



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 32

Jesus Came to Fix Our Broken World

Take Home Point: *When we feel broken inside, Jesus can help. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 2:11

Key Verse: Psalm 147:3 "He is the healer of the brokenhearted. He is the one who bandages their wounds."

We will help kids know:

- Because of sin, our lives can seem broken.
- Jesus came as our Savior to heal our brokenness.

We will help kids feel:

- Comfort in the knowledge that Jesus came to this world to help them with feelings of brokenness.
- Excited about the chance to share this good news with others.

We will help kids do:

- Identify ways they feel broken.
- Pray for God's specific healing in their lives and share that with others.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids share about special gifts that are broken which leads to how we can feel brokenness inside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broken toys (Each shepherd needs to bring a broken toy or be prepared to share a story about a broken toy.)
Large Group 	4 7-8 8-11 11-12	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Gets Over His Broken Toy" Dramatic Presentation: "The Birthday Box" Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Gordy Gets Over His Broken Toy"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • several broken toys available inside Gordy's puppet stage to be thrown onstage • six child actors (recruit these during Small Group Warm-Up) • a king's crown and a cape (<i>optional</i>) • a wooden chest (<i>optional</i>)
Small Group Application 	4-6	Kids will talk about a time of brokenness and then draw/write that on the outline of a child. Kids will then cover their wounds with bandages as they thank Jesus for what he has done.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long length butcher paper for each group (enough for a child to lay on) • markers • bandages or strips of white medical tape for each child

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.

Bring a broken toy from home or be prepared to share a story from your life of how a toy was broken.

Let's talk about some of the new Christmas presents you received this week. Are any of your toys broken already?

Talk about your own broken toy (or story) as an example.

Think of a toy that you once broke and how big of a loss it was. Can you share how that toy broke and how it made you feel?

Just like you might have felt disappointed when your toy broke, we often have feelings of brokenness inside. Brokenness is a sad feeling in our hearts. We can feel broken inside when someone close to us leaves or when we are disappointed in ourselves because we don't do something right. We can hurt inside when we are mean or hurtful to other people. All of these are ways we can feel broken inside.

Brokenness in our lives happens because there is sin in the world. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the entire world became sinful, which causes people to hurt and have pain.

Can you think of one sadness you had that made you feel broken inside? Who would share an example?

It is most effective when you can share a personal experience as an example.

Today we will learn how Jesus came as a King who would be called a Savior. That Savior is one who heals our brokenness. **When we feel broken inside, Jesus can help.*

Large Group: 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.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Over His Broken Toy”

Gordy can't understand how his toys break so easily when he gets angry and kicks them.

Dramatic Presentation: “The Birthday Box”

This drama is about a king giving a special box to his villagers. Though the box is nothing special to look at, a little girl discovers the power that comes from within it. This story is an allegory of what God, our King, has given us through his Son Christ Jesus.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Over His Broken Toy”

Gordy learns that Jesus was sent by God our King to bring healing and fix our brokenness.

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?

What did the little girl see when she got inside the box at the end of the story? *(A baby, the son of the king, laid in a bed of straw. The son of the king as a grown man held to some wood with iron stakes.)*

How did the girl feel different after her dream? *(She felt the brokenness in her heart leave. She felt like a new person.)*

What did she do when she felt like a new person? *(She took care of her broken toy.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Who does the king in the story represent? *(God, the Father.)*

Where do all our possessions come from? *(God, the Father.)*

Who does the son of the king represent? *(Jesus, God's Son.)*

What does the birthday box represent? *(It represents all the King has given us, including his Son Jesus, our Savior.)*

What is the wooden box with iron hinges a picture of? *(The wooden cross Jesus died on. The iron hinges represent the iron spikes or nails used to hang Jesus on the cross.)*

How did Jesus become our Savior? *(He was born for us and died on the cross to take away the brokenness of sin.)*

The Bible says in Luke 2:11, **"...your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born..."** That's what a Savior does. He rescues us from our brokenness.

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Can you give Jesus your hurts, trusting him to heal them?

Application Activity:

Have a child lie on the butcher paper and trace her outline.

This paper person represents each one of us. Let's talk about some of the ways that we sometimes feel broken inside.

Think of a time you felt especially sad about something. Or you might think of a time when you felt broken inside because you did something wrong or stupid. You might think of a time that someone did something mean to you. You might feel sad because someone you love has died. Or you might be sad because your parents are divorced. We all have ways that we feel broken inside.

When each person talks about a time of brokenness, he can draw a "boo-boo" on our paper person. (Older children will probably want to write the word.)

After each child has shared, write Psalm 147:3 on the paper and read it.

"He is the healer of the brokenhearted. He is the one who bandages their wounds."

As you give each child a bandage, say:

The Bible says Jesus heals our wounds. Take this bandage and cover your wound on the paper person, thanking Jesus for what he has done.

What will you do the next time you are feeling sad or broken inside?
(Go to Jesus in prayer and ask him to be with you and make you feel better.)

Practice saying the key verse together and conclude with:

****When we feel broken inside, Jesus can help.***

Closing Prayer:

Close with a prayer asking God to take away our brokenness and thanking Jesus for coming to be our Savior.

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“Gordy Gets Over His Broken Toy”

Puppet Presentation

Several broken toys are available behind puppet stage to be thrown onstage before Gordy appears.

Mr. King: Gordy, come on out. Let’s talk about Christmas.

Broken toys come flying out.

Mr. King: Wait a minute! Gordy, what’s going on back there?

Gordy: *(Appears.)* Mr. King, I’m tired of Christmas.

Mr. King: Why is that?

Gordy: Look at these cheap toys! They’re already broken.

Mr. King: That’s too bad. What happened?

Gordy: I don’t know. They just broke.

Mr. King: They broke?

Gordy: Yeah. I was just moving them around.

Mr. King: Do you mean you were moving them around in your closet?

Gordy: No, on the floor.

Mr. King: Do you mean you were picking them up?

Gordy: No, I was moving them with my feet.

Mr. King: Moving them with your feet? Do you mean you were kicking them?

Gordy: Only when they got in my way! But I guess they learned their lesson. They won’t get in my way again.

Mr. King: Gordy, it’s not the toys’ fault. You should have picked them up. And now you have broken toys.

Gordy: Yeah, broken toys are a bummer...but sometimes everything is a bummer.

Mr. King: It sounds like something’s wrong, Gordy...what is it?

Gordy: I don’t like new toys anyway.

Mr. King: What happened?

Gordy: I've been in trouble with my mom lately...and she said I might not get any presents at all for Christmas...and then my old toys got in the way of my feet. And then my mom got mad again...and then...

Mr. King: Gordy, it sounds like you're the one who is broken.

Gordy: What?

Mr. King: When we feel hurt on the inside...or when we hurt others...it's like we are broken on the inside.

Gordy: What do we do?

Mr. King: When we feel broken on the inside, Jesus can help. We'll find out about that today. So watch this story and then we'll talk about what you learned.

“The Birthday Box”

Dramatic Presentation

The following story was designed to be acted out by kids as the large group leader is reading it. It works best to read the story with brief pauses (*) to allow kids to act out what has just been said. Be cautious about going too slow, however, as that will lead to losing the kids' attention.

The children who improvise the parts need at least 15 minutes of preparation/rehearsal. Use small group warm-up time to select some children and explain how they can listen to the script and act out their parts. Help the children think of appropriate actions to illustrate the story. If you want to increase the quality of the drama, have the children practice for an hour or more during a scheduled rehearsal.

Optional Props:

- king's crown
- cape.
- wooden chest.

(It may be more effective to go without props and let the kids use their imaginations. The actors can pantomime touching, opening, and looking into a box.)

Characters:

- girl
- king
- four villagers

Once upon a time, there was a very good and wise king * who loved to give gifts to his subjects. He fashioned by his own hand * what seemed to be a very ordinary-looking box. * It was made of common wood, lined with woven straw, and hinged in crude iron. *

The king said, “Take this box to the village below. * It is the best work of my hands if not judged by mere outward appearances.”

The village, at first, paid little attention to the box sitting in the center of their town square. * After all, it was crude and empty and said nothing about having come from the king. It might have gone completely unnoticed except for one day * a little girl approached the box on her birthday. * When she opened the box, * she saw her name etched on the inside of the lid. * The box was filled with a year’s worth of gifts. * And they were all for her!

As she took the gifts out, she was filled with joy! * There was one gift labeled “good health.” She touched her forehead, thankful that she had no fever. * One gift said “wonderful family” and she gave herself a hug as she felt the joy of knowing her family loved her. * One gift said “good at running” and she felt her knees. * She was filled with joy at the thought of running. And there were more gifts. There were balls to throw. * Dolls to play with. * There were even electronic games to play on television. * Each gift gave her joy.

But the best surprise of all was a message on a card she found at the bottom of the box. * It read, “With love, from your king!” The little girl’s heart danced with joy! *

In time, all the villagers learned the secret of the box. One by one, they simply visited the box on their birthday. * Each opened the box and found birthday gifts. * They took out their gifts with great joy. * They even noticed a message on a card lying in the bottom of the box. * The card was just for them and it read, “With love, from your king!” *

Now one would think that the village would be quite a happy and thankful place. Not so! The villagers who had received such wonderful gifts were at first filled with joy. * But then they grew tired of the toys. * They forgot about the good king who gave them the gifts and they began to complain.*

One would say, “This gift isn’t new enough.” Then he’d throw it to the ground. *

Another would say, “I’m so bored, and these gifts are boring. * And he tossed the gift aside. *

Some were angry when they could only get gifts on their birthdays. They broke their gifts in their anger and went off to pout. *

What the village didn't realize is that everyone was broken on the inside. That's why they couldn't keep their joy, even if they were given so many gifts. Even the little girl felt the anger and the hurt of being broken on the inside. *

Perhaps the village would have continued in their restless, cluttered, and angry lives if the little girl did not make another most remarkable discovery. She visited the box on December 25. Even though it wasn't her birthday, she opened the box. * On the inside of the lid it said, "Happy Birthday to the Son of the King." The box was empty except for a card on the bottom. She opened the card * and read what it said. "The King sends his love to you from his kingdom above. Now step right in and a new life you'll begin!"

What did that mean? "Step right in...and a new life you'll begin?"

The little girl thought, "Maybe I'm supposed to step into the box. But what does "a new life you'll begin" mean? * The girl very slowly stepped inside the box and pulled the lid down. * Instead of being dark inside, the box was filled with light.

The little girl felt like a dream was coming over her. She felt the straw on the inside of the box. * She closed her eyes and in her imagination, she saw a baby laid upon a bed of straw. She somehow knew that this was the Son of the King.

Next, she felt the iron hinges and the wooden lid. * She closed her eyes and pictured in her mind someone. Wait! It must be the King's Son after he's grown. This man was being held to some wood with iron stakes. It seemed terrible. The King's Son seemed broken and about to die!

But then she felt all her sadness begin to leave and go into the King's Son. * She felt all the things that made her feel broken on the inside—her anger and unforgiveness, her feelings of being left out, her grumpiness when she didn't get her way; begin to leave and go into the King's Son. * She gasped as she felt the brokenness leave her heart. *

Then, in her imagination, she saw the King's Son standing right next to her. * She felt great joy! It was as if the King's Son was right there in the box with her. She felt like a whole new person. With that, the lid opened and her dream ceased.

The little girl left the box feeling like a new person. She had joy not because the birthday box had given her gifts, but because it had given her a new life. The box had taken away her feeling of brokenness on the inside.

As the little girl was walking home, she noticed her old birthday doll lying on the ground. It had broken weeks ago, so she had thrown it aside and forgotten about it. She picked the doll up * and felt sad as she saw its pathetic shape. But instead of tossing the doll aside, she held it close. Instead of complaining about a broken doll, she felt thankfulness. Instead of not caring about it anymore, she decided to take it home and fix it up. Something about her was different now. She wasn't broken on the inside. And now she cared about helping others who were broken.

“Gordy Gets Over His Broken Toy”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Wow, Mr. King! That sure was a cool story.

Mr. King: It sure was, Gordy. But it was more than just a story. It has special meaning. I wonder if you can think of what some of the people or objects in the story represent...what they remind you of in real life?

Gordy: For example?

Mr. King: Who does the king remind you of when he sent the box to the villagers?

Gordy: Santa?

Mr. King: No, Gordy. The king reminds us of God.

The box was a picture of the wooden manger filled with hay that Jesus was born in. Later, when Jesus became a man, he was nailed to a wooden cross with iron spikes like the iron used to make the hinges on the box.

This is a picture of how Jesus was sent to earth by God our King to be humbly born in a stable and one day to die on the cross for our sin and brokenness. Jesus took all of the sin and pain of the world on himself, so that when we believe in him, he rescues us from our brokenness.

Gordy: It was kind of cool how that girl got in the box and it made things better.

Mr. King: What does that remind you of?

Gordy: I'm not sure, but I think it has something to do with Jesus.

Mr. King: It does. The Bible says in Luke 2:11, “...your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born...” That’s what a Savior does. He rescues us from our brokenness. But we have to get into the box.

Gordy: What?

Mr. King: That means we have to trust Jesus. We tell him, “I believe you died for my sins. I trust you as my Savior. Please come and live in my heart and take away my brokenness.”

Gordy: And we can feel better inside just like the toys got fixed?

Mr. King: That's right, Gordy. **When we feel broken inside, Jesus can help.* Let's talk more about that in our groups. But for now, will you please say the closing prayer?

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to be born in the manger, kind of like that birthday box. Thank you that Jesus dying on the cross can fix us when we feel broken on the inside. Now please live in my heart and help me not feel broken...or angry...or want to kick my toys around. You are such an awesome God. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.