



Date: _____
Series: God's Big Gift
Winter Year 2, Lesson 42

Jesus is Savior and Lord

Primary Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10

Key Verses: Ephesians 2:8, 10, "...Being saved is a gift from God... He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works..."

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

Kids need to know Jesus as both Savior and Lord. Kids can understand what it means to receive a free gift. They love gifts! Kids need to know that Jesus offers them salvation as a free gift. They also need to know that they have a gift to offer him, as well. They can offer God lordship over their lives. They need to know Jesus as Lord. When they receive him as Savior, they can follow him as Lord. This is a subtle distinction, but a very important one. We do not make Jesus Lord of our lives and then, because of that, he saves us. Rather, Jesus saved us by dying on the cross for our sins. Salvation is a gift, and it is free. Having received it, we know that he truly is God and Lord. Therefore, our response is to give him lordship in our lives.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus completely paid the price of our salvation through his death and resurrection. He offers this completely as a free gift, for there is nothing we can do to earn or deserve it.

Jesus in us: Having received Jesus, he is in us so that we might live lives filled with good works. Jesus is Lord of our lives.

Jesus through us: Knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord is more than just facts learned from the Bible. It is meeting the living Lord who works through our lives to reach others for his kingdom.

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.

Props needed: a fireman's hat and a scepter

Jesus is our Savior and our Lord.

Hold up the fireman's hat and scepter and ask:

Which of these objects reminds us that Jesus is our Savior? Which can remind us that Jesus is Lord?

The fireman's hat symbolizes how Jesus has saved us from eternal death by giving his life for us on the cross, but is also alive right now. The scepter reminds us that he rules over the entire universe, for he truly is God.

Jesus is God whether people admit it or not. Because we have received him as Savior, we can worship him as Lord of the universe. Today let's worship Jesus, who is both Savior and Lord.

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.

Read Hebrews 12:2. Then say:

Can you picture it in your mind's eye – Jesus, sitting beside his father's throne, scepter in his hand? Do you live every moment of every day as though Jesus were your Lord and Savior? Do you always keep your mind on Jesus? What kinds of things do you sometimes do that might seem to say, "God, you're not in charge – I am!"

Let kids respond and then pray:

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times when we pretend we are in charge and we live as though Jesus isn't our Lord. Forgive us when we... (Mention some or all of the things the kids just mentioned.) Thank you, Father, for giving us Jesus as our Savior. Thank you for your forgiveness for all the times when we live as though you aren't Lord of our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Optional:

We've talked about the ways we sometimes live as though Jesus isn't our Lord. What kinds of things can you do that say, "Jesus is Lord of my life"?

Let kids respond. Make a list on a chalkboard or newsprint. Help them understand that there are many things we can do that indicate Christ's lordship through faithful, godly living. Once you have a list of 5-10 ways kids can worship God through their daily actions, pray a *litany* (responsive prayer) using the list. You (or a good child-reader) read from the list one action at a time. The rest of the group responds after each item with the words, "We show you that you are Lord of our lives." (See example below.)

Leader: Lord, when we _____ (example: help our Moms)

ALL: We show you that you are Lord of our lives.

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.

What is the best birthday gift you have ever received? Who was it from?

Usually the people who love us the most give us the best presents. When we give our offerings to Jesus, it is a way we show him how much we love him. We are not trying to buy God's love. We are simply showing him how grateful we are for his love, and how we love him in return.

Talk about your current mission project.



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.

“Tag – You’re In!”

In advance, use masking tape to mark clear boundaries for a game area. Show the kids the boundaries, then say:

This is a crazy game of tag in which everybody is it! Here’s how the game is played: When I say, “GO!” you try to touch people near you. If you touch them before they touch you, they’re out and you’re still in. If they touch you before you touch them, you’re out and they are still in. There are no tag-backs. Once you’re out, you can’t put the person out who tagged you.

When you get tagged, immediately go to the outside of the game area and sit down and watch and wait to see what happens. Ready? Everybody spread out as much as possible... GO!

As the number of kids remaining in the game area thin out (which shouldn’t take long), they might become so tentative and careful that nobody is getting touched. At that point make this rule: **Anyone who takes a backward step is out.** If no one moves, make this rule: **You must keep moving – if I catch anyone stopped, they’re out.** It shouldn’t take long after that.

If there is a clear winner, walk up to them as though you are about to congratulate them, put your hand on their shoulder, and say, **Tag, you’re out!** They must leave the circle and sit down with everyone else. If the last two touch each other at the exact same time, they’re both out and they both have to sit down.

Here is the teaching time. As the kids sit outside the play area, explain:

_____ thought he (she) was the winner. But you know what? (S)he thought (s)he won the game all by him(her) self.

In the game of life, some people think that if they just try hard enough, if they're fast enough, or pretty enough, or smart enough, they win. But in the game of life, we all lose. It does not matter how fast, how smart, how rich, how handsome, how intelligent... we all die. We're all out of the game.

Is that the end of the game? After you die, is that all there is? No, it's not. If we believe in Jesus, death isn't the end of the game. In fact, it's only the beginning. If you believe in Jesus, you can't lose! When you sin (get tagged), you may have to suffer for a while – you may have to sit out. But what does God do? Does he stand by and say, "Shame on you. Serves you right. You'll be sorry!"

No. Because of Jesus, God forgives. He looks at you and says: **"FORGIVEN BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS!"**

Go around the circle and start tagging kids, saying as you do... **Tag – you're in! Tag – you're in...** until everyone is back up and in the circle again. When all are standing, say:

Ready... GO!

Play another round of the game. If you play a third round, start it when the number of kids is almost zero, then shout "GO!" and everybody is back in. Play as many rounds as you have time for.

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.

Props needed: a ticket with a cross marked on it and a crown with a bow attached to the inside (or hidden)

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

"God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it."

Show the ticket to explain the free gift of salvation.

Though it was free, it was very expensive. Jesus paid for it with his life.

Continue the reading to show that, since Jesus has done that, we now make him Lord of our lives.

“God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do.”

Hold up the crown.

The crown is taken from our head and passed up to God. This is an invitation for him to be our Lord, instead of us being our own god. We give him lordship over our life as a gift symbolized by the bow attached. Jesus is both Savior and Lord.

Application:

Read *In Search of the Free Gift* written and illustrated by Hank Kunneman. Order from: http://lohchurch.org/miva/merchant.mv?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=OVMB&Product_Code=GAP0002&Category_Code=B

With the author's permission, you can make slides of these pictures, which are most vivid. It might be added to the story, as well, the fact that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for the free gift of our salvation.



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 forward to give suggestions of things in their lives that they can submit to God's lordship.

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:

- fireman's hat
- scepter

Learning Game:

- masking tape

Bible Reading:

- a ticket with a cross marked on it
- a crown with a bow attached to the inside (or hidden)

Life Application Story:

- book, *In Search of the Free Gift*, written and illustrated by Hank Kunneman
With the author's permission you can make slides of these pictures. Order from:

http://lohchurch.org/miva/merchant.mv?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=OVMB&Product_Code=GAP0002&Category_Code=B

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