

WHO IS JESUS?

LESSON 1: JESUS IS GOD'S SON

In this lesson the children discover that Jesus was a child just like them, but He was also God's one and only Son. The children will also learn how God shows love for His Son and how He loves us just as much.

TOPICS

Family, God's Love, Jesus, Knowing Jesus, Love

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Have paper and crayons ready for when the children arrive. Have them draw a picture of any baby animal. You may also want to have some pictures of animals on display as a reference for the children. After they all draw a baby animal, tell them to draw a father for the baby on the same page. When finished, ask the following discussion questions:

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the role of the father in your animal's family? *(To love, protect, guide, and provide.)*
2. What is the role of the baby in your animal's family? *(To love, listen, obey, and follow.)*
3. How are these traits the same or different in a human family? *(Allow for answers. Children are commanded by God to listen, obey, respect, and honor their parents.)*
4. Do you think Jesus listened, obeyed, and honored God? *(Yes.)*
5. In what ways did Jesus show that? *(Allow for answers.)*

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

BIBLE VERSE (7 minutes)

"He was with God in the Beginning" John 1:2 NIV

Have the children repeat this short verse several times. Then discuss each part.

1. Who is He in the verse? *(Jesus)*
2. Who was Jesus with? *(God)*
3. When was Jesus with God? *(From the very beginning.)*
4. Jesus and God were together in the beginning. When or what was the beginning? *(Even before the world was created.)*

Finish by have the children say the verse again from memory.

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

We don't know too much about Jesus' childhood. When He was about twelve years old, his parents found him left behind at the temple after a family trip to Jerusalem. However, the next time we hear about Jesus is when He is around 30 years old. During this time, John the Baptist is baptizing people in the Jordan River. He is telling the people to turn from their evil ways, and get ready, because someone who is more powerful and more worthy is coming soon. John said

that this person will not baptize people with water, but He will baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Of course, John is talking about Jesus.

Read Matthew 3:13-17 (Jesus is Baptized)

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus come to the Jordan River to do? (*Be baptized by John the Baptist.*)
2. What opened up as soon as Jesus was baptized? (*Heaven.*)
3. How did the Spirit of God appear as it came to land on Jesus? (*Like a dove.*)
4. Who spoke from Heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love?" (*God.*)
5. Was God pleased that His Son came to earth? (*Yes.*)

FUN TIME (15 minutes)

Descending Dove (Craft)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (5 minutes)

Love of the Father (Object Talk)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

Start by praying and thanking God for His Son. Thank Jesus for obeying and honoring God and being a good example to children. Provide graham crackers as snacks for the children. Give each child two graham crackers. Have them all think of an animal and then take bites out of the graham cracker squares to make a father and a baby of that animal. As you enjoy the snacks, talk about the relationship's parents have with their children.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

Have the children form two rows and line up back-to-back with another child. If you have an odd number of children, the teacher can fill in for one child. Have each pair of children stand with their backs touching.

Explain that when you say, "Go!" they are to turn to face each other, and the tallest person must quickly ask, "**Who is Jesus?**" The other child will quickly answer, "**He is God's Son!**"

Then, the children turnaround so they are back-to-back again. For the next round, you can choose another criterion, such as the child with the darkest hair or the biggest shoes, to determine the one to ask the question or give the answer. Play several times. As an option, have the children line up occasionally with a different partner.

NEXT WEEK

This lesson series is called "Who is Jesus?" Today, we discovered that Jesus is God's Son. However, there is much more to learn about Jesus. You don't want to miss our next Sunday school class.