3's and PreK

(RE)SET

DATE(S)

March 14-15, 2009

LESSON TITLE

Week 4

OBJECTIVE

Kids will run toward Jesus, knowing that he accepts them just the way they are.

BIBLE STORY

Luke 18:16
But Jesus asked the children to come to him. "Let the little children come to me," he said. "Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them. What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it." NIrV

TIPS/SCHEDULE

3's – PreK: Oakley
Saturday
5:30 – Free time
5:40 – Large group in Pod
6:00 – Small Group

Sunday
8:30; 10:00; 11:45 – Free time
8:40; 10:15; 12:00 – Large Group in Pod
9:00; 11:35; 12:20 – Small Group

3's – PreK: Mason
Mason Sunday
9:00; 10:30 – Free time
9:10; 10:40 – Large Group
9:30; 11:00 – Small Group

LEADER PREP

Jesus accepts us as we are--the good, the bad, the ugly. He receives us as we are, but then begins to change us so that we reflect more and more of him. Seriously, Jesus loves you! That's not something we tell kids to make them feel good--it's truth and it changes us when we receive it as truth.

This week, take time to receive Jesus' love. When you screw up, remember that Jesus loves you and you did nothing to deserve it--so you can do nothing to lose it. He gives his love freely--so freely receive! Pray that the kids in your room will come to receive Jesus' love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you know...
On average, you'll spend about a year of your life looking for misplaced objects?

DAILY BREAKOUT

CHECKIN / CHECKOUT

As parents pick up their kids, tell them we were reminded that Jesus loves us and nothing we do can make Jesus not love us. Make sure they get a parent page and pass along something great you noticed about their child.

LARGE GROUP HEADS UP

Kids in Jesus' day understood his love better than anyone else--and things aren't any different today. We'll be discovering that Jesus accepts us as we are and we can run to him freely. Listen closely, though, because this message is just as much for you--if not more for you--than it is for the kids! Jesus seriously loves you!

SMALL GROUP

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

QUESTIONS

Play the name game (listed on next page) and then ask the following questions:

1) What do you love most about Jesus?

2) What do you think Jesus sees when he looks at you?
(Guide them to think of character traits that are not physical features--could be challenging for many kids in this age group, but some kids can definitely get this)

3) What would you like to do to tell Jesus that you love Him?

4) What would you like to do to thank Jesus for loving you?

Lead kids in prayer and give kids a chance to tell Jesus thanks for loving them.

STUFF TO DO, SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

ACTIVITIES

Each kid will receive a foam door-hanger that contains a precut space for a photo. The phrase, "Jesus Loves Me" will be pre-printed above the space for the photo. Kids will decorate the door hangers with foam pieces, stickers, pom-poms, feathers, and other craft pieces.

As kids decorate their door hangers, remind them that Jesus loves them just the way they are. Encourage them to take their door hanger home and to place their picture in the space provided. Remind them to think about Jesus' love every time they look at their door hanger.

If time permits, allow kids to draw a picture of themselves to place in the frame.

DAILY BREAKOUT CONT'D

SMALL GROUP

Play the 'Name Game'
(OPTIONAL IF TIME PERMITS)
It is best to play the 'Name Game' in smaller groups at your tables so that kids don't feel embarrassed to speak in front of a larger group. You may want to play it prior to going into Large Group as a way to prepare the kids for the rest of the hour.

Here's how to play:

Gather kids together in a group.

Explain the game to the kids and tell them there are two reasons we play it:
1. We want them to know that God knows each of us by name (we are special to God)
2. To help us learn each others' names

A volunteer leads the game and begins by pointing to a child. The child says his/her name. Then the entire group says "Jesus loves _____!" Then, the volunteer points to the next child.

Continue around the circle or table until every kid has a chance to say his or her name and hear that Jesus loves him! When the kids are finished, make sure you include the volunteers.

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITY

LARGE GROUP SCRIPT

SPECIAL NOTES

You'll be reading out of the bible for part of this presentation, so make sure you're familiar with the flow of the text that is provided below. This will be important as it will allow you to make eye contact and maintain a connection with the kids.

The pictures will be on the screen behind you, but the words won't be. The words will only be in The Jesus Storybook Bible provided and make note that this is different than the Beginner's Bible, the one we usually use.

PRESENTER TIPS

Read slowly and with lots of energy and excitement. Make use of your facial expressions and other non-verbal communication cues.

SCRIPT

Presenter: Hi Friends! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm _____ and I'm really glad you're here today. We're going to discover just how much Jesus loves us and how Jesus loves us just the way we are. He loves us a whole bunch! Before we learn more about Jesus' love, we're going to go over NORP, which helps us make right choices. Can anyone tell me what this letter is.....? (Go through each letter of NORP with the kids, spending no more than 15 seconds on each letter)

No talking out of turn
Obey your leaders
Respect others and their things
Put things back where you found them

Did you know that Jesus loves you just the way you are? (pause so this sinks in) Really he does! Jesus loves you and when he thinks of you, he smiles REALLY big! You bring a smile to Jesus' face! Does that make you feel special? Jesus loves you just the way you are!

