



WHO IS JESUS?

Preschool-K • 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 know that 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/childMarkersCrayonsBrown and ivory construction paper die-cut feet, 2 pairs/child

*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."^[1]

[1] Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, © 1995 Philip Yancey, Zondervan Publishing House, pp. 13-15.

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 with the children.

Activity Stations:

- **Story – "The Boys and Girls and Jesus"**
 - **Instructions:** Read the story from the Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 1, pp. 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: We will focus on classroom management using the tools and resources found at <http://www.loveandlogic.com>. Love and Logic® is a philosophy of working with students that was developed in 1977 by Jim Fay and Foster Cline, M.D. (some men who were desperately trying to figure out how to deal with kids who don't want to be in school). Love and Logic provides many tools that promote healthy parent/teacher and teacher/student relationships and positive classroom discipline. It is important that together your team develops a short list of expectations, describing how you will run your classroom. When developing this list, be certain that you can actually enforce these expectations. In other words, avoid making threats that you cannot back-up, such as "Keep your hands to yourself" or "Be quiet when I'm teaching." Use what is termed "Enforceable Statements" (<http://www.loveandlogic.com/documents/turn-your-word-into-gold-school.pdf>) to set these Love and Logic limits and expectations in your classroom. This will take some time to think through, but will be well worth it in the weeks to come if it is established now rather than in response to the frustration of chaos in your classroom!

Once you have your list of expectations, post it in your room. You do not need to come up with or warn students about specific consequences in advance. It is far better to respond to each problem in an individualized manner, depending upon the unique situation.

Introduction Continued

Below is what is used in the Dwell Schools preschool:

- Hands to own body (essentially your own body to your own body: hands, feet, arms, spitting, etc.)
- Inside voices
- Walking feet
- Take turns (w/ toys, sharing their words, sharing our classroom jobs)
- Take care of toys (keeping them in centers where they belong, using them in a safe way, everyone cleans up)

"Posted above the rules chart and by the light switch is a picture of a head profile with a hand cupped around the ear and the word "listen" on the bottom. When we're sitting on the ABC rug or I turn off the lights this picture reminds them that it is my turn to talk/teach/give instructions and it's their turn to listen & learn. It's always a great day for learning! Yes, I really do tell them this!"

Richard the Rule Minder is a visual available in your classroom to utilize to remind the children of the expectations every week.

God has amazing things to teach you this year. 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 and pat them on the head) to each other.

Let's sit in a circle so we can learn everyone's name.

Getting to Know You

Instructions: A teacher will walk around the outside of the circle. The teacher will touch a child or teacher's head, the person will say his/her name and the rest of the group will say, "Hi, <<name>>." The child may then be the one to choose the next child. Continue until each child has been named.

Let's talk about what we are going to do this year.

This year we are going to have lots of fun together. We'll 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 why He came to live here on earth. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). That means that Jesus is the only way to be friends with God. Because we sin and make bad choices we cannot be friends with God. Jesus came to earth to take the punishment we all deserve for our bad choices. When Jesus died on the cross He paid for all of our sins. Jesus is the only way to be friends with God. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for our bad choices, He does and then we become God's friends forever.

Transition

Learning Activity#1

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Transition

Learning Activity# 3

We're going to get into small groups to pray together.

Let's pray now and thank God for new friends and especially for Jesus and what he did. Let's pray for our time together this year in this classroom- that it we would all learn more about God and have lots of fun!

Let's make a book 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 2 sets of footprints. Fold the sheet in half to make a book with Jesus on the cover. Color as desired. Glue footprints on the path from Jesus to the cross. As the children work talk with them about the great love that sent Jesus to the cross and that Jesus is the only way to be friends with God.