



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

Series: God's Big Gift  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 47

# Jesus' Main Purpose Is to Give His Life for Us

**Primary Scripture:** Matthew 21:1-17, 26:1-27,66

**Key Verse:** Matthew 20:28b, "He came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many people."

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

As children grow up today, they will encounter a mindset that says all religions are equally valid. Many people will admit that Jesus was a great man, but fail to see his ultimate purpose. Kids need to know what made Jesus different from all other religious leaders. Jesus' main purpose was to give up his life for us. Only through Jesus' death and resurrection can we receive forgiveness and new life in him. Today's Kids Church focuses largely on letting the children experience Matthew's account of Jesus' final week. As the children see this in sequential order, they can recognize how intentional Jesus was in coming into the world to give up his life as a ransom for the sin of the world.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus knew his purpose. He was to give his life as a payment for the punishment of our sins by dying on the cross. Through his resurrection we are assured of his victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil.

**Jesus in us:** Through the power of the Holy Spirit we receive the very presence of Jesus and his purpose to give glory to the Father.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus works through each of us with his love, helping us fulfill our purpose of giving glory to the Father.

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## 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: video-Visual Bible: *The Gospel of Matthew* (order from: <http://www.goccc.com/vibimadvd1of.html>), palm branches for each child*

Today's call to worship will be a bit different. It begins by watching *The Visual Bible: The Gospel of Matthew* beginning at Matthew 21:1 and ending at verse seventeen. At the end of this presentation, we see that Jesus says that from the lips of children and infants, God has ordained praise. In other words, God has chosen praise through our songs. There is no higher calling that a child can have than to sing his love and praise to our God who has made us, to his Son Jesus who has given his life for us, and to God the Holy Spirit who fills us with praise.

After the opening video, pass out palm branches. Encourage full participation in worship.

Begin lesson by asking questions for what is the purpose behind different objects in the room. For example, what is the purpose of a piano? An altar? A chair?

Then point to the cross.

**What is the purpose of the cross? The cross points us to the main purpose of Jesus. His main purpose was to give his life for us by going all the way to the cross so that we would have new life in him. This was the purpose that his Heavenly Father gave him. Jesus gladly did this because of his love for us.**

If that is Jesus' purpose, I wonder what your purpose is, boys and girls? The Bible says that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old things have passed away and the new have come. That means that if we are in Christ, we are made to be like him. We have a new purpose. It is the purpose that Jesus had – to do what the Father tells us by laying down our lives, too. That means we give God our worship and praise and we live for him. When we do that, we will serve other people just like Jesus did.

## **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.*

**We can remember things this week that we did that were not God's purposes. This is called sin. Anytime we do things that are not part of God's purpose, we need to get back on track. We do that by asking for forgiveness and believing that God gives it to us because of Jesus. We ask him to then help change us so that we can always be about his purpose. That purpose is to love God and to love others.**

Have kids silently confess their sins to God. Pray for God's forgiveness.

## **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.*

*Needed: hula hoop*

Place a hula hoop in the middle of the room. Have children who bring their offerings stand in the hula hoop. Even those that do not bring an offering can stand in the hula hoop because we make ourselves an offering. It is just as if the hula hoop was an offering plate and we stand in it. It is just like us giving ourselves to God.



# 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.*

Set 2 liter bottles as “bowling pins” (three in back, two in middle, and one in front). Mark a starting line with masking tape 20 feet from the pins (bottles). Divide kids into equal teams. Use a soft exercise ball to knock over as many pins as possible. In bowling, the purpose in the game is to knock all the pins down, as in a strike.

Christ gave his life for us and we in return say thank you by focusing our life on him. It takes focus to knock all the pins down, just as you would focus on Jesus and make him number one in your life.

## 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.*

Show the *Visual Bible* video beginning at Matthew 26:1 and continuing all the way through Matthew 27:66.

Before showing the video, challenge the children to see if they can watch for places in which they see how Jesus had one purpose in mind. That purpose was to go to the cross to sacrifice his life for us.

After the video, give candy rewards to those children who can tell of ways they saw Jesus focused on his main purpose of going to the cross.



## **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.*

Let kids share how knowing what Jesus has done for them and that they have a purpose helps them in their life

## **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.*

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# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- *Visual Bible: "The Gospel of Matthew"*, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997—order from: <http://www.goccc.com/vibimadvd1of.html>
- palm branches

## *Offering:*

- hula hoop

## *Learning Game:*

- six 2-liter empty plastic pop bottles per team
- one small soft exercise ball per team

## *Bible Reading:*

- *Visual Bible: "The Gospel of Matthew"*, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997
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