



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** The Best Gift All—Jesus  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 28

# Jesus is the Gift of Life

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus is the gift of life.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 1:1-18

**Key Verse:** John 17:3, "This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent."

**We will help kids know:**

- Eternal life comes from knowing God and trusting Jesus as your Savior.
- Eternal life means life with God now and life with God forever in heaven.
- Because we are spiritually alive, we have a day-to-day life and friendship with God.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Excited that God has given them spiritual life.
- Motivated to know God better through faith in Christ.

**We will help kids do:**

- Recall someone they know very well and later recall what they know about God.
- Make a Christmas ornament as a reminder that Jesus came to live among us and give us eternal life.
- If they have never done so before, take opportunity to receive Christ as their Savior and have assurance of eternal life.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> (15 minutes) 	3	Children describe someone they know very well and the group has to guess who they are describing. Then kids describe God, the Father and Jesus. Do they have a close relationship with him?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> (20-30 minutes) 	3  6  8  8  9	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy is Ready for a Gift”—Gordy prepares for Christmas and the gifts that await him.  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Gospel of John</i> —show John 1:1-18  <b>Gifts R Us Sketch:</b> In this series, a large box labeled “Jesus—the Best Gift” is brought out with different props to teach the main point. This week a pet dog is brought out to show how Jesus is our best friend.  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy is Ready for a Gift”—Gordy realizes Jesus is the best gift.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• Santa’s hat</li> <li>• long Christmas list rolled up</li> <li>• video: <i>The Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003 (order at <a href="http://www.visualbible.com">www.visualbible.com</a>)</li> <li>• large printed sign like a store marquee: “Gifts R Us”</li> <li>• salesman costume: briefcase, hat</li> <li>• printed sign: “Jesus is the Best Gift” (p. 11) attached to a large wrapped gift box</li> <li>• large box with a pet dog inside</li> <li>• dog owner present at large group</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (20-25 minutes) 	4	Children make an ornament to remind them that Jesus came to live among us and gives eternal life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nativity craft kit (from <a href="http://www.orientaltrading.com">www.orientaltrading.com</a>)</li> <li>• glue</li> </ul>

## Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Say:

**Think of someone you know very well. Each one of you will have one minute to describe their personality, things you like about them, what they like to do and even what they look like. After you are finished with your description, we will try to guess who that person may be.**

**Many of us won't know that person, so it will be hard for us to guess but that is okay. If we don't know them personally, we might guess them to be your good friend or your grandma.**

After all have had a chance to share, continue with:

**How well do you know God, your heavenly Father? Let's discuss some things about him.**

Encourage kids to talk about characteristics of God. For example: God is loving and he keeps his promises, he loves it when we talk to him, etc.

**How well do you know Jesus, God's Son? Let's describe some things we know about him.**

**Today we will talk about eternal life. The Bible says eternal life comes from knowing God and his Son Jesus. But it is even more than just knowing him. Today we will learn how *\*Jesus is the gift of life.***

## Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** "Gordy is Ready for a Gift"—Gordy prepares for Christmas and the gifts that await him.

**Video:** *The Gospel of John*---John 1:1-18.

**Gifts R Us Sketch:** In this series, a large box labeled "Jesus—the Best Gift" is brought out with different props to teach the main point. This week a pet dog is brought out to show how Jesus is our best friend.

**Puppet Conclusion:** "Gordy is Ready for a Gift"—Gordy realizes Jesus is the best gift.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have children refer to John 1 in their Bibles. Read or have a volunteer(s) read aloud John 1:1-5. Then have someone read John 1:14. Say:

**Notice the word, "Word" is capitalized in this passage. That means "Word" is important or is a name. Who do you think "the Word" is another name for? (*Jesus*)**

Read aloud John 1:16-17.

