

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS, LESSON ONE OVERVIEW

LESSON PREP:

Materials Needed:

- One copy of one activity page for each student (choose one page depending on the preference or ages of your students)
- Dry erase board and marker or blackboard and chalk
- Exploding Balloons Game materials
- Getting To Know You Game materials
- "Pray the Word" Bookmark craft materials for each student.
- One copy of the Week One Bible Reading Page, printed and folded, for each student

Before the Lesson:

- Write John 10:14-15 out on the dry erase board or blackboard.
- Prep Games and Craft as desired

SUGGESTED LESSON ORDER:

1. Students arrive. Informal time. Allow students to complete/color activity page. (5-10 minutes)
2. Play Dry Erase Bible Verse Game (see instructions below) with John 10:14-15. (10 minutes)
3. Play Exploding Balloons Bible Verse Game. (5 minutes)
4. Go through Lesson (10-15 minutes)
5. Play "Getting to Know You" game. (10 minutes)
6. Work on "Pray the Word" Bookmark craft. (15 minutes)
7. Hand out "Getting To Know Jesus" Week 1 Bible Reading Page and Dismiss Class

DRY ERASE BIBLE VERSE GAME

Write the Bible verse on the dry erase or chalk board. Repeat the verse several times with the class. Then, erase one or two words from the verse. Repeat the verse again, seeing if the students can remember the missing words. Erase one or two more words and say the verse again. Repeat until all of the words are erased and the class is able to say the verse without looking.

To make this more fun, invite students up to erase a word, and let them choose the words to be erased.

MAJOR IDEAS FOR THIS LESSON:

- It's not enough to know facts about Jesus. We need to know Him as our Savior, Lord, and Friend.
- We can get to know Jesus through reading the Bible.
- Jesus will change our hearts as we get to know Him.
- If we do not keep Jesus' Words, we do not truly know Him or love Him.

PRAY:

This week your students will be memorizing John 10:14-15 and John 17:3. Pray these verses over your students. Pray that they would know their own hearts, whether they truly know Jesus as their Savior or only know facts about Him. Pray that they would love God's Word and have a genuine desire to obey it. Pray that they would desire to get to know Jesus better.

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS, LESSON ONE

Do you know who the President (or Prime Minister) of your country is? (Have kids answer.)

That's great! You know who (*your President or PM*) is! But, do you actually **know** (*your President or PM*)? If you saw (*your President or PM*) on the street, could you run up and give (*him/her*) a hug? Would (*your President or PM*) be delighted to see you? Do you know what (*he/she*) is really like at home, when no one is around?

There is a big difference between knowing **facts** about a person and **actually knowing the person**.

How can you get to really know someone? (*Allow discussion.*)

Do you **know** Jesus? **Really know** Him? A lot of you have been learning facts about Jesus, and that is wonderful! But, the Bible tells us that it's not enough to know facts about Jesus. We need to not only know **about** Jesus - Who He is and what He did - but **we also need to know Jesus as our Savior, Lord, and friend**.

Jesus tells us that He knows us, and He talks about how important it is for us to know Him. I am going to read the words of Jesus in John 10:11-15. As I read, every time I say the word "know", I want you all to repeat it in a loud voice. Here's a practice run. Do you **know** (*PAUSE and let kids shout KNOW!*) Jesus? Do you **know** (*PAUSE and let kids shout KNOW!*) what to do now? All right, here we go!

Read John 10:11-15

Who is the Good Shepherd in this passage? (*Allow discussion.*)

What does the Good Shepherd do for His sheep in verse 11? (*Allow discussion.*)

How does the hired hand take care of the sheep? (*Allow discussion.*)

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows His own sheep and takes care of them. And, in verse 14, we see that Jesus' sheep, His people, know Him as their Shepherd.

I am going to read John 10:1-5, and I want you to shout the word "know" when you hear it.

Read John 10:1-5.

Excellent job! But now, we are done! You don't have to shout the word "know" anymore.

Jesus calls His sheep by name and leads them. Why do the sheep follow the Good Shepherd and not the stranger? *(Allow discussion.)*

We must each ask ourselves, "Do I know Jesus? Do I recognize His voice or His words?"

