



3rd - 5th

May 21-22, 2016

DATE

John

LESSON TITLE

John; Ephesians 4:29

WHERE TO FIND IT

God wants us to speak to him.

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

Sometimes you won't know the answer to everything, and it's important to let kids see that. If you're not sure how to answer a question, tell them that you sometimes need help too. Then see if you can find the answer in the Bible! Or encourage kids to ask God.

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them about their prayer journals, and what each page means.

large group heads up

Today is all about prayer. We'll learn about John, and how his relationship with Jesus was strengthened through speaking to Jesus, and letting Jesus speak to him.



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.*

ACTING CHARADES

- Divide kids into small groups.
- In each small group, choose two kids be **actors**. The rest of the group will be the **guessers**.
- Whisper to the actors that they have to try and show the rest of the group that they are **hungry**.
- Tell the rest of the group that they have to guess what the actors are trying to tell them. The only rule is that for the first round of guessing, **the actors can't say any words or move any parts of their body; they can only make sounds**.
- Let the actors try to communicate to the rest of the group that they they're hungry, without words or movements. Give them 10 seconds.
- If the group can't guess in 10 seconds, let the actors start to **use movements, but no words**. Give the group 10 more seconds to guess.
- If the group still can't guess in 10 seconds, then let the actors **use words** (but not the actual word, of course!).
- Once the group guesses what the actors are trying to say, **choose two new actors**. Give them a new thing to try and act out, and but use the same instructions as before.
- Play the game until everyone in the group has taken a turn acting. If you finish before Connect Time is over, then start over and play until time is up.
- Here are suggestions of what actors can try to tell the group (Some will go faster, and some will take longer to guess):
 - I'm sad
 - I'm driving
 - I'm riding a roller coaster
 - I'm playing with a dog
 - I'm a lion
 - I'm getting ready in the morning for school
 - I'm playing on a playground

TALK ABOUT IT

- When was it hard to guess what the actor was doing?
- Who you talk to the most? What different ways do you talk to people besides face to face?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. 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 how John stayed close to Jesus through prayer, (2) recognize how we can talk to Jesus in many different ways and (3) practice praying through asking, repenting and praising.

Why? Talking to God doesn't always come naturally; we have to learn different ways to speak to him, and put them into practice!

Tip: Tell kids one way you like to pray! Maybe you like to go somewhere special, or maybe you like to listen to music to help you hear God. Share it with the kids!

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What ways did John stay close to Jesus? (he listened, prayer/talked, repented, asked, praised, told Jesus about his day.)
2. How did John hear from God? (He saw a picture God wanted him to share with others.)
3. Why do you think God wants us to pray? (He wants relationship with us; he wants to be close to us.)
4. What were the main ways of praying that talked about today? (Asking, repenting, praising, listening.)
5. Which of those things is the hardest to do? Which is the easiest for you?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Pass each kid a **four journal pages** (1 of each of the following: Ask, Repent, Praise and Listen.) and set out **markers**. Tell kids that there are different ways to talk to God, and one of them is to **write to him!**
- Guide kids through writing/drawing on each of the following pages:
 - **ASK:** Tell kids to think of one thing they want to ask God for this week, and write it down on the first page.
 - **REPENT:** Tell kids to think of one thing they want to repent of (tell God sorry for), and write it on down on the next page. How will they turn back toward him?
 - **PRAISE:** Tell kids to think of thing they want to praise God for (it could something they're thankful for, or they can just write about how they feel about God) and write it on the next page.
 - **LISTEN:** Tell kids to fill in this page this week. First, they need to spend time listening to God; then they can write down what they hear from God
(Continued on next page.)

- If you have time, listen for a minute or two now!
- You can also encourage kids to draw pictures to go along with their written prayers!
- Gather each kid's 4 pages in a stack, and **staple** them on one side (like a book.)

Extra Time? Play some more charades from Connect Time! This time, have kids act out with movements, no sounds or words at all!

special notes

Think about the things you've recently talked to God about. Maybe you even prayed before teaching this lesson! Share this with kids, and tell them how it impacts your life.

presenter tips

We'll be watching two videos in today's lesson:

God's Story / John:

<https://vimeo.com/30314880>

Take a Minute / Listen:

<https://vimeo.com/104309273>

script

***Click to play intro music**

WELCOME AND INTRO

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here. That game you all played was kind of hard, wasn't it? Can someone tell me what made it so difficult to guess what the actors were trying to say? (Let a few kids respond.) That's right! The actors weren't allowed to talk or make motions at first! They could barely do anything to show you that they were hungry, or sad, or getting ready for school in the morning. What were they allowed to do after the first 10 seconds was up? (Let kids respond.) Yep, they could use movements, and then words. What happened then? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it was a lot to easier to guess what they were doing.

What if it was like that with your friends, and you could only communicate with each other in sounds, or motions? What would happen? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, that would be really hard. In fact, it would be hard to stay friends, because you wouldn't really be able to know what that person is going through, or talk about your own life.

Maybe we don't just use sounds and motions, but sometimes we don't talk to our friends as much. What happens then? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, you probably become less close. Now what do you think happens when we don't talk to Jesus, or we only talk to him in one way? (Let kids respond.) You're right! We get farther away from him.

