



Date: _____

Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 53

Look at Me— Looking at Him

Primary Scripture: Acts 3:4, 12, 16

Key Verse: Acts 3:12,16, “Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we made this man walk? It is Jesus’ name...that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.” (NIV)

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

Kids are quick to look up to various role models in their lives. Often these can be sports figures, parents, action heroes, teachers or even other students. But the greatest role model kids can look up to is Jesus. By faith they can see he gave his life for them and really can live in their lives. If kids are looking up to Jesus, they need to know that, when others look up to them, they see someone looking up to Jesus. It’s a powerful witness!

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus died on the cross and rose again not only for the forgiveness of our sins, but also for the powerful relationship we have with him. In the name of Jesus we can be healed just as the lame man was.

Jesus in us: We can have courage like Peter, as the spirit of the living Christ is in us. We can boldly testify to what Jesus does and point to him rather than just ourselves.

Jesus through us: As others look at us, we are looking at him. Jesus will work through us to come to those who need him.

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

Before Kid's Church, interview one or more children to see what special or goofy talent they have. See the script for "LOOKUPTA LAND".

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.

In advance, ask a child for his assistance. Have child come forward and give him/her a pair of binoculars. Tell the child that his job is to look through the binoculars at a picture of Jesus, a cross, or heavenward. (Whatever best suits your worship setting.)

Supplies: two pairs of binoculars, picture of Jesus or a cross

As worship begins, scan the audience from the stage with a pair of binoculars, oblivious to the child who is staring all the while at Jesus (or in that direction). Say:

Kids, with these binoculars I can really focus on things. Let me see what I see out in the crowd today. Well, I see you, (child's name), right up close and I even see the pretty curls in your hair. These binoculars help me see things very clearly. They even make objects look bigger to me.

Scan the room for other objects or people and make a few more brief comments. Then focus on the child with the binoculars fixed on Jesus.

Wow! What have we here? (Child's name) has binoculars, too. What are you looking at? Oh, I see. You're looking at Jesus. I get it.

Do you know what it is called when you are able to see Jesus, even if you don't actually see him with your eyes but you see him with your heart? What it means to know Jesus gave his life for you and he loves you very much? What is it if you trust him as your Savior? If you close your eyes, can you imagine Jesus being right here? Do you know what that is called?

It is called faith, and that is what our friend is showing us right here.

Point to the child with binoculars.

Today we are going to learn how to look up to Jesus and trust him. When we do, other people might look up to us. It is like me looking with my binoculars to our friend here. When I look at him looking at Jesus, I want to look at Jesus, too. Today we will talk about how we can really help people when they look at us looking at Jesus.

Let's worship so other people can look at us looking at him. Maybe they will see Jesus through us.

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!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

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

Have children think about times this last week they didn't look at Jesus and they didn't give him their best. Give your own personal example. Have them repent in their hearts for their sins. Then explain that forgiveness is based on God's great gift to us.

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.

Supplies: silver or gold colored offering plate

Use a silver or gold colored offering plate.

In today's Bible event there was a beggar who wanted money from Peter and John. The disciples did not have any money, but they had something far greater. Do you know what that was?

They had Jesus! They showed the power of Jesus by telling the man that they would not give him money, but in the name of Jesus they healed him so he could walk. They gave him the very best, and that was Jesus.

This special offering container reminds us that, since we are like the beggar and have the very best which is Jesus, then we want to give him our very best, too. When we give our offerings, it is like giving silver and gold to God. Even if it is not very much money, it is very important. It is a way we show God that we give him our very best because he has given us his best, Jesus.



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.

Prop needed: a broom or a long dowel.

Invite a child forward. Demonstrate how to balance the broom on the palm of your hand. As you do so, tell the child to watch your hand. Watch it very closely because that is the secret to the trick. Give the child the broom and have him try to do the balancing act.

The trick to this, obviously, is that one cannot balance a broom if one only looks at one's hand. Instead, one must look to the top in order to balance a broom. If you can convince the child to only focus on watching his hand when he tries to balance the broom, then he will certainly be unsuccessful.

After the child has tried, have him watch you do it again. This time make it obvious that you are looking up. If the child notices that, then the child will probably be able to balance the broom as well. Have him try it again. Then say:

When we look at our own strength, we will fail. But when we look to Jesus, we have his power.

Acts 3:12, 16 says, "When Peter saw this (the lame man jumping and walking and praising God), he said to the people, 'Men of Israel, why are you amazed about this man? Why are you staring at us as though we have made him walk by our own power or godly life?...Through his (Jesus') power alone this man, whom you know, was healed, as all of you saw.'"

Down in the Dumps

Play this relay race called *Down in the Dumps*.

Mark off a “valley” with two lines of masking tape about twenty feet wide. Divide the children into as many teams as can be formed depending on space and the number of brooms or dowels available. The object of the race is to cross the valley of “Down in the Dumps” by balancing a broom on one’s hand without having it fall. The secret to balancing the broom is looking up!

Have each team divide in half and line up on both sides of the Valley of Down in the Dumps. Start the broom on one side of the valley. The first person in line carries the broom balanced on his hand to the next person in line on the other side. If he crossed the valley successfully, he conquered it and can sit down. If he didn’t make it all the way across, he must come back to the beginning, give his broom to the first person in line, and get in line again.

Time the event to see how many people from each team can cross the Valley of Down in the Dumps.

