



3rd – 5th

November 28-29, 2015

DATE

Preparing for Jesus

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 22:1-19; Exodus 12:1-30; Isaiah 53;
Luke 22; Isaiah 9:6

WHERE TO FIND IT

God prepared us for Jesus because he loves us.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (20 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 (10 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

Before kids start arriving, decide how your team wants to run the small group activity. Feel free to adapt it to best suit your room.

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to tear off a piece of the graffiti wall. It might not be what they wrote, but it will remind them to give thanks!

As kids leave, make sure they each get an **Advent postcard!**

large group heads up

We're talking about the greatest gift of all: Jesus. Hopefully this will cause kids to feel thankful and generate excitement to celebrate his birth throughout the Christmas season.



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.*

PREPARING FOR A TRIP

- Choose a leader. This person will make up a rule that nobody else knows and the goal is to figure out the rule.
- He/she is *going* to say, "I'm going on a trip and I'm going to bring _____." But **FIRST**, think of a rule:
 - Kids can say anything they want but **there must be a RULE for it.**
 - Examples of rules are: items that begin with the letter B, round items, items that have two syllables, items that end in vowels, items that begin with the same letter as the player's first name, and anything else you can think of
- Once there's a rule, say, "I'm going on a trip and I'm going to bring _____ (something that fits the rule)."
- Then go around the circle and kids will ask, "Can I bring a _____ on the trip?"
- The leader will answer "yes" or "no."
- Do one sample round (with an adult leader). Your rule can be: items that begin with "S."
- Then play as many times as you can!

TALK ABOUT IT

- If you were going on a real trip, what would you bring? Why?
- What does it mean to prepare for something? Why do we prepare?

Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand that God prepared us for Jesus and (2) praise God for sending Jesus.

Why? Jesus is the greatest gift God could give us; the fact that he prepared us for Jesus just shows how deeply he loves us.

Tip: Kids heard the Gospel today. If they have questions, just explain what Jesus did in your own words.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What does it mean to prepare? Why do we prepare?
2. How did God prepare us for Jesus? (a ram died so Isaac didn't have to, lambs died so that God's family didn't have to)
3. Why did God prepare us for Jesus? (he wanted to make sure we were ready so we can receive his love and follow him)
4. Why was Jesus willing to take our punishment and be *our* substitute?
5. Do you have any questions about what Jesus did for us?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Let's keep Thanksgiving going!

- Get **a large, tear-off sheet of paper** and **tape** it to the wall. Tell kids it's our "graffiti wall." You can do one large one for the room or several smaller ones. (You can also lay it on the floor if it's too difficult to keep it on the wall.)
- Using **chalk**, have each kid draw/write why they are thankful today. They can write as many as they want and completely fill it up.
- Go around and look at what others wrote.
- Make sure kids show the adult who picks them up! Then have them tear off a piece—even if they didn't write on that part. It'll remind them to give thanks!

***Then pray and thank God together for sending Jesus and preparing us!**

Extra Time? Play the Connect Time game again. Or grab some paper and play Pictionary using pictures that remind kids of Thanksgiving. You could also play a group game like charades or Simon Says.

*Make sure kids get an **Advent postcard** on their way out!*

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special notes

This is a day of understanding what an amazing gift Jesus is, and thanking God for him.

presenter tips

There are several videos today. If you want to have kids stand up and stretch a little between them, go for it!

script

**Click to play intro music.*

WELCOME AND INTRO (4 min.)

Hi, everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Today, we're talking about giving thanks. And we're going to spend time thanking God for the greatest gift he ever gave us!

First though, let's talk about that game you just played. You were preparing for a trip. Now, that game was mostly just silly, but what does it mean to prepare? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it means to get ready for something. One thing we all do is get out of bed in the morning and get ready for our day. Who wants to share one way they prepare for the day? (Let kids share.) Great examples. And just for fun, here's another guy who's preparing for his day.

Video: The Lego Movie_Good Morning (2 min.)

It's important to prepare for a day at school, to take a test, to play a sport, to stay with a friend and much more. But why is it important to prepare for something? (Let kids respond.) That's right, it'll usually go better. If you're ready for a test, you probably get a better grade. If you're ready to play a sport, it means you might help your team win. Being ready makes the actual experience that much better!

GOD PREPARED US FOR JESUS (8 min.)

And you know what? The more important something is, the more prepared we need to be. We might need to study a little bit for a quiz. But we study a LOT for a big test! We might need to roll out of bed and eat some breakfast to get ready for a Saturday at home. But we need to set an alarm clock, brush our teeth, get dressed, maybe take a shower for a day at school.



script continued

The most important thing we can ever be ready for is Jesus. See, when people first disobeyed God, our wrong choices separated us from him. So he planned a rescue! He planned to send his own son to take the punishment for all the wrong things we did. That way, we could be close to him again instead of separated by their wrong choices!

