

LEVEL 3, QUARTER A

Additional Activities

Follow the King

1. Who Is Jesus?

Describe Me (10-15 minutes)

This discussion activity highlights what children can learn from different points of view.

Select one student to stand before the group for several minutes. Give each student paper and pencil. Invite the children to write several sentences that accurately describe their classmate. Have them work individually for several minutes. Thank your volunteer and then share the sentences. **How are the sentences the same? How do they differ?** Discuss how the sentences were different because of different points of view (perspective). **Do we learn more or less about a person when we hear about him or her from different points of view?** Explain how God gave us four Gospels from four different people so that we would have a clearer picture of Jesus.

Deity/Humanity Drawings (15-20 minutes)

This drawing game encourages kids to understand the divinity and humanity of Jesus.

Divide board or newsprint pad in half with one side labeled “Humanity” and the other side labeled “Divinity.” Let students take turns drawing slips of paper from a paper bag, which have various characteristics of Jesus as a man or as God. Ask them to try to draw the concept written on the paper on the correct side of the board. The rest of the students should try to guess the concept. The first student with the correct answer takes the next turn to draw and so on. In case students can’t successfully guess, set a time limit, reveal the correct answer, and move on to the next student. Move quickly so everyone has a chance at the board if they wish. Guessing successfully isn’t as important as learning all the ways Jesus was both human and God.

Guess Who (10 minutes)

This guessing game introduces Jesus and distinguishes Him from other famous people

Make a list of several famous people or Bible characters your kids would be familiar with. For each person, give your students two or three clues and see if the children can guess who it is. Even if they can’t guess, give the name and then move on to three or four more famous people/Bible characters. Last, give facts one by one about Jesus until they guess who it is.

Conclude by explaining that some people may be important or famous for a while, but Jesus is the most important person who will ever live.

2. Miracle Babies

Baby Shower (20-60 minutes)

This group planning activity involves students directly in the lives of others.

Give a baby shower for someone who just had a baby, or have a baby shower for a crisis pregnancy center. Have children bring gifts. Invite the mother and the baby to your classroom to open the gifts or plan a field trip to take the gifts to a local crisis pregnancy center. Or challenge your students to fill up baby bottles with change and donate the proceeds to a crisis pregnancy center.

Scrap Book Sharing (20 minutes)

This show-and-tell activity introduces students to each other’s baby stories.

Have kids bring in their baby albums. Either give one child at a time the chance to share with the class, or break the students into pairs and have the partners share. Switch partners so the children can see several albums.

Talent Show (15-60 minutes)

This show highlights the uniqueness of each individual made by God.

Help each student think of something he or she could do to show the class. This could be an individual show or something the whole class could do together as part of a special presentation. Emphasize the specialness and uniqueness of each child’s abilities.

3. And Jesus Grew

Prayer Journal (20 minutes, and ongoing)

This craft inspires children to start recording their time with God.

One of the ways kids develop a strong relationship with God is through personal prayer. Guide students to make prayer journals with small notebooks. Invite them to decorate the front covers with markers. Give children a chance to write prayer requests in the journal on one half of the first page. Leave space to add answers later. Challenge kids to use these journals to keep track of prayer requests on their own.

Judean Village (20-30 minutes)

This craft activity helps students visualize life in Jesus' time.

Supplies: cardboard box, brown paper bags, glue, and other materials for furnishings

Make a Judean village. Have each child make a house using a shoebox covered with brown paper. Cut out windows. Jesus' house would have had very simple furnishings—mats to sleep on, pottery cooking utensils, and water jugs. Make mats using scraps of heavy fabric; make pots from modeling clay. Arrange houses on a large flat box partially filled with sand. Let students use their imaginations, adding people, animals, trees, a single well, etc. You may want to leave the village up for further use during the year.

Woodworking Visit (30-60 minutes)

Visit a woodworking shop. Discuss what types of furniture Jesus could have helped Joseph make. If possible, have each child participate in making a simple object out of wood. Talk about the various processes: measuring, cutting, sanding, and staining. Do you think Jesus ever did these things? You can also invite a woodcarver or carpenter to class with samples of his or her work.

4. Prepare the Way

Repent (10 minutes)

This active game illustrates the concept of repentance.

