

**Celebrate!**

**Jesus for Children Day**

**Preparation Package**



# Introduction to the Leadership and Training Materials

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Dear Pastor and Coordinator,

Thank you for your vision for reaching the children of your church and your community, and thank you for ordering these materials. This letter is addressed to you both because Pastor, you ordered these materials and are leading the church in their use, and Coordinator, you are the person directing the team that uses them.

These materials are packaged in a three-ring binder because we intend for you to take out the appropriate pages and make as many copies as needed to give to everyone involved with you in leading this important event the instructions they need to succeed. The masters may be saved in the binder to use each time you schedule another **Jesus for Children Day**.

In the accompanying videotape, you may notice that we have not separated the roles of Coordinator and Trainer. Some churches may want to give both these roles to the same person, especially if that person is the Children's Minister. But we suggest that you consider having two people fill these key roles so that one person will not be overwhelmed with the combination of responsibilities. The written materials in this Leadership & Training Materials assume two people filling these roles.

We have color-coordinated the pages in this binder for each leader. If you wish, you may give a whole section to your appropriate team member to copy and use. The white pages in each section are to be copied and distributed.

We suggest you plan for 75 minutes for the **Jesus for Children Day** events, plus readiness activities, which we suggest you start as soon as the first child arrives in your room, and continue until your designated starting time. At that time, Coordinator, you will turn on the cassette tape song, "Child of God." This will be a signal to the Activity Guides to turn children's chairs so they can focus on the screen, or move the children to where they will sit to watch *The Story of Jesus for Children* which lasts 62 minutes. It is important to give children time to interact with their Activity Materials to share their responses to the opportunity to invite Jesus to live with them and in them. Providing a way to give your staff more than 75 minutes will increase the effectiveness of the experience.

We pray that *The Story of Jesus for Children* and these materials will result in many of your church's and community's children establishing and deepening their own relationships with Jesus. We hope you will repeat the **Jesus for Children Day** many times and that you will use these resources to reach out to the children of your city and their families.



# Leadership Team

## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

### Roles:

Responsible for the planning, preparation, coordination and implementation of the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Facilitates the work of the Recruiter, Trainer, Reporting Assistant and Activity Materials.

Reports to the Pastor.

### Task Descriptions:

Schedule **Jesus for Children Day** Planning Meetings, including a Training Meeting before the **Jesus for Children Day**, and a Report Meeting three weeks to a month after the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Lead the **Jesus for Children Day** Planning Meeting(s), and communicate your Leadership Team's plans to your Pastor.

Provide each member of your Leadership Team with the resources and assistance necessary to fulfill their tasks.

Coordinate the **Jesus for Children Day**, including helping your Recruiter assign extra Activity Guides to children as needed.

### On the Jesus for Children Day:

Right at the scheduled beginning time, turn on the *It Takes Love* cassette tape song, "Child of God." (Included in the Training Materials)

When the song "Child of God" ends, ask any not facing the video screen to turn their chairs around so they can easily watch the video or screen.

Briefly introduce the video *The Story of Jesus for Children*, and start the video. We suggest you use the following paragraph to introduce the video:

**What you are about to see is the story of Jesus. It is a true story, and the children who lived when Jesus was on earth might have seen it much like this.**

Be responsible for any problems that arise such as late arrivals, restless children, etc. and at the end of the video, ask everyone to turn back to their circles or tables.

Help the Reporting Assistant gather Promise Cards and response sheets from the Activity Materials, and assist in putting materials away and ordering the room(s).

### After the Jesus for Children Day:

Assist your Trainer and Reporting Assistant in their leadership of follow-up, compiling records of results, and in reporting to the Pastor and the *Story of Jesus for Children* department of The JESUS Film Project® by mail, or by e-mail to JFP-JFC@ccci.org



# Jesus for Children Day

## Planning Meeting - Agenda

- 1 Begin by praying together.
- 2 Show *The Training Video* included in this Training Material.
- 3 Review the Day-at-a-Glance, (in the Training Material) and discuss the parts of the event, time, staff responsibilities, children's involvement, and supplies needed.
- 4 Discuss the need for recruiting adult Activity Guides for the **Jesus for Children Day**. (See Instructions to Recruiter in the Training Material.)
- 5 Discuss follow up:
  - a Create and maintain records to track spiritual development (see Reporting Assistant pages
  - b Ways to thank volunteers and recruit them for further ministries
  - c Begin to discuss the design for the next **Jesus for Children Day**. (See the "Plans for Your Next **Jesus for Children Day**" page in the Training Material.)
- 6 Discuss basic discipleship for children who invite Jesus into their lives, and follow-up options. (See option page in the Training Material.)
- 7 Make sure each team member knows his or her responsibilities and has the needed resources.



