

Only Jesus Can Give You New Life!

Memory Verse: John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

Main Teaching: Only Jesus can give you new life

Word Up: Jesus gives new life!

Supplies:

- Word Up Visual – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “God Wants to Spend Time with Just You”, “That the World Might Be Saved” and “Jesus is the Good News” - Worship (Sing About the King 4 CD)
- Optional Song Visuals for “God Wants to Spend Time with Just You” and “Jesus is the Good News” (cefpress.com)
- Lifesaver candy for each child – Small Group
- Glass Jar, Sprite, Unpopped Popcorn Kernels– Object Lesson
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Dead branch or plant – Memory Verse
- Wordstrips for Memory Verse Game – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Gladys Alyward Flashcard Visual – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Hula hoop - Activity
- Prayer Journal or “God Can” – Wonder Time (Resource Pack)
- Memory Verse Token John 3:16 Lesson 2 for each child – Dismissal

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship/Rules/Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Memory Verse
- 10 min – Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group Wonder Time



SMALL GROUP

Lifesaver

Materials: Lifesaver Candies (gummies for younger kids)

Give each child a candy and ask if they know what it’s called. What is a lifesaver used for in the water? If someone is in the ocean or in a pool and they are drowning, a lifesaver is thrown to them. You and I also need someone who will rescue us and bring new life into places of darkness. Jesus is our Savior! He rescues us from sin and brings us new life!

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to <https://www.cefcmi.com/lessons/song-demos>

“Jesus is the Good News”

“God Wants to Spend Time with Just You”

CLUB RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.



WORD UP!

Jesus Gives New Life!

How many of you know your mom or dad’s phone number? If you go to dial that number, but only use 9 numbers instead of 10, would your call go through? What if you used 10 numbers, but instead of dialing 303 at the beginning, you dialed 403. Would you be able to talk to your mom, I mean, it’s really close – just one number off. . . No, you need the exact right numbers to phone your mom or it won’t work. There is only one set of numbers that will work. In our world today, people talk about lots of different ways to get to God. But the Bible says there is only one way – by believing in Jesus. **Word Up - Jesus gives new life!**

OBJECT LESSON

Dancing Popcorn

Materials: Sprite, Popcorn Kernels, Two Glass Jars

Set-Up: About a minute before you get in front of the class, pour water into a glass jar and Sprite into the other jar. You want some of the fizz to get out of the Sprite. Practice at home before club to get the right amount of time. Display on a table or visible spot where all kids can see. Have the popcorn kernels ready to show on the side.

Let’s pretend these popcorn kernels are people. The people I’m adding to this jar don’t know Jesus. (Pour some kernels into the jar with water.) They seem pretty cool, but they have no life in them. All they can do is sit here in a lifeless pile. The Bible says that we are dead in our sin (Romans 6:23). Sin is anything we think, see, say, or do that makes God sad or breaks His law. And the punishment for sin is death – eternal separation from God. But God made a better way so that you do not have to live a life dead in sin. (Drop popcorn kernels into Sprite jar. It will take about a minute, but the kernels will start floating up and down.) The Bible says that if you admit you have sinned, believe that Jesus died on the cross and came alive again, and choose to follow Him, then you will be given new life in Jesus. These kernels represent people who have believed in Jesus. They aren’t dead in their sin anymore. God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you when you believe in Jesus. You aren’t dead in your sin – you have new life in Jesus. Jesus will slowly change you to be more like Him. Just like these kernels seem to be alive and jumping, you can have a new life in Jesus! Our Bible verse today is going to tell us how we can have new life! You do not have to stay dead in sin...you can have new life in Jesus! **WORD UP! “Jesus gives new life!”**



MEMORY VERSE

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

INTRODUCTION

(Show children a dead branch or plant.) Look at this plant! I have done everything I can think of to make it grow! I’ve watered it, fed it and set it out in the sunshine.