Tis rescue plan is REALLY important, so God got us ready to meet Jesus for many, many years. Let's watch a video to see how God prepared us for Jesus.

Video: God's Story / God Prepared Us for Jesus (4 min.)

Wow, so how did God prepare us for Jesus? (Let kids respond.) That's right. He caused certain things to happen so that we would understand what Jesus did for us. He knew it might be hard to see how one person could take the punishment for everyone, and God wanted it to make sense.

Abraham was supposed to give up his son Isaac, but a ram died so Isaac didn't have to! Then God was getting ready to punish Pharaoh by getting rid of all the oldest sons. But God's family killed lambs instead and their sons got to live! We deserve to die because we've disobeyed God. But Jesus died so that we don't have to. It doesn't mean we'll live forever on this earth, but one day, God will re-create a perfect world and we'll get to live there with *him*.

And God actually prepared us in other ways too, like telling us what Jesus would be like hundreds and hundreds of years before he was born. Here's one verse that describes Jesus from Isaiah 9:6.

**SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Wow, let's read those words together again: (repeat verse). God must really love us to prepare us for a rescuer like that!

JESUS IS HERE! (6 min.)

Now, it would be silly to get ready for a test and then not fill out any of the answers. Or get ready to play a soccer game and then decide to dribble the ball like a basketball. When we're ready for something, we do it!

So what can we do to get ready for Jesus? (Let kids respond, but you may have to help.) Yes, we choose to receive his rescue. We choose to admit that we've done wrong things but that he took our punishment so we can be close to God. Then we follow him!

We're going to spend some time receiving that! As we listen to a video about love, really think about how much God loves you. He loves you so much that he sent Jesus to rescue you. And



script continued

he loves you so much that he prepared you for the rescue! Right now, let his love soak in and talk to him about whatever you want. Lay down, spread out, get comfortable and listen!

Video: Take A Minute: Love (4 min.)

THANK GOD FOR JESUS (AND OTHER GIFTS) (5 min.)

Now, since we've hopefully been giving thanks all week, let's continue. Let's thank God for giving us the gift of Jesus and preparing us to receive him! And if you're still not sure you understand what Jesus did for us, that's OK. Keep asking God to tell you. Remember, he sent Jesus so he could be close to us. That means he wants to talk to us and listen to us.

In your head, think of one thing you want to thank God for. It could be something about Jesus or something else. When you've got one, stand up (let kids stand). OK, now find somebody whose name starts with the same letter as yours. When you do, tell them what you're thankful for! (Adults may have to help kids pair up. Then let them share.)

When you've shared, have a seat (let kids sit). I want to hear the best thing you heard someone ELSE give thanks for! (Let kids share what others said.)

I'm grateful for those things too. One thing I feel especially thankful for is _____ (*share a personal example of something God has done in your life that you're thankful for*).

I hope that as we start to think about Christmas and how Jesus was born, you guys feel extremely thankful that God sent Jesus and that he prepared us for Jesus. I hope you're thankful for all the things God has done in your life, big and small. I hope you feel more loved by him than you ever have before.

WORSHIP (6 min.)

One way we can thank God and show him we love him back is by singing to him. Stand up and let's praise him! First, we'll tell him we love him. Then we'll tell him we want to be close to him by listening to him, just like he wants to be close to us.

Music Video: You Are

Music Video: Love Beats Fear

PRAY

Does anybody want to come and pray for us today?

SHOW ADVENT IMAGE (you can leave it up during small group so parents see it too)

If you want to have some fun counting down to Christmas, ask a parent to go to CrossroadsKidsClub.net/advent starting on December 1 (Tuesday!). There will be a video or activity you can do together to celebrate. You'll get a postcard on your way out to remind you. Now let's head to small groups!



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per group

“Going on a Trip” game - No supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid

1pc chalk per kid (reused)

1 Advent postcard (to be handed out at the door)

Other

1 Advent postcard (to be handed out at check out)

Per group

Markers

1 Bible

1 large tear-off sheet of paper
painters or masking tape

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: The Lego Movie_Good Morning (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDFRA2ACH4Q>)
3. Video: God's Story / Preparing for Jesus (<https://vimeo.com/92615711>)
4. SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
5. Video: Take A Minute / Love (<https://vimeo.com/76446558>)
6. Music Video: You Are (<https://vimeo.com/112963091>)
7. Music Video: Love Beats Fear (<https://vimeo.com/113716523>)
8. Image: Advent

connect questions

How did God prepare us for Jesus?
What are you most thankful for today?

parent page