



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 30

Sending the King

Primary Scripture: Philippians 2:6-11

Key Verse: Philippians 2:9-10, "This is why God has given him an exceptional honor... so at the name of Jesus everyone...will kneel and confess Jesus Christ is Lord..."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

The question we are answering today is, "What did God give?" When we consider that God sent Jesus as the King, what does that mean? Today we will help the kids understand that Jesus existed with God the Father even before all creation. What a wonder it is that Jesus is the true God and lowered himself so far to become true man. Kids need an understanding of just how wonderful God's love is that he would send Jesus the King to be one of us.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: As true God, Jesus knew us before we were born, even before *he* was born as a man. He had love for us before the beginning of this world.

Jesus in us: As we trust in Jesus, we are connecting with the eternal God. Jesus will dwell in us now and forever.

Jesus through us: Just as God had sent Jesus as our King, we are his ambassadors sent to the world to bring others to the King.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- crown
- royal robe
- child to be dressed in the above beforehand
- ragged t-shirt or gown

The presenter will talk about how God sent Jesus into the world as a King—a King that became one of us. A child dressed in a royal robe and crown will be brought onstage as an object lesson for the following presentation. His royal garments will be taken off as he puts on a large ragged t-shirt or gown.

Gesture to the child or touch him on the shoulder as you say:

I would like you to imagine what Jesus was like as King of heaven. The Bible says in Philippians 2:6 that “he was in the form of God and equal with God.” That means Jesus was King of heaven. What do you think Jesus was like in heaven? Who do you think he ruled over?

Jesus was in an exalted position in which all the heavenly creatures worshiped him. Imagine millions of angels and other very beautiful heavenly creatures. Imagine how it sounded as they all joined to sing to him. Jesus was equal with God and through him everything was made. Everyone could see how wonderful Jesus was. Every creature

that saw Jesus knew he was King over all and that he ruled in perfect love and power.

The Bible says that Jesus did not take advantage of his equality with God. He did not hang on to his high position in heaven. Instead, Jesus emptied himself and took on the form of a servant. He became one of us when he was born as a baby.

Take the robe and crown off the child. Put on the ragged t-shirt or gown. *(The child will need to keep wearing the t-shirt during the Power of the Cross.)*

This is like Jesus when he took off the splendor of heaven and put on our humanity. Jesus became a human person when he was born as a baby. How might it have felt for the King of the universe to leave the splendor of heaven to be born on the dirt floor of a barn? He, who created all things, had now become one of his creations—a human being. What do you think that was like? *(It was humbling.)*

Why do you think Jesus did this? *(Because he loved us so much and it was the only way we could be rescued from our sins.)*

Today we will learn more about Jesus the King who was sent to be one of us. Let's praise the King in our time of worship.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *mud*
- *white robe*

A key verse for today's confession comes from 2 Corinthians 5:21.

"God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him."

To demonstrate this, apply mud to the ragged t-shirt on the volunteer.

Jesus, in a very real way, took our sins and put them on himself when he died on the cross for us. He takes our punishment for that sin and lifts it off us and puts it on himself.

Take the t-shirt off of the child and put it on yourself.

Think about how far Jesus has come as King of universe to be the one who is now having his royalty smeared with our sin. The Bible says in Philippians 2:8, *“He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.”*

From King of the universe to death on a cross, Jesus did all that because he loves us so much. If we trust in Jesus as our Savior, it changes our lives. We can ask him for forgiveness and our sins are put on him. Let’s pray for that now.

Take a time of personal confession in which the kids can think of different types of sins they have committed and for which they need God’s forgiveness. After the prayer, announce God’s forgiveness.

Now your sins are forgiven. When God looks at you, he doesn’t see any dirty sins. He sees you wearing a completely clean garment of his forgiveness.

Drape a white robe over the child.

Because of that, God can help us do things that please him. Now we can show his love to the world.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- crown

Place the crown the child was wearing in the offering plate and have the children put their offerings inside the crown. Explain that giving God our offerings is one of the ways we can crown him as Lord of our lives.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- *several long tables set up end to end*
- *straw for each child*
- *12 ping-pong balls. Label six balls “boys” or “1,” and label the other six balls “girls” or “2.”*

Have boys line up on their knees along one of the long sides of the tables. Have the girls line up on their knees along the other side. Each child is given a straw to put in his/her mouth. The object of the game is for each team to “blow” its ping-pong balls from the starting line at one end of the tables to the finish line at the other end without using their hands.



If a ping-pong ball rolls off the table or someone touches it, that person must get up, run around the table, and return to the same spot. To begin, set the balls down simultaneously at the starting line.

