



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is Our Friend
Winter Year 1, Lesson 36

Jesus Blesses the Children

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...
Jesus loves me.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Bible Event: Matthew 19:13-15

We will help children know:

- Jesus is a friend to everyone, including kids!
- Jesus loves them.

We will help the children feel:




- Loved by Jesus.
- Befriended by Jesus.
- Touched by Jesus' love.

We will help the children do:

- Interact with puppet presentation to introduce the Bible Event.
- Participate in the Bible event and
- Craft: Make a 'Jesus Message Pouch'.
- Snack: Eat foods that explain the Bible Event.
- Game: Play 'Jesus' Blessings'.
- Teach Albie the Take Home Point: JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus Loves Me.
- Sing and Pray.

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 36- 1

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Large Group Opening 	3 5	Puppet Presentation Bible Event	<i>Puppet Presentation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bubba puppet • Bible <i>Bible Event:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • adult (male or female) with badge on shirt (foil covered shield shape) • masking tape or painters tape (Option: police tape) • Optional: chair on each side of stage
Small Group Application 	7 8 9 10	Activity 1: Craft Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Game Prayer Time	<i>Activity 1: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of Appendix A, one for two children • Copies of Appendix B, two for each child • tape • crayons or markers • scissors for teacher <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • napkins, cups, water or juice • straight pretzels • raisins • marshmallows • apple slices or mandarin oranges <i>Activity 3: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group Wrap-up 	11 11	Singing (Optional) Lesson Review with Puppet Skit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • Albie puppet • Example of craft • Example of snack

Pre-Session Singing (10 minutes)

Purpose: *When all children are in one group singing, it is easy for children arriving later to join the group and immediately get involved.*

Large Group Opening (15 minutes)



Purpose: *The puppet demonstrates today's lesson. The children are introduced to the take home point and experience the Bible event.*

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: Bubba puppet, Presenter holds a Bible

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call Bubba. (Children call "Bubba".)

Bubba: Hi, everyone! Boy am I glad to be here!

Presenter: Bubba, we are always happy to see you. Why are you especially glad to be here today?

Bubba: Because, FINALLY someone WANTS to see me.

Presenter: Of course we want to see you. Doesn't everyone?

Bubba: Oh no.

Presenter: Tell me someone who does not want to see you.

Bubba: Well, the other day I went into the grocery store with my mom. There was a big pile of cans all stacked up like a giant triangle.

Presenter: I've seen those before.

Bubba: One can on the bottom row was crooked. I was just trying to help make it straight.

Presenter: Uh oh. I think I know what's coming.

Bubba: All of a sudden, all the cans came crashing down! They rolled all over the floor. It was a big mess. The man at the store told me he did NOT want to see me in his store again.

Presenter: Well, Bubba, at least no one got hurt. Is there someone else that does not want to see you?

Bubba: Well, our neighbor Mrs. Smith doesn't want to see me for a while.

Presenter: Bubba, what did you do?

Bubba: Nothing, really. I was playing catch with my friend. The ball rolled into her yard.

Presenter: That doesn't sound too bad.

Bubba: The ball rolled right into her pretty flowers. I had to run right through them to get it. I might have kind of smushed her pretty flowers.

Presenter: Bubba, it sounds like you have had a busy week.

Bubba: Yea. Big people don't seem to like me.

Presenter: Oh, Bubba, you are so wrong!

Bubba: You know a grown up who likes me?

Presenter: Yes, you and all little children.

Bubba: Who could that be?

Presenter: It's Jesus. One time he was teaching the grown ups about God. He invited the children to come and sit on his lap. He wanted the children close to him. He blessed them and hugged them.

Presenter: Would you like to learn more about that Bible event?

Bubba: Yes. I like hearing about big people who like children.

Presenter: First, let's practice the take home point. I'll say the first part and you say the second part.

Bubba: O.K.

Presenter: *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND... now you say, "*Jesus loves me.*"

Bubba: Jesus loves me.

Presenter: Do you think you can teach the boys and girls?

Bubba: Sure.

Presenter: OK everybody, *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...

Bubba: (and everyone): Jesus loves me.

Presenter: Wonderful. Say "goodbye" Bubba.

Bubba: Bye everyone!

