



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 37

Seek First His Kingdom

Primary Scripture: Matthew 6:33

Key Verse: Matthew 6:33, “But first, be concerned about his kingdom and what has his approval. Then all these things will be provided for you.”

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

In Kingdom Quest today, the kids learned that Jesus was a prophet. He told us in his Sermon on the Mount that we are to be salt and light to the world. In Kids Church today, we listen to another section of the Sermon on the Mount that is about worry. Instead of worrying, we should first seek God's kingdom and his righteousness. Kids today face many pressures and worries at home and at school. Many feel a pressure to succeed, to fit in, or to simply be loved. When we meet God in the fullness of his love, he fills those needs as his kingdom comes to us.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus purchased the kingdom of God for us by giving us his life, death, and resurrection.

Jesus in us: Jesus lives in us so he can help us seek after God and what God wants to do in our lives.

Jesus through us: As we follow Jesus, we will be pulled down by less and less of the worries of this world and help lift up others to see the more important direction of seeking God's kingdom.

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:

- *different types of bird nests—if bird nests are not available, consider using different feathers, pictures, birdhouses, or other bird-related items*

Display the bird nests on a table. Begin teaching with:

Jesus taught us much about his kingdom. One of his most important lessons was about how not to worry. What are some things people often worry about?

Take a few answers.

As you worship, it would be very hard to tell God that you love him if you are more worried about little things of this world. To help get rid of all our worries so we can truly worship God, we need to think about a story Jesus told us. In Matthew 6:26 he says, “Look at the birds. They don’t plant, harvest, or gather the harvest into barns. Yet, your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they?”

Let’s think about how well God takes care of birds. What I have are several birds’ nests in front of me. Look how God designed each bird in just the right way to take care of its nest. Did you know, for example, that each bird nest is particular to that type of bird? You can tell what bird lives there just by looking at the nest as if you were looking at the bird itself. For example, God has taught certain kinds

of birds to make their nests using a lot of mud. If they didn't, their nests would fall out of where they belong.

If God takes such good care of birds, then will he not take better care of us? If God loves birds a little bit, he loves us a million times more. After all, he didn't send his Son Jesus to be a bird to save the other birds. God sent Jesus to be a man to save us humans so we can be with him. Let's think about his love as we worship him.

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.

If you have been telling God that you love him in your worship, then it's important to love him with *everything* you have. To do that means you need to give *yourself* to him.

Let's pray and give to God those things that we have done that are not pleasing to him. We know we did not please God if we were mean to our brother or sister, if we talked back to our parents, or if we did something wrong at school. We need to tell God about such things and ask that our sins be forgiven. Let's do that now.

Dear God, right now we would like to ask you to forgive us of our sins. Some of us have sinned by not being respectful to others. We will talk to you right now about that in our hearts. Pause. Some of us have sins of being mean to others. We will talk to you right now about that in our hearts. Pause.

Some of us have sins of selfishness. We will talk to you about that right now in our hearts. Pause. Some of us have sinned by worrying. We have worried about these things... We'll talk to you about them right now in our hearts. Pause.

Forgive us God, for Jesus' sake, so we can be changed to be more like you and follow you. We want to seek your kingdom and follow what is right in your sight. Thank you for forgiving us and making us completely perfect in your sight. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Use a crown as an offering plate for the kids to put their offerings in. Explain to the kids that giving their offerings is one of the ways they crown Jesus as Lord of their 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.

The object of the game is for one group to perform an action in wave-style and for the other group to repeat the same action.

Follow the Leader—Wave-Style:

Divide the kids into two groups: boys and girls. Have each group stand in a long line facing the other group. Pick the girls (or boys) to go first in the first round and then the other group will go first the second round.

Round 1:

Have everyone in the line hold hands. The leader at the end of the line raises his empty hand and then consecutively raises his hand held by the next person in line. The next person in line then immediately raises his hand connecting him with the next person and so on down the line. This will create a wave effect that moves down the line of kids. After one team has completed the round, the other team attempts the same.

Repeat this round a couple times so the kids really learn the event and get better at their reaction time in relaying the signal down the line. Encourage the kids by commenting on their points of style, grace, or imagination in their performance.

Round 2:

The next group goes first while the other watches and then the watchers will, in turn, attempt the effect. Have the kids continue to hold hands but instead of raising arms, have them do a deep knee bend and return to standing position.

Round 3:

Have the kids drop hands. Now the leader of the line will slightly jump and rotate to face north. The rest of the group follows in a wave-style motion. Immediately after the last person in line jumps north, the first person jumps again and turns to land facing east, sending that motion down the line. He then jumps and turns again facing south, sending that motion down the line and so forth until the group is facing the same direction in which they started.

