



3rd – 5th

March 22-23, 2014

DATE

James

LESSON TITLE

James 1-3
NIV Adventure Bible (pp. 1353-1356)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God wants us to treat all people with kindness.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We're talking about James today. Like Ephesians, we can't possibly cover all that James entails. So encourage kids to read it on their own this week. Read it ahead of time so you can give them an idea of what to expect. Share the reasons why you enjoy reading it.

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to read James at home this week. Hopefully, their parents will overhear your encouragement and help keep them accountable!

large group heads up

We're talking about the book of James today. First, we'll focus on who James is, then give kids a taste of his teaching.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

ARE YOU MY BROTHER?

- Either split kids into small groups or create little “stations” around the room where small groups can congregate (you’ll need to share and trade images with other small groups).
- Show kids an **image** one picture at a time. Give them 1-2 minutes to think about what life would be like if that person was their *brother*, living in the same house.
 - You have 6 options: You can use them all or just choose the best ones for your group. Please make sure to include at least one real person.
- Use these questions to prompt discussion while considering each picture:
 - Would you like to have that person as your brother? Why or why not?
 - What do you think you would know about that person that nobody else knows?
 - Do you think you’d like that person better or worse if he was your brother? Explain.
 - What kinds of things would you maybe do differently if that person was your brother? Explain.
- Then talk to kids about the best/worst parts of their week.

BEFORE LARGE GROUP, GIVE EACH KID A SMALL PIECE OF STICKY TACK. TELL THEM TO HOLD ONTO IT DURING LARGE GROUP UNTIL THEY GET SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT IT.*

Then remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader’s instructions.

**If you think some kids can’t handle having it in their hands, feel free give larger pieces to only a few kids. Just make sure you let the presenter know so he/she can adjust accordingly!*

***If for some reason you can’t find the sticky tack, check the presentation area. It could have been left there during the preceding service.*



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand why James has authority to speak to Jesus-followers and (2) recognize specific instructions James gives us

Why? Hopefully, kids will be interested in finding out more about what Jesus' brother had to say!

Tip: If Pictionary is moving quickly, dig into the book of James and look up more examples to give teams.

small group

REVIEW JAMES

1. How does James know so much about how to act like Jesus?
2. Why did he write a book about following Jesus?
3. What can you remember about how James told us to treat people?

PICTIONARY REVIEW

PART I: PREPARATION

Lay the **verse cards** out and review them.

- a. **James 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry.**
 - b. **James 2:1 My brothers and sisters, you are believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. So treat everyone the same.**
 - c. **James 3:5 In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body. But it brags a lot. Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire.**
- Any questions? (Show kids where to find it in the Bible!)

PART II: PICTONARY.

- Split your group into two teams
- Give each team a **whiteboard and 2 dry erase markers**
- The first team selects an artist who chooses a **slip of paper** from your **paper bag**
- The artist has 60 seconds to draw while his/her team guesses which part of the verse he/she is drawing. They can use the verse cards for reference. (Use the **stopwatch** to keep time.)
- Then it's the next team's turn. Keep score and go back and forth, awarding one point per correct answer until all the slips have been used.
- **COLLECT SLIPS AND RETURN TO BAG FOR NEXT SERVICE**

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***Ask each kid to think of one person they have trouble treating well. Maybe that person just annoys them—or maybe that person is just plain mean. When each kid has come up with a name (but NOT shared it!), pray that God will help them act like Jesus this week.**

Extra time? Keep playing Pictionary, but let kids create their own ideas for art! If you have a lot of time, you can even give them blank slips of paper (just keep the James papers separate for the next service to use!) and select a theme, like “spring” or “America” or “The Bible.” Then begin playing again.

special notes

Today, we're trying out two new interactive activities to engage kids during large group. Let us know how it goes at kc@crossroads.net.

presenter tips

Preview today's clip here:
<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/despicable-me-2/afraid-to-date>

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Today, I'm really excited to talk about part of God's story again. But first, I want us to play the same game you were playing during Connect Time. Are you guys ready? I'm going to put up a picture, and I want you to think about what it would be like if this was your brother?

(Put up a picture of Jesus.) OK, we don't know exactly what this guy looks like in real life, but what would it be like if *Jesus* was your brother? What do you think it would be like? (Let kids respond.)

JAMES WAS JESUS' BROTHER

Those are some great ideas! And you know what's really cool? Jesus DID have brothers and sisters. And one of his brothers, a guy named James, helped a lot of people know Jesus more. He was a leader at a church in a city called Jerusalem, which is a city that still exists today in Israel (**show picture of maps**).

Not only was James a leader for people back then, he also wrote a book that told followers of Jesus how to act. And it's a book that's in the Bible, so we can still read it today. It's a really helpful way for us to understand how Jesus wants us to live once we've decided we want to follow him. And do you think James knew what he was talking about in his book? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, he probably knew Jesus pretty well, huh? Alright, let's take a look!

HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE

Now, the book isn't very long. You could definitely read it on your own this week. In fact, in small groups, your leader will help you figure out where to find it. But we're not going to take time to read the whole book right now.

