

Good News Club Theme and Active Games

God's Plan in Action: The Early Church Lesson series 1-5

Theme: We are on a journey to discover the greatest treasure of all; Jesus Christ. While there are many treasures to seek out in life, like fame, wealth, entertainment, intelligence, and power. None is greater than a relationship with Jesus. Nothing is greater than giving your heart to Jesus and following Him all the days of your life. What does it look like to be on a journey discovering and following Jesus? Through Jesus words and the examples of His disciples we can discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Supply List

Lesson 1

1. Tape measure (*Word Up*)
2. Picture of Disney Characters (*Memory Verse Intro*)
3. Poster paper or dry erase board (*Active Game*)
4. A soft squishy ball or paper ball (*Active Game*)
5. Cards with the Actions of Jesus written on them. (*Review Game*)

Lesson 2

1. Write phrase in different language: (*Word Up*)
"Only Jesus can forgive sin and give eternal life"
2. The Word Up card "The Holy Spirit is the Helper." (*Active Game*)
3. Small blue papers with points and a few with ZERO written on them. (*Review Game*)

Lesson 3

1. Sticky notes (*Active Game*)
2. 18 pieces of paper with (*Active Game*)
Disciple (6) Crowd (4) Religious Leader
(6) Angel of the Lord (2)
3. Blue Papers with points values. (*Review Game*)

Lesson 4

1. Cards with Criminal, Atheist, Church member (*Word Up*)
2. Paper bag or basket (*Active Game*)
3. Word strips from these sentences. (2-4 sets for each team)
God can save anyone! Will you follow God's instructions?
(*Active Game*)

4. Wacky Workout cards. (*Review Game*)

Lesson 5

1. A heavy weight or object (*Word Up*)
2. Plastic or paper balls (*Active Game*)
3. Two or three baskets (*Active Game*)
4. Several soft stuffed animals (*Review Game*)

Lesson 1 Jesus is Alive

Theme: Jesus' disciple discovered firsthand why He came to earth. They saw Him die on the cross and come back to life. They discovered the treasure of forgiveness and eternal life. In this lesson students will discover for themselves 4 proofs of Jesus' resurrection. They will know Jesus' life and resurrection is based in history and facts. They can put their faith in the truth of the Gospel.

Word Up: Jesus Is Alive!

How many inches do you think this room is? (*Show tape measure*) How would we find out? (*Measure the room*) We can know that the room is ___ inches long. What else can we know? We don't have to guess. We can know Jesus Christ is alive! What we read about in the Bible happened. It is not a made-up story, it is true. We will discover evidence proving Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 "...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

Introduction- Read the following sentences.

Students can guess if they are true or false.

1. Hippo milk is pink.
2. Some carrots are purple.
3. Goldfish sleep with their eyes open.
4. Giraffes and people have the same number of neck bones.

Presentation- Read verse from the Bible. Where is it found? Show books of the Bible chart.

Explanation- Who is Christ? What did He do for you? Where do we read about Jesus dying for us our sins?

Application- (Saved) You can know for sure that Jesus is alive. You have proof that what you believe is true? **(Unsaved)** You can believe Jesus is your Savior, He died for your sins. It is true!

Repetition- Verse Motions Do motions for the phrases in the verse.

"Christ died" Point at the center of each hand.

"for our sins" Point both thumbs down.

"in accordance with the Scriptures" Hold hands like a book.

"that he was buried" Bring hands down low toward the ground.

"that he was raised" Bring both hands up.

"on the third day" Wave three fingers in the air.

Verse in Order Teams can put the phrases of the verse in the right order. The team to arrange the verse first and yells it out is the winner.

Active Game: "Jesus Is Alive Bullseyes" (*Draw a bullseye on paper or dry erase board. Write the Phrase "You Can Know Jesus Is Alive" on separate papers. Make a bullseye with four circles. Each circle will have a word or phrase written in it. (4) YOU.. (3) CAN.. (2) KNOW.. (1) JESUS IS ALIVE!* From several feet away students take turns throwing a soft ball or a paper ball at the bullseye. They see if they can hit all the words. Once they hit all the words they win. This game can be played in teams. See which team can hit all the word first. **Alternative:** Teams see who can hit the bullseyes the most numbers of times in 2 or 3 minutes. Teachers / Helpers watch each teams' bullseyes and keep track of points.

