

# 'God's Present To The World'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years.

### **Aim:**

Jesus is God's present to the world.

### **Bible focus:**

John 3:16

### **You will need:**

Bible verse, a treat for each child (e.g. mini chocolate bars, lollies – be sure you are aware of any dietary needs of the children).

### **Background:**

Ask the children to talk about the occasions they receive gifts (e.g. birthdays, Christmas).

Who gives them presents? (Parents, friends, Santa, etc.)

Why do people give presents? (To show their love.)

What do we do when someone gives us a present? (We say 'thank you' and we receive the present, we open it.)

Tell the children that you've bought them a present and hand out the treats.

Ask them to think about what they've done to receive this present. Are they receiving this present because they are tall? Clever? Rich? Good? (They didn't have to do anything to receive the present; they didn't have to be anything.)

The present is given because the children are loved ... you love them. It's as simple as that. I wanted to give you a present because you are important to me. In a few weeks time there is a very special time of the year where we celebrate by giving presents can you tell me what it's called? (Christmas.) At Christmas time Christians all over the world celebrate a very special present that God gave to the world.

## Bible time:

Perhaps someone in the group knows what the present is. It's God's son Jesus. God sent His Son to be our friend — a friend who is with us all the time. He never gets upset when we get upset with Him or when we aren't always a good friend to Him. He doesn't leave us when we are in trouble or life is tough for us. Jesus is happy to spend time with us — listen to us and talk with us. We can tell Him anything and trust Him with everything. Jesus wants the best for us.

Jesus is God's present to us.

In the Bible in John 3:16 we are told that God sent Jesus, His only Son as His present to the world. God loves us so much that He wants everyone to be His friend. He sent Jesus to tell everyone about God's love. We also know that when He grew up Jesus died on a cross for us and then He rose again.

What did we say we had to do to receive presents? (Simply receive it, open it and say 'thank you'). The same is true of God's present to us. We don't have to do anything to receive God's present except receive it and say 'thank you'.

## Response time

Some of you have already received Jesus as God's present. That's great and you know how great it is to have Jesus as your friend. Today you can say 'thank you' to God again for His present.

Some of you might like to receive Jesus for the first time. You can do that when we pray in a moment.

Others might like to ask more questions about Jesus and what it means to have Him as your friend. You can talk with me (or another leader) in a moment.

## Prayer:

If you'd like to receive God's present you can prayer this prayer with me.

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus as your present to the world (pause). I want Him to be my special friend (pause). Help me to be His friend as well (pause). Amen.



## Follow up:

Try to encourage the children who have made first time decisions to come and talk to you or another leader after this session. There may be questions that some children would like to ask and this opportunity will help them to do that.

Some age-appropriate Bible reading notes may be appropriate to follow up with the children. These resources are available from your local Scripture Union Resources For Ministry bookshop ph. 02 4337 0200 or check out the website [www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources\\_ministry.htm](http://www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources_ministry.htm). Make time to go through the Bible reading notes with parents and children to ensure they have a good understanding of how to use the notes.

You may want to suggest some DVD's like the Veggie Tales series or other animated Bible stories to help parents and children engage with the Bible in other ways and to help them talk to their children, if reading is not appropriate. These are available at most Christian bookstores.

Linking children into other sections in the corps e.g. SAGALA, Sunday school or Kids Club is another way to help with the child's ongoing spiritual development.

