

About This Lesson Plan on the Parable of the Two Sons

This Actions Speak Louder than Words lesson plan on the Parable of the Two Sons helps us consider that we cannot just say we are Christians. We must also act. And we must sometimes have the humility to admit we were wrong and then do the right thing.

Opening Game for Actions Speak Louder than Words

Start this lesson plan on service by playing [Charades \(see the complete instructions and words to use\)](#).

Follow up with a couple of questions:

- Did you find it difficult to communicate using only actions?
- Which was the most difficult word or phrase? Which was the easiest?
- What makes it so much easier to use words instead of actions?

Most of us prefer using words to communicate. Using actions is more difficult. But sometimes actions speak louder than words.

Imagine you, Will, and Rita are working on a long term group project for school. You are dividing up the tasks which must be done this week. When you give Will his assignment, he tells you that he is going to be really busy for the next few days and won't have time to do it. Ugh! That means more work for you. You give Rita her assignment and she tells you she understands it and will get it done right away.

The next day, Will calls you and says "I realize that was really unfair for me not to do any of the work for this week. I'll take care of part of the assignment." You talk it over and he takes one of the more difficult tasks.

The day before the work is due, the three of you have a meeting to put your work together. You have your work done. Will has completed his task. Rita says, "I never did it. We had a big family event over the weekend and I was tired."

How do you feel about Will and Rita's contributions to the project?

Scripture Reading for Lesson Plan on the Parable of the Two Sons

[Matthew 21:28-32](#) (The parable of the two sons) – the Gospel Reading for the [26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A](#)

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion?"

A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

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He said in reply, 'I will not, ' but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

[Matthew 21:28-32](#)

Discussion for Actions Speak Louder than Words Lesson Plan

We've likely all faced a situation where someone promised to do something but didn't deliver. It's a frustrating experience, and it often leaves us questioning the reliability of the person involved.

The crux of the issue is that their actions don't match their words. This disconnect can cause tension and undermine trust, reinforcing the idea that actions often convey messages more clearly and honestly than words do.

- How does it make you feel when somebody promises to do something and then doesn't do it?
- What are some of the things we promise to do as Christians which are difficult to carry out?

Maybe some of us have been in situations where we initially made a poor decision but then thought better of it and corrected course. It could have been anything from neglecting an important task to engaging in behavior that we knew was not in line with our values. The moment of realization that follows such choices is often accompanied by a mix of relief and a renewed sense of responsibility.

Opting to reverse course can be difficult; it often means admitting to ourselves that we were on the wrong path, which takes humility and courage. However, making that pivot to do the right thing ultimately proves fulfilling, reinforcing the adage that actions speak louder than words. It shows a willingness to align our actions with our beliefs, even if initially we had strayed.

- Is it difficult to admit you were wrong and try to make it right? Why?
- How can the sacraments of the Church help you with this?

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As Christians, the call to be “doers of the Word” is not merely a suggestion but an integral part of our faith journey. This means that internalizing the teachings of Jesus Christ is only half the battle; the other half involves putting those teachings into tangible action. It’s not enough to attend services, read scripture, or even pray if those activities don’t lead to meaningful change in how we interact with the world around us. The challenge is in taking the principles of love, compassion, and justice that we learn about and making them a lived experience.

The aim is to close the gap between our spiritual aspirations and our everyday actions. This real-world application of faith underscores the concept that actions speak louder than words, as it manifests our beliefs in concrete ways that can positively impact our communities and even ourselves.

Small Group Reflection Questions for the Service Lesson Plan

- What are some concrete ways you can act on your faith this week?
- How will these things help your community?
- How will these things help your faith grow?
- Are you willing to change in order to make your community a better place for everyone?

Challenge for the Actions Speak Louder than Words Lesson Plan

Choose one specific action you’d like to focus on this week to actively express your faith. It could be anything from helping a neighbor to spending more time in prayer. Then, summarize that action into a single word that encapsulates its essence.

Write this word on a prayer rock and make it a point to carry the rock with you throughout the week. The physical presence of the rock serves as a tangible reminder to act on your faith, reinforcing the lesson that actions speak louder than words.

(See the [prayer rock](#) activity for specific instructions)

Prayer for the Lesson Plan on Actions Speak Louder than Words

To wrap up our lesson plan, we’ll engage in a One Word Spontaneous Prayer Circle. This is a focused and interactive way to connect with each other and with God, as we each contribute a single word that encapsulates our thoughts or feelings.

Conclude by praying in a [One Word Spontaneous Prayer Circle](#).

Resources

[Learn how to help others follow Jesus](#)

[Learn to follow Jesus more closely](#)

[More Themes](#)

[Background Material](#)

[Music Suggestions](#)

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