



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 45

God Has Power Over False Gods

Primary Scripture: 1 Kings 18 The Story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Key Verse: 1 John 4:4, "...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

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

When America was founded, Christianity was the dominant religion. The early immigrants to America, mostly from western Europe, were also Christians. But in recent years, many immigrants have come from non-Christian cultures, bringing their religious beliefs and false gods with them. The kids in your church might have a Muslim family living next door. As this becomes more and more the norm, our culture will tend to redefine who God is. The new God is Pluralism – the belief that every religion is okay, and no religion's view of God is complete. Our kids need to know that there is only one true God, and that he has revealed himself to us in the Bible. This worship experience will help kids discover the awesome power that God has over all other gods – and kids will be reminded that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus demonstrated God's ultimate power by rising from the dead. But first he demonstrated ultimate humility and love by dying on the cross in our place.

Jesus in us: God's awesome power is available to us as we live with the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts.

Jesus through us: We, like Jesus, can call on God's power to impact our lives and the lives of others for good, according to God's will.

Kids Church Year 3 - Lesson 45 - 1

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 needed: candle lighter, flash paper, marker, metal coat hanger, metal clips to attach flash paper strips to coat hanger, large red construction paper cross, two strips of red paper (same kind as cross is made out of) that will cover the "shoulder" portions of the coat hanger, some kind of fastener/tape to attach cross to coat hanger



For the following, experiment with whatever apparatus you build to make sure you know how it all will work. It promises to be a spectacular display that kids won't soon forget!

Remove anything flammable from a regular metal coat hanger (e.g., remove any paper liner or foam over the top "shoulder" portions). Attach Velcro to the corners and to the hook portion of the hanger. Create a red cross that will cover the bottom rung of the coat hanger. The top of the cross needs to reach the Velcro piece at the hook. The horizontal "arms"

of the cross need to reach the pieces of Velcro at the corners. Attach Velcro to the cross in these three places so that when the cross is placed over the hanger, it will stick.

Before kids arrive, use fishing line or a thin wire to suspend the hanger (without the cross) from the ceiling or from a coat tree or some other tall object. *This is to guarantee that when the flash paper (see below) ignites, it won't damage anything.*

As you teach, use metal paper clips to attach sections of flash paper in a row along the bottom rung of the hanger, making sure the pieces of flash paper overlap slightly so that when one ignites, all will burn up. Begin with:

I want to begin Kids Church today with a question: Besides Jesus and the God of the Bible, can you name any other gods that people worship or religions people practice?

Help kids name other gods or religions: Mohammed, Krishna, Islam, Buddha, Mother Earth, good works, etc. As each is identified, write it on a separate piece of flash paper and attach it to the bottom rung of the coat hanger. When finished, a whole row of false gods and religions will be visible along the bottom rung of the hanger. Make sure all the flash paper pieces overlap slightly so that when one ignites, all will burn up.

Wow! That's quite a line-up of gods and religions. Some people would say that it really doesn't matter what you believe or exactly who you believe in, as long as you believe in God. Do you think this is true?

Let kids respond. Then pull out the candle lighter used to light the candles each week.



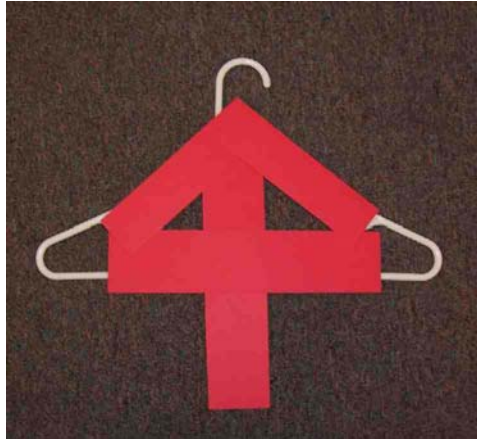
Let's see... We say every week as we light the candles that Jesus is the light of the world. Let's see what happens to these other religions and gods when they come face to face with the light of Jesus.

Standing off to the side, use the candle lighter to light any one piece of flash paper. All the flash paper will vaporize in a blaze of glory.

Wow! That was amazing! Not one of them is left when confronted with the light of Jesus.

The Bible tells us Jesus is the only way to God – not Buddha, not Mohammed, not Krishna, not good works, not Mother Earth. The only way to God, the only way to heaven, is to believe Jesus died for you.

As you say these words, attach the cross, with the horizontal piece of the cross covering the bottom rung of the hanger. Next take a strip of red paper and cover one of the angled “shoulder” sections of the hanger, taping it to make sure it stays up, then do the same on the other “shoulder” section. The red cross and red strips, when viewed together, form an arrow pointing upward.



What do you see? What have we made?
(An arrow.)

Where is the arrow pointing? (Up. Toward heaven.)

Who is the only way to heaven? (Jesus.)

