



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers' Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 35

Jesus Claims He Will Rise from the Dead

Take Home Point: *Jesus proves he is God by rising from the dead. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 2:13-25

Key Verses: Romans 1:3-4, "This Good News is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ... he was declared the Son of God. This was shown in a powerful way when he came back to life."

We will help kids know:

- Jesus proves he has authority as God through the event of his death and resurrection.
- We should not expect God to prove he is God by doing what we want him to do.
- God wants to do more than prove himself. He wants us to know him personally by knowing his Son Jesus.

We will help kids feel:

- Confident that God is who he says he is.
- Confident that Jesus is who he says he is.
- Secure in knowing God's love for them.

We will help kids do:

- Identify ways friends might ask to prove their friendship.
- Make a paper cross to remind us that Jesus died and rose again.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes)</p> 	3	<p>Children will discuss what they would do if asked to prove their friendship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note from Friend</i> (p. 12) • pencils/pens
<p>Large Group (20-30 minutes)</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>7</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Asks For a Sign”—Gordy wants Jesus to prove he is God by praying for a pet skunk and receiving it.</p> <p>Video Clip: John 2:12-25 is shown from <i>The Gospel of John</i>.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Asks For a Sign”—Gordy learns that Jesus’ resurrection proves he is God’s Son.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • orange construction vest • construction hat • work boots • sign on stick that says “Is Jesus God by doing what you said?” (p. 13)—on the front and “No, he is God because he rose from the dead” (p. 14)—on back • two or four chairs • cardboard car front • DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>.
<p>Small Group Application (20-25 minutes)</p> 	4	<p>Children make a paper cross and discuss how Jesus proves his love for us by dying on the cross. His resurrection from the dead proves he is God’s Son.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instructions for folding paper cross (p. 15) <i>one per person</i> • scissors

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.

Supplies: Note from Friend page (see Appendix)

Give each child a *Note from Friend* page. Say:

Sometimes kids at school pass notes. Imagine that one of your best friends passed you a note that had this written on it: “Are you my friend? What will you do to prove you are my friend?”

Think about that for a moment. What would you write back? Write on the page what you might say.

Discuss some of the things kids wrote down.

How would it make you feel if someone asked you to prove you were his/her friend? Has a friend ever asked you to do something you know is wrong to prove that your friendship?

Real friends would never ask you to do something wrong to prove your friendship.

Today we will read how some people asked Jesus to prove he was God’s Son. Some people wanted Jesus to do miracles just to prove to them he was God. It is true that Jesus proved he was God by doing miracles, but we are not to tell God to “do this and I will believe in you.” Should you ask God to prove he is God by requesting him to do what you want him to?

We will discover that **Jesus proves he is God by rising from the dead, not by doing what we request of him.*

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 Asks For a Sign”—Gordy wants Jesus to prove he is God by praying for a pet skunk and receiving it.

Video Clip: John 2:12-25 is shown from *The Gospel of John*, produced by Visual Bible International 2003. Order from www.visualbible.com.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Asks For a Sign”—Gordy learns that Jesus’ resurrection proves he is God’s Son.

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?/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 2:13-25 in their Bibles.

When Jesus cleared the temple courtyard from the sellers and moneychangers, he said, “Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” (Verse 16.) Whose house was he declaring the temple to be? (God’s.)

Who was Jesus claiming to be when he said the temple was his Father’s house? (God’s Son.)

What did the Jews ask Jesus to do to justify what he was doing and saying? (John 2:18. A miracle.)

What miracle did Jesus claim he could do? (John 2:19. Tear down this temple, and he would rebuild it in three days.)

What did he really mean? (*John 2:21. He was talking about his own body and predicting he would rise again after he died.*)

Read John 2:23-25 out loud.

What do you think the following means? “**Jesus, however, was wary of these believers. He understood people....**” (*Jesus knew that even though these people claimed to believe in him now, they would easily turn on him.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Do you think we have the right to ask God to prove himself by doing signs or miracles?

Is it ever okay to ask God to do a miracle? (*Yes.*) **What is the difference?** (*God wants us to ask him for all things to show that we trust him and believe he is all-powerful and mighty. We have to trust that he will answer in the way he thinks best, not the way we think is best or as a test that he is God.*)

Our key verses from Romans 1:3-4 says, “This Good News is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ....he was declared the Son of God. This was shown in a powerful way when he came back to life.”

What does this passage say is proof that Jesus is God’s Son? (*That he came back to life after death.*)

Application Activity:

Supplies: fold and cut paper cross and scissors

Demonstrate how to do the fold and cut, while talking. Be sure to make only one cut along the lines that connect after the paper is folded (*see directions on the paper*).

Jesus went to the cross and died for our sins. He was in the grave for three days (cut each of three steps indicating the three days).

On the third day, he arose (unfold the paper). **This showed to the world that he was God’s Son.**

This cross will remind us that Jesus proved he is God’s Son with his death and resurrection. God proved his love for us by sending Jesus who gave his life for us.

Give kids a fold and cut paper cross and while they are making the craft, continue with the following.

What are ways you can give your life back to God to demonstrate your love for him?