Review Game: "Jesus is Alive Charades" (*Two teams take turns acting out Jesus actions after he rose from the grave.*) After each correct answer team choose a card with an action of Jesus to act out while their team guesses. Teams get points for each answer & correct guess.

Lesson 2 The Helper Has Come

Theme: God was letting the disciple know the gospel message was for all the world. God gave them the ability to communicate the gospel to people who spoke a different language than they did. They discovered the Holy Spirit would be their helper. The Holy Spirit is God who comes to live within each person who has trusted in Jesus as their savior. The disciples would learn what it means to rely on the Holy Spirit to give them courage and the right words to say to others. Children will discover how to rely on the Holy Spirit to give them courage.

Word Up: The Holy Spirit is the Helper!

(Write the following phrase in a different language "Only Jesus can forgive sin and give eternal life") Who can guess what this says? **(Resp)** God the Holy Spirit gave the disciple the ability to speak in a different language so people from other countries could know Jesus too. The disciples discovered how the Holy Spirit could give the ability and the courage to witness. You can discover that same courage in your life. Who is our helper? **(Resp)**

Active Game: Know or Guess Telephone

(Divide class into two teams. Or the game can be played as one team.)
(The first person in the line or circle whispers a phrase into the ear of the person sitting next to them. (Teacher can give suggested phrases.)
Players whisper the phrase to their neighbor until it reaches the last player in line. The last player says the phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle.

The known phrase version of telephone: Show the Word Up card. Have the children repeat the phrase "The Holy Spirit is the Helper!" to each other. The phrase has not changed because we had the words. The Holy Spirit helps us to know what to say to people and He gives us the courage to say it. We can rely on Him to give us courage and helps us witness to others.

Review Game: "Zero" cards. *(Gather small bright pieces of paper with various points written on them. Then a few cards with "Zero" written on them. After each question teams can pick as many cards as they want. If they pick Zero, they get no points.)*

Lesson 3 God's Church Is Persecuted

Theme: We discover in times when people make fun or even hurt you because of your love for Jesus, He will give you peace and courage. When you choose to live for Jesus it will be different than how others may live. When you tell others about Jesus you can be made fun of for it. You will discover this truth; God gives you His peace and courage in times when you most need it. The disciples discovered this when they were being persecuted.

Word Up: The Holy Spirit gives peace and courage!

Story: A boy was made fun of one time because he was going to Good News Club. He wanted to invite other kids at his school, but he did not think they would come. He thought they would make fun of him. What should the boy do? **(Resp)** Should the actions and mean words from others keep us from obeying God? **(Resp)** If you have trusted in Jesus, what do you do? Know the Holy Spirit gives peace and courage in persecution (make fun or hurt you because of your faith in Jesus)

Active Game 1: Follow the Angel of the Lord

Put a sticky note on the back of each student. Each note will either have Disciple or Religious Leader written on it. One note will read Angel of the Lord. The teacher will need to give a brief explanation of each person. Disciples are ones who follow Jesus. The Religious Leaders hate Jesus and want His disciples to go away. The Angel of the Lord is God's messenger. When the teacher gives the order students will decide who they will stand behind. The winners are the ones who stand behind the Angel of the Lord or another disciple. *(Play more than once as time allows.)*

Active Game 2: Find the Disciples

Write the following characters on separate sheets of paper. (6) Disciples, (5) Crowd, (6) Religious Leaders, (1) Angel of the Lord. Tape the papers on the wall or dry erase board. Divide class into two teams. Each team gets a chance to toss a soft squishy ball at the paper. They get three throws then it is the other teams turn. Whatever paper they hit they will turn over and keep for their team. The team with the greatest number of Disciples papers wins.

