

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



JOHN 1

THE LIGHT, THE WORD

Scripture: John 1:1-18

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: White sheet, flashlight, objects with different shapes, corn starch, water

Game:

Set up a white bed sheet in front of the children. Have them sit on one side and the teacher be on the other, the side of the teacher needs a table. Place various objects on the table and shine a light on them. See if the kids can recognize the shape from the shadow it casts. If this totally fails because there is too much light in the room, there are YouTube videos for guessing shadows of animals and things. After, ask if it was easy or hard. Did they ever second guess themselves?

Explain:

Today, we are going to begin studying the book of John. Can anyone tell me what type of book John is in the Bible? (Gospel). We studied Matthew not too long ago, but the Bible gives us four different accounts of the life of Jesus, and each is important to study because each has some of the same stories, and some different, all from different viewpoints. If I asked every member of a family about a birthday party they all went to, do you think they would each tell me the exact same thing? No, because some things that stuck out to one maybe didn't stick out to another. But all would likely tell about presents and cake. The same is true with the Gospels-- all tell some similar events, but also have different ones.

Read: John 1:1-18

Explain:

Did you notice that it said Jesus, the light of the world, came to his own, but people didn't recognize him? That's why we played the shadow game. It's almost as if some people had a sheet or a veil over their eyes and they didn't realize that the Creator entered his creation to save them and us.

Ask:

We learned from this passage that Jesus is the light of the world. Can anybody tell me anything else they know about Jesus? (Allow for answers, if someone states he is fully God and fully man, tell them we will talk more on that in a second.

How can we know this is true? (Allow for answers, i.e. The Bible says so, my parents said so)

How can we know the Bible is true? (The Bible has had TONS prophecies-- future predictions-- come true. Some of those are about Jesus that were written over 700 years before he was born).

These are big questions, and hard to understand. At the end of the day, Jesus calls us to have faith- to believe even without seeing- that his word is true. Don't worry, adults still struggle with these ideas and questions. Take a moment to share a doubt you struggle with if you're willing.

Explain:

One of the things mentioned about Jesus was that he is fully God and fully man. That is a hard truth to wrap our brains around because it is so big that it's hard for us to understand. But John clearly says that Jesus, the Word was there in the beginning and that through him all things were made. Jesus was there from the very beginning, but on Christmas, he was born. He entered into creation and became a man so that he could provide the sacrifice for our sins. The darkness can't overcome his sacrifice and because of that sacrifice of Jesus, we who believe can be adopted and called his children.

Activity:

Now, we're going to do an activity that is limited because I am not God. Only he can fathom how incredible it is for Jesus to be fully God and fully man, but we can play with an example to remind us. We're going to make oobleck. It acts both as a solid and a liquid. Mix 1.5 cups corn starch to 1 cup water and mix thoroughly. The Oobleck will form as a ball if pressure is applied, but if pressure is released, it will run through their fingers. This is messy, so make sure you do it over tile or a tarp. Let the kids play a while.

Ask:

Why is it important that Jesus was both fully God and fully man? Why couldn't he just be God or just be a really good man? (Jesus needed to be fully human to take on the sin of humanity. Because a perfect sacrifice was needed, knowing no one could live a perfect life, Jesus, fully God, became fully man, so that he could live a perfect life and pay the price for our sins. He showed us the right way to live and he shows us the way to the Father is through him. We'll talk more about this in the coming weeks.

Memorize: John 1:1

Bonus prize next week if the child can memorize 1:1-5

Pray and dismiss

