

'Jesus' Life'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years.

Aim:

To help the children realise that Jesus is very loving and wants everyone to accept His love.

Bible focus:

Luke 18:15 - 16.

You will need:

The PowerPoint Presentation® supplied with these notes or print off the signs at the end of these notes on to A3 paper, pencils or textas, glitter pens or glitter (optional), coloured paper and cellophane, glue and scissors.

Introduction:

Choose an activity from one of the two options listed.

1. Piñata

Fill a large paper bag (or you can buy Piñatas from some supermarkets or make one yourself out of papier machè) with small treats, tie it up with string and suspend it firmly. Have a 'bat' made from a rolled up and taped newspaper. Instead of blindfolding the children turn them in a circle three times. Take it in turns to have two to three hits at the bag/piñata/papier machè. When it breaks, share the treats while you go through the 'Bible Time'.

Or

2. Pass the parcel

Make up a parcel with a positive picture or face on each layer e.g. a smiley face, a look of surprise, a beautiful sunset, etc. Comment each time on what the picture is about. Have a packet of sweets in the middle to share.

Bible time:

In the game we just played there were a few surprises. What were they? (Allow time for the children to respond.) When Jesus was on earth he often surprised the people around Him because He did things they didn't expect.

Read Luke 18: 15 - 16.

In this story from the Bible Jesus did something very surprising. Can you tell me what it was? (Allow time for a response but don't worry if they don't work it out.) Jesus allowed the mums and dads in the story to bring their children to see Him. He didn't send them away like the disciples wanted Him to. They were a bit surprised by this because they thought Jesus wouldn't want to spend time with children. But Jesus shows us in this story that He is very loving. (Display the first PowerPoint® slide or the first sign.)

The other thing Jesus said that was very surprising was that God has a special place in heaven for children. Jesus could say this because God was His Father and Jesus knew Him really well. (Display the second slide or sign.)

We can know Jesus too. He came to earth to tell us that God loves us and we can be His friend. All we have to do is say sorry for the things we've done wrong, ask Jesus to take those things away and ask Him to help us to live as His friend. I'm going to pray now and if you would like to ask Jesus to be your friend you can pray with me. (Make sure the children understand that they pray this to themselves rather than out loud.)

After they have prayed the children can decorate the signs with the craft items you've supplied. They can then be display around the room or if you would prefer, you can make A4 copies of the signs for the children to decorate and take home.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus

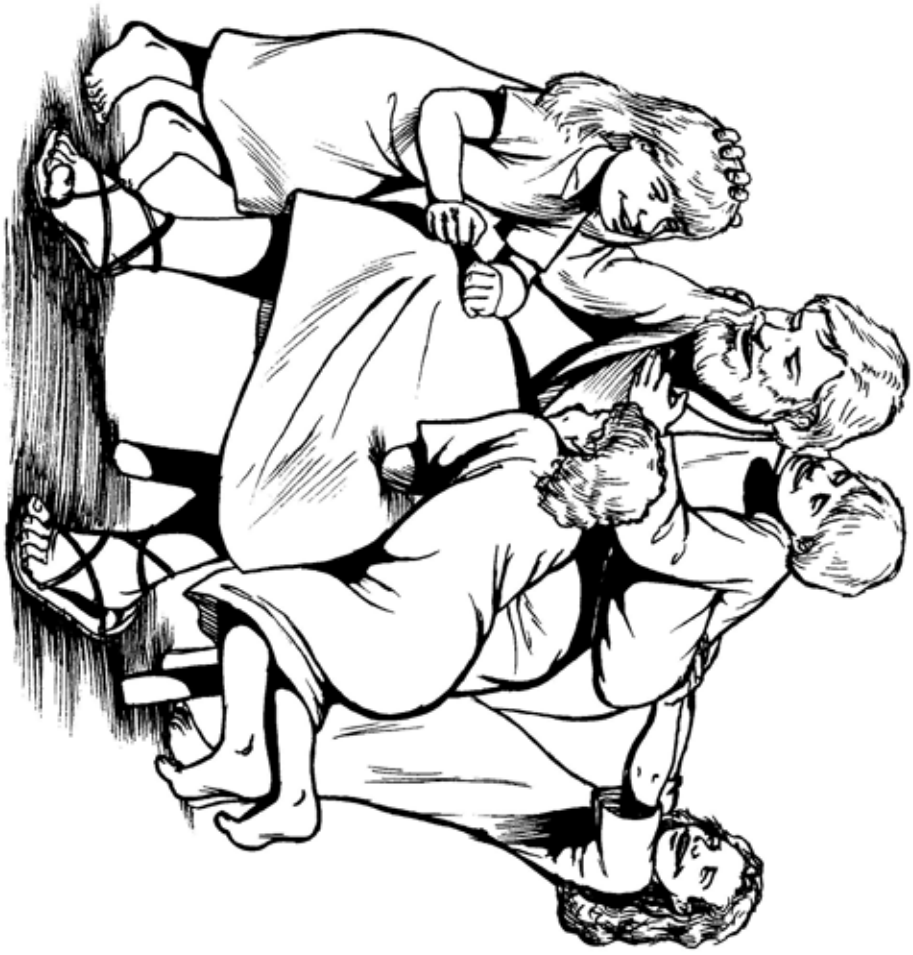
Thank you for loving me (pause). I'm sorry for the things I have done wrong (pause). Help me to be your friend (pause). Amen.

Follow up:

For this age group Scripture Union produces Bible reading notes called 'Join in - Jump on!' These resources are available from Scripture Union's Resources For Ministry bookshop ph. 1800 808 639 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 their parents and the children to ensure they have a good understanding of how to use these notes. This may be a good opportunity to talk to the children's parents if it is appropriate (especially those with no other church contact) and encourage them to help their children to read through this book.

Linking them in to other sections in the corps which they may not already be attending e.g. Sunday School or Kids Club, will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.





Jesus
is
Loving

Jesus
is
God's
Son

