



God Dwells With Us

John 1:1-14

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to grasp that people have depth. They can understand that the people they meet think, feel, and act on their own. It can be very easy to oversimplify who Jesus is. Fight the urge to oversimplify, and help kids understand that Jesus was a rational man who lived for a purpose. Use this lesson to help children grasp the fact that Jesus has thoughts and feelings, both as God and as a man.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus is God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Living Sculptures <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Form “living sculptures” by shaping clay kids into various things.	Bible, copy of the “Living Sculptures” handout (at the end of this lesson), scissors	Cut apart the slips from the “Living Sculptures” handout.
2 Bible Exploration	Act It Out <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore Isaiah’s prophecy about what the Messiah would do.	Bible, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens Teacher Pack: “Act It Out” cards 	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Dough for It! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create sculptures portraying a prophecy about Jesus, and then discuss their sculptures.	Bibles, clay for each child, pens, CD player, Bible Truth Sleuth, several pairs of scissors Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	

Key Verse
“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will discover that Jesus is God in human form.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Star Power <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to a drama, and then discuss how Jesus set aside his glory to be on earth.	Bibles, CD player, Bible Truth Sleuth Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Living Sculptures Supplies

Bibles
copy of the “Living
Sculptures” handout
(at the end of this
lesson)
scissors

Living Sculptures Easy Prep

Cut apart the slips from
the “Living Sculptures”
handout.

1 GETTING STARTED

Living Sculptures

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

When everyone has arrived, have kids form trios and give each group one of the slips from the “Living Sculptures” handout. Tell the groups to keep what’s on their paper secret from other groups. If a group wants to choose a different option and you have extra slips, that’s fine.

Say: **With your groups you’ll make living sculptures. One person will be the “clay” and the other two will be the sculptors. The sculptors will form the clay into the object listed on your slip of paper. When you have finished making your sculptures, we’ll have the sculptors from the other groups try to guess what you’ve made. Ready? Pause. Go!**

After kids have created their sculptures and have taken turns guessing, have them alternate roles until each person has had a chance to be the clay.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When you were the clay, what was it like to have someone move you around and make you be something else?**
- **When you were the sculptor, what was it like to make someone into something else?**

Make sure everyone has a Bible, and help kids find the Key Verse, John 1:14. Invite a willing child to read the verse aloud: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

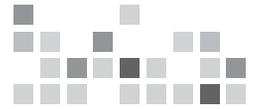
Say: **This verse calls Jesus “the Word,” and it says he “became flesh,” meaning he became human to live with us. Jesus took on the human form—sculpted by God—so he could be like us and live with us.**

Ask:

- **What about the sculpting game we played helps you understand how Jesus took on a different form so he could live like us and with us?**
- **Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be human in order to live with us?**



Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD** in human form, and his coming to earth to live among us shows us how much he loves us. Let's look further into the Bible to discover more!



2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Act It Out

What You'll Do

Say: **Jesus' human life started just like any of ours did. He was born a baby and grew up like anyone else in Bible times. ► JESUS IS GOD** in human form but he lived a very humble life as the son of a carpenter named Joseph. Jesus didn't grow up in a palace or in a rich family. Let's look at things people commonly do today to get an idea of what Jesus' life might have been like if he'd started his ministry during our lifetime.

Have kids form pairs, and give each pair one of the "Act It Out" cards. Instruct pairs not to let anyone else see what's written on their cards.

Say: **Watching what someone does for a living is one way we can tell who someone is. If the person is a barber, sooner or later he or she will cut someone's hair. If the person is a pizza delivery person, eventually he or she will deliver a pizza. If the person is a doctor, sooner or later he or she will take care of someone.**

In your pair, decide together how to silently act out the job that's written on your card. Then the rest of us will try to guess what job you're doing. For example, if you act out the job of a fisherman, one of you might pretend to fish and the other might pretend to be a fish.

Move to a part of the room where you can plan together without anyone hearing you. Be sure to keep what's written on your card a secret! You'll have 90 seconds to plan what to do. Go!

When 90 seconds have passed, gather everyone's attention. Have pairs take turns acting out the jobs on their cards while the other kids guess what job the pair has.

Say: **The prophet Isaiah described what the Messiah—the Savior—would do while he was here on the earth. The truths Isaiah spoke are called prophecies. They're predictions about what would happen in the years after they were written. This passage is Isaiah prophetically speaking for Jesus.**

Invite a willing child to read aloud Isaiah 61:1-4.

Say: **These verses tell us about the promises of what the Savior would do for humanity.**

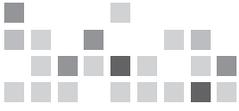
Act It Out Supplies

- Bible
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- pens
- Teacher Pack**
- "Act It Out" cards

Act It Out Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes the description of what this person would do sound like someone who would come to save us?
- In our game, we looked for actions that demonstrated a role. What signs are there that Jesus was the Messiah—the Savior—that Isaiah wrote about?

Say: **Jesus didn't want there to be any doubt that he was the Messiah, God's Son. So when Jesus first spoke in front of a large group of people, he made sure everyone understood who he was. Jesus read the same passage from Isaiah that we just read. Listen as I read Luke 4:16-19.**

Read Luke 4:16-19 aloud.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Say: **Find a partner, and together find the "Fulfilled Prophecy" section. Discuss the questions with your partner, and then write your answers.**

Allow children a few minutes to work, and then ask for some pairs to share highlights of their discussion.

Ask:

- Since God sent Jesus to save us, what does that tell us about God?

Say: **Jesus tells us he's God's Son. Another way to put it is ► JESUS IS GOD in human form. During his ministry, Jesus proved he was God's Son by fulfilling Isaiah's prophecies, performing miracles, and even rising from the dead! Understanding that ► JESUS IS GOD is a difficult thing to understand. Even many adults struggle to understand it. Let's look at what John the Baptist said to people during Bible times to try to help them understand.**

Dough for It!

What You'll Do

Show kids the picture of "John Baptizes Jesus" on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **This is the John we're reading about. He baptized Jesus at the beginning of Jesus' ministry—as God wanted. As I read this Bible passage, close your eyes and just listen. When you first hear the word "light," I want you to keep listening, but slowly open your eyes as I continue. When I get to the end, open your eyes completely.**

Read John 1:1-14.

Dough for It! Supplies

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Bibles
clay for each child
pens
CD player
Bible Truth Sleuth
several pairs of scissors
Teacher Pack
CD: "Into My Heart"
(track 4)
Bible Timeline



Ask:

- **Why is light so important when we're in darkness?**

Have kids form two groups, and give each group several Bibles and enough clay for each child to have a small chunk. Have available scissors and pens. Group One will create sculptures based on Isaiah 61:1-4, and Group Two will create sculptures based on John 1:1-14.

To Group One, say: **Many years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah predicted what Jesus would do while he was here on earth. You'll each have five minutes to create a small sculpture with clay that describes one thing Isaiah predicted Jesus would do. For example, you might create a heart and make a small dough bandage to put on it to show that Jesus binds up the brokenhearted. Look at the Bible verses for help.** Help kids as needed to find Isaiah 61.

To Group Two, say: **John talks about who Jesus is in this Bible passage. You'll each have five minutes to create a small sculpture with clay that shows one of the things John says about Jesus. For example, you might make a sun because Jesus is light shining in the darkness. Look at the Bible verses for help.** Help kids as needed to find John 1.

As kids work, softly play "Into My Heart" (track 4 on the CD). When kids are done sculpting, they can cut out and complete the "Art Notes" card on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

After kids have finished their sculptures, have them form pairs with a person from the other group.

Say: **Briefly explain to your partner what you've sculpted and why it shows something about Jesus.**

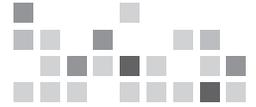
Talk With Kids ■■■■

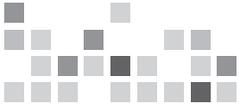
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What things did you learn about who Jesus is from your partner's sculpture?**
- **What did you want other people to know about who Jesus is through your sculpture?**

Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD, and he came to earth to live with us, to show us love, and to have a relationship with us. Jesus' birth, his life, and everything he continues to do for us is why we celebrate Christmas. Remember that this year as you're preparing to celebrate Christmas.**





Star Power Supplies

Bibles
CD player
Bible Truth Sleuth
Teacher Pack
CD: "Jack Jackson"
(track 5)

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Star Power

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In order to help us understand a little bit better what Jesus did by coming to earth to live with us, we're going to listen to a conversation between two kids at school. Then we'll talk about it.** Play the "Jack Jackson" segment (track 5 on the CD).

Have kids form trios and take five minutes to imagine an end to the story of Jack Jackson. If kids need help getting their discussion started, use these questions.

- **What would happen if Jack Jackson really did show up and do an assembly, eat lunch, and then move into town to spend time with kids at the school?**
- **Do you think he'd have friends? Explain.**
- **Do you think kids would like him? Explain.**
- **What could happen to his job of making movies and TV shows?**

Have groups share the ideas they came up with.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Who's the most famous person you've met or seen?**
- **What makes a person famous?**
- **Why do you think it would be hard for a rich and powerful person to give up his or her money and power?**

Invite a willing child to read the Key Verse, John 1:14, aloud: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Say: **This verse from today's Bible passage tells us that Jesus came to earth to live with us. ► JESUS IS GOD, and he gave up all the power and glory of being God in heaven to live with us on earth!**

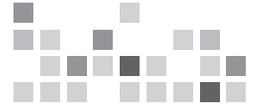
Ask:

- **As you imagined what could happen to Jack Jackson, what about that story reminded you of Jesus?**
- **Why does knowing what Jesus gave up to live with us on earth help you appreciate more what Jesus has done?**



- What do you think is special about Jesus and made so many people excited to meet him?
- What can we do to help others know about Jesus and what he’s done for the world?

Say: It’s important that we know ► **JESUS IS GOD**, because he came to earth to have a relationship with us and to be our Savior. He died to take the punishment for our sins. That’s incredibly important news for us to know and to tell others. Let’s do that this week.



4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let’s think about how we can share the good news this week that ► **JESUS IS GOD**.

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:

- Tell a friend or family member about the way Jesus fulfilled the predictions about the Savior.
- Ask some of your friends what they believe about Jesus, and share with them about your faith in him.
- Spend some time thinking through the idea that Jesus is also God. Make sure you write down any thoughts or questions you have as you think about this. Then talk to your parents or your leader about them.

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:

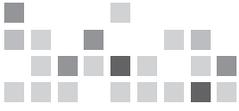
- What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: Remember that ► **JESUS IS GOD**, and we can ask him for help as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about why Jesus is God. 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.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids.

Say: **Let’s close in prayer by telling Jesus who we think he is. I’ll start, and then anyone else who wants to pray can pray after me.**

Have kids close their eyes and begin. Pray: **Jesus**, [say what you believe about Jesus]. Give everyone an opportunity to add to the prayer. Close with: **In your name, amen.**



Living Sculptures

bear	tree	tiger	bike	cellphone
rock	flower	cat	star	moon
ocean wave	spider	guitar	pair of scissors	bell
stapler	paper clip	notebook	toaster	desk
chair	roller coaster	door	monkey	curtain
car	skateboard	puzzle piece	stoplight	McDonald's

OK
TO COPY



