

October's B.i.G. Idea
We believe Jesus is the Messiah, the special one sent by God.

October's Bible Verse
You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Matthew 16:16

October's B.i.G. Theme
Jesus is the Messiah.

Lesson 7 ★ Jesus and the Children

Today's Bible Story

Mark 10:13-16

Three B.i.G. (Believe In God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

Objectives

- ★ Children will discover they are important to Jesus, and that Jesus wants to have a relationship or friendship with them.
- ★ Children will discover ways to build a relationship with Jesus.

As we continue to learn about who Jesus was as a person and about Jesus' love for us, today's lesson becomes pivotal in knowing who Jesus is. Today, children will learn that they are just as important as adults. Today's story is about Jesus' disciples turning the children away because they thought he wouldn't have time for them. Imagine the disciples' surprise when Jesus called the children back and desired to love and bless them!

Jesus loves children. Songs are written about it. Pictures are painted depicting the scene from the gospel of Jesus surrounded by several children, from infants on up. Warm and fuzzy sermons are preached about it, telling the children (and adults) that God loves you, Jesus loves you, and it's as simple as that.

And it is that simple. Nothing we can ever do can make God love us more or less. It is important for you to convey this love to the children in your classroom, for children can understand God's love through the love they experience from adults in their lives. The children in your classroom look to you for guidance. What you do, they will do. Model acceptance and inclusion, and your children will too.

Something else to consider is that in Jesus' time, children were considered to be the weakest and most vulnerable members of society—and that wasn't a good thing. Children were not important, and that is what made Jesus' inclusion of the children so startling to the people of Jesus' day.

But children are important. "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Mark 10:15). Children's faith is amazing, and as a teacher of children you know this. Allow yourself to learn from your children. You don't have to have all of the answers. If a question is asked and you don't know the answer, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know, what do you think?" Learn about God's great big love together!

Jesus' proclamation is just as important for us today as it was for the people two thousand years ago. The children were important to Jesus, and they should be important to us today. We must love them not sentimentally, but actively, powerfully, courageously. For after all, the kingdom of God belongs to them.

Activity	Supplies
Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)	<i>Resources appear in bold</i>
Encoded Bible Verse	Leader—pages 10, 11 ; pencils
Friendship Watch	construction paper hearts, large jar, scissors, crayons/markers
Jesus Loves All of His Children	See page 4
Jesus Loves . . .	See page 5
All-Access Pass	index cards, pencils/pens, markers, crayons; optional: magazines, contact paper, scissors
. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)	
At The Station	DVD , DVD player, television
Obstacles	various items to create an obstacle course (chairs, Hula-Hoops, tables, sheets)
Hear the Bible Story	Bible
Pair Up!	Leader—page 12 , paper, marker, scissors
. . . Into Life (15 minutes)	
Caring Cards	construction paper, pencils, crayons, markers
B.i.G. Sounds: "He's The Messiah"	See page 8
Worship Together	See page 8
A Child's Litany	none

DVD Summary

Kids Are People Too

Sperry is embarrassed by her teacher at school because he won't allow Sperry to help fix his computer problem—even though Sperry knows she can fix it. Meanwhile, some of the guys playfully construct a tower, and the episode climaxes in Anna's reaffirming Sperry by getting Sperry to help Anna with a computer problem, while acknowledging that kids have a lot to teach adults.

LIVE BIG

The B.i.G. Idea

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Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Encoded Bible Verse

Supplies: Leader—pages 10, 11; pencils

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy the Encoded Bible Verse (Leader—pages 10, 11) for each child of the two levels (Beginning Reader—p. 11 and Skilled Reader—p. 10).

Do

- ★ Greet the children by name as they arrive.
- ★ **Say:** Use the code on the page to discover our Bible verse for the month.
- ★ Let younger children draw a picture of Jesus or play in a designated area until all the children have arrived.

Live B.i.G. God's Word teaches us about Jesus.

Friendship Watch

Supplies: construction paper hearts, large jar, scissors, crayons/markers

Prepare

- ★ Cut out more hearts to add to the jar, or have early arrivals cut more out.

Instead of a jar, have the students attach the hearts to a bulletin board. Try to cover the whole board with friendly actions.

Do

- ★ **Say:** We are watching for actions that show friendship. When you see someone doing something that shows what a true friend is, write down his or her name and what that person did and place it in the jar.
- ★ Allow nonreaders to draw pictures of friends or color hearts to add to the jar, or write their ideas for them.

Live B.i.G. Jesus showed us how to be a friend. We can see Jesus in others when we recognize their friendly actions.

Jesus Loves All of His Children

Supplies: construction paper or cardboard, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, tape

Do

- ★ Have each child trace his or her hands on the paper or cardboard.
- ★ Let the children cut out the hands and decorate them.

