

April 18 & 19th
2 & 3 Year Olds



Spring Lesson 7

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16–20
(The Great Commission)

Jesus Is the Good News

Schedule

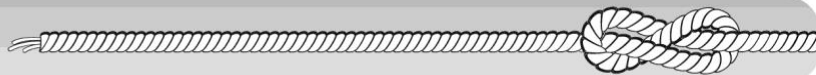
1. Connect: Optional Activity
2. Gather: Big God Story
3. Respond: Listen to God
4. Bless: Speaking God's Truth over your child

Supplies

- 2 disposable cups
- String
- Scissors or box cutter
- Bible
- Paper (several pieces)
- Markers or crayons
- Stuffed animal
- Cardboard box or toy bin

Hey parents! You're doing great! Don't worry about being perfect or following this lesson word for word. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you and be your words and you can go confidently forward knowing your child is hearing truth. Keep it up! You got this!

CONNECT//15 minutes



//Optional Activity//

Parents, this is a way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about telling the Good News to others. Three-year-old children love to copy their parents. Activities in which they repeat your words or mimic your actions are fun for them and give them a chance to practice important skills. Live the lesson by adding big motions or changing your voice in fun ways, and then ask the children to mimic what you did.

Hello, Can You Hear Me?

Children talk through cup phones to share good news about Jesus.

SUPPLIES

- Disposable cups and string
- Box cutter or scissors

PREPARE AHEAD

Make a cup and string phone. Cut an “x” in the end of each disposable cup with scissors or a box cutter. Poke the string through the end of the cup and tie a knot to secure the string. Poke the other end of the string through the other hole in the bottom of the cup. Tie a knot to secure the string.

RELATE

Family, Jesus is alive, and He loves you. That’s good news! Who are some other people Jesus loves? Interact with children’s responses. **We can tell everyone the good news of Jesus’ love. Here’s a cup and string phone for special messages. You can take turns sharing good news about Jesus by speaking into these cups.** Encourage one child to talk into one cup and other family members to listen with the cup over one of their ears. Then prompt the child on the outside to say phrases like “Jesus loves you,” “Jesus is alive!” and “Jesus is always with you,” through the cup. Have children take turns listening and speaking.

GATHER//25 minutes



Normally we use a hedgehog puppet (Hamilton) to help introduce the Big God Story. Since Hamilton is social distancing to keep others safe, choose a stuffed animal from your home and introduce him as “Hamilton’s friend.” You might explain, “Hamilton needs to be home with his family right now just like we are staying home so his friend _____ came to help us tell the story today.”

Welcome

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Cardboard box or toy bin
- Hamilton’s friend- a stuffed animal or puppet
- Cup and string phone

Ponder Point: Jesus Is the Good News

It’s time to hear a part of The Big God Story. Act like you just noticed the cardboard box near Hamilton’s friend. **Hmmm. I wonder what these cups and string is for? Does anyone know?** Children will call out answers. **Oh, you talk to people through the cup? Let’s see if anyone is listening now.** Put your mouth up to one cup and call

“Hellooooo!” while pointing the other out to your kids. Then put your ear up to the cup as if someone is speaking back. **There is someone listening! Can you guess who it is?** Allow children to guess. **Yes! It’s Hamilton’s friend _____.** **Should we ask him to come join us? On the count of three, let’s ask [insert friend’s name] to come out of his house. Are you ready? One, two, three.** “[insert friend’s name], come join us!” Let’s see if he heard us. Put your mouth up to the cup again. **Did you hear that, [insert friend’s name]?** Listen at this other cup, then speak into the cup again. **You did? Oh, good. [insert friend’s name]? [insert friend’s name]?** Hamilton’s friend pops out of the box. Encourage the children to welcome him.

Hi, [insert friend’s name]! I’m so glad you’ve joined us today. Are you ready to hear about Jesus and The Big God Story? Hamilton’s friend nods excitedly. **Me too! [insert friend’s name], do you know where we can find The Big God Story?** Hamilton’s friend nods his head, as if saying “yes.” **That’s right! We can find The Big God Story in the Bible! Hold up the Bible. God gave us the Bible so we can learn about Him! It’s full of things that help us know God. I know how much you love to dig, dig, dig right into God’s Word.** Hamilton’s friend nods his head. **Let’s all stand up and sing our Bible Song together.**

Bible Song (sung to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

*Now it’s time to hear God’s Word
Hear God’s Word
Hear God’s Word
Now it’s time to hear God’s Word
So let’s look in the Bible*

The Big God Story

This is the “meat” of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people’s lives. The Big God Story is written for a three-year-old audience. It can be told in its entirety or shortened if your child is on the younger side.

