



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Summer Year 3, Lesson 13

Get Close to Jesus

Primary Scripture: Revelation 3:20

Key Verse: Revelation 3:20, "Look, I'm standing at the door and knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I'll come in and we'll eat together."

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

Kids need to know the reality of God and what it means to have a personal relationship with him. Even if they don't feel it at all times or if they can't see God, they can be confident of having a relationship with him if they trust in Jesus as their Savior. It is important to open oneself to the presence of Jesus and invite him daily into one's life. Jesus can speak to us through the power of his Holy Spirit. He talks to us when we read the Bible and think about what it says. It is helpful for us to worship and pray so that we stay connected to Jesus in a personal way.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: It is only through the blood of Jesus that we are washed clean from our sins and can have a relationship with God.

Jesus in us: Jesus promised to be more personal with us after he left this world in the physical presence. He promised to abide in us through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: Jesus will work through us as we can witness to others so they might experience a personal relationship with God.

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 pair of binoculars

Have kids focus on worshiping and opening their lives so that Jesus might more fully enter in.

Point out three or four different objects in the room. Each time you point something out, ask the children to look at it and focus.

Sometimes it is easy to focus on things that we can see. In worship, we are called to focus on something we cannot see – God. God is more real than any of these objects I have pointed out. We need to close our eyes, think about who God is, and know that singing and praying to him is important – it's important to God, and it's important to us.

It might be helpful to give some additional visual images of God from one's imagination. These images could be meditated upon when the kids are praying and praising God. Such visual images might include a hand so big that it holds the sun, the moon, and the stars in it. Another image might be a beautiful face that is so perfect that it is unlike anything else in all of creation. The face has loving eyes that penetrate and see our every thought. Images of Jesus might include him shining in glory as he stretches his arms out over us in victory.

Hold up the binoculars and point out that they makes things that are far away seem closer. So it is with worship and hearing God's word.

Sometimes God may seem far away but he wants to be close to us. It is like these binoculars that make things seem closer. Rather than using binoculars to see God, let's worship and pray that he would be close to 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!

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.

The Bible says in Revelation 3:19, "I correct and discipline everyone I love. Take this seriously, and change the way you think and act." Jesus loves us, doesn't he? He says that he will correct us because of his love for us. Let's talk to Jesus about the things we need corrected or changed in our lives. Maybe these are the things that we have done wrong or we continue to do wrong. Let's ask for his forgiveness so that he will help us change the way we think and act. Doing this is very serious, just like the Bible says. Let's be serious in our prayer.

Pray a prayer of confession and then announce God's forgiveness.

Jesus comes to have fellowship with us when we invite him. Revelations 3:20 says, "Look, I'm standing at the door and knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I'll come in and we'll eat together."

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want 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.

Have kids bring their offerings forward. After they return to their seats, ask them a question.

Have you ever thought about God standing up here and saying “thank you” for every gift that you bring? In one way he does that. God doesn’t owe us a thank you when we give our offerings to him, but he is delighted when we do so.

Our offerings are gifts that he first gave us anyway. God is personal and wants you to know that he appreciates your faithfulness. He knows that it is best for us to give back a little of what he gave us. This is a way we can say “thank you” for all of his gifts to us.



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 needed: paper and pencil for every ten kids

Play a learning game that has to do with listening. The game can be as simple as kids sitting in a circle and passing a message by whispering it from ear to ear around the circle. (The size of the circle should be limited to ten children.)

Use the Revelations 3:20 as the message that gets passed around. Have adult helpers say this passage to the first person in the circle, one phrase at a time.

I'm standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I'll come in and we'll eat together.

The last person receiving the message needs to write down what he/she heard.

Another variation of this game would be to provide the kids with hoses and funnels so that they might hear the message whispered through these devices. Use your imagination with the hoses and funnels. Some of these messages can be passed "long distances" from one side of the room to the other.

Share the learning point of the game with the kids.

We have been given the privilege of talking directly to God through Jesus. Jesus says that he would like to come into our lives and be with us. He wants to be personal with us, and we need to talk to God, our Father, in the same personal way. We are not separated by people who go between God and us when we pray. We can talk directly to the Father.

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.

Needed: "The Ultimate Paper Tear" on page 27 of the Doc Haley's Gospel Magic catalog #8. (The illusion costs \$7.) The "Gospel Visible Painting" illusion (for \$20) found on page 36 is an outstanding object lesson illustrating how Jesus can become real to us.

The illusions illustrate Revelation 3:20-21:

"Look, I'm standing at the door...I'll come in and we'll eat together. I will allow everyone who wins the victory to sit with me on my throne, as I have won the victory and have sat down with my father on his throne."

Then say:

Jesus wants to be close and personal to us. Let's open the doors of our hearts and invite him to have full control of our lives and to be with us in all that we do.



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 ways they have experienced feeling Jesus close to them.

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.

To help the kids pray better, let the kids go to five stations of prayer. The stations are pathways to more personal prayer. The following titles might even be printed on signs posted at each station to look like yield signs or traffic signs.

- **Pray With Praise**
- **Pray for Priority**
- **Pray for Provision**
- **Pray for Pardon**
- **Pray for Protection**

Display the Lord's Prayer on overhead or Power Point, one section at a time, along with the pathway station titles:

- **Pray With Praise:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
- **Pray for Priority:** Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Pray for Provision:** Give us this day our daily bread.
- **Pray for Pardon:** And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- **Pray for Protection:** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- **Pray With Praise:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Encourage kids to pray at length over each one of these topics as they are introduced with the corresponding phrase from the Lord's Prayer. Encourage them to picture themselves personally speaking to God just as if he is right next to them.

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:

- binoculars

Learning Game:

- paper and pencil for every ten kids
- hoses and funnels (optional)

Bible Reading:

- “The Ultimate Paper Tear” on page 27 of the Doc Haley’s Gospel Magic catalog #8. These products can be purchased on the web through www.gospelmagic.com. The illusion can be purchased for \$7. Also, the “Gospel Visible Painting” on page 36 (\$20).

Prayer:

- following titles might even be printed on signs that look like yield signs or traffic signs:
 - Pray With Praise
 - Pray for Priority
 - Pray for Provision
 - Pray for Pardon
 - Pray for Protection

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.

Pray With Praise

Pray for Priority

Pray for Provision

Pray for Pardon

Pray
for
Protection