Another variation is to remove the competition factor and have all kids work together getting the balls down the tables. Girls and boys can be positioned side by side in alternating order. Add different balls for even greater variety.

After the game, discuss how far the ping-pong balls had to travel. What sent the balls to the end of the tables?

How far did Jesus have to travel to become a man and give his life for us? Who or what sent him?

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Consider Jesus the King, who was sent to be one of us in today's reading.

Have a child read Philippians 2:6-11.

This Bible Presentation answers our previous questions of how far Jesus went as King of the universe to be made a man and take upon himself the sin of the world. Because Jesus did that, he was exalted to the highest place in heaven and is now ruling as King of the universe. Jesus has gone down in humility and has been exalted, or raised up, in glory.

Application 1:

Supplies:

- *chair*

Create a time machine using a child participant. The child can sit in a chair and be rocked to and fro. You can either have the time machine make noises or the children make special noises. Ask them to get ready to describe how it will look as this person goes back in time.

It's now 1996, and you are just a baby. Now we're going back 50 years and World War II is going on. Now we're going back 100 years ago and it is the days of the frontier towns. Now over 200 years and George Washington...500 years, Columbus...1,000 years, the knights of the round table...2,000 years, Jesus is born...3,000 years, King David...3,500 years, Moses in Egypt...4,000 years, Abraham...and over 1,000 years before that, Noah...and thousands of years before that, Adam and Eve...And now you are at the beginning of making Heaven and Earth. God speaks and everything is created. Further back and now you are before he made everything and there is nothing. Who is there now?

As the kids have imagined this time journey, explain the following.

God is there. God is there in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't have a human body because he hadn't been born into the world as a person. But he was still there even before the world was made. He was still King of the universe.

Do you know what God was thinking even before the world was made? He was thinking about you. The Bible says in Ephesians 1:11, “God also decided ahead of time to choose us through Christ according to his plan...”

God was choosing you to be a part of his family. He knew that you and all people would sin. Yet, he would love you and all people so much that he would have his Son Jesus become a man and be born into this world. God even knew that Jesus would have to die and take the punishment of all the sin of the world. Can you see just how much God loves you and has a plan for you—even before he made you?

Application 2:

Supplies:

- *plastic cockroaches, spiders, or whatever scary bug is available*

This is especially effective using plastic bugs as an example. Use whatever scary bug you might have for an example. Spiders are another good option.

To Become a Cockroach

Does anyone here know what a cockroach is? Can you describe it? They are really yucky bugs.

Once, there was a man who was kind to all. He loved everyone and every creature, even cockroaches. Since cockroaches are dirty bugs, they cannot live in the house, at least they are not supposed to. So the man was surprised when he opened his kitchen sink cabinet and found dozens and dozens of cockroaches. “You must leave,” he told them. “You must go outside where you belong. You cannot stay here any longer.”

The cockroaches did not seem to mind. They did not listen to him. Under the sink was a little tray of bug poison. If the cockroaches stayed there long, surely they would eat the poison and die. The man tried to explain that the bugs should leave and not stay and eat the poison. Still the bugs would not listen.

Do you know what the man did? The man brought his son over to the cockroaches. He told his only son, “I’d like you to become a cockroach and go down under the sink and warn those cockroaches that they must leave. You will have to eat the poison to warn them. This will save their lives.”

Then the son became a cockroach and went to live with the cockroaches. Though he warned them about the poison and tried to explain how much the man loved the cockroaches and only wanted their good, they would not listen.

Eventually, he did as his father had told him. He ate the poison and died. But, because of that, many of the cockroaches followed his advice. It was like he sacrificed his life for them.

Other cockroaches did not care. They continued to live where they should not, that is, under the sink. They ate the poison and died.

The end of the story is that the man's son, who had become a cockroach, became alive again, and went to live with his father. And all of the cockroaches, which were his friends, were taken to a special cockroach garden that he had made in his house just for them.

Discuss with the children the parallel between this story and God's plan of salvation. Point out that the cockroaches' disobedience caused the son to eat the poison.

The most significant point is to see just how far God went to send his Son Jesus to us. It is very far to go from God and King of the universe to be made a man and give his life on the cross.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Jesus the King was sent to be one of us. He became a servant to help us. Who would share one way he has helped serve other people this last week? What have you done to help someone else?

When we help others in Jesus' name, we are becoming a servant like the King, Jesus. Just as God sent Jesus as our King, we are his ambassadors sent to the world to bring others to the King.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- crown
- royal robe
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- ragged t-shirt or gown

The Power of the Cross:

- mud
- white robe

Offering:

- crown

Learning Game:

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