

Jesus—Friend of Sinners Lesson 1

SuperTruth: Jesus invites all people to come to Him.

SuperVerse: His master then told him, “Go out along the back roads and fence rows and make people come in, so that my house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (CEV)

Bible Story: Matthew 9:9–13; Mark 2:13–17; Luke 7:36–50, 14:15–24

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Today, we begin a new Superbook adventure called “Jesus—Friend of Sinners.” Speaking of friends, Joy must make a hard decision when she is invited to a party by one of her old friends.

- Joy is excited to have a whole new set of Christian friends. But when an old friend invites her to a party on the same day as a church event, Joy isn’t sure what to do. Is it okay to hang out with unsaved friends?
- Superbook takes Joy, Chris and Gizmo to witness three Bible stories: the parable of the great supper (banquet), the calling of Matthew the tax collector, and the woman caught in sin. Joy is surprised to see Jesus spend time with sinners, tax collectors, the poor, and those with disabilities. She decides to become more like Jesus by following His example.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Up in the Air (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game about sharing time.

- Jesus spent time with everyone. That is the goal in this game—balancing or juggling your time with other believers and those who don’t know Jesus yet.

Game Instructions:

- Players will try to keep both balloons in the air at the same time for as long as possible. This represents juggling or balancing your time with each group of people. One point is scored for each bounce or hit while BOTH balloons are in the air.

Teaching: Friend Me (15 minutes)

Objective: Jesus interacted with others.

- Jesus still invites people into God’s Kingdom. The invitation He sends is not through the mail. He invites people by speaking through His Word, through His Spirit, and through US!

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (5 minutes)

- The craft is a Discipleship Card. The challenge is to memorize Revelation 3:20 and spend time with Jesus, believers and others.

SuperVerse: Superbook Replacements (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- God never forces anyone to accept His invitation. However, the Holy Spirit will gently draw and pursue individuals because God wants His spiritual kingdom to be full of people!
- Change one word of the SuperVerse on the board at a time. Children will raise their hands to tell you what word should be replaced. Write in the correct word, then repeat the process.

Prayer: Inclusion Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- Everything Jesus did was motivated by love. He wants to expand God’s Kingdom to include as many people as He can.
- Let’s close our eyes and ask the Holy Spirit to open our spiritual eyes and help us to see opportunities to interact with people we normally may look past to share God’s love with them.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Gathering Game: Play a game to exchange shapes. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Decorating Activity: Decorate a plate of cookies. | **Grades 1–3** | 15 min

Maze Activity: Find the correct paths for people to come to the feast. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Bible Activity: Discuss verses about Jesus accepting different people. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Game Materials Needed:

- Four round balloons, plus extras
- Permanent marker
- Leaders or 5th/6th grade helpers to assist and record on the board the bounces or hits
- Whiteboard and marker to record times

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Invitation and RSVP Card (or real invitation)
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App
- Discipleship Challenge materials:
- Disciple Card Page, one per child, printed on cardstock if possible
- Optional: Three stickers for each child to place by the verses once they have been memorized (Or have children color in the circles)
- Scissors
- Children’s scissors—one pair per child
- Pencils

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App