



Date: _____
Series: God's Power (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 7

Jesus Shows His Glory

Primary Scripture: Matthew 17:1-13

Key Verse: Matthew 17:5, "...Then a voice came out of the cloud and said, 'This is my Son, whom I love and with whom I am pleased. Listen to him!'"

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

Kids need to see the awesomeness of God and the glory of Jesus. The common picture of him is an earthly man who is kind and loving. This is true, but he is also God's Son. He set aside his glory in heaven to become one of us. Now he lives in this glory to which we will enter some day. Until then, through faith in Christ, kids need to hear their Heavenly Father say to them, "You are my child with whom I am well pleased." We have a mission to live out who we are as God's children. Jesus modeled this by living his mission for us and giving his life for us.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we gain access to God as children pleasing to the Father.

Jesus in us: Jesus' glory shines in us so that we are transformed into his character and likeness.

Jesus through us: Jesus will reach the world through the mission he gives 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 needed: a bright spotlight or flashlight, optional-two small spotlights or flashlights

Show a spotlight – the brighter the better. Shine the light into the audience and into the eyes of kids.

Obviously, if it's too bright, warn them to turn away as the beacon passes through the crowd so as not to hurt their eyes.

**Imagine that you could see God face to face. What would it be like?
What would it be like to see Jesus shining right now in his heavenly glory?**

If he were right here, he would be brighter than this bright spotlight. As a matter of fact, he would be so wonderful that you would probably be knocked over! Did Jesus have that glory when he walked here on earth? No. He set it aside when he was in heaven and became born as a person. He was ordinary looking just like you and me. Because if he had worn his heavenly glory, he would be such a bright light that no one could even be around him.

However, in today's Bible event, we will see there was one time that Jesus showed his heavenly glory while on earth. He even had two others with him from heaven that showed their heavenly glory.

Shine two other flashlights (optional).

They all glowed with heavenly glory. Some day, when we live in heaven, we, too, will have a heavenly glory. But for right now, we can worship God in his heavenly glory as we think of how wonderful and mighty he is. He is ruling in heaven, and he is still ruling here on earth. Let's worship him now. Let's look at him with eyes of faith so we can see his glory shining around us.

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 needed: a figure or small doll that will fit in a pants pocket

Pull out the plastic figure or doll and say:

How many of you know Jesus as your friend?

It is important to know that Jesus IS our friend. He came and gave his life for us. But sometimes, we think of Jesus ONLY as a friend, almost like this little figure. We imagine that he's just a friend that we can put in our pocket and take out whenever we want something.

Put the figure in your pocket and pull it out again.

Sometimes, we may think that Jesus is just like one of us or very ordinary. That's not true at all! It is true that he became a person like one of us, but he is not ordinary.

We should not be so casual with Jesus that we think we can pull him out of our pocket whenever we want. He is ruler of the universe. He is the King of all glory. He is the awesome and magnificent God. He is older than time. He's more powerful than anything in the universe. Jesus is our friend, but Jesus is also our awesome God! We will see that today when we see him shining in his glory from heaven. Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for sending us Jesus. We thank you that his mission was to give his life for us. And he did that. Now that he lives in glory with you, we thank

you that he is our friend. He can help us. But sometimes, Lord, we think of him only as a friend who can be stuffed into our pocket and pulled out anytime we want something. That's not the kind of friend he is. Sometimes we make him so much smaller than he is. Forgive us for thinking so. Instead, help us see Jesus as a friend who is also the powerful, almighty God. He is the one to whom we give our praise and worship and honor. Help us to respect him just as we respect you. 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.

Remind kids that Jesus gave his all for us when he died on the cross. He even gave up his heavenly glory to come and live among his people. He loves us so. Because of his love, we can show him how much we love and trust him by giving back what already belongs to God. This shows him that we love him more than our earthly possessions.

We also show our love for others when we are willing to give to help those in need. Talk about your current mission project and the goal you would like to reach.



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.

“Glorious Cross”

Supplies needed: 8.5” x 11” poster board or very heavy card stock, magnifying glasses (one per every eight children), a completed cross burned into the poster board as an example for the children

This activity should be done outdoors.

Arrange the children into groups of eight. Ask them to take turns holding a magnifying glass over the poster board, close to the surface, so the sun reflects a beam of light on the poster board. The goal is to burn marks in the poster board in the shape of a one inch cross. Show an example of a completed cross.

Observe what happens when the sun’s energy is focused in one place. It becomes so bright that it actually burns a mark into the poster board. If it’s left long enough, it might actually catch fire. *Be cautious about this.* Due to the thickness of the poster board, it is more difficult to ignite than paper. Teach the kids that they should only make brown marks and that they should not try to burn through the paper.

