



Jesus is Our Example – Jesus Is Baptized

Luke 3:1-22; Matthew 3:13-17

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Hope

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Hope.

SAY:

What's our new God Statement we've been learning? Jesus is our hope, that's right! We're learning about Jesus' life when He was here on earth. Last week, we saw that Jesus was a kid, just like you and me, but He wasn't just an ordinary kid. Jesus was put on earth for a very specific purpose, and He knew that from the start because Jesus is God's Son.

Today, we're going to learn about how Jesus is our example. What does it mean to be an example? **Let kids share for a minute.** Those are all good explanations. An example is something or someone that shows us the way to do something. In this case, Jesus is our example to know how to live in a way that loves God and others! Later on in Large Group, we're going to see a specific way that Jesus showed us to live as believers, but first, let's play a game.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Good & Bad Example Game

Supplies: ziplock bag with paper example cards

Say: *Jesus is our example! Do you think Jesus ever sinned or did anything wrong? No! Jesus was holy, and perfect, and because of that, we can follow His example. Jesus is always good. Let's play a game to help us think about that more. As we read through the examples I have here in the bag, we will work together to decide if they are good or bad examples.*

Directions: Have children gather in a group in the center of the room. Explain that one side of the room is the "good example" side. The other side of the room is the "bad example" side. Pick a child to come up to the front and pick a card from the bag and read it aloud. Then have the children decide which side to go to. Have another child come up and pick the next card. Play until all cards have been read. Remind children that Jesus is our example and He is ALWAYS good. We can trust that what He asks us to do is always the right choice and what He did was a good example to all those around Him.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.. ****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
(Matthew 5:16, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Our Example – Jesus is Baptized

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: paper flower cut outs, markers or crayons, tray(s) of water

You remember that John was sent from God to prepare the way for Jesus to come. Many people were coming to John to be baptized. At our church, “Baptized” means to be dunked under the water to show that you love God and want to follow Him. This is usually done in front of a group of people at church and you can tell everyone why you want to be baptized.

People choose to get baptized because they want to show everyone that they love and follow God. Even Jesus got baptized. God said He was very pleased with Jesus.

We don’t have to be baptized in order to be saved and be a follower of Jesus, but it is an amazing outward celebration of the inward change in our lives because of what Jesus did for us!

I have a little demonstration I want to show you to help illustrate that idea. See this flower here? I’m going to fold it up to represent our life before Jesus, stuck in bad choices, pain, fear, etc. But, when we accept Jesus into our hearts, there is a change that happens on the inside, something really amazing. And, in order to show others that amazing change, we can choose to be baptized to express that publicly.

Place flower on water and watch the petals open up.

Just like the flower opened up when it was placed in the water, our lives are forever changed when we follow Jesus! And baptism is an opportunity to share that change with others!

Before getting baptized, we want to understand and accept Jesus into our life. Let’s take some time right now to talk about what that means again. Remember this? It’s as easy as ABC.

- **A – Admit** – Admit you do wrong things. Rom. 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- **B – Believe** – Believe in the Lord Jesus. Believe He died for you and He came alive again.
- **C – Confess** – Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Romans 10:9
 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

If you feel ready to take that step, all you have to do is pray and talk to God: Jesus I know I do wrong things and I'm sorry. I believe in you, that you died for me and that you came alive again. I confess that you are Lord!

Begin passing out the paper flowers and markers as you direct the kids.

Let's take a minute to sit quietly and talk to God. Each of you are receiving a flower of your own. As you talk to God, look at this flower, and you can color it or write a prayer on it. Then, fold the flower petals up like mine was. Spend time talking to God...

- If you've never made that decision to say that prayer, you can do that right now.
- If you've already made that decision, spend time thanking Jesus for new life in Him.
- If you're not sure, just tell God what's on your mind. Be sure to tell your leader later if you make that decision or have more questions.

When you're ready, you can come bring your flower up to a water tray and watch it open up. This little flower can be like your life. Just as it comes to life in the water, so can you when you follow Jesus. As you watch it, remember that Jesus is our Hope and our Example.

