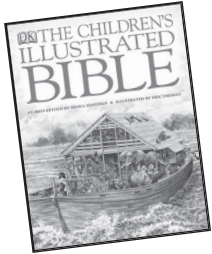


# Ordinary Time, Proper 21



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 209

Jesus told a parable. "A man had two sons; he told the first to go and work in the vineyard. The son said no, but later changed his mind and went. The father told the second son the same; and the son agreed, but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They answered, "The first."

—Matthew 21:28–32 adapted

Be of the same mind and the same love as Christ, agreeing with each other. Do nothing from selfishness or boastfulness, but be humble; think of others as better than yourself. Look out for the good of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ.

—Philippians 2:1–5 adapted



## Jesus Thinks and Acts

Share Jesus' parable about the son who changed his mind from Matthew 21:28–32. Show the photograph of a vineyard on page 209 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Ask:

1. How do you think the father felt when the first son refused to help him?
2. Why did the first son change his mind?
3. Why did the second son say "yes" when he really meant "no"?
4. Is there a decision you made this week that you would like to change now? Do you want to tell about it?

Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a lightweight ball to dribble and pass back and forth among team members from one side of the classroom to the other. Encourage them to try to "fake out" other team members by pretending to pass it to them, but then changing their minds to pass it to someone else. After the game, discuss:

5. Was it confusing to not know who the ball was coming to next?
6. Was it good when the one with the ball changed their mind? Why or why not?
7. Have you ever changed your mind about something? Will you tell us about it?
8. Was it okay to change your mind? (Yes! God loves you whenever you choose to follow. God gives us the freedom to consider our choices.)

## Jesus' Mind

Read Philippians 2: 1–13. What kind of mind did Jesus have? Before class, prepare a bowl full of gelatin, forming it in the shape of a brain (brain gelatin molds are available on the Internet). Think of this as Jesus' mind. Read valentine heart candies marked "love," "sweetheart," etc. If kids agree that these ideas were in Jesus' mind, insert them into the gelatin using a butter knife or chopstick. When the gelatin is full of "good thoughts," encourage kids to think of others with these thoughts. Invite kids to meditate:

1. Picture someone you care about. Is it easy to have Jesus' mind in you and love that person?
2. Picture someone who is difficult to love. Imagine Jesus' mind of love in you. Can you feel how much love Jesus has for that person? Can you love them, too?

Invite kids to literally have Jesus' mind in them! Share in the gelatin dessert.

## Jesus Acts

Have kids look up scriptures of how Jesus thinks, using the list on the KidsPage. Write the list on a chalkboard. Listen to "You Have the Power to Share the Light" readers' theater from the *You Have the Power to Share the Light* music CD. (See Resources, page III.) To create this readers' theater, the Power and Light editors chose scriptures about "power" and "light." They asked people from many countries to read them, added percussion, and recorded the CD. After kids have read the scriptures, have them create their own readers' theater about how Jesus thinks by reading the scriptures into a tape recorder or video camera. Add background percussion if possible. Share with the congregation.

## How Jesus Thinks and Acts

Did Jesus ever say “no” to God and then change his mind? Tell what happened in Matthew 26:39.

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The cerebrum, the biggest part of our brain, helps us do math, dance, draw, and think things out. How did Jesus use his cerebrum? Look up Matthew 5:44.

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Part of our brain is the sleep center. Do you remember stories of Jesus sleeping or resting? Look up Matthew 8:24. What was Jesus doing?

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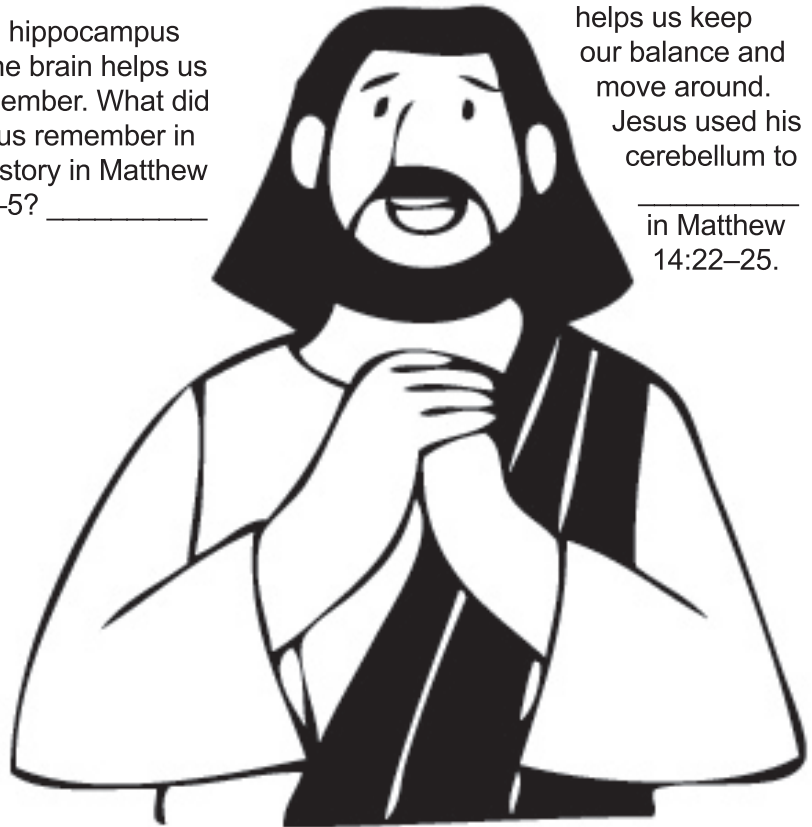
The hippocampus in the brain helps us remember. What did Jesus remember in the story in Matthew 4:1–5?

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The cerebellum helps us keep our balance and move around. Jesus used his cerebellum to

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in Matthew 14:22–25.



Jesus told a parable that God is like a landowner who asked his sons to work in the vineyard. The first son said no, but later changed his mind and went to work. The second son said yes, but never went to work. God wants us to be like the first son. It doesn't matter when you follow God as long as you do.

—Matthew 21:28–32 adapted

Be of the same mind and the same love as Christ, agreeing with each other. Do nothing from selfishness or boastfulness, but be humble; think of others as better than yourself. Look out for the good of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ.

—Philippians 2:1–5 adapted

## How Jesus Acts

Matthew 5:11–12

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Matthew 6:19–21

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Matthew 6:33

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Matthew 7:7–8

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Matthew 15:18–20

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