Caution them not to do this at home without supervision.

Learning Point:

Jesus’ glory is like the magnified sun’s energy. It is powerful and glorious. Through the power of Jesus’ death and resurrection, his light overcomes the darkness of our sins. He lives in us, and his light shines in our lives. Others are drawn to Christ as we pour out his love to others and allow his light to shine through us. This fulfills our mission here on earth as we bring others to Christ.

Indoors option for cloudy days:

Supplies needed: heavy-duty copies of the bookmarks from the template at the end of the lesson (Cut the bookmarks on the dotted lines and punch the holes at the top of the bookmarks. Make enough for every child.), three-inch strands of ¼” ribbon (one for each child), stickers, markers, and/or color crayons

Have each child make a bookmark. Stickers, markers, and/or color crayons can be used to decorate the bookmarks.

Have kids complete the project by weaving the ribbon through the bookmark as follows.

- 1) From the front of the bookmark, thread a portion of the ribbon through the left hole.
- 2) Thread the other end of the ribbon down through the right hole with the wrong side of the ribbon facing up. (Both tails should be on the back, and the front should just show about a ½” of the wrong side of the ribbon.)
- 3) From the back of the bookmark, flatten the left tail down toward the right and hold it in place.
- 4) Thread the right tail through the left hole to the front.
- 5) Thread the left tail through the right hole to the front.

Alternative option:

Simply loop the ribbon through the holes and tie it in a knot on one side.

Bible Reading:

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.

Option 1:

Read Matthew 17:1–13 with dramatic inflection, using the bright flashlight to illustrate it as you read.

Option 2:

Show the video “*Visual Bible: Matthew*” produced by Visual Bible International. Order from:

http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41.

Show the clip covering Matthew 17:1–13.

Application:

Jacob’s New Dad Interactive Storytelling

Choose two volunteers from the audience. The first character, Jacob, is to be played by a boy who is willing to act with strong facial or body expressions. He should be coached beforehand on how to act out his parts in the story. Provide him with a long-sleeve sweatshirt or some other clothing that depicts a child who is beaten down and fights back (almost like a bully) and a baseball cap that he should wear backwards. The second character, Jacob’s Uncle Wes, is to be played by an adult.

Divide the audience into three groups of children. All students will have a part.

Position Jacob and Uncle Wes offstage. Begin by training the audience to participate with their lines.

Kids, today you are part of the story! I'd like you to imagine that you might be kids at school who are saying some things that aren't very kind or nice, but it's just part of this story.

The word for the kids to my right is "stupid." When I say the sentence "He must be..." and point to you, you say the word "stupid." Let's try it. He must be...

Point to the first group. Kids say "stupid."

Good! Now when I whisper, you whisper, too. Let's try it. (Speak in a whisper.) He must be...

Point. Kids whisper "stupid."

Let's try it another way.

Say while chuckling:

Ha, ha, ha. He must be...

Point. Kids say "stupid" while chuckling.

These different tonal inflections make the story interesting, so it's important that the storyteller chuckles as he says his line so the kids chuckle when they say their line.

The word for the second group is "cheat." Every time you hear me say, "He's nothing but a ..." and point to you, you say, "cheat." Let's try it. He's nothing but a...

Point to the second group. Kids and say "cheat." Have kids repeat.

Let's try a whispering tone. (In a whisper) He's nothing but a...

Point. Kids whisper "cheat."

Let's try a chuckling tone. Ha, ha, ha. He's nothing but a ...

Point. Kids say "cheat" while chuckling.

The word for the third group is “loser.” When I say, “He’s such a big ...” and point to you, you say “loser.” Let’s practice different tones. He’s such a big...

Point to the third group who say “loser.”

Good. Let’s try another one (in a whisper) **He’s such a big...**

Point. Kids say, “loser.”

Let’s try a chuckling tone. Ha, ha, ha. He’s such a big...

Point. Kids say “loser” while chuckling.

Okay, are you ready for the story to begin? Remember to listen for your line. When I point to you, you fill in the blank. Let’s do a real quick review.

He’s must be... Point to the first group who say “stupid.”

He’s nothing but a... Point to the second group and they say “cheat.”

He’s such a big... Point to the third group. Kids say “loser.”

Great! Let’s begin! Once, there was a boy named Jacob.

Invite Jacob to come up to the front.