Bible Event: Interactive Storytelling

Supplies: Bible; one adult (male or female) with a badge on shirt (foil covered shield shape taped to shirt); masking tape or painters tape (option, police tape from hardware store); optional: chair on each side of stage and put tape between chairs

Presenter holds the Bible

Storyteller:

Boys and girls, in today's Bible event Jesus shared stories about God's love. Large crowds used to gather closely around him. Let's do that today. Everyone get out of your seat and come really close to me. That's right, get right up here by me. Now listen to what Jesus told the people....

Guard (with badge on shirt and holding tape) enters and talks gruffly to children.
Okay, what do you think you children are doing? Everybody get back. Back to your seats. You are violating Section 3, rule 27 of the Crowding Adults Rulebook. Page 10 says to keep far back from important people like the storyteller. He (she) is here to do important work for God. Back up! I'm going to put some tape here (on floor or between a chair on each side of stage) **to show you where to stay behind. We don't want any problems!** (After guard finishes taping, he says: **Now remember, stay behind the line!** (Guard now steps aside, glaring at children.)

Storyteller has a surprised and amazed look on face.

Storyteller: Mr. (or miss) guard, I am not that important. It really is okay for the children to gather around me while I tell them about Jesus. Did you know that Jesus did the same thing?

Guard: Well, (acts like he is thinking about it) **if it was good enough for Jesus, I guess it is okay. I am sorry for bothering you. You children can come back around the storyteller. I have to go now. Call me if you need me.** (exits)

Storyteller: Well, boys and girls, I'm surprised at what that guard did. He thought I was too important to have children crowd around me. I don't think that's true, do you?

Let's take down the tape so you can come close again. I want to tell you who really is important. His name is Jesus. (Children come close to stage and sit.)

Jesus was having a very busy day. Many men were listening to Jesus as he told everyone about God's love. Some mothers and children came to see Jesus too. The mothers wanted Jesus to touch their children and ask God to bless them with good things. When Jesus' helpers, the disciples, saw the mothers and children, they said, "Go away! Jesus is too busy and too important for children." Let's all point our fingers and say, "Go away!"

I am sure those children felt sad, just like you did when the guard came in and told you to back up. Show me a sad face.

Jesus did not listen to the disciples. Instead, he told the children, "Come! Come to me! Heaven is for people like these children!" The children and mothers were happy. Show me your happy faces.

So, the children came to Jesus. They sat on his lap. Jesus held them in his arms and he prayed that God would bless them. He told everyone that he loves them.

Let's practice the take home point together. I will say the first part and you repeat the last part. ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND..***Jesus loves me.*

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus.
He is our friend.
Jesus loves me.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JE-sus IS my FRIEND.
JE-sus IS my FRIEND.
HE LOVES me AND EVERYONE.
JE-sus IS my FRIEND.

Small Group Application (30 minutes)



Purpose: Children will break into small groups. Smaller groups enable children to develop closer relationships with adults and peers in the church. In your small groups you will reinforce the take home point with a fun hands-on activity and discuss the Bible event. Review questions help kids apply the take home point to their daily lives.

Activity 1: Craft: Jesus Message Pouch

Supplies: Copies of Appendix A, one for every 2 children; Copies of Appendix B, 2 for each child; markers or crayons; tape scissors for teacher

Before class, cut out two hearts per child; cut Appendix A into strips, one sentence on each strip.

Give each child two hearts. **Boys and girls, today we are going to make a Jesus Message Pouch. After you color your hearts, we will tape them together at the sides and bottom. The top will be open to insert messages. You will give a message to people to remind them that *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus loves me. This will help you share Jesus' love with others. By giving someone a message from your pouch, you will be passing on Jesus' love.**

Give each child seven slips of paper with the take home point.

Review the Bible Event.

How does it feel if someone tells you, “Go away,” “Leave me alone,” or “I don't want to be your friend? (Sad, lonely, unloved, etc.) How did you feel when the guard told you to move back?(Sad, surprised, mad, confused, etc.)

Let's practice the take home point. *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus loves me.

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God,
We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus.
He is our friend.
Jesus loves me.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Song:

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Activity 2: Snack: Bible Event Review Food

Supplies: stick pretzels; raisins; marshmallows; apple slices or mandarin oranges; napkins, cups, water or juice.

*****CAUTION:** *Be aware of food allergies children may have, before you give them anything to eat.*

Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God,
We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus.
He is our friend.
Jesus loves me.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Boys and girls, today we are going to use food to tell the Bible Event. (Give each child a napkin, water or juice.) **As I pass out each item, I will tell you part of the story that goes with the food.** Give a few of each food to children.