Some of you might be wondering, how can we really get to know Jesus? It's not like we can have a conversation with Him, right? It's not like we can see Him and walk with Him, eat with Him and talk with Him, right?

Wrong! We **can** talk to Jesus and hear His Words and even know what it's like to walk with Him and eat with Him - and Jesus tells us how.

Read John 14:18-26

Jesus promised His followers (and us!) that even after He died and the world could no longer see Him, His followers would still be able to know Him.

Read John 14:21 again. If we love Jesus, what will we do? *(Allow discussion.)*

If we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord, love Him, and keep His commandments, what will God the Father do? *(Allow discussion - He will love us.)* Jesus Christ died and paid the price for our sins. We could never make ourselves right with God by our own actions. But, once we put our trust in Jesus, our hearts will change and we will desire to obey Jesus.

What will Jesus do for those who love Him and keep His commandments? *(Allow discussion - He will love us and disclose, manifest, or show Himself to us. Talk briefly about what the words disclose or manifest means if used in your Bible version and help kids understand that this means that Jesus will help us to get to know Him.)*

Jesus says this same thing again in a different way in John 14:23. **Read John 14:23.** If we love Jesus, what will we do? *(Allow discussion - We will keep His word.)*

What will God the Father do for those who love Jesus and keep His word? *(Allow discussion - God the Father will love us.)*

What will Jesus and God the Father do for those who love Jesus and keep His word? *(Allow discussion - God the Father and Jesus will make Their abode or Their home with them.)*

In other words, when we know and obey Jesus' words in the Bible, Jesus will be with us in every part of our lives. Jesus will be with us when we fall asleep at night, when we wake up in the morning. He will be beside us and hear our prayers when we are sitting alone in the cafeteria or struggling during a math test. He will be with us and give us strength to do what is right when we

want to make an angry comment to our brother or when we want to leave a chore only half-finished. But, it all starts with our desire to know Jesus by studying and obeying His words.

John 14:24 has a warning for us. **Read John 14:24.**

If we don't keep Jesus' words, can we say that we still love Jesus? Can we still claim Him as our Savior if we ignore His commandments and live life our own way? *(Allow discussion.)*

John 14:25-26 gives us one more promise. **Read John 14:25-26.** Who does Jesus promise to send to help us remember and understand Jesus' words? *(Allow discussion - The Holy Spirit)*

Let's read a few more verses that will help us understand how to know Jesus even better.

Read 1 John 2:3-6.

According to verse 3, how can we know that we have come to know Jesus? *(Allow discussion - If we keep His commandments)*

Read 1 John 2:4 again. Can we say that we know Jesus if we do not keep His commandments? *(Allow discussion.)*

Read 1 John 2:6. If we are truly abiding with Jesus or living in Him, if Jesus is truly our Lord and Savior, our lives will change. We will start to walk the way that Jesus walked. We will start to live the way that Jesus lived. When we are in a difficult situation, we will want to respond the same way that Jesus would have responded. We will hate our sin and fight against it, because we will want to look like Jesus in our words and in our actions.

All of this comes back to knowing Jesus by knowing His words and obeying Him. What are some ways that you can know Jesus' words? *(Allow discussion - reading the Bible, attending church, memorizing Bible verses, meditating on God's Word, listening to the Bible on an app, making time for consistent devotions each day, etc. Encourage kids to look for practical choices that they can make this week to get to know Jesus' words better.)*

In the next eight weeks, we are going to be focusing on getting to know Jesus better. One of the ways that we will be doing this is through some of the stories about Jesus in the New Testament. These stories were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by eyewitnesses and men who spoke directly to eyewitnesses. Does anyone know what an eyewitness is? *(Allow discussion.)* An eyewitness is someone who saw something with their own eyes. As we read these stories, we will get to experience what it was like to actually walk with Jesus, talk with Him, listen to His words, and see His miracles. We will learn how Jesus changed the hearts and lives of people just like us. This is going to be an exciting time. I hope that you are looking forward to getting to know Jesus better.