

Leader BIBLE STUDY

At the time Jesus was on earth, the social food chain went like this: Jews don't talk to Samaritans. The strife between the two groups stretched back hundreds of years, to the Babylonian exile.

When the Babylonians attacked Judah, they moved a large group of God's people away from their homes. But some of the people—the poorest, sickest, least able to work—were left behind in the region that became known as Samaria. The exile lasted 70 years. During that time, those left in Samaria began to mingle with their neighbors to the north. They intermarried and practiced foreign customs. While the Samaritans still believed in God, they adapted their beliefs. They set up their own place of worship on Mount Gerizim. (See 2 Kings 17:29-41; Ezra 9:1-2.)

The Jews who returned home from Babylon to rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem rejected this new way of life. They were dedicated to obeying and worshiping God, and they didn't agree with the Samaritans' practices. The Samaritans opposed the Jews' efforts to reestablish their nation. In time, the Jews' hate for the Samaritans grew—so much so, that a Jew traveling from Judea to Galilee would take a longer route to travel around Samaria rather than through it.

Jesus broke down barriers when He traveled to Galilee by way of Samaria. Even more surprising, Jesus stopped at a well around noon and asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. Jewish men did not speak to women in public.

But Jesus was kind to her, and He offered a gift—living water. The woman didn't understand, but Jesus revealed His knowledge of her past. He even gave her a glimpse of the future. The Samaritan woman expected a Messiah to come and fix everything. Jesus said, "I am He."

The living water Jesus offers is the Holy Spirit. (See John 7:37-39.) It is a gift that He is eager to give us when we ask Him. Those who receive His grace will never be thirsty again.

Preschool WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

Bible Passage: John 4:1-26

Big Picture Question: Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.

Key Passage: John 3:16

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus was revealed as the fulfillment of Scripture, the promised Savior.

Large Group Worship

(15–20 minutes)

Small Group Activities

(25–30 minutes)

Large Group Closing

(10+ minutes)

Additional suggestions for specific groups are available at gospelproject.com/kids/additional-resources. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-26

Jesus had been teaching in the land of Judea, and a special group of men started to follow Him. The men were Jesus' friends, and they were called His disciples. Many people began following Jesus, and they listened to Him teach. **Now it was time for Jesus to leave Judea.**

So Jesus began traveling back to the land of Galilee. Between the land of Judea and the land of Galilee was the land of Samaria. Usually God's people, the Jews, stayed away from Samaria. Even though traveling through Samaria was the fastest way home, they traveled around the land. The Jews did not get along with the people in Samaria.

But Jesus was not like the other Jews. **On His way home, He traveled right through the land of Samaria. He even stopped at one of the towns where there was a well.** A well is a deep hole where people can get water out of the ground. Jesus stayed at the well, and His friends went into town to buy food.

The sun was high in the sky, and Jesus was tired from traveling. A woman who lived in Samaria came to the well to get water. Jesus said to the woman, "Give Me a drink."

The woman was surprised. "You are a Jew," she said. **"Why are you talking to me? I am a Samaritan."**

Jesus said, "I asked you for a drink. You do not know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Me for a drink. I would give you living water."

The woman was confused. Jesus did not have any water with Him. He did not even have a bucket to get water out of the well.

"Sir," the woman said, "this well is deep, and you do not have a bucket. Where do You get 'living water'?"

"Anyone who drinks the water from this well will be thirsty again," Jesus said, "but anyone who drinks the water I give will never, ever get thirsty again!" That sounded wonderful! Jesus wasn't talking about actual water. He said that living water is like a well in your heart that never runs out. Anyone who has living water will have eternal life. Now, Jesus was

talking about God's Spirit, but the woman did not know that.

“Sir, I want living water,” she said. “If I am never, ever thirsty again, I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water with my bucket.”

“Go get your husband and come back here,” Jesus said.

“I do not have a husband,” the woman said.

Jesus knew she was telling the truth. Jesus knew everything about the woman. **The woman could tell Jesus was wise**, so she asked Him a question about worshiping God. Then **she said, “I know the Messiah is coming.** When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said, “The Messiah is talking to you now. I am the Messiah.”