Pretzel: The pretzel is like a straight line. It reminds us of the line the guard was making to keep the children away from the storyteller. The line also reminds us that the disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus.

Raisin: A raisin is wrinkled, like the wrinkles of a sad face. The children must have felt very sad when the disciples told them to go away. It reminds us of your sad faces when the guard told you to move back away from the storyteller.

Marshmallow: Marshmallows are soft. When Jesus told the children to come to him, Jesus touched them softly and with a lot of love. And Jesus loves us, too!

Apple slices or mandarin oranges: This fruit looks like a smile. The mothers and children were very happy when Jesus told them to gather around him. It also reminds us of how happy you were when the guard told us you could move back around the storyteller.

Review the Bible event.

How do you think the children felt when Jesus' helpers told them to go away?
(*Sad, lonely, unloved, etc.*)

Let's practice the take home point. *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus loves me.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*)

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Activity 3: Game: Jesus' Blessings Game

Supplies: none

Play a variation of "London Bridge." Have two children hold hands to form a bridge. As the other children walk in a circle under the bridge, have the children sing:

(Tune: "London Bridge")
**Jesus' blessings coming down,
Coming down,
Coming down,
Jesus' blessings coming down,
All over (child's name).**

Have the children bring their hands down and name the child caught in the bridge.

After a child is caught, the shepherd tells the child, "Jesus loves you, (*child's name*)."
That child will take the place of one of the bridge builders and the game continues until each child has been caught.

Review the Bible event.

What did Jesus do when the disciples told the children to go away? (He told the children to come to him; he held them and blessed them.)

Let's practice the take home point. ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus loves me.**

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus.
He is our friend.
Jesus loves me.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

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Prayer Time:

How does Jesus show us that he loves us? (*Answers will vary but may include: gives us parents; gives us our home; helps us when we get hurt or afraid. This will probably be a difficult question for children; it is okay to give them ideas.*)

Ask children for prayer requests and pray as a group for child's request.

Let's practice the take home point. ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus loves me.**

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

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Large Group Wrap-Up (10 minutes)



Purpose: The crazy bird puppet, Albie, struggles with learning the take home point. We try to teach him the take home point, but each time he confuses words or concepts. After three attempts, he finally gets it right.

Singing: (Optional, two or three songs, as time allows)

Supplies: Albie the puppet, sample of today's craft and snack.

Lesson Review with Puppet Skit

Presenter shows Albie an example of each of the Activities done in small group. Then the kids attempt to teach Albie the take home point.

Presenter: We want to welcome all our guests today and thank them for coming. (If you give guests a gift for coming, do it now.)

Presenter: Albie, look at the craft the children made today. It is a Jesus Message Pouch. The children are going to teach you our take home point. Listen carefully.

Presenter: (says to kids):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Kids say:

...Jesus loves me.

Presenter: (says to Albie):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Albie says:

Once I got stung by a buzzing bumblebee!



Presenter: Albie, look at the snack we ate. It explained the Bible Event with food. Now listen carefully to the take home point.

Presenter: (says to kids):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Kids say:

...Jesus loves me.

Presenter: (says to Albie):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Albie says:

Next year, I am putting food on my Christmas tree!

Presenter: Albie, today we played a game called Jesus' Blessings. Now, please listen closely to the take home point.

Presenter: (says to kids):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Kids say:

...Jesus loves me.

Presenter: (says to Albie):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Albie says:

I think I will buy a pet chimpanzee!

Presenter says:

Albie, listen one last time.

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Kids response:

...Jesus loves me.

Presenter: (says to Albie):

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Albie's response:

(Warms up his singing voice with “*Mee, mee, mee, mee...*” and sings in a silly dramatic opera-like voice)
***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...Jesus love me.**

Presenter says to Albie: Good job, Albie!

Albie can leave stage or join in the prayer and song.

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
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Thank you for sending Jesus.
He is our friend.
Jesus loves me.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

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JE-sus IS my FRIEND.
HE LOVES me AND EVERYONE.
JE-sus IS my FRIEND.**

Goodbye boys and girls. Remember that God loves you and his son Jesus loves you.

JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...JESUS LOVE ME.

JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...JESUS LOVE ME.

JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...JESUS LOVE ME.

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Jesus Loves Me

Matthew 19:13-15