



WHO IS JESUS?

Young Preschool • Introduction • June 4, 2023

Concept

Jesus is the only way to be friends with God.

Goal

Children will be introduced to the teachers, learn the class rules and learn that Jesus is the only way to God. They will learn about how He wants to be their friend.

Passage

Key Verse: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Activity Station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Read Aloud Bible Stories VOL. 1, Ella K. Lindvall</i>	Learning Activity #3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Printed cross/Jesus & Children, 1/childIvory and brown construction paper die-cut footprints, 2 set/childMarkersCrayonsGlue sticks

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"I first got acquainted with Jesus when I was a child, singing 'Jesus Loves Me' in Sunday school, addressing bedtime prayers to 'Dear Lord Jesus,' watching Bible Club teachers move cutout figures across a flannelgraph board. I associated Jesus with Kool-Aid and sugar cookies and gold stars for good attendance.

"... I recalled the Sunday school image of Jesus that I grew up with: someone kind and reassuring, with no sharp edges at all—a Mister Rogers before the age of children's television. As a child I felt comforted by such a person.

"Later, while attending a Bible college, I encountered a different image.... Here was the cosmic Christ, the One in whom all things inhere, the still point of the turning world. This world figure had come a long way from the lamb-toting shepherd of my childhood...

"... It dawned on me that virtually all portrayals of Jesus, including the Good Shepherd of my Sunday school... and Jesus of my Bible College, showed him wearing a mustache and beard, both of which were strictly banned from the Bible college. Questions now loomed that had never occurred to me in childhood.

"... Jesus favored those who would have been kicked out of Bible college and rejected by most churches. Among his contemporaries he somehow gained a reputation as a 'wine-bibber and a glutton.' Those in authority, whether religious or political, regarded him as a troublemaker, a disturber of the peace. He spoke and acted like a revolutionary, scorning fame, family, property and other traditional measures of success. I could not dodge the fact the words... from Matthew's gospel... did not fit my prior conception of Jesus."

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

The week before class: Pray that the Spirit will prepare you to interact with the children in a way that makes them feel comfortable with you. Pray that He will help your team to get off to a good start!

Activity Stations:

- **Story - "The Boys and Girls and Jesus"**
 - **Instructions:** Read the story from the Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol.1, pg. 65-93. Talk with the children about how much Jesus loves each one of them and wants to be their best friend.
- **Action Poem - "Good Friend"**
 - **Instructions:** Repeat the poem and have the children copy the named motions as you say each verse.

Good friend, good friend, turn around.

Good friend, good friend, wink one eye.

Good friend, good friend, touch the ground.

Good friend, good friend, slap your knees.

Good friend, good friend, reach up high.

Good friend, good friend, sit down please.

Introduction Lg. Group

Discipline and Procedure Plans

Instructions: "The most successful classes are those where the teacher has a clear idea of what is expected from the students and the students know what the teacher expects from them."

To head off potential discipline problems, class expectations, rules, and procedures must be communicated on the first day and consistently communicated and enforced throughout the year. It is essential that your team meet and together agree on simple, clear rules and specific expectations, e.g., keep hands, feet and objects to yourself, listen when others are talking, and respect others. You have only two or three minutes to explain the expectations to the children. To add some humor and clear understanding to your presentation, you can role-play appropriate behavior. Clearly explain the consequences of inappropriate behavior (see OASIS Volunteer Handbook) and, as a team, be prepared to consistently follow through. These rules and consequences will need to be repeated over and over during the year.

Example: God has given us the wonderful job of teaching you about Him! So you can learn all that God has for you, you need to be good listeners (put hands up behind ears) while others (point to another) are talking, to cooperate (nod head, yes) and to be good friends (shake hands with the children) to each other.

Let's all sit in a circle so we can get to know everyone's name.

Transition

Learning Activity#1

Transition

Learning Activity#2

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity#3

Introductions

Instructions: Have a teacher walk around the outside of the circle, stop and tap a child or a teacher on the head. The child/teacher will stand up and say his/her name, the other children will say, "Hi, <<name>>." If the child wants, he or she can be the next one to tap a child on the head or he/she can choose another child. Continue as long as attention spans will permit or until all the children have been identified.

Now that we know each other let's get up and say the poem again.

Sensory Play Activity – Good Friend

Instructions: Have the children follow as you repeat the poem above in the Activity Station.

Let's all sit down to find out what we will do this year.

This year we are going to have lots of fun together. We will play games, read stories, make crafts, and sing songs as we learn about Jesus. The most important thing we need to know about Jesus is that He came to live here on earth so that we can be friends with God. You and I make bad choices every day. That's why Jesus came to earth. He came to take the punishment we all deserve for our bad choices. Jesus is the only way to be friends with God and if you ask Jesus to forgive your for your bad choices, He will. And you will become God's friend forever.

Let's pray now and thank God for our friends and especially for Jesus. Let's thank God that Jesus came to earth to die for our sins. In Oasis, we are going to be learning a lot about God this year! So questions are encouraged!

Let's make a picture to remind us that Jesus is the only way to be friends with God.

Craft – The Only Way to God

Instructions: Give each child a printed sheet and some footprints. Glue the footprints on the picture and color as desired. As the children work talk with them about the great love that sent Jesus to the cross. Because Jesus died on the cross, Jesus is the only way to be friends with God.