



## Week 2: The Good Thief - March 8

### Lesson Overview:

**Bible Story:** Luke 23:39-43

**Additional Scripture:** Romans 10:9-10, Acts 16:31

**Main Idea:** No matter how late, knowing Jesus can bring redemption and eternal hope, as shown by the thief's last-minute act of faith.

**Today's Point:** It's never too late to follow Jesus!

### Bible Lesson Video:

[▶ The thief on the cross](#)

### March Worship Songs:

[▶ Yancy & Little Praise Party - It's A Happy Day- \[OFFICIAL MUSIC VID...](#)

[▶ "He Rose" with Actions](#)

## Schedule:

### **Warm Up Question (3 min.):**

What's a gift you'd be happy to receive, even if it got there late?

### **Review Classroom Rules (3 min.)**

### **Review giving and collect offerings (2 min.)**

### **Review point and Key verse: (5 min.)**

**Today's Point:** It's never too late to follow Jesus!

**Memory Verse:** John 11:25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

### **Play Songs (6 Min.)**

### **Introduction & Group Game: Last-Minute Leap (6 min)**

**TEACHER:** Good morning! Today, we will explore one of the most moving moments in the Bible, a story that shows us it's never too late to turn to Jesus. We're going to learn about a man who, in his final moments, made a choice that changed his eternity. This man is known to us as the Good Thief, and his story is a powerful example of faith, forgiveness, and the hope that Jesus offers to everyone, no matter their past. Just like the Good Thief, we can choose to turn to Jesus at any moment and be welcomed into His loving arms.

### **Setup:**

Create two distinct paths in your classroom or play area using tape or ropes on the floor.

Use the simple "decision cards" that present everyday choices, with one option leading towards selfishness or ease (My Way) and the other towards

kindness or challenge (Jesus' Way). Use the following examples or make your own:

Decision Card 1: Scenario: You find a \$5 bill on the playground. My Way: Keep it for yourself, even though you know it belongs to someone else. Jesus' Way: Turn it in to a teacher or try to find out who lost it.

Decision Card 2: Scenario: You see a new kid sitting alone during lunch. My Way: Continue sitting with your friends; it's more comfortable. Jesus' Way: Invite the new kid to sit with you and your friends.

Decision Card 3: Scenario: You're playing a game, and you have a chance to cheat without getting caught. My Way: Cheat to make sure you win. Jesus' Way: Play fair, even if it means you might lose.

Decision Card 4: Scenario: Your sibling accidentally breaks your toy and is scared you'll be angry. My Way: Get angry and refuse to speak to them. Jesus' Way: Forgive them and try to fix the toy together.

Decision Card 5: Scenario: You have homework and chores, but you really want to watch TV. My Way: Ignore your responsibilities and watch TV. Jesus' Way: Complete your homework and chores first, then watch TV if you have time.

Decision Card 6: Scenario: Your friend asks you why you go to church. My Way: You tell them because your parents make you. Jesus's Way: You tell them because you love Jesus and want to learn more about Him.

### **How to Play:**

- Divide the children into two teams.
- A member of the team rolls a die.
- If they roll an odd number, read the "My Way" decision and they have to move back one space (They do not get to start down their path until they roll an even number).
- If they roll an even number, read the Jesus' Way choice they go up one space on the path.

**Reflection:** After the game, discuss the choices made and how moving towards "Jesus' Way" brought them closer to the goal, symbolizing how choosing Jesus brings us closer to eternal life with Him.

## Object Lesson: The Last Minute Change

### Materials Needed:

- Two clear jars or containers
- Water
- Food coloring (preferably red to symbolize sin and blue to represent forgiveness)
- Bleach (to represent Jesus' power to cleanse us)
- A large spoon or stirrer

**Teacher Script:** "Good morning, everyone! Today, we have a very special story and a very special lesson to learn from it. It's about a man, known as the Good Thief, who made a life-changing decision in his very last moments. To help us understand this better, we're going to do a little experiment." (Show the two jars to the class.)

"These two jars represent two lives. Both have made mistakes, just like we all do. In our story, one of these jars represents the Good Thief right before he decided to turn to Jesus." (Pour water into both jars, filling them halfway.)

"Now, we're going to add some of this red food coloring to both jars. This red color represents all the mistakes, wrong choices, and sins in our lives."

(Add a few drops of red food coloring to each jar and stir, turning the water red.)