# Jesus for Children Day

## Preparation Schedule

### Planning Meeting of Jesus for Children Day Leaders

Determine how much time you need to plan and prepare for a

"Children's Focus Day" Worship Service

### Children's Focus Day Worship Service (optional)

### Recruiting of Activity Guides

Training for Activity Guides - one session

Three weeks

Preparing for Follow-up

### First "Jesus for Children Day"

Follow-up

Three weeks

Report on "Jesus for Children Day" and plan for 2nd "Jesus for Children Day"



## Options for Follow-Up

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We recommend that each Activity Guide with whom any children indicate decisions for Jesus follow up each of those children individually. The tool for this is the booklet, "The Greatest Promise," included in these material. We suggest you either order a copy of "The Greatest Promise" booklet for each child presently enrolled in your ministry or print it from [www.jesusforchildren.org](http://www.jesusforchildren.org) Web site.

At the end of the **Jesus for Children Day**, have the Reporting Assistant give two copies of "The Greatest Promise" booklet and a copy of the *Following Jesus Instruction Page* to each Activity Guide who prayed with a child that wanted Jesus to be with him and in him. The instructions for "The Greatest Promise" booklet are simple and are on the Following Jesus Instruction Page.

After one-on-one follow-up using "The Greatest Promise" booklet, we suggest you choose one of the following options:

- 1** *The Story of Jesus for Children* "Following Jesus" a five-week Discipleship/Mentor Course – Includes six lessons, "The Greatest Promise" booklet, and the audiocassette *It Takes Love*. The lessons focus on promise-keeping, assurance, prayer, reading and memorizing scripture, and learning how the Holy Spirit helps and guides.
- 2** Encourage each child to enroll in "the Mailbox Club" for a free follow-up course from Child Evangelism Fellowship. A "Starter Lesson" is included with this material. Additional information on "the Mailbox Club" is located on pages 40-41 of this training manual, or you may contact Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc., at 1 (800) 300-4033.
- 3** Use materials developed by your church.

# Plans for Your Next Jesus for Children Day

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What did we do that we want to repeat at our next **Jesus for Children Day**?

What do we want to do differently next time?

What additional resources do we need next time?

What additional people do we need to involve next time?

How can we use the next **Jesus for Children Day** to reach out to the children and families of our community?

Date for the next **Jesus for Children Day**: \_\_\_\_\_



# Leadership Team

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## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

### Roles:

Responsible for recruiting Activity Guides for the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Reports to the **Jesus for Children Day** Coordinator.

### Task Descriptions:

Be part of all the **Jesus for Children Day** Planning Meetings and the Training Meeting.

Assist the **Jesus for Children Day** Coordinator during the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Start by recruiting all your current and former Sunday school teachers of children (ages 4 through 14) to attend the **Jesus for Children Day** Training Meeting and participate in the **Jesus for Children Day**.

We recommend you recruit enough adults to have a ratio of one adult for every eight children who attend.

Mature high school people might be recruited to minister to children on the **Jesus for Children Day**, as well as afterwards.

Recruit several extra adults to the **Jesus for Children Day** Training Meeting and the **Jesus for Children Day** to have in your "bullpen" in case God sends you more children on the **Jesus for Children Day** than you expect. You can assign them to children who arrive late, or break a larger group of children into two smaller groups.

At the Training Meeting:

Arrive at least half an hour before start time, and help the Coordinator and Trainer set up the room for the Training Meeting.

After everyone views the Vision Video, and the Activity Materials Guides have practiced working through the Promise Cards, be ready to introduce the additional adults to the current Sunday school teachers. If on the **Jesus for Children Day** you will be showing *The Story of Jesus for Children* to more than one group of children, help group the adults who will be working together for the rest of the Training Meeting.

Help the Trainer assign adults to a table or circle of chairs for Early Arrival/Readiness Activities and Closing Activities.

**Suggestion:** Use color-coded name tags—one color for each Activity Guide—and eight name tags of each color. Plan to give a name tag to each child as he or she arrives on **Jesus for Children Day**, and is ushered to a table or circle of the same color. When you are out of a color, that sets the limit for the group of eight children to one Activity Guide.



# Leadership Team

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## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

### At the **Jesus for Children Day**:

Assist the **Jesus for Children Day** Coordinator by helping group children with Activity Guides.

Assign extra adults to groups of children as needed.

Take pictures of each Activity Guide with his/her group of children during Early Arrival/Readiness activities. You might delegate this task to one or more other people so you can be available for leadership.

Ask each Activity Guide to fill out a Volunteer Staff Evaluation sheet before they leave.

### After the **Jesus for Children Day**:

Phone all your recruited Activity Guides to thank them for their participation and obtain feedback on their experiences. Find out if they are ready to continue ministering to children regularly or just on the next **Jesus for Children Day**.

Use the Sign-In Sheet from your Training Packet to track your calls and organize your report.

Send "Thank-you" notes to all your recruited Activity Guides.

Make a "Thank-you" bulletin board for the church narthex with the pictures and names of all volunteers who served on the **Jesus for Children Day**.

### For the **Jesus for Children Day** Report meeting:

Evaluate your staff, and suggest which Activity Guides should be contacted about investing in regular Sunday school ministry with children.

Make any suggestions you have for improving the next **Jesus for Children Day**.





