



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Jesus Isn't Santa Claus  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 28

# Meet Jesus— He's Real!

**Santa is nice but... he comes only once a year and we never meet him, only guys dressed up like him.**

**Take Home Point:** \*Meet Jesus, he's real.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 1:1-5, 9-14, 18; Revelation 22:13-14

**Key Verse:** John 1:14, "The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth."

## **We will help kids know:**

- Grasp the eternal nature of Jesus, true God, who existed before time began and through whom the world was created. He will reign forever.
- Though Jesus was God, he was born as a baby and lived a perfect life on earth.
- God's word tells us who Jesus is. He is God's Word in person.
- Jesus is real today and, through faith in him, we can be born again to be children of God.




## **We will help kids feel:**

- Awed by the majesty and eternal nature of Jesus.
- Secure in the confidence of being God's children through faith.

## **We will help kids do:**

- Identify the truth that they need something or someone bigger than themselves in which to believe. That someone is God's Son Jesus.
- Read from God's word that speaks of "the Word" made flesh—Jesus.
- Make a Christmas ornament that reminds them of how real Jesus is.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Christmastime always evokes memories. Discussion regarding the children's belief in Santa will prepare the kids for large group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no supplies needed</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  8  8	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Interactive Presentation:</b> "Jesus Isn't Santa Claus"—a student is chosen to don a Santa beard and hat and to illustrate that though many believe there is a Santa, that doesn't make him real. This is contrasted with the fact that Jesus is real, though many do not believe in him.  <b>Video:</b> Clip from "Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> St."  <b>Teaching on John 1:1-5; 9-14, 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santa beard</li> <li>Santa hat</li> <li>video "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> St." by John Hughes Production and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Home Entertainment, 1995 edition. ISBN 0-7939-8689-3—order from <a href="http://www.christianbook.com">www.christianbook.com</a></li> <li>white board or flip chart</li> <li>marker</li> <li>Bible laid in a manger</li> <li>diagram of illustration (<i>appendix p. 13</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Kids make a magnet with a Christmas poem as they discuss how they can know Jesus is the "real thing."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cardstock of varied colors, cut into 3 x 3-inch squares</li> <li>magnet pieces to glue on back of poem</li> <li>glitter, decorations for outer edge of poem</li> <li>glue or glue sticks</li> <li>Christmas poem for each student (<i>p. 14</i>) optional: <i>print on labels</i></li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

**As kids gather:** *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, for remembering to bring Bibles, and for bringing a guest.*

Have kids share a special Santa Claus memory from when they were young children. For an example:

**I can remember once when I was a small child and I sat on Santa's lap and asked him for a...** (Tell your own example.)

After all have shared, continue.

**How does your family practice the custom of Santa Claus?**

**Shepherds:** Please be aware that each family handles this issue differently. For many families who participate in the custom of Santa Claus and have younger children at home, your students need to be sensitive and *not* say, "There's no Santa," to smaller kids. We consider it the parents' responsibility to have this discussion.

After discussion, continue.

**Does Santa who comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve exist if we don't believe in him?** Briefly discuss.

**Now, for a much more important question: Does God exist if we don't believe in him? How do we know that God does exist?** Discuss.

Prepare for large group with the following:

**God wants us to know that he *is* real. He wants to tell us about himself. Therefore, he gave us the word, which is the Bible. But he went farther than just giving us words on pages. The Bible says that the Word became a person and lived among us. That person is Jesus. Today we will investigate what that means.**

**Santa is nice but he comes only once a year, and we never meet him... only guys dressed like him. But remember, *\*Meet Jesus, he's real.***

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Interactive Presentation:** “Jesus Isn’t Santa Claus”—a student is chosen to don a Santa beard and hat and to illustrate that though many believe there is a Santa, that doesn’t make him real. This is contrasted with the fact that Jesus is real, though many do not believe in him.

**Video Clip:** “Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> St.”

**Teaching on John 1:1-5; 9-14, 18**

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Read or have a volunteer read John 1:1-5 out loud. Ask the following:

**Who is the Word?** (*Jesus.*)

**The Word was with God in the ...?** (*Beginning.*)

Read John 1:3 again.