Restate the Take Home Point: ****Jesus proves he is God by rising from the dead.***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he proved his love for us by sending Jesus to die in our place and receiving the punishment for our sin. Thank him for raising Jesus from the dead, proving Jesus is the Son of God. Ask the Holy Spirit for more faith to believe in the power of Jesus' resurrection and to be his witnesses.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.

Supplies: orange construction vest, hat and boots, signs on stick, two or four chairs, cardboard car front

Gordy Asks For a Sign Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots. He holds a sign that reads "Is Jesus God by doing what you said?" on front, and "No, he is God because he rose from the dead" on the back. Be careful to show only the front of the sign for now, revealing the back when it is time during the game.

Presenter: Let's call out Gordy.

Kids call for Gordy.

Gordy: Hi! Whoa, I forgot you are dressed up like a construction worker holding signs when work is done on the highway.

Presenter: That's right, because we are talking about signs along the Believers' Highway.

Gordy: What does that mean again?

Presenter: It means we are looking for reasons why we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Gordy: I know one way I will believe.

Presenter: What's that?

Gordy: I'm going to pray that Jesus gives me a pet skunk.

Presenter: A pet skunk! Why do you want a pet skunk?

Gordy: Well, I would be the only kid in third grade with a pet skunk. So, if Jesus is really the Son of God and if he really loves me, he ought to give me a pet skunk. So that's what I'm going to pray for.

Presenter: Kids, do you think that will work?

Kids call out "No."

Gordy: Why not?

Presenter: Let me ask you this. Did you ask your dad for a pet skunk?

Gordy: Yeah.

Presenter: What did he say?

Gordy: He wasn't going to give me one.

Presenter: Why?

Gordy: Well, he said they just get run over like all the other pet skunks you see on the highway.

Presenter: What?

Gordy: Oh, I think he was just kidding me. But he did say we don't need a pet skunk. It already smells in my bedroom.

Presenter: You better take care of that, Gordy.

Gordy: So do other people ever ask Jesus to prove that he is God?

Presenter: It happens all the time. Today let's look in the Gospel of John and we will find that the religious leaders asked Jesus to prove that he was God by showing them a special sign or miracle. Why don't you watch and see if you can answer some questions about this afterwards?

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD...the clip covering John 2:13-25. Begin just after narrator says, "...and his disciples believed in him," and end it just after narrator says, "He himself knew what was in their hearts."

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 2:13-25

Ask for at least one shepherd and two child volunteers to come up and get in the car (sit in the chairs behind the cardboard car front) and get ready to drive. Arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back. Then say:

Presenter: On "Believers' Highway," kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing on our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!

I've got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign, it says, "Is Jesus God by doing what you said?" and the back says, "No, he is _____ (God) because he rose from the _____ (dead)." It rhymes with the front of the sign. Who wants to try filling in the blanks to finish the rhyme?

Allow a few guesses, then say:

Let's ask our volunteers in the car a couple more questions.

When Jesus cleaned out the temple, the religious leaders asked what right he had to do that. He had plenty of right to do that if he truly was God's Son. They wanted to see him prove himself by doing miracles.

What did he tell the Jewish leaders he would do to prove he was God's Son? (*Tear down this temple and he would rebuild it in three days.*)

What temple was Jesus talking about and what did he mean that it would be rebuilt in three days? (*The temple Jesus spoke about was his own body. He was predicting that after he died, he would rise again in three days.*)

Our key verse from Romans 1:3-4 says, "*This Good News is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ... he was declared the Son of God. This was shown in a powerful way when he came back to life.*"

Yes, *Jesus proves he is God by rising from the dead.

Gordy Asks For A Sign

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Wow, God is powerful to have Jesus rise from the dead in three days. So then if he can do that, do you think I'll still get my pet skunk?

Presenter: Gordy, does that mean that your dad doesn't love you just because he didn't get you a pet skunk?

Gordy: I suppose not.

Presenter: Well, the same thing is true about God.

Gordy: It is?

Presenter: He doesn't want to prove that he is God by doing special tricks for us. Jesus doesn't want to prove that he is God's Son by doing whatever we want.

Gordy: Yeah, then there would be too many pet skunks. He might run out of skunks because everyone would want a pet skunk.

Presenter: Not quite. It's just that there is a more important way he proved he is God's Son.

Gordy: How was that again?

Presenter: Did you watch the video, Gordy? Jesus proved that he is God's Son by giving his life for you and dying on the cross and then by rising again.

Gordy: Yeah, I know he did that. That's why he can give me forgiveness.

Presenter: That's right and that's why you can be friends with Jesus and know him personally. That's what he is interested in most. Not just proving he is God, but proving that he loves you. Gordy, would you pray for us?

Gordy: Dear Lord, thank you that you loved us so much you sent your Son to take our place. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins, then rose from the dead. This is the most awesome sign you could show us of your power and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Note From Friend:

Are you my friend? **Yes** or **No**

What will you do to prove you are my friend?



**Is Jesus God
by doing what
you said?**

**No, he is (*God*)
because he
rose from the
(*dead*).**

Fold & Cut Cross

Fold Paper in half vertically on fold #1, print side showing, then fold on line #2 meeting the upper lines together with the lower lines. Have the kids cut on the lines and unfold their cross on a stand.