Turn on soft worship music for a minute and let kids sit quietly.

If you have accepted Jesus into your life and you are part of God's family, you might feel ready to take the next step and be baptized. That is so exciting! Who has been baptized here? Tell us about it. ***Let the kids share what it was like.***

If you are ready to take that next step, talk to your teachers and your grownups, so they can help you!

Close this time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – REFUGEES IN GREECE

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Right now, our special missions focus is on refugees in Greece. Refugees are people who have left their homes and need a safe place to go, usually a country nearby. The country of Greece currently has over 50,000 refugees who are living there. Most of these people are from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Can you imagine having to leave your home without knowing if you'll ever return?

Say: Even during these scary and uncertain times, God is using people in Athens, Greece to love and serve these refugees. They are sharing the love of Jesus by providing food, education and other supplies to help the refugees get settled into their new homes. ***You can help, too, by praying for the refugees and the churches that are serving them!***

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, may you know that God loves you so much. He wants you to be part of His family and be baptized to show that you love Him. You can have new life in Him with love and joy and peace.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Luke 3:1-22 or Mathew 3:13-17)**
2. **Who gets baptized by John the Baptist? (Jesus!)**
3. **Who sets a great example for us for how we should live and treat others? (Jesus).**
4. **Getting baptized is a proclamation. We proclaim that we are following Jesus and that we are going to walk with Him through our lives. We express outwardly the change that has happened inwardly because of Jesus in our lives. Do you know someone who has gotten baptized?**
5. **Why do you think Jesus got baptized? (Because he is God's son and He is our example).**
6. **What are some ways you can be an example like Jesus?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Luke 3:15-16**
John the Baptist mentions someone here. Who do you think he was talking about? Who is coming to baptize us? (Jesus!)
2. **Read Luke 3:21-22**
Who gets baptized by John the Baptist? (Jesus). Who sets an example of how we should live and treat others? (Jesus)
3. **Read Mathew 3:13-17**
What does Jesus say about baptism? (That it is something we should do).

7. **Getting baptized is a proclamation. We proclaim that we are following Jesus and that we are going to walk with Him through our lives. We express outwardly the change that has happened inwardly because of Jesus in our lives. Do you know someone who has gotten baptized?**
4. **Why do you think Jesus got baptized?** (Because He is God's son and He is our example).
5. **What are some ways you can be an example like Jesus?**

Take time to let kids share if they have gotten baptized or if they want to get baptized. Let your staff know if any kids accepted Christ or asked about getting baptized.

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

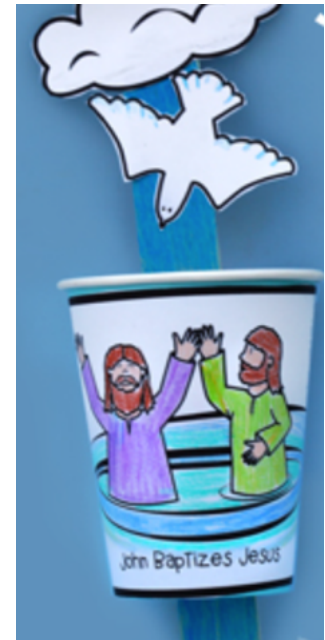
DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Jesus is Baptized Cup Craft

Supplies: baptism coloring page, scissors, glue, markers, blue cup, popsicle sticks

Directions: Pass out a baptism page to each child. Have them color and cut out each piece. Help children cut out items if needed. Pass out blue cups. Have children place the cup right side up and glue the baptism scene around the cup. Give each child a popsicle stick and have them glue the doves on the top section of the popsicle stick. Poke a hole in the bottom of the cup and stick the popsicle stick in the cup, through the hole.



Say: *Today, we learned that Jesus is our example. Jesus showed us what it means to be baptized – an outward expression of the inward change in our lives that comes from following God. Let's make this craft to help us remember!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