He was like most other boys in the first grade. He liked to play games and laugh with his friends. He was good at school and liked by his teachers. Everything was going great for Jacob. So everyone usually said, “That’s great, Jake!” Let me hear you all say, “That’s great, Jake!”

Have kids say, “That’s great, Jake!”

See how he walks around tall and happy?

The volunteer walks around with his head up and shoulders back.

But when Jacob started second grade, things began to change. His mom and dad were fighting a lot at home. This bothered Jacob a lot. He didn’t know what to do. He asked them to quit, but that didn’t seem to help. So at school, he often had thoughts of home. He was beginning to feel sad inside and even a little lonely. That’s when things began to change at school.

One day when he was daydreaming while looking out the window, his teacher asked Jake to subtract 21 from 35. He hadn’t been paying attention, but he knew that he should know it. When he looked at the

numbers, they didn't seem to make any sense at all. So he just thought of a number.

"46," he blurted out. All of his friends laughed. Then he heard someone next to him whisper, "He must be..."

Point to the first group who say "stupid."

Jake had never thought about that before. He didn't think he was stupid, but maybe it was true. He crossed his arms and then put his fist under his chin while he sadly thought about that.

The volunteer acts out the part.

Later that week, something like that happened again. He was supposed to turn in the spelling words, but he had forgotten all about them because his mom and dad were arguing at home. When his teacher asked what happened to his spelling words, he said the first thing that came to mind.

He said, "My dog ate 'em." Everyone laughed. He laughed at first, but then he heard the girls giggling. Ha, ha, ha. He must be...

Point to the first group... "stupid."

The rest of his second grade year continued to go that way.

A change began to happen to Jake. His shoulders slumped down. He often walked with his hands in his pockets.

The volunteer follows the suggested motions.

And deep inside, he really was beginning to wonder if he was... You guessed it – stupid.

When Jake was in third grade, the fights between his dad and mom were over. That's because his dad left home. His mom wasn't feeling good. She was working all the time and was very tired. Jake never saw his dad. So Jake began to lose interest in school. It was easy to lose interest because he sometimes had the lowest grade in the class on his spelling tests. He heard the kids whisper, "He must be..."

Point to the first group... "stupid."

He thought he might change that. So one day, he hid a sheet of paper with his spelling words written on it behind his test paper. He thought, "This way, no one will say I'm stupid." But before he

finished his test, the teacher walked up beside him and said, “What’s this under your test paper, Jacob? Oh, my! It looks like you are cheating!” The class suddenly got quiet. Then he heard some kids whisper, “He’s nothing but a...

Point to the second group... “cheat.”

He was angry with himself and angry for being caught. On the playground that day, he pushed down Brandon when Brandon didn’t share the ball. Brandon got up, red-faced, and yelled, “I don’t care about Jake. He’s nothing but a...”

Point to the second group... “cheat.”

Before the year was out, the name had stuck to him. And sometimes when kids were walking by him, they even sang this song, “That Jake, he’s not so neat. He’s nothing but a...”

Point to the second group... “cheat.”

The next year, Jacob started the fourth grade. If you think things couldn’t get worse, you are wrong. His dad had vanished. He never saw him at all. And now his mom was sick. She was in the hospital all the time, and she had to wear a scarf because her hair was falling out. Jacob felt very lonely. At school he heard kids talk about him. Some said, “He must be...”

Point to the first group... “stupid.”

Others said, “He’s nothing but a...

Point to the second group... “cheat.”

But now Jake was fighting back the only way he knew how—with his fists. Even though he was small, he wasn’t afraid to push and hit kids bigger than him. But when he did, he often got into fights. One time, Curtis tackled him and sat on him until he couldn’t move. All the kids were laughing, and he heard them say, “Ha, ha, ha. Look at Jake. He’s such a big...”

Point to the third group... “loser.”

He began to hang out with mean kids who were older than he. Sometimes they would joke among themselves about him. He even heard them whisper, “He’s such a big...”

Point to the third group... “loser.”

But at least they let him hang around them. His other friends didn't want to play with him anymore. Sometimes, their parents didn't even want them to hang around with him. They said, "You don't want to be like Jacob. He's such a big..."

Point to the third group... "loser."

When Jacob was in fifth grade, his world finally came crumbling down. His mom died. He felt all alone. See how he walks around with his hands in his pockets and his shoulders slumped.

The volunteer follows the suggested body movements.

No one had heard from his dad for two years. Now Jacob really felt like he must be stupid. He was nothing but a cheat. He was such a big loser. He now believed the terrible things said about him.