**The Great Commission
Jesus Is the Good News
From Matthew 28:16–20**

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story images #1–3
- Globe, 6 People (stick figures), and Heart drawn on three different pieces of paper
- Bible

RELATE

Before we go any further, let’s all pray together and ask God to teach us more about Him. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Children, do you have friends? Allow children to respond. **I do too.** Hamilton’s friend nudges you. Look down and pet Hamilton’s friend. **Yes, [insert Hamilton’s friend’s name], you’re a good friend and a good friend to Hamilton whom we miss! Jesus had good friends too. He had 12 very special friends, called disciples.**

Before Jesus died on the cross, He told His friends something very important. He told them to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee when He came back to life after three days. Jesus died and then rose from the dead after how many days? Children respond. **That’s right—three days. Where did His friends go to meet Jesus?** Allow children to respond. **That’s right. They met Jesus on the mountain in Galilee. Do you think they were happy to see Jesus?** Children respond. **Would you be happy to see Jesus?** Allow children to respond. **Me too! Let me see your happiest face. Those are great happy faces! Hamilton’s friend dances around happily. It looks like [insert Hamilton’s friend’s name], is happy too!**

Show The Big God Story image #1.



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Jesus taught His disciples all about God and His great big love for them. Jesus also told them to go and tell all of the people in the world everything they knew about God and His love. This was a very important job. Jesus taught them so much, and now it was their turn to go out and share the good news with all people. Family, who is the Good News? Allow children to respond. Jesus, that's right!

Do you think God wants just one or two people to know about Him? Place the globe in the center of the storyboard. Allow children to respond. Or does He want everyone to know about Him? Allow children to respond. You're right. Place the picture of six people next to the globe picture. He wants the whole world to know about Him. Hamilton jumps on top of the globe. Yes, [insert Hamilton's friend's name], God wants everyone in the whole wide world to know Him. Jesus told His friends to go into the world, all over the place, and tell all people about the good news! Who's the Good News? Pause for response. Jesus is the Good News. He is the way to be with God forever and that's GOOD NEWS!

Jesus' disciples did just as He said. They went all over the world and told people about God's love. Place the picture of a heart next to the people picture. They told people how Jesus died for their sins (show image #2)



IMAGE #2



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and how He came back from the dead (show image #3).



IMAGE #3

Because of Jesus, all people can know God and be with Him forever. And what is that? Pause. GOOD NEWS! Hamilton jumps around excitedly. **Hamilton, you're right! That's something to be very excited about!**

Before Jesus left and went up into heaven, He promised that He would always be with His friends. No matter where they went or what they did, Jesus promised that He would always be with them. And God is always with us too. Who's always with us? Allow children to respond. **God is. Who's with us when we're at home?** Children respond. **God is. Who's with us when we're happy?** Children respond. **God is. Who's with us when we're sad?** Children respond. **That's right. God is always with us.**

God made us and loves us and wants us to be with Him forever. Jesus' friends told everyone that Jesus is the Good News. We can tell everyone that Jesus is the Good News too! Jesus is the Good News, and He will always be with us!

Have the children say good-bye to Hamilton's friend as he goes back into his home and thank him for coming to be a part of The Big God Story.

RESPOND//15 minutes



Listen to God

Have the children sit quietly or lay down without touching anyone. **We just were talking about how Jesus is the Good News. Can you say that with me quietly? "Jesus is the Good News." Let's listen to God. Does He want to tell you anything? Sometimes we hear Him in our heart or in our brain. He usually doesn't say things out loud. Listen quietly and see what He wants to tell you.** Let the children listen for 30 seconds to 1 minute. **All right. Let's sit up. Did you hear God say anything?** Give them a chance to tell you what God said to them.

BLESS//5 minutes



This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Whisper, "Jesus is the Good News" in your child's ear and encourage her to whisper it to another family member or to you. Continue until everyone has heard the message. After the last family member has received the message, speak the following blessing over the group:

Children (or family), may you know that Jesus is the Good News!

Open a Bible and read Isaiah 6:3b:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.