



Date: _____
Series: Celebration
Summer Year 1, Lesson 14

Let's Celebrate! Jesus Loves Me!

Take Home Point: *Jesus loves me.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Matthew 19:13-15

We will help children know:

- Some disciples tried to keep children from bothering Jesus.
- Jesus blesses children and wants them to come to him.
- Jesus blesses us when we come to him in prayer.




We will help the children feel:

- They are special to Jesus.
- Confident that they can come to him in prayer.

We will help the children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack of colorful foods while watching a video.
- Make and decorate a puppet.
- Game time is combined with snack so there is time for a video. Today is a celebration of the summer ending and fall beginning.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the learning of today's Take Home Point: ***Jesus loves me.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy puppet
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack/video/Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • video, <i>Dave and the Giant Pickle</i>, produced by Big Idea Productions (Veggie Tales)—order from www.bigidea.com • any colorful food mixture that can be eaten from a cup—such as, colored cereal rings, raisins, fish crackers, pretzels, etc. • cups for food • napkins, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lunch-sized paper bags, one per child • wiggly eyes • yarn or fake fur pieces for hair • glue • crayons or washable markers • stickers, scraps of material, fancy paper, etc. to decorate bags <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see snack
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	11	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: Judy puppet

Judy Sings Jesus Love Me

Presenter: Hi, boys and girls, let's call for Judy to join us.

Kids call Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.** Judy comes out humming the song *Jesus Loves Me*.

Presenter: Hi, Judy. What are you humming?

Judy: Can you tell? (Hums two or three bars of *Jesus Loves Me*.)

Presenter: That sounds like the song *Jesus Loves Me*.

Judy: It is. It is my favorite.

Presenter: Why don't you sing it for us?

Judy: I can't.

Presenter: Why not?

Judy: Because *they* won't let me.

Presenter: Who won't let you?

Judy: I was in the library and I was happily singing the song.

Presenter: How were you singing it?

Judy: (Demonstrates by singing very loudly.) JESUS LOVES ME...

Presenter: Wow. That is loud!

Judy: Yes, and the lady said I couldn't sing it!

Presenter: Maybe she thought you were making too much noise in the library.

Judy: Every time I begin to sing, people tell me to stop.

Presenter: What do you mean?

Judy: I was in the store and I was singing like this. (Again, very loudly sings *Jesus Loves Me*.) A grumpy old man told my mommy to make me stop and be quiet.

Presenter: That poor old man might not understand.

Judy: Maybe no one wants to hear my song.

Presenter: I don't think that's true. I know someone very important who wants to hear your song.

Judy: Who is that? My pink pony? My pink pony always likes to listen to me.

Presenter: You really like your pink pony. But this is someone more important than your pink pony. Who is it that would want to hear you sing such a wonderful song? Can anyone guess? Let the kids answer. Yes, it's Jesus. Jesus wants to hear you sing about him.

Judy: He does?

Presenter: Yes. Today we are going to learn that there were many grownups who were trying to keep small children from coming to Jesus. They thought there were too many children around Jesus. They thought the children were bothering him.

Judy: Was he bothered?

Presenter: No, he wasn't. Jesus said, "Please let the little kids come to me. I'll be their special friend forever."

Judy: And did they sing to him?

Presenter: I bet they did. As a matter of fact, we can sing this song to him anytime and remember that **Jesus loves me*. Can you repeat that after me? **Jesus loves me*.

Judy: Jesus loves me.

Presenter: Good. Boys and girls, repeat after me. **Jesus loves me.*

Kids repeat. **Jesus loves me.*

Presenter: Let's sing the song *Jesus Loves Me.*

Song: *Jesus Loves Me*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JESus LOVES me
THIS I KNOW,
FOR the Bible TELLS me SO.
LITtle ONES to HIM beLONG.
THEY are WEAK but HE is STRONG.
YES, JESus LOVES me.
YES, JESus LOVES me.
YES, JESus LOVES me.
The BIBLe TELLS me SO.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving me.
Thank you that I'm special. Thank you that I'm special.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds. Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: children's picture Bible

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read about Jesus and the little children in a children's picture Bible.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

Children try to see Jesus.

- **Jesus was in town. All the people were very excited to see him. Show me your excited face (Mouths open, hands on cheeks)**
- **Mothers and fathers carried their babies. Let's carry a pretend baby.**
- **Boys and girls hurried down the road so they could see Jesus, too. Put your hand above your eyes so you can try to see Jesus.**

Disciples tell the children to go away.

- **Finally, they found Jesus, but his disciples surrounded him. They told the children to go away. Say really loud: "Go away!"**
- **The children were really sad. Show me a sad face.**

Jesus invites the children to be with him.

- **Jesus heard his friends telling the children to go away. They were keeping little children from coming to Jesus. But Jesus told his friends, "no, no, no." Let's shake our heads and say, "no, no, no".**
- **This is because Jesus loves and wants to see little children come to him. Let's invite the children toward us with our hands like Jesus did.**

Jesus blesses the children.

- The children then ran over to Jesus. Pretend you are running.
- Jesus hugged the children. Give yourself a big hug.
- Jesus blessed the children by touching them on the head and saying kind words to them. Let me pat you on the head and say, "Bless you."
- All the children were smiling. Let me see you smile.
- Jesus told them that his love belongs to them. They learned that Jesus loves us very much. Let's all smile and give ourselves a hug. It reminds us that Jesus loves us.
- Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves me. Jesus loves me.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving me.
Thank you that I'm special. Thank you that I'm special.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Song: *Jesus Loves Me*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JESus LOVES me
THIS I KNOW,
FOR the Bible TELLS me SO.
LITtle ONES to HIM beLONG.
THEY are WEAK but HE is STRONG.
YES, JESus LOVES me.
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Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me:
*Jesus loves me. Jesus loves me.

Activity 2: Snack/Video

Supplies: A special mix of colorful cereal rings, raisins, fish crackers, pretzels, chocolate chips or any combination of kid friendly snacks; cups to put snacks in; napkins, cups and water

You can make this Sunday extra special by playing a video or DVD of your choice. This will be extra special if it is the last lesson for a class. Suggested video: Dave and the Giant Pickle, a Veggie Tale Production by Big Idea, Inc. Order from <http://www.bigidea.com/videos/veggietales/vt005/default.htm>. It is 27 minutes long if played in full or 23 minutes long if the song in the middle is skipped.

Boys and girls, today we are having a special celebration. You are getting so big that you will be moving to another class next week. (If this does not apply to your church's situation, delete these comments.)

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Because today is a special celebration, you are going to eat your snack while watching a video. Everyone sit down. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and pray.

**Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving me.
Thank you that I'm special. Thank you that I'm special.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

As soon as everyone settles down, we will pass out your movie snacks.

Pass out snacks in a cup and start the video. If you let children have water in the movie watching area you may have multiple spills. Have water and napkins available at a nearby table.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus loves me. Jesus loves me.

Sing the song, if you have time.

Song: *Jesus Loves Me*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *plain brown or white lunch size paper sacks, one per child with Jesus loves me near the edge*
- *yarn or fake fur pieces for hair*
- *wiggly eyes*
- *glue*
- *crayons or washable markers*
- *anything you can use to decorate bags—stickers, cut up pieces of material or wallpaper, pieces of construction paper or any colorful paper*

Boys and girls, today in our special celebration, we are going to make a puppet. We know you have liked seeing Bubba and Judy all year. Now you will have your own puppet to put on puppet shows for your family and friends.

Turn the bag upside down with bottom flap towards you. The bottom of the sack will be the face of the puppet. The mouth will be under or just below the flap. On the bottom edge of the puppet, write or place a label saying Jesus loves me.

First we will glue on eyes and then the hair. Have the children glue on the wiggly eyes and hair.

Now you can decorate your puppet with all the fancy pieces and stickers.

Show the children how to put their hand inside the bag and make it look like the puppet is talking.

Let's make our puppets say, "*Jesus loves me*". Have the children repeat the phrase.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus loves me. Jesus loves me.

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving me.
Thank you that I'm special. Thank you that I'm special.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Learning Game

The time normally spent at a game or free time is combined with the time for snack. This will enable you to have enough time to watch a short video of 20-30 minutes.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Jesus loves me.**

Lesson Prayer:

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

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
You gave us Jesus. You gave us Jesus.
Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving me.
Thank you that I'm special. Thank you that I'm special.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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