



Kindergarten-2nd

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!

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.*

CHARADES RELAY

- Split kids into **small groups** and choose one volunteer to be the game leader.
- Have each small group stand in a **line**.
- Explain to kids that when you say "Go!", the first kid in each line has to come up to the game leader. The leader will whisper something to them (from the list at the bottom of this activity.) Then, that kid has to go back to their group and act it out **without saying any words**. They can only use physical movements.
- Once the group has guessed what the kid is acting out, the **next kid** in line can run up to the leader and find out the next thing to act out. Then they have to go back to their group and act it out until the group guesses.
- Repeat with each kid in line until every kid has had a turn. Whoever finishes first, wins! (You can then start over and continue playing the game if there's still time.)
- Here are suggestions for the leader to whisper to kids:
 - Elephant
 - Cat
 - Driving a car
 - Swimming
 - Snake
 - Playing baseball
 - Bird
 - Playing videogames
 - Ice skating
 - Lion
 - Running
 - Frog

TALK ABOUT IT

- What would have happened if you could make noises AND movements? Would it be harder, or easier?
- What would happen if we couldn't talk out loud to our friends?

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: What have you prayed about this week? Share a kid-friendly example with kids, as well as your favorite place or way to pray.

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 when he was sleeping? (He saw a picture God wanted him to share with others, God showed him the picture in a dream.)
3. Why do you think God wants us to pray? (He wants a relationship with us; he wants to be close to us.)
4. What do you guys like best about talking and listening to God?
5. What are some ways to pray? (Asking, repenting, praising, and listening. Review the motions that go along with each!)

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 or draw a picture.
 - **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 or draw a picture.
 - **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 or draw a picture.
 - **LISTEN:** Tell kids to fill in this page sometime this week. First, they need to spend sometime listening to God, then they can write down what they think God wants them to hear.
- Gather each kid's 4 pages in a stack, and **staple** them on one side (like a book.)

*Extra Time? Give kids a **coloring page**. After that, have kids play the Telephone Telephone game from Connect Time again!*

special notes

Look ahead through the script and practice the motions to go with each aspect of prayer we're talking about today: Asking, Repenting, Praising and Listening.

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 you're here! I hope you had fun playing that game. Does anybody want to share what you had to act out in front of your team? (Let several kids respond.) Wow, some of those things might be kind of hard to act out!

Was it hard not being able to make any noises or say words to your team? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it probably was. Maybe if you were trying to act like a cat, your team would guess a lot faster if you made what kind of noise? (Let kids respond.) That's' right, a meow would have helped!

The same thing happens with our friends. What would happen if you didn't get to talk to your best friend for a really long time? (Let kid respond.) Yeah, you might not be very close to them. You wouldn't know what's happening in their life, and they wouldn't know what happening in YOUR life! Talking to our friends helps us to stay close to each other.

There's someone else that wants to be close to us, just like we're close with our friends. Do you know who that might be? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's Jesus! He wants to be really close friends with us, but the only way to do that is if he can talk to us, and we can talk to him.

INTRO: JOHN

There was a guy in the Bible who knew all about this. His name was 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 talking 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!



script continued

While Jesus was living on earth, John was able to be around him all the time, and talk to him face to face. Just like we do with our friends! But after Jesus rescued us from all the wrong things in the world, it was time for him to go to heaven. That means that John could talk to him in person anymore. But do you think there were other ways for John to stay close to Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Absolutely!

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 Jesus went to heaven.

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

First, John ASKED Jesus for things that he needed, and we can do the same thing. 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 heal and get better. We all have things that we need help with, and Jesus WANTS us to come to him and ask. Let's do a special motion to help us remember to ASK. Put both hands in front of you and face your palms upward. (Let kids respond.) Great job!

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. It's 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 we follow Jesus instead. To help us remember to repent, let's do this motion. Hold one hand up in front of you, and flip it back and forth (Showing palm forward, than palm backward.) Good job guys.

If you think it's hard to admit when you've made a wrong choice, raise your hand. (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's hard for me too. But guess what? God wants us to tell him about those wrong choices, no matter how hard it is. 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.



script continued

Now, I bet all of us have said something rude or snippy or downright mean. I know I have. If you want to repent, think of one time you said something that didn't help others (pause). Now, in your head, say "I repent!" and 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.*)

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 or dancing, sometimes it's telling him thank you for everything he's done for us. Sometimes it means we just tell him "I love you!" Can you all think of something we often do at the end of Large Group to praise Jesus? (Let kids respond.) That's right, we worship Jesus by singing songs and telling him out loud how much we love him! You don't have to only praise Jesus at church though. You can praise anytime!

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.) Okay, now let's do another motion, this time to help us remember to praise Jesus. Let's all lift our hands as high as we can!

LISTENING

There's another way to stay close to Jesus, and that's listening. In the video we watched, we saw how important it was for John to speak and pray to Jesus, but it was also just as important to LISTEN to Jesus. Do you think God has things he wants to tell us? (Let kids respond.) He does! We just have to make sure that have quiet time where we can listen really carefully to what God says.

God may want to tell us new ways to follow him, and share him with others. He might want to show us a picture in our head, like he showed a picture to John in his dream! Or he might put a thought in your mind. Let's do one last motion for today to show how can listen to God. Put your hands behind your ears. (Let kids respond.)

RESPONSE TIME

Do you think you can remember all the motions we've learned today? Let's put them all together right now.

- ASK: Put both hands in front of you and face your palms upward
- REPENT: Hold one hand up in front of you, and flip it back and forth (Showing palm forward, than palm backward.)
- PRAISE: Lift your hands
- LISTEN: Put you hands behind your ears.

Great job everybody. Now let's practice listening to God right now. Everyone close your eyes, and be as quiet as you can. I want you to ask God, silently in your head, what he wants to tell you. Then, just listen. (Give kids 10 seconds of silence.)

PRAY



script continued

Jesus, we love you so much. We want to be closer to you, and be your friend. Please help us ask you for things, tell you when we're sorry, praise you, and listen to you. Amen!

WORSHIP

Remember how we talked about praising! Well we're going to do that right now by singing to Jesus out loud and showing him how thankful we are for him.

Music Video: Trust in the Lord

Music Video: Jesus Loves Me

**Dismiss kids to small groups*

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Charades Relay – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid: coloring page, 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. Then what you say will help those who listen.
4. Music Video: Trust in the Lord (<https://vimeo.com/153815987>)
5. Music Video: Jesus Loves Me (<https://vimeo.com/44164426>)

connect questions

Tell me about John.

How can we stay close to Jesus?

parent page