



# Keeping up with Class

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## Happenings

### 9/9 ~ RALLY DAY!

All Elementary Students will "Move-Up" to their new grade level classes.

### 9/17 ~ Children's Ministry Meeting for all CM volunteers

7pm in the Library Overflow Room

### 9/26 ~ Kid's Club Kickoff!

### 10/10 ~ Kid's Club Family Night

## Use Jesus' Parables to Teach Biblical Truth

### Happy Birthday!

9/1 ~ Arlo Robinson

9/17 ~ Ella Brewer

9/22 ~ Lauren Trumbore



As a master storyteller, Jesus used simple everyday objects and stories to convey profound eternal truths. Through these parables, Jesus explained in ways that humans could understand the incomprehensible logic of God's kingdom.

Because Jesus knew his audience well, he was able to speak at their level. He could have taught us about the kingdom of heaven with only commands and facts, but he knew the truths of heaven wouldn't make sense to human minds.

Jesus knew we'd understand better if we could identify with a woman frantically searching for a lost coin, a servant who'd been forgiven much yet refused to forgive a little, and bridesmaids who had (or had not) come prepared for a long wait. While our human nature causes us to identify with the jealous older brother in the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus calls us to open our arms as the father did...and come home with humility as the lost son did.

Jesus began or ended his parables by saying, in effect, "This is the point. If you get anything out of the story, get this." Despite any inconsequential details of each story, truth is involved—and Jesus clearly points it out.

# POWERSOURCE

## ASK JESUS:

1. To help you share God's Word with children in age-appropriate ways.
2. To bless your family's worship, study, and devotional times.
3. To help kids see how Jesus' teaching—and all of Scripture—is relevant to their daily lives.



**Did you know that you can access The Gospel Project at home or on the go?**

Your children's Sunday School Curriculum, The Gospel Project by Group Publishing, has a fun and informative FREE APP that includes activities that reinforce what your children are learning on Sunday morning!

Additionally, our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children's church curriculum, Explore the Bible, is included as well!

The App itself is a sort of kiosk of other options. Download it from the App Store or Google play, then choose from the multiple options to explore!

# Keep Watch for Biblical Truth

God's Word isn't stagnant, which means biblical principles show up even in stories that aren't in the Bible. Movies, fairy tales, cartoons, stories, and songs can contain traces of the gospel message that are helpful for introducing Bible themes. Discuss and debrief to help children discover the meat of the message. The Bible's truth supersedes any fiction, and it's vital that kids understand the difference. Emphasize the verse or passage that a story reinforces. Encourage children to identify forgiveness, faith, and kindness in their lives. As a family, stay alert! The kingdom of God is here, and if we watch for it carefully, we can see God working in our lives and in the lives of others.

**Lost and Found** Set out a blanket containing several small items. Have family members study the items for 30 seconds and then close their eyes. Remove one item and hide it. Have everyone open their eyes, figure out what's missing, and search for the lost item. Play several times, rejoicing when an item is found. Read aloud Luke 15:3-10. Ask: "How did it feel to find each lost item? Why does Jesus celebrate when one of his lost children is found?"

**Seed, Seed, Grow!** Play this wet version of Duck, Duck Goose outside using a watering can and water. Have everyone but a "Gardener" sit in a circle. The Gardener taps people on the head while saying, "Seed!" When the Gardener says, "Grow!" and sprinkles a head with water, the Gardener puts down the can and runs around the circle to that person's spot. If the Gardener gets caught, he or she starts over. If the Gardener makes it to the empty spot, the person who was sprinkled becomes the Gardener. After playing, read aloud Mark 4:26-29. Ask: "What does a seed need to grow into a plant? What happens to a seed if it doesn't have water? What does God give us to help us grow closer to him?"

**Good Samaritan Relay** Choose a "hurt person" to lie on the floor across the room. Set out bandages and a cup of water. Take turns racing to the hurt person to apply a bandage and offer a drink. Time yourselves, and give each person a turn to be "hurt" and helped. Read aloud Luke 10:30-37. Ask: "How did it feel to help the hurt person—or to be helped? How would you feel if you were hurt and no one stopped to help? What does it mean to love our neighbors as ourselves? What can we do to help people in need?"

**Who's Invited?** Set out markers and blank cards or card stock. Say: "Make an invitation for any kind of party you want. Dream big and think about how fun your party will be." When everyone's done, sit in a circle. Say: "Pass your invitation to the person on your left. Look at the invitation you received and make up a weird or ridiculous reason for *not* coming to the party." Share excuses. Then pass the invitations again and invent new excuses. Ask: "How would you feel if *no one* came to your party?" Read Luke 14:16-24. Say: "Let's not make excuses to avoid Jesus! He wants us to accept his invitation to live in our hearts—and to be with him forever."

"Jesus...had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things."  
—Mark 6:34