He went across town to live with Uncle Wes and Aunt Sharon. They had three small children. They always seemed so nice and well-behaved. He wondered how long he would be there before they would be just like everyone else and say, "He must be..."

Point to the first group... "stupid."

"He's nothing but a..."

Point to the second group... "cheat."

"He's such a big..."

Point to the third group... "loser."

But he didn't ever hear it, even when he did something stupid at home.

He let the bathtub overflow once, flooding the whole upstairs. And there was another time when the teacher sent a note home from school. He had been caught cheating. He thought for sure Uncle Wes would want nothing more to do with him. But Uncle Wes didn't even get mad. He just made him do extra work to make up for his cheating.

Jake was beginning to feel different now. He was beginning to feel like he belonged, even if it wasn't his real family. His uncle was treating him like a dad treats his son. He even called him son from time to time. Aunt Sharon called him "my little boy." Although it was embarrassing sometimes, he still liked it inside. He was hoping that maybe he could stay at his uncle's house.

But then it happened. He was in the neighborhood playing with some older kids. One pushed him down. He got up and pushed him back. Before he knew it, they were tumbling on the sidewalk, wrestling and punching.

Then there was a hand on his shoulder. It was the hand of the other boy's dad. "What are you doing to my son?" he shouted at Jake. "Where do you live? Who are your parents? You're lucky I don't call the police!"

About then, Jake saw Uncle Wes approaching.

The actor, Uncle Wes, can enter the stage.

The other dad said, "This boy was hitting my son. What kind of boy is this?" Jake looked at his uncle. He thought this would be the end. In his mind, he heard, (in a whisper) "He's such a big..."

Point to the third group... "loser."

But that's not what his uncle said. Instead, Uncle Wes said, "Fighting is not right. We can't have that. Maybe they both are wrong. I'm not pleased with his actions, but one thing is for sure—this is still my son, whom I love and with whom I'm pleased."

Wow! Things changed for Jacob that day. You see, he no longer heard the voices in his head that said, "He must be..."

Point to the first group... "stupid."

"He's nothing but a..."

Point to the second group... "cheat."

"He's such a big..."

Point to the third group... "loser."

He only heard one voice. It said, "This is my son, whom I love and with whom I'm pleased." See the smile on his face?

The volunteer smiles.

He began to change that day. He became more and more pleasing because his new father was already pleased with him.

In today's story, Uncle Wes might be compared to our heavenly Father. How is he like our heavenly Father? *(He is like our heavenly Father because he is pleased with us for who we are – not just what we do. We are adopted into his family because of what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross.)*

How are we like Jacob? *(We are like Jacob because it helps us do better when we remember that God says to us, "With you I am pleased.")*

Everyone is like Jacob because we all make mistakes. Sometimes we listen to those voices, and we feel like we are stupid, a cheat, or a loser. But Jesus has given his life for us. He was the only perfect person.

When God spoke to Jesus at transfiguration, he said, "This is my Son, whom I love and with whom I am pleased. Listen to him!"

We have a chance to get to know Jesus through God's word. When we know Jesus as our Savior, God looks at us and sees us as his sons and daughters, too. We are forgiven because of what Jesus has done so that God, our Father, looks at us and says, "This is my much loved son (or my much loved daughter) whom I love and with whom I am pleased." He can say this to us even if we are not perfect. That is because he sees what Jesus has done for us.



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.

Think about some ways in which you have let Jesus' glory shine through your life to others. Maybe it was through encouraging words that you gave to someone. Or maybe you helped someone. Or maybe you were friends with someone even though others were not very nice to him or her. Let's share those times.

Give your own personal example.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

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:

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

- a bright spotlight or flashlight
- two small spotlights or flashlights (optional)

Power of the Cross

- a figure or small doll that will fit in a pants pocket

Learning Game: Option 1

- 8.5" x 11" poster board or very heavy card stock
- magnifying glasses (one per every eight children)
- a completed cross burned into the poster board as an example for the children

Learning Game: Option 2

- heavy-duty copies of the bookmarks from the template at the end of the lesson (Cut the bookmarks on the dotted lines and punch the holes at the top of the bookmarks. Make enough for every child.)
- three inch strands of ¼" ribbon (Make one for each child.)
- stickers, markers, and/or color crayons

Bible Reading:

- a video called *The Visual Bible: Matthew* Vol. 3 ISBN 1-889710-08-3 (order from: http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41)
Show the clip covering Matthew 17:1-13

Application:

- a baseball cap
- a long sweatshirt or some other clothing that depicts a child who is rebellious



*You are
my child,
whom I
Love and
with whom
I am
pleased.*



*You are
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