# Leadership Team

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## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

### Roles:

Responsible for compiling a record of responses to the **Jesus for Children Day** and reporting the results to the **Jesus for Children Day** Coordinator, the Pastor and/or Designated Board, and The Story of Jesus for Children Office.

Reports to the **Jesus for Children Day** Coordinator.

### Task Descriptions:

Be part of all the **Jesus for Children Day** Planning Meetings and the Training Meeting.

Assist the Jesus for Children Day Coordinator during the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Make enough copies of the Jesus for Children Day Report Form for each of your Activity Guides to complete and return to you. Compile a report from these forms and turn them in to the Coordinator to be filed for comparison after the next **Jesus for Children Day**.

Compile these report forms on the **Jesus for Children Day** Tally Sheet. Be prepared to report on the **Jesus for Children Day** to your Coordinator, your Pastor, and/or a designated board three weeks after the **Jesus for Children Day**.

At the end of the **Jesus for Children Day**, collect all the Promise Cards from the Activity Guides. Then, as you also collect Pre-Survey sheets and Post-Survey sheets, give Activity Guides Volunteer Staff Evaluation Forms and ask them to quickly complete and return them to you before they leave.





# Jesus for Children Day

## Tally Sheet

Reporting Assistant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of this year's **Jesus for Children Day** \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of children who saw *The Story of Jesus for Children* \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of Activity Guides \_\_\_\_\_

Number of newly recruited Activity Guides \_\_\_\_\_

### Tally the Promise Cards:

\_\_\_\_\_ I prayed today to ask Jesus to live in me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I already asked Jesus to live in me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not ready to ask Jesus into my life.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to learn more about Jesus.

When you have compiled this report, please give it to your Coordinator. Please also report it to The Story of Jesus for Children Web page: [www.jesusforchildren.org](http://www.jesusforchildren.org)  
Or phone report results into our office at (800) 432-1997

Thank you! See our Web page for updated totals and resource offers.

The space below is for summary comments.

# Volunteer Staff Evaluation

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Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children you worked with: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for serving in our church's **Jesus for Children Day**. Please take a moment to help us evaluate the day and your experience.

How were you recruited for the **Jesus for Children Day**?

Any suggestions for recruiting others for ministry with children?

What were the best parts of your training for the **Jesus for Children Day**?

What parts of the training might have been done differently to better equip you for the **Jesus for Children Day**?

What parts of the **Jesus for Children Day** should be repeated or added to our regular program?

What parts of the **Jesus for Children Day** should be changed to improve it?



# Leadership Team

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## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

### **Roles:**

Responsible for training the Activity Guides for the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Reports to the **Jesus for Children Day** Coordinator.

### **Task Descriptions:**

Be part of all the **Jesus for Children Day** Planning Meetings and lead the Training Meeting.

Before the Training Meeting:

Copy more than enough of the Participant's Notes so that each person at the Training Meeting has a set.

Make a set of overhead transparencies from the Visual Transparency Masters in your Training Guide pages. If your church doesn't have the resources to do this, they can be done inexpensively at a Kinko's or a stationery store. Write the date of your church's **Jesus for Children Day** in the box at the bottom of Visual Transparency 2 with a red visual transparency pen.

Review the Trainer's Notes and Transparencies carefully, with a set of Participant's Notes so your training will be accurate and smooth.

At the Training Meeting:

Hand out Participant's Notes to each participant as they enter.

Introduce yourself and welcome everyone promptly at the designated starting time.

Show the Vision Video.

As soon as the Vision Video ends, ask participants for their initial responses. Limit sharing to three minutes.

Show Transparencies 1 and 2 and review the **Jesus for Children Day** Objectives, read Luke 18:15-17, and announce the date for your church's **Jesus for Children Day**. Ask everyone to write this date on page 1 of their Participant's Notes.

Show Visual Transparency 3, to review the importance of reaching children for Jesus.

Take time for several Activity Guides to pray for God's guidance and blessing on the **Jesus for Children Day**. This will be an eternally significant day.

Ask everyone to turn to Participant's Notes pages 3- 5, and review the three parts of the day with you. Use Transparencies 4, 5, 6 and 7 to clarify Activity Guides' roles and responsibilities.

**Permission to Copy Granted by The Story of Jesus for Children**



# Leadership Team

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## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

The material on Participant's Notes page 5 is particularly important. Give each person a Promise Card, and demonstrate how to discuss each child's responses to the video by working through it. This will prepare the Activity Guides for their discussion following the showing of *The Story of Jesus for Children*. Don't go on to the next instruction until all are comfortable with the instructions on this page. When you have demonstrated the Promise Card and answered questions, ask your Activity Guides to break into groups of three and practice working through the Promise Card together, one playing the Activity Guide role, one the role of child, and one the observer/prompter watching page 5. Give each Activity Guide the opportunity to play all three roles.

If you are not training your Activity Guides in the room you will use for the **Jesus for Children Day** please move to the room you will use. Have pencils, crayons, felt pens, Pre-Surveys and Post-Surveys at each table.

When all are ready to move on, with the help of the rest of your Leadership Team, especially your Recruiter, assign your Activity Guides to areas of the room, and tables if you will use them, or circles of children's chairs plus an adult chair.

