

## **Jesus is God Who Cares for People      Optional Pre-Club Activities (5-10 minutes)**

*The purpose of a pre-club activity is to allow the children entering the room for GNC to be engaged immediately into an interactive experience that will engage their thinking with the teaching that is soon to come during the club. It may connect to the memory verse, "word-up" or Bible lesson in a tangible way. This benefits classroom management, student involvement, cooperation and a positive learning experience.*

### **Lesson One**

When children enter the room tell them to look for clues about a mystery person: "Who is He?" Have some notes posted around the room that give clues about the mystery person:

- When he saw people who were hurting, his heart hurt, too.
- Some fisherman said that even the winds and the waves obey him.
- He noticed people that everyone else ignored.
- He helped people who were in need.
- He knew the thoughts and attitudes of people's hearts.

After exploring the clues around the room, children sit by a leader for discussion.

Who do you think the mystery person is? Is it a famous religious leader like Confucius or Buddha or Mohamad or Mother Teresa or Billy Graham? Here is a big clue: The mystery person is alive right now. He knows everything and sees everything and is everywhere. Yes, we are talking about Jesus, God's only Son.

### **Who is Jesus? He is God who cares for people.**

Who are you? Can you say:

- "I am a caring person."
- "I am a helpful person."
- "I am a truthful person." Can you say,
  - "I am a truth-teller. I do not change the truth to get my way"?
- "I am a sharing person."
- "I am a thoughtful person."
- "I am a forgiving person."

If you say that you are any of these things, what can others see you do or say that proves it?

### **The Big Question:**

How can a person become more like Jesus when on their own, it is so hard to do especially in an unloving world? Let's find out together in today's lesson.

## Lesson Two

When the children enter the room ask them: “What do you think you need in order to be a good plant doctor?” Instruct them to find clue cards around the room and take one to the leader who needs help with a plant.

The following clue cards are placed around the room in obvious places or give a few to each team member so that the students can approach the team member and ask their advice to help a plant that’s in trouble.

Watering can, hoe, rake, soil tester, stake and string, box of plant food, talk to it, spray bottle, bug spray, bigger pot. Clubbers collect one card each and go to the leader sitting in the front with a picture of a potted plant that is not alive or a real potted plant that is not alive and a large piece of paper or poster board to place the clue cards (with tape).

Props: Picture of a non-living plant in pot and a master sheet of 10 clue cards.

Leader asks:

*“What can I do for my plant? I just can’t get it to grow! Do you have any clues?”*

As students offer ideas with their clue cards, the leader tapes the pictures around the potted plant on the poster board.

Leader: “I was hoping that these ideas would work. You know, I’ve tried all of them, but why is my plant not responding?” The answer: Because the plant is not alive.

The take-away: We are all born with a nature to sin, to do and think what is wrong, wanting our own way instead of God’s way. We are physically alive but not spiritually alive. We do so many things to grow spiritually, but it just doesn’t work because we are not spiritually alive.

A man named Nicodemus knew all about the rules but he knew something was missing. He came to Jesus secretly at night to find out how to have real spiritual life. In this lesson we are going to hear Jesus’ answer.

## Lesson Three

When children enter the room, place one drop of water in their hand with a soft, plastic pipet or dropper. Tell them not to drop it while they go to the “Explore and Discover” signs around the room.

- ✚ How much do you think your drop of water weighs?
- ✚ Is your water drop clear or milky?
- ✚ Can you see through your water drop?
- ✚ Does your water drop make the lines on your hand look bigger or smaller?
- ✚ Does your water drop move slowly or quickly when you tilt your hand?
- ✚ Is your water drop getting smaller or larger?
- ✚ How long do you think you can hold your water drop?
- ✚ After a long time, what do you think will happen to your water drop?

After visiting the Explore and Discover signs, the children are directed to sit in front of a leader who asks them about what they discovered about water. Review with them what they may have learned in school. The three forms of water: liquid, gas, solid. Have them call out which form of water for the following:

A lake, snow, a cloud, rain, steam, hail, a river, an ice cube, an igloo.

The planet that God made for us is called the “living planet” because it has a lot of water. As a matter of fact, it is 2/3 water. Water is everywhere: in the oceans, in the clouds, in the rivers, in the air as humidity and even in underground rivers and aquifers. That’s why people can dig a deep hole in the desert and sometimes find water. That’s called a well. Today’s lesson takes place at a well where people often came to get water. Jesus visited this well and explained about living water. What do you suppose that is? Let’s find out.

