

I WANNA BE LIKE JESUS

LESSON 2: NEEDING GOD

In this lesson, the children will learn that they need God. God is the Creator of everything, and without Him we would have nothing.

TOPICS

God's Love, Knowing Jesus, Protection, Provision

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Provide crayons or markers and blank sheets of paper. Have the children draw a picture of their favorite pet. If they do not have a pet, they can draw a picture of a pet they would like to have. Display pictures on the wall.

As the children draw their picture, ask the following questions:

1. Who takes care of your pet?
2. Who gives love to your pet?

All pets actually belong to God. We get to take care of them and give them love, but God created them.

We belong to God too. Your parents belong to God. We all need God. We all need His care, His power, and His love. As our pets need us, all of us need God.

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children" Ephesians 5:1 NLT

As the children continue to memorize this verse, discuss what it means to be God's dear children. Because we belong to God, how should we act and behave.

FUN TIME (7 minutes)

We Need God (Activity)

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

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

Introduction:

How many of you like grapes? Do you like green grapes or red grapes? Well, today, after our Bible story, we will have a special treat. But first, let's find out why we even have grapes. Jesus uses the grape plant to compare our relationship to God. Jesus says that He is like the strong vine of the grape plant, and we are like the branches. He says that God is like the gardener, who takes care of the grape plant. The gardener takes good care of the grape plant so the vine has many healthy branches. When the gardener does this, what do those branches produce? You're right! They produce juicy grapes. Let's see how Jesus tells this to His disciples.

Read John 15:1-8 (The Vine and the Branches)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who does Jesus say is like the gardener? (*God.*)
2. Who does Jesus say is like the vine? (*Jesus.*)
3. Who does Jesus say is like the branches? (*You and me.*)
4. Do you think it would be possible for a branch to grow grapes if it were sliced off from the vine? (*No.*)
5. What do we get because the gardener (God) takes good care of the vine and branches? (*Many grapes.*)
6. Do we need God to bear fruit? (*Yes.*)
7. True or false: Jesus says that if we stay connected to Him and obey God's Word, we can ask for anything that will bring glory to God, and it will be given? (*True, verse 7,8.*)

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

The Three-Legged Fox (Story)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (8 minutes)

Cactus Needles (Object Talk)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

For today's snack, have either grapes, grape juice and cookies, or other products made from grapes, such as grapefruit roll-ups. After giving thanks to God for creating so many delicious things we can eat or drink, continue discussing how we need God to grow and serve Him, just like the grape branch needs the vine for nourishment.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

As the children are waiting to be picked up, give them crayons or markers and more blank sheets of paper. Have them draw the different ways that God takes care of them and their family.

STORY TELLING TIPS

Story telling is an old age art that most any one can do. To become a really good storyteller takes practice. These tips will help you become a better storyteller.

When my child was a preschooler, she loved going to the library with me for story time. She sat quietly and listened to the storyteller as if she were one of the characters in the book the storyteller read. The children giggled, covered their eyes, and yelled in unison. They were excited about the story. Until my daughter attended story time, I did not realize how storytelling could be such a powerful medium to communicate with children. A great story can give a child a realistic picture right from his or her own imagination that lasts forever.

Storytelling can be done effectively through a range of visual and vocal emotions. You don't need to be highly experienced. You only need to read, use your imagination, and make funny, loud, or silly noises. Add some arm movements and face contortions and anyone can be a storytelling star.



The key is to really get into the story yourself as if you were hearing it for the first time as a small child. If you are really adventurous, not minding the adults that may be accompanying their children, you can even dance around the room in an animated fashion.

Children love to interact with the story, so whenever possible, ask the children to take part in the storytelling. For example, children can make rain noises, or they can guess which animals oink and quack.

Change your voice's reflection - loud at times and soft at others, use different voices for different characters.

Storytelling is a great way to teach the children about Jesus without spending a lot of money on supplies or materials. Kid's Sunday School Place has many stories available for usage—all you need is yourself and your commitment to be silly in the name of the Lord.

Other items you can use for a great story time:

Faces of main characters or pictures of objects in the story can be drawn on paper and attached to wooden rulers. Display these props at the appropriate time while telling the story. For example, when you tell the story of Noah, use a paper face for Noah, Mrs. Noah, and an animal or two. These visuals will help keep the children's attention.

Bring a twin size blanket or comforter to place on the floor for the children to sit on. This will make them comfortable and feel like they are in a special setting.

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS**

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN**

With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.

- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS**

Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

- **SCRAMBLED**

Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.