



The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-18

First- and second-graders are concrete learners. Their concept of being part of God’s family will be directly tied to what they’ve experienced so far in their own families. That representation may or may not be an accurate representation. But because all humans are sinful, children’s understanding of a parent’s love won’t meet up to the truth about God’s perfect love. Use this lesson to help children understand that they don’t have to perform to be a part of God’s family; they simply have to believe in Jesus.



► Bible Point

We can be God’s children.

Key Verse

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

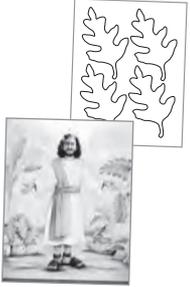
Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will know how they become God’s children.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	The True Light <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn that Jesus is the true light, experience darkness with and without a light, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, flashlight	
2 Bible Exploration	A Special Gift <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Receive a special treat they didn’t earn, and learn how Jesus is God’s special gift to them.	Bible, wrapped candies	
	Adopted by God <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover that if they believe in Jesus, they can become God’s children, and make adoption certificates into God’s family.	My Bible Fun, fine-tipped markers	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Chain of Love <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make and decorate paper-doll chains, name people they can tell about Jesus, and pray for those people to believe in Jesus.</p>	<p>several pairs of scissors, crayons, green construction paper, glue, 1 copy per child of the “Paper Doll” handout (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: “Leaves” stencils, “Jesus Became Human” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



The True Light Supplies

Bible
flashlight

1 GETTING STARTED

The True Light

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together in a circle.

Say: **It's fun learning about Jesus! Today we're going to learn about something very special that Jesus can do for us. But before we get to that, let's see what the Bible says about who Jesus is.**

Tell kids that you'll be turning off the lights for a few minutes, and then turn them off.

Ask:

- **What's it like to sit in the dark?**
- **What seems different about our room in the dark?**

Say: **We can't see things very well in the dark, can we? This darkness reminds me of what the world would be like without Jesus. Without Jesus, we'd all be lost in the darkness of sin. We wouldn't be able to see the love and goodness in the world.**

Turn on the flashlight. Say: **Jesus came to earth to be the light! Like this flashlight brings light into our room, Jesus brings light into the world. Listen to what the Bible says about Jesus.** Open your Bible to John 1:12, and show kids the verse.

Say: **Our Key Verse says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). That means whoever believes in Jesus becomes one of God's children.** Have the children repeat the Key Verse with you several times.

Say: **Jesus came to be the light for each and every person. Let's thank God for sending Jesus to be our light.** Pass the flashlight around the circle. Let kids each say, "Thank you for sending Jesus to be our light" and then pass the flashlight. Then turn on the lights.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some good things about light?**
- **Why do you think Jesus is compared to light in the darkness?**
- **Why do you want to be with Jesus in the light?**





Say: **Jesus brought light to our world—he’s the reason ► WE CAN BE GOD’S CHILDREN.** When we believe in him, we become God’s children. Let’s learn more about what it means to be God’s children.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Special Gift

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 1:1-18, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we’re learning that ► WE CAN BE GOD’S CHILDREN** and what that means.

A man named John wrote the part in the Bible that we’re reading today. John was a disciple of Jesus, and he loved telling people about Jesus. One of the things he told people was about a special gift Jesus has to offer. Let me show you what I mean.

Invite a child to come forward. Show the child a piece of wrapped candy, and ask him or her: **What would you say or do if I offered you this free piece of candy?** Let the child answer, and then turn to the rest of the group.

Ask:

- **Do you think it’s fair of me to give [name of child] this free piece of candy? Why or why not?**
- **Would you like me to offer free candy to you?**

Go around the room and offer each child a piece of candy.

Say: **You didn’t have to do anything to earn the candy I offered you. It was a free gift. All you had to do was accept my gift. That’s the way it is with the gift Jesus has to offer. Listen to our Key Verse again: “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).** Then let children tell what it means to them to be children of God.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think about getting the candy without having to do anything?**
- **Tell about something you have to earn in your life.**
- **What’s so great about not having to earn God’s love?**

Say: **People who believe in Jesus are God’s children. Period. They don’t have to do all the right things—they don’t have to earn it. They just have to believe. Kind of**



A Special Gift Supplies

Bible
wrapped candies





Adopted by God Supplies

My Bible Fun
fine-tipped markers

Adopted by God Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

like how you got the free candy in our activity, ► **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN** simply by receiving the gift from God.

Adopted by God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN when we believe in him. Let's make something to help us remember that once we're God's children, we'll always be part of his family.**

Give each child a Lesson 6 My Bible Fun page. Say: **Sometimes when a child has no mom or dad, or when the mom or dad can't take care of the child, the child is adopted by other parents. That means the new parents promise to love and take care of the child.**

Point out the adoption certificate on the My Bible Fun page. Say: **When children are adopted, they get special papers called adoption certificates to show whose children they are.** Invite children to share about any people they might know who are adopted. They can share about characters in books or in movies, too.

Direct kids' attention to the My Bible Fun page, and say: **This certificate of adoption is for people who believe in Jesus. When we become children of God, it's kind of like being adopted by God. We still have our own parents who love us. But we also get to have God, the creator of the whole universe, as our heavenly Father! God loves each one of us and wants us to be his children. The Bible says when we believe in Jesus, we can become children of God. And when we become children of God, we can live with him forever in heaven.**

Have the children look over the adoption certificate for a minute. Point out the different parts and explain them. Invite children who can read to read aloud each part.

Have kids use fine-tipped markers to write their names in the blanks on the certificates.

Point out the white star in the bottom right-hand corner. Say: **Each of you is unique and important to God. God really wants *you* to be his child. Create your own unique design in the white star to show that *you* know ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN. Your design will be kind of like a signature.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you want to be adopted by God?**
- **Why would you tell others how to be part of God's family?**

Say: **It's wonderful to know how to become a child of God, isn't it? In fact, it's so wonderful that we want to tell others so they can believe in Jesus, too! Let's think**





of who we can tell that ► **WE CAN BE GOD’S CHILDREN** when we believe in Jesus.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Chain of Love

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **People who believe in Jesus are God’s children. God wants everyone to believe in Jesus because he wants everyone to be able to live with him in heaven. But people can’t believe in Jesus unless someone tells them about him. That’s our job! Let’s make something to remind us to tell others how to become children of God.**

Give each child a “Paper Doll” handout, and set out the rest of the supplies. Show children how to fold the paper accordion-style. They’ll first fold the line next to the doll figure—so the paper is folded behind the figure, and the figure isn’t covered up. They’ll then fold on the other line in the opposite direction.

Show the “Jesus Became Human” poster. Say: **Jesus is God, and he became human so he could be a sacrifice for our sin. To be part of God’s family, we simply have to believe in Jesus. It all starts with Jesus! Let’s pretend this figure is Jesus.** Have the children write “Jesus” on the figure.

Say: **Right now there’s only one figure, but if we cut on the paper around the Jesus figure, we’ll see that when we’re connected to Jesus, we become children of God, too.** Show the children how to cut the paper so they make a paper-doll chain. Set out crayons for kids to share, and invite each child to write his or her own name on the figure next to Jesus in the paper-doll chain.

Say: **God wants everyone to believe in Jesus so everyone can be a child of God. We can help by telling others about Jesus so they can believe in him, too. Think of someone you can tell about Jesus. Write the person’s name on the last paper person.** Be prepared to help kids with spelling. Then let them decorate their people.

Say: **Everyone who believes in Jesus is part of God’s family tree. A family tree is a chart that shows who is part of a family. Let’s each add a leaf to our paper people chains to show God’s family tree.** Give each child green construction paper, and distribute the “Leaves” stencils. Have each child trace and cut out a leaf and then glue the leaf to the Jesus figure’s hand.

Say: **These people chains can help you remember to tell others how they can be part of God’s family tree. If they believe in Jesus, they’ll become part of God’s adopted family tree, as the leaf symbolizes. This week, remember to tell the person**



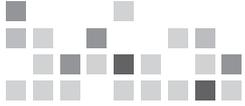
Chain of Love Supplies

- several pairs of scissors
- crayons
- green construction paper
- glue
- 1 copy per child of the “Paper Doll” handout (at the end of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

- “Leaves” stencils
- “Jesus Became Human” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

whose name you wrote on the paper person that ► **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN** when we believe in Jesus. Lead children in a prayer for the people on their paper dolls.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Invite a friend over to watch a movie with you, and tell him or her about Jesus—while sharing some popcorn, too!**
- **Tell each of your family members about Jesus and his love for them.**
- **Take your neighbors some cookies with a note attached, explaining how they can become children of God.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Remember as we follow through on our Daily Challenges that Jesus came to earth and died on the cross so ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and about how we can be God's children. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

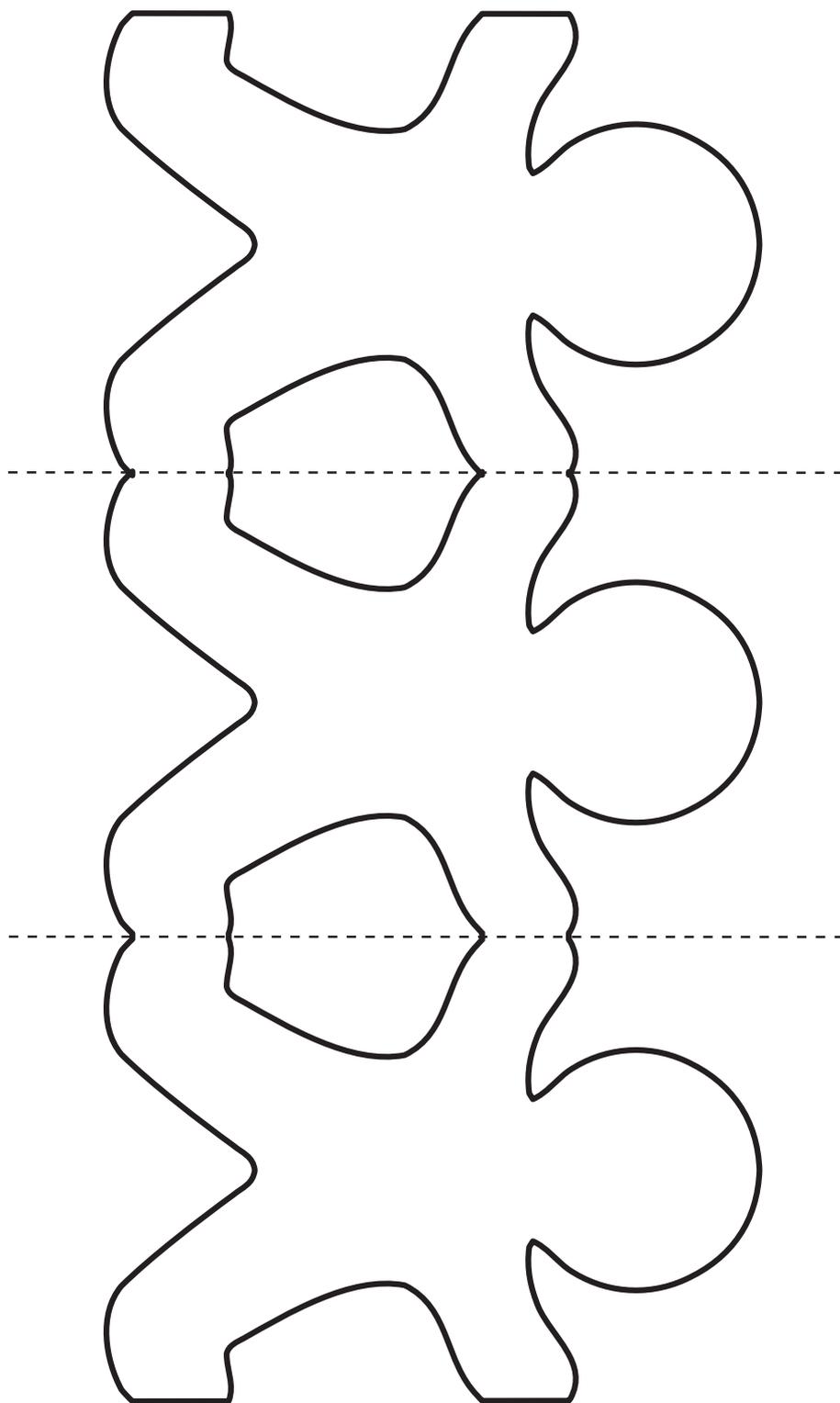
Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that anyone can be God's child if he or she just believes in Jesus. Invite each child to pray for the person whose name he or she wrote on the paper-people chain. Then pray: **God, help us remember that you love us completely and that we're your children when we believe in Jesus. Help us remember how amazing that is and to tell others about you. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Paper Doll



**OK
TO COPY**

