

God's Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!

What is
God like?

Hearing Bible
stories about
Jesus helps you
know what God
is like.

Session 3
Preschool

Bible Story

God Sends Jesus

John 1:1–2,14; 6:16–21; 14:1–7

Bible Verse

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”
(See John 14:6.)

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Jesus’ life.
2. IDENTIFY ways Jesus helps us know about God.
3. THANK God for the Bible and for sending Jesus.

Spark Principle—Motion

Objects at rest stay at rest until a force puts them in motion. People were stuck in sin until Jesus came and put God’s plan in motion.



Bible

The Bible is God’s book. The Bible tells us about Jesus, God’s Son. God sent Jesus to Earth to show us what God is like. Jesus said if we know Him, we will know God the Father, too. The Bible reminds us that God wants us to know Him!”

Today’s Tip

Preschoolers need to know that God’s book, the Bible, helps us know Jesus and know what God is like! So don’t let your Leader’s Guide keep kids from seeing your Bible. Remove the Bible story from this book and tuck it into your Bible for quick and easy reference. That way, kids see and associate God’s book, the Bible, with every Bible story you tell them and every verse you teach them.

Heart Prep by Henrietta Mears

What is God like? This is a question that has been asked through the ages. Many answers have been given. Some of them are false. All were incomplete until the Lord Jesus Christ came and explained, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

The account of Christ’s life in the Gospels is limited. This is one of the proofs of the Word. Had someone invented a history of the life of Christ, how exaggerated would have been the tales, like the ancients told of their gods. Jesus spoke as no other person spoke—this we know; but He also did what no other person did. Crowds kept coming after Him, seeking a sign to prove who He was. What signs did He furnish? He said, “Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are healed. Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor” (Matthew 11:5). He never catered to the demands of idle curiosity, nor was any work ever done selfishly. He only desired to show that He was sufficient for the needs of the body and the spirit.

He did want all people to know that He is the Christ. He not only called Himself the Son of God, but He also allowed Peter to make it a public confession. Every other thing in Jesus’ character that we know to be true would have compelled Him to quickly deny such a statement if it had been untrue.

“What think ye of Christ?” Some say that He is the greatest of all leaders—yes, the best man who ever lived. But this is not enough, for this man was to be our Savior; and if He is not God, then He cannot redeem a lost world.

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What worked well today? What truth did you discover from God’s Word?
- Which children asked good questions? Thank God for this! What did you learn from their questions?
- For Session 4, be prepared to tell briefly about the time when you joined God’s family.

Bible Learning Activities (40–45 minutes)

Science Center **Water Lab!**

Materials

- * clear drinking glass half-filled with water
- * assorted small items for testing and viewing (plastic beads, stones, acorns, etc.)
- * bath toys (boats, people, fish, etc.)
- * water table, wading pool or shallow plastic tubs half-full of water

Preparation: Set drinking glass where children can look through it at eye level. Set small items nearby. Place bath toys near large water container.

Procedure: **Let's do water experiments! Watch what happens when we look through water.** Children take turns to set a small item on far side of water glass and then look through water. **How do things look different through water? We can't see the water. But we see it changes how things look!**

Let's pretend this water is a lake. Children add bath toys to water. **Let's see if any of these small items float.** Children drop small items into water. Discuss reasons why they sink or float. Children also blow on water to make waves. **Those waves remind me of a time when Jesus' friends were in BIG trouble on a BIG lake! We'll hear about that soon!**



Art Center **Stormy Sea Picture**

Materials

- * newspaper
- * construction paper in brown and light blue
- * scissors
- * glue in shallow containers, thinned with a little water
- * sponge brushes
- * blue and green tissue-paper squares

Preparation: Cover tables with newspaper. Cut brown construction paper into boat shapes, making one for each child. Set out materials.



Procedure: **You can make a picture of a stormy lake. What happens when the wind blows hard on a lake?** Give each child a sheet of construction paper and a boat shape. Write child's name, if needed. Children brush glue mixture onto bottom half of paper, place boat shape as desired, and then add blue and green tissue-paper squares to glued area. After tissue is in place, children brush glue over tissue to secure.

Kindergarten Option: Challenge children to cut out their own boat shapes, adding masts and people shapes as desired.

Talk About

Use these discussion ideas with any of the Bible Learning Activities.

- ☉ We can't see the water in a glass. But we can see what it does. We can't see God, but we know He loves us. God sent Jesus so we can know what God is like.
- ☉ Can we see the wind? What happens when the wind blows hard on a lake or ocean?
- ☉ In our Bible story, we'll hear about ways Jesus showed God's love and power. Jesus helps us know what God the Father is like!
- ☉ Thank You, God, for loving us and sending Jesus so we can know what You are like. In Jesus' name, amen.