The Bible (hold up Bible for kids to see) tells us a story of what happened once when some people tried to make themselves special in order to make Jesus love them more. Let's read that story together:

[The text of this story is based on "The Jesus Storybook Bible" by Sally Lloyd Jones, pages 256-263. Illustrations will be on the screen and the book will be available for you to read. The text has been altered slightly and text won't be on the screen, so you'll need to read out of the book, as if you're reading a story to the kids. The correct text will be inserted into the book. The text is included below so you can practice reading the story.]

SCRIPT CONT'D

1. Jesus' friends were arguing. Who was the most important helper in God's kingdom? They wanted to know.
"I am!" James said.
"No, you're not!" said Peter. "I am!"
"Nonsense," Matthew said, "I am the smartest!"
This silliness went on and on like that for some time. You see, Jesus' friends had started thinking they had to do something to make themselves special to Jesus – that if they were the smartest or the nicest or something, Jesus would like them best.

2. But they had forgotten something. Something God had been teaching his people all through the years: that no matter how smart you are, or how good you are, or how rich you are, or how nice you are, or how important you are – none of it makes any difference.
Jesus loves you just the way you are. Yes--Jesus loves you just the way you are. You don't have to do anything special for Jesus to love you.
So while Jesus' friends were arguing, some people had come to see Jesus. Who were they? They were little children! Just like you!

3. Jesus' helpers tried to send them away. "Jesus doesn't have time for you!" they said. "He's too tired."
But they were wrong. Jesus always had time for children. "Don't ever send them away!" Jesus said. "Bring the little ones to me."
Now, if you had been there, what do you think – would you have had to line up quietly to see Jesus? Do you think Jesus would have asked you how good you have been before he gave you a hug? Would you have had to be on your best behavior? Would you have had to be dressed up?

4. OR…would you have done just what these children did – run straight up to Jesus and let him pick you up and swing you and kiss you and hug you and then sit you on his lap and listen to your stories and your worries?
You see, children loved Jesus and they knew they didn't need to do anything special for Jesus to love them. Jesus loves you just the way you are!
Jesus told his helpers, "No matter how big you grow, never forget that I love you just the way you are. Be like these children and remember that I love you just the way you are."

END OF STORY

Presenter: Jesus loves you just the way you are! When he thinks of you I know he smiles really big. He is always with you, watching over you. Remember—Jesus loves you just the way you are!

Hey, kids! Do you think you can tell me all the times Jesus loves you?
Let's look at some pictures and see if you can tell me…
"Does Jesus love you when…"

(Show pictures)
Does Jesus love you when...(say this before each picture)
You are angry at your sister for breaking your toy?
You slurp your spaghetti?
You are clumsy?
You have red hair?

SCRIPT CONT'D

Pictures continued....

You call kids names because they wear glasses?
You finish all your vegetables?
You hide your vegetables in your napkin to throw away later?
You look different than everybody else?
You make your mom brownies?

Jesus loves you just the way you are! Can you say "Jesus loves me"? (give kids a chance to repeat this) Let's say it again, but this time say "Jesus loves me" while whispering (let kids repeat). Now look at your neighbor and tell them "Jesus loves you!"

Let's pray and thank Jesus for loving us no matter what!

Pray: Jesus, thank you for loving me just the way I am. Help me to remember that you always love me, no matter what. In Jesus' name, AAAAAAAAAAAAAMEN!

Sing: Jesus Loves Everyone
Deep and Wide

Presenter: Before we go back to small groups, let's tell ourselves "Jesus loves me!" one more time: Jesus loves me!!!!

Dismiss kids to small groups

NAME

PREP NEEDS

SMALL GROUP SUPPLIES

1 door hanger per child with the pre-printed phrase "Jesus loves me": OT IN-57/2447.
Note: the phrase can be pre-printed with colorful marker or paint
Items for decoration: foam pieces, stickers, pom-poms, feathers, and other craft pieces

LARGE GROUP SUPPLIES

The Jesus Storybook Bible (NOTE: The text we're using is different than what is in The Jesus Storybook Bible. Therefore, we will need to print the text from the lesson that corresponds to each page so that the presenter will have the correct text.)

A/V NEEDS

Pictures from The Jesus Storybook Bible, pages 256-263, scanned into Keynote (but without the corresponding text on the pages). There will be 4 pictures total.

Pictures: You are angry at your sister for breaking your toy
You make your bed without being asked
You slurp your spaghetti
You are clumsy
You have red hair
You call kids names because they wear glasses
You finish all your vegetables
You hide your vegetables in your napkin to throw away later?
You look different than everybody else?
You make your mom brownies?

NORP Slides
Songs: Jesus Loves Everyone
Deep and Wide

SPECIAL ROOM SET-UP

CONNECT QUESTIONS

What do you love most about Jesus?
What are some things Jesus loves about you?

PARENT PAGE

Jesus loves us just the way we are. Remind your kids of that this week and do your best to show them this kind of love (but remember that Jesus loves you even when you don't always show his love to your kids in the best way). Call out the things in your child that are unique and help them see all of the ways that God loves them. Help your child find a picture to place in their doorhanger and place it on a special door to remind them that Jesus loves them just the way they are.