



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God is Our Rescuer  
Summer Year 2, Lesson 12

# God Gives His Son to Us, So We Can Give, as Well

**Primary Scripture:** John 3:14-16a

**Key Verse:** John 3:14-16a, “As Moses lifted up the snake on a pole in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Then everyone that believes in him will have eternal life.’ God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son...”

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

It is often too easy for children to think only of themselves. When they think of gifts, they think of how nice it is to receive them. But they need the experience of how nice it is to give them. Kids need the gift of Jesus, but they also need to be able to give that gift away. Today's lesson focuses on mission support that allows kids to give the love of Jesus away. As they help support the foreign mission field, they can also see the urgency in the mission field of their friends and family.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus was lifted up on the cross as a demonstration for the punishment of our sin. Jesus paid for our punishment and gave us the greatest rescue of all time: a rescue from everlasting death to everlasting life.

**Jesus in us:** John 3 talks about being born from above, or born again, when we receive Jesus as our Savior, the one who came to earth for us.

**Jesus through us:** God's love is experienced through his followers. Kids are as significant as adults in doing Jesus' work in this world.

Kids Church Year 2 – Lesson 12 - 1

## 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.*

*A remote control is needed for this activity.*

Have an adult do an impersonation of a robot. The adult begins by sitting completely motionless in a chair. Push the "on" button on the remote control. The robot comes to life with very stiff body motions as a robot might have. (Use your imagination for any sound effects such as a whirling motor or buzzes.) In a monotone voice, the robot says:

**Hello, my name is Robotron. I am happy to be here with you. I have been programmed for excellence in Kids Church. I must give my worship here. I must give my offering. Do you know where the offering basket is? I must do what I am programmed to do. Oh, there it is. Thank you.**

**Now it is time for me to give my worship. Will you push my button? That means singing will happen. Push the red button on the remote.**

**"Hallelujah. Hallelujah. I must give you my praise, God. Give you my...Give you my...Give you my...."**

Using the remote, turn the robot off. Continue as the robot drops its hands and head and is motionless.

**Kids, is this excellence in worship? (No.) Why? The robot gave an offering and he sang a song. What is missing? (The free choice to give worship as opposed to being programmed to worship. It was only an action on the outside. It had no heart. Real worship involves love inside the worshiper's heart.)**

**God wants our excellence in worship today. He didn't make us robots. He will never force us to worship, nor does he want us only to pretend to go through the motions on the outside. God wants us to sing with our hearts and to keep our whole mind in attention to our prayers and listening to his word.**

***\*We can give because God gave to us. We'll do that today in our worship. What will that look like?***

## **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.*

**Today we are going to talk about giving. Can anyone think of something you had that was hard to share with someone else? Maybe it was sharing a toy with a brother or sister? Or maybe it was giving a hug to someone who was feeling sad?**

**I want everyone to think of something that you didn't share or a way you weren't kind this week. God wants us to talk to him about those times so he will forgive us and change us to be better givers. *\*We can give because God gave to us.* Let's take a moment of quiet to tell God about the ways we did not share or give.**

Allow for a moment of silence.

**God wants you to know that he gave Jesus to take the punishment of sin and that you are completely forgiven. He gives you the power of Jesus to be more giving this next week. Let's start to think about the way Jesus is changing our lives to be more giving like him.**

## **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 children come forward and lay their offerings at the foot of the cross.

**God showed his love this way. He gave us Jesus. The cross reminds us of that gift. Because of his great love for us, we want to give back to him, so we lay our gifts at the foot of the cross.**



# 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.*

### Time Bomb Giving

Several balloons and the backyard game, *Water Balloon Time Bomb*, are needed for each group for this activity. Children can be divided into groups of eight for more involvement.

In this game, a water balloon is placed in a plastic cage, which is a time bomb, as it is tossed amongst the kids. After a few seconds, the water balloon will explode. Obviously, it is not possible to use a water balloon in Kids Church, but this game still works with an air-inflated balloon.

Typically, the person who is holding the time bomb in his hands when it explodes is the one who is eliminated from the circle. However, in this game *the person who just threw the balloon before it popped* is the one who is awarded a piece of penny candy.

The object of the game is to first have possession of the balloon and to then give it away. The strategy is to give it away as quickly as you receive it. So it is with our Christian life. We first must receive from God the presence of Jesus, but he is not to be kept to ourselves. We pass Jesus to our friends and others as we share Jesus' love in our words and actions.

If the water balloon contraption is not available, throwing around the circle a ball or—more effectively—a wrapped gift to music can play the same game. When the music is stopped, the same effect happens. The person who has just tossed the gift is the one awarded the candy.

