



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 41

If You Want to Make a Difference for God, Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Primary Scripture: Hebrews 12:2-3; Genesis 37,39-41

Key Verse: Hebrews 12:2a, “We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith.”

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

Kids are always excited about what they can do as they learn, grow, and develop. Kids need to know that they can do great things for God and his Kingdom. The most important thing for them to learn as they make a difference for God's Kingdom is that they must focus on Jesus no matter what. Often, they might encounter trials or setbacks. In those times especially, they should be faithful and trust that God can use those situations to advance his Kingdom.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus endured the cross and the persecutions of sinful men so that he might give his life for our salvation.

Jesus in us: Jesus promises that he will be with us as we face trials and struggles. As long as we focus on him and his purposes, it will always work out for the best.

Jesus through us: We must go through hard times so that we can depend on Jesus more and more. During those times, it can be even more evident how he works through us.

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 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

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

Supplies: Gordy puppet script, Gordy the puppet with trick-tying balloon tied around his head with one end pointing up and the other pointing down—these may be purchased at any craft/hobby store, clown or magic supplier

Present puppet script: Gordy Upside Down (see appendix)

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!

Your choice of music

The Power of the Cross:

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

Option: The following may be incorporated into the conclusion of the puppet script.

Pray about turning from "me first" attitudes and selfishness. Also pray that we can receive Jesus' forgiving power and think of him first.

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.

Explain the mission project. Invite the children to come forward and give their offerings so that children in other parts of the world may hear the gospel in a wonderful, fun, life-changing way.



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 needed: long trick-tying balloons-see supply list

“Balloon Relay”

The game will be a contest to see how many children from each grade level will be able to balance a trick-tying balloon on the palm of their hands while walking a 40' path. A variation of this game includes having children lined up on each side of the path trying to blow the balloons over.

The learning application of the game is that we need to keep our eyes on Jesus and ignore the distractions that sometimes come against us.

Sometimes when we face difficulties or bad things that others do to us, we want to still focus on Jesus. He will help work the situation out. The same was true for our game. The trick to balancing the balloon is keeping your eye on the balloon and ignoring the other kids' attempts to upset your balloon.

Using two trick balloons to make a cross might well conclude this activity.

Jesus faced many trials here on earth, but that did not stop him from giving his life for us. Because of that, not only are our sins forgiven, but also Jesus is with us every day as we trust him. When we face problems like he did, we can trust that God will work it out.

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.

Read Hebrews 12:2-3:

“We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God. Think about Jesus, who endured opposition from sinners, so that you don’t become tired and give up.”

Application:

Needed: video, Joseph in Egypt by Nest Family Entertainment

Begin the video (VHS) at the part of Joseph being sold into slavery, about 6-1/2 minutes into the video and run for 4 minutes, 23 seconds.

Note: Next week’s lesson plan includes showing the follow-up video which covers the relationship of Joseph with his brothers, including how he forgave them.

OR

Read Genesis 37, 39-41 from a children’s story Bible.

The learning point of this Bible event is that, even though something bad happened to Joseph, he still trusted God no matter what. Although it wasn’t fair that he was in prison, Joseph kept his eyes on God and trusted him. And God was ultimately faithful, using Joseph’s suffering to bless not only Joseph but also millions of people in Egypt and surrounding nations.



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.

Invite kids to come to the front and share experiences of how God took care of them, as they trusted in Jesus. Emphasize how God can use difficult experiences as opportunities to bring good into our lives and witness to others.

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.

Gordy Upside Down

Gordy Puppet Script

Gordy appears at the puppet stage with a trick balloon (long, thin—used by clowns and magicians to make animals and objects) tied around his head in such a way that one part of the balloon is pointing up and the other is pointing down.

Gordy: *(Interrupting.)* Excuse me, Pastor. I think you are a bit confused.

Pastor: Hi, Gordy. What do you mean by saying I'm confused? And what in the world is that on your head?

Gordy: That's what I'm talking about! You don't seem to know which way is up and which way is down.

Pastor: I don't?

Gordy: Yeah. You need one of these balloons.

Pastor: Why do I need one of those?

Gordy: Because it helps me know which way is up and which way is down. See? It points.

Pastor: Now you really have me confused.

Gordy: No, you have me confused! You were the one that was singing the song, *Upside Down*: "To go up you have to go down."

Pastor: That's right. I was singing that.

Gordy: Well, what does that mean? And what do you mean when you say "the greatest must become the least?" You are really mixed up.

Pastor: Gordy, what that means is that we humble ourselves to serve God and others.

Gordy: What does it mean to humble yourself?

Pastor: It means you kind of go beneath people. It is kind of like going down under them to help them along.

Gordy: Why would you want to do that?

Pastor: When you go down to help someone, God will take care of lifting you up. He says, "The greatest in the kingdom must become the least."

Gordy: There you go again! You're all confused.

Pastor: No, I'm not. You just may not understand God's way.

Gordy: Give it to me one more time.

Pastor: Sometimes all we think about is me, me, me, me, me! Me first. Me, most important. No one else matters.

Gordy: Yeah, I understand that.

Pastor: When we come to God, we find that Jesus was not someone who said, "Me first."

Gordy: He wasn't?

Pastor: No. Even though he was the greatest person who ever lived, Jesus gave his life for us. It was just like he became the least. He became the servant of all.

Gordy: Even me?

Pastor: Even you. Jesus served us all by giving his life for us so that our sins would be forgiven and we could be friends with God forever.

Gordy: Wow! That kind of lifts me up!

Pastor: It lifts everybody up who believes it. Since Jesus has done that for us, we can do it for others.

Gordy: You mean that even if you're great, like me?

Pastor: Yes, especially then. We want to think not about me first or being the greatest. Instead, we want to serve and love God by serving and loving others. We go down to serve in order for God to raise us up.

Gordy: I don't know. Sometimes it is hard not to think about me first.

Pastor: Gordy, why don't you pray with me? Let's talk to God about all the ways that we have "me first," and things that we have done to hurt others because of it. Maybe we have not honored God because all we are thinking of is ourselves. When we talk to

God about it and ask for forgiveness in Jesus' name, he forgives us. He also gives us the power to change. (*Lead the children in a prayer.*)

Gordy: (*After the prayer*) Wow! That feels much better. Pastor, do you want to borrow my upside down pointer?

Pastor: **That's okay, Gordy. You can keep it as a reminder – not of which way is up and which way is down, but a reminder that in order to go up, I have to go down. What do you think of that?**

Gordy: I love it! I'm going to go down right now and see whom I can serve. Bye, kids!

Pastor: **Bye, Gordy. Kids, say "bye" to Gordy. Well, that was a neat interruption. Now, where were we? Oh, yeah, we were singing praises to Jesus. Let's shout to the Lord our praises!**

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- Gordy the Puppet with trick-tying balloon tied around his head with one end pointing up and the other pointing down—these may be purchased at any craft/hobby store, clown or magic supplier

Learning Game:

- long trick-tying balloons

Application of Bible Presentation:

- the video *Joseph In Egypt*, from Nest Family Entertainment — order from: <http://www.nestfamily.com>

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