multicultural, multi-faith, pluralistic. In many places, church communities are struggling on the edges of society, where once they occupied a central and essential space from cultural, religious, and socio-political perspectives.

- **What questions are raised for you and your congregation or faith community about how to engage in an authentic way in the pluralistic society?**
- **In what ways do we learn from one another?**

Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

Again and again, Jesus showed us the power that stories can have. Stories can teach us and inspire us. They can challenge us and cause us to question. When we share our own stories, we find that more stories follow. We are eager to relate our own experience and make connections.

Jesus told us stories to teach us about God’s way. He used familiar metaphors and images for his contemporaries, but it was still a radically new way of perceiving and understanding the world around them. It was so different from what they knew; they needed help on how to live

in this new world. Likewise, we need stories to be our teachers. We need each other to find metaphors and images grounded in our experiences.

Using the story “[Living, Learning, Leading](#)” on page 137, worship offers an opportunity for more stories to be told and shared. There is space to wonder about how we learn about God’s way for an authentic life and perhaps even an opportunity to celebrate the teachers and storytellers in your community.



Learning Leaders

Prepare

NOTE: The following suggestions are mere starting points; adapt, delete, and add according to your local needs and context. If a community is gathered in person, they may speak the **bolded** lines. If worshippers are not all physically present, consider having a different individual say the bolded responses. Instructions are *italicized*.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing Matthew 23:1–12. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller to present “Be Yourself” on p. 138. Alternatively, for younger children, arrange for a storyteller to present “We Learn Together” in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials. For the reflective story, arrange for a storyteller to present “Living, Learning, Leading” on page 137.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space: bell(s), pieces of cord (30 cm/12 in) for each person to have one.
- ❑ You might choose to print Desert Dancing on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Images for Printing folders). See “Connecting with the Art” on p. 8 for background to the art and artist.
- ❑ Bring song such as “Pass It On” (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9, #7 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 9. Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/).
- ❑ Set stations as described on pp. 139–140.



Music Suggestions

Be God’s

Danielle Rose; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

Pass It On

Kate Abba & Julia Abrahams; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

The Anointing

James Maher; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9

I Want Jesus to Go with Me

African American Spiritual; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 6

Jesu Tawa Pano/ Jesus, We Are Here

Patrick Matiskenyiri; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 6

May the God of Hope

Argentine Folk Melody; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 6

Let’s Talk

Donald Schmidt; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 3

Live in the Spirit of Love

Ed Seabough; *Seasons Songbook*, vol. 3



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at www.seasonsonline.ca. Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

Gather

Call to worship

From the first days of all creation, your presence has been in every action.

May we be open to all things through you and recognize you in all our achievements.

In our steps together as a community and the steps we take where we feel alone,

may we be open to all things through you and remember you in times of need.

Throughout life, we are encouraged to look forward and not dwell on past actions: great or small.

May we be open to all things through you and reveal you, O God, in all we do. Amen.

Opening prayer

God, we carry your teaching in our hearts and our minds.

We carry your teaching in our hands and feet in service.

We carry your teaching on our lips.

Carry us now into the joy of new learning.

Carry us with your love. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Invite worshippers to take the cord in their hands during this prayer.

We carry with us Jesus’ teaching. We also carry heavy burdens tied up and laid upon and within us. We’ve tied up burdens like being someone we are not, or wanting something we don’t have, or doing things that hurt others or ourselves. Tie a knot in your cord as a sign of one of those burdens you wish to place before God.

Silent prayer.

When we walk alone with our burdens, Jesus’ good news reminds us to reach out and share the command to love and serve. Exchange your knotted cord with a neighbour. Pray quietly now for your neighbour’s burden. Ask God for new hope in the journey.

Silent prayer.



Worship Outline • November 5, 2023

Words of affirmation

Return the cord to your neighbour as we hear these words of assurance:

Friends in Christ, you never journey alone.
God works joyfully to lift the burdens and renew us
with love.

God forgives and calls each of us into greater compassion
for ourselves and our neighbour.
Friends, live in the spirit of love.

Sing song such as “Live in the Spirit of Love” in response to this affirmation (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 3, #31 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 3. Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/).

Engage

Opening the word

Introduction Consider the various ways we learn. What are the many ways that your congregation learns together? How do younger members engage in learning? These questions might be tied to leadership as they are in today’s lessons. Some may struggle to see themselves as leaders, but there are models to explore in this week’s scripture passage on how we can all be learning leaders.