Lesson 4 Saul Trust in Jesus as His Savior

Review Game: Puddle Stomp

Divide into two or three teams. Write different point values on the back of blue paper. After each correct answer a team member stands on a paper. After all the questions have been answered turn over the papers and count the points.

Theme: What do we discover about Jesus? He can save anyone. He saved an evil man named Saul. Saul had Christians killed and thrown in jail. We should put no limits on what God can do and who He can save. We also discover something about ourselves. Can I follow Jesus wherever He is leading me? Jesus used a man named Ananias to heal Saul of his blindness. Despite his fear Ananias obeyed God.

Word Up: God can save anyone!

Who would be easiest for God to save from their sin? A criminal in prison for murder, a person who does not believe God is real or someone who reads their Bible and goes to Church? A criminal, an atheist or a person who goes to Church? (**Resp**)

God can save anyone from their sin. He loves them all. All have sinned and our guilt before God. Romans 5:8 tells us Jesus is not waiting for us to be good before he saves us. Jesus died for everyone.

Active Game: Race to the truth

Divide class into three or four teams and put them in a line. When music starts one team member from each team runs to a paper bag or basket and pulls out one paper with a word written on it. Each team member does this until they are able to put a sentence together with their words. The sentence should read **“God can save anyone!”** The first team to put the sentence together and yell it out loud is the winner. Teams can play a second time using the sentence.

“Will you follow God’s instructions?”

Review Game: Wacky Workout

Divide class into two or three teams. After each correct answer team members pick a paper off the table. To earn the points, they must lead their time in the exercise. They receive the number on the card as their teams’ points.

Lesson 5 Paul Trust in God's Strength

Theme: We discover God can give you the strength to be bold for him. After Saul become a follower of Jesus, he knew had to tell other all about how Jesus came to save them too. He was a witness to others. God has given every believer the command to share the Gospel with others. There will be times other will not like what we say, or they will hate Jesus. We will discover how God gave Saul strength in the times he most needed it. God will give His followers the strength to be bold.

Word Up: God is strong!

Do I need strength to lift something heavy? (*Have a child try to lift a weight or heavy object.*) It can be hard to lift something heavy. But God wants to give us a different kind of strength. He wants to give us the strength to be bold. Do you know what it means to be bold? **(Resp)** Maybe you are nervous about something you must do. You might think you are not smart enough or you will mess up. Boldness is doing that hard thing even when you are afraid, or you feel weak. It is doing what please the Lord even when no one else is. In our story Saul discovered how God could give him the strength to be bold. He can give you the same strength. He will give you the strength to follow Jesus and share the Gospel with others.

Active Game: *The two-minute basket challenge*

The story today involves an escape in a basket down a high wall. Two team each have 2 minutes to get their balls in a basket. It can be paper balls or plastic ones. The team with the most balls in the basket after two minutes is the winner.

Review Game: *Basketball*

Divide into two teams. After each correct answer team will get three chances to throw a ball or small stuffed animal in a basket. They receive 10,000 points for each answer. If they make it in basket, they double their points.

People saw JESUS eating food.

People saw JESUS walking.

People saw JESUS sleeping.

People saw JESUS talking and teaching.

People saw JESUS praying.

People saw JESUS go back to heaven.

Spanish

**Solo Jesús
puede
perdonar el
pecado y dar
vida eterna.**

Romanian

**Numai Isus
poate ierta
păcatul și
poate da
viața veșnică.**

Disciple

(Student)

Crowd

Angel of God

Religious Leader

A Criminal

An Atheist

(Someone who does not believe in existence of God)

**Someone who goes to
Church**

God

can

save

anyone!

Will

you

follow

God's

Instructions?

YES!

**Do 5 jumping
jacks.**

**Hop on one foot four
times and say your name.**

**Touch your toes
5 times.**

**Spin around
4 times.**

**Stand on one foot
and say the ABC's.**

**Hop 3 times while
saying your name.**

**Put your hands up
and jump 3 times.**

**Pat your head and
rub your stomach.**

