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The Teachings of Jesus

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**Sabbath School
Personal
Ministries**

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The Divine Teacher

Most of us can remember a great teacher who made a big difference in our lives. We admired and appreciated him or her very much. Some teachers continue to influence future generations. Outstanding teachers have influenced life and thought and are often honored by others. Of course, Jesus was the greatest Teacher of all.

The people who knew Jesus recognized Him as a Teacher. This is because Jesus showed that He was an excellent first-century rabbi. As was the practice of teachers at that time, Jesus would sit down to teach. He often quoted verses from the Bible and then commented on them. Finally, Jesus had a group of disciples (followers) who closely listened to His words and followed and served Him.

But there were differences between Jesus and the other teachers. Most teachers taught only about ideas and rules. But Jesus talked about life itself. He invited His hearers to make a decision not just with their heads but with their hearts in favor of God. Besides, those who heard Jesus “were amazed [surprised; impressed] at his teaching. He taught them like one who had authority. He did not talk like the teachers of the law” (Mark 1:22, NIV). Christ’s authority was more impressive because He practiced what He taught. But above all, His authority came from His own Person. He taught the truth because He is the Truth. As God (Jesus) became man, He said, “Thus says the LORD,” He would also later add, “but I say to you.”

This quarter we will study some of the main teachings of Jesus, as written in the Gospels. Our Savior taught many things dealing with our daily spiritual lives. He offered His teachings to different listeners. And He was careful to fit His method to the needs of each person. Sometimes He preached a sermon. Other times He talked with individuals (persons) or with groups. Sometimes He spoke openly. Other times He had to conceal (hide) the meaning of His words. But, in every case, He taught truth about God and salvation.¹

1. salvation—God’s gift of saving us from our sins.

There are many ways to organize and learn about the teachings of Jesus. For example, it is possible to study His parables² or to dig more deeply into His sermons. Another way is to consider His conversations (talks) with individuals or groups and His discussions with His enemies. It also would be interesting to study His actions, His attitudes (feelings), and His miracles. Jesus used these things to teach important lessons. Each way would be fruitful. But to have a fuller picture of Jesus' teachings, this quarter's lesson study will combine several ways of looking at what He taught. It will show how Jesus taught special topics by using different methods. These methods will give us a good understanding of most of His teachings.

When we open the Holy Bible this quarter and read Jesus' words, let us picture ourselves as His listeners at the mountainside, by the sea, or in the synagogue (Jewish place of worship). Let us pray for spiritual wisdom to better understand His message and His unlimited love shown on the cross. And as we hear Jesus' gentle voice calling us to follow Him, let us renew our promise to Jesus by being faithful and by obeying Him daily. As we spend more time at His feet, we will be the same as His two followers who were on their way to Emmaus. They asked each other, " 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he [Jesus] talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures [Bible] to us?' " (Luke 24:32, NIV).

***Jesus taught
the truth
because He is
the Truth.***

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2. parables—short stories that teach a moral or spiritual lesson.