Now, encourage the kids to come up with their own creative actions to send down the line. These could include such things as picking up one knee, nodding a head, making a silly face, tapping the ground, scratching a neighbor's head, and so forth.

Let this game be fun to watch and do. While the kids are still in their lines, conclude with this thought:

Jesus was a leader who gave us special directions from God. As we follow him, we do as he did. Jesus told us to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness and everything else would be added to us. We demonstrated that as all of us passed a signal down the line.

Point your finger to heaven and have each group repeat the action in consecutive order. Then say:

Seek God first and everything else will be okay.

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.

Supplies:

- *video: The Visual Bible: Matthew (6:19-24) (Visual Bible International, 1997)*

Show Matthew 6:19-34 from the video.

Application 1:

Supplies:

- *Gordy*
- *Hornbill, the bluebird puppet*
- *Sunshine, the flower puppet*

Gordy Meets His Competition Puppet Presentation

Gordy: *(Appears.) Oh, my, boys and girls... (Heavy sigh.) Maybe you could help me. You see, I'm worried... I'm worried that I won't get my homework done. I'm worried that my grades will be bad. I'm worried that I'll miss dessert. I'm just worried, worried, worried! Have you ever felt that way?*

(Sunshine and Hornbill appear.)

Hornbill: *Hi, Gordy!*

Sunshine: Hi, Gordy!

Hornbill: *Ah, you said that you're worried?*

Gordy: Yes, I did. Haven't you ever been worried?

Hornbill: *I'm sorry. I can't say that I have.*

Sunshine: I don't think I've worried either.

Gordy: Well, what do you know! You're just a bird and you're just a flower. No wonder you don't worry.

Sunshine: Now wait a minute. What do you mean "just a flower"? God loves me very, very much.

Hornbill: *And he loves me, too.*

Sunshine: As much as flowers?

Hornbill: *Are you kidding? God loves birds a lot more than flowers.*

Sunshine: Then why did God make me so pretty and make you just able to fly? Who cares about that?

Hornbill: *Well, I can also sing. And who cares about just sitting there and looking pretty?*

Sunshine: I don't just look pretty. I also smell great!

Hornbill: *Who cares about smell? God loves me more!*

Sunshine: He loves me more!

Gordy: Now wait just a minute. What about me? Does God love you more than me?

Sunshine: He must!

Hornbill: *Yeah, he sure must!*

Sunshine: After all, why would you be worried? You're just a kid.

Hornbill: *I'll tell you why he's worried. It's because God loves birds more than kids.*

Sunshine: No! God loves flowers more than he loves kids.

Gordy: Hey, wait a minute. God loves kids more than flowers *and* more than birds.

Hornbill: *What?*

Sunshine: What?

Gordy: Yeah, he really does!

Sunshine: But I'm not worried about anything. I know God loves me enough to take care of me.

Hornbill: *And I'm not worried about anything. I know God loves me enough to take care of me.*

Gordy: Well, I'm worried about something, but... Hey wait a minute! Why am I worried? God loves me more than you guys. He loves me enough to send Jesus to die for me and promises a place for me in heaven when I believe Jesus is my Savior. Forget this! I'm not worried. I'm going to follow God instead and think about him and his kingdom. Then I guess everything will take care of itself.

Hornbill: *Yeah, even homework!*

Sunshine: Yeah, even dessert. By the way, what's homework?

Hornbill: *I don't know, what's dessert?*

Sunshine: I don't know, but I'm not worried. Bye, boys and girls!

Hornbill: *Bye, boys and girls!*

Gordy: See ya later, guys.

Application 2:

Supplies:

- Adam Raccoon and the Flying Machine *by Glen Keane (Chariot Books, David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, IL, 1989)*

Read the book to the kids. The application is that God gives us instructions in his word that helps us soar. God's instruction to us today is: Jesus tells us to *seek God's kingdom first and everything else will be taken care of.*



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.

Have kids share about times they worried but then everything came out okay as they remembered God's promises.

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:

- different types of bird nests—if bird nests are not available, consider using different feathers, pictures, birdhouses, or other bird-related items

Offering:

- crown

Bible Presentation:

- video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew* (6:19-24) (Visual Bible International, 1997)—order from http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=pd_sl_aw_tops-1_dvd_9288316_1/002-7436213-2441636?search-alias=dvd&keywords=matthew%20the%20visual%20bible&rank=relevancerank&field-format=dvd%7Ctheatrical%7Cumd%7Cblu

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