



# Lesson 1

## God Gave Us His Best Gift!

### Intermediate Small Group Lesson

<p><b>Bible Story</b></p> <p>Jesus and Nicodemus</p> <p><i>John 3:1-17</i></p>	<p><b>Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name tags</li><li>• Snacks</li><li>• How Are You Feeling? emoji chart</li><li>• A roll of plastic wrap</li><li>• A bag of individually wrapped candies</li><li>• A pair of dice</li><li>• Music and a device to play it</li><li>• Two popsicle sticks per child</li><li>• A skein of yarn</li><li>• A pair of scissors</li></ul>
<p><b>Bible Verse</b></p> <p>“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” <i>John 3:16, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p><b>Key Teaching Point</b></p> <p>Jesus is the great gift we receive from God.</p>	



## Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

### Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, "**What is the best gift you have received? What did you do with that gift?**" (Optional game idea: Ask the children to draw the best gift they've ever received on a sheet of paper and ask the group to guess what it is.)

### Pray Together

[Collect prayer requests from the children](#). Some prayer requests may emerge from the check-in time. For the first few weeks of club, the leader can model prayer time for the small group by praying for individual requests aloud.

### Small Group Game: Plastic Wrap Gift Pass

Preparation: Wrap individually wrapped candies in several layers of plastic wrap until it forms a small ball. (Optionally, you could use small trinkets instead of candy.) You will also need a device to play music on and two dice. Sit in a circle with your small group to play.

The first person with the ball starts unwrapping while the person on their right rolls a pair of dice, trying to roll doubles. When the doubles are rolled, the ball is passed to the next player (the person on the right) as well as the dice. The person with the ball does not stop unwrapping until the person to their right rolls doubles. Children will get to keep whatever gift falls out of the plastic wrap along the way, so they'll want to unwrap as fast as they can!

## Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

### Life Application Activity

Explain to the children the need to be born again. Explain that the Bible teaches that we are born once—a natural birth—and we are alive physically.

**"How can you tell someone is alive physically?"**



Take student responses. (They see and hear, walk and talk, laugh and cry, eat, sleep, etc.)

**How can you tell if someone is alive spiritually? Let's discover what spiritual life means together!** (Ask everyone to stand up.)

– Point to your eyes –

**Those who have spiritual life see God as he truly is. They know who he is and what he is like and can see how he's working in the world.**

– Point to your ears –

**Those who have spiritual life can hear what God is saying in His Word and in prayer, and receive his words as true.**

– Point to your mouth -

**Those who have spiritual life speak words of life and God's truth to themselves and to others.**

– Point to your heart -

**Those who have spiritual life love God, his commands, and His Word and hate sin and anything that creates distance between them and God.**

– Point to your hands -

**Those who have spiritual life extend God's love toward others in their life even without expecting or receiving anything in return.**

– Point to your feet -

**Those who have spiritual life are able and empowered to follow Jesus: to do what Jesus calls them to do, even if it sounds challenging or difficult.**

Review each one at least twice, and then remind children that you will be exploring the gift of spiritual life that Jesus offers them throughout the year.



## **Receive the Gift!**

**Meditation:** To line up our thoughts with God’s thoughts by focusing on God’s truth revealed to us in the Bible.

Give each child two popsicle sticks. The children will take the two popsicle sticks and create a cross. Then they will wrap yarn around and crisscross it until the sticks are in place. Help them tie off in the back securely. With the extra string, they will create a loop by tying another knot and trim the string off with scissors so that the cross can be hung. Help the children write: “God’s Gift, Jesus Loves Me” on their cross.



After the children complete their craft, review the lesson’s Bible verse together.

Encourage the children to take the craft home with them and to hang their cross somewhere to remind themselves of God’s greatest gift, his Son Jesus, who gives us eternal, spiritual life through his work on the cross because he loves us!

## **Bible Verse Game**

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

*John 3:16, New Living Translation*

## **Reflection**

Give each child a reflection journal and ask them to write their name on the front cover. Explain that they will be reflecting on what they learned at club at the end of each day. Keep their journals until the following week. They will be able to bring them home at the end of the year. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and write or draw their responses.

1. How can I receive the gift of eternal life?
2. How can this gift impact my life?

