



Lesson
53

1st-4th

JESUS WELCOMES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

August 22 & 23

**JESUS IS OUR
FRIEND**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: In this story, people were bringing little children to Jesus to be blessed, but the disciples tried to send them away saying they weren't important enough. Jesus welcomed the children, saying the kingdom of heaven belongs to those like them, and He placed His hands on them and blessed them.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that Jesus loves and values them, and that they can come to Him with trust and faith.

Matthew 19:13-15

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

AWANA clubber registration is live!
Wednesdays @ 6:15pm starting Sep 16
at RR, WH, MO and DT!
woodmenvalley.org/awana

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:

Farmer Pete



KEY VERSE:

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me."

John 10:14, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

PRAYING FOR SCHOOLS

This month's mission focus is all about prayer! We're inviting kids and families to intentionally pray for students, teachers, and school staff as the new school year begins. With our prayer magnets, we're helping kids build a habit of praying regularly for their schools.

We're also excited to highlight our ACTs school partners—schools where our church is building long-term relationships to love, serve, and support students, educators, and families.

**FAMILIES CAN TAKE HOME A PRAYER
MAGNET TO PLACE ON THEIR FRIDGE
AS A REMINDER TO PRAY!**

5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.



SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, *(insert child/parent name)*!

Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and mark it with a sticky note. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Friend!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.



SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.



SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **Jesus is Our Friend!** This story comes from the Bible in **Matthew 19:14!** Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?



DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who is our story about today?

Jesus, little children, His disciples & us

2. What is the problem?

The disciples didn't think the little kids were important enough to be brought to Jesus.

3. What will God do?

Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them, saying the kingdom of heaven belonged to them.

Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Friendship Bracelet Craft

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Slap Bracelet, Markers, God statement sticker



DO:

Encourage kids to color their blank slap bracelet and decorate it with stickers. Have them put the "Jesus is our Friend!" sticker on their bracelet. Kids can wear their bracelet during service or set it aside to take home.



SAY:

Today we learned that Jesus loves little children and wants all of us to come to Him. Jesus is our friend and we can always talk to Him, trust Him, and follow Him. As you decorate your bracelet, remember that Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend forever!



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Your Love

SONG 2: Bloom



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



PRAYER

Help create a smooth transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.



OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: Jesus is Our Friend

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: “What a Friend” worship song in PowerPoint



SAY:

Jesus is our friend! Just like our friends, Jesus loves us and wants to spend time with us. We can trust Him and come to Him any time! Let's practice spending time with Jesus right now.



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - *In our story today, some people didn't think the little children were important enough to see Jesus, but Jesus welcomed them and spent time with them.*
 - *Think about a friend you love spending time with*
 - *Did you know Jesus wants to spend time with us too?*
 - *Sometimes we get too busy that we forget to spend time with Jesus - being still, praying, just sitting in His presence.*
 - *Let's practice doing that now!*
 - *Find a space where you can get comfortable and not be distracted by others. As the song plays, close your eyes and spend time with Jesus!*
 - Play “What a Friend” worship song
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



PRAYER

Help create a smooth transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.



OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.



SAY:

God gives to us...so we give back to God! Offering is an opportunity every week to give some of our money to God as a way to say “Thank you, God!” for all He has done for us.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY: May you know that Jesus welcomes you with open arms because you are His friend and He loves you!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus, little children, His disciples & us

2. What was the problem?

The disciples didn't think the little kids were important enough to be brought to Jesus.

3. What did God do?

Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them, saying the kingdom of heaven belonged to them.

4. Why does this matter to me?

Jesus loves and values me. Jesus is my friend and wants to spend time with me!

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Examples: I can talk to Jesus about anything because He is my friend; I can thank Jesus for being my friend.



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing their parent the announcement card.