



Lesson
53

2s & 3s

JESUS WELCOMES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

August 22 & 23

**JESUS IS OUR
FRIEND**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: In this story, people were bringing little children to Jesus to be blessed, but the disciples tried to send them away saying they weren't important enough. Jesus welcomed the children, saying the kingdom of heaven belongs to those like them, and He placed His hands on them and blessed them.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that Jesus loves and values them, and that they can come to Him with trust and faith.

Matthew 19:13-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

AWANA clubber registration is live!
Wednesdays @ 6:15pm starting Sep 16
at RR, WH, MO and DT!
woodmenvalley.org/awana



KEY VERSE:

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

John 10:14, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

PRAYING FOR SCHOOLS

This month's mission focus is all about prayer! We're inviting kids and families to intentionally pray for students, teachers, and school staff as the new school year begins. With our prayer magnets, we're helping kids build a habit of praying regularly for their schools.

We're also excited to highlight our ACTs school partners—schools where our church is building long-term relationships to love, serve, and support students, educators, and families.

**FAMILIES CAN TAKE HOME A PRAYER
MAGNET TO PLACE ON THEIR FRIDGE
AS A REMINDER TO PRAY!**



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



MAKE: Friendship Bracelet Craft

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Slap Bracelet, Markers, God statement sticker



SAY:

Today we learned that Jesus loves little children and wants all of us to come to Him. Jesus is our friend and we can always talk to Him, trust Him, and follow Him. As you decorate your bracelet, remember that Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever!



DO:

Encourage kids to color their blank slap bracelet and decorate it with stickers. Have them put the “Jesus is our Friend!” sticker on their bracelet. They can wear their bracelet during class or set it aside to take home.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by discussing the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

1. Who is our story about today?

Jesus, little children, His disciples & us

2. What is the problem?

The disciples didn't think the little kids were important enough to be brought to Jesus

3. What will God do?

Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them, saying the kingdom of heaven belonged to them



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”



Craft Example



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video
(Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s)



SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!



DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class.
To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.

SONG 1: Jesus Loves Me

SONG 2: Rejoice in the Lord

SONG 3: Thank You Lord for Making Me



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: Jesus plush

Jesus is our friend! Just like our friends, Jesus loves us and wants to spend time with us. We can trust Him and come to Him any time! Let's practice spending time with Jesus right now. ***Pass the plush Jesus around the circle and have each child say, "Jesus is my friend!" as they give it a hug.***



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you know that Jesus welcomes you with open arms because you are His friend and He loves you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: friendship bracelet



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton looks excited holding a bracelet.** What's that, Hamilton? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Wow! That's so special! Hamilton made a friendship bracelet to remind himself that Jesus is his friend! You know what, Hamilton? That's exactly what our Bible story is about today! Do you want to join us for it? **Hamilton nods excitedly.** Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story, can you wiggle your ears with me? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

One day, some children came to see Jesus! Can you point to a child? You all are children, good job! Well, these children wanted to be close to Jesus. But, sadly, some of Jesus' grown-up followers tried to send them away. **Hamilton looks sad.** That's right, Hamilton. I bet those children felt sad at first. **Can you show me your sad face?**

But, don't worry! Jesus said, "No! Let the children come to me!" Jesus wanted the children to be with Him. Jesus loved the children very very much!

Jesus put His hands on the children and blessed them. **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** That's right, Hamilton - just like how we give you all a blessing at the end of class! Jesus showed the children kindness and care.

Did you know that Jesus is our friend too? Just like He loved the children in this story very much, Jesus loves us that much too! He is always so excited to spend time with you, and you are very special to Him! You can come to Jesus anytime - when you're happy, sad, scared or really excited! **Hamilton waves bracelet around.** Jesus is our friend!

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the students remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing simple motions to help them remember the phrase.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **Jesus is Our Friend!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

Use simple hand motions to help kids remember the God Statement as you say it together.



ACTIVITY- Come Sit With Me!

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: none (can use chairs or sit spots if you have them available in your room)



SAY:

In today's story, Jesus welcomed the children and wanted them to be close to Him. Jesus is our friend, and He wants everyone to feel loved and included too! Lets practice being kind friends together.



DO:

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Start by sitting in the middle and choose one child to join by saying "Come sit with me!" Once that child joins you, have them say, "Jesus is my friend." Then help them invite another friend into the middle by pointing and saying, "Come sit with me!" Continue helping each child invite another friend until every child has had a turn being welcomed and included. At the end, encourage the kids to say "Jesus is our friend!" altogether.

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Play “I Spy” focusing on color, shape, and letter recognition
- Freeze Dance
- Duck, Duck, Goose
- Hot Potato
- Charades
- Odd One Out Game
- Hokey, Pokey
- Popcorn Parachute Game
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.