

Lesson 6 Student Guide – *The Legalists of Jesus’ Day*

Lesson goal: The goal of this class is to learn what Jesus said about the legalists of his time and how those lessons apply to the legalists of today.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 23

Think

What can we learn from Jesus’ reaction to the legalists of his day?

Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in the story?
2. What are the objects in the story?
3. Where did the story take place?
4. When did the story take place?
5. What is the problem?
6. What happened in the story?
7. Was the problem solved?

Learn

8. What is the main theme of the lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson?
11. What does God teach you to do in the lesson?

Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

Additional questions

13. What is the meaning of “You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel?”
14. In what sense were the Pharisees white-washed tombs?
15. In what sense were the Pharisees serpents and the offspring of vipers?

16. What was Jesus' overall condemnation of the Pharisees?

17. Verse 31 says, "But woe to you, experts in the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven right in front of people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor do you permit those who are trying to enter to do so." What does this mean?

18. Verse 23 says, "Woe to you, experts in the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give ten percent of your mint, dill, and cumin, but you have neglected the more important matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have done these things and not failed to do the other things." What does this mean?

Lesson wrap-up

19. What can we learn from Jesus' reaction to the legalists of his day?