Joshua 3:7–17 Joshua leads the people of Israel to cross over the River Jordan. They find themselves in a place where everything is new. How did Joshua invite the people to experience this new place? What possibilities for learning did Joshua hope they would find? What did he need to learn as a leader? Are there still things Joshua needs to learn?

Matthew 23:1–12 *the focus scripture for age-level materials in* **ENCORE**

Choose from the following.

Bible story Arrange for a storyteller to present “Be Yourself” on p. 138. Alternatively, for younger children, tell the story “We Learn Together” (in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials).

Reflective story As Rabbi Adam Morris writes in “Tell Me a Story about the Story” on page 77, a midrash centres on a question. “Living, Learning, Leading” on page 137 focuses on the question, “How do we love God, neighbour, and ourselves?”

Read Matthew 23:1–12 and then ask:

■ **How do we love God, neighbour, and ourselves?”**

Leave time for quiet contemplation before reading “Living, Learning, Leading” on page 137.

This is one story to answer the question, How do we love God, neighbour, and ourselves? There are many more stories. You have many stories. How might a story from your life answer this question? What might you learn from these stories? Allow some time for quiet reflection and, if desired, space to share stories with others from their reflection.

**If gathering in person, invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations.
Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word. For those participating at home,
you might encourage them to use materials that have been sent.**

Respond

Sing or listen to a song such as “Pass It On” as people gather again (*Seasons Songbook*, vol. 9, #7 on *Seasons Music CD*, vol. 9. Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/).

Prayers for All Saints

Ring of the bells

Dwell with us, O God, in the mystery of your great story.
We have loved, and we have lost. Mourn with us as we name
those who died this year.

Read the names of those that have died this year. As each name is read, a bell is rung.

Dwell with us, O God, in the mystery of your great story.
We have loved, and our hearts have grown. Rejoice with us
in the wonder of new life.

Invite names from the congregation of those born this year. Ring a bell as each name is offered.

Stories begin, and stories end.



The joy of birth mingles with the sadness of death, and your story continues to be told.
O God, dwell with us in this tender place.

Between this land and the next,
dance with us through every transition.
Amid tears of sadness and pain,
hold us in your love and invite us to share in your story.
Dwell in the fullness of our lives, O God. Amen.

Prayer of remembrance

We pray in remembrance.

We pray in hope.

We remember those who have died; leaders in this congregation, members of our family, cornerstones in this community, practitioners of justice and compassion in this world, the mighty saints of God:

O God, we remember this love.

Ring bells.

We remember their stories; shared with us at kitchen tables and by firesides, tucked into family Bibles and revealed to us in actions that spoke louder than words, some left only partially told and waiting for us to pass it on.

O God, we remember this love.

Ring bells.

We remember too the saints alive: leaders of children and youth, caregivers of vulnerable ones, keepers of peace; tellers of truth, seekers of good, servants out of the lime light; the ones who practice mercy in times and places that try mercy and patience; the ones who love, whether love is richly received or scorned in bitterness or ridicule.

O Spirit, we remember this love.

Ring bells.

We remember saints still to come: the ones who will rely on our witness, the ones who our stories will lead, the ones who will receive from our hands and stewardship, for good or ill; this island of life called Earth, and all its web of human relationships.

Coming Christ, we pray that our love continues into their story.

Ring bells.

Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

Holy Teacher, give us the wisdom to use these gifts to practice what we hear and teach. Give us the compassion to lift burdens that oppress and replace them with an invitation to loving service in your name.

Bless

Have people untie the knot in their cords and tie each end to a neighbour's cord. As "I Want Jesus to Go with Me" (Seasons Songbook, vol. 6) or another suitable hymn is sung, invite the congregation to lift the lengthened cord above their heads.

In the Spirit of the Christ, we are sent out as partners in service with others in our community and the world.

We are sent out to untie burdens and put on our response to Jesus' teaching.

We are sent out to lift off the yoke of oppression and sadness and put on the yoke of love.

Thanks be to God!

Special Day Commentary

**November 11 – Armistice Day/Remembrance Day/
Veterans' Day**

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the armistice – laying down of arms – was signed to end the first World War. Many nations continue to call this Armistice Day, while others name it Remembrance, recalling the sacrifice made by women and men in both World War I – “the war to end all wars” – and the many wars that have taken place since.