Reward Prompt: If the kids are good listeners and don’t waste time with distractions, a fun competition with water can be done at the end of the class time or the time appropriated by the leader as follows:

### **How many drops of water can sit on one penny?**

Divide the class into two groups. On a table, place two pennies about 2.5 feet apart. A child from each team comes up, one from the right, one from the left and stands behind the table in front of their team’s penny (no touching or bumping the table). A leader gives the 2 players a dropper or soft plastic pipet with water inside and instructs them to place one drop on top of the penny while the rest of the team watches and counts. The droppers are returned to the leader. Those two sit down and the next two arrive and repeat the same thing.

The children keep coming to place one more drop on the penny. Some may get a second turn. The leader and teams keep count of how many drops are on the penny before it spills over. The team that has placed the most drops of water on their penny wins. They can all be given a penny. This activity demonstrates a characteristic of God’s specially designed water, called “surface tension”. It is amazing how many drops of water can sit on a penny at one time.

## **Lesson Four**

### **If you really believe something, what would you do?**

What would you do if you really believed that...

- You would get \$100 to do your homework on time without being asked?
- You would get to go on your favorite vacation if you obeyed your parents the first time for a whole month?
- You would get to go to your favorite restaurant if you helped prepare the food and clean up the in the kitchen at breakfast and dinner for a whole week?

So, would you say that if you really believe something, you would act on it?

A nobleman heard about Jesus. He went to Jesus because he believed Jesus could do something for His son. What do you think happened?

Give them a sheet of paper with six story-board squares to fill in as the teacher tells the story of how the nobleman and his family came to believe in Jesus.

### **Extra Insight for Teachers:**

The following is an illustration that Gus Matero, CEF missionary to Finland and Russia, used that effectively demonstrated “believing, inviting and receiving”.

- The leader holds up a large candy bar (no nuts included due to allergies) and asks:
- What do you see that I have here? (A candy bar)
- How do you know it is a candy bar? (The package)
- What does it say on the package? (Read the ingredients.)
- How can we be sure? (Ask a student to smell it & report the chocolate aroma.)
- What makes it smell so good? (Chocolate, cream, sugar, vanilla flavor)
- How can we be sure? Shall we open it? (Yes, open a corner)
- Now that we see that it is indeed a chocolate bar, how can we be really sure? Shall I taste it? (Yes)
- Leader exclaims it is one of the best tasting chocolate bars he/she has eaten.

The children cannot benefit from the good tasting chocolate bar no matter how many proofs are given about the candy unless the leader offers it to them. The ones who believe what it is and want the candy will receive it when it is offered to them.

### **Gus’s take away for this demonstration:**

As teachers, we talk a lot about God and His message but sometimes neglect to offer the listeners the opportunity to respond to the invitation to believe on the Lord Jesus as their Savior for forgiveness of sin. Many convincing proofs leads the child to the door, but do not invite them in to receive the gift of salvation. Always give them an opportunity to respond to the message they are hearing from God’s Word whether for a child who is yet to be saved or a saved child for application and growth.

Gus then took the large candy bar and broke it into pieces and offered it to the class for all who wanted to receive it. Or small bit size wrapped candy bars can be handed out at the end of class. (Check registration forms for listed allergies among the students before giving out the candy. Provide an alternate for children who cannot have chocolate candy.)

### **Lesson Five**

When the students enter the room ask them if they feel confident to be able to walk in reverse in slow motion without looking behind them with a guide, or would they rather be the guide

that can be trusted. If neither of these options fit the student's desire or ability, then they can role play the "crowd of people" walking the streets of Jericho (in a line with a leader).

### **You can't see behind you.**

Instruct the students to walk in reverse without looking to the right or left in slow motion with a guide to help them locate 5 main items in the room, for example: a door, a window, a table, a chair, a file cabinet, a Bible (a large Bible, placed in a prominent location). Place labels on the chosen items. Each club has a unique setting. Therefore, the items you choose for the guide to direct the person walking in reverse will be unique to the club's setting. Make sure that safe paths are chosen for this activity.

When the items in the room are located, the guide directs their partner to sit in a line on the floor facing a wall with the others. Extra children and adults (the crowd) can be walking behind them, back and forth.

This simulates what it must have been like for blind people in Bible times who sat, unseeing and often ignored along a wall on a busy street, hoping that someone might help them. A leader can ask the children who are sitting facing the wall what it is like to have so many people and things around them that they can't really see. Ask, "How important do you think it is to be able to see? You might know just a little of what it might have been like for blind Bartimaeus."