**So Jesus existed and was with God at the beginning of what?** (*The beginning of the world or Creation. See Genesis 1:1.*)

Read John 1:9-13 aloud.

**Who is given the right to become God’s children?** (*John 1:12. Everyone who believes in him.*)

Read John 1:14 & 18.

**Who did Jesus make known to us when he came to earth?** (*God, the Father.*)

**People saw God when they saw Jesus. God walked among his people in the form of a man, Jesus. Jesus' life and love for people demonstrated all the qualities and characteristics of the one true God.**

**What are some of those characteristics?** (*Love, forgiveness, humility, power and strength, etc.*)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Read Revelation 22:13-14.

**What does this say to you?** (*Jesus is the beginning and the end. He is eternal beyond what we understand as time. To those who believe in him, he will give robes of righteousness and he will let enter the gates of Heaven.*)

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Application Activity:

*Supplies needed:*

- *cardstock of varied colors, cut into 3x3 inch squares*
- *magnet pieces to glue on back of poem*
- *glitter, decorations for outer edge of poem*
- *glue or glue sticks*
- *poem cut out or label*

Have kids make a refrigerator magnet with the poem pointing out what Jesus has done for us and that he is real. Each group should have a stack of varied colored 3 x 3-inch cardstock squares. Kids may glue several pieces together to create their own design. Place the poem in the center of the squares. Decorate the outer edges with decorations and apply the magnet on the back.

These can be made while the kids discuss the following question.

**How would you explain to someone that Jesus is real? What is proof that Jesus is real?**

**Does God exist if we don't believe in him? How do we know that God does exist?**

**Share a time Jesus felt very real to you.**

Review the take home point: ***\*Meet Jesus, he's real.***

Closing Prayer:

Give thanks that Jesus, as true God, came to walk among people in the form of a man so we could better understand who the living God is. Pray that Jesus would become more real to us in our lives, that we would remember he lives and reigns in heaven and is also with us daily. Pray for those in our lives who do not believe Jesus is real, and that we can share our faith and hope with them.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Jesus Isn't Santa Claus Interactive Presentation

*"Jesus Isn't Santa Claus" is the series title for the next four weeks. Each week a topic will be explored that tracks how Jesus is different than Santa Claus. This is not an attempt to poke fun or ridicule Santa Claus. By contrasting Jesus to Santa, fifth and sixth graders will become more aware of the miracle of the incarnation and the person and work of Jesus. Each week a different volunteer is selected from the audience who will be partially costumed like Santa Claus as part of the presentation. The first week, the volunteer receives a beard and a hat. The second week, in addition to the beard and the hat, the volunteer receives a red overcoat. The third week, the costumed volunteer will also receive Santa's bag. And, the fourth week, a wagon, our version of a sled, will be added. Each one of these items will help demonstrate the teaching point that Jesus is not Santa Claus, in fact, he's much better.*

Place a manger on the stage and put a Bible in it. This is to represent Jesus, the Word made flesh.

The presenter narrates the drama and provides the teaching as follows.

**Kids, today we have a very famous guest with us. He is someone who certainly was very important to you, not so many years ago. I would like to introduce to you, Santa Claus. Today, playing the part of Santa Claus we have\_\_\_\_\_ (a volunteer from the audience). Thank you. Come forward.**

Put the beard and Santa's hat on child.

**Now Mr. Santa Claus, we're so delighted that you could join us today because you, no doubt, have been part of many fond memories from our younger years. But there is some information we want to explore today, as well. So, let's begin the interview.**

**Your name is?** *(Santa Claus.)*

**And Mr. Santa Claus, where do you live?** *(The North Pole.)*

**Now wait a minute, I have a hard time believing you really live at the North Pole. After all, you look very much like a kid I used to know that goes to our church here and lives in the city of\_\_\_\_\_ (name your local city). As a matter of fact, you may be a student at\_\_\_\_\_ (name student's school).**

**So, my question is, how can this be? Are you the true Santa Claus or not?**

Pull at the beard to show it is a fake.

Respond accordingly to the volunteer but you may point out that there was a real historical character, St. Nicholas. Santa Claus today is a character that is represented by hundreds of costumed Santa Clauses around the world.

