



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** The Best Gift All—Jesus  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 30

# Jesus is the Gift of the Messiah

**Take Home Point:** \*The gift of the Messiah has  
come. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 1:35-42

**Key Verse:** John 1:41b, "...We have found the Messiah" (which means  
"Christ")."

**We will help kids know:**

- "Christ" and "Messiah" mean the same thing – the "Promised One."
- The Messiah is the promised Savior sent from God.
- God promised a Savior at the beginning of history and throughout the Old Testament people waited for his coming.
- We celebrate the promised Messiah's arrival at Christmas.
- The Messiah came then so Jesus could be the gift with us now.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Anticipation as they think of things to come during the Christmas season.
- Joy as they realize the best gift has already been given – Jesus, the Messiah.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify gifts that have been hard to wait for.
- Discuss how they have waited for God to do certain things in their lives.
- Decorate a paddleball that reminds them of how people long ago waited for the Promised One who has come.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b>  (15 minutes)	3	Children discuss something they have waited for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wooden paddleball—order from <a href="http://www.orientaltrading.com">www.orientaltrading.com</a> or <a href="http://www.christiandollarstore.com">www.christiandollarstore.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> (20-30 minutes) 	4  7  9  9  9  11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Waits”—Gordy is driven crazy by all the waiting times in his life, especially Christmas.  <b>Video:</b> John 1:35-42 from <i>Gospel of John</i>  <b>Gifts R Us – Part 3:</b> “The Gift of the Messiah”  <b>Dramatic Storytelling:</b> “A Parade Worth Waiting For”—the presenter shares a dream a boy had about waiting.  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Waits”—Gordy expresses gratitude that he does not have to wait for Jesus and that he knows him right now.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy</li> <li>video: <i>Gospel of John</i> from John 1:35-42, produced by Visual Bible International 2003 (order from <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>box wrapped like a gift with a removable lid</li> <li>printed sign: “Jesus is the Best Gift” (p. 12) attached to gift box</li> <li>paddleball</li> <li>instruction papers</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (20-25 minutes) 	4	Children decorate their own “waiting paddleball” to remind them of those that waited for the Messiah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wooden paddleballs (Color Your Own! Nativity) from <a href="http://www.orientaltrading.com">www.orientaltrading.com</a></li> <li>highlighting markers</li> <li>markers to decorate paddleballs</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.

*Supplies: paddleball*

Play with the paddleball. Ask kids if they have ever played with a paddleball and if they know how to make it work. Several children will probably volunteer to show you how. After a couple of them show interest in playing with the paddleball, say:

**When I am done playing with it, then you can have a turn. For now, you just need to wait while I play with it.**

Continue to play with the paddleball and discuss the following:

**Can you remember something you wanted really badly for Christmas and it was really hard to wait for it? Would any of you like to share?**

Allow some of them to share while you continue playing with the paddleball and ask:

**Have there been other things that are hard to wait for, like a special vacation or a visit by someone like a grandparent?**

Allow them to share again until it is almost time to go to Large Group. Then say:

**You have done such a great job of waiting to play with this paddleball. There is something I forgot to tell you. This is called a “waiting paddleball.” You have to wait a long time before you play with it and I am afraid you still haven’t waited long enough. Maybe there will be time when we get back from large group where we will hear how *\*the gift of the Messiah has come.***

*Note: The amount of time the Shepherd plays with the paddleball is at his/her discretion. It is meant to enhance the point of waiting for something good and not meant to be a distraction during the discussion.*

# 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 Waits”—Gordy is driven crazy by all the waiting times in his life, especially Christmas.

**Video:** John 1:35-42 from *Gospel of John*

**Gifts R Us – Part 3:** “The Gift of the Messiah”

**Dramatic Storytelling:** “A Parade Worth Waiting For”—The presenter shares a dream a boy had about waiting.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy Waits”—Gordy expresses gratitude that he does not have to wait for Jesus and that he knows him right now.

# 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?

*Supplies: highlighting markers*

Have the children use highlighters to highlight “Messiah” or “Christ” in the passages discussed.

**Today we are going to look throughout the book of John to find different people who called Jesus the Messiah.**

**Who called Jesus the Messiah in the video we watched this morning found in John 1:40-41? (Andrew.)**

In John 4:25 and 29, who said she knew that the Messiah was coming? (*The Samaritan woman at the well.*)

In John 11:27, who told Jesus she believed he was the Christ? (*Martha.*)

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

The people we read about believed Jesus was the Messiah. But there were others who did not, and that is why they put Jesus to death.

**Why do you think these people believed Jesus was the Messiah when others did not?** (*They had faith when he told them. They saw some of the things he did. They had been told in the Old Testament and that message fit Jesus' birth and other events.*)

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

Application Activity:

*Supplies: paddleballs, markers*

**You all have done such a good job of waiting to play with a paddleball, that I have a surprise. Today each of you will receive your own “waiting paddleball” to decorate and take home with you.**

Hand out paddleballs and markers and let kids decorate them for a few minutes.

**The gift of Jesus as the Messiah was so important to those people waiting for Jesus to come to earth.**

**As Andrew said in the key verse for today, “We have found the Messiah” (*which means “Christ”*). We, too, can find Christ, the Messiah, when we believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world.**

**You can take your paddleballs home to help you in your wait for Christmas or to remind you that we are waiting for Jesus' second coming. Or like the people in the dream following the parade, “We are using our countdown balls to count the blessings that are falling on us since the Parade Master [Jesus] has arrived.”**

**Jesus is in heaven waiting to return again, but we can have a relationship with him now. He wants to be a part of your life and help you. Is there something you are waiting for him to do in your life?**

Let kids share if they want or spend a minute thinking about it. Then restate the Take Home Point.

**Today we learned, *\*the gift of the Messiah has come.***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he sent his Son Jesus as the gift of the Messiah. Thank him that we can have a relationship with him now and can look forward to seeing him face to face in heaven some day. Let kids pray for what they want Jesus to do in their lives.

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# **Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes**

## **The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series**

*This series looks at the book of John and how Jesus is a gift to each one of us. 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 is brought out with a sign that reads, “Jesus is the Gift.” The large group presenter, who each week becomes the salesperson for the store “Gifts R Us,” will introduce the gifts. The presenter will help lead the children to a different aspect of Jesus being the real gift. The children will also view a portion of the video The Gospel of John in conjunction with the gift being presented.*

*Supplies: large printed sign like a store marquee: “Gifts R Us,” salesman costume: briefcase, hat, box wrapped like a gift with a removable lid, printed sign: “Jesus is the Best Gift” attached to gift box, paddleball, instruction papers with story, video: Gospel of John*

## **Gordy Waits** Puppet Presentation

**Presenter: Kids, shall we welcome Gordy this morning?**

Gordy enters with his head moving up and down as if he has been watching a paddleball.

**Presenter: Gordy, what’s going on? It looks like you’ve got a twitch.**

Gordy: It was horrible!

**Presenter: What was?**

Gordy: My shepherd drove me crazy!

**Presenter: Oh, with the paddleball?**

Gordy: How’d you guess?

**Presenter: Your head is moving like you are still watching a paddleball.**

Gordy: It was awful! We had to watch her with the paddleball and wait, and wait, and wait for our turn. And guess what?

**Presenter: What?**

Gordy: It never came! Now every time I close my eyes all I see is paddleballs. It's driving me crazy!

**Presenter: That doesn't mean you won't have a chance to play with it later.**

Gordy: But that's later. I hate waiting!

**Presenter: Most of us have a hard time waiting.**

Gordy: Yeah, especially when it's Christmas. I think I figured it out this year.

**Presenter: What have you figured out?**

Gordy: *(Pulling out a calculator.)* It's my countdown system. It is exactly 18,720 minutes until Christmas morning.

**Presenter: Gordy, do you think counting down the minutes will make it easier to wait?**

Gordy: It seems like it. I have a cool feature on my calculator that checks off the minutes as they pass. Oh! 18,719 minutes now!

Why do we have to wait anyway?

**Presenter: It's a part of life, especially when there is something special worth waiting for.**

Gordy: Like presents!

**Presenter: Yes, presents are nice. But Christmas is much more than that, as you know.**

Gordy: It's about Jesus, but we don't have to wait for him. He's already here!

**Presenter: You're right. We don't have to now, but many, many years ago people were waiting for Jesus. In fact, they gave him a special name while they waited.**

Gordy: What was the name?

**Presenter: The name was "Messiah."**

Gordy: I think I have heard that before.

**Presenter: Maybe you have heard the name "Christ."**



Gordy: Yeah, I have heard people call him Jesus Christ.

**Presenter:** You can say Jesus Christ or Jesus the Messiah. They both mean the same thing – “the promised one.” Let’s watch this video and listen very carefully for the name “Christ” or “Messiah.”

## **Video**

Show the video: *Gospel of John* from John 1:35-42. Start with “The next day God was standing with two of his disciples.” (7:49) Stop at verse 42 when Jesus says, “Your name will be Cephas, which means Peter, the Rock.” (9:20)

## **Gifts R Us – Part 3** “The Gift of the Messiah”

The presenter comes on the stage dressed as the Gifts R Us salesman. He is carrying a gift that say, “Jesus is the Gift” that contains a paddleball and some instructions.

**Presenter:** Gifts R Us is now open for business. Shall we see what our gift is today? Does anyone have any guesses?

Let audience shout answers for a minute.

**Let’s open the box and see what gift reminds us of Jesus.**

Opens gift to show paddleball and instructions.

**What in the world does this have to do with Jesus being the gift?** (*Everyone should be stumped.*) **Here is a clue.** (*Looking at instructions.*) **It is a story about a dream. Let me read to you, “A Parade Worth Waiting For.”**

## **A Parade Worth Waiting For** Dramatic Storytelling

**Kyle could not wait for Christmas. He had everything picked out that he wanted: a remote control car, an XBOX and a new baseball glove. It was very hard for him to sleep each night as Christmas approached. Finally, one night he fell asleep and had a fascinating dream. Kyle found himself at the side of a road waiting for a parade.**

A woman near him whispered that this parade would be amazing. There would be rhinoceroses walking on their front paws, clowns with 40-foot legs and dancing bears who juggled fireballs. But of all these spectacular sights, what everyone really wanted to see was the Parade Master. Kyle was told that when the Parade Master visited a town, he gave everyone a gift that filled their lives with the kind of joy associated with this parade.

Kyle could not wait to see this. He stood in anticipation with the other people around him, peering excitedly down the road in front of him. A whole day went by until, finally, he looked at a man next to him who was as old as his mom and dad. He asked the man, "How long have you been waiting?" The man replied, "Since I was your age." Kyle also noticed that the man was playing with a paddleball. The paddleball seemed strange so he asked what he was doing with it. "Son," he replied, "I have been using this to count down the days until the parade comes and the Parade Master arrives."

Then Kyle looked across the street and there was a grandparent playing with a paddleball. Next to that man was a great-grandparent playing, also. There was a woman next to him that must have been a hundred years old! There was even a man that looked like he could be Abraham from the Bible. He had a paddleball, too! What could this possibly mean? Kyle continued to wait.

All at once, the paddleballs stopped. What do you think happened next?

Wait for audience to reply.

Yes, the Parade Master had come and the parade had begun. It was more spectacular than anyone could imagine with the rhinos walking on their front feet, the clowns with 40-foot legs and the bears juggling fireballs. But the best part of all was that the Parade Master had arrived. After the Parade Master passed by, Kyle noticed that people were still playing with their paddleballs. Why? The Parade Master had come. Can any of you guess why?

Allow answers from audience.

As the parade came to an end, everyone began to follow it down the street. Kyle asked the woman next to him why they were still playing with their paddleballs. She told him, "We are using our countdown balls to count the blessings that are falling on us since the Parade Master has arrived." He realized the people now had the joy of the 40-foot clowns, the strength of the rhinos and the courage of the bears. Kyle was so amazed at what the arrival of the Parade Master had done for each of the people and he, too, now felt the joy. It was a joy that stayed with him when he woke up the next morning to find Christmas had finally come.

## **Gordy Waits**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

Gordy: That was an amazing story. I know what it's like to lose sleep when I'm waiting for Christmas.

**Presenter: You know what that story reminds me of, Gordy?**

Gordy: No.

**Presenter: It reminds me of all the people who had to wait so many years for the Messiah, and some of them never got to see him while they were alive.**

Gordy: All that waiting must have been so hard. It seems like nothing to wait for Christmas when people long ago waited so many years for Jesus. I am so glad that Jesus finally came and that I can have a friendship and talk to him whenever I want.

**Presenter: Yes. That is true and we also can look forward to his second coming when we can see him face to face.**

Gordy: I will get to see him and live with him forever because I put my trust in Jesus already.

**Presenter: That is very exciting, Gordy, and what a good thing to remember at Christmastime. Would you like to pray and thank Jesus for coming after all those years of being the Promised One?**

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, I am so excited it is Christmas. I love hearing about getting gifts. Most of all, I am thankful for Jesus, who is the biggest gift of all. Thank you for sending Jesus at Christmas who was *\*the gift of the Messiah*, and that we can know him now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **Jesus, the BEST Gift**