### **Teaching Tip - about children and "seeing."**

Children "see" with more than their eyes. This is demonstrated by introducing something that is unknown to them or that looks very interesting. They will ask to "see" it even though it is in their full view. What they mean by that request is that they want to feel it, manipulate it, examine it, and experience how it works or doesn't work.

This is because children are actively learning. "Seeing" to them is exploring, investigating, taking in information and comparing it with information that they already have attained. They want to know the "real truth" about things and people. When they feel that they have really seen something, they believe that what they have seen is true. Therefore, the phrase, "Seeing is believing."

Or they may still have questions if there seems to be more to it that they haven't seen yet. Curiosity about what is yet to be discovered may linger. Keeping these things in mind as you teach a child, sheds light on the path as you lead them to know more about Jesus. Although we can lead them, remember that it is the Holy Spirit that reveals the truth of the Gospel to each child's heart, as He does our own.

## Lesson Six

### Guess Who Party:

Props: character labels & question cards

When the children arrive, stick or tape the name of a Bible character on their back and give them a list of simple questions or post the questions on a white board or poster to ask others for clues to guess what character is on their label. Then tell them to guess who else has the same label.

Characters:

Jesus, Jesus' Mother, A Disciple, Nicodemus, The Woman at the Well, The Nobleman's Son, The Nobleman, Bartimaeus

Questions:

Is my character a man or a woman or a child?

Is my character someone who talked with Jesus?

Is my character also, God?

Did my character want Jesus to do something for them?

Did my character follow Jesus?

Did Jesus heal my character?

The clubbers will get ideas of what the character choices are by seeing other clubbers' characters on their backs.

When it's time to conclude, have the clubbers find their matches and sit with those who have matching characters. See if they can decide together what important thing that they learned about this character in the last lessons.

What are the most important things that can be learned about Jesus in these lessons?

## **Jesus God Who Cares for People Rhyming Review**

### Lesson One

1. Who told the people the Redeemer would come?  
The prophets of old wrote down what God had said and done.
2. Jesus is the Redeemer, it's plain to see, because He paid the price for you and me, to bring us back to God. He took our sin upon the cross, so when we believe, we would no longer be lost.
3. Disciples are people who follow Jesus and learn from Him.  
They are willing to trust Jesus to forgive them for their sin.

4. Mary knew Jesus would help at the wedding because He always cared for others. We can also care for our sisters and our brothers.
5. Turning water into wine was a miracle because Jesus is God over creation. He did it so people would know that He is almighty, the Redeemer for every nation.

## Lesson Two

1. Nicodemus was who? He was someone who wanted to know Jesus, too.
2. Nicodemus heard and saw the miracles Jesus had done. Jesus is the only one who could do these miracles because He is God the Son.
3. When Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, He meant that God would give him new life when He saves him from his sin.
4. Through God's Word, the Spirit of God speaks to our heart. Believing on Jesus and receiving Him is our part.
5. When we turn to Jesus, we turn away from sin and strife, because He gives us eternal life.

## Lesson Three

1. Jesus choose to walk through Samaria because He knew the people there needed the living water. They knew about the God of the Old Testament. They even called Jacob their father.
2. A Samaritan woman came to get water from the well. By the way Jesus talked and dressed, He was a Jew, she could tell.
3. When He asked her for a drink of water she was surprised. When He said that He could give her living water, she *really* opened her eyes.
4. Jesus spoke to her of living water, and the truth of the Holy Spirit. When He told her all that she had done, she then told everyone in the village who would hear it.
5. Because Jesus is God the Son, He knows everything. The people of the village came to see and hear Jesus for themselves and for any they would bring.

## Lesson Four

1. The nobleman was very sad because his little son was very sick and he was his dad.
2. The nobleman hoped that Jesus could help his son so he went on a long walk. He would ask Jesus to come and heal his son, if he could just have a little talk.
3. Because Jesus is God the Son, He has power over everything He has made, just as He said. That little boy would be made well and get right out of bed!
4. When the nobleman's servants said to him, "Your son lives!" He, himself believed and with his whole house, for the life that Jesus gives.

5. If on Jesus you and I believe, His new life we can receive.

## Lesson Five

1. Bartimaeus sat by the road completely blind, hoping someone would come along who was good and kind.
2. Jesus said that many people who are able to see, are spiritually blind. This is known because they are *not* good or kind.
3. When people are spiritually blind, it's like living in the darkness. When they come to Jesus for spiritual sight, they are coming to the light.
4. Bartimaeus yelled, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"  
When Jesus asked him what he wanted, he said, "Teacher, I want to see."
5. When we choose to turn to the truth of Jesus for new spiritual sight, will we then follow Jesus, like Bartimaeus and walk in the light?