Let's worship Jesus now as we sing praises to his name.

Leave the cross-arrow hanging for the rest of the worship time as a visual reminder of God's power in Jesus.

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 songs.

The Power of the Cross:

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

Supplies: empty pop can, two unsharpened pencils with erasers

Ask for a volunteer to come forward. Place an empty soda can on the floor, upright, in front of the child.

Ask audience to indicate with a show of hands if they think the empty pop can will or will not support the weight of the volunteer standing on it.

Have a second volunteer help the first volunteer remain steady as he/she steps onto the can. It should support him easily.



Look at that! Isn't that amazing?! Who would have thought that little bitty can could hold him/her up? It appears everything is stable, solid and strong. That can is not going anywhere. It looks to me like (insert volunteer's name) is safe and secure on that can.

Call for another volunteer – preferably one of the smaller kids. Give this volunteer two pencils and say:

Raise your hand if you think that (third volunteer's name) can make this can collapse with the slightest touch from these pencils. Well, let's see. On the count of three, we will whisper the name "Jesus." When we do, (third volunteer) will pop both sides of the can at the same time with these two pencils.

Have volunteer #3 practice by gently popping at your leg with the pencil erasers. Then apply the same pressure on the can on which the student is standing. It will require some pressure to make the can buckle, but not a lot.



Once everyone understands what he or she is supposed to do, say in a whisper:

Okay, everyone, in a whisper. One, two, three... Jesus.

Have the third volunteer pop the can lightly as everyone whispers "Jesus." The can should collapse under the weight of the first volunteer.

That can looked like it could hold (first volunteer) all day, didn't it?

That is the way it is with other religions. To lots of people, it looks like those other religions will hold up just fine. But when they are compared to Jesus, they just don't hold up.

The Bible says that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let's whisper his name again. One, two, three ... Jesus.

Let's kneel and confess our sins to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, we confess to you that sometimes we live as though we are God, not you. Sometimes we want to do things our way, not yours—like we know better than you! Please forgive us for the times we do this. Please help us to be more faithful and more obedient. And help us to share with our neighbors and relatives and friends the truth that you are the only way to heaven, so that they, too, will be with us in heaven someday. We love you, Jesus. 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.

Talk about your current mission project and how the funds are going to help others know Jesus is the only way for salvation.



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: empty pop can for each child, two unsharpened pencils with erasers for every group of three kids

Have kids gather in groups of three. Give each child an empty pop can and two pencils to each threesome. Have each group go through the can-collapsing trick three times, taking turns being the stander, the holder/steadier, and the can-popper.

If possible, have all groups do it each time together, as everyone says the name of Jesus. You might have them whisper Jesus' name the first time, say it a little louder the second time, and shout it the third time.

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: the video from Nest Family Entertainment titled The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah

Our Bible reading today is an entire chapter in the Bible: 1 Kings chapter 18. Rather than read it to you, let's watch it on video. As you watch, look for ways God demonstrates that he is the only God.

Show the video or read 1 Kings 18 from a children's story Bible.

Application:

How many prophets of Baal were there? (450.)

If you had been Elijah, would you have felt outnumbered?

Let kids respond.

What does this video teach us about other gods and other religions?
(They have no power. They can't stand up to the God of the Bible.)

Who is the only way to heaven? (Jesus.)

The Bible also says in I John 4:4 “...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

Jesus lives in us when we believe he is our Lord and Savior. All other false gods and religions represent Satan or the one of the world. The Bible event of Elijah proves who is more powerful.

But Jesus also defeated Satan when he died and rose again. We have his power when we believe this.



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.

If time permits, invite children to talk about times they have seen God's power at work in their lives. Be ready with a testimony of your own.

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.

Invite kids to pray for God's power to be demonstrated in their lives and the lives of people they know.

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 songs 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:

- candle lighter
- flash paper (order from Dock Haley Gospel Magic—
http://www.gospelmagic.com/cgi-bin/gospel_magic/cp-app.cgi?usr=51F8331010&rnd=7874257&rrc=N&affl=&cip=66.37.239.194&act=&aff=&pg=prod&ref=7013&cat=&catstr= (It can also be purchased from www.murphymagicssupplies.com, or www.dreamlandmagic.com, and www.magic-mart.net.)
- marker
- metal coat hanger
- metal clips to attach flash paper strips to coat hanger
- large red construction paper cross
- two strips of red paper (same kind as cross is made out of) that will cover the “shoulder” portions of the coat hanger
- some kind of fastener/tape to attach cross to coat hanger

Power of the Cross:

- empty pop can
- two unsharpened pencils with erasers

Learning Game:

- empty pop can for each child
- two unsharpened pencils with erasers for every group of three kids

Bible Presentation:

- the video from Nest Family Entertainment titled *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Elijah*—order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product_detail.asp?ProductID=EJD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page_rec=20

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