Have students take turns being blind-folded. As the blind-folded child walks around the room, the teacher and other students can warn the child when he or she is about to bump into a wall or table by shouting, "Repent"! The student will then immediately turn around in a different direction. Explain that true repentance means not just saying sorry but stopping that sin, turning away from it, and going a new direction.

Family Tree (15-20 minutes)

This discussion activity prompts children to examine the genealogy of Jesus in light of their own family tree.

Take time to briefly discuss and explain Luke 3:23-38. Have each student draw a tree with branches that can be written upon. Let kids talk about their families, and fill in their own family tree. Discuss how genealogies show Jesus' relationship to David, Abraham, and Adam. They show how God kept His promises to each one. This will help them understand why the genealogies, that seem so hard to read and understand are included in the Bible.

The Jordan River (15-20 minutes)

This drama connects students to the events of the Bible passage.

Divide the children into three groups and assign three scenes from the Bible passage: 1) John the Baptist at the river preaching repentance and baptizing others; 2) Jesus coming to be baptized and John's reaction; 3) the dove descending and God speaking. Give them a few minutes to prepare a quick skit that acts out what happened at the Jordan River in each of those scenes. Reconvene and let the children perform for each other in order of the Bible passage.

Build a Path (15-20 minutes)

This construction activity prompts students to think about preparing their hearts.

Divide your kids into small groups of three to four. Provide boxes of sand, rocks, twigs, leaves, grass, etc. (or allow your kids to do this project outside). Read and talk about Luke 3:4-6, the passage in which John uses the metaphor of a smooth path to symbolize a heart that is ready for Jesus. Allow your groups to "build" a path (using the sand, rocks, etc.) symbolizing a heart that is ready for Jesus. In contrast, you may want them to also build a path symbolizing a heart that is not ready for Jesus.

Show and Tell (20-30 minutes)

This object lesson illustrates different aspects of the Bible passage.

Divide your students into small groups. Give each group one of the objects below and the Bible reference with that object (seen in parentheses below). Each group must read the Bible verse and discover what part the object played in the story. Groups may explain the objects to the rest of the class.

- sand (Luke 3:4)
- snake (Luke 3:7)
- ax (Luke 3:9)
- coat (Luke 3:11)
- sandals (Luke 3:16)
- container of water (Luke 3:21)
- white feather (Luke 3:22)

5. It Is Written...

Temptation Termination (10-15 minutes)

This Bible activity allows children to practice using Scripture to combat temptations.

Teach students how to find Bible verses using the concordance in their own Bibles. This can be used to help with memorization. Choose temptations that go with verses from Disciple Guide page 18, or ones that can be used with other verses. Make this into a game, seeing who can find a related verse the fastest.

6. Follow Me

Make Grape Juice (60 minutes)

This cooking activity illustrates how much work it took to create wine. **Supplies:** Concord grapes, water, sugar, cheesecloth, stove and large pan.

Wash grapes and place them in a large pan. Cover generously with water (approximately two to three cups of water to one cup of grapes). Bring to a boil on high heat; reduce heat to medium and boil gently for 10-15 minutes. Remove from heat. Allow to cool slightly, and then strain through two layers of cheesecloth. Sweeten to taste, chill and serve. Emphasize the importance of following the directions, but also emphasize that water just doesn't turn into grape juice or wine by itself... Someone must do something! In the lesson today, Jesus did it through God's power.

Followers of Jesus (20-30 minutes)

This discussion activity provokes students to think more deeply about what it means to follow Jesus.

Tell any of the following stories about people who either "sacrificed" something to follow Jesus or refused to "sacrifice" something to follow Jesus. Discuss the result of the individual choice. Then provoke your children to think about their own choice to either follow or not follow Jesus.

- Peter & Andrew—laid down their nets (Matthew 4:18-20).
- The rich young ruler—refused to give up his money (Matthew 19:16-24).
- Matthew and Zacchaeus—gave up their old lifestyle (Matthew 9:9-12, Luke 19:1-6).
- Corrie ten Boom—sacrificed her freedom (*The Hiding Place*).
- Nate Saint and Jim Elliot—gave their lives (*Through Gates of Splendor*).

7. Born of the Spirit

Guest Testimony (10-20 minutes)

This testimony will expose children to the salvation experience of a teenager.

