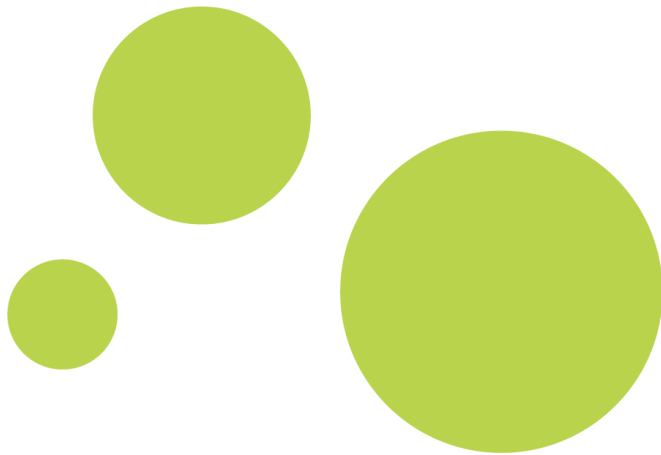


The Son Of God

John 1-4

For Ages 8-11 • Kids Church



About Kidswise Programs

Teaching gospel truth to children begins with clarity. With our Bibles open we carefully seek to understand the central truth of the passage in front of us and then capture that truth in child-friendly language. This becomes the Big Idea for each Kidswise lesson.

This truth then drives every activity within the lesson giving children every opportunity to understand and take hold of this truth.

The primary focus of the lesson is the unpacking of truth through story. Stories make abstract truth visible to children.

Finally, we call children to respond to truth and pray that God will indeed let his Word do its work so that children can see Jesus and live for him.

This is the aim of every Kidswise lesson.

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How To Use Kidswise Programs

Story

Kidswise school age programs aim to have the entire church family in the same passage week-by-week. The stories at the beginning of each lesson are designed for a kids spot in a service. After the kids spot, children head out to Kids Church. By having a kids spot in a service parents (and church members) are equipped to talk with children about what they're learning week-by-week. Parents see how to break down complex ideas into simple language and communicate these ideas via stories. Children can also hear their parents reflect on that same passage, thus creating a culture of generations talking to each other about God's Word. If a kids spot in church is not your culture, these stories can be moved later in the lesson and the second story can be omitted, along with references to this second story in the small group time.

Games | Drama Games | Quiz Games | Science Experiments | Cooking | Craft

The activities at the beginning of each lesson aim to create a warm, welcoming environment. Each activity reinforces the big idea and the variety of activities aims to engage children of all learning styles. Leaders choose what works best for their situation (time, resources, space). Churches with larger groups may like to put children into smaller groups and rotate them through a number of activities. Resources are included in each unit's Resource Pack. Mini Movies are not included and need to be sourced as indicated.

Introductory Activities | Singing | Memory Verse | Story Time | Mini Movie

Children are brought together in one large group for this section of the lesson. Songs listed for each unit can be put together in a Spotify playlist and shared with parents. Audio files of each memory verse can be purchased from Kidswise.

Small Group Time | Prayer Time

Small groups work best when the same leader leads the same small group of children (8 per group) each week. The aim is to engage with and get to know each child, and to give children the time and space to ask questions, to reflect and apply what they're learning. Repeated prayers help children pray out loud and apply what they've learnt.

Content Overview

Big Idea for John 1-4:

No Jesus = No God, Know Jesus = Know God.

Memory Verses: John 8:12, John 3:16

Matthew and Mark begin with the birth of Jesus, but John goes to before time began - to the beginning of the world. John introduces us to Jesus, the Word - our Creator God who spoke and a world was formed. Nothing was made in this world that does not have his fingerprints all over it.

Jesus existed before he took on human flesh. Jesus burst into this world - the light of the world - who came to reveal God to us. Jesus made the world he would be born into... knowing that the world would reject him... knowing he'd eventually die for the sin of the world.

John is often referred to as John the Baptist, as baptising people was how he prepared people to meet God's Messiah. But in John's gospel he was more John the Witness. He came to point out who the Messiah was. So when heaven burst open and God's Spirit descended on Jesus, John knew. He gave witness to the fact - 'Here is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'

Andrew and John, two of John's disciples, heard John's testimony about Jesus and immediately left John to follow Jesus. They in turn told others, who told others. This good gossip saw person after person drop everything to follow Jesus.

In John chapter 2 we see the first of the seven signs the writer John chooses to reveal Jesus in all his glory. Surprisingly this miracle happens without a word and without the people knowing. Jesus doesn't turn water into drinkable wine, but exceptional wine. Jesus came to earth to give us life and give us life to the full. He did not come to rip us off. Later in that same chapter we see Jesus' righteous jealousy as he drives out the merchants who'd turned God's house of prayer into a market. Jesus is jealous for his Father to be worshipped properly.

In John 3 Nicodemus comes under the shadow of darkness to Jesus, afraid others might see him. Jesus points out that only those born of God can become a child of God. This rebirth is all of God. And the mark that this rebirth has taken place is that people believe in the one who was lifted up. Salvation is found only in looking to the cross. John 3 has the most famous verse in the Bible - John 3:16. It speaks of God's love - he only had one Son to give and he gave him. He gave his only Son to a world which hated him and watched as that world tore him apart. The purpose? So that that world could be offered life eternal.

Finally, in John 4 we see an astonishing encounter with a woman who was an outcast from her society. Jesus offers her something she didn't even know she craved. Her thirst to be known and loved not by five husbands but to be known and loved by God himself.

Lessons

1. Made By Jesus

Page 6

John 1:1-3, 18

Jesus made the world he would be born into.

2. Jesus The Light

Page 16

John 1:4-17, 9

Jesus is the light God promised would come. Most people reject God's light, but those who receive the light become children of God.

3. John The Witness

Page 26

John 1:19-34

John pointed people to Jesus. He is the one who'd take sin away. John knew that because God's Spirit came on Jesus.

4. Good Gossip

Page 34

John 1:35-51

When you know who Jesus is you'll want to tell others, so they'll know how good he is too.

5. The Wedding Of Cana

Page 43

John 2:1-11

Jesus came to give us life - life to the full.

6. Clearing Of The Temple

Page 53

John 3:13-22

We are to be jealous for Jesus by wanting people to treat God properly (by worshipping God's Son, Jesus).

7. Nicodemus

Page 62

John 3:1-15

We believe only because we are born of God, born of the Spirit.

8. God's Big Love

Page 75

John 3:16

God loved the world so much that he gave the world his very best - his one and only Son.

9. The Woman At The Well

Page 85

John 4:1-26

God has made each one of us with a longing to be known by him and loved by him that can only be met by coming to Jesus.

Song Suggestions

In the Beginning
(Ben Pakula)

True Light
(Ben Pakula)

Boss Of The Cross
(Colin Buchanan)

Kids Everywhere
(Quizworx)

Living 4 Jesus
(Quizworx)