**What kind of gifts do we receive because of all that the Word is? (*Kindness and truth, eternal life, etc...*)**

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Before Jesus was born as a baby, he was living in heaven with God, his Father. What do you think their life was like together?**

**Do you think it was better there than his life was here on earth? Why or why not?**

**Why do you think Jesus would willingly give this up to become human and live among us (John 1:14)?**

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

*Supplies: Nativity craft kit, glue, pens*

**Today we are going to make a craft to remind us that *\*Jesus is the gift of life* and that life is eternal.**

Hand out craft kits and spend time making them.

When finished, continue with:

**Let's all close our eyes and think again about how well we know Jesus. The key verse for today is from John 17:3: *"This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent."***

**Without saying anything out loud, do you think you know him like a best friend? Is Jesus just someone you know by name but you couldn't really tell me much about him?**

**Next, I want you to think about how well you want to know him. Maybe you wish you knew him like a best friend. Think about the master and his dog in large group. Why do you think the dog loved and served his master? Does the master love his dog? Are they companions?**

**For the next few minutes, I want you to talk silently to God. You can tell him anything you want about how you want to know him more or how you can thank him for being your best friend.**

Give children a couple of minutes in silence.

**Today we want to remember that *\*Jesus is the gift of life.***

**If any of you want to talk to me about how you can know Jesus better or how he can be your personal Savior and Master, talk to me after Kingdom Quest because I would love to hear about it.**

**Closing Prayer:**

Thank God that he sent Jesus to take away the punishment of our sin so we can have eternal life and a personal relationship with him. Encourage kids who have a personal relationship with Jesus to pray for someone they know who does not have eternal life. If anyone in the group wants to have a personal relationship with Jesus, pray with them individually after the others are dismissed.

**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.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## The Best Gift of All—Jesus

*This series examines themes of the incarnation in the Gospel of John. Each week a different object will be presented to remind the kids of Jesus. A child from the audience will have a chance to guess how the gift reminds them of Jesus.*

*Each week the gift box is brought out with a sign that reads, “Jesus is the Best Gift.” The large group presenter, who each week becomes the sales person for the store “Gifts R Us,” will introduce the gifts. The presenter will help lead the children to know how Jesus is the best gift. The children will also view a portion of the video The Gospel of John in conjunction with the gift being presented.*

*Supplies: sign that reads “Gifts R Us,” briefcase, hat, sign that reads, “Jesus is the Best Gift” attached to a large wrapped gift box.*

*Props: Santa’s hat, rolled up Christmas list, video: The Gospel of John, large box with a dog inside, “Jesus, the Best Gift” sign on box*

## Gordy is Ready for a Gift Puppet Presentation

**Presenter:** I wonder where Gordy is? Let’s call for him.

*Gordy comes out wearing a Santa Claus hat.*

Gordy: Ho, ho, ho, I’m ready to go.

**Presenter:** I can see what you are up to.

Gordy: Yes, I’m on my way to get ready for Christmas.

**Presenter:** You have come to the right spot. This is where we get ready for Christmas.

Gordy: Here? I’m talking about Toys R Us.

**Presenter:** I’m talking about getting ready for Christmas.

Gordy: So am I. I’m headed there right after church.

**Presenter:** What are you going to do there?

Gordy: I'm checking my list to see if I left anything off.

**Presenter: You've already got a list?**

Gordy: Yep. It's just a small list.

*Gordy pulls out a list that unrolls to the ground.*

**Presenter: Gordy, I think you are headed in the wrong direction.**

Gordy: Did they move Toys R Us?

**Presenter: You know that getting ready for Christmas is much more than toys.**

Gordy: Yeah, I know. Christmas is about Jesus, but toys are good, too.

**Presenter: I know toys are good, but sometimes it is easy to get distracted by all the little gifts and miss the best gift of all.**

Gordy: Now you've got my attention! There's still room on my list!

**Presenter: How about if we open our own store here for the next four weeks.**

Gordy: Yeah! Our own Toys R Us!

**Presenter: No, let's call it Gifts R Us.**

Gordy: Have it your way. Gifts R Us. So give gifts to me!

**Presenter: Not so fast. Each week at Gifts R Us, we will offer the best gift of all and we will offer it to all.**

Gordy: The best?