Invite one or more teens or older children to come and share their salvation experiences with the kids. Be sure to have them share how God worked in their particular situations and how He continues to guide them today. Before the guest arrives, instruct students to each write down one question they have about life with Jesus. Let children ask questions after the guest has shared his or her story.

Gospel in a Nutshell (10-15 minutes)

This craft activity reinforces the memory verse and salvation message. **Supplies:** walnut shell or peanut shell halves, decorating supplies, small slips of paper, rubber bands

Give children two half shells and let them decorate the shells with puffy paints, glitter paints, and so on. Let them write a copy of John 3:16 on small slips of paper. Insert the papers between the two shell halves and wrap them with a rubber band. You can also let them draw four pictures to represent the Gospel: 1) a sideways oval with a stick figure inside to represent baby Jesus born on earth, 2) an upright stick figure to represent Jesus who lived a perfect life 3) a cross to represent his death in payment of sin 4) an elongated semicircle with a smaller circle beside it (the stone that rolled away from the tomb) to represent Christ risen from the dead. Let kids take their nutshells home or give them to someone as a reminder of their memory verse and of God's love for them.

Sharing the Gospel (10-15 minutes)

This hands-on activity creates a Gospel tract children can share.

Supplies: child's gospel tract(s), folded paper

Obtain some inexpensive child's-level tracts that contain the Gospel message. Use them for ideas and challenge children to create their own simple tract. They can also use the simple chart on the Disciple Guide page 27 and imitate the color scheme.

8. Living Water

Books About Others (10-15 minutes)

This book or video activity provides more information about other people groups in the world.

Obtain books or videos about a child from a different ethnic or social background. Read the book to your students. Have them point out ways that the child in the book is like them and different from them. Consider how your students could befriend such children.

Cross Cultures (15-60 minutes)

This special event fires kid's interest in other people.

Many prejudices are a result of ignorance. Help the children overcome this by teaching them about an unfamiliar culture. This may be done by hosting an evening meal or serving ethnic food. Invite someone from that ethnic group to share with the students about the history and culture.

If it is not possible to have an ethnic meal, invite guest speakers from different ethnic groups to the class to tell about the history and culture of that particular group. They may also share an ethnic cooking project or art project with the class.

9. A Split Decision

Freeze Frames (10-20 minutes)

This drama activity allows children to "act out" what Jesus did.

Divide your kids into groups, or work together as a whole. Ask children to arrange themselves into a "still pantomime" to demonstrate various things Jesus did after he was rejected. Give them the verses and let them figure out how to show it as if in a live painting. (Verses 33-36—casting out a demon; verses 38-39—healing Simon's mother-in-law; verses 40-41—healing many people).

Missionary Letters (30-40 minutes)

This letter-writing activity involves students in the work of actual missionaries.

Obtain addresses of missionaries who serve in oppressed countries. Invite your students to write letters of encouragement to these missionaries. (Be certain to abide by any communication restrictions that may exist in "closed" countries.)

10. Healer, Forgiver, and Friend

Medical Professional (20 minutes)

This special guest relates information from the lesson about leprosy and paralysis.

Invite a doctor, nurse, or other medical professional to your class to talk about leprosy and paralysis. Allow time for questions. Or, bring resources to class to explain more about these medical problems yourself.

Testimonies of Healing (15 minutes)

This real-life story of healing inspires students to consider the awesome power of God.

Invite a member of your congregation who has experienced healing to visit your class and talk about his or her illness and how God healed it. Encourage your speaker to share verses from Scripture that were meaningful during his or her illness and recovery.

Fisherman (20 minutes)

This special guest relates the concepts of fishing to the concepts of making disciples.

Have a fisherman visit the classroom and talk to students about the basics of fishing. Compare this to fishing for men. What preparations would be necessary? What kind of "bait" would you use? Or, if possible, take the class on a fishing trip and fish fry. Discuss similarities between fishing for fish and fishing for people.

11. Keeping the Sabbath

“Big Ten” Game (20-30 minutes)

The game gives students practice learning the Ten Commandments. Supplies: notecards.

Write the Ten Commandments on separate cards. Divide the group into teams of two to four players. Give each group a turn to put the Commandments in order as quickly as possible. Time each team. Applaud or reward the team who finishes in the shortest time.

“Big Ten” Drawing (10-15 minutes)

This drawing game illustrates the Ten Commandments.