**So, let me see. If you're not the real Santa Claus, and there are many guys dressed up like Santa, then how many representatives are there?** (Let the volunteer guess!)

**Well, Mr. Santa Claus, how many times of year do *you*, or I should say the guys dressed up like Santa, come out and visit people?** *(Once a year, during the season of Christmas.)*

**Well, we do know that millions and millions of kids do believe in you. They believe you are real. So, if enough people believe you are real, does that make you real? Interesting question. Let's look at this film clip from the movie, *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> St.***

Show video clip of "*Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> St.*" by John Hughes Production and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Home Entertainment, 1995 edition. Start the clip where Susie Walker and Brian approach Santa at Cole's and Susie says, "This seems like a pretty pointless exercise." End the clip when Brian says to Santa, "Unbelievers." Clip is approximately 3.5 minutes.

### **Teaching on John 1:1-5, 9-14, 18**

Position Santa at one side of the stage opposite the Bible and manger. In center stage, have a white board or flip chart to write big enough for all to see. A diagram will be drawn to depict the eternal nature of Jesus. See Appendix (p. 13) for preparation.

**Well, Mr. Santa Claus, we want to thank you for helping stir the imaginations of millions of people who certainly need to have someone like you bring a spirit of good will and giving to their lives during this wonderful time of the year. But, we want to compare you with someone else featured during this Christmas season. That someone is named Jesus.**

**So let's make a little comparison here.**

Pointing to Santa on one side of the stage, say:

**Over here we have Santa Claus. He comes once a year. We never meet him in person, only guys dressed up like him. But millions of people believe in him so that might make him real to them.**



Pointing to the other side of the stage with the Bible in a manger, say:

**And, over here, we have God. But you cannot see God. How do we know that he is real? You cannot point to any evidence. Or, can you?**

Pick up the Bible opened to John 1.

**Now wait a minute, maybe I can point to something. God has given us his word that explains who he is and what he has done. Is his word the only thing that proves that he is real, that he cares for us and wants to have a relationship with us? Let us read from his word and find out.**

Point 1: Jesus is eternal. He has no beginning or end.

**John 1:1 says, *“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning.”***

**I wonder what that means? It says here, the *Word* existed from the beginning of time and the *Word* was God himself. Who is this *Word*? The Word is Jesus himself. God was not content to show us who he was only through the written word that describes him. God actually made his Word take on human form and live with us. This is Jesus, his own Son.**

**Let me draw it for you on this diagram.**

Draw a line across the top of the flipchart or whiteboard with an arrow on each end.  
Say:

**This line represents God. He has no beginning and no end just like you may have learned in math that a line has no beginning or end. Even before this world or the universe existed, God existed. Long after this world passes away, God will continue to live.**

**As a matter of fact, God says that he is the beginning and the end. He is bigger than time itself. With God, the Father, from the beginning of time was also God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that the Word, another name for Jesus, existed with God at the very beginning.**

Point 2: Through Jesus everything was created.

**This is what it continues to say in verse three and following, *“Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him. He was the source of life, and that life***

***was the light for humanity. The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.”***

***Verse nine: “The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into existence through him. Yet, the world didn’t recognize him.***

Draw a circle on the far left side of the line. Identify this as the point in which God, through Jesus, created the world.

Point 3: Jesus, true God in heaven, became a man.

***Verse 14 says, “The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.”***

***Verse 18 says, “No one has ever seen God. God’s only Son, the one who is closest to the Father’s heart, has made him known.”***

While drawing a line vertically extending from the horizontal line, say:

**God himself came to Earth as a human being, Jesus. During his time here, Jesus showed us who God, his Father, is and did only what God alone can do. He rescued all of humanity and made it possible for all to live with God forever.**

Read verse 18 again:

***“No one has ever seen God. God’s only Son, the one who is closest to the Father’s heart, has made him known.”***

**What did Jesus show us when he was here on earth? He made the Father known to all people. He accomplished his mission of giving his life as a sacrifice for our sin. When he died on the cross, Draw the cross...he was raised again to life and then he returned to Heaven to reign and rule from there.**

**So, I will draw the line back into Heaven.**

Continue drawing the vertical line, making a U-turn going back up and extending beyond the horizontal line.

**Right now, Jesus reigns in his glorified, human body in Heaven and will continue to do so forever.**

Continue drawing a line parallel and above the first line.

Point 4: Jesus is real regardless of whether people believe it or not.

But those who believe become children of God. John 1, verse 11 and following says, *“He went to his own people, and his own people didn’t accept him.”*

Who were “his own” people? They were the Jews. It says here that many of his own people didn’t accept him.

*“However, he gave the right to become God’s children to everyone who believed in him. These are people who haven’t been born in a physical way – from a human impulse or from a husband’s desire to have a child. Their birth was from God.”*

In the very last page of the Bible, Revelation 22, we see that Jesus is reigning in Heaven. He says this in Revelation 22:13-14.

*“I am the A and the Z, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they may have the right to the tree of Life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

The “gates” of the city refer to Heaven, and those people who have faith in him have their sins washed away. This is what he means when he says that their robes are washed clean in his blood. Because of this, believers have the right to live in a new paradise, Heaven, and eat of the tree of life. This means believers live forever with God in his heavenly city.

Conclusion: How is Jesus different than Santa?

Walk toward the manger.

**One, Jesus is real. He is God’s Son who gave his life for us. Two, Jesus is with us always, not just at Christmas.**

Walk toward the kid volunteer and back toward manger and continue walking back and forth as you discuss comparisons between Santa Claus and Jesus.

**Santa Claus may seem real to many in their imaginations, but Jesus is real whether people believe it or not. He really is God’s Son. He came to earth as God, was born as a human baby, grew up, died on the cross for our sins, rose to life again, and returned to heaven where he rules today. Through his Holy Spirit, Jesus is with us every day, living in our hearts as we trust in him.**

**Santa Claus may come only once a year, but Jesus came to earth one time in history to live a perfect life in our place, and to die for our sin. Jesus then promised that he would be with all who believe in him every day of their entire life.**

**On the last day, every person who has ever lived will see that Jesus is real. Those who believe in him will live with him in Heaven. Those who reject him will exist without him forever in Hell. Whether people believe in him or not will not change the fact that Jesus is real and he is God's Son who gave his life for the world.**

**The following poem describes it:**

**Jesus born in a barn, straw for his bed  
He claimed to be God, came from Heaven, he said.  
Died on a cross, rose to live again  
He offers you life that you may live with him.**

**Let's pray together:**

**Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son Jesus. He existed with you before the creation of this world. But he came into this world as a real person, lived a perfect life for us and died on the cross to pay the punishment for all our sin. We thank you that Jesus is alive and reigns with you now in Heaven. We thank you that Jesus is alive and with us here, even if we cannot see him. May we learn to trust him and follow him every day of our lives because Jesus is real. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Illustration of Points**  
Lesson 28

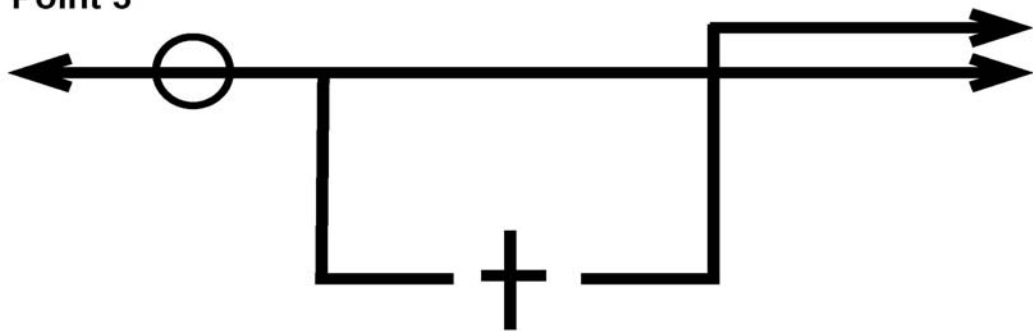
**Point 1**



**Point 2**



**Point 3**



Lesson 28 - The refrigerator magnet craft poem:

