

# Bible Point - Jesus knows all about us.

#### **Bible Verse**

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me" (Psalm 139:1).

#### **Growing Closer to Jesus**

Children will ■ discover that Jesus' knowledge is unlimited,

- write a poem about their special secrets, and
- find out that Jesus knows everything about them and is protecting them at all times.

### **Teacher Enrichment**

#### **Bible Basis**

Jesus knows us.

Mark 14:27-31, 66-72

Jesus knew Simon, the brother of Andrew, from their very first meeting and how Simon would change. So he gave Simon a new name, Peter, which means "rock." Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, however, Peter displayed little of the strength and stability of a rock. He was impulsive and impetuous, and, in his haste, he often made bad decisions. The name Jesus gave Peter was based not on what Jesus already knew about Peter but on whom Jesus knew Peter would become as a result of following Jesus.

For three years Jesus poured himself into the lives of Peter and the 11 other disciples. But when Jesus surrendered to the authorities, "all his disciples deserted him and ran away," and Jesus was left to face an agonizing and undeserved death alone.

Following his death, however, the angel's proclamation that Jesus "has been raised from the dead" was the most wonderful news anyone could have given to Jesus' followers. Why, though, did the angel mention Peter specifically?

Peter, the bold one, had fearfully denied Jesus three times the night of his trial and then had broken down and cried (Mark 14:66-72). Now that Jesus was alive, Peter would likely wonder if Jesus would accept him. The angel left no doubt of Jesus' forgiveness by telling the women at the tomb, "Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: Jesus is going ahead of you to

Jesus knew all about Peter—and he loved him anyway.

#### Prayer

- Read Matthew 4:18-20.
- How does it make you feel to realize how well the Lord knows you?
- Dear God, you know my students and me better than we know ourselves—and you love us anyway. Help us serve you well by...

#### **Before the Lesson**

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	"New Life Name Tags" (p. 24), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins	
Attention Grabber	Who Has the Animal?—Play a fun game with an animal rubber band, and then talk about how Jesus' knowledge is unlimited.	Bible Bible	
Bible Exploration & Application	<b>Peter's Story</b> —Listen to the story of Peter's denial of Jesus, and learn that no one has secrets from God.	Bible, CD player	
	Secrets—Make up a story about their special secrets, hear Daniel 2:22, and find out that God knows deep and special secrets about them.	Bible, "Secrets" handout (p. 33), pen	
	<b>Jesus Knows Me</b> —Guess whether they know everything about their friends, and apply body stickers to indicate that Jesus knows them.		Ne Knows
	God Sees All—Look through the space glasses, hear Psalm 139:1-5 and 7-12, and talk about how it's impossible to hide from God.	Bible, eraser	
Closing	<b>Disguises</b> —Put on disguises, and thank God that he can recognize them no matter what.		

#### Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** "New Life Name Tags" (p. 24), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's lesson and "Growing Together" activity. Use questions such as "What special things did your family do to help remember about Jesus last week? and "Who did you tell about Jesus?"
- Hand out the name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged, or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Tell children that the signal you'll use during this lesson is clapping your hands three times. Ask children to respond by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so they'll have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.

# **Attention Grabber**

#### ■ Who Has the animal?

SUPPLIES: Bible



Have the children sit in a tight circle. Choose one child to sit in the middle of the circle, and help the child stretch the *sport band* over his or her eyes as a blindfold. Hide an animal rubber band in your hand. Pass the animal around the circle. Have the blindfolded child count to 10 and then say "stop." Then have all the children hold their fists out in front of them.

Have the child in the middle of the circle take off the sport band blindfold. Give him or her two guesses to find out who has the animal. If the child guesses correctly, he or she switches places with the child who has the animal. If the child guesses incorrectly both times, he or she stays in the middle for one more round. If, after a second round of play, the child still has not guessed correctly, choose another child to be in the middle.

Play several rounds. Then return the animal rubber band and the sport band to the Learning Lab, and ask:

- · Those of you who had a turn guessing, how did you decide who had the **animal?** (I looked at people's faces; I tried to see if I could see the animal in someone's hand.)
- Did you ever know for certain that a person had the animal, or did you have to guess? Explain. (I knew that Ryan had the animal because he grinned; I had to guess because I wasn't sure.)

Say: It was impossible to always know who had the animal. We couldn't see inside everyone's closed fists, and some people were very good at pretending they didn't have it. But there is someone who knows everything. Can you guess who it is? It's Jesus. Today we're going to learn





It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Some children object to wearing blindfolds or anything that covers their eyes. Be sensitive to their fears. If children resist having something put over their eyes, just have them close their eyes instead.

#### Bible Insight

All four Gospels report Peter's three distinct and emphatic denials of Jesus. The confident boasts Peter made earlier that night were meaningless when he faced danger due to his association with Jesus. However, the crowing of the rooster abruptly brought Peter to his





about a man Jesus knew very well. Jesus knew things about this man that the man himself didn't know. We're going to learn that  $\triangleright$  Jesus knows all about us, too.

Read today's key Bible verse, **Psalm 134:1:** ►"0 Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." Then ask:

- How much does the Lord know about us? (Everything; a whole bunch.)
- What do you think it means that the Lord knows everything about you? (That you can't hide anything from the Lord; God knows what you like and don't like.) Say: ► Jesus knows all about us, and there is nothing we can hide from him. But that's OK. Let's listen now to a story about a friend of Jesus named Peter and see how well Jesus knew Peter.

#### HANDS-ON BIBLE

Photocopy maps of your area (one per child), and distribute the photocopies along with crayons or markers to children.

Say: Our parents know us well, and so do our brothers and sisters and close friends. But who knows us better than anyone? Jesus! Let's do something to show us how well God knows us. Please open your *Hands-On Bible* to Psalm 139. Follow the instructions for the "God Knows" activity in your Bible.

Help children find **Psalm 139** in their *Hands-On Bibles*, and assist children as they follow the instructions. If children have difficulty understanding the map, simply have them color different sections, and mark the location of your church for them with an X.

- Ask: What are some of the places you colored on your map? (My home; my school; my church.)
- Why are those places important to you? (Because home is where I live; because I go to school every day.)

Say: God knows all about us, and he cares for the things that are important to us—things like home and school and church. No matter where we go, God is with us and shows us which way he wants us to go.

Lead children in a prayer thanking God for knowing all about us and for loving us.

Understanding the emotional development of your first- and second-graders will go a long way in helping you encourage your children to feel more secure in Jesus' love. They express feelings with physical action. They crave individual attention and affirmation. They are self-centered; each child wants to be first. They need to feel capable; this is directly related to their self-esteem. They want everything to be fair, and they have a clear-cut sense of justice.

# **Bible Exploration & Application**

#### ■ Peter's Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Cue the CD to track 2, "Peter's Story." Open your Bible to Mark 14:27-31, 66-72. Show the passages to the children, and say: Today's story comes from the book of Mark. Listen to the story about a man named Peter. Each time Peter says, "Jesus knew," point to your head.

Have the children practice pointing to their heads a few times. Then play the segment. When the story is over, stop the CD and ask:

- What things did Jesus know about before they happened? (That Peter would say he didn't know Jesus; that the rooster would crow twice; that he was about to be taken prisoner; that all of his followers would do something wrong.)
- How do you think Jesus knows everything about people? (Because Jesus is God; because Jesus is smarter than anyone else.)
- · Even though Jesus knows that we'll mess up, he still loves us. Why do you think Jesus loves us no matter what? (Because he's God; because he made us.)

Say: There are many things we don't know. We're like Peter—he wanted to do the right thing and said he would, but then he got scared and did the wrong thing. The good news is that *▶Jesus knows all about us—*all of the good things and all of the bad things—and he still loves us. There's nothing we can do that'll make Jesus stop loving us. Jesus loved Peter even though he messed up. Jesus gave Peter another chance. Jesus will give us another chance, too. Let's find out about all the things Jesus knows about us.



#### Secrets

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, "Secrets" handout (p. 33), pen

Make one photocopy of the "Secrets" handout. In this activity, you'll write a story that includes a secret about each member of the class. If a photocopier is available, have an assistant make photocopies of the story for children to take home while you're teaching the rest of this lesson. Encourage children to challenge their parents to discover which secret pertains to them.

In class, show children the handout, and read what it says. Say: We're going to make up a story that contains a secret about each one of you. Think of something special about yourself that no one in class knows. Maybe it's what you want to be when you grow up. Maybe it's your favorite game. Maybe it's a secret talent such as making a funny face that will make anyone laugh. It could even be the reason you like your favorite color. Take a minute to think of one or two special secrets.

Have each child share his or her special secret with the class. As you write down the secrets, just list phrases such as "a fireman" or "Hopscotch" so there won't be any clues identifying to whom the secrets belong.

When everyone has shared at least one secret, read the entire list to the children, starting with the line printed on the page.

Then say: This list of secrets shows just how special this class is. Listen to what the Bible saus.

Read Daniel 2:22, and then say: ► Jesus knows all about us because he knows everything. He knows all of your dreams and all of your secrets, and Jesus has a special future planned for you.



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Jesus knew Peter's heart, and he knows our hearts, too. Jesus loves each one of us and went to the cross to take our punishment for each and every sin. He loves and forgives us, just as he loved and forgave his friend Peter. Watch for teachable moments to reinforce this message throughout the lesson.



SUPPLIES: none



Have the body stickers handy. Have children sit on the floor in pairs. Say: We know that ► Jesus knows all about us because he knows everything. In our last activity, we each shared a secret with the class and then we put it in a special story. Now we're going to see if our friends can guess things about us without our telling them what they are.

Read questions to the children, and have them repeat the questions to one another. The children can respond to their partners and take turns answering questions.

Ask: • Where do you go to school?

- · How old are you?
- How many brothers and sisters do you have? What are their names?
- · How do you spell your last name?
- On what street do you live?

Once a child has answered a question, have him or her raise a hand. Give a sticker to the child, and help him or her apply the sticker to his or her hand. Make sure children take turns so each child has a chance to answer a question and receive a sticker. Continue until each child is wearing a sticker.





Then say: Our friends know some things about us. Some of our friends even know a lot about us. But none of our friends knows everything about us, the way Jesus does. That's because ► Jesus is the only one who knows all about us.

Ask: • What was the easiest question to answer? (Where I go to school; how many brothers and sisters I have.)

• What was the hardest question to answer? (How to spell my last name; where I go to school.)

 $S_{ay}$ : There are many things our friends in class don't know about us. But we are so special to Jesus that  $\blacktriangleright_{\underline{he}\ knows\ all\ about\ us.}$  He is our forever friend. When you go home today, show your special sticker to someone in your family. Play the guessing game with that person. Find out if there's something he or she doesn't know about you, and remind that person that Jesus does know that one thing—and everything—about you.



#### God Sees all

SUPPLIES: Bible, eraser



Before class, use an eraser to smudge up the lenses of the *neon* glasses, making them difficult to see through.

Have children sit in a circle. Arrange several animal rubber bands in a small circle in the middle of the circle. Pass around the space glasses, and say: Look through these glasses. First look around the room and see what you can see. Then look in the middle of the circle and try to see the animals through these glasses. Take the glasses off and see what a difference that makes when you look at the animals.

After all the children have had a chance to look through the glasses, put the Learning Lab items away.

- Ask: What did you see first when you looked around the room through **the space glasses?** (Everything was blurry; I couldn't see clearly.)
- And when you tried to look through the space glasses at the animals, what happened? (I couldn't see the animals clearly; I had to move my head to see them all.)

Say: When we looked through the glasses, we couldn't see clearly. Having our vision distorted—that is, made fuzzu—by the glasses is kind of like having our vision distorted because we're human. We see a lot, but we don't see clearly.

Pause and tell children to try to look through a wall near you. Then ask:

- · When you try to look through that wall, can you see what's on the other **side?** (No; of course not.)
  - Why not? (Because it's solid; because there's no window.)

Say: We can't see everything because our vision gets blocked, the way this wall blocks us from seeing through to the other side. When our vision is fuzzy, it blocks us from seeing things clearly. But God's vision isn't blocked the way ours is-God sees everything. Listen to what the Bible says about what God sees. Be ready to tell me what God sees about you. Read Psalm **134:1-5**. Pause after each verse, and have children tell you what God knows about them.

The Bible says more. Listen again to the Bible, and be ready to tell me where a person might go to hide from God. Read Psalm 134:7-12.

- Ask: Where might a person try to hide from God? (In the heavens; in the darkness; by the ocean; nowhere, because God is everywhere.)
- Is it possible to be in a place where God can't see you? (No; I don't think so.)
- Say: ►Jesus knows all about us. Nothing is hidden from him. That means that wherever we go, Jesus sees us clearly and will be there to take care of us and protect us from bad things. The Bible says God's hand will hold us no matter where we are. Let's praise Jesus for knowing all about us.



# Live Iti





# Closing

#### **■** Disguises

SUPPLIES: none



Ask: • What have you learned so far today? (I learned that Jesus knows everything; Jesus knows everything about me; Jesus is protecting me wherever I go.)

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: I'll pass the space glasses one way around the circle, and I'll pass the plastic fringe the other way. When someone's holding both of them, we'll have that person put on the glasses and put the fringe on his or her head like a wig. That person will jump up and do a silly action while the rest of

us shout, "No matter what you wear and do, Jesus knows you through and through!" Let's practice saying that.

Have the children say the rhyme with you several times until they know it. Then play the game. Have the child who receives both the glasses and the fringe stand up and do a silly action, such as jumping up and down while waving his or her arms. Have the group shout the rhyme. Then have the child sit down and hand the glasses to the person on the right and the fringe to the person on the left. Continue playing until everyone has done a silly action.

Say: Let's praise Jesus because  $\triangleright$  <u>Jesus knows all about us</u> and loves us just as we are.

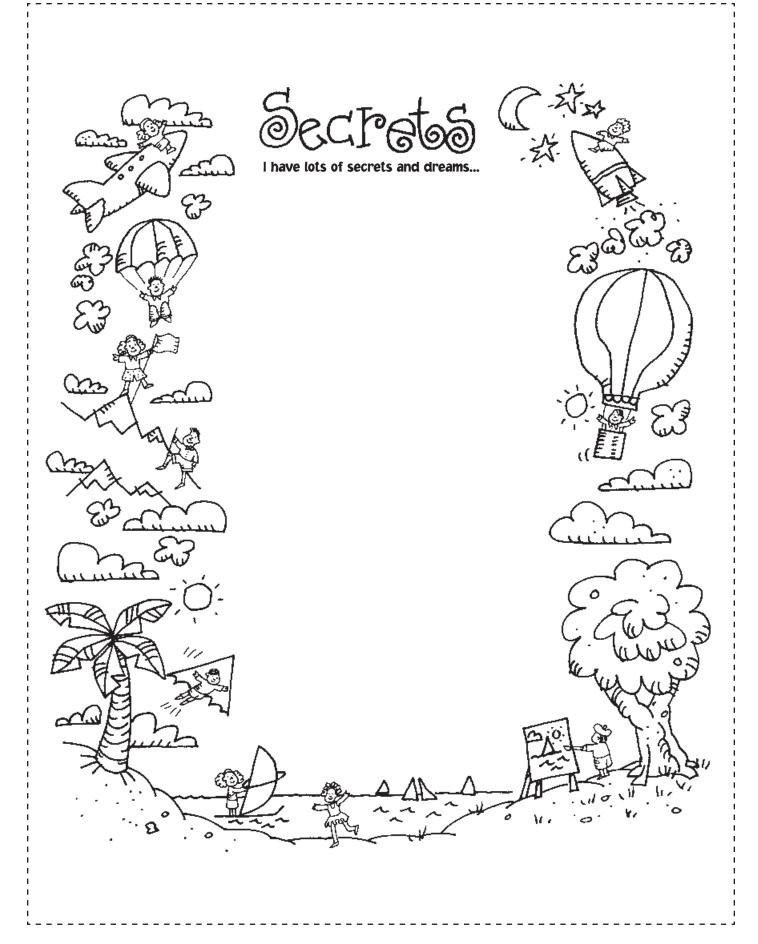
Have everyone crouch and then jump up and yell, "Praise Jesus!"

Then say: In Jesus' name, amen!



# Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.



# Growing. Together

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection 2: Jesus knows all about us.

# Bible Verse

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me" (Psalm 134:1).





Today your child learned that Jesus knows everything; no one can hide anything from him. The children learned that because Jesus knows all about them, he knows where they are and can always protect them. They also learned that Jesus has wonderful things planned for their future. Use these ideas at home to teach children that Jesus knows all about them.

# Gifts for Jesus



on a clear night. Read Psalm 8:3-4. See if you can find the Big Dipper. Explain that God made the stars, the moon, the galaxies, and the entire universe but he also knows

what's in the heart of each person in the world. Praise God together for knowing all about you.

# **Jelly Bean Devotion**



Fill a jar with jelly beans or your family's favorite small candy. Challenge each family member to guess how many candies are in the jar. Then count the candies together, and congratulate whoever was closest to the correct

number. Divide the candies among your family. As you munch, read Psalm 134:17, and talk about God's precious thoughts. How many precious thoughts does God have about you?

# Heart Knowledge

Dye Easter eggs together. Before you dip them into the dye, draw shapes and symbols on all the eggs with a white crayon. Compare the white eggs to each other—it's hard to see the crayon drawings. Then dip the eggs in the dye. (For an easy, inexpensive dye, mix a cup of boiling water, a teaspoon of vinegar, and enough food coloring to brightly color the liquid.) As the shapes appear, read 1 Samuel 16:7b: "The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Talk about how God sees all that's hidden inside of us that no one else sees.

# Hairs on Your Head

Fix spaghetti and meatballs for dinner. When you serve the meal, arrange the meatballs on each plate so they resemble eyes, a nose, and a mouth. Mix the sauce with the spaghetti, and arrange it at the top of each face to look like hair. Before eating, read Matthew 10:30. Have family members try to count the spaghetti strands. As you eat dinner, talk about the wonders of God's immense knowledge.