



Date: _____

Series: Aliens in a Strange Land
Fall Year 4, Lesson 25

Better than Gold—the Name of Jesus

Primary Scripture: Acts 3:1-16

Key Verse: Acts 3:6, “However, Peter said to him, ‘I don’t have any money, but I’ll give you what I do have. Through the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, walk!’”

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

Kids need to see the value of a relationship with Jesus. It is oftentimes easy to get sidetracked and consider possessions and toys as the keys to happiness or what we most desire. But these have no lasting value. A relationship with Jesus brings healing to our lives, forgiveness for our souls, and life forever with God. The event of Peter healing the lame beggar in Jesus’ name shows the true value of what Peter had to give – the name of Jesus.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus died and rose again that through his name, we have salvation. We only need to call on his name in faith.

Jesus in us: As Jesus’ presence fills our lives, we are conformed to his value system and not our own. We more easily hang onto that which has lasting value.

Jesus through us: We can be a dynamic witness for others as they see God impacting our lives through the name of Jesus.

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: four boxes of various sizes; inside each box conceal a toy, each one getting progressively better as the size of the box in which it is concealed gets progressively larger

Invite a volunteer to come forward. Show the two smaller boxes to the volunteer, but keep the two larger boxes hidden.

Here are two prizes and you can choose one for yourself. Which item would you like to choose?

Allow the child to open the box of his choice and take the toy.

Ah, that is a very nice prize! Would you like to trade this item for the item in this larger box or would you like to keep the one you have?

The child can choose to trade or not to trade. If he trades, he can take the prize out of the larger box.

Now, would you like to trade your item for the item in this much larger box?

Show the child the largest box. Allow him to take the toy or choose not to trade.

Great! Well, it looks like you have traded well. You have a very nice item there. That is yours to keep.

But I have one more trade for you. Would you trade your item for a friendship with God?

If the child answers “yes,” start taking back the child's prize, and then stop and say,

No! Wait! A friendship with God cannot be traded because it is not for sale.

If the child answers “no,” say,

That's okay, because you cannot trade for a friendship with God anyway. It is not for sale.

Even if you had all the silver and gold in the world, you could not buy God's friendship. Friendship with God is a free gift for those who know Jesus as their Savior. We receive friendship with God when we call upon the name of his Son, Jesus.

Acts 4:12 says, “No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person.”

Today, we will see that it is the power of Jesus' name that Peter and John used to heal a crippled man. Let's worship God today as a way of saying “thank you” for giving us a friendship with him through the name of Jesus.

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.

Supplies: bucket of sloppy mud, a spoon, spray bottle filled with water, paper towel or wash cloth with a cross drawn on it with a marker

Hold up the bucket of mud and say:

I know you are all clean and pretty for church today, but I need a volunteer who will come up here and get a little bit dirty.

Invite a child forward. Using the spoon, spread mud on the child's arm. Avoid getting mud on the clothing. The child will be called Jerry for ease of illustration.

The Bible says that all our sins are yucky in God's sight. As a matter of fact, our sins are like this mud that I'm spreading on Jerry's arm. Think of some of the things that you might have done wrong this last week. Did you disobey your parents? Did you say an unkind word? Did you misuse God's name? Did you forget to pray to him regularly? These sins can be ugly in God's sight, just like this yucky mud.

But God is ready to make a trade. When he sent Jesus to this world, Jesus lived a perfect life in our place so he could trade his perfect life for our sinful life. So this is what happens.

Spray water on his arm.

Jesus took our sins on himself when he gave his life for us on the cross.

Wipe off the mud with the washcloth or paper towel that has the cross drawn on it. Place the towel back in the bucket of mud.

He washed us completely clean.

Spray water on his arm and other parts of his body.

We should tell God about anything that we have done against him. Then we can remember that our sins are washed away and we are cleansed with his forgiveness. So let's take time to pray for that right now.

Dear God, here are some things that I am going to mention to you in my mind that I have done this week that were wrong. Pause. These are the ways I have disobeyed you or didn't show love to others. Here are some things I did at home.

Pause for silent prayer.

Here are some things that I did that were not honoring to my parents.

Pause for silent prayer.

Here are some things that I did that were not honoring to my brothers, sisters, or friends.

Pause for silent prayer.

Here are some things that I did in school that were not honoring to teachers.

Pause for silent prayer.

Lord, here is a way that I cheated or lied.

Pause for silent prayer.

Here is anything else that I have not mentioned.

Pause for silent prayer.

I call on the name of Jesus. Please forgive me so that I can be more like him in every way. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Now all of us are washed clean.

Give everyone in the audience a light misting with the spray bottle. They will enjoy getting sprayed lightly.

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.

Your choice of music.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: coins and a dollar bill

Show some coins, such as a quarter and penny.

Here are examples of silver and other metals.

Hold up a dollar bill.

This dollar bill represents gold. We can never buy God's friendship, but we do have a chance to give to him our silver or gold as a way of saying, "We love you and thank you for all you have given us." Let's do that now in our offering.



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.

