



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: The Best Gift of All – Jesus  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 32

# Bring Your Friends to Jesus

**Primary Scripture:** John 1:35-51

**Key Verse:** John 1:41, “Andrew at once found his brother Simon and told him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which means ‘Christ’).”

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

Kids need friends. The best friend they could ever have is Jesus. The only way many kids will ever find out about Jesus is if their friends invite them to come and meet him. Kids who know Jesus need to know that they are responsible for inviting their friends to meet Jesus. Jesus is the gift that God gives. As friends, we are like the wrapping paper for the gift that God has. Through our friendship people might receive the gift—the wrapping paper comes off, and Jesus is revealed.

**How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus came into the world to give his life for us so that we would be friends with God and be able to share his friendship with the world.

**Jesus in us:** Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives in us and gives us a Christ-like love for the world—especially our friends.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus will use us to reach our friends. We need to invite them “to come and see” who Jesus is.

## 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: three boxes with removable lids, small chocolate bars*

In advance, wrap each box so lids can be removed as follows: one wrapped in a brown paper bag, one wrapped in a newspaper, one wrapped in nice wrapping paper with a bow on it. Before wrapping the third box, arrange the chocolate bars inside the nicely wrapped box in the shape of a cross and tape them down so they will not move.

Present the three presents.

**This past week was an exciting week as we celebrated Christmas. I am sure you all received a present. I bet you are all pretty good at choosing good presents.**

**Have you noticed the three presents I have here? I would like one person to come up and choose a present.**

Have a volunteer come forward and remove the lid from the present of his/her choice. If the volunteer chooses one of the plainly wrapped presents, he/she will notice nothing there. Have the volunteer continue choosing until he/she chooses the nicely wrapped present.

**This nicely wrapped present is much more appealing than the other two. Inside there is a nice surprise. Who does this remind us of? (Jesus.) Yes, Jesus.**

Refer to the chocolate cross in the box.

**There is a verse in the Bible that tells us to “*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*” (Psalm 34:8.)**

**Later today you will all be able to enjoy some candy for a snack. But first, I want to focus on the wrapping paper.**

**God gave the gift of Jesus to the world—his own Son who was born as a baby in Bethlehem. He grew up to give his life for all people. Jesus paid the price for our sins.**

**When God gives a gift to the world, how does he wrap it so people will want to receive it and open it? Today we will learn that he wraps his gifts in friendship. You and I are the friends of Jesus that can invite people to open the present and experience Jesus. Yes, even to “taste and see that the Lord is good.”**

## **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.*

Hold up the wrapping paper from the nicely wrapped present.

**Let’s think of our friendship with others as the wrapping paper belonging to the gift of Jesus. Just like the pretty paper can make the gift more appealing, we can attract others and encourage them to get to know Jesus.**

**But have any of you ever felt embarrassed or scared to talk to your friends about Jesus?**

**We might be afraid others will think we are strange or might not want to be our friends if they find out we are Christians. Maybe we think they really don’t want to hear about Jesus.**

**When this happens, we are not being the attractive wrapping paper God wants us to be. We are not encouraging people to open the gift of Jesus.**

**Let's talk to God and tell him about any times that we have not been the kind of wrapping paper he wants us to be. When we receive his forgiveness, we receive his power to become just who he wants us to be—the best wrapping paper possible.**

**Dear God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you that when we trust you as our Savior, you are a friend forever. Sometimes we have not been the kind of friends that help others discover the gift of Jesus and help them unwrap this gift. We are sorry if we have ever been afraid of inviting others to meet you. We are sorry if we have not been very attractive wrapping paper and have been unkind or mean. Through the power of Jesus, please forgive us and change us so that we can be like attractive wrapping paper that will help others unwrap the gift of Jesus. 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.*

Place the nicely wrapped box on the altar area. Invite children to come and lay their offerings on it. Say:

**Giving our offerings to Jesus is one of the ways to say, "I love you" for the gift that God gave in his own Son Jesus. Offerings are used so that the whole church can be equipped as better friends to others and invite them to meet Jesus.**

Discuss the mission project you are currently supporting.



