

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - “Jesus Is...WONDERFUL”



Watt's Up:

“Jesus Is Wonderful - Yes He Is!”



Power Verse:

“For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God.”

-Psalm 86:10

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Jesus Is Wonderful Program (provided; print one per kid)
- * Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Jesus Is Wonderful Programs and familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. When small group begins, give each kid a copy of the print piece which is meant to mimic a program you would receive at a play. The story is divided into three acts on the Jesus Is Wonderful Program. To review the Bible Story, the kids should draw illustrations in the free spaces to represent each act. Once the kids have completed their illustrations, talk through the story together. Guide the discussion and ensure the main story points are highlighted.

Say - I am so excited for our new series we are beginning today, “Jesus Is!” Most of us know the story about the night that Jesus was born, but did you know that the story of Jesus’ birth started long before that Holy night? “Jesus Is” will give us a unique look into the path from heaven to a manger. The story of Jesus coming to Earth almost unfolds like a play. Have you ever been to a play? Some plays are really famous. Because of the plays success they have showings for years and years. Some plays show once or twice and then the story is forgotten. A one hit wonder. The story of the birth of Jesus was no one hit wonder! In fact, it is still impacting the world today! But I am getting ahead of myself. Let’s go back to the beginning of the story and take another look at a prophecy that would change everything. I am giving each of you a Jesus Is Wonderful Program, and I want you to bring the story to life by drawing illustrations in the blank spaces.

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Say - Would anyone like to share their art with group?

-Allow time for the kids to share-

Say - Now I would like us to talk through the story together. You may use your program as a reference.

Ask - What happened during the first part of the story, or Act 1?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What happened during the second part of the story, or Act 2?

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-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What happened during the third part of the story, or Act 3?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Thank you for sharing your art and your thoughts with the group.

Ask - How do you think the people of the nation of Judah felt when the Assyrians turned against them and treated them horribly?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How do you think they felt when they heard the prophecy God gave Isaiah?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why do you think God chose to give Isaiah this prophecy especially since Jesus wouldn't be born for many years?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * WON-DERFUL Print Piece (provided; print one set)
- * Tape
- * Blindfold
- * Something to keep score like scrap paper

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the WON-DERFUL pieces. Once activity time begins divide the group into teams. This activity will be played much like pin the tail on the donkey. The object is to place the WON on the DERFUL. Tape the word DERFUL to the wall. One player is blindfolded and handed the word WON with a piece of tape attached at the top. The blindfolded player is then spun several times. The player tries to place the WON on the DERFUL. If the player places the WON correctly in front of the DERFUL award the team one point. Continue on this way allowing the teams to take turns until every player has a turn. The team with the most points wins. This can be played multiple rounds as time allows.

Say - Some hits are one hit wonders, but Jesus is WONDERFUL all the time. Unfortunately our WON and DERFUL got separated. You get one hit to put the WON back in DERFUL. One player will be blindfolded and handed the word WON with a piece of tape attached at the top. The blindfolded player will then be spun several times. The player should then try to place the WON on the DERFUL. If the player places the WON correctly in front of the DERFUL their team will be awarded one point. The team with the most points wins. It's time to play One Hit WON-DERFUL!

-Play Pin the WON on the DERFUL, this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

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Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

* No additional supplies needed

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their life. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Ask - Have you ever heard the phrase, “One hit wonder?” What do you think that means?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - One hit wonder isn’t a phrase that anyone desires to be used when describing their life. It means that the person or group had one hit, one success, and then the rest was either failures or nothing worthy of praise. Pretty sad stuff! Earlier we played a game and you got one chance to make something wonderful. The odds of failing were high and the pressure was great. If you failed, you would not only let yourself down, you would lose a point for your team as well. Today we aren’t talking about the success of a band, a ball team, or even you! Today we are talking about wonderful Jesus! Jesus is no one hit wonder. His greatest hits keep on coming minute after minute, day after day, and year after year. The WONDER of Jesus goes on eternally.

Ask - What makes Jesus so wonderful?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Now let’s switch gears and go back to our Bible Story. Here’s a quick recap, King Ahaz of Judah was warned not to join forces with the King of Assyria. He did not listen and this ended with the Assyrian king turning on the people of Judah and treating them harshly. We are pausing the story here for just a moment. The people of Judah were in a very bad place. Their King had turned his back on God and led them into a hopeless place. Year after year and generation after generation the Judean people lived under Assyria’s forceful hand.

Ask - How do think the people of Judah felt?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Generations of people living with no hope until one day they heard the prophecy of man named Isaiah. Wonderful news that would restore hope!

Ask - What did Isaiah’s prophecy say?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Jesus was coming! Jesus would come to Earth and Jesus is wonderful! Jesus was coming with a wonderful plan to free them from their hopelessness, bring salvation and joy, and life! Jesus is no one hit wonderful! He was wonderful from the beginning, and He will be wonderful eternally.

Ask - How does this affect our life?

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-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Prayer Time

Say - You and I have the hope of a wonderful savior, Jesus. Let's take some time and give Jesus glory and honor and praise for He is wonderful! (PRAY)

Closing

Say - King Ahaz did not listen to wise counsel and took his eyes off of God. He opened himself and his kingdom to relationship with people that did not serve God. This relationship brought destruction and landed the people of Judah in a hopeless place. Living a life without hope is miserable. We can relate to the people of Judah. We may not be oppressed by an evil King, but without Jesus we are in a hopeless place. The Bible tells me that we have all sinned and are in need of a savior. However, God has a WONDERFUL plan to restore His people. His plan is JESUS. Jesus is a wonderful hit that keeps on going. He was wonderful for the people of Judah, and He is still wonderful today. His wonder still brings freedom, joy and salvation and is a gift for you and me. As we head into this season of celebration, don't forget to take time to thank Jesus for being WONDERFUL. Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon.

JESUS IS WONDERFUL!

ISAIAH PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

ACT 1. ISAIAH WARNS KING AHAZ TO NOT JOIN FORCES WITH ASSYRIA.

**ACT 2. KING AHAZ JOINS FORCES WITH EVIL ASSYRIA. ASSYRIA
TURNS ON AHAZ AND THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH.**

ACT 3. ISAIAH PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS.