Christ Connection: Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn't have many friends. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

Large Group WORSHIP

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Large Group Worship (15–20 minutes)

Welcome and sing

- “The Only Name (Yours Will Be)” song
- “Made for Tappin’” song
- Follow your church’s security procedures.

Welcome the kids to worship time by playing “The Only Name (Yours Will Be).” Greet kids with a smile. When all the kids have arrived, sing an action song such as “Made for Tappin’ ” to help them feel welcomed.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- “God So Loved” song

Point out where the key passage is found in the Bible. Read the key passage aloud two times, using any hand motions you have created.

Say • Jesus told Nicodemus in our key passage why He came to earth: so people who believe in Jesus can have eternal life. That means life forever with God, and it’s only found through Jesus.

Sing the key passage song together.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- “Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster
- Timeline Map

Remind the children of where you are on the timeline, reviewing with them what happened in last week’s Bible story.

Say • Have any of you ever been on a trip? [*Allow a few volunteers to answer.*] In our Bible story today, Jesus took a trip. He did not ride in a plane or a car. He walked on

His own two feet. Stand up and walk in place with me. [Use exaggerated motions, bringing your knees up high and swinging your arms back and forth.] Phew! Walking is pretty tiring. Show me your tired faces. Well, Jesus stopped to rest a while. [Instruct the children to sit down.] While Jesus was resting, He met a woman, and the two of them talked about some interesting things!

Tell the Bible story or watch the video “Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman.”

Worship with song and pray

Say • Jesus told the woman at the well about living water.

He wasn’t talking about water we drink—He was talking about God’s Spirit! Jesus talked to a woman other people wouldn’t talk to because He loved her. ***Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!***

Sing a joyful song, such as “The Only Name (Yours Will Be)” or “Sing a Song to God.” Invite the kids to move happily to the music.

Sing “Love Like Jesus” as you collect an offering if you choose. Invite volunteers to share any prayer requests they may have and then pray.

Say • Thank You, Jesus, for being kind to this Samaritan woman and for loving all of us. Give us this living water You spoke of—God’s Spirit—so that we can love and worship You forever with people from all over the world. We love You, Jesus! Amen.

Transition to small groups

Before going to small groups, count together all the people in the room. Then say: “How many people in this room does Jesus love?” Kids should shout out the number. Say: “Are you sure it’s not [*a few less*]?” Ask: ***Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*** Then move to small groups.

- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster
- “The Only Name (Yours Will Be)” song
- “Love Like Jesus” song
- “Sing a Song to God” song
- offering basket

- countdown video (optional)
Tip: Do activities one of these ways:
- as a group, all at the same time
- in small groups that rotate through each activity
- set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose

Small Group ACTIVITIES

Session Title: Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

Bible Passage: John 4:1-26

Big Picture Question: Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.

Key Passage: John 3:16

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus was revealed as the fulfillment of Scripture, the promised Savior.

Tip: Select activities that you can staff and your class will enjoy.



Small Group Activities (25–30 minutes)

Sing “Jesus Loves Me”

Stand up and sing “Jesus Loves Me” together. If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics, look them up on the Internet. Sing the song a few times. On the second or third time, substitute the word *you* instead of *me* and point to each child as you sing.

Say • *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

Make dazzling drinking cups

Assist each child as she uses a foam brush to spread glue onto the outside of a plastic cup. When the outer surface is covered in glue, help her place various colors of tissue paper squares on the outside of the cup. Set aside the children’s cups to dry.

Say • Every time you look at this cup, remember our Bible story. Whom did Jesus speak to? (*the Samaritan woman*) What did Jesus tell this woman to give Him? (*a drink of water*) Was Jesus her friend even when she had made wrong choices? (*Yes!*) **Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** What kind of water did Jesus say He could give the woman? (*living water*) What is this living water? (*God’s Spirit*)

- plastic cups, 1 per kid
- glue
- foam brushes
- tissue paper squares

- paper
- crayons or markers

Better than life

Remind the children that when someone is thirsty, he or she really wants something to drink. Mention that Jesus felt thirsty after His long journey. Invite the children to draw pictures of things they really want. Look at the pictures together.

Say • Jesus promised to give this woman something even better than what she really wanted. He knew she needed God most of all. God is better than everything else! The Bible says God’s love is better than life! [See Psalm 63:3.] *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

- large plastic tub
- water
- buckets, measuring cups, measuring spoons
- plastic tablecloth
- towels

Measure water

Provide a large plastic tub of water and a variety of buckets, measuring cups, and measuring spoons. Invite the children to measure and pour water from container to container. You might place a plastic tablecloth or some towels beneath the large tub of water.

Say • Water is good for you. Jesus talked about living water, which is God’s Spirit. He said God’s Spirit is like a well in your heart that never runs out! God gives His Spirit to the people who love Him. *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

- “Map of Samaria”

Walk through Samaria

Look at the map together and find Samaria in between Galilee and Judea. “Finger walk” from Galilee to Judea through Samaria. Review the Bible story as the kids’ fingers travel. Remind the kids that Jews avoided Samaria, but Jesus went to Samaria because He loves all people.

Say • *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

- countdown video (optional)

Transition to large group closing

Large Group CLOSING

Session Title: Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

Bible Passage: John 4:1-26

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Large Group Closing (10+ minutes)

Review

- Bible
- Timeline Map
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster
- “God So Loved” song
- “The Only Name (Yours Will Be)” song

Play a guessing game, either “Guess the number between 1 and 10” or “I Spy.” When a child selects the correct number or object, say “Good guess!” After a few rounds, talk about how the kids didn’t know the answer right away—they just made a good guess. Jesus knew everything about the Samaritan woman because Jesus is God’s Son. Tell the kids that Jesus knows everything about them, and He loves them.

Point to the timeline map as you ask review questions:

1. Where did the woman live? (*Samaria*)
2. Did Jews go to Samaria much? (*No!*)
3. Was the Samaritan woman surprised when Jesus spoke to her? (*Yes!*)
4. What is the living water Jesus spoke about? (*God’s Spirit*)
5. ***Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.***

Invite kids to sing “God So Loved” or “The Only Name (Yours Will Be).”

Pray

- “Love Like Jesus” song

Remind kids that ***Jesus loves everyone***. As Jesus’ followers, we should love everyone too. Sing “Love Like Jesus” and

then take prayer requests.

Say • Thank You, Jesus, for showing love and kindness to the Samaritan woman and to all people. Thank You for coming to earth and dying on the cross to save us from sin and death. Thank You for giving us Your Spirit. Amen!

Missions story

• information from the Internet about an unreached people group (optional)

If your children's ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity. Otherwise, talk about how God loves people all over the world. Talk about how groups of people around the world have never had the chance to hear about Jesus. If you'd like, you may print out information from the Internet about a specific unreached people group. Commit to pray for that unreached people group over the next week.

Say • Did you know groups of people all over the world—and even in our own country—have never heard about Jesus? Let's pray together that God would send Christian missionaries to tell these groups of people that Jesus loves them. *Whom does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.*

Call out "Jesus loves everyone!"

Tell the kids to follow along as you do the following motions. When you put your hand to your ear, they should say, "No! *Jesus loves everyone!*"

Does it matter if you're short [*squat*] or tall [*reach high*]?

Does it matter if you're big [*spread arms wide*] or small [*tuck arms in*]?

Kids: No! *Jesus loves everyone!*

Does it matter if your shirt is blue [*tug on shirt*]?

Does it matter if your shoes are new [*lift and point toes*]?