When your Activity Guides are all in the circles or at the table where they will sit on the **Jesus for Children Day**, ask them to draw or write their answers to the questions on both the Pre-Surveys and the Post-Surveys on their tables or in their circles.

After giving them time to draw or write, tell them that they will have surveys as well as pencils and crayons and other needed materials for their groups at their tables on the **Jesus for Children Day**.

Ask your Activity Guides to turn to page 6 in their Participant's Notes and put Visual Transparency 8 onto the overhead projector. Review with them the principles on the screen, then ask them to discuss in groups of four to six what they think children's perspectives are on family, promises and forgiveness. They have spaces on Participant's Notes page 7 to write their thoughts and explore the answers to the questions.

After about 15 minutes of discussion and writing, put Visual Transparency 9, covered by a white paper, onto the overhead projector. Uncover the first guideline ("Avoid symbolism.") and ask Activity Guides to give one or more examples of symbolism to be avoided. If your Activity Guides need examples to get them started, suggest the following:

"Jesus in my heart"

"Savior" (Children might understand as "saver.")

"Born again"(a term even a Jewish religious leader found hard to understand)

Have Activity Guides write some of the examples given as well as some of their own in the spaces on Participant's Notes page 8. In turn, uncover each of the subsequent guidelines and ask for examples. Encourage Activity Guides to write responses on page 8.



# Leadership Team

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## Roles & Tasks Descriptions

Ask everyone to turn to Participant's Notes page 9, and write some words or draw some pictures to explain the meanings of the words to a child. Give them about 10 minutes to write or draw.

Ask your Activity Guides to turn to Participant's Notes page 10 and compare what they wrote or drew with the comments on page 9.

The last item for training is to review your plans for follow-up. Hand out "The Greatest Promise" booklet to everyone, and ask all to turn to Participant's Notes page 11. Ask your Activity Guides to form triads again, and to each in turn take the role of Activity Guide, child, and observer. Give them about five minutes each to work through "The Greatest Promise" booklet.

Take a few minutes to review with your Activity Guides the subsequent follow-up plan your church has chosen.

End the training session with a time for prayer—as long as your and your Activity Guides need.



# **Jesus for Childrens Day**

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## **Objectives**

- 1 To clearly give children repeated opportunities, as they develop, to invite Jesus into their lives and build their spiritual lives in relationship with God.**
- 2 To give children who have invited Jesus into their lives an opportunity to grow, by leading their friends to Jesus.**
- 3 To use the event to prepare both adults and children to reach the children, and their families, of their communities.**



# Jesus for Childrens Day **Objectives**

**4 To recruit people to an experience in ministry with children—a safe first step toward volunteer teaching or mentoring of children and parents.**

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**Luke 18:15 - 17**

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**The date for our church's Jesus for Children Day is:**



# **The Importance of Reaching Children for Jesus**

## **Quotes from the Vision Video:**

**Children have an astounding natural response to the gospel.**

- **In the United States, children aged 5 - 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Jesus as their savior.**
- **Young people aged 14 - 18 have a 4 percent likelihood of doing so.**
- **Adults over 19 have a 6 percent probability of making that choice.**

The Barna Report, Oct - Dec. 1999

**This is the "4/14 Window."**



## **Early Arrival**

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# **Readiness Activities**

### **Activity Guide Responsibilities**

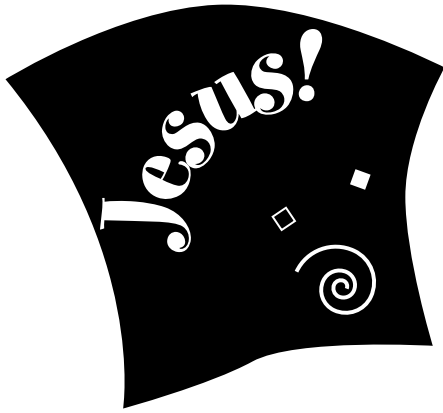
**Be ready to welcome children 15 minutes before starting time.**

**Greet children as they arrive and write each child's name on a badge to put on.**

**Give each child a Pre-Survey. Make sure each child responds on both sides of the Pre-Survey.**

**If your children are not yet readers, help them respond by drawing pictures or dictating their oral responses to you to write for them.**

**At official starting time, the Jesus for Children Day Coordinator will start the cassette tape song, "Child of God." When you hear the music, begin helping your children turn their chairs to face the video screen or move to where they can see the screen.**



## **Activity Guide**

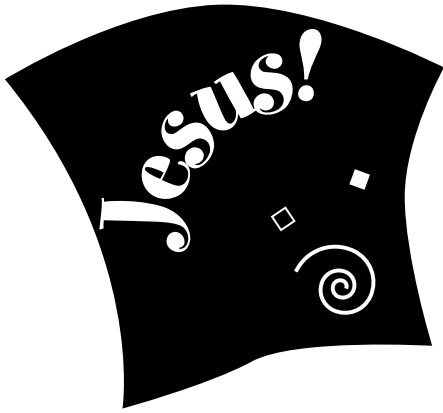
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**Collect Pre-Surveys and place them on the center of your table. Then move with your children to watch the video.**