List each of the Ten Commandments on a separate card. Divide kids into two teams. Invite a member from each team to choose a Commandment card. Going at the same time, the players from each team must depict the Commandment by drawing, and the rest of the team should try and guess which one is being drawn. Award points to the first team to guess correctly. Continue through all the Commandment cards.

Twisty Rules (10-20 minutes)

Children will play Twister to experience having too many rules to follow.

Bring in the game Twister. (If you have a large class, you will want to have more than one game mat. Also, be mindful of girls in dresses or other issues relevant to your class.) Play it together. **Notice how difficult it becomes to follow the directions? Realize that when we add our own rules to God’s laws, obedience feels as tangled as this. It is not fun for us. God’s laws are simple, pure, and good for us.**

12. The Bread of Life

Fresh Bread and Butter (10-15 minutes)

This snack engages the students’ senses as they eat fresh, warm bread. Supplies: warm bread and butter

Arrange to have fresh bread for a snack, whether from a bread maker set the night before, French bread from the grocery store, or refrigerator rolls or biscuits baked before class. As you eat, ask the children, **How many people in the world need bread? How many need Jesus? Can He satisfy their needs? Why?**

Walk on Water (10-15 minutes)

This motion activity sparks thought about trusting Jesus. Supplies: 2” x 4” plank of wood

Bring in a narrow rope or two-by-four inch board. Lay it out on the floor. Challenge students to balance their way across without stepping off. **Can anyone do it all the way across?** Make the task harder by inviting kids to do it with their eyes closed. **Can anyone do it now?** Have the children try again holding another student’s hand or arm for support. **How is that similar to trusting Jesus? In what areas might Jesus want us to trust Him? What do we need to do so we don’t lose our balance when problems seem overwhelming?**

Bake Bible Bread (30-40 minutes)

Children will prepare this recipe for “Bible Bread,” similar to what was eaten in Jesus’ time. Supplies: 1 package yeast, 1 tsp. honey, 1 1/4 cup warm water, 1 tsp. salt, 3 1/2 cups flour, butter

Dissolve yeast and honey in water. Add the flour and salt. Mix well and knead. Roll to 1/4 inch thick. Let rise to 1/2 inch. Cut out with round cutter. Bake at 450 degrees for 7-8 minutes. Eat with butter and honey.

13R. Additional Review Questions

Easy Questions (Mile Marker 0 & 1)

[L1] Q: What do the letters B.C. stand for?

A: B.C. stands for Before Christ.

[L2] Q: In what town was Jesus born?

A: Bethlehem.

[L2] Q: Why was Jesus a miracle baby?

A: His Father was God, His mother was a virgin, etc. Answers will vary.

[L4] Q: Name at least one special thing that happened when John baptized Jesus.

A: The Holy Spirit came down as a dove and remained on Jesus. Heaven was opened; people heard God's voice.

[L4] Q: Why is baptism important?

A: Possible answers: God commands us to be baptized; it is a sign of our death and rebirth in Christ; it shows the world that we are followers of Jesus.

[L5] Q: After Jesus was baptized, where did the Holy Spirit lead Him to go?

A: Out into the desert wilderness.

[L5] Q: Name three things children your age might be tempted to do.

A: Answers will vary.

[L6] Q: Who asked Jesus help when the wedding ran out of wine?

A: His mother Mary.

[L6] Q: Describe what a day in the life of Jesus' disciples might have been like.

A: Every day they listened to Jesus teach, they walked long distances with Him, they ate meals together, they watched Him do miracles, they obeyed His commands. Answers will vary.

[L7] Q: Was Nicodemus a sinner?

A: Nicodemus was a good, honest man, but he was a sinner like everyone else.

[L7] Q: What did Jesus talk about when Nicodemus came to Him?

A: They talked about how to go to heaven (being born again).

[L8] Q: Why do people need water? (Give at least two reasons.)

A: We need water to drink, to wash, to grow plants, etc.

[L9] Q: What did Jesus do when His townspeople rejected Him?

A: He went on to the next town and continued teaching and healing people.

[L10] Q: Name a health problem that Jesus healed.

A: Leprosy, lameness, blindness. Answers may vary.

[L10] Q: What did Peter, James, John, and Andrew do before Jesus called them to follow Him?

A: They were all fishermen.