- ★ Attach the hands in the shape of a heart to a large piece of paper.
- ★ Let the children decorate a heading that says "Jesus Loves All of His Children."

Live B.i.G. Jesus loves all children. Everyone is included in Jesus' blessings.

Jesus Loves . . .

Supplies: white and black crayons, white paper, watercolors, water, big shirts for smocks, paintbrushes

Prepare

- ★ With the black crayon, write *Jesus Loves* at the top of a white piece of paper for each child.

Do

- ★ With the white crayon, write each child's name on the rest of the page, pressing hard.
- ★ Let the children paint over the page with watercolors. The paint will not cover the crayon writing, thus revealing each child's name.

Live B.i.G. Jesus loves all children and knows each child by name.

All-Access Pass

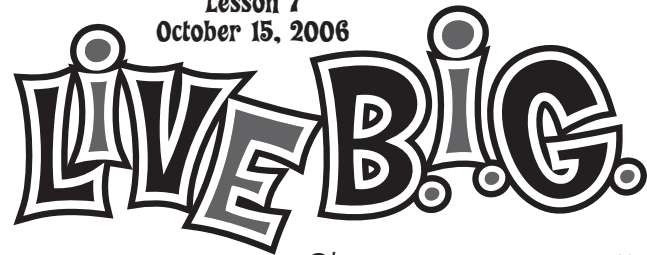
Supplies: index cards, pencils/pens, markers, crayons, optional: magazines, contact paper, scissors

Do

- ★ Let the children create an all-access pass to an event they would enjoy. Some ideas are a concert, a theme park, a zoo, a sporting event, etc.
- ★ Allow the children to create their own passes, or let them cut out pictures from magazines to create the pass. Cover with contact paper, if you have it.
- ★ Let the children share their all-access passes with each other, telling what their passes allow them to do.
- ★ **Say:** It would be really cool to be able to have total access to these places. What would an all-access pass to Jesus look like and what would it allow you to do? (*Allow time for responses.*) Why is it important to know that we do have an all-access pass to Jesus?

Live B.i.G. As the Messiah, Jesus is our all-access pass to God. Jesus desires to know everything about us and wants us to strive to know everything about him too.

Invite them in . . .



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Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Into the Bible

At The Station

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Do**
- ★ Show the **DVD** (5 minutes).
 - ★ **Say:** Why was Sperry so upset when she got to The Station? What was Anna upset about today? How did Liz help the situation? *(Allow the children time to answer after each question.)*
 - ★ **Say:** Sometimes people treat children disrespectfully, simply because they are small. Today's Bible story is about a time when the disciples thought children shouldn't be allowed to see Jesus, simply because they were young.

Live B.i.G. Our friends at The Station model ways that Jesus wants us to live.

Obstacles

Supplies: various items to create an obstacle course (chairs, Hula-Hoops, tables, sheets)

- Do**
- ★ Have the children create an obstacle course that they must cross in order to get to the Bible story area.
 - ★ They can crawl under chairs or tables, through Hula-Hoops, or under sheets.
 - ★ Observe their creation of the obstacle course to make sure it is safe and can be completed by even the youngest children in your room.
 - ★ Once they have created the obstacle course, let them go through it one by one and wait on the other side to hear the Bible story.

Live B.i.G. The disciples presented an obstacle to the children in the Bible story. Jesus removed that obstacle by telling the disciples that the children are just as important as the adults who were gathered.

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible

- Do**
- ★ Read the Bible story from Mark 10:13-16.
 - ★ **Say:** Just like we had to get through the obstacle course to hear the Bible

story today, the children in the story were faced with the obstacle of the disciples. The disciples thought that they were helping Jesus, but they were keeping the children away from Jesus. Jesus removed the obstacle the children faced by telling the disciples that the children were just as important as the adults. Let's listen to another version of the story.

- ★ Divide the children into three groups. Assign one group to be the disciples, one group to be the parents, and one group to be the children. Pick someone to be Jesus.
- ★ Have the students reenact the story, playing their assigned roles.

Live B.i.G. We can understand the things Jesus taught us by roleplaying the events and stories that he told.

Pair Up!

Supplies: Leader—page 12, paper, marker, scissors

Prepare

- ★ Cut apart the Pair Up! cards (**Leader—page 12**).
- ★ Write *Jesus* in the center of a piece of paper.
- ★ Write *Me* in the center of another piece of paper.

- Do**
- ★ Give each child one of the cards from Pair Up! Tell them that their goal is to find the person who has the card that "pairs up" with their card.
 - ★ After the kids have found their partners, invite them to share their pair.
 - ★ **Say:** What other things can you think of that go together? Why are these things pairs? *(Allow time for responses.)*
 - ★ Put the *Jesus* sign on the wall.
 - ★ **Say:** What goes with this word?
 - ★ Put the *Me* sign on the wall next to the *Jesus* sign.
 - ★ **Say:** How do these things go together? *(Allow time for responses.)*
 - ★ **Say:** In our story today, Jesus accepted the children and let them be part of what he had to say. By accepting and including the children, Jesus made these two words a pair. We are the words that go with Jesus. And just as you have enough love for everyone that you know, Jesus has enough love for everyone in the whole world.