### **During The Story of Jesus for Children Video Activity Guide Responsibilities**

**Sit with your small group of children throughout the showing of the video.**

**Enjoy the video with your children.**



## **Closing Activities**

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### **Activity Guide Responsibilities**

**Give each child a Promise Card.**

**Guide them in completing the cards as individually as possible.**

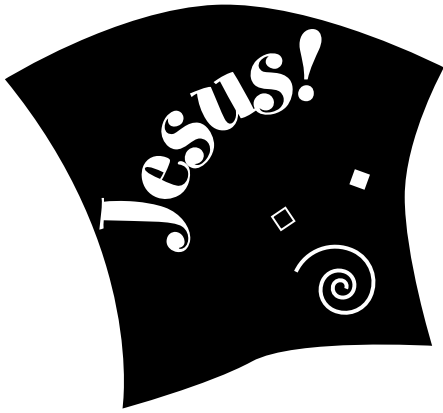
**Answer any questions briefly, clearly and simply.**

**Pray with each child who wants to invite Jesus to live in him or her and with him or her.**

**Invite children back for a follow-up time.**

**Help children complete the Post-Survey.**

**Pray with children before they leave.**



## **Closing Activities**

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**Collect Post-Surveys and Promise Cards, identify them with your name, and give them to the Recording Assistant.**



## **Closing Activities**

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### **Three Principles for Understanding How Children Think and Learn**

- **Children's thinking is limited by perspective.**
- **Children's thinking depends on the quality and quantity of firsthand experiences.**
- **Children's thinking is limited to physical and emotional activities.**

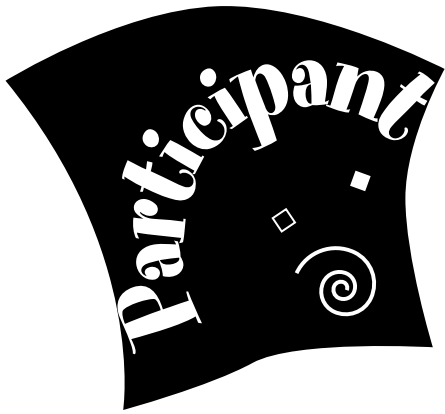


## **Guidelines**

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### **Helping a Child Make a Voluntary Decision About Jesus**

- ***Avoid symbolism.***
- ***Explain meanings of words to children.***
- ***Make sure children understand that these concepts are from the Bible.***
- ***Work with children individually as you work with a small group.***
- ***Allow free choice—avoid pressure.***
- ***Depend on the Holy Spirit for guidance.***
- ***Invite children to ask Jesus to be with them and in them.***



# Jesus for Children Day

## Training Participant's Notes

### Jesus for Children Day Objectives

- 1 To clearly give children repeated opportunities, as they develop, to invite Jesus into their lives and build their spiritual lives in relationship with God.
- 2 To give children who have invited Jesus into their lives an opportunity to grow, by leading their friends to Jesus.
- 3 To use the event to prepare both adults and children to reach the children, and their families, of their communities.
- 4 To recruit people to an experience in ministry with children—a safe first step toward volunteer teaching or mentoring of children and parents.

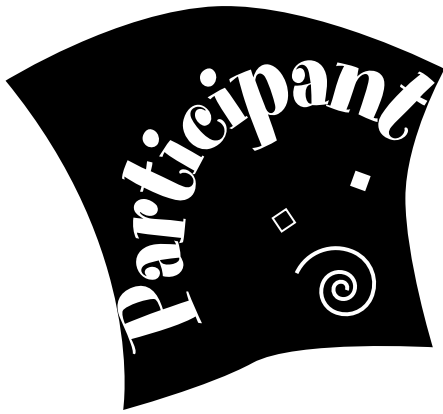
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*"Some people brought their small children to Jesus so that he could touch them. When the followers saw this, they told the people not to do this. But Jesus called the little children to him and said to his followers, 'Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children. I tell you the truth. You must accept God's kingdom like a little child, or you will never enter it.'"*

Luke 18:15 - 17

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The date for our church's **Jesus for Children Day** is:



# The Importance of Reaching Children for Jesus

Quotes from the Vision Video:

Children have an astounding natural response to the gospel.

- In the United States, children aged 5 – 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Jesus as their savior.
- Young people aged 14 – 18 have a 4 percent likelihood of doing so.
- Adults over 19 have a 6 percent probability of making that choice.

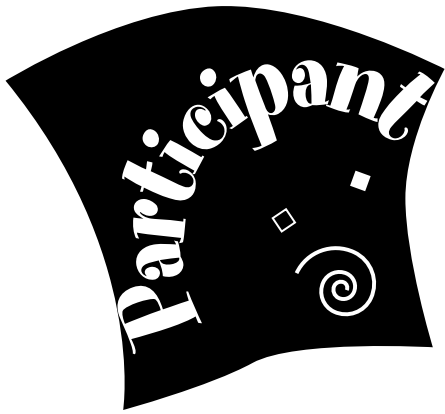
The Barna Report, Oct – Dec. 1999

This is the "4/14 Window."