[L11] Q: Why were the Jewish leaders angry that Jesus healed the man's hand?

A: The Jewish religious leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, Sanhedrin) cared more about their Sabbath Law than the healing of a crippled man.

[L12] Q: Jesus called Himself the bread of ____.

A: Jesus called Himself the bread of life.

Medium Questions (Mile Marker 2&3)

[L1] Q: In John 1, who was "the Word that became flesh?"

A: Jesus was the Word that became flesh.

[L2] Q: Why was John a miracle baby?

A: His mother was old and had never been able to have children.

[L2] Q: What does the name Jesus mean?

A: Jesus means "The Lord saves" or "Savior."

[L3] Q: Why did Jesus and His parents go to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old?

A: They went to celebrate the Passover Feast.

[L3] Q: What does it mean to grow "in stature?"

A: To get taller and stronger.

[L4] Q: What does "forgive" mean?

A: To stop holding a grudge toward someone, to pardon someone for a wrongdoing.

[L4] Q: In what river did John baptize people?

A: In the Jordan River.

[L4] Q: How can you prepare your heart for Jesus?

A: I can repent, confess my sins, be baptized, etc.

[L5] Q: Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days. What else in the Bible lasted that same amount of time?

A: It rained for forty days when Noah built the ark; Moses was on the mountain for forty days waiting for the Ten Commandments, etc.

[L5] Q: Why does the devil tempt you to sin?

A: Possible answers: To ruin my friendship with Jesus, to make me feel as if God doesn't love me, he wants me to make bad choices, etc.

[L7] Q: What is the difference between your physical birthday and your spiritual birthday?

A: Possible answers: your physical birthday comes before your spiritual birthday; your physical birth comes from your mother; your spiritual comes from your Heavenly Father; you have two sets of brothers and sisters from your two birthdays, etc.

[L8] Q: Name two differences between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

A: Race, gender, social class, or religion.

[L8] Q: What happened when the Samaritan woman explained her faith to her townspeople?

A: Many more people believed in Jesus.

[L8] Q: Who did the royal official tell about Jesus and how Jesus healed his son?

A: His whole family.

[L8] Q: What does God want us to do when we meet people who are different from us?

A: Love them, accept them, share Jesus' love with them.

[L9] Q: How does Jesus want you to respond when others reject you?

A: God wants us to always love others— even though they may reject us.

[L10] Q: Why didn't the people like tax collectors?

A: They worked for the Roman government; they kept extra money; they were usually dishonest.

[L10] Q: What are some qualities to look for when choosing a best friend?

A: Answers will vary.

[L12] Q: The same night after Jesus fed the crowd of five thousand, what else did He do?

A: He walked across the Sea of Galilee to the boat where the disciples were.

[L12] Q: What did some of Jesus' followers do when they heard His teachings about the Bread of Life?

A: Some of Jesus' followers left Him, though the twelve stayed with Him.

Hard Questions (Mile Marker 4)

[L1] Q: Who was Gabriel?

A: Gabriel was the angel that told Mary about the birth of Jesus.

[L2] Q: Why are you a miracle child?

A: Because God made me and He has a special plan for my life. (Answers will vary.)

[L3] Q: How long had Jesus been missing?

A: Three days

[L4] Q: Name one other important thing that happened at the Jordan River.

A: Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land; Naaman was healed of leprosy by dipping himself into it.

[L4] Q: What did John the Baptist mean when he called Jesus "The Lamb of God"?

A: Jesus was the one who would be sacrificed for their sins.

[L5] Q: Why did the devil want Jesus to sin?

A: Satan wanted Jesus to sin because this would disqualify Him as sinless Savior.

[L5] Q: Name one Scripture verse you can use to overcome temptation.

A: Answers will vary.

[L7] Q: How do you know when your spiritual birthday is?

A: It's when you trust Christ for your salvation.

[L8] Q: Jesus talked with the woman at the well about worship. How does God want all people to worship Him?

A: God wants everyone to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

[L9] Q: How far was the distance from Nazareth to Capernaum?

A: Capernaum was about twenty miles away from Nazareth.

[L10] Q: Why is prayer an important part of making decisions about friends?

A: God knows the kind of friends we need better than we do. Answers will vary.

[L11] Q: Since Jesus came, Christians are not under law but under _____.

A: Grace (Romans 6:14)