# The Word

## 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.*

*Today the Bible Presentation comes before the Learning Games because a longer time is being spent there. The Sunday after Christmas, kids typically have a lot of energy and there may be fewer adult staff or ministry partners. Therefore, many learning games are offered as a way to help the children remember the learning point and build friendships as they play.*

## Video

Show the video, *The Gospel of John* from Visual Bible International. Order from [www.visualbible.com](http://www.visualbible.com). Show the clip of John 1:35-51. This lasts 5 minutes and 5 seconds.

**Now that you have seen the Bible Event, we are going to play some games. See how these games might remind you of something from the Bible Event.**

## 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: hula hoops (one per every two kids), coffee stir sticks—one per child, LifeSavers—one per team, masking tape, table, Tootsie Rolls—one per child*

## 1. Wheelbarrow Races:

*You may offer different competitions for different grade levels or maybe even a wheelbarrow obstacle course. Not every child is strong enough for this game or would need to compete, but those who choose not to can be a part of this obstacle course or the cheering section.*

Demonstrate how two children make a wheelbarrow to race. One child holds the legs of another child while the child uses his hands to walk.

Caution the children holding the legs to let those walking on their hand set the speed so not to cause an injury.

**How is this game like something you saw in the Bible Event?**

Take any suggestions. Then say:

**In today's Bible event, we saw how a friend brought his friend to Jesus. This is like the wheelbarrow. The person on his/her hands could not move unless the back person helped him/her get to the finish line. We can help our friends come and see Jesus.**

## 2. Hula Hoop Ring Toss

Have kids partner together and play a ring toss game with hula hoops. One child stands very still and is the pole the hula hoop goes around and the other tosses the hula hoop. Kids alternate standing still and throwing the hula hoop after each throw. Have partners keep track of the number of rings they make.

A variation of this game is for those pairs that have had a successful ring toss to take one step away from the other and try again. The pair that ends up being the furthest apart wins the game.

**How does this game remind you of something from our Bible Event?**

**God wants to put his love around people, but who will he use to help them get to know his love? Just like a friend tossing a hoop on a friend, we are the ones who toss God's love to encircle another person.**

## 3. Let's Snack with a Partner

Have kids line up in pairs with one behind the other. The front person holds his/her hands behind his/her back. The partner behind puts his/her arms through the hole between the front person's arms and body. The back person's arms now look like they belong to the front person. The person behind needs to keep his/her face behind the front other person so they cannot see.

The task is for the person behind to feed a snack to the person in front.

The person in front will tell the person in back how to feed him/her. For example, "The snack I want to eat is to my right on the table. Move a little more to the right... I really like Tootsie Rolls, but not with the paper on it. It needs to be unwrapped before putting it in my mouth."

When the task has been completed one way, have them trade places and do it again.

To make this more challenging, have the partners walk across the room to get to the table and find the snack.

Bring the kids together to discuss:

**Does this game remind you of anything that we saw in our Bible Event today?**

**Our friends need us to help them "taste and see that the Lord is good."**

#### **4. Upside-Down Centipede**

In advance, make a line down the center of the room with masking tape.

Have the children lie down with their shoulders touching the line, alternating direction on either side of the line. For example, the children on one side of the line will lie with their feet facing to the left. The children on the other side of the line will lie with their feet facing the right. While they lie next to each other, have their shoulders be the meeting point.

When the children are all placed on the line, have them raise their arms. It should look like a long line of centipede legs upside down.

Tell the kids they are an upside down centipede whose job is not to move but to move people. Begin with a lightweight child who can keep his/her body very stiff. Place this child on the centipede's legs (*the children's arms*) on one end of the line. Have the children pass this child all the way down the line like a conveyor belt.

As the child is passed down the line, make sure adults are on both sides in order to catch the child if he/she falls.

**Who can tell me how this game relates to our Bible Event?**

**Sometimes it is not just one friend who brings someone to Jesus, but it may be a long line of people who encourage a person to get to know Jesus.**

## 5. LifeSaver Relay

Make relay teams that include five to eight kids in a line. Give each child a coffee stir stick.

To demonstrate how the relay works, put a stir stick in your mouth with a LifeSaver on it. Place your hands behind your back and show the kids how to pass the LifeSaver onto someone else's stick without the stick leaving your mouth.

Instruct the kids to keep their hands behind their backs. When you say, "go," the game begins. The winner is the first team to pass the LifeSaver all the way to end of their line.

