

January 7

Worship Theme: God wants us to believe in Jesus.

Children will worship Jesus for who he is.

Key Verse: Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

John 20:29



BEFORE:

- Arrive at church and have table/gym setup by 9:15 am.
- Review the lesson & activities. They will also be available online for teachers to review before Sunday.
- At 9:50 am, send basketball/kickball players to auditorium.

DURING:

Youth Helper:

Explain "Show 5 rules" Reflection Bell, and dismissal procedure.
Count kids and leaders, write on sticky note, put on table.

Lead Teacher: Go through LARGE GROUP lesson & main point

Lesson Let's Praise God script

Lesson

"Wise Men Worship Jesus"
"Wise Men Coloring sheet & decoding"

Reflection Bell

Youth Helper

Offering
Key memory verse
NEW Prayer ball (if you have time)

AFTER:

Clean-up, make any notes in notebook on behavior issues, activity challenges, etc.

John Baptizes Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

The baptism of Jesus did not represent cleansing from sin because Jesus was without sin. Instead, it allowed Jesus to identify with the people he had come to save and signaled to everyone that he was different—that he had not sinned but instead had lived a life pleasing to God. This event signaled the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry.

These verses depict the Trinity more clearly than almost any other passage in the Bible. We see all three members of the Trinity in action: Jesus being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, and the Father speaking from heaven. As Jesus was beginning his ministry, God made it clear that Jesus was his Son and that Jesus was doing precisely what God wanted him to do.

The symbolism of the Holy Spirit's descending on Jesus like a dove is very intentional. A dove represented both purity and gentleness. Instead of coming to harshly preach repentance as the prophets—including John the Baptist—had done, Jesus came in purity and with a message of love. After all, Jesus is God's ultimate demonstration of love, being sent to die for our sins "while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8).

God didn't speak to the crowd as he announced his pleasure with Jesus. He spoke directly to Jesus, encouraging him to fulfill the difficult task that lay before him.

Devotion for Leaders

From the very beginning, God planned to send Jesus to be our friend and to save us from the penalty of our sins. Praise God!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Many agree that Jesus was a good man and a moral teacher, but Christians know Jesus to be God's Son, sent by God to redeem a fallen world. Jesus came to the world with all the authority, approval, and power of God. He came for us. He came for you. Praise God today for loving you enough to send his Son for you.

Why We Worship for Leaders

God sent his Son into the world because he loved us and wanted us to believe in him. But God knew that people are naturally skeptical when they hear someone claiming to be sent by God. So God provided numerous ways for us to prove Jesus' claim to be the Messiah. First, Jesus fulfills every Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah. Second, God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people's hearts to welcome Jesus. Third, God made his own public endorsement of Jesus when Jesus was baptized by John.

You see, God knew how much the world needed Jesus. And God loved the world so much that he wanted us to recognize Jesus because it is only by recognizing who Jesus is that we can become children of God. A God who cares about us that much is worthy of our praise and worship. Let's worship him now.

Large Group

Hello, everyone! Welcome to children's church. Today we're worshipping God because he loves us so much and wants us to believe in Jesus.

We can't see God, even though he's right here with us now. We can't see Jesus either, even though he's also right here with us now.

Sometimes it's hard to believe in things we can't see. But there are lots of things we believe in even though we can't see them.

Ask how many children have been to Antarctica.

None of us has ever been to Antarctica. But all of us believe that Antarctica is a real place.

- **What other things do we believe in that we can't see?** (Air; germs; dust; mites; molecules; angels; the Holy Spirit.)

Pray ➤

- **Why do we believe in these things we can't see?** (We feel that they're there; I was taught that they exist; I trust they exist.)

There are many reasons to believe in things we can't see. Maybe you believe in Antarctica because you've seen pictures of it. Or maybe you've seen a TV show about Antarctica. It could be that someone you know has been there and told you all about it. Or maybe someone you trust told you all about Antarctica, and because you trust the person who told you about it, you believe what he or she said.

Let's play a game called True or False. Here's how to play.

I will make a statement and you will need to guess if it's True or False.

If you think it's TRUE - you will stand. If you think it's FALSE, stay seated.

Ready?

Here are the statements:

1. **Some lipsticks contain fish scales as an ingredient.**
2. **More than 2,500 left-handed people are killed each year from using products made for right-handed people.**
3. **A crocodile always grows new teeth to replace old teeth.**
4. **The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.**
5. **A donkey can always see all four of its feet.**
6. **Pillows in ancient Egypt were made out of stone.**
7. **If you're 4 feet tall or shorter, you'd fit inside a hippopotamus's mouth.**
8. **When you're born, you have 300 bones; when you grow up, you have only 206.**
9. **The state of Florida is bigger than the country of England.**
10. **Thomas Edison, who invented the light bulb, was afraid of the dark.**
11. **There are more plastic flamingos than real flamingos in the United States.**
12. **More people use blue toothbrushes than red ones.**
13. **In the White House, there are 13,092 forks, knives, and spoons.**
14. **A slug has four noses.**
15. **If you live in Bangladesh and you're at least 15, you can go to jail for cheating on your finals.**
16. **The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump.**
17. **The famous baseball player Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his ball cap to keep him cool. He changed the leaf every two innings.**
18. **Fortune cookies were invented in the United States.**
19. **The blesbok, a South African antelope, is almost the same color as grape juice.**
20. **It's estimated that millions of trees are accidentally planted by squirrels that bury nuts and then forget where they hid them.**
21. **Nose prints are used to identify dogs, just as humans are identified by fingerprints.**

(All statements are true.)

During this game, we discovered that sometimes even strange things can be true. Sometimes people decide not to believe in Jesus because the stories they read about him in the Bible sound too strange to be true. But God, the one who is more trustworthy than anyone else, tells us to believe in Jesus. And God wants us to believe in Jesus because believing in Jesus and following him means we'll spend eternity with God in heaven.



Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:29