

DISCOVERING JESUS FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Adapted from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com>

LESSON 2: WE CAN KNOW JESUS

Supplies needed:

- A Bible for each parent and child (the International Children's Bible version is very kid-friendly)
- Writing paper, pencil or marker/pen for each family member
- For "Pathway to Knowing Jesus" game
 - Printed game sheet
 - Printed verse cards, cut apart
 - Colored buttons or other markers (small pieces of paper of a different color for each family member)

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING ACTIVITY

PREPARATION:

Give each child a pencil or marker and a lined piece of paper.

WHAT TO DO:

Give each member of the family the name of another family member (the person to their right/left, etc.) Tell them to write down the first name of their family member up and down (vertically) instead of side to side. (Young children may need to be partnered up with an older child or parent).

Example:

S
U
S
A
N

Then have them write down next to each letter a positive quality of that person or an activity he/she enjoys doing with that person. After completing, ask each family member to read his/hers aloud.

WHAT TO SAY:

Because we know each other well, we could think about the good qualities or abilities we each have. We spend a lot of time together, so we can think of fun times we have with each other. Do you think you would be able to make a list like this about a person you didn't know very well?

How well do you think you know Jesus? Could you make a list like this about Him?

Today we're going to learn more about knowing Jesus.

MEMORY WORK

"We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:69 NIV

PREPARATION:

None

WHAT TO DO:

This verse is not hard to learn, practice saying the verse aloud together while hand clapping a beat.

PRAISE MUSIC - use these or choose your own

[Good News song for kids with dance moves](#)

[Jesus Song - animated](#)

[Animated robot singing B.I.B.L.E.](#)

The following link is from RightNow Media, which you have a free subscription for through our church. If you have been unable to sign in, please contact Mary Kamas @ 979-777-1038, so you and your family will have access to the wonderful children's programs and youth/adult Bible teaching.

[Praise music of Bible verses for children](#)

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION

(You can assign the scriptures to different children to read aloud or read them aloud yourself. However, if you choose to read them, help your children to find the verses, so they will become comfortable with their Bibles.)

INTRODUCTION:

SAY: We may know a lot of people, but just because we know them, doesn't mean we are comfortable being with them, like we are being around each other or our close friends. The difference is intimacy. Do you know what is meant by intimacy? Intimacy is being close to someone, knowing how much they care for you, knowing you can trust them, knowing who they really are. Intimacy takes time.

WHAT TO DO:

Ask your children to name the people he or she feels most comfortable being with. Then have your children rate them from 1 to 10 to show how intimate they are with them. For example, Mom or Dad as a 10, and a close friend 7, and a new friend perhaps a 2 or 3.

Discuss what number your children would give to Jesus. What can someone do to become more intimate with Jesus? What would being very intimate with Jesus be like, feel like, and look like?

Jesus desires for us to know Him in an intimate way. He wants to be our best friend. In our story today, He is talking with His disciples who by this time have been with Him for awhile. They have seen His miracles, eaten with Him, been with Him night and day. Jesus and His disciples are much like a family, and they should know Him quite well.

Read John 14:1-14

Discussion Questions:

1. Where did Jesus say He was going? (To His Father's house to prepare a place for His disciples.)
2. Why is Jesus coming back after He goes to prepare a place for us? (To take us to be with Him.)
3. Who will we also know when we know Jesus and why? (God the Father because Jesus is God.)
4. When Phillip asked to see God, how did Jesus respond? (Anyone who has seen me has seen God.)
5. In verses 12 and 13, what else does Jesus promise to those who know Him and have faith in Him? (They will do even greater things.)
6. How does Jesus show us that He wants to be our best friend? (He offers us comfort, verses 1 and 2; He truly wants us to be with Him, verse 3; and He spends time with us, verse 9.)

PATH TO KNOWING JESUS GAME

PREPARATION:

Have printed copies of the game sheets, verse cards, and place markers ready.

EXPLANATION/RULES:

The game is played by drawing a verse card from the stack. The player looks up and reads the verse in the Bible. He or she then decides what word on the game sheet matches what the verse says about Jesus. For example, if the verse drawn is 1 Peter 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." the matching word or phrase would be "Without Sin". The player would advance his or her marker to the next circle displaying "Without Sin". Players will need to draw at least five cards to win. First player to reach the last "Loving" circle wins. Place used cards at the bottom of the stack to be used again if needed.

The youngest person goes first. Play continues counterclockwise or from the left.

Explain that anyone in the group can help with the correct answer, but encourage each player to look up the verse. After play, ask your children what they learned about Jesus by playing the game.

APPLICATION:

SAY: So how can we know Jesus? The disciples should have known Jesus very well, because they spent a lot of time with Him, listening to His teachings, seeing His miracles first hand, witnessing His love and concern for them. And they did know Him fairly well, but only on the surface, like we may know a classmate or neighbor, not as a best friend or our parents. They didn't understand that He really is God. But Jesus offers Himself to us in many ways. His love, compassion, forgiveness, kindness and mercy are always available to us. He is always there for us. The more we let Him become a part of our life, the more we will get to know Him.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to have an intimate, meaningful relationship with You. Thank You for making Yourself real to us in Your Son Jesus, and for all the wonderful ways You show Your love. Let us grow even closer to You, so others will see Jesus alive in us.
Amen