



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Fall Year 1, Lesson 18

God Helps Us See Spiritual Truths

Primary Scripture: John 1:45-51

Key Verse: John 1:50, “Jesus replied, ‘You believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that’.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids are exposed to multiple truths and need help discerning what is true and what is of God. Kids are exposed to lots of spiritual realities such as mediums, demonic forces (in movies or cartoons), and New Age religious practices. But Jesus peels back heaven so we can get a glimpse of Jesus and his truth. We will see God working with eyes of faith!

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus came as a man, and through his death and resurrection, we experience his love.

Jesus in us: The Holy Spirit in us shows us spiritual truths.

Jesus through us: We are called to serve in response to Jesus' love for us.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *binoculars*

Using the binoculars, look out the window and say:

**I wonder what is happening down the street? I sure wish I could see.
All I want is a little peek.**

Addressing the kids, say:

Have you ever wanted to see something that seemed far away? Have you ever wished you could see into heaven and know what heaven and Jesus are like? Jesus promised Nathaniel in our Bible event today that he would "see the sky open and God's angels going up and coming down to the Son of Man." God wants to show us heaven and Jesus.

Let's come into God's presence now as we worship the Father who made us, the Son who saved us, and the Holy Spirit who lives in us. Let's get a peek at heaven as we sing our next song.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

What do we know about Jesus? What do we know about who he is and what he is like?

Allow different children to share what they know.

Every person has more to learn about Jesus. How do we do that? We read our Bible and come to church. God talks to us in these ways and tells us his special truths. When we talk to God in prayer and when we talk about God at home, we can grow closer and closer to him.

Have you ever felt so close to God that you knew he was right there, even though you couldn't see him? Have you ever felt so close to God that you knew he was doing wonderful things for you, even if you didn't see him? Did you ever ask God to show you his wonderful truth? Let's do that now.

Dear God, we ask that you would show us your truth. Thank you that you gave us Jesus, your own Son. Because of him, we have the most important truth of all—our sins are forgiven. Please forgive us for the times we have ignored you or have not followed you. Forgive us for when we disobey. Help us want to follow you and love you. We know you forgive us because of Jesus. By the power of the cross, help us to follow your truth wherever you lead us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Do you get to heaven based on how much money you give for offering? (No.) Do you get to heaven by how much good you do? (No.) Does God recognize what you do for him? (Yes!) The Bible says in Matthew 25, that when Jesus comes back again he will separate

his followers (*the sheep*) from others (*the goats*). To his followers he will say, ***“Come, my Father has blessed you!”*** (Matthew 25:34-40.)

When we give our offerings, we are showing love to others just as Jesus says in these verses.

Talk about your mission project and how the offering money will be used.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Divide the children into groups of three. Give each group an action to pantomime without using any voice. They will do this action before the entire group, and the entire group will try to “see” what they are doing. After the small groups have used your suggestions for actions to pantomime, if you have more time, you might have the groups do a pantomime they thought of themselves.

Write these actions on a slip of paper or cut them from this page and give one to each group.

- f* Jumping rope
- f* Playing baseball
- f* Having a slumber party
- f* Talking on the phone to each other
- f* Roller skating
- f* Praying
- f* Canoeing
- f* Playing with a hula-hoop
- f* Blowing out the candles on a birthday cake

After each group has a chance to pantomime their action, say the following.

We had to use our imaginations to understand what was being acted out. Did you know there are sometimes things happening around us that we can't see? We need a certain kind of eyes to see those things. These are not eyes of imagination. These are eyes that are able to see spiritual truths.

Today we are going to talk about some important spiritual truths that you can see only when you believe what the Bible says.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

- *six plastic Easter eggs that contain the following messages: “Jesus loves some people,” “We have to work very hard for Jesus to forgive our sins,” “Jesus loves only Lutherans,” “God only saves good people,” and “The Holy Spirit only works in perfect people.” Hide these eggs throughout the room. The egg with the true message contains a piece of paper with a cut out rectangle. The paper will have the page number to turn to in **your** Bible.*
- *rectangle shape that frames John 14:6 in your Bible.*

There are six Easter eggs hidden in this room. Inside each egg is a message, but only one of the messages is true. If you find one egg, please come sit down. When all six have been found, we will open the eggs to see which one has the truth.

Let the children look for the eggs. When all six have been found, have all the children come back together. Then have those that found the eggs read the messages one at a time to decide which one is true. Have the child with the cut out rectangle paper go last. When he opens his egg just say to him:

Hmm... That’s different. Let’s save that one for later.

When it is finally this child’s turn to read the message, hand him your Bible and tell him to turn to the page number shown on the paper. Then have him place the paper on that page and read the Bible verse that is revealed through the rectangle. *(If the child who wins is too young to read the passage or find the page, you or an older child may help him.)* The Bible passage they will read is John 14:6, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me.”*

Just like there were eggs that didn’t have the truth in them, there are lots of people who say they have the truth or try to convince us that something is right. Only Jesus Christ is the real truth. God wants to show us the truth about who he is through the Bible.

Let’s listen as we read John 1:45-51. This is when Nathaniel was called to be a disciple. Those of you who were in Kingdom Quest this morning, listen for something in this scripture reading that sounds familiar.

Read and discuss John 1:45-51. Read a few verses at a time and discuss. Make sure the children see the connection to Jacob’s ladder. It is important that they understand that Jesus wants to show them what he is like and give them a peek at heaven.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Invite the kids to share things they have noticed in their world that aren't true. Give some examples that are found in television and movies.

Is it okay to shoot people? Is it okay to seek revenge? Invite kids to share things other kids talk about that aren't true. This might include things about God. Maybe they have heard that Jesus wasn't the true Son of God. Or maybe they have heard that people can get to heaven by being good.

As children are invited to share untruths they have heard, also invite them to share a time when they shared the truth about Jesus. Invite them to tell their experiences of sharing faith with their family and friends. Try not to evaluate responses, but encourage them by applauding the truth about Jesus.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

We can ask Jesus anything now through prayer. What do you want to ask him? Do you have some special needs that you want to ask God about today?

Allow for prayer requests.

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to me today through your word. God, I want to learn more and more about you. Please help me by letting me see your truth in the Bible. God, I appreciate that we can ask you anything right now. Include prayer requests. Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayers and answering them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- binoculars

Bible Presentation:

- six plastic Easter eggs that contain the following messages: “Jesus loves some people,” “We have to work very hard for Jesus to forgive our sins,” “Jesus loves only Lutherans,” “God only saves good people,” and “The Holy Spirit only works in perfect people.” Hide these eggs throughout the room. The egg with the true message contains a piece of paper with a cut out rectangle. The paper will have the page number to turn to in your Bible.
- rectangle shape that frames John 14:6 in the large group presenter’s Bible.

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