**Presenter: Yes, the best.**

Gordy: To everyone?

**Presenter: Yes, everyone.**

Gordy: This I've got to see!

**Presenter: We have something special for you to watch while I prepare Gifts R Us and then I will bring in the best gift of all. When you watch, let's have a contest. Who can listen for the word "life?" When you hear it, clap your hands once as soon as you can.**

## Video

Show the video *The Gospel of John* – Show clip of John 1:1-18. Set start time at :53 and stop time at 4:33. The text will say: "...and is at the Father's side. He has made him known." Stop.

## Gifts R Us

### "The Gift of Life" – Object Lesson

Assistant brings in a large box with a dog inside. The box has sign on it that says "Jesus, the Best Gift."

Gordy: Wait a minute! That box says, "Jesus, the Best Gift."

**Presenter: Right!**

Gordy: I already knew that!

**Presenter: That's good, Gordy, but each week we will look in the book of John to see that when we receive Jesus, who is the best gift of all, we also receive gifts we can use forever.**

Gordy: More gifts? Wha-hoo!

**Presenter: That's right. It is exciting!**

Gordy: So what's in the box?

**Presenter: In the next few weeks, we will bring out a box with something in it that reminds us of Jesus. Before I bring out what is in the box today, I need someone to join me up front who listened really well to the video. He/she will help decide how the gift today reminds us of Jesus.**

Pick a volunteer. Open the box. Have the dog come out and greet his master, who should also be on stage.

**Presenter: (To audience.) How many of you think a pet is the best gift to receive?  
(To volunteer.) How do you think this dog is like the gift of Jesus?**

*It might be difficult for the child to answer, so some clues are offered:*

**Presenter: Let's read a Bible verse as a clue to help us find out how this gift is like Jesus. The clue is John 17:3 which says, "This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent."**



**Jesus was the gift to bring us life. (To volunteer.) How does this dog remind us of Jesus as the best gift? (It was a delightful surprise that a pet dog was in the box, because the dog is living. Since Jesus came into the world, he gave us life. It is not the life of a dog or any other animal, but the gift of life with our master and friend, God himself.)**

**Presenter: Let's see if the dog knows his master, likes to be with him and do what his master says.**

The owner asks the dog to obey different commands.

**Presenter: How is this dog like the gift of life God gives us?**

**Eternal life is more than just going to heaven when we die. It is in knowing God, just like this dog knows his master. We can know his Son Jesus, who was sent to save us.**

**If we know God and Jesus whom he sent, do you think that we would be happy to do what is asked of us? How is that like this dog? (It knows his owner's voice, is a friend to the owner, is excited to be with him, comes when called, etc.)**

**Notice how excited this dog is to be with his master. That is like the life that Jesus brings us. We are excited to be with God.**

Have volunteer sit down and dog escorted off stage by owner.

## **Gordy Is Ready for A Gift**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

**Gordy: Yeah! I love dogs! That was awesome!**

**Presenter: Yes, it was.**

**Gordy: I have a dog named Rufio at home. He is one of my best friends. We love to hang out together.**

**Presenter: That's the same way it is with Jesus. Jesus is the best gift because you can have life with him both now and someday face to face in heaven.**

**Gordy: I think I'd like that...but do you think Jesus would ask me to chase a stick like I do for Rufio?**

**Presenter: I don't think so, Gordy. Jesus will want to play with you and hang out. He wants to show you what life with him is like. It is true life...everlasting life. Remember the key verse for today from John**

**17:3: “*This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.*”**

Gordy: I know that one.

**Presenter: Then say it with me. Why don’t we have all the kids say it?**

Gordy: Okay. “*This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.*”

**Presenter: Gordy, please close us in prayer.**

Gordy: Dear God, Thanks for giving us your Son Jesus. I guess he really is the best gift. He gave his life for us on the cross so we can have life with him. That’s even better than having a dog as a best friend. Help us to enjoy spending time and thinking about him every day. *\*Jesus is the gift of life.* Amen.

# **JESUS, THE BEST GIFT**