Living, Learning, Leading

A story reflecting on Matthew 23:1–12

Sarah Agnew

Ten-year-old Isaac, his parents and younger sister Mariam gathered with their community for prayer and stories. A teacher stood up to recite the commands the people had heard a hundred times before. Spoken among them, the people remembered what they knew to be true:

Love Holy One, our God,
with all you have and all you are,
all you do and say, all you feel and pray.
And love the people beside you
and before you, as you also
show loving kindness to yourself.

Later that day, Isaac and Mariam were with their mother walking back from their neighbour's house, having gone to check in after they had been unwell. The teacher was walking in the other direction, almost running, as much as he could, weighed down with bags, baskets, and boxes.

Hello! They called out their greeting to this man they knew and loved well.

But their teacher looked only briefly in their direction and did not stop or even call a greeting in return. Isaac and Mariam let out small expressions of disappointment, but not small enough that their mum did not hear.

"What's wrong, children?"

"We said hello to our teacher – see, he's over there – but he ignored us. He hurried on his way. It's not like him."

"Teacher is a very busy man. He has been helping with the repairs to the roof across the road and visiting with our sick neighbours before that, and now he is going to meet with the group planning the fete for next week."

Isaac stopped and looked seriously at his mum. "But he didn't say hello. He recited today again the teaching that we are to love the ones before us. We were before him. Look at Mariam, teacher made her sad by rushing away from us."

Isaac's mum was silent for a moment. Isaac had spoken with wisdom like this before, and it always invited her to consider the teachings again.

Isaac continued: "And how is all that rushing around being kind to himself? He looked tired, a bit cross, actually. Definitely not happy."

"Isaac, my dear son, you are right."

"Mum, can we do something kind for our teacher to help him remember what he teaches us all to do?"

Mariam piped up: "Let's make him dinner. We can take it to him tonight, but not ask him to invite us in – instead, we can tell him to have an early night and a good sleep."

"My wonderful children, what a generous idea. We have enough food for our meal tonight to share with our teacher. Let us go and tell your dad your plan."

Isaac and Mariam took their mum's hands and skipped, almost running home, to put their plan of kindness into action.



Be Yourself

Based on Matthew 23:1–12

For a long time, Jesus and his friends travelled from town to town. In each place Jesus went, he talked with the people who lived there. Sometimes, he ate with people. Sometimes, he would make sick people well again. And sometimes, he told stories about life.

Many people knew who Jesus was and wanted to be near him when he arrived in a new place. They gathered in large crowds to see what he might do and say.

On this day, a large crowd listened to Jesus as he talked about *some* religious leaders.

Jesus said that these leaders and authorities preach and teach good things. Jesus encouraged the people to follow what these teachers were saying, to *do* the things they taught.

But then, Jesus also said, “*do not* do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach.” Jesus was worried that sometimes the leaders would say one thing and then do another. They might ask people to lift and move heavy things, but they would not do anything to help. They would also make other people do all the hard work when no one else is watching.

Jesus told the crowds that some of the leaders wanted to show off in public. They would do good things just so that people would see them. The leaders wanted to be honoured, respected, and have the best of everything.

“Be yourself,” Jesus said. “Don’t pretend to be something you are not. Be humble. Be gentle with each other. And God will be happy with you.”

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



Bible story

Materials

- Recording of “Be Yourself”
- Alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story
- Paper or drawing pads
- Basic supplies

The practice of storytelling

Directions

1. Listen to the story “Be Yourself.”
2. Using the materials provided, draw your response to Jesus’ teaching.



Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space, or in other places around the church, in your home, or outdoors. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the directions for all to see onscreen or in person. Adapt stations for use when physically distancing and above all, follow the safe practices of your congregation and local health officials.

For your convenience, directions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.

Health and Safety Practices

Basic supplies pens, pencils, markers, crayons, white glue/glue sticks, scissors, handsanitizer, wipes placed in a basket or bin, two containers marked "clean" and "used"

Setting the space Utilize large spaces where people can maintain a safe physical distance. Spread out chairs around a large table or use tape to mark off the space around stand alone chairs.

Keep it clean Wipe down and disinfect places used for stations. Provide enough arts and crafts supplies to reduce sharing and mark containers "clean" and "used." Remind people to use hand sanitizer as they begin and as they end stations.