# 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.*

## Showing God's Gift

**Before I read the Bible today, I want everyone to stop and think of a birthday or Christmas present you received. Think of the best present you ever had. It was a present you wanted to show everyone. What was it? I'm really interested in hearing about your best presents. If you can think of one, raise your hand and I'll let you tell the group.**

As you do this, ask the kids how they showed other kids their special gift. Usually, when people get a great gift, they want to hold it up for everyone to see. Emphasize that point. Challenge the kids to imagine someone holding up that special gift for everyone to see.

**Now I want you to think about what was the special gift that God gave to the world? It was a very good gift! Right, it was his Son, Jesus. But how did God hold Jesus up for all to see?**

Let the kids struggle with this.

**The truth is that God held Jesus up on the cross. That doesn't make much sense. Jesus experienced pain and suffering there. Does it make much sense that God would choose this way to show us his best gift?**

**Did anyone today go to Kingdom Quest and hear how God rescued the people from snakebites that came from their complaining? God had Moses set up a pole with a bronze snake on it. It reminded all the people of the punishment for their sin of complaining. When they looked at it, they were rescued. They didn't die from their bites. But this only happened if they looked at the bronze snake.**

**Now listen to the Bible. John 3:14-15 says, "As Moses lifted up the snake on a pole in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Then everyone who believes in him will have eternal life." That was Jesus talking. He is the Son of Man. He says he is just like the bronze snake that Moses lifted up for all the snake bitten people. It was what they looked at to be rescued. Jesus was saying that when he was lifted up on the cross he would rescue us from something more deadly than a snake bite. If a snake bites you, you might die but your soul continues to live.**

**On the other hand, if we didn't have a rescuer like Jesus, sin would be like a snake bite. If we died, we would be forever away from God. That's called eternal death. It would be living in a place called hell, and it would be terrible. God gave his best gift for us and held him up on the cross so when anyone looked at Jesus with faith, he would be rescued from everlasting death or hell. He would have everlasting life.**

**Close your eyes right now and picture Jesus on the cross.**

### **Video**

Have *The Visual Bible: Matthew* video cued to the section of Jesus on the cross. Be aware that this entire section might last too long for your time frame and is especially graphic for small children if you include the section of Jesus being nailed to the cross. We recommend that you simply show a short scene of Jesus' last moments on the cross. This aids the children in mentally picturing Jesus. Order from [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=41](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41).

**Do you know Jesus as your Savior? Do you trust him to take your sins away? When you look at him on the cross, you see he is in a lot of pain. He is being punished for all of our sin. Just as the bronze snake in the wilderness reminded people of God's punishment, when we look at Jesus, it reminds us of the punishment we deserve for our sins. But Jesus takes that punishment for us so we don't have to. That's why God lifted him on the cross so everyone could see the punishment of sin being taken and placed on Jesus.**

**If you trust Jesus, look to him in faith and believe in him as your Savior, then you are rescued from sin and punishment. Do you believe that? Do you trust him? If so, tell him in your heart, "Yes, I trust you as my Savior. I look at you as the one who took my punishment on the cross."**

**Now listen to John 3:16. "God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." If you believe in Jesus, you will have eternal life. God loves you so much he gave you Jesus so he could live with you forever. Since God gave you so much, what can we give him? Let's hear some suggestions.**

Honor the kids' suggestions in a positive way. But today's focus will be that, because God gave us Jesus, we want to give others the chance to also have Jesus.

# Application:

## **Application Activity 1:**

Today's application activity is making mission kits as the children did in Kingdom Quest. For more information about making these kits, contact either of the following:

- Samaritan's Purse: [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) or (828) 262-1980
- Lutheran Hour Ministries: [www.bykidsforkids.org](http://www.bykidsforkids.org) or 800-944-3450

## **Application Activity 2:**

As an option to the group mission project, you may do a project in which each child becomes a mission project. Each child would make a gift card offering a particular service and give it to someone in need. The outside of the gift card reads, "Because of Jesus, my gift to you is..." The inside of the card is blank. Kids fill in their own actions. Examples might be "clean out the garage" if this card were given to a father or "clean your room" if this card were given to a sibling. Make your own examples as idea starters for the children. Post these ideas on a poster board to help the children think of their own.



# 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.*

Have the children come forward to thank God for his gift of Jesus and to ask his blessing over their mission gifts. The gifts or cards could be individually prayed over and blessed so they would be an extension of God's love given away to others.

## 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:

- remote control

## Offering:

- a cross

## Learning Game:

- several balloons
- penny candy
- backyard game Water Balloon Time Bomb

## If the above game is not available:

- ball or wrapped gift
- music

## Bible Reading:

- video: *The Visual Bible: Matthew*, produced by Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc. (1984)—order from [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=41](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41)

## Application 1:

- supplies for making mission kits

## Application 2: (Optional)

- construction paper
- markers, crayons or pens

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.