But it still won’t grow! I’ve heard plants like to be talked to, so I’m hoping you will help me. What would this plant like to hear? Any ideas? *(Allow response. Have children join you in talking to the plant until someone says, “The plant is dead!” Have another teacher prepared to say this if a child doesn’t say it within a reasonable length of time.)*

Dead?! Well, I really feel silly. Now I know why the plant won’t grow! Things need life to grow. That reminds me of what it’s like before you and I know Jesus as our Savior—we are dead in our sin. We are like this dead plant in need of life, eternal life that only Jesus can give. Say with me, **“Jesus gives new life!”** *(Say with children.)*

PRESENTATION

(Read John 3:16 from Bible then have children read with you from visual.)

This verse is from God’s Word, the Bible. The Bible is 66 smaller books made into one big book, which has two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The books are divided into chapters and verses. We call the name of the book, chapter number, and verse number the address of the verse. The address for today’s verse is John 3:16. That means the verse is from the book of John, which is in the New Testament part of the Bible. The chapter is 3—one of the big numbers in the book of John. The verse is 16; we look down in chapter 3 until we find the little number 16. *(Show in Bible.)* And there is our verse for today! *(Have a child read verse from Bible while everyone follows along from visual.)*

EXPLANATION

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son—God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for your sin (going your own way instead of God’s).
Who is God’s Son? *(Allow response.)* Jesus!

that whoever believes in him—That means anyone who trusts that Jesus died for his sin and came alive again.

should not perish but have eternal life—Whoever believes in Jesus will not perish. Perish is another word for die. Everyone’s body will die someday but this isn’t talking about your physical body. Remember earlier how we said we are dead in our sin? That’s because your sin separates you from God. But if you believe and trust only in Jesus, you will no longer be dead in your sin. You will have life with God. Say with me, **“Jesus gives new life!”** *(Say with children.)* When you believe on Jesus, you are saved from your sin and have eternal life.

APPLICATION

Saved: When you believed in Jesus, God changed your heart! You already have the joy and blessing of eternal life! God gives you the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, who comes to live inside you when you believe in

Jesus. God the Holy Spirit will change your heart and help you do good like Jesus did. Do others see the difference that Jesus makes in your life?

Unsaved: Jesus is perfect. He kept all of God's laws. No one else could do that! He died on the cross and came alive again so you can have new life. Only Jesus can give you new life. Say with me, "**Jesus gives new life!**" (*Say with children.*) When you believe in Him, you are no longer dead in your sins. Instead, you are saved from the punishment of sin and have new life with God through Jesus. You can believe in Him today.

INVITATION



What about you? Do you know that you have sinned? Do you know that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin? Have you made the decision to put your trust in Him? The Bible says in John 3:16 "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you know that you have sinned and would like to believe in Jesus for the very first time today, or you want to talk to someone more about doing that, please show me by raising your hand. If you raised your hand, please meet me (*designate location*) and I'll show you more from God's Word how you can be saved.

REPETITION

Unscramble

Print the words or phrases of the verse on paper strips. (For God, so loved, the world, that He gave, His only Son, that whoever, believes in him, should not perish, but have eternal life.)

Mix the strips up and spread them on a table or the floor in the front of the room. Pick a child to put the words in the right order. Have him put as many strips in order as he can while the rest of the children say the verse. (Or play the memory verse song "That the World Might Be Saved.") When the children are done saying the verse (or the song is over), the child stops—even if he is not finished putting the verse in the right order. Pick another child to continue until all strips are in the right order.

Variation: For more participation opportunities with a larger group of children, divide the children into smaller groups and provide one set of word strips per group. Have all the children say the verse together while one child from each group tries to put the words in the right order. Repeat until all the verses are in the right order.)

Sing "That the World Might Be Saved" Memory Verse Song

ACTIVITY

Hula Hoop Hop

Materials: One Hula Hoop or a long rope tied into a circle

How to Play: Tell children to stand in a circle holding hands. Unlink two of the members' hands to add the hula hoop or rope into the circle. After the hula hoop is added, all participant's hands must remain linked for the remainder of the game. Play one of the Good News Club songs. As the music plays, the students will move the hula hoop or rope around the circle (without unlinking hands!) by stepping through the circle. When the music stops, whoever has the hula hoop or rope around them is out. Continue playing until only two kids are left in the circle. (For younger kids, you could play this game without anyone getting "out." Instead of the participant leaving the circle if the hula hoop lands on them when the music stops, that person will say this week's Bible verse for the group and then the game continues.)