Dramatic Play Center Listen Up!

Materials

- * Lab Report Page (p. 54)
- * string
- * scissors
- * sturdy paper cups
- * dress-up clothes and props (lab coats, safety glasses, gloves, plastic test tubes and beakers, magnets and magnetic toys, plastic jars and cups, clipboards, etc.)
- * clipboard and pencil

Preparation: Make "cup phones." Cut string into 4-foot (1.2 m) lengths, one for every two children. Punch each string end through a cup bottom. Knot string ends to secure.



Procedure: Children dress in clothing and use props to play out lab activities. Show cup phones. Demonstrate use with a partner. **Keep the string tight. The sound travels along the string so your partner**

hears you! Children experiment with cup phones. Write their reports on the Lab Report Page.

Kindergarten Option: Children test how quietly they can talk into cups while still being heard by a partner.

Block Center Stormy Weather

Materials

- * Session 3 Stand-Up Activity Cards from *Posters & Props*
- * blue fabric
- * small toy animal and people figures
- * blocks in a variety of shapes and sizes
- * toy boats

Preparation: Place Session 3 Stand-Up Activity Cards in Block Center. Lay out blue fabric.

Procedure: Children use materials for free play. Children build around "lake" as desired. **We're going to hear about a time when Jesus' friends were in BIG trouble on a BIG lake!** Guide children to use Session 3 Stand-Up Activity Cards to act out the story as you retell it.



Bible Story Time (15–20 minutes)

Materials

- * Bible
- * Music & More CD and player
- * "God Sends Jesus" Session 3 Big Book from Posters & Props
- * Session 3 Daily Plan Pennant
- * Sparky the Lab Dog puppet

Song: Play "God's Plan 4 U" from CD. Sing song once or twice with children, clapping or making some of the song motions. **I saw a dog around here a while ago. Do you think it was Sparky? Let's call him! Sparky? Where are you?**

Puppet Script: Use a Labrador puppet or other puppet to perform the following script.

Sparky: (*Sparky enters.*) **Rowf! Hello, friends! Did my pop just come through here?** (*Looks around.*) **Did you see him? You can tell he's my pop. He looks just like ME! Wait. Maybe I look just like HIM! Rowf! My pop taught me how to do all kinds of things! What is something you have learned from someone?** (*Sparky asks each child; children respond.*)

Leader: **When someone teaches us how to do something, we do it the way they do it!**

Sparky: **Rowf! That's right! I'm going to find my pop now. If you see him, tell him I am looking for him. Bye until tomorrow!** (*Sparky exits.*)



Rhyme: **Today we'll hear about ways Jesus showed us what God is like. He loves us all.** Lead children in the following action rhyme:

Who are the people Jesus loves? Jesus loves us all!

He loves us if we're very short; He loves us if we're tall.

He loves folks with curly hair and folks whose hair is straight.

He loves babies that can crawl and kids that roller skate.

He loves us when we're all grown up and when we don't feel well.

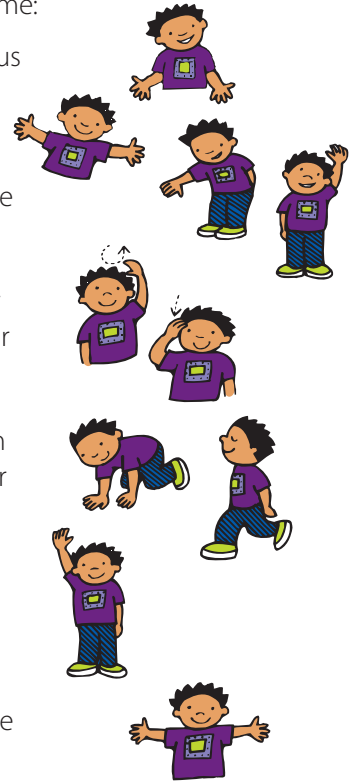
Yes, Jesus loves each one of us—that's what the Bible tells.

Activity Sharing: **When we looked through the water, what looked different? Who tried our cup phones? Why do you think that works? (Zea), you made a stormy picture. Today in our Bible story, we'll find out about a storm.**

Bible Verse: Hold Bible open. **Today's Bible verse tells us that Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."** (See John 14:6.) **God sent Jesus to Earth to show us what God is like.** Touch head as you say "Jesus said," and then touch shoulders, knees and toes as you say, "way," "truth" and "life." Repeat actions and verse several times with children.

Song: Play "God So Loved the World" from CD. Lead children in singing and doing motions.