Live B.i.G. We can all be in a relationship with Jesus and associate our name with his. Jesus, as the Messiah, showed us that he wants us to love and honor him.

The B.i.G. Idea

We believe Jesus is the Messiah, the special one sent by God.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Caring Cards

Supplies: construction paper, pencils, crayons, markers

- Do** ★ **Say:** Jesus showed us how to include others when he included and accepted the children. We can accept others too! Let's make cards that can be given to visitors to let them know they are accepted and included in our church family.
- ★ Let the children make cards using the arts and crafts materials that you have made available.
 - ★ If your church has visitor packages, see if the cards can be included in those, or talk with your pastor to find a special way that the cards can be given to visitors.

Live B.i.G. Jesus lived on earth to show us how we are supposed to live. Jesus taught us to love and accept others, and so we learn to love and accept others.

B.i.G. Sounds: "He's The Messiah"

Supplies: DVD, Leader—page 14, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Play the B.I.G. Sounds Segment of the DVD.
- ★ Sing along with the cast to "He's the Messiah" (Leader—page 14).
 - ★ If time allows, play the B.I.G. Sounds Segment again to give children more time to learn the words.

Live B.i.G. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the special one sent by God to show us how to live.

Worship Together

Supplies: Bible, Leader—page 13

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy the Prayer Calendar (Leader—page 13) that you filled in on October 1 for students who may not have received a copy.

- ★ Photocopy the Prayer Concerns Sheet (Leader—page 13) for each child.

- Do** ★ Gather the children in the Worship Area.
- ★ **Say:** Today we learned a story about Jesus. Who remembers what the story was about?
 - ★ Allow time for the children to retell the story.
 - ★ **Say:** Jesus loves all children very much and believes they are important. Let's hear something else that Jesus said about children.
 - ★ Read (or have a child read) Matthew 18:1-5.
 - ★ **Say:** God sent Jesus, the Messiah, to show us how to love one another. Jesus showed us how to include everyone. Jesus is the Messiah, the Special One sent by God. Let's say our Bible verse for the month together.
 - ★ Lead the children in repeating the Bible verse: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).
 - ★ **Say:** One way we can show love for others is to include them in our prayers.
 - ★ Have the children take out their filled-in Prayer Calendars started in Lesson 5. (If a child does not have a filled-in prayer calendar, see Lesson 5 and Leader—page 13.)
 - ★ Point out the names of those who are to be prayed for during the following week. Ask for prayer concerns and praise reports.

Live B.i.G. Jesus is the Messiah, the special one sent by God, who shows us God's great love. We can extend God's love to others by praying for them.

A Child's Litany

Supplies: none

- Do** ★ **Say:** Let's close our time together today with a prayer litany of our names. When it is your turn, say your name, your age, and then: "Jesus loves me."
- ★ Give an example to the children. (I'm Sarah, I'm ten years old, and Jesus loves me.)
 - ★ **Say:** After each child takes his or her turn, we will respond with "Jesus loves" and then the name of each person. (*Jesus loves Sarah.*)
 - ★ Lead the children in the litany.
 - ★ **Pray:** Dear God, we thank you for loving us. We thank you for sending your special Son, Jesus the Messiah, to show us how to be a friend to everyone. Help us to think about you often and tell others about your great big love for us all. Amen.

Live B.i.G. Jesus loves each and every child. We say our names to hear and learn that Jesus loves us.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Prayer Concerns

Pair Up!

Cut the cards apart and give one to each child.
 Instruct the children to find the person who has the
 card that makes a pair with their own.

Cup	Saucer	Peanut Butter	Jelly	Table	Chair
Shoe	Sock	chip	Salsa	Ball	Glove
Coat	Mitten	Lock	Key	Salt	Pepper
Milk	Cookies	Needle	Thread	Crayon	Coloring Book
Pencil	Paper	Fork	Knife	Hand	Foot

He's the Messiah

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
When it comes to Jesus,
Children hold the key.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.

Jesus walked near the shore of Galilee.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
Jesus walked near the shore of Galilee.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
Telling the disciples,
"Come and follow me."
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.

Jesus helped
The poor and sick.
He lifted those who fell.
And when it comes
To living water,
Jesus is the well.

Jesus was sent to help all people see.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
Jesus was sent to help all people see.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
We can share a world of
Peace and harmony.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
The Messiah. He's the Messiah.
The Messiah.
Woo!

Words and Music by Mark Burrows

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