



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 36

Jesus Will Go With You Wherever You Go

Primary Scripture: John 21:1-14

Key Verse: John 21:3, "Simon Peter said to the others, 'I'm going fishing.'"

As we read the rest of John 21, Jesus encountered Peter while he was fishing. Peter learned that Jesus still wanted him to be a fisher of men, even after he had denied Jesus. Jesus meets us right where we are even today and we can be fishers of men.

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

Kids have vivid imaginations that can perceive God as always present watching over them. This can be a comforting thought when they need security. It also can be distressing as they might be embarrassed imagining God seeing them when they are not doing that which is pleasing. Today we want kids to understand that God does not turn away from us even in our failures but wants to be with us all the more. He wants to go with us wherever we are!

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Romans 8:1 assures us that there is no longer any condemnation for those who are in Christ. Instead, sin itself is condemned. Because Jesus gave his life for us on the cross, our sin is lifted and full fellowship with God is given instead.

Jesus in us: According to Romans 8:10, the Spirit of Christ lives in us and we have God's approval. His indwelling presence will be the source of power for our challenge to become fishers of men.

Jesus through us: Jesus calls us to be fishers of men and hook people with God's love.

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 the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

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

Supplies:

- *hopscotch course made from masking tape on the floor*
- *pebbles to play hopscotch*

Invite a child to throw out a pebble on the course and go through it without hopping on the square with the pebble. The leader then follows after the child in hopping through the hopscotch course.

**How did I do in following our young friend on the hopscotch course?
Do you think he could do something so hard that I couldn't stay up
with him?**

Have the child try again, maybe throwing out two pebbles.

**Did you know that nothing is too hard for God to do to keep up with
us? Jesus says, "*I am always with you*" (Matthew 28:20b). When we
worship today, let's remember that Jesus is with us right here. Let's
worship God for giving us Jesus and being with us wherever we are.**

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.

Supplies:

- *several small crosses*

You know that Jesus died to take away the punishment of our sins so he could be with us wherever we are. But what if someone goofed up really bad? Maybe they were playing this hopscotch game and didn't do any of it right. Would Jesus want to be with someone who made those kinds of mistakes?

Do you think Jesus would want to be with someone who said, "Jesus, I'm ashamed of knowing you"? That's just what happened to Jesus' closest friend, Peter.

On the night of Jesus' trial right before they crucified him, Peter said three times, "I don't know him." Would Jesus still want to be with someone who treated him like that? Yes he would! Jesus wanted to forgive Peter and have their friendship back to normal.

When we trip, when we get lost and can't keep up, Jesus wants to go with us. He won't stop wanting to be with us just because we make mistakes.

Have a child do the hopscotch course again but this time cue the child to make a mistake or two. Follow the child and wherever she makes a mistake, place a small cross in that square.

Let's stop right now and pray about any mistakes or sins that we have done. You pray them in your mind as we start together.

Dear God, thank you that we can tell you about the ways we have made mistakes and need your forgiveness. What we are thinking is what we need to tell you about in our own words...

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We believe that Jesus gave his life for us and can take care of all our sins. We trust your word in Romans 8:10, that says we have your approval and the Spirit of Christ lives in us. Thank you 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.

Have the kids come up and place their offerings in the offering basket. Note that Jesus is right with them as they are coming forward.

Do you think Jesus is pleased with this giving? Of course! Especially when we remember him and give the first and best of all we have. But what about those who forgot their offering or never give to the Lord? Will Jesus still want to be with them? Of course!

When you remember that Jesus is always with you, you begin to change. You soon learn to give him your offering as a way to say “thank you” and “I love you.”



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.

Option 1:

Supplies:

- *four different colors of paper cut into squares and numbered 1-20*

Divide the children into two teams of twenty. (*Three or four teams could work as well.*) Each team will be identified by a color. Give every person on each team a numbered card in their team's color counting off from the numbers 1 to 20 (*at the highest*).

Tell the children with numbers 1-19 to scatter around the room in random order. Once they choose a spot, they freeze in that position. The last person to be given a card for that team has the highest number and will now become the "glue" player. Have this player go to where his teammates are and unfreeze them. However, he must go in proper counting sequence from his number down. The other numbered players cannot move until they are touched by the "glue."

When players are touched by the "glue," they are then glued to him at the point of contact. They travel with the "glue" to free up other players. If a player ever becomes disconnected, the entire body must stop.

The object of the game is to see which team can end up with all teammates finishing together first. After finishing the game, have kids sit down again and say:

Christ wants to come and set us free. He wants to go wherever we go. When we are connected to him, we are also connected to others in the body of Christ.

Option 2:

Supplies:

- *four chairs*

Invite two boys and two girls to come forward to play a shadow game. Have both sets of kids seated in chairs facing one another. One player from each partnership is designated as the "actor." The other child is the "shadow." The actor will do movements

and motions at his discretion, while the shadow will see how closely he can replicate that movement.

A variation of the game is to have one boy come forward and be the “actor.” All the rest of the boys in the room take the role of the “shadow.” The girls then do the same with a girl actor.

Yet another variation of the game is to partner all children together in pairs and let them each take the role of “actor” or “shadow.”

Conclude with the learning point:

When we follow Jesus, we imitate him. Our lives become a reflection of Jesus so when others look at our actions, they see how Jesus would act and treat others.