Prayer: **When have you needed help?** Children respond. **Let's thank Jesus that He can help us!** Pray, **Dear Jesus, we are glad You can help us when** (include situations children named). **You show us what God is like. In Your name, amen.**



Transition: Hold up Bible. **Today, listen to find out ways Jesus showed us what God is like.**

Bible Story: God Sends Jesus

Hold Bible open to John 1. Expressively tell the story, inviting children to imitate actions in **green**. Use Session 3 “God Sends Jesus” **Big Book** as a visual aid to tell or review today’s story.

Jesus Is Born

Jesus was always with God in heaven. Even before God made the world, Jesus was with God. But at just the right time, God sent Jesus to live on Earth. Jesus came to Earth as a tiny baby. **Rock arms.** He wasn’t born in a hospital. He wasn’t born in a house. **Shake head no.** He was born in a place where animals were kept! Why do we celebrate CHRISTMAS? Yes! Because Jesus was born! Jesus’ birth is the reason we celebrate Christmas! **Clap and cheer.**

Jesus Tells About God’s Love

Of course, Jesus grew up, as people do. That’s when He started to walk from town to town. **Walk in place.** He chose some men to be His friends. They went with Jesus and learned from Him.

Wherever Jesus went, He TOLD people what God is like! **Point up.** We can’t SEE God, so Jesus taught people how much God loves them. But Jesus also SHOWED people what God is like. God can do ANYTHING! So Jesus made SAD people GLAD. **Make sad and glad faces.** He made SICK people WELL! He even made some DEAD people ALIVE AGAIN! **Clap and cheer.**

Jesus Shows God’s Power

Another time, Jesus and His friends had spent a long day teaching and feeding over 5,000 people! They were SO TIRED! **Look tired.** So Jesus told His friends to go ahead of Him across the lake. **Point.** Jesus wanted to have some time to be alone and talk with God the Father (Matthew 14:22–23).

Jesus’ friends obeyed Him and set off in the boat. The sun was beginning to set. They would have to



row the boat all the way to the other side of the lake while it was dark.

And then, strong winds began to blow. **Blow.** It got VERY WINDY. The wind made the waves in the lake bigger and BIGGER! **Raise arms. Rock.** The boat rocked back and forth.

Now Jesus’ friends were rowing as hard and fast as they could. **Pretend to row.** But the wind was STRONGER! Suddenly they saw someone walking toward them ON THE WATER. Jesus’ friends were AFRAID! **Look scared.**

But then they heard a familiar voice. “Don’t be afraid! It is I!”

It was JESUS! His friends were SO happy! They were GLAD to help Him into the boat! **Look glad.** As soon as Jesus got into the boat, the wind died down! **Snap fingers.** And just like that, Jesus’ friends were safe on the other shore!

Jesus is so powerful, He can do ANYTHING! He can stop the wind. He can walk on top of the water. Later, Jesus told His friends that He is the WAY we can know God. Now that they knew JESUS can do anything, they knew that God the Father can do anything, too!

Jesus TOLD about God. He SHOWED God’s love by helping people. HE did things to SHOW God’s power. Jesus showed us what God is like. And when we know Jesus, we know God the Father, too!

Conclusion

Jesus is God's Son! Jesus TOLD us what God is like. He also SHOWED us what God is like. Show Daily Plan Pennant. **These words say God's plan is for us to KNOW Him! Jesus came to Earth so we can KNOW God. He is the way we know God!**

This is our Bible verse: Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (See John 14:6.) Touch head as you say "Jesus said," and then touch shoulders, knees and toes as you say, "way," "truth" and "life." Repeat actions and verse several times with children. **Jesus is the way we know what God is like. Jesus tells us the truth about God. Jesus made a way for us to be members of God's family.**

Lead children in prayer. **Dear God, thank You for Your book, the Bible. Thank You for sending Jesus so that we can know what You are like. In His name, amen.**

Application (10 minutes)

Materials

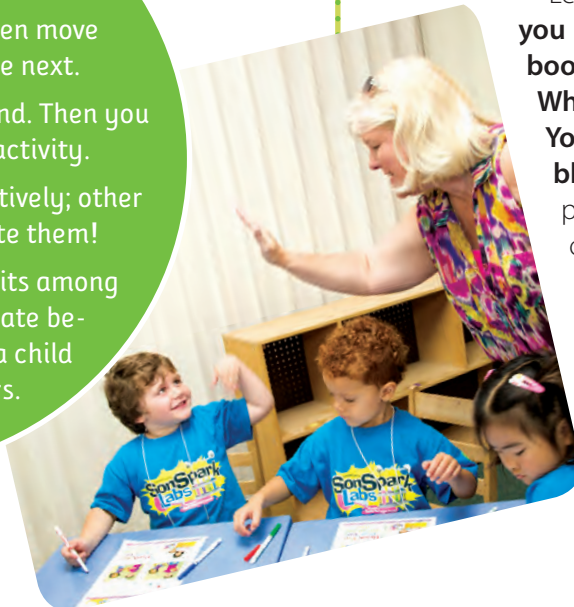
- * Bible
- * "God Sends Jesus" Session 3 Big Book from *Posters & Props*
- * Session 3 *Sparky's Lab Fun Pages*
- * crayons or markers

Bible Story Review: Leader and helpers sit at tables

Transition Tips

Here are tips for helping children move easily from one activity to the next.

