



Date: _____

Series: Join God's Family (Spring)
Year 1, Lesson 58

Jesus Teaches Us to Invite Others

Bible Event: Matthew 28:16-20

Take Home Point: *JOIN GOD'S FAMILY –*Invite others.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus invites us to believe and then tells us to invite others.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn they can go and tell others about Jesus. They are not limited to helping others join God's family just because they are young. We can help others join God's family by inviting our family, friends, and neighbors. Kids will take home the point: ***JOIN GOD'S FAMILY** – *Invite others.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Lesson 58 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before showing. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting them to see what happens by watching the video. Also, you can introduce the video by inviting them to watch for special actions or words.

Show the video *He Is Risen*, by Nest Entertainment. Begin 28 minutes into the video at the phrase "The apostles return to Jerusalem and for 40 days..."

Bring out a "stop" sign.

You all know the meaning of stop and there are things God want us to stop. Show the "go" sign. There important things God wants us to go and do. God wants us to go to others and invite them to join his family. Just like the video, when God tells us to go and invite others to join his family, he tells us to baptize and teach others. We join God's family when we believe. He wants us baptize, and teach others about his family. Remember: *JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – Invite others.

Note: Another option for "go and tell" is to financially support missions. If your church or denomination has a list of missions they support, have a fundraiser for a missions organization of the children's choosing.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide a variety of fruit and whipped cream or yogurt dips. Have the children dip the fruit and enjoy. Friends go together like fruit and cream.

Drama Zone: Pretend to invite friends to church. Also, pretend to show them around the church, etc.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to practice inviting a friend to meet Jesus.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus teaching us to go and tell others from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #157 "Jesus Returns to Heaven" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Decorate and deliver invitations. Children can give these invitations to friends. Friends are invited to Kids Church the next week.

As a church, decide ahead of time when you will have a missions day for kids. Plan your details. You may decide, as a church, to bring this lesson together with an upcoming missions trip or use it with other outreach activities you are doing.

Reproduce the invitations ahead of time for this lesson.

Play Zone: "Red Light, Green Light". One child is at the front of the room and has his/her back to the rest of the group and says "Green Light". The rest of the children try to get to the front before they get stopped. The children walk, hop, skip until the child turns around and says "Red Light". Keep going until someone gets to the front.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus' Return to Heaven or Children on Missions.

Music Zone: Your choice of music

Coloring Zone: “Invite Others To Jesus” coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy is wearing a silly hat. She can't wait to grow up and be a missionary or go on a mission trip. The presenter explains to Judy that she doesn't need to grow up to be a missionary. She can help right now by inviting a friend to church. The presenter also reminds Judy that when she gives special offerings she helps send others.

Judy takes off her silly hat and feels proud that she can help friends join God's family. She is glad she can help send grown ups on mission trips with special offerings when she's not even grown up yet. **Remember: *JOIN GOD'S FAMILY – Invite others.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- video: Nest Entertainment “*He Is Risen*” –order from:
http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=HRD
- stop sign
- go sign (Green circle on a stick)

Action Zones:

Snack:

- apples, bananas, grapes, etc.
- whipped cream or yogurt dip
- plates and napkins
- water or juice

Drama:

- costumes

Craft:

- preprinted invitations
- crayons/markers
- stickers
- stamps
- colored pencils

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- songs of choice

Puppet:

- assorted puppets

Felt:

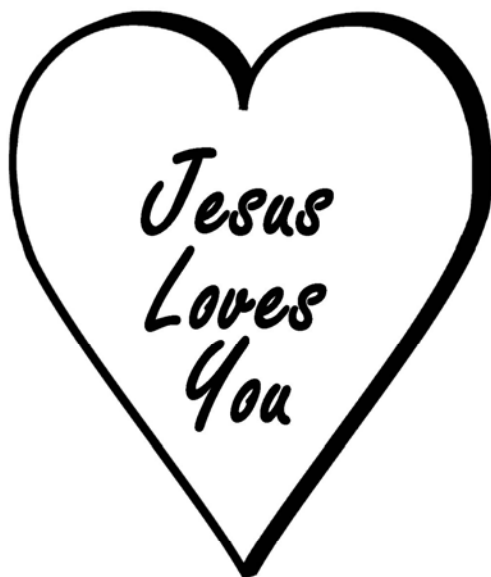
- Jesus Returns to Heaven materials (For example, use Lesson #157 “Jesus Returns to Heaven” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- silly hat

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books



*Come and learn more about
God's love for you...*

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____
