

Lesson Plan

September 27th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Valued

Bible Story: New Life in Jesus (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Theme Verse: "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: We are teaching kids today that God sent Jesus for us. While sin brings death and separation from God, the love and grace He shows us through Jesus brings new life. (Read Ephesians 2:4-5.) Kids will learn that we are valuable to God, so He sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a forever relationship with Him.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the team and inviting Him to work in big ways in the hearts of kids today.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: Hey everyone! My name is ____, and it is awesome to be here with you today! We get to celebrate that we are all very important people with our Theme VIP. The phrase VIP stands for Very Important Person. Turn to a neighbor and give your best VIP high five! (Allow time.) Do you know how I know we are all VIPs? Ask, "How?" (How?) I am so glad you asked! I

know we are all VIPs because we are valued by God. Let me hear you say, “I am valued!” (I am valued!) That is right! Get ready for some VIP fun!

What’s the Value?

Game Rules:

1. Divide the kids into teams depending on your class size.
2. Invite one player from each team to the front.
3. Display a slide, which has an item and a price.
4. Direct players on stage to jump up and down if they think the value is higher and to bend low to the floor and clap if they think the value is lower. Alternatively, direct kids with mobility limitations to clap over their heads or below their knees to create inclusion for all kids to play.
5. Encourage teams to help their teammates by calling out what they think the answer is.
6. Display the answer slide and award points to the teams who guessed correctly. Have Small Group Leader keep track of points.
7. Invite new players from each team for each round (six rounds total).

What You Say: Today’s VIP game is called “What’s the Value?” What’s the what? (Value!) First, let’s get one player from each team to the front. (Allow time.)

On the screen will be a picture of an item, and a price next to it. These prices are not for a specific brand of an item, but rather an average price if you were to buy something like that. Your job is to determine if you think the average price is higher or lower than the number on the screen. If you think that the average price of the item is higher than the price on the screen, jump up and down! If you think the price is lower than what is on the screen, bend down low and clap your hands. (Alternatively, direct kids to clap over their heads or below their knees if they have mobility limitations.) Teammates who are watching, your job is to call out, point, and help your teammate at the front with what you think the price is. If your teammate guesses correctly, your team gets a point!

All right, let’s see the first one! Everyone, say, “What’s the Value?” (What’s the Value?)

Leader Tip: Encourage lots of cheering and guessing from supporting teammates.

We have a scooter for \$30.00. Jump up and down if you think the average price is higher and bend low and clap if you think it is lower. Everyone else, help out your teammates! (Allow time.) The actual price of the scooter is ...

Community Big Kids

\$14.96 which is lower! If you guessed lower, your team gets a point! Players, you can take a seat, and we will have new players come to the front. (Allow time.) Let's see our second item! Everyone, say, "What's the Value?" (What's the Value?)

We have a water balloon launcher for \$10.00. Jump up and down if you think the average price is higher and bend low and clap if you think it is lower. Cheer on your teammates! (Allow time.) The actual price of the water balloon launcher is ...

\$12.36 which is higher! If you guessed higher, your team gets a point! Players, you can take a seat, and we will have new players come to the front. (Allow time.) Let's see our third item! Everyone, say, "What's the Value?" (What's the Value?)

We have a tablet for \$375.00. Jump up and down if you think the average price is higher and bend down and clap if you think it is lower. Help out your teammates! (Allow time.) The actual price of the tablet is ...

\$299.00 which is lower! If you guessed lower, your team gets a point! Players, you can take a seat, and we will have new players come to the front. (Allow time.) Let's see our fourth item! Everyone, say, "What's the Value?" (What's the Value?)

We have a bike for \$100.00. Jump up and down if you think the average price is higher and get low and clap if you think it is lower. (Allow time.) The actual price of the bike is ...

\$149.99 which is higher! If you guessed higher, your team gets a point! Players, you can take a seat, and we will have new players come to the front. (Allow time.) Let's see our fifth item! Everyone, say, "What's the Value?" (What's the Value?)

We have a dollhouse for \$200.00. Jump up and down if you think the average price is higher and bend down low and clap if you think it is lower. (Allow time.) The actual price of the dollhouse is ...

\$242.99 which is higher! If you guessed higher, your team gets a point! Players, you can take a seat, and we will have new players come to the front. (Allow time.) Let's see our sixth and final item! Everyone, say, "What's the Value?" (What's the Value?)

We have a basketball hoop for \$160.00. Jump up and down if you think the average price is higher and get low and clap if you think it is lower. (Allow time.) The actual price of the basketball hoop is ...

\$127.47 which is lower! If you guessed lower, your team gets a point! Players, you can take a seat and, along with your team, show me with your hands how many points you won! (Allow time and celebrate the winner[s].)