- Be prepared with materials at hand. Then you can move quickly to the next activity.
- Thank children who respond positively; other children will be drawn to imitate them!
- Any adult or teen not leading sits among the children, models appropriate behavior and gently redirects a child whose attention wanders.



with children. Distribute Session 3 *Sparky's Lab Fun Pages* and crayons or markers. As children look at the pictures on their *Fun Pages*, review the story by showing the "God Sends Jesus" **Big Book** as you ask the following:

- **Why do people celebrate Christmas?** (Jesus was born.)
- **In what ways did Jesus show us what God is like?** (Made sad people glad. Made sick people well. Made wind and waves stop.)
- **What did Jesus do when His friends were in trouble and afraid?** (Told them not to be afraid. Helped them.)

Life Application: Guide children to turn over the page. Point to Bible verse on the page. Touch head as you say "Jesus said," and then touch shoulders, knees and toes as you say, "way," "truth" and "life." Repeat actions and verse several times with children.

- **Our Bible verse tells us that Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."** (See John 14:6.) **When we read God's book, the Bible, we learn about Jesus.** Describe a favorite Bible story or verse, and tell why it is important to you.
- Children complete "Learning About Jesus" activity. **What ways do we see here to learn about Jesus?** (Listen to Bible stories. Pray. Talk to people who know about Jesus.)
- **What are other ways we can learn about Jesus?** (Sing songs. Do Bible story puzzles. Color Bible pictures. Watch videos.)

Lead children in a prayer activity. **If you would like to thank God for His book, the Bible, touch your head. When I pat your back, say, "Thank You, God, for Your book, the Bible!"** Children take turns to repeat prayer as you pat their backs. Conclude, **God, we are glad You sent Jesus. We are glad He showed us what You are like. We are glad we can learn about Jesus from Your book, the Bible. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Bonus Learning Centers

Recreation Game **Hoop Hop!**

(10–15 minutes)

Materials

- * Hula-Hoops (at least three)

Preparation: Lay Hula-Hoops on the ground with plenty of space between them for children to move.

Procedure: To start the game, children hop around the area without touching hoops. After 20 to 30 seconds, begin a new round. For each round, tell a different way to move: walk sideways, slide, tiptoe, etc. Then add “freeze” commands: **Freeze**

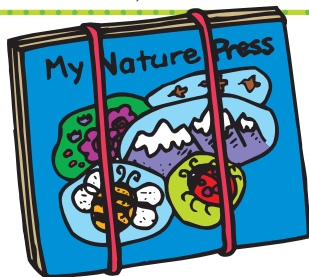
with a foot in a hoop, put a hand beside a hoop, stand inside a hoop, etc.

Kindergarten Option: Give more detailed instructions: **If you’re wearing blue, put a foot in a hoop. If you’re a boy, stand beside a hoop.**



Craft **Nature Press** (15–20 minutes)

Children make “Nature Press” craft. For complete craft instructions, see *MasterMind Crafts*.



Snack **Folded Fruit Books** (10–20 minutes)

Materials

- * graham crackers
- * paper plates
- * sharp knife (for adult)
- * fruit leather
- * napkins
- * plastic knives
- * whipped cream cheese



Preparation: Carefully break graham crackers into squares along perforations. For each child, place two graham-cracker squares on a paper plate. Use the sharp knife to cut fruit leather into rectangles twice as wide as the graham crackers.

Procedure: Children wash and dry hands. Give each child a napkin and a pair of graham-cracker squares on a paper plate. Set out fruit-leather rectangles and plastic knives. Kids use knives to spread cream cheese between crackers and lay the “book” on half of the fruit leather, folding over the other half to cover the “book.”

Talk About: **The Bible is God’s book. What is in the Bible? (Volunteers tell.) A Bible reminds us that God wants us to know Him! God sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth to show us what God is like. Jesus said if we know Him, we will know God the Father, too. The Bible tells us about Jesus.**

Pray, thanking God for the snack before eating. After eating, children dispose of plates and napkins.

Daily Wrap-Up (10–15 minutes)

At the end of the session, gather children together for a few moments. Review the day’s events, the Bible Verse and the Q&A. See **Transition Tips** on page 10 for fun ideas that will help make a smooth ending to a fantastic session!