

'Jesus - God's Special Message To The World.'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years

Aim:

For children to see Christmas as God's way of sending a special message to the world.

Bible focus:

John 1:14.

You will need:

You will need: a jar/container with lots of ants inside (a bit of honey inside and the lid off for a couple of minutes should get them in there!)

Introduction:

To introduce the idea of communicating a message you may like to choose one of the following game ideas.

Chinese Whispers

Sitting in a circle, children whisper a "secret" message (whispered to the first child by the leader) around the circle. Once it has reached the last child, he or she says what they think the message is. It is usually nothing like the original one!

Story:

(Let the children observe the ants and talk about what they see.)

Then pose these questions:

- ◆ If we wanted to talk with ants, how would we do it?
- ◆ If we wanted them to know that we loved them, how would we do it?

(Allow time for responses. Children may suggest some of the following ideas: Feed it – would they know where the food came from? Pat it – have to be careful, we're so much bigger than them, we might accidentally squish them.)

If we really wanted to talk with an ant or tell ants that we loved them, we'd have to become an ant – we'd have to become just like them. That's what God did when He sent Jesus at Christmas. He became just like us so He could send us a message that we would understand.

Read John 1:14. 'The Word (Jesus) became human and lived among us.'

If God had just yelled His message down from Heaven we would have heard Him but we would have been scared. If God had e-mailed everyone, we probably wouldn't believe it was from God – anyone can send an e-mail and pretend it's from God.

The best way for us to understand God's message is for Him to come to earth and tell us Himself and that's exactly what He did. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to Earth as a baby and we celebrate His birth at a special time of year? Who can tell me when that is? (Allow time for responses.) Christmas is the time we celebrate that God sent Jesus into the world. This was very important because it showed us how much God loves us and wants to be our Friend. Jesus is like God's Christmas gift to us and by receiving His gift, we show that we accept God's love and want to be His friend.

When you're friends with someone you do things together, things that both friends like. (Ask the group what kinds of things they enjoy doing with their friends). It's the same with God – we do things with God that we both enjoy.

Response time:

Some of the group may have already accepted Jesus and this should be encouraged and celebrated. Invite those who have already accepted Jesus to show they want to continue being God's friend by using the attached page with John 1:14 and with the words underneath, 'I want to live like Jesus'. Invite the children to draw their hand print around the verse, cut it out and stick it up at home to remind them of God's message.

Some of the group may want to accept Jesus for the first time. Be sure to have some leaders available, who have experience leading a child to Jesus, to speak with these children. Also have appropriate resources, e.g. Team Talk produced by Scripture Union.

Others may have questions about what it means to accept Jesus. Invite appropriate leaders to be available to answer questions.

Some of the group may not wish to respond in any of the above ways. Have another activity for them to participate in whilst the other responses are being made.



Follow up:

For under 8's Scripture Union produces Bible reading notes called Find Out which are helpful in encouraging parents to read the Bible with their children regularly.

These are available from SU's Resources For Ministry department ph. 02 4337 0200 or Koorong Books.

Be sure to link children who have accepted Jesus to other sections in the corps, particularly Junior Soldiers, which will help with their ongoing spiritual development





Today I asked Jesus
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use *God's Word* to help me
live the way Jesus wants me to.



Today I asked Jesus
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use *God's Word* to help me
live the way Jesus wants me to.



Today I asked Jesus
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use *God's Word* to help me
live the way Jesus wants me to.



Today I asked Jesus
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use *God's Word* to help me
live the way Jesus wants me to.