



The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-18

Third- and fourth-graders are very familiar with what it means to be kids. The thing they may not understand is just how much parents love their children. They may feel as if God wants to tell them what to do since that's often what kids recognize from their parents, but you can use this lesson to help kids see that being one of God's children means being deeply and especially loved.



► 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

Children will realize the excitement and importance of being God's children.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Family Resemblance <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Look at different ways they're like other members of their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
2 Bible Exploration	God Made a Way <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Discover how the passage shows that God provides for us to become his children.	Bibles, construction paper, tape, scissors (several pairs), markers, 7 blindfolds Teacher Pack: "John or Jesus" poster 	Hang the "John or Jesus" poster in a prominent place in your room.

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>I'm a Child of God! <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Celebrate being children of God, and create invitations for their friends.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, scissors, balloons, streamers, crayons, permanent markers, envelopes, craft supplies, 1 copy for every 2 kids of the "You're Invited!" handout (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Cut out the 2 invitations on each of the "You're Invited!" handouts.</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>Bible Truth Sleuth</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.





Family Resemblance Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

Family Resemblance Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

1 GETTING STARTED

Family Resemblance

Tip This activity deals with family traits. It will work just fine for kids who are adopted, but you may need to help them focus on the traits they've learned from their families. Be sensitive when pointing out similarities, and be sure to list personality traits alongside physical traits.

What You'll Do

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

Ask:

- What do people tell you is similar about you and other people in your family?

Say: There are things we do that we learn from the people we live with, and the way we look might resemble what our parents look like. Certain traits are inherited, such as hair and eye color, height, and shape of nose and chin. Other things we learn by example, such as the way we laugh, our facial expressions, or the things we like to do. Let's find out ways you're like your parents.

Distribute pens and the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids form groups of three. Have kids turn to the "Family Traits" activity and make lists of all the ways they're like their parents or siblings. For example, maybe a child has the same hair color and eyes as his or her dad, has a nose like his or her mom's, or talks just like a brother or sister. Kids could also include similarities such as food preferences and dislikes, activities they have in common with a parent, or personality traits.

Once their lists are created, have group members share with each other what they've written.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are your favorite traits that you share with someone in your family?
- What things do you like about being part of your family?
- In what ways do you think God's family is like or unlike your family?

Say: We are like our families in many different ways. It's part of how we know we belong in our families. There are all kinds of families, and each one is special. Being in a family is special. Today we're going to look at being a part of God's family and learn that ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God Made a Way

What You'll Do

Say: **Now we're going to look at how God made a way for us to become his children. Our Bible passage tells us about two men: John the Baptist and his cousin Jesus. Sometimes it might take some time for us to really understand which of these guys the passage is talking about, so let's get ready to make sense of the whole thing.**

Making sure all the kids have a Bible, have kids form seven groups and turn to John 1:1-18. If you have fewer than 14 kids, have some groups work together, reading their assigned passage but answering questions together. Assign the following verses to groups:

- Group 1—John 1:1-3
- Group 2—John 1:4-5
- Group 3—John 1:6-9
- Group 4—John 1:10-11
- Group 5—John 1:12-13
- Group 6—John 1:14-15
- Group 7—John 1:16-18

Give each group three sheets of construction paper, a marker, and scissors. Have each group make a large arrow out of the construction paper. To do this, have each group tape two pieces together end to end to make one long sheet. Then have each group cut the third sheet at an angle to form a triangle and tape it to the end of the long sheet to create an arrow. Have kids write their group's Bible reference on their arrow with marker in large letters. It doesn't matter what direction the arrows point when kids write on them.

For all the questions that follow in this activity, have kids discuss in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group.

Ask a willing child from Group 1 to read aloud John 1:1-3 for everyone.

Ask:

- **What details help you know who was with God in the beginning?**

Have kids discuss the question in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Then ask a willing child from Group 1 to read John 1:1-3 again, this time saying "Jesus" any time the Bible says "the Word."

Ask:

- **What's different about this section of our passage when you realize that the Word is Jesus?**



God Made a Way Supplies

- Bibles
- construction paper
- tape
- scissors (several pairs)
- markers
- 7 blindfolds

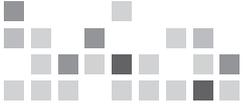
Teacher Pack

- "John or Jesus" poster

God Made a Way Easy Prep

Hang the "John or Jesus" poster in a prominent place in your room.





Have kids discuss the question in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 1 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 1's arrow.

Say: **These verses help us know that Jesus has always been with God from the very beginning and that everything that was ever created was created through him.**

Ask a willing child from Group 2 to read aloud John 1:4-5 for everyone.

Ask:

- **What in this passage helps you figure out who is the light that shines in the darkness?**
- **Why do you think the darkness didn't understand the light, Jesus?**

Have kids discuss the questions in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 2 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 2's arrow.

Say: **Because people didn't understand, God sent someone to tell them about Jesus.**

Ask a willing child from Group 3 to read aloud John 1:6-9 for everyone.

Ask:

- **What do you think of Jesus planning to come to earth from the very beginning of time?**
- **Explain how you know who verse 7 is referring to when it says "so that through him all men might believe"?**
- **What can you learn about the way God speaks to us based on the job he gave to John?**

Have kids discuss the questions in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 3 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 3's arrow.

Ask a willing child from Group 4 to read aloud John 1:10-11 for everyone.

Ask:

- **In what ways do you sometimes not recognize Jesus in your life?**

Have kids discuss the question in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 4 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 4's arrow.

Say: **Even after John had told people about Jesus, people still didn't recognize him or believe him.**

Ask a willing child from Group 5 to read aloud John 1:12-13 for everyone.



Ask:

- **How do these verses show God’s heart for you and all people?**
- **What do you think it means to be one of God’s children?**

Have kids discuss the questions in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 5 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 5’s arrow.

Ask a willing child from Group 6 to read aloud John 1:14-15 for everyone.

Ask:

- **What does it mean that “The Word became flesh”?**
- **What do these verses show you about Jesus?**
- **What does it mean to you to know that Jesus was willing to leave heaven and come live on earth for us?**

Have kids discuss the questions in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 6 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 6’s arrow.

Ask a willing child from Group 7 to read aloud John 1:16-18 for everyone.

Ask:

- **What does it mean that the Son has made the Father known?**
- **What are these verses talking about when they say “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another”?**
- **What do these verses show you about Jesus?**

Have kids discuss the questions in their groups and then share highlights with the entire group. Have a willing child from Group 7 write a very short summary of these Bible verses on Group 7’s arrow.

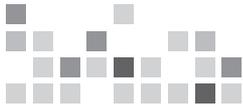
Next, show kids the “John or Jesus” poster, and help them see that John is on the left and Jesus is on the right.

Say: **When Jesus came for us, people couldn’t recognize him, so God sent John first to show us the truth. Let’s illustrate that for ourselves.**

Blindfold one willing child from each group, and give him or her the group’s arrow. One group at a time, have the non-blindfolded group members help the blindfolded child tape the group’s arrow by the poster so that the arrow points to Jesus.

After all groups have placed their arrows around the poster, have kids remove their blindfolds and all sit together.





I'm a Child of God! Supplies

Bibles
CD player
scissors
balloons
streamers
crayons
permanent markers
envelopes
craft supplies
1 copy for every 2 kids
of the "You're Invited!"
handout (at the end of
this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Are You Going
to Praise the Lord?"
(track 12), "His
Blessings Go Rolling
Along" (track 13)

! BALLOON ■ WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be
sure to pick up pieces of any
broken balloons promptly.
Balloons may contain latex.

I'm a Child of God! Easy Prep

Cut out the 2 invitations
on each of the "You're
Invited!" handouts.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does the way we placed the arrows show you about Jesus?
- In what way were the blindfolded people like all the people in the world and the other people like John, guiding them to Jesus?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus went through everything he did just so you can be God's child?

Say: As we saw, all the words in this Bible passage point to Jesus, just as our arrows do. Next, we're going to look at one of the verses we just read and find out how ► **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

I'm a Child of God!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is *in* our Bible passage. It's John 1:12.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles. 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).** Have kids repeat the verse with you.

Say: **When people receive someone into their homes, it means they welcome them and invite them in. They're happy to have them there. We receive Jesus into our hearts in much the same way. We welcome him and invite him in gladly. By believing in Jesus' name, we're saying that we know he's the way God provided for us to be children of God. We believe that Jesus is God's Son, and we can receive him into our lives. ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Give kids each a balloon, and have them blow up the balloons and write on them with permanent markers "Welcome, Jesus!" Help kids drape streamers around the room and scatter the balloons.

Say: **Now let's have a party to welcome Jesus and receive him gladly.**

Play "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 12 on the CD) and "His Blessings Go Rolling Along" (track 13 on the CD), and have kids jump and throw balloons and say things they want to celebrate about God. As kids jump and celebrate, remind them that they can be God's kids.



Ask:

- What about this party would help Jesus feel welcomed?
- What are some ways you can show Jesus is welcome in your life?

Allow time for several responses.

Encourage kids to sit quietly for a few seconds and reflect on the words as you slowly say the Key Verse for them. Say: **“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).**

Distribute a “You’re Invited!” invitation to each child along with an envelope. Then have kids decorate the invitations with craft supplies.

Encourage kids to each make an invitation for a friend or family member who might need to know about this open invitation to become a child of God. While kids work on their invitations, say: **If any of you don’t know if you’re one of God’s children, I’m here to talk to you about that one on one.** Privately talk and pray with any kids who have questions or want to talk. While other kids are working on invitations, this is a perfect time for a one-on-one conversation.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was the best part of our party?
- What’s the best thing about being one of God’s kids?
- What can you do to help other people want to be part of God’s family, too?

Say: **We celebrated because Jesus came to earth so we could be part of God’s family. We can all make the choice to believe in Jesus, and ► WE CAN BE GOD’S CHILDREN. Jesus has been wanting you in his family since the beginning of time. He loves you. Let’s always remember to be thankful for God’s love and kindness to us.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s consider this week how ► WE CAN BE GOD’S CHILDREN as we choose our Daily Challenges.**

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



Daily Challenges
Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





- Tell a friend, family member, or neighbor that you're God's child and that he or she can be God's child, too! Give your friend the invitation you made.
- Read John 1:1-18, and then spend five minutes being quiet with God. Then thank him for sending Jesus to earth to make you part of his family.
- God's family has certain traits just like your family does. Choose one thing you'd like to do differently this week so people can tell you're part of God's family. You might say only kind things about other people, or you might do something kind for a friend or family member without expecting to be thanked. Read John 1:1-18 when you need encouragement about how to show that you're part of God's family.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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: **God and Jesus have been together since the beginning of time. And God sent Jesus to earth so ► WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN. Let's act like part of God's family by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's family. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids separate into two groups—boys and girls. Have kids in each group stand in a circle with their arms around each other's shoulders. Remind them that since we're all part of God's family, they're all brothers and sisters in Jesus. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to provide the way for us to be your children! Help us remember what it means to be part of your amazing family. Thank you for each brother and sister in these circles.** Allow time for kids to thank God for each other if they want to. **In Jesus' name, amen.** Break the huddles.



Name:

Date:

Time:

Where:

**You're
Invited!**

to be one of God's
children!

**Who are
God's children?**

"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)

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