Other people and other lands

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Magazines
- Paper



**Suitable for all ages
working together**

The practice of storytelling

Directions

There are different attitudes and beliefs regarding land, just as there are different attitudes about people. It might be easy in Matthew to cast the religious leaders in the story as wrong just as we might be tempted to claim the Promised Land as our own in Joshua. How do our attitudes impact our relationship with God and others? What other stories might we need to hear?

1. Explore the magazines.

- **Who are the people on these pages?**
- **What stories do they tell?**
- **Where is their home?**
- **What lands do you see, and what might they teach you?**

2. Cut out some of the images. See how they relate and what story they might tell. Play with a scene from the story you are imagining by gluing your found images onto paper.

3. When you are ready, turn to another and tell the story from the collage you created. Listen to their story and then reflect.

- **What other stories might be told about these people and lands?**
- **How might you learn more about other people and lands?**

Teachers of love

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Paper or stationery



**Suitable for all ages
working together**

The practice of reflection

Directions

In 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13, Paul uses a parental metaphor for the way he shows love. Many others outside your immediate family may have shown you love and taught you what love feels like.

1. Reflect on the great teachers of love. Remember their names and their witness.
2. Choose one of these teachers to write a letter to share what they taught you about love. Share your gratitude and how you are showing this same love to others.

Younger children might draw a picture of when they are loved. Adults might help to label who those loving people are in their artwork.



Reflecting God's love

Materials

- Basic supplies
- Additional craft supplies, such as permanent markers, puffy paint, beads, buttons
- Reflective paper or mirrors
- Frames (picture frames or mat board)



Suitable for
all ages

The practice of creativity

Directions

Jesus encouraged the disciples to mirror and show Jesus to ourselves and others. It is always tempting to define ourselves by what we are not (as Jesus did with the scribes and Pharisees), but we might learn more about God's love if we focus on what it is rather than what it is not.

1. Gaze at your reflection in the mirror or reflective paper and wonder.

■ **What encouragement do you need?**

■ **What or how do you feel called to be in the world?**

■ **What love surrounds you?**

1. Using the materials provided, decorate your mirror's frame to remind yourself of the encouragement you need to love. Add words and symbols that empower you and free you to learn more about God's love.
2. Bring this mirror home and put it by the front door or on the fridge so you can find this encouragement each day.

Living learners

Materials

- Recording or sheet music of "How Then Shall I Live?" (*Seasons Songbook, vol. 1, #40* on *Seasons Music CD, vol. 1*. Printed music and recording are also available at https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/).
- Device or musicians to play



Suitable for
all ages

The practice of listening

Directions

1. Listen to the song "How Shall I Live?" and notice the thoughts and ideas it inspires.
2. Listen again and wonder:

■ **What do you see or hear that feels new?**

■ **What stories surface from this song?**

■ **What steps might you take to keep learning about yourself, God, or the world?**

The article "[Connecting with the Art](#)" on page 8 provides background to this season's posters and art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might add an Art station and select one of the art engagement ideas.



Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

We Learn Together

Based on Matthew 23:1–12

Long ago, in Jesus' time, people wanted to learn about living in God's way. Some important teachers also wanted to learn about living in God's way. These teachers *read* a lot about God, but they didn't *show* the people how to live in God's way. Jesus told the people: Learn from me.

The teachers *talked* a lot about God, too. But they didn't *show* the people how to live in God's way. Jesus told the people: Learn from me.

The teachers thought their job was to *teach* the people

about God's way. But *they* didn't do what they told the *people* to do. Jesus told the people: Learn from me.

The teachers were so busy telling the people what to do they forgot to love the people.

Jesus wanted the teachers to live in God's way, not just know all about it. We learn together. We can learn from Jesus, who talked about God's love and showed God's love.

Love God. Love people.

Action Rhyme

Jesus talked about God's love and showed God's love. We learn from each other in the many ways we show God's love. This rhyme tells about some of the ways we learn together. Plan some actions to go with each line.

At My Church

At my church, we sing.
At my church, we pray.
At my church, we smile and ask,
"How are you today?"

At my church, we love.
At my church, we care.
At my church, we smile and say,
"We would like to share."

At my church, we welcome.
At my church, we see.
At my church, we smile and know
where we want to be.



Jesus taught that it is not enough to talk about God's love; we show it in how we treat others.

Circle the parts of the picture that show God's love. Decorate the loving parts with markers and pencils.