# The Day at a Glance

## (75 Minute Event)

Parts of the Event	Minutes	Teacher/Mentor Responsibility	Children's Involvement	Supplies Needed
Early Arrival/Readiness Activities	15 Minutes before the event begins to 3 minutes into the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at the event 15 minutes before the publicized time.</li> <li>• One adult (teacher/mentor) per 8 to 10 children.</li> <li>• Greet children as they arrive.</li> <li>• Place children in small groups at tables/on the floor/circle of chairs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Act. 1:</u> Guide children in making name tags.</p> <p><u>Act. 2:</u> Pre-Survey Activity Sheets to discover what the child knows and begin building relationship with each child.</p> <p><u>Act. 3:</u> Music/listening activity "Child of God."</p> <p><u>Research Assistance:</u> Names/Addresses Pre- &amp; Post-Surveys</p>	<p><u>Act. 1:</u> Create a name tag.</p> <p><u>Act. 2:</u> Draw/write/interact with teacher/mentor using the Pre-Survey Activity Sheets.</p> <p><u>Act. 3:</u> Music/art listening "Child of God."</p>	<p>Room large enough to accommodate children expected, divided into groups of 8 to 10.</p> <p>Example: 80 children = 10 groups.</p> <p>Blank name tags, Felt pens. Pre-Survey &amp; Post-Survey. Activity Sheets, 1 set per child. Pencils, crayons, felt pens. Cassette player. "It Takes Love" cassette tape. 11 X 17 white paper. Felt pens or crayons.</p>
Show <i>The Story of Jesus for Children</i> video	3 minutes  62 minutes	<p>Coordinator: 3 minutes into the scheduled beginning, signal for the Early Arrival/readiness activities to stop.</p> <p>Briefly introduce the video <i>The Story of Jesus for Children</i>.</p> <p>Teacher/Mentors sit with their small groups of children (8-10) throughout the showing of the video.</p>	<p>Find a stopping place in their activities.</p> <p>Watch the video with their small groups.</p>	<p>Video Projector &amp; Screen.</p> <p><i>The Story of Jesus for Children</i> video.</p>
Closing	10 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give each child a Promise Card.</li> <li>• Guide children in completing the cards as individually as possible.</li> <li>• Answer any question briefly, clearly &amp; simply.</li> <li>• Invite children back for first follow-up time.</li> <li>• Complete Post-Survey.</li> <li>• Pray with children before they leave.</li> <li>• Collect name tags, Surveys and Promise Cards.</li> </ul>	<p>Complete the Promise Card. Give the top half to teacher. Take the bottom half home.</p>	<p>Promise Cards for each child.</p> <p>Date/Time/Place to invite children for first follow-up time.</p>



# Early Arrival

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## Readiness Activities

### Teacher/Mentor Responsibilities

- **Be ready to welcome children 15 minutes before starting time.**
- **Greet children as they arrive.**  
Take advantage of the time your first child arrives to begin to build a relationship. Give child a name tag or badge. We suggest you write the child's name on the badge. As you make their badges, ask them about their families or their favorite activities at school, etc. For some children this may be your best ministry time. Reward them with your attention for coming early.
- **Give each child a Pre-Survey. Guide children to complete both sides of the Pre-Survey.**  
You may introduce the Pre-Survey by saying: "Please read the first question with me. "What would you tell other people about Jesus?" Now, draw or write words to give me your ideas about this question.
- **For younger children or non-readers, ask them to tell you their ideas and then draw a picture. You may wish to write their comments under the picture.**
- **If those who come at the last minute or late are not able to complete the second side of the Pre-Survey, it is OK.** Their responses to questions 1 – 3 are the most important.
- **At official starting time, the Jesus for Children Day Coordinator will turn on the cassette tape song, "Child of God."** When you hear the music, begin helping your children turn their chairs to face the video screen or move to where the video will be shown.

# During the Story of Jesus

## for Children Video

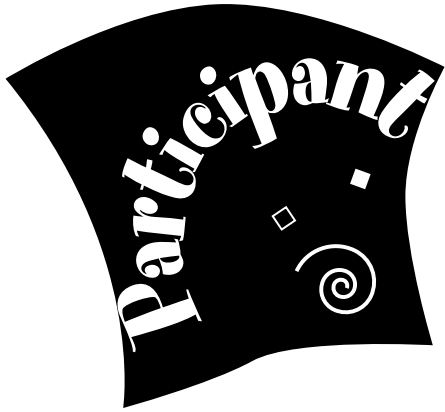
### Activity Guide Responsibilities

- **Sit with your small group of children throughout the showing of the video.**  
If a child gets restless, first try drawing him or her closer to yourself. If a child's restlessness persists, try catching the eye of another adult helper who is free, and letting the child finish watching the video with that adult.
- **Enjoy the video with your children.**  
Your attention focused on the video will assist the children in maintaining focus.