MISSIONS STORY

Gladys Aylward

Part 3



With Jeannie Lawson gone, Gladys Aylward wasn't sure she could keep the inn running and tell others about Jesus. She wanted to travel to other villages to tell them about God's love, but at that time in that part of China, women weren't supposed to go places by themselves. She prayed for God to show her what to do next.

Then one morning, she got an unexpected visit from the Mandarin—the government leader of Yangcheng! Gladys bowed many times. She wasn't sure what to do or why this man was visiting her. Finally, the Mandarin spoke: "I need a foot inspector. We have orders from the new government of China to stop the foot binding of baby girls. I need someone who will travel to all the villages and tell of this new law."

Foot binding was an ancient custom in China. Women would wrap the feet of their daughters in tight cloths before they were old enough to walk. As they grew, this kept their feet from growing. They thought tiny feet were a sign of beauty and would help them marry rich husbands. But wrapping up feet like this actually hurt the girls and made it hard for them to walk when they were grown up. All the women in the area had their feet bound when they were children, and they did it to all their daughters too. Because of their small feet, the women who lived in this part of China couldn't walk very far. This is why the Mandarin needed Gladys's help—her feet were normal sized, and she could walk to all the villages nearby. And because she was a woman, she could talk freely to the Chinese women she met.

"You will receive food, a mule to ride to the villages farther away, and two soldiers to guard you," the Mandarin explained. "Will you do it?"

At first, Gladys didn't know what to say. She was here to tell people about Jesus, not work for the Mandarin. But she knew that foot binding was a harmful practice and that this job, with the guards to escort her, would allow her to go places she couldn't go on her own. It would also pay her enough to keep the inn running.

This is the answer to my prayer! Gladys realized. *I can preach the Gospel wherever I go and be paid by the government to do it!*

"Yes, Mandarin," she said. "I will be the foot inspector as long as I may also teach the people I visit about the Lord Jesus." What would the Mandarin say to that?

He shrugged and said, "That is all right with me."

Gladys must have been so happy! She began to travel to the different villages, and all the people would gather to hear what she had to say. "God created all babies, boys and girls, with feet the same—and He wants their feet to remain the same," she would tell them. She would then teach them about God. Gladys would go to different houses and tell the women "Take off the bandages, and let the girls learn to walk. God made little girls' feet to run and play, not to sit in pain. God loves you and He sent His Son, Jesus, for you."

Gladys unbound many feet, telling the children, mothers, and fathers of the love of Jesus. As she travelled to the villages around Yangcheng, the people's respect for her grew and many turned to Jesus, trusting in Him as their Savior.

You might think that with all these amazing ways God was using Gladys, she was probably happy all the time. But this time was also hard for Gladys, and some days she felt very lonely. She wondered if God remembered her.

Would God help Gladys? Come back next time to find out!

**SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME****“God wants to spend time with you”**

God wants you to spend time each day reading His Word. He wants you to think about what it means and ask Him to help you by His power to live it out day by day. God wants you to think about what you read throughout the day. (*Read John 14:26.*) God the Holy Spirit helps you understand what God’s Word says and helps change your heart. He even helps you want to spend time with God every day! He helps you think about what you’ve read throughout the day. Maybe during the day a Bible verse suddenly comes to your mind. Stop and think about what it means. Ask God what He is trying to show you through His Word. That’s how God helps you grow in your relationship with Him. As you spend time with God this week, look for the things God wants you to do and ways He wants to change you to be like Him. Let’s pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to change us and make us more like Jesus.

You can ask for prayer requests and write them in your prayer journal or put them in the “God Can”.

DISMISSAL

Hand out memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind the kids to take time to read God’s Word and think about it this week.