Today we're going to talk about how Jesus wants us to speak to him. But not in just one way; he wants us to speak to him in a lot of different ways!

INTRO: JOHN

To help us understand how we can be closer to Jesus, we're going to talk about a guy named John. John was one of Jesus' 12 disciples; that means he followed Jesus and learned from him. He was also Jesus' really close friend. Remember what we just talked about, how



script continued

speaking to our friends is really important? Well John LOVED talking to Jesus. He knew that if wanted to be close to Jesus, he needed to spend time with him, and get to know him!

The thing is, Jesus eventually had to go to heaven, and John had to learn new ways to speak to Jesus, even if he wasn't physically there on earth anymore. We're going to watch a video about John's friendship with Jesus, and all the different ways they stayed close to each other. As you watch, pay attention to how John stayed close to Jesus, even after he couldn't be near him physically anymore.

Video: God's Story / John

Can you remember some of the ways John stayed close to Jesus? (Let several kids respond.) Yep, he prayed to Jesus, and spoke to him in a lot of different ways! He asked Jesus to help him, he said sorry and told Jesus when he made wrong choices, he thanked God, and he told him how he felt, and he listened for when God wanted to speak to him. Let's talk about a couple of these things more in depth.

ASKING

What things do you ask for throughout the week? (Let several kids respond.) Okay, now WHO do you ask for those things from? (Let kids respond.) Well, we'll always have to ask people for things, but one really important way that we can speak to Jesus and stay close to him is by asking HIM for things. After all, he's the one who made everything, and he can do anything! Sometimes we're going to be afraid, and we'll need to ask Jesus to help us. Maybe we have to do something really hard, and we need to ask him for bravery. Maybe you know someone who is sick, and you need to ask Jesus to help them get better.

Everybody think in your head about something you want to ask Jesus for this week. (Give kids 10 seconds to quietly think.) **Okay, now turn to a friend, and tell them what you want to ask for from Jesus.** (Let kids talk with each other for about a minute.) Great job guys!

REPENTING

There's another really important way to talk to Jesus, called repenting. Does anybody know what it means to repent? (Let a few kids respond.) It's when we realize we've done something wrong, and we tell God we're sorry. Then we turn away from that wrong choice and follow Jesus instead.

This isn't always fun, is it? It can be hard to admit when you've done something wrong, and even harder to tell God about it. But he actually wants us to talk to him about the wrong choices we make, because it means we're being honest with him, and trying to follow him. He loves us no matter what we do, so we can always turn back to him and repent. Let's practice now. Remember our verse from Ephesians?

SLIDE: Ephesians 4:29 Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.

Now, I bet all of us have said something rude or snippy or downright mean. I know I have. If



script continued

you want to repent, think of one time you said something that didn't help others (pause). Now, in your head, say "I repent!" Then ask God to bless—or to be with—the person you were rude to. (Pause. *Then model for kids by praying out loud your own repenting and blessing of the person you hurt.*) When we repent, we stop doing wrong, and obey God instead!

PRAISING

Another way to pray is to praise. What do you think it means to praise Jesus? (Let several kids respond.) Great answers! When we praise Jesus, it means we focus only on him, and we show him how much we love him. Sometimes it's through singing songs, sometimes it's telling him thank you for everything he's done for us. Sometimes it means we tell him "I love you!"

Let's praise God right now by telling him thank you. **Everybody, turn to a friend and tell them one thing that you want to thank God for.** (Let kids talk for about a minute.)

LISTENING

There's one more way to stay close to Jesus, and that's listening. Do you remember how John listened to God? What did God do after that? (Let kids respond.) He shows John a picture in his dream, something that he wanted John to share with others.

God wants to do the same thing with us. He wants us to listen to him, so that he can tell us how to follow him, and share him with others. Sometimes we have to slow down, stop talking and open our ears to what God wants to say.

RESPONSE TIME

Let's practice listening to God right now. We're going to watch a video that will help us understand the different ways he talks to us. As you listen, try to focus only on God, and ask him what he wants to tell or show you. You can even close your eyes if that helps you focus.

Video: Take a Minute / Listen

We all need to take time to clear our heads and listen to God, because it helps bring us closer to him, just it did with John. And just like we have to spend time with our friends to stay close to them, we have to spend time with Jesus through all the different ways we've talked about today. Let's pray right now and ask him to help us do that.

PRAY

Jesus, we want to be your close friend. Please help us to make time this week to talk to you, and get to know you better. We love you so much, and want to praise you for always being here for us. Amen.

WORSHIP

Today we talked about how praising God is a great way to talk to him, so let's do that right now by standing up and singing to him!

Music Video: You Are



script continued

Music Video: Love Beats Fear

**Dismiss kids to small groups*

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Charades – No supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid: Four ¼ sheet journal pages on white paper (1 of each of the following: Ask, Repent, Praise, Listen)

Per group: markers, Bible, 1 stapler

large group supplies

No supplies needed

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: God's Story / John <https://vimeo.com/30314880>
3. Slide: Ephesians 4:29 Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Than what you say will help those who listen.
4. Video: Take a Minute / Listen <https://vimeo.com/104309273>
5. Music Video: You Are <https://vimeo.com/112963091>
6. Music Video: Love Beats Fear <https://vimeo.com/113716523>

connect questions

Tell me about John.

How can we stay close to Jesus?

parent page