Debrief the game. Ask kids who were very successful what their secret was. (*They could balance the broom if they looked up instead of looking down at their hand.*)

How is this like looking up to Jesus? (*When we look at our own strength, we will fail. But when we look to Jesus, we have his power.*)

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: two chairs, binoculars

For the reading of the Bible event, have two contestants come forward and sit in two chairs. Have them each hold a pair of binoculars as they listen to the Bible event from Acts 3:1-16. Explain that they are to stand quickly and briefly raise the binoculars to their eyes when they hear a reference to *watching* or *seeing* or *witnessing*. The audience can act as prompters.

While reading this scripture passage, emphasize any words that refer to watching, seeing, or witnessing.

LOOKUPTA LAND

Interactive Drama

This interactive drama requires no practice or preparation. As kids are pulled from the audience and prompted to act on the spot, it allows for some spontaneity and full audience participation. Every participant will need a prop of homemade binoculars. These can be empty toilet tissue rolls taped together. If this is not possible, have kids make binoculars with their own rounded hands together.

In advance, interview one or more children to see what special or goofy talent they have. (This will make sense after you read the script.) Have the kids with a special talent come up and give them toy binoculars and ask them to participate as they hear the story.

Once upon a time, there was a land of Lookupta. In Lookupta Land it was very important to be looked up to. When people looked up to someone, they would take out their Lookupta binoculars and look up to someone. Then they would say, “OOH,” and then they would say, “AHH.”

Say to the audience:

Kids, every time I put my right hand on my cheek, say “OOH” along with me. When I put my hand on my left cheek, everyone says, “AHH.”

Now let’s just see who the people of Lookupta looked up to. Well, they looked up to storytellers like me. I am the “Story Man.” See how they all are gazing at me with their Lookupta binoculars? Point to volunteers. Hear them say, “OOH,” (hand signal to the right cheek) and hear them say, “AHH” (hand signal to the left cheek).

It wasn’t just storytellers that the people looked up to. They also looked up to people who could do strange and wonderful things, like someone who could yo-yo.

The yo-yo person from audience steps forward for a quick demonstration.

Well, look at them all look up to the yo-yo man. OOH... AHH (*with hand signals*). Then there was someone who could hula hoop.

Repeat the performance and appropriate response.

There was someone who could make cow sounds.

Pull one of the binocular kids up for this one and get a cow sound out of them. Make sure that all binoculars are focused and there are plenty of responsive “oohs” and “ahhs”.

The following “talents” might be used or goofy demonstrations as prompted beforehand. These might include:

- * making a fish face by squeezing your cheeks together
- * crossing your eyes or making a goofy face
- * standing on your head
- * wiggling your ears
- * talking like a duck
- * making monkey sounds

It is important to keep this section quickly paced and not let it drag. When enough of these “oohs” and “ahhs” of Lookupta Land have been properly demonstrated, point out that there is one person off to the side that never gazed at the antics or joined in the “oohs” or “ahhs”.

“Look! There is someone over here that hasn’t been paying any attention to what is going on.”

The rest of the villagers approached the person, saying, “What kind of strange person are you anyway? Don’t you know that you live in Lookupta Land?”

“Yes,” he replied.

“Don’t you know that we all look up to something here?”

“Yes,” he nodded his head.

“Well, then, what do you have to say for yourself? Better yet, what can you do that we can all look up to?”

He steps to the middle of the group.

He says, “Watch this, I’m showing you something you can really lookupta.”

With that, he took his binoculars and looked up into heaven.

While everyone gazed at him, they said, “What kind of trick is that? He’s just looking up.”

“Oh no,” said the man. “It’s far more than that. This is what I see. I see with the eyes of my heart, the mighty and powerful God. He watches over Lookupta Land and loves every person so dearly, but he is saddened that so few people ever notice him.

“They are too busy looking up to other things. So he sent his Son, Jesus. Anyone that looks up to Jesus can be a best friend with God and have his sins forgiven. That’s what I see. I see Jesus right there and he is giving us the power of the Holy Spirit so we can see him anywhere. That power of the Holy Spirit even helps fix our problems.”

Everyone said, “OOH” and “AHH” (with hand signals). Some of the children said, “Can we see, too?”

“Sure,” said the man. “Just look at me, look at him. Then look at him yourself. Open your heart and invite him in and he will give you something to lookupta forever.”

From then on, the village of Lookupta was filled with lots of “oohs” and “ahhs”(with hand signals), not over just silly stuff, but because they could see. They could look up to God and Jesus, his Son.

“OOH” and “AHH” with hand signals.

Optional Video:

Show the video, *Who Cares* by Missionary Kids...(6-7 minutes). Order from <http://www.paoc.org/ministries/MAK/pdf/MAK%20Resources%20Order%20Form.pdf>.

Debrief with questions:

What or who did different people in this video “look up to?”

(Kickball ability; fighting ability; Jesus)

Did this story seem very realistic to you? Have you ever seen something like this happen? (Let kids describe any time(s) they have seen God change someone’s heart.)

Do you think this could happen at your school or on the playground near your home?

Do you think God could use you to bring a friend to faith in Jesus?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, help us have the courage and the wisdom to know when to talk to others about your love for them. Give us your power so others, who look at us, look up to you. Thank you for loving us so much. Amen.



Witness

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.

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.

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 songs 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:

- two pairs of binoculars
- picture of Jesus or a cross

Offering:

- offering plate made out of metal

Learning Game:

- three foot long dowels or brooms

Bible Presentation

- two chairs
- binoculars

Application Drama:

- ten toilet paper tube binoculars
- yo-yo
- hula hoop
- optional: *Who Cares?* by Missionary Kids—order from:
<http://www.paoc.org/ministries/MAK/pdf/MAK%20Resources%20Order%20Form.pdf>

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