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:

- *Gordy puppet with sunglasses and a hat*

Introduce today’s Bible Presentation with the attached Gordy puppet play, “Gordy and the Tag-Along.” Then read John 21:1-14.

Application 1:

Supplies:

- *back-lit sheet (A sheet with a bright light shining on it from behind. The actor is between the sheet and the light to cast a shadow on the sheet.)*
- *soccer ball*
- *textbooks and notebook*
- *phone*

Drama Sketch: “I Want to Go Too!”

The following sketch will have a girl reenacting daily events. Throughout each of her activities, she is shadowed by a Jesus figure. This is done by holding a back-lit sheet behind her. On this sheet a character having the appearance of Jesus is outlined by a shadow. Jesus should respond to whatever the girl is doing. He might simply raise his hands and bless her or he might beckon her toward him when she is straying.

It is helpful if the narrator helps describe some of the actions or asks the audience what they think is happening. Some practice with the two characters is recommended before attempting this presentation.

The following situations can be briefly reenacted and described by the narrator:



This girl wants to go to a soccer game. She is bouncing and kicking her soccer ball. *(The shadow mimics cheering for the little girl while the narrator mentions that God is pleased with her good effort in playing sports and her good sportsmanship as she is kind to others.)*



She is reading the Bible at family devotions at home. *(The shadow mimics sitting eagerly in a chair opposite the girl, listening and even explaining his word to the little girl.)*



The girl is asked by her mom to clean her room. Instead of obeying, she refuses. She pouts and refuses to move. *(The shadow beckons the girl to him with arm motions. She remembers that God has told her to obey her parents, even when she doesn't want to. It is for her best. She stops pouting, unfolds her arms, and begins to pick up her room.)*



She does her homework. *(The shadowed Jesus opens a book and seems to follow along with her.)*



The girl talks to a friend on the phone who is having problems. She shares Jesus with her friend. *(Jesus is listening as well and nods in approval.)*



She closes the day with prayer, kneeling at her bedside. *(Jesus cups his hand to his ear to listen.)*

Application 2:

Supplies:

- story, "Safely Home" by Joan Wester Anderson from *Stories for the Extreme Teen's Heart*, compiled by Alice Gray (Multnomah Publishers Inc., 2000)

Read this inspirational and true story of how two college students were cared for by what seemed to be a rescuing angel from God.



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.

Tell about a time when you sensed Jesus was right next you.

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

Gordy and the Tag-Along

Puppet Presentation for Bible Presentation

Gordy appears in disguise with sunglasses and a hat.

Pastor: **Hi, Gordy!**

Gordy: What do you mean “Gordy”?

Pastor: **What do you mean, “what do you mean?”**

Gordy: I’m not Gordy.

Pastor: **Sure, you’re Gordy. Except you have some silly glasses and a hat on.**

Gordy: Shh...It’s my disguise. I don’t want to be recognized.

Pastor: **What’s up, Gordy? Why don’t you want to be recognized?**

Gordy: Well, my little brother is following me around *everywhere* and he bugs me. He’s a tag-along! I’m in disguise so he can’t find me.

Pastor: **What do you think, boys and girls? Do you think that will work?**

Gordy: Oh, shucks.

Pastor: **I think you still look too much like Gordy. But maybe it’s not such a bad thing to have a brother who is a tag-along. Your brother probably just likes you and wants to be around you.**

Gordy: But tag-along all the time?!

Pastor: **Well, that might get a little bit tiring. Did you ever think that you have someone hanging around you all the time?**

Gordy: I know. It’s my brother.

Pastor: **No, it’s God.**

Gordy: God is hanging around *me* all the time?

Pastor: **He sure is. He wants to go wherever you go. How does that make you feel?**

Gordy: Well, I guess *he* doesn’t bug me.

Pastor: **No, God wants to help you.**

Gordy: Well, I sure need his help. When I ask him to help me, he does. God's very strong.

Pastor: I know.

Gordy: But what about the times I goof up and I do stuff that I don't want him to see? Is God still there then?

Pastor: He sure is. How does that make you feel?

Gordy: Oh, I don't know. I don't know if I like that.

Pastor: When you do goof up, you're not supposed to like it. But when you know that God's there, you can ask for forgiveness in the name of Jesus.

Gordy: I can?

Pastor: Sure. You can remember that God loves you very much. If you trust in Jesus who gave his life for you, you don't need to worry about God being with you when you goof up.

Gordy: You mean he'll still like me?

Pastor: Sure. As a matter of fact, Jesus' best friend, Peter, made a terrible mistake. Peter was scared that he might get arrested like Jesus so he told some soldiers, "I don't know that man, Jesus."

Gordy: *(Pauses.)* Wow! I bet Jesus didn't want to hang around him anymore.

Pastor: Not true. Jesus wanted to be Peter's friend again. As a matter of fact, after Jesus rose from the dead, he came to Peter once while he was fishing. He wanted to be right where Peter was. Jesus even wants to go with *you* wherever *you* are.

Gordy: Jesus is better than my tag-along brother, even if disguises don't fool him.

Pastor: Gordy, I don't think your brother is fooled either. Why don't you take off your disguise and listen to me read the Bible Event from John 21:1-14?

Gordy: Okay. Bye, boys and girls! This is Gordy over and out. Oh, I mean, this is the disguised Gordy signing off. Bye!

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The Power of the Cross:

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Option 2:

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Bible Presentation:

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Application 2:

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