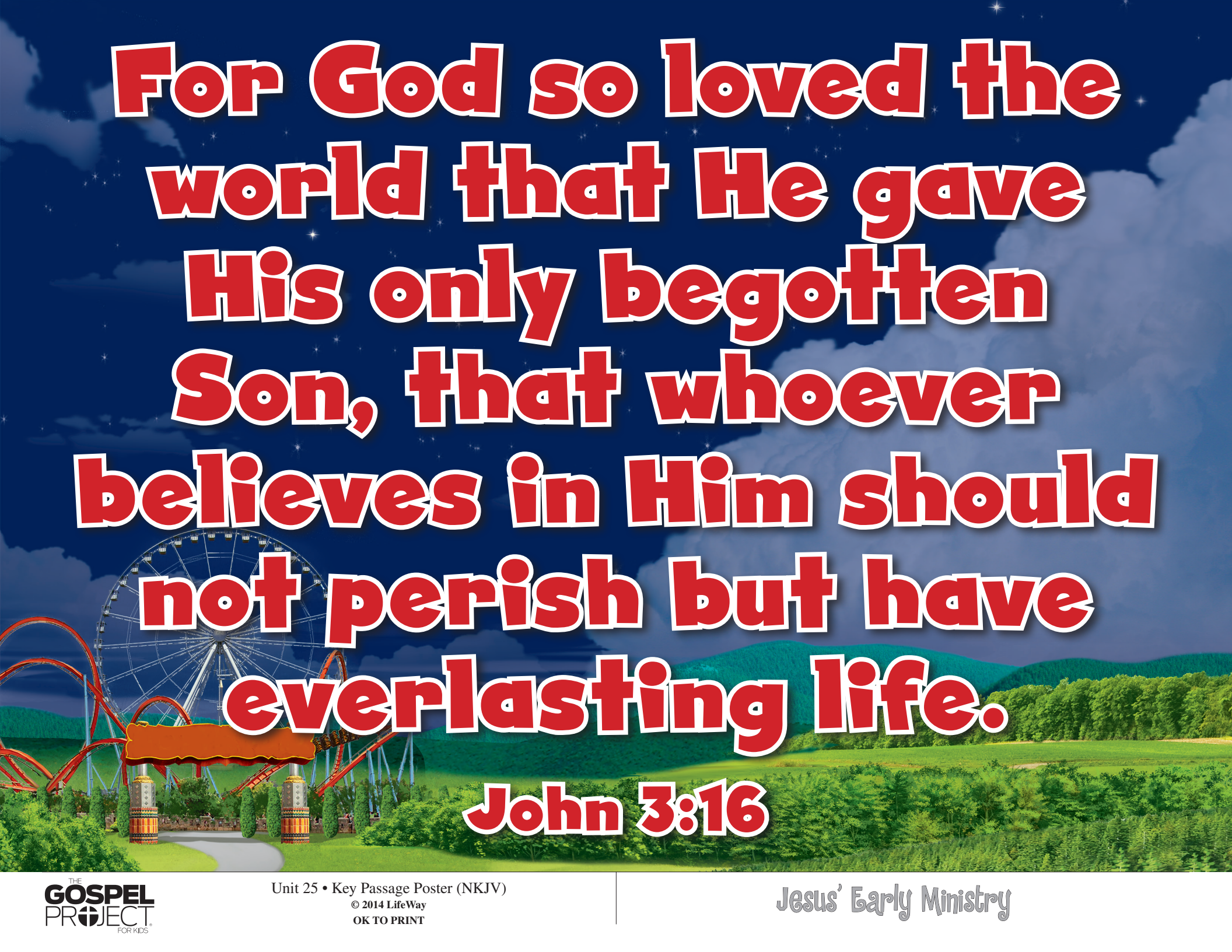
Kids: No! *Jesus loves everyone!*

Does it matter if you've been bad [*shake finger*]?

Does it matter if you're feeling sad [*frown*]?

Kids: No! *Jesus loves everyone!*

• Follow church security rules for dismissing children.