## Closing Activities

### Activity Guide Responsibilities

- **Give each child a Promise Card.**  
This is a carefully thought-through card that gives children the options for a voluntary choice. The child keeps the bottom half of the card, and gives you the top half after filling it out.
- **Guide them in completing the cards as individually as possible.**  
Help children fill out their cards as they need help, but don't make choices for them. These choices have to be their own voluntary choices.
- **Answer any questions briefly, clearly and simply.**  
Remember the guidelines for helping a child make a voluntary decision about Jesus that you learned in this training session. Pray with each child that wants to invite Jesus to live in and with him or her. Gently help them pray, knowing that only they can invite Jesus to live with and in them.
- **Invite children back for a follow-up time.**  
Your church leaders have decided on a follow-up procedure. Be sure you let your children know when to return for this time.
- **Help children complete the Post-Survey.**  
Tell your children that you want to know now after they have seen the video what they think and know about Jesus. Ask them to respond to the Post-Survey by writing or drawing their responses.
- **If your children are not yet readers, help them respond by drawing pictures or dictating their oral responses to you to write for them.**  
If you don't have time for the second side of the Post-Survey, it is OK. Their responses to questions 1 – 3 are the most important.
- **Collect Surveys and Promise Cards, and give them to the Recording Assistant. Pray with children before they leave.**



# Pre-Survey

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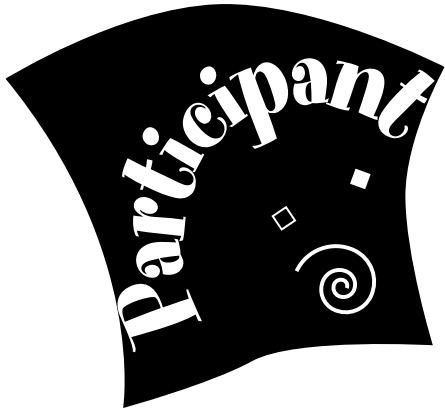
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw, Write, or Describe:

1. What does Jesus look like?

2. Where does Jesus live?

3. How do we learn about Jesus and God?



# Pre-Survey

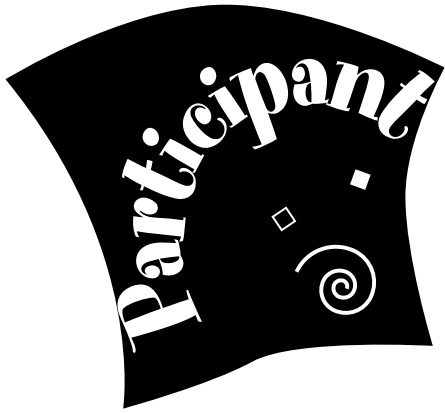
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(Page 2)

Draw, Write, or Describe:

4. What your family looks like:

5. What your friend or friends look like:



# Post-Survey

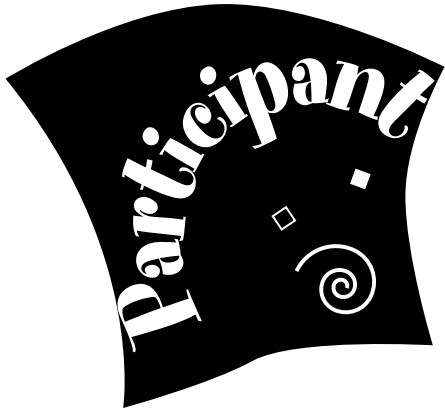
---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw, Write, or Describe:

1. What would you tell other people?

2. Where does Jesus live?



# Post-Survey

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(page 2)

Draw, Write, or Describe:

3. How do you know that this story about Jesus is true?

4. Why did Jesus have to die?



# Invitation to Minister

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- 1 Challenge  
Pastor in adult Sunday school classes and worship service.

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Hospitality Shepherd

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- 2 Volunteers

A Recruit volunteers for each 8 to 10 children.

B Clearly state the job description and commitment.

C Follow-up volunteer staff.

1 Take pictures of each teacher with his or her group of children.

2 Thank-you notes or phone calls the first week after the event.

3 Make a "Thank-you" bulletin board in church entry with pictures and names of all volunteers who served at the **Jesus for Children Day**.

D Volunteer staff evaluation.



# Understanding How Children Think and Learn

## Three Principles for Understanding How Children Think and Learn

- 1 Children's thinking is limited by perspective.
  - a. Children have a tendency to focus attention on limited or non-essential aspects of a situation.
  - b. Related to the child's inability to focus on the significance of a situation is the ease with which children can give correct answers that are in fact meaningless to them.
  - c. Many times what is said by a child is mere repetition and totally meaningless to them.

- 2 Children's thinking depends on the quality and quantity of first-hand experiences.

First-hand experiences give children the opportunity to use their five senses to gain understanding. When an adult wants a child to experience an abstract concept like kindness, they will create a first-hand experience to demonstrate. (Example: Intentionally look for a time when a child is being kind and then say, "Jimmy, giving your book to Bobby is a kind thing to do.")

- 3 Children's thinking is limited to physical activities.

Beside the limitations of perspective and first-hand experiences, a child's mental development requires physical objects to manipulate. Abstract ideas must be recast in physical terms for the child to attach meaning to them.

Activities accompanied by words increase understanding: "Mommy loves you" (hugs and kisses); "Daddy loves you" (hugs and kisses).

# The Story of Jesus for Children

## Video Showing Summary Report

Please complete and return as soon as possible to:  
*The Story of Jesus for Children Department*, The JESUS Film Project,  
910 Calle Negocio, Ste. 200, San Clemente CA 92673

Date video was shown \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Place Video Was Shown: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home

\_\_\_\_\_ Church - Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ School - Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Club - Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other - \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enter the appropriate numbers:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children that attended.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children's small group leaders.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of adult viewers that attended.

**Response to the video:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children who prayed to ask Jesus to live in them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children who said they had already asked Jesus to live in them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children who said they were not ready to ask Jesus into their lives.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children who said they would like to learn more about Jesus.



# First Follow-Up Instruction Page

First follow-up is best done individually by the Activity Guide who worked with the child. The goal is to talk with the child within a week of the day the child prayed to invite Jesus to live with and in him or her. "The Greatest Promise" booklet is a wonderful tool for reviewing each child's life changing decision and strengthening his or her assurance of relationship with Jesus. This is also the focus of Lesson Two of the Following Jesus manual available to use for follow-up.

If the child you are following up on is a non-reader, or one with language barriers, give "The Greatest Promise" booklet to the child and instruct him or her to look at the pictures while you read.

If the child you are following up on is a reader, ask him or her to read along with you while you read. Have him or her read the words in red and the Bible verses in yellow; you read the words in black.

## **When you get to the question on page 18:**

Read the question, "Would you like to ask Jesus to be with you and in you now?"

### **STOP**

Ask the child to look up at you and listen carefully. Then say:

"You can answer this question several ways:

You can say, 'Yes.'

You can say, 'No.'

You can say, 'I have already done this.'

You can say, 'I am really confused.'

You can say, 'I would like to talk to my dad or mom first.'

Any of these answers are OK. "If your answer is 'Yes,' then listen as I read a prayer, so you can be sure about what your YES means."

Read the prayer on page 17.

Then say something like this:

"Now that you have heard the prayer, let me ask you again, 'Would you like to pray this prayer right now?' If your answer is 'Yes,' you can pray this out loud with me, or inside where only you and God can hear."

(This applies the "Leading a Child to Christ guideline": Avoid pressure, and yet invite children to ask Jesus to be with them and in them.)

For review, ask the child to read through "The Greatest Promise" without reading the definitions. If the child is a non-reader or reads with difficulty, you might read "The Greatest Promise" to him or her without reading the definitions.



# Mailbox Club

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## Follow-up Option

Offering the opportunity to join an exciting correspondence club will enable each child to learn more about God's plan for salvation along with solid discipleship teaching that will strengthen the first steps of Christian growth.

Each child will receive lessons mailed directly to their home. Membership entitles each child to receive a membership card, opportunities to share prayer requests, and a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

This opportunity may be accomplished by one of these follow-up strategies below:

- 1** Have each Activity Guide list the name, address and age of each child in your program and send the list directly to the CEF Mailbox Club at P.O. Box 190, Warrenton, MO 63383. Within a few weeks, each child will receive the first lesson in an eight lesson series. As each lesson is completed and returned, the next is sent back to the child with personal comments and encouragement.
- 2** Order "Starter lessons," see the sample enclosed in this packet, from Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc., 1-800-300-4033. Lessons may be distributed at the end of the program by each Activity Guide or lessons may be completed as a group, turned in and mailed to the processing center by the Activity Guide. This ensures that each child will receive the first lesson.

Additional follow-up can be accomplished by having each "Starter Lesson" coded with a number exclusive to your Church or area. Upon request, the CEF Mailbox Club will then supply you with detailed information on the students enrolled from your outreach. This information can be used to continue your ministry directly with these children and their families.

The CEF Mailbox Club is one of the easiest ministry tools available for providing your children with sound Biblical teaching. Dedicated volunteers from across the United States grade lessons and pray specifically for each student and prayer requests received daily. Lessons are graded and returned within twenty-four hours. This quick response is designed to help kids stay enrolled for the maximum length of time possible. Lessons are easy to read with fun review activities to help reinforce teaching.



# Mailbox Club

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## Follow-up Option

If you would like additional information on follow-up programs to keep in touch with un-churched children in your area call Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. at 1 (800) 300-4033, for information on Good News Clubs, 5-Day Clubs and Teacher Training Opportunities in your area.

The Starter Lesson is designed to enroll children of all ages into a correspondence Bible study.

It is an attractive four-colored 10 1/2 by 14 1/2 folded pamphlet, which is given to children. This exciting lesson presents "What is the Bible?" One half of the page is a tear off part with three questions for the child to answer plus a word search puzzle. This portion also has the Mailbox Club's address on it for the child to send to the CEF Mailbox Club thus enrolling him.

When the lesson is received at the Mailbox Club it will be corrected and an appropriate lesson for their grade level will be sent back to them with an encouraging note.