"As you can see, the water has changed color. Our mistakes have a way of staining our lives, just like this food coloring. But here's the amazing thing about Jesus—He's willing to forgive us and cleanse us, no matter what we've done, and no matter how late it seems."

(Now, add a small amount of bleach into **one of the jars** and stir until the water begins to clear up.)

"Look at that! The water is becoming clear again! This is what happens when we ask Jesus to forgive us. He cleanses us from all our wrongs,

making us new again. The Good Thief realized this in his last moments. Even though he had lived a life full of mistakes, he turned to Jesus, and Jesus forgave him."

(Show the clear jar and then the still red jar.)

"This jar now looks a lot different from this other one. It shows us that no matter how late in life, no matter how many mistakes we've made, turning to Jesus can change everything. He forgives us and makes us new, just like this water."

"Let's remember, it's never too late for us to make a choice to follow Jesus. He's always ready to listen, forgive, and give us a fresh start. The Good Thief teaches us that in the very last moments, a single sincere turn towards Jesus can change our eternity."

Now let's learn the whole story of the Good Thief.

### **Bible Story: The Good Thief - Redemption at the Eleventh Hour**

**Teacher:** Today, we will hear an amazing story from the Bible. It's a story about forgiveness, hope, and a last-minute decision that changed a man's life forever. This story takes place on a very sad but also very important day - the day Jesus was crucified.

Before we dive into our story, I want to ask you a question:

- Have you ever made a mistake and wished you could be forgiven? (Allow a few responses.)

Well, today's story shows us that with Jesus, it's never too late to ask for forgiveness.

### **Show Bible Story Video**

**READ: Luke 23:32-33**

Here, we find Jesus and two criminals being led to a place called Golgotha to be crucified.

- Can you imagine how scary and sad it must have been? (Allow for responses.)

**READ: Luke 23:39-43**

First, let's read about what one of the criminals said to Jesus.

- Why do you think he said those things to Jesus? (Allow for responses.)

Now, about what the other criminal, whom we call the Good Thief.

- What was different about the Good Thief's words to Jesus? (Allow for responses.)

The Good Thief knew he had done wrong, but he also believed that Jesus was the King and could save him.

**READ: Luke 23:43**

Jesus' response to the Good Thief is so powerful.

- How do you think the Good Thief felt when Jesus promised him paradise? (Allow for responses.)

Let's read another Bible verse to help us understand what happened in our story.

**READ: Romans 10:9-10**

This verse tells us that if we openly say Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved.

- How does this verse connect to what the Good Thief did? (Allow for responses.)

The story of the Good Thief teaches us that no matter what we've done, it's never too late to turn to Jesus. He is always ready to listen and forgive us, just like He forgave the Good Thief.

**Discussion Questions & Prayer**

**LEADER:** You all did an amazing job listening to our Bible lesson about the

Good Thief and how it's never too late to turn to Jesus. Your attention and eagerness to learn really shine through and that's something to be proud of! Now, let's dive a little deeper into what we've learned and talk about it together.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How do you think the Good Thief felt when Jesus promised him paradise?
- Have you ever had to make a last-minute decision that was important? How did it make you feel?
- Why do you think it's important to know it's never too late to turn to Jesus?
- If you could say something to Jesus right now, what would it be?

Now, does anyone have something on their heart that they'd like to pray about? It can be something you're thankful for, something you're worried about, or even a question you have for Jesus. You can share as much or as little as you like, and we'll pray about it together. (After sharing, lead into prayer.)

### **Review Memory Verse (5 min.):**

**Crosstown:** Review the verse again with the kids before going to color.

**Konnect:** Play memory verse game.

## **KONNECT ONLY: Memory Verse Activity: Erase the Verse**

Start by reading the verse out loud with the kids a few times. Make sure they're getting the hang of it.

1. Erase one word from the verse.
2. Ask for a volunteer to say the verse aloud, supplying the missing word from memory. This child then gets to choose which word will be erased next.
3. Keep doing this, erasing one more word each time and having them fill in the blanks from memory.

Bonus ideas: Speed up or erase more words to make it challenging. You can also split the kids into teams to see who remembers best.

## **Konnect Only: Teaching Skit: Last-Minute Soccer Goal (5 min.)**

**Setting:** A local park with a soccer field. The big game is about to start, but one team is short one player. The story revolves around a player named Jamie who arrives late but makes a significant impact in the last minute.

Characters:

- COACH TAYLOR: The patient and understanding soccer coach.
- JAMIE: The late-arriving soccer player, known for making last-minute decisions.
- ALEX: Jamie's best friend, always supportive but realistic.
- SAM: The skeptical team member.
- REFEREE: The game official, always watching the clock.

Suggested Props:

Soccer ball

Two goalposts (can be imaginary)

Whistle (for the REFEREE)

The Skit Begins:

COACH TAYLOR stands at the sidelines, looking at a watch. ALEX and SAM are warming up.

COACH TAYLOR: Alright, team! Today's the big game, and we need everyone giving their all. Remember, it's not about winning; it's about how we play the game.

ALEX: (Looking around) Coach, where's Jamie? We're one player short!

SAM: (Rolling eyes) Probably making another last-minute decision. Like whether to tie the left shoelace or the right one first.

(COACH TAYLOR chuckles, just as JAMIE arrives, out of breath.)

JAMIE: Sorry I'm late! I was helping Mrs. Patterson carry her groceries.

Then, I had to rescue a cat from a tree!

ALEX: (Smiling) Classic Jamie. Always a hero in the last minute!

SAM: (Skeptically) Well, the game's about to start. Let's see if those last-minute heroics work on the field.

(The game starts. Fast forward to the last few minutes, with the teams tied. JAMIE has the ball but trips, and the ball rolls away.)

REFEREE: (Blowing the whistle) One minute left, players!

JAMIE: (Getting up) Oh no! I've messed up our last chance!

ALEX: (Encouraging) Come on, Jamie! It's never too late!

(JAMIE rushes to the ball, dodges an opponent, and scores a goal just as the whistle blows.)

COACH TAYLOR: (Excited) That's the game! What a finish!

SAM: (Impressed) Wow, Jamie. Maybe there's something to this last-minute thing after all.

JAMIE: (Panting) It's like my grandma always says, "It's never too late to make a difference. Just make sure to show up!"

ALEX: (Laughing) Yeah, especially before the final whistle!

COACH TAYLOR: (Gathering the team) Team, Jamie's right. And it's just like in life and with Jesus. It's never too late to turn things around. Jamie made a choice to help, and then made the choice to not give up on the game. We can always make a choice to be on Team Jesus, no matter how late we think it is.

SAM: I guess every second counts in soccer and in choosing to follow Jesus.

JAMIE: (Grinning) Maybe next time, I'll decide to be early!  
(Everyone laughs as they group together for a team cheer.)

## **March 8 Crafts**

### **Konnect**

#### **3D The Salvation Story Sand Art Crosses**

[https://www.orientaltrading.com/3d-the-salvation-story-sand-art-crosses-makes-12-a2-48\\_5718.filtr?keyword=salvation%2bstory%2bsand%2bart%2bcross&rl=SEARCH\\_RESULTS&rm=RESULT\\_LIST&rt=GRID\\_ITEM&rp=1](https://www.orientaltrading.com/3d-the-salvation-story-sand-art-crosses-makes-12-a2-48_5718.filtr?keyword=salvation%2bstory%2bsand%2bart%2bcross&rl=SEARCH_RESULTS&rm=RESULT_LIST&rt=GRID_ITEM&rp=1)

### **Crosstown**

#### **5" x 4" Religious Easter Salvation Story Butterfly Craft Kit**

[https://www.orientaltrading.com/5-x-4-religious-easter-salvation-story-butterfly-craft-kit-makes-12-a2-48\\_9214.filtr?keyword=makes%2b12%2bthe%2bsalvation%2bstory%2bbutterfly%2bbible&rl=SEARCH\\_RESULTS&rm=RESULT\\_LIST&rt=GRID\\_ITEM&rp=1](https://www.orientaltrading.com/5-x-4-religious-easter-salvation-story-butterfly-craft-kit-makes-12-a2-48_9214.filtr?keyword=makes%2b12%2bthe%2bsalvation%2bstory%2bbutterfly%2bbible&rl=SEARCH_RESULTS&rm=RESULT_LIST&rt=GRID_ITEM&rp=1)

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**Bible Story:** Luke 23:39-43

**Today's Point:** It's never too late to follow Jesus!

**Memory Verse:** John 11:25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

Questions to Discuss with Your Children:

- How do you think the Good Thief felt when Jesus promised him paradise?
- Have you ever had to make a last-minute decision that was important? How did it make you feel?
- Why do you think it's important to know it's never too late to turn to Jesus?
- If you could say something to Jesus right now, what would it be?