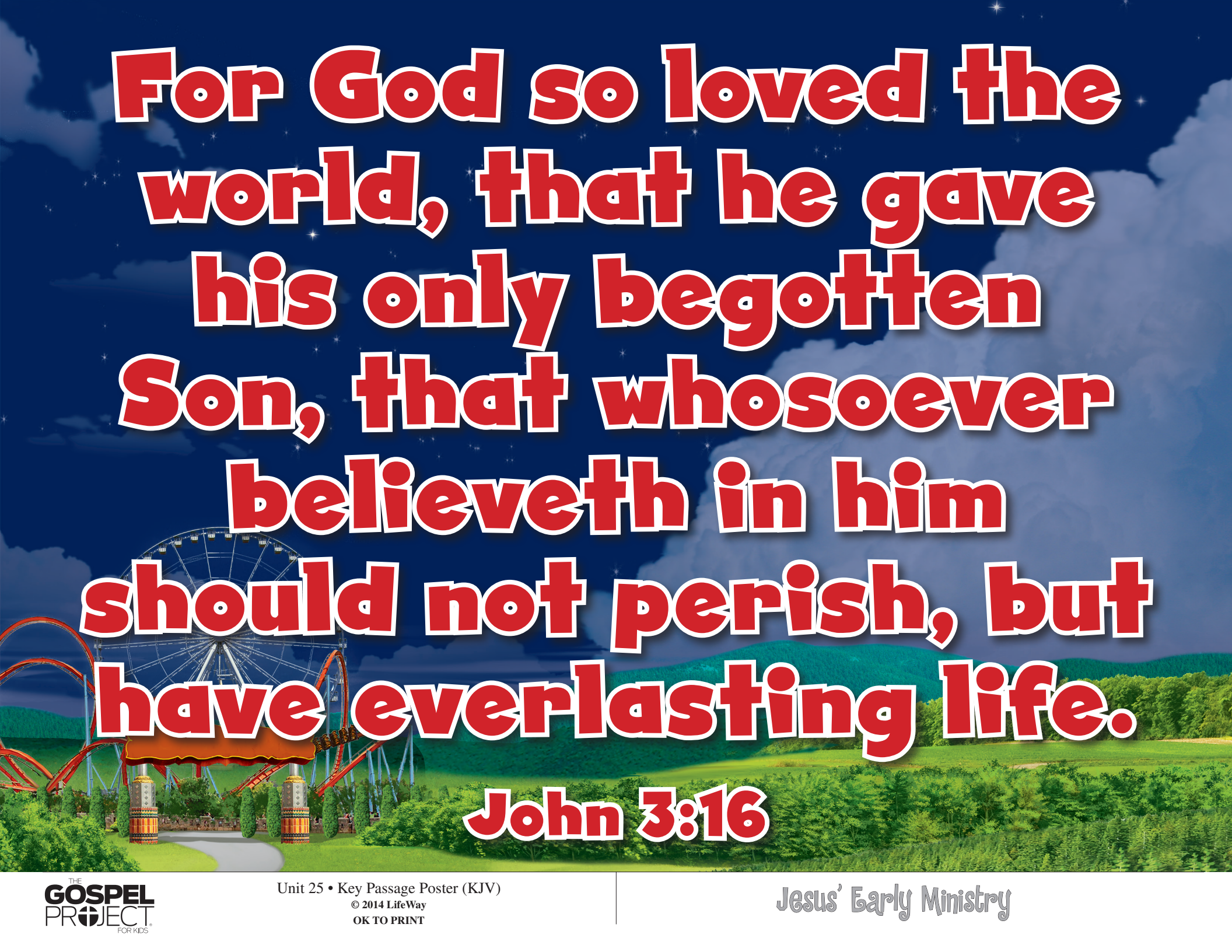
**For God so loved the
world that He gave
His only begotten
Son, that whoever
believes in Him should
not perish but have
everlasting life.**

John 3:16



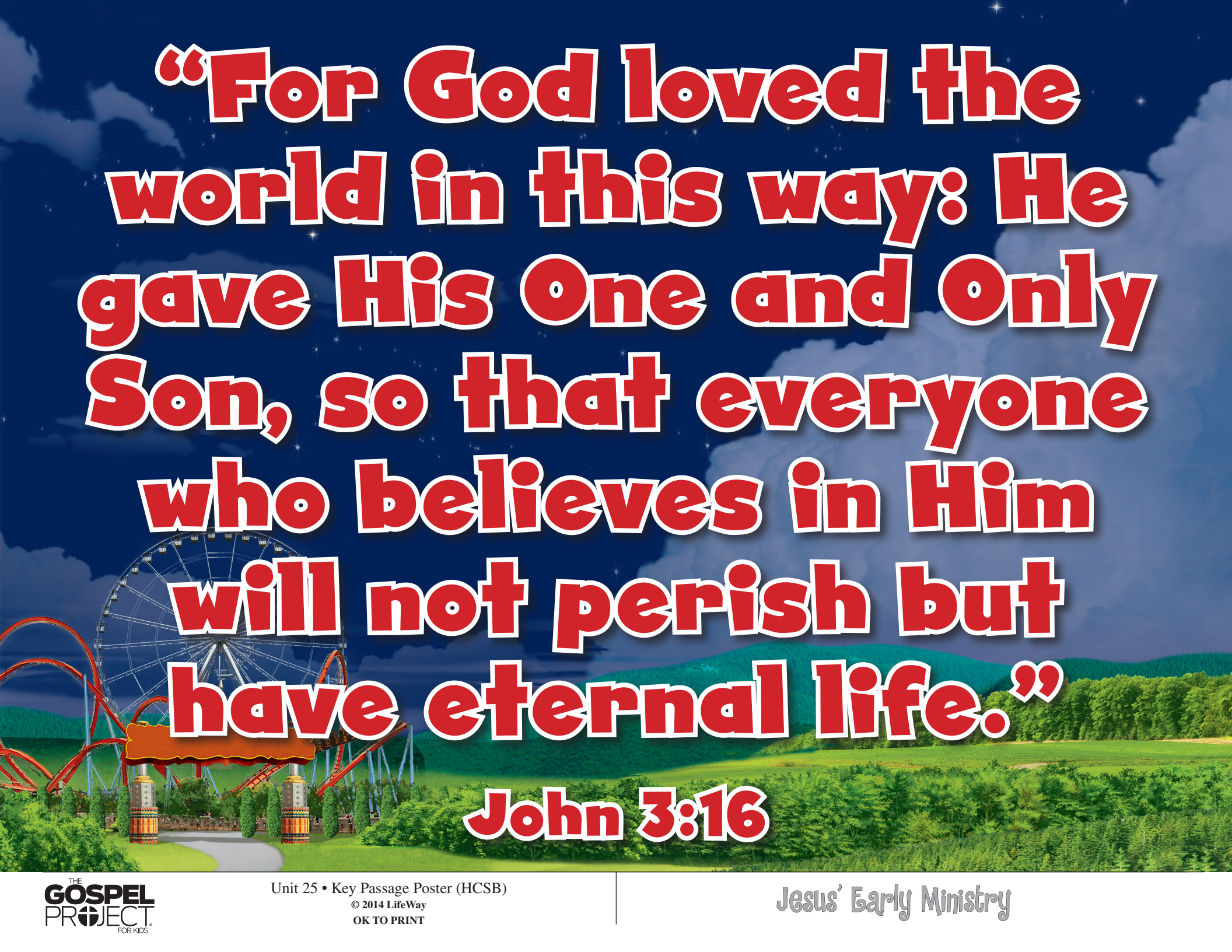
**For God so loved the
world that he gave his
one and only Son, that
whoever believes in
him shall not perish
but have eternal life.**

John 3:16



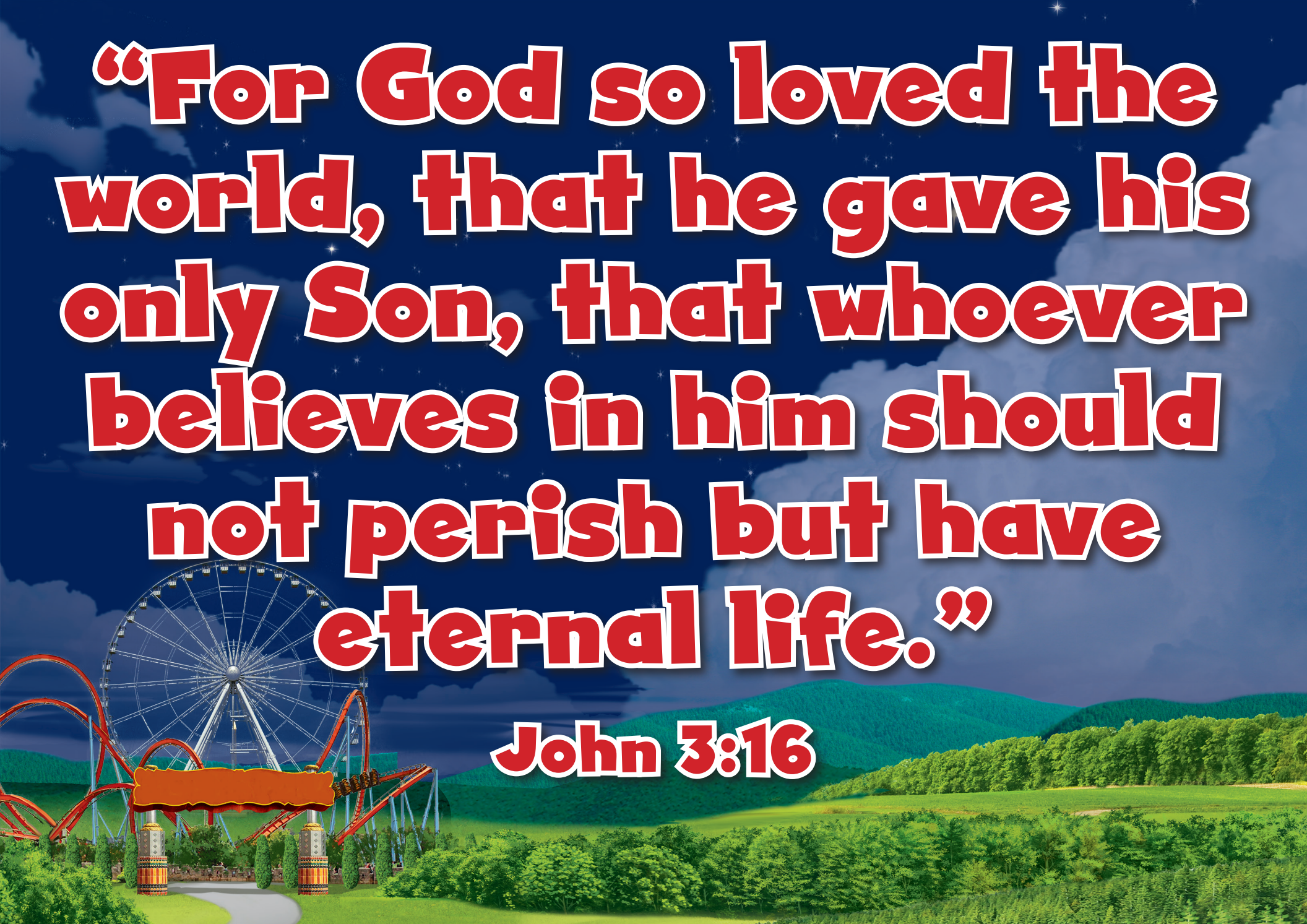
**For God so loved the
world, that he gave
his only begotten
Son, that whosoever
believeth in him
should not perish, but
have everlasting life.**

John 3:16



“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16



Whom does Jesus love?



Whom does Jesus love?

Jesus loves everyone.







Today your child will be
tasting/touching/sniffing

Please notify a teacher
if your child should not
participate in this activity.



Instructions: Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.

the **GOSPEL**

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*

Map of Samaria

Instructions: Print the map and use it to talk about Jesus' early ministry. Point out the path most Jews took around the land of Samaria. Talk about how Jesus traveled through Samaria and even talked to a woman who lived there.

THE GREAT SEA

GALILEE

SEA OF GALILEE

CAPERNAUM

CANA

NAZARETH

SAMARIA

SYCHAR

JERUSALEM

BETHLEHEM

JUDEA

JORDAN RIVER

THE DEAD SEA