Then discuss:

**Can anyone tell me how this game relates to something from our Bible Event?**

**Jesus is a lifesaver. He gave his life for us. This Good News is passed down from person to person as friends tell their friends about him.**

**Are you willing to share the sweetness of Jesus with your friends?**

## Application:

Have a wrap-up contest about the Bible Event with the following questions. Give out small candy awards to those who answer correctly. (*Correct answers are in italics.*)

If the students cannot answer the question readily, have them do a "Sword Drill" and look up the scripture reference. The first one who finds the scripture either reads it or has someone else read it. Say:

**We are going to have a contest now to see who can answer the following questions correctly. Listen closely. Here is question number one.**

1. Two of John's disciples saw Jesus passing by and began to follow him. They asked Jesus where he was staying. Jesus said, "Come and you will \_\_\_\_." Is the correct answer...?
  - a) know
  - b) *see (John 1:39.)*
  - c) eat chocolate



2. Andrew was of those who followed Jesus. The first thing he did was he find his brother, Simon, and bring him to Jesus. Jesus gave him a new name. What was this new name?
  - a) Herman
  - b) Rufus
  - c) **Peter** (*John 1:42b.*)
3. Jesus found Philip. He told Philip to...
  - a) follow John
  - b) follow ESPN
  - c) **follow me** (*John 1:43b.*)
4. Immediately when Philip followed Jesus, he went to get one of his friends, Nathanael. Philip told him that he had found the promised Messiah. When Nathanael heard where Jesus had come from, he could hardly believe it. Where did Jesus come from?
  - a) **Nazareth** (*John 1:45-46.*)
  - b) Biloxi, Mississippi
  - c) (Insert your neighborhood local school.)
5. When Nathanael followed Philip and came and saw Jesus, Jesus told him that he had seen Nathanael under the fig tree. Nathanael was amazed. There was no way Jesus could have known that information unless he had super natural powers. Nathanael told Jesus, "You are the Son of God, the king of Israel." What did Jesus say to Nathanael?
  - a) "Whatever"
  - b) **"You will see greater things than that"** (*John 1:50.*)
  - c) "Enough talking. Let's get going."
6. If you are a follower of Jesus, what are ways you can bring your friends to "come and see Jesus"? (*Take whatever answers from the kids. Examples would be to invite them to church, talk to them about Jesus, pray for them etc.*)

### Art project:

*Supplies: scraps of wrapping paper, bows and ribbons, old Christmas cards, scissors, glue, copy of the Appendix A & B copied back-to-back on cardstock—one per child*

Have the kids make "After Christmas cards" to give to their friends.

Hand each kid a copy of the "After Christmas card" to decorate.

*Start on the inside of the card because the kids will be gluing objects on the front.*

Have the kids decorate the word "JESUS" and write a message that would invite their friend to church.

1. On the front page in the section that says "After Christmas Cards," have the kids cut out small pieces of old Christmas cards and glue them on.
2. In the next section on the front page that says, "After wrapping paper," the kids need to cut small pieces of old wrapping paper and glue it on.
3. In the last section on the front page that says, "After presents," the kids cut out pieces of ribbon and glue it on or place a bow on the page.



# 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.*

**Share about a time a friend invited you to “come and see” Jesus.**  
Discuss.

**Share an opportunity you may have had to invite a friend to “come and see” Jesus during this Christmas season.** For example, they may have invited someone to church or told a friend about Jesus.

## 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.*

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- three boxes with lids
- brown paper bag
- newsprint
- nice Christmas wrapping paper
- mini chocolate bars
- scissors
- tape

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video: *Gospel of John* by Visual Bible International—order from <http://www.visualbible.com>

## *Learning Games:*

- hula hoops—one for every two kids
- table
- Tootsie Rolls—one per kid
- masking tape
- coffee stir sticks—one per kid
- LifeSavers—one per team

## *Application:*

- small candy rewards
- Appendix A & B copied back-to-back on cardstock—one per kid
- scraps of Christmas wrapping paper
- several old Christmas cards
- ribbon and/or bows
- scissors
- glue, glue sticks and tape
- crayons and/or washable markers

After Christmas cards...

After wrapping paper...

After presents....

**THERE'S STILL....**

# JESUS!

God loved the world this way: He gave his  
only Son so that everyone  
who believes in him will not die but will  
have eternal life. *John 3:16 (GW)*

