




UNIT 1 – JESUS' EARLY MINISTRY

Lesson 4 To Receive or Reject

 **Text:** John 4:43-54; Luke 4:16-32

 **Bible Truth:** Some people accepted and received Jesus, but some people did not.

 **Central Truth:** What you receive is affected by what you believe.

 **Memory Verse:** John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

GETTING STARTED



1. The students will decide whether they will accept a certain kind of 'gift' or not.
Examples
 1. Your father gives you ₦1,000 to spend as you want.
 2. Some of your classmates have malaria and someone says you'll get it too.
 3. One of your teachers gives you the questions and answers to a test you're going to do the following day.
 4. One of your uncles buys you a bicycle for Christmas.
 5. One of your classmates, who has good manners, offers to be your friend.
2. Have pictures of something good and something bad, preferably for example: a picture of a good toy and a broken toy, a picture of good fruit and spoiled fruit, a family where there is love and a family where they are fighting. If you can't get pairs, then get random pictures. The children should pick the ones they accept and leave the ones they reject.
3. Have balls of different colours. Decide beforehand the colour to represent the 'bad' balls. Tell the children to pick all the balls except that particular colour and put it in the basket. The remaining balls, the 'bad' balls, will be put in the 'dust bin'.

THE WORD

Just as there are different things in our lives that we have to reject or accept, there are different types of people you have to draw close to you and those that you have to keep far away from you. If you reject the person that wants to do you good, you are the person that will miss out. There's a story told of a woman, who when getting down from the taxi did not know that her purse had dropped on the road. A beggar saw it and wanted to give it to her. She abused him calling him a thief and walked off. She didn't give him a chance to say what he wanted to say. It was later that she discovered her missing purse. With tears she started looking for it.

In the book of John we read about a noble man who accepted Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to heal. When his son was sick, he left Capernaum, where he was living, to Cana, where Jesus was. The journey was about 28km. Remember there were no cars in those days. He was able to see Jesus and he requested that Jesus follow him. However, Jesus said there was no need for him to follow the noble man, that his son was healed. The man did not argue, but went straight home. Just as Jesus had said, his son was healed. The noble man had accepted Jehovah Rapha. He had accepted him as a miracle worker. We need to accept the covenant keeping God, the God who created us for a purpose.

In the second story, found in the book of Luke, we read about Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth. He had things he wanted to tell the people there, things he wanted to do in their midst. However, because they felt that they knew Jesus, after all he had grown up in their midst, they couldn't see him as being a special prophet, not to talk of being the messiah. They rejected him and threw him out of their midst. As they rejected him, they also rejected the gifts that he had for them.

A pastor's wife once said that for some time she was not blessed by her husband's preaching/teaching because whenever he went to the altar, what she saw was her husband. The day she made up her mind to accept her husband as her pastor as well, she started being blessed by his ministrations.

Have you accepted Jesus as your personal lord and saviour or are you still living your life as you please. Have you accepted Jesus in all totality knowing that he came that you might have life and have it in abundance? Have you accepted your parents as God's authority over you or are you rebelling against them? Think about it.

MEMORY VERSE



John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

SONG – I HAVE DECIDED

I have decided to follow Jesus x3
No turning back, no turning back.

If no one joins me, still I will follow x3
No turning back, no turning back.

AT OUR LEVEL



- Get two or three children to share their salvation experiences.
- Share and get some of the children to share experiences of how Jesus or other people were rejected.
- Share and get some of the children to share experiences of how Jesus or other people were accepted and the benefits of accepting Jesus or other people in their lives.

CONFESSION



Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. I have surrendered my life to him. I accept all that he has for me. I accept divine health. I accept prosperity. I accept being the head in my class. I accept having wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. I accept peace and joy. I reject sickness and poverty. I reject failure and rejection. I am a child of God, blessed by God and blessed by those he sends my way.

REVISION



1. The memory verse for today's lesson is _____
2. In one of our stories today, who accepted Jesus as healer? _____
3. What kind of person was Jesus also considered to be? M _____ W _____
4. In one of our stories today, who rejected Jesus? _____
5. Why was Jesus rejected? _____

ACTIVITY – Varied



Do the worksheets. (Group work - about 5 people per group for levels 3 and 4)
Do the maze drawn on the board on printed on A3 paper (one teacher per group for level 2)
Draw a maze with chalk or use cones to demarcate a path for the children to walk one by one from beginning to the end.

IN CLOSING

Summarize the lesson and pray.