Lame Man Races

Supplies: two to four sleeping bags or blankets, masking tape, cones – these could be made from empty 2-liter bottles

In advance, use masking tape to make a line on one side of the room. There should be room for all of the kids to stand behind the line. Spread the cones out across the opposite side of the room. They should be an equal distance from the line that the kids will stand behind.

Divide kids into teams of nine or so. It works best if the number of team members is divisible by three.

Groups of three from each team will play at a time. One person from the group of three will be laying on a sleeping bag or blanket, and the other two will drag the sleeping bag with their team member on it around the cone at the other end of the room and back again. Then the next set of three people will load up and take the same trip around the cone and back. Then the last set of three people will do the same.

If kids knock a cone over, they will need to stop and make sure that it is standing in its original position before they return. The first team to have all of their team members back across the line is the winner. Several rounds can be played, and the person on the sleeping bag can change with each round.

Gather kids together to discuss the Learning Point:

In today's Bible event, a lame man was carried by his friends everywhere from the day he was born. He never walked. When he saw Peter, he just asked for money. But God wanted to give him so much more. Maybe you will be able to guess what happened to him. He was more excited about it than any of the teams who just won this race! Let's see what happened as we watch a video.

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.

Show the video clip from the film, *The Visual Bible: Acts, Volume I*, produced by Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997, ISBN 18897100240. Order from: http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364. The video clip is 2 minutes and 48 seconds in length. Start the video clip 28 minutes 33 seconds from the previews. Show Acts 3:1-16. The verses appear in the bottom right corner of the screen.

OR

Read Acts 3:1-16 in a dramatic way. Then say:

Wow! Can you imagine what it must have been like for the lame man to walk when he had never walked before? Can you imagine his excitement?! Well, let's hear about it from the lame man himself!

Lame Man

Storytelling

Supplies: a robe, as worn in Jesus' time, scarf or long piece of fabric to tie around the forehead, open-toed sandals, costume beard if character doesn't have one

Have an adult dress up ahead of time in a costume in preparation for impersonating the lame man. He will talk in an old man's quivering voice.

Hey, kids, look at this!

Dance and do a little jig.

That's right, it's me! I not only can walk, but I can dance! Oh! You think there is nothing special about that, but let me tell you. This is way cool if you once could not walk at all.

When I was your age, do you know how I got in and out of the house? I crawled! I crawled on my elbows and arms because my legs would not move. Can you imagine never having a chance to walk, much less run or dance? But now look at me!

I will tell you the story. Maybe you have heard it. My friends would bring me outside by the gate to the temple. That is how I made my living. People, on their way to give sacrifice to God, would see me there and know that I was one of the poor and needed their help.

They would usually give me small copper coins or maybe something to eat. It was never very much, but it was all I could hope for.

Then one day, two of the men who were the followers of Jesus walked by. I said, “Hey, bub! How about a few coins for a crippled old man?” Peter looked right at me. I will never forget his eyes. They sparkled. It was almost like he had a secret that he could not wait to share. He grinned as he said, “Look at us.”

I looked at him and his friend, John. I thought maybe I would get a silver coin or gold! But Peter said, “No, no coins. Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I will give to you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk!”

Then I felt it. It was a strange feeling in my legs! I hadn’t felt feeling in my legs ever. Not like this! Now, I could say in my brain, “Leg, move.” And it moved! It even seemed strong enough to push me up. Peter took hold of my right hand and began to help me up. I usually don’t like that because I fall right back down. But now I could feel my feet and ankles getting strong. I sprang to my feet, and I took a step and then another step. I was walking! Before I knew it, I was running! I was dancing! I was shouting! It was the best gift I could ever have.

What had happened? Who did this? It was Jesus – the name of Jesus! Peter and John explained that he truly was the promised Son of God and that if anyone believed and trusted him, Jesus would become their Savior as well. Jesus had taken away the punishment of all the sins of the world. And in the name of Jesus, diseases could be healed. People, like me, could be made to walk! In the name of Jesus, anything can happen that might give glory to God.

But what about you? I can see that most of you already walk. I can tell by the way you dress that you have lots of silver and gold. But do you know the name of Jesus? Do you trust him to be the one who has given his life for you? Do you trust him as the living Son of God present with you now? I can see by the twinkle in your eye that you are like Peter and John.

And now, like me, you know the name of Jesus. It is the name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will kneel and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2:9-11*) No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person. (*Acts 4:12*)



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.

Invite someone from the congregation to share how they had prayed for one thing that they thought they really needed, but God gave them something so much better. Then ask the kids if they can share a similar experience.

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:

- four boxes of various sizes
- four toys, each one getting progressively better as the size of the box in which it is concealed gets progressively larger; conceal the toys in the boxes

Power of the Cross:

- bucket of sloppy mud
- spoon
- spray bottle filled with water
- paper towel or washcloth with a cross drawn on it with a marker

Offering:

- coins
- dollar bill

Learning Game:

- two to four sleeping bags or blankets
- masking tape
- cones – these could be made from 2-liter bottles

Bible Presentation:

- video: *The Visual Bible: Acts, Volume I*, produced by Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997, ISBN 18897100240—order from:
http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364
- robe, as worn in Jesus' time
- scarf or long piece of fabric to tie around the forehead
- open-toed sandals
- costume beard, if leader doesn't have one

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