When we talk about the price of something, that is the value the seller puts on that item. One person may say the value of a bike is \$100.00 while someone else may say the value is \$149.99. We can confuse how much something costs with how valuable it is, but that is not the case. There are many valuable things in life that cost very little or are even free. And you know what else? Ask, “What?” (What?) God says we are all incredibly valuable! According to God, you are valuable not because of anything you have done or based on what other people think. God loves and values people because He made us—you and me—special and unique. Let me hear you say, “I am valued!” (I am valued!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: What do a British secret agent named Maxwell Sterling and a posh princess named Magnolia Pennington have in common? We are about to find out! These two VIPs are the stars of their own movies and the stars of our next video. Say, “Let’s see those VIPs!” to get our video started in 3-2-1! (Let’s see those VIPs!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: That video had everything! Action! Drama! Watches and birds! It is a good thing that Maxwell Sterling got a new watch because he was being sent on a very important mission. The mission was valuable, so it was important to send the right agent. In the same way, we are valuable to God, so He sent the best person to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. God sent His only Son, Jesus, because He loves us and made us to have a now-and-forever relationship with Him. Let me hear you say, “God sent Jesus for me!” (God sent Jesus for me!)

Worship

What You Say: Let’s all come to the front and worship together this morning!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:1-10.) Now it's time for our Bible Story. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. The Bible has two different sections—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Today's Bible story comes from a book in the New Testament called Ephesians (ih FEE zhuhnz). Everyone, say, "Ephesians!" (Ephesians!) This book was written by Paul, a man who followed Jesus. Paul was in prison for telling people about who Jesus was and why He came. While Paul was in prison, he wrote a letter to some other people who followed Jesus. This group of people are often called Christians, and this group of Christians were living in the city of Ephesus. Paul had some really important news to share with them! A cool fashion designer named Quinn is going to tell us today's Bible story. If you are ready to hear more, say, "I'm ready!" (I'm ready!)

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: In this Bible story, Paul told the Ephesians that people are dead in their sin. The reason Paul told them that they were dead is not because they were actually, physically dead, but because he wanted them to understand that they were separated from God because of their sin. They were not able to live the way God created them to live, and they could not do anything on their own to fix sin and separation from God. These people needed to know that there was hope—they could be made alive in Jesus! Paul told them about Jesus, and

what he wrote applies to you and me today! God sent Jesus for us so that we would no longer be dead in sin—we can enjoy life with Him forever!

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 2) Paul had some bad news for the Ephesians, and that bad news is true for us too. The bad news is that we are dead in our sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. All of us have sinned, and sin separates us from God. We may not always feel like we are dead in our sin. But even if we do a lot of “right” things, none of us can be perfect enough to save ourselves from our sin. Can any of us save ourselves from sin? (No!) Yup, that is right. God is perfect, so any amount of sin, even something as small as an unkind thought, is still sin. Since God is perfect and always does what is right, He is just to punish sin. This means that all sin, big or small, deserves to be punished. That is the right and good thing for God to do.

(Circle 3) If sin and punishment is where God stopped, this would be bad news for everyone. But the good news Paul shared with the Ephesians is also the same good news for us. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Jesus had been with God from the very beginning of time, but Jesus still came to earth and lived a perfect life without sin. Then Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment we deserved for our sin. God showed us mercy, which means He offers us forgiveness rather than the punishment we deserved. And then, guess what? Say, “What?” (What?) On the third day, Jesus came back to life because He is God the Son! He has the same power that God the Father has, and He is stronger than sin and death. Because Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sin, He made the way for us to have a right relationship with God forever! This is God’s grace, which is His undeserved love—a love that forgives and rescues us when we turn from sin and follow Jesus instead. Say, “God sent Jesus for me!” (God sent Jesus for me!)

(Circle 1) Remember how Paul wrote that we are dead in our sin before we follow God? When you turn from sin so you can trust and follow Jesus, He promises to make you alive! We call this salvation, which means rescue from sin and separation from God that leads to a new life lived with Him. Jesus rose from the dead, and He raises us up to new life in Him too. This is how God has designed for us to live—to believe Him and follow Him and enjoy the new life He has for us. We get to enjoy new life now and forever with God.

So what does this mean for each of you? It means that, no matter what mistakes you have made or how far away from God you feel, you can know God sent Jesus to rescue you. Even if you feel like you do a lot of right things, you can know that you—and all people everywhere—need to be

forgiven for sin. But God values you so much, and you can be forgiven through Jesus! You can talk with God anytime and ask Him to help you follow Him.

When you are forgiven and follow Jesus, God helps you live out life as His own workmanship. That means He helps you do good works that bring Him honor and help others. Say, “God’s workmanship!” (God’s workmanship!) Right! You live as God’s workmanship when He helps you point people to God, tell people about God, show people God’s love, honor God with your words, honor God with your actions, and honor God with your choices.

You are a valuable person who points others to God by sharing who He is and showing people God’s love. You also show that you are God’s workmanship when you honor God with your words, actions, and choices. If you have questions about following Jesus or want to respond to God’s invitation to give you new life, you can always talk with me or your Small Group Leader. God sent Jesus for me, and He sent Jesus for you! Let me hear you say, “God sent Jesus for me!” (God sent Jesus for me!)

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions:

For God loved the world in this way: (Bring both arms up, palms facing in, then close fists and bring arms to cross in front of your chest—right over left.)

He gave his one and only Son, (Holding your right pointer finger up to make a “one,” bring your arm in toward your right shoulder, then extend your arm out in front of you.)

so that everyone who believes in him (Bring both hands in front of you with palms up, right over left, and move them outward to the sides.)

will not perish but have eternal life. (Make an X with your arms in front of you, right over left, then uncross and bring both arms up, palms facing in.)

John 3:16 (Hold hands out like a book.)

What You Say: It is time to learn our Theme verse! Learning verses from the Bible is one way we can remember who God is and what He has done for us. Let’s follow along with Maxwell Sterling and learn together!

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: This Bible verse shows just how much God loves and values us. He sent His Son, Jesus, so that we can have new life with Him now and forever. That new life means that God helps us love and follow Him now and that we will get to enjoy a perfect relationship with Him forever. That is so incredible! Say, “So incredible!” (So incredible!) Say, “God sent Jesus for me!” (God sent Jesus for me!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Let me hear you say, “God sent Jesus for me!” (God sent Jesus for me!) We can know that we are valued by God because He sent Jesus to make the way for us to have new life with Him now and forever. When we turn from sin to trust and follow Jesus, we move from separation from God to new life with God. We get to be God’s workmanship, which means we are valuable people who love God and point others to Him by the way we live. When we are given a new life with God, it means God helps us have new ways to talk and behave, plus new ways to make choices—all so we honor and love God. Let’s close our time together by praying and talking with God. Let’s pray in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You so much for the gift of Your perfect Son, Jesus. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin so that we can have a relationship with You. You take us from death to life and invite us to live for You. Help us to love and follow You. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Let’s talk about the truth that God sent Jesus for us, and He calls us VIPs!

1. If you became a famous VIP for something, what do you think it would be? (Allow responses and share your own.)
2. The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus for us. Let’s open our Bibles to **Ephesians 2:4-5** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) In

these Bible verses, we read that God loves us so much, and He made us alive even when we were stuck in sin, like we were dead! God sent Jesus to give us a relationship with Him, now and forever, when we turn from sin and trust Jesus! We are saved by God's grace when we turn from sin and follow Jesus. Then He helps us do good works, which God planned for us from the beginning. What are some good works that you can do this week that would point others to God? (Allow responses and share your own.)

3. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus that God made them alive through faith in Jesus. How can following Jesus make a difference in our lives? (Allow responses and share your own.)
4. The Bible tells us that God values us so much that He sent Jesus for us. Who can you talk with this week about how God values you and sent Jesus for you? What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Pop-Up Bible Verse

Leader Prep:

1. Draw a spiral on the back of a paper plate, starting at the end and creating four circle shapes as you spiral into the center on the plate. Cut out the spiral.
2. Write I am God's VIP along the spiral before decorating it.
3. Cut out the circles from the printable. Glue the large circle to the bottom edge of the spiral and the smaller circle to the top edge of the spiral.

What To Do: Today we are making a pop-up paper plate to celebrate that God gives us new life in Jesus! Say, "God sent Jesus for me!" (God sent Jesus for me!) First, draw a spiral on the back of your paper plate. Start at the edge and draw four circle shapes, spiraling inward. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Now, cut along the spiral you drew. (Allow time.)

The next step is to decorate the spiral. Write the phrase "I am God's VIP!" repeatedly along the spiral, then decorate it. (Allow time.)

Finally, cut out and glue the circles from your printable on the spiral. Glue the large circle at the bottom and the small circle at the top. (Allow time.)

Loud And Clear: The Bible verse on your pop-up paper plate spiral says that you were dead in your trespasses but made alive with Christ. When God sent Jesus, He showed us mercy, which

meant He gave us forgiveness rather than the punishment we deserved. God also showed us grace, which is His undeserved love—a love that saves us when we trust and follow Him. This fun craft is a reminder that God made the way for us to have a relationship with Him. That is how much He values us! Let me hear you say, “I am valued!” (I am valued!) You can respond to God’s mercy and grace by turning from sin to trust and follow Jesus, living the new life God created you to live!

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Use this time to get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them how God values us so much. God He sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin and give us new life in Him. We can live as God’s workmanship, which means we love God and point others to Him.

Loud And Clear: The Bible tells us that while we are far from God because of our sin, God does not leave us there. Because of His great love, God sent Jesus for us. We are saved by grace, