



Peter Explains Belief in Jesus

1 Peter 1:3-9

Although preschoolers can't see Jesus, they have childlike faith that tells them that Jesus is real. They can understand that Jesus is God and does big things. They can believe that Jesus loves them, is with them, and can help them when they pray. Use this lesson to teach children that even when people in the Bible couldn't see Jesus, they loved him and believed in him anyway.



► **Bible Point**
Believe in Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Free! Play a game of Freeze Tag.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo's puppy race is like our belief in Jesus.	CD player, Theo puppet Teacher Pack: CD, medal	Hang the medal around Theo's neck.
	Bible Time: God's Special Gift Find out about God's special gift of Jesus.	Bible	

Key Verse
"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

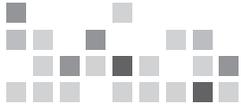
Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will show that they believe in Jesus.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Believing, But Not Seeing Draw pictures with white crayons, and then watch as their pictures are revealed.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, white crayons, watercolors, paintbrushes, cups of water</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Let’s Celebrate! Decorate the room and have a party.</p>	<p>CD player, tape, streamers, special party snack, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 3: You, Too, Can Believe Tell what they believe about Jesus.</p>	<p>pictures from magazines of different kinds of people, tape</p>	<p>Tape the pictures of people on a wall.</p>
	<p>Center 4: Jesus Loves Me Pictures Make a scrapbook full of pictures that remind them of Jesus.</p>	<p>paper, crayons, decorative craft supplies, Teacher Pack: “Jesus” stickers</p>	<p>Make a book for each child—fold two pieces of paper together and staple the folded edge. Write “Jesus Loves Me” on the front cover of each book.</p>
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Tell God they believe in Jesus.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: medal</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "All the Children Praise the Lord" (track 2), "Jesus, I Love You" (track 9)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle.

Lead children in singing "All the Children Praise the Lord" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

♪ All the kids have come to church, (*spread arms wide*)
And we're so glad to be here. (*clap hands*)
All the kids have come to praise (*raise hands toward heaven*)
The Lord that we hold so dear. (*clasp hands to chest*)
All the children praise the Lord. (*wave hands above head*)
All the children praise him. (*wave hands above head*)
All the children praise the Lord. (*wave hands above head*)
Now aren't you glad you're here? (*nod head*)
 (Repeat 2x.)

Say: **I like to see you praising the Lord. Now let's sing a song to Jesus about how much we love him.**

Sing "Jesus, I Love You" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

♪ Jesus, Jesus, I love you, (*cross arms over chest*)
And I know you love me, too. (*point up*)
You have died for all my sin, (*hold arms out as if hanging on a cross*)
And you came to life again. (*clap twice*)
Jesus, Jesus, I love you, (*cross arms over chest*)
And I know you love me, too. (*point up*)
 (Repeat.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **It's wonderful to see you showing that you ► BELIEVE IN JESUS as you sing. But singing is just one way to show that we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS. I'm excited to hear what a man in the Bible named Peter says about his belief in Jesus.**



2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Free!

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Galatians 2:20, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." That means that when we believe in Jesus he's a part of our lives—and I know that Jesus loved me and gave himself for me. Let's say that together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).**

Say: **Jesus loved us so much that he died on the cross to forgive us for all the wrong things we've ever done. If we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS, he gives us the way to live with God in heaven forever. Let's play a game to show us how much Jesus loves us.**

You'll walk around the room and I'll try to tag you. If I tag you, you'll freeze or stay in place without moving and you'll stay that way until the end of the game. Let the children walk around the room for a minute as you tag some of them. Then say: **Oh no! You were mean to your sister. Now you'll have to walk in slow motion.** Demonstrate how to take slow motion steps. Continue to tag kids and randomly tell scenarios that have all the untagged kids walk in slow motion; for example, you told a lie, you snuck a piece of candy, you pushed someone, or you cut in front of someone in line. Tag until all the kids are frozen.

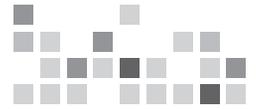
Have kids stay frozen, and say: **Sometimes when we do wrong things, we start to feel guilty and sad. We aren't happy anymore, and that feels kind of like walking really slowly and then getting frozen in place. But we know that Jesus came to earth and that he died for us. When we believe in Jesus, he forgives our sin and makes us feel light and happy again.** As you tag children to unfreeze them, whisper the Key Verse into each child's ear. Then let the child begin walking again. Continue until all the children are walking around the room again. Then say: **If we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS, God forgives us; we don't have to stay frozen. We can run and jump and be free!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

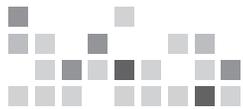
- What was it like to be frozen?
- What was it like to be free?
- What do you think about what Jesus did to make us free from sin?



Free! Supplies

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Bible





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)
medal

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Hang the medal around
Theo's neck.

Say: **We all do things that are wrong or mean or naughty, and we can get kind of "frozen" in a bad place. But if we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS and ask him to forgive us, he will. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What have you got hanging around your neck?

Theo: This is a bright, shiny medal.

Teacher: What did you do to get your medal?

Theo: I was in the puppy races.

Teacher: Wow! That's great, Theo!

Theo: I wanted to give up in the race because I was so tired and my paws hurt.

Teacher: How did you get through that hard time?

Theo: I heard someone shouting from the crowd, telling me to keep running toward the goal, even though I couldn't see it.

Teacher: That's great, Theo. It's kind of like how we believe in Jesus. We can't see him with our eyes, but we believe he's there—like how you ran toward the end of the race. You knew it was there even though you couldn't see it. Kids, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► BELIEVE IN JESUS.)*

Teacher: See, Theo, we believe in Jesus, even though we don't see him. We know he's with us in hard times and good times. And we're glad you made it through your tough race. That medal sure is shiny!

Theo: Thanks! I'm going to go show it to my mom.

Teacher: Thanks for visiting us today. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.



Ask:

- Tell about a time you knew Jesus was with you.
- What do you believe about Jesus—even though you can't see him?

Say: We all have hard times that make us want to quit and give up, even Theo. But God tells us that we can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS even when we can't see him with our eyes. Through hard times we can always know he's with us. Let's hear about some people in the Bible who didn't give up believing in Jesus even when they had hard times.

Bible Time: God's Special Gift

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 1, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: One of Jesus' friends—Peter—wrote a letter to some people who were having lots of bad days. That letter is in the Bible.

Let's act out what Peter told his friends so we can help them, too. Have kids stand; then read the following action play and lead kids in the actions.

Say: Here's what Peter said:

Praise God! (*clap hands*)

Jesus died on the cross, (*stretch arms out*)

So we can believe. (*point to forehead*)

And be part of God's family. (*put arm over someone's shoulder*)

No one can take that away from us. (*shake head*)

I know you are happy (*pump fist above head*)

Even though you have hard times. (*make sad face*)

When you believe in Jesus, (*put hand on heart*)

Your faith gets stronger. (*make muscles*)

Even though you don't see Jesus with your eyes, (*point to eyes*)

You love him! (*hug self*)

Even though you don't see Jesus with your eyes, (*point to eyes*)

You believe in him and are happy! (*smile*)

Because you believe, Jesus gives you a special gift. (*cup hand as if giving*)

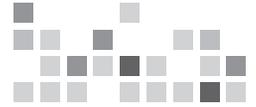
It's the best gift ever! (*cheer*)

You get to live in heaven with Jesus forever! (*point up*)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

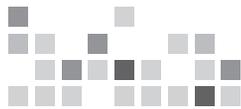
Say: Peter wrote this letter to his friends who ► BELIEVE IN JESUS. He wanted them to remember what a special gift it is to be friends with Jesus.



Bible Time: God's
Special Gift
Supplies

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Bible





Ask:

- Tell about a special gift you got.
- Why do you think Jesus is a special gift?

Say: **Jesus is our special gift from God. He will never be stolen, broken, or taken away. He's the best gift of all. And a friendship with Jesus is all ours when we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Believing, But Not Seeing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a My Bible Hugs page and a white crayon. Have kids draw pictures of themselves and Jesus. Remind kids that the people in the Bible believed in Jesus even though they couldn't see him, just as they're drawing pictures they can't see.

After three minutes, have kids paint over their drawings to reveal their pictures.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was cool to you about this activity?
- What's cool to you about Jesus?

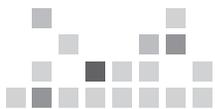
Say: **The people in the Bible believed in Jesus and were happy even though they couldn't see Jesus. It's kind of like the pictures you drew—you couldn't see the Jesus you drew at first, but you knew he was there. We can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS—it's so cool to know that he is with us, even though we can't see him.**

Center 1: Believing, But Not Seeing Supplies

My Bible Hugs
white crayons
watercolors
paintbrushes
cups of water

Center 1: Believing, But Not Seeing Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.



CENTER 2:

Let's Celebrate!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children decorate your room for a party. Give several children the special snack that you brought. Have them arrange the snack on the table so it looks festive for the party. Play "I Believe in You" (track 12 on the CD) as kids decorate. Say: **As you decorate, tell your friends things you believe about Jesus.**

After kids finish decorating, say: **We can praise God and celebrate because we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS. The people in the Bible we heard about today praised God and celebrated through good times and bad.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you want to praise God for?
- What can you praise God for in a hard time?

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for a snack. Say: **We have a lot of fun at parties, don't we? Let's celebrate Jesus with this party—because we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS.** Choose a child to pray, and then let kids enjoy the snacks and decorations.

CENTER 3:

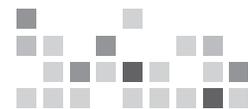
You, Too, Can Believe

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show children the pictures on the wall. Let kids pretend to be the different people in the pictures and tell each other things they believe about Jesus, just as the people in the Bible did. For example, kids might say that Jesus loves them, Jesus is with them, or Jesus helps them in hard times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Jesus loves us very much. It makes him happy when we show our love for him by telling others that we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS.**



Center 2: Let's Celebrate! Supplies

- CD player
- tape
- streamers
- special party snack
- antibacterial gel (optional)

Teacher Pack

CD: "I Believe in You" (track 12)

! ALLERGY ALERT

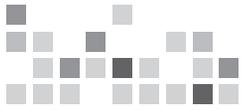
Center 3: You, Too, Can Believe Supplies

- pictures from magazines of different kinds of people
- tape

Center 3: You, Too, Can Believe Easy Prep

Tape the pictures of people on a wall.





Center 4: Jesus Loves Me Pictures
Supplies

- paper
- crayons
- decorative craft supplies

Teacher Pack
“Jesus” stickers

Center 4: Jesus Loves Me Pictures
Easy Prep

Make a book for each child—fold two pieces of paper together and staple the folded edge. Write “Jesus Loves Me” on the front cover of each book.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Hugs

CENTER 4:

Jesus Loves Me Pictures

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a paper book. Read the words on the cover, and remind kids of today’s Bible passage. Say: **We’re going to make special scrapbooks to remind you of all the times Jesus shows he loves you.**

We all have days when things happen that make us feel sad or mad. When we remember how much Jesus loves us, we can feel better. Even when we can’t see Jesus, we know that he sees us, loves us, and is with us. What are some things that make you happy? Encourage kids to each draw a picture of something that makes them happy on each page in their books. Let them use the decorative supplies you’ve provided and the “Jesus” stickers from the Teacher Pack to make their pictures extra special! (Be sure to save one “Jesus” sticker for use in next week’s lesson.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why does Jesus make you happy?**
- **What can you tell others about Jesus to make them happy?**

Say: **When you look at your scrapbook, it can remind you of all the times that Jesus loves you and is with you. You can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS because he loves you, and you can help others by telling them about Jesus, too.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.



Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that we can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS. I would like each of you to choose a way that you can show that you believe in Jesus this week.

Read the three Daily Challenge ideas for children to choose from:

- Look for things that remind you of Jesus. When you see those things, thank Jesus for coming to earth to love us.
- Tell someone you love why you believe in Jesus.
- Draw a picture with a white crayon. Show your mom or dad the picture, and explain that Jesus is like the picture: You can believe in him even though you can't see him.

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: We can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS, even though we can't see him. We can believe he's here with us through good times and bad. Let's ask Jesus to help us know he's here with us. Have kids repeat each line of the following prayer after you:

Jesus, I believe in you.
 Jesus, you're the best. It's true!
 Jesus, I believe in you.
 Help me tell others I believe in you, too!

Pass the medal around the circle, and let each child take a turn putting it on and saying, "Jesus, I believe in you." Then say: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

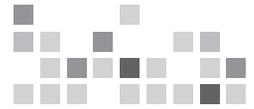
Talk With Kids

Say: It's so wonderful that we can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS, and he'll be our friend always!

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Action Prayer
Supplies

Teacher Pack
medal