Instead, we're going to look at a couple of the main points James made about how Jesus wants us to treat other people, since the book has a lot of truth about how we should act toward



script continued

others. To do that, we're going to watch a clip from a movie called *Despicable Me 2*. As you watch, you'll see some girls react to a character called Gru. As you watch, see if you can figure out what's wrong with how the girls treated Gru.

Video: "Afraid to Date" from *Despicable Me 2*

OK, so everybody think of one thing that's wrong with how these girls treated Gru. What do you think? *(Let kids respond. Just collect answers without going into much depth, but call on kids until you hit these: they didn't listen to him; were mean about him having a crush on one of them, even though was talking about a cute boy; they said mean things about him that still hurt him years later. Then elaborate.)*

This is a funny clip, but the truth is, it does NOT show us the kind of behavior that James tells us to have if we want to act like Jesus. Let's take a look:

THEY DIDN'T LISTEN

First of all, would they even listen to him? (Let kids say: No!) Did it seem like they liked him very much? (Let kids say: No!) No, it's like they were completely ignoring him and didn't want to hear what he had to say. James tells us how to handle a situation like that:

James 1:19: My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry.

In a second, I'm going to ask you to stand up and find at least one other person whose name starts with the same letter as yours—if you find a couple, great! With that person, decide what the girls could have done differently. Ready? Go! (Let kids respond. Stop them, choose a random letter of the alphabet, and ask people whose names begin with that letter to come up and share.)

THEY SHOWED FAVORITISM

OK, there was something else that happened. The girls were busy talking about a really cute boy on TV, so we know they didn't think *all* boys had cooties. But why do you think they said Gru had cooties? (Let kids say: Didn't think he was cute.)

Now, it's OK to be attracted to some people and not attracted to others. But we need to treat everyone nicely. It's NOT OK to say somebody you think is unattractive has cooties! Here's what James has to say about it:

SLIDE: James 2:1 My brothers and sisters, you are believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. So treat everyone the same.

Remember, brothers and sisters means everyone who's a part of God's family. So James is talking to US when he says this. He talks about how we should treat rich people and poor people the same way. That means we should treat popular people and unpopular people with the same amount of kindness. Because God loves ALL of us, no matter who we are or what we've done.



script continued

THEY SAID HURTFUL THINGS

OK, let's look at one more thing that happened in our Despicable Me 2 clip: the girls said hurtful things—things that were so mean, that Gru remembered them years and years later! James reminds us of how powerful words are in James 3:5:

SLIDE: James 3:5 In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body. But it brags a lot. Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire.

You all got a little piece of clay before you came in here. One by one let's add our clay to create one BIG piece. (Give kids a chance to add their sticky tack together; then take the final big clump. Then hold up the big piece of clay.) You all had a teeny tiny piece of this. It probably didn't seem like a big deal. But now it's pretty big and we can all see it, even if you're sitting farthest away from me.

Words are like that. One tiny hurtful thing can get other people to say mean things or cause a person to think badly about themselves over and over again until it's a BIG deal. Maybe somebody will still be hurt many years after the words have been said, like Gru. James knew that we can't take back what we say, so it's important to be careful with our words.

WRAP UP

Now, some of these things might sound obvious. Of course, Jesus wants us to listen to people and treat them nicely. But James knew how hard that can be in the moment, and how easily we forget. So he wrote about just how important it really is! We'll talk more about this in small groups. For now, let's worship Jesus together.

WORSHIP

You know, Jesus wants us to treat others well, because we are ALL so precious to him. Let's start with a song about that! Our next song is all about how Jesus is with us, to help us to act like him. All we have to do is call his name!

Music Video: Who I Am

Song: You Come In A Hurry

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and ask Jesus to help us act like him this week.

***PUT THE STICKY TACK BACK INTO THE ROOMS FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICE TO DISTRIBUTE DURING CONNECT TIME.**



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

3 packs of sticky tack per room (to be re-used from service to service)
6 images, each printed individually in color on a

piece of cardstock (Connect Time images doc)-2 per room

small group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1353-1356)
1 stopwatch per small group
3 verse cards per small group printed on colored cardstock
2 whiteboards per group
2 dry erase markers per group
1 brown paper bag with slips of paper (cut from template;

each bag should have 7 slips of paper)
Markers, paper
Extra slips of blank, white paper

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 1353-1356)

a/v needs

1. Image: Jesus
2. 2 images side by side: Israel map and world map
3. Video: Despicable Me 2 clip "Afraid to Date"
<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/despicable-me-2/afraid-to-date>
4. SLIDE: James 1:19: My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry.
5. SLIDE: James 2:1 My brothers and sisters, you are believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. So treat everyone the same.
6. SLIDE: James 3:5 In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body. But it brags a lot. Think about how a small spark can set a big forest on fire.
7. Music Video: Who I Am
8. Song: You Come In A Hurry (with hand motions)

connect questions

Tell me about James.
How should we treat others?

parent page

We talked about the book of James, which was written by one of Jesus' brothers! It's written for followers of Jesus and gives a lot of practical insight on how to live like Jesus. Today, we talked about some of the things James says about relating to other people. Ask your kid about it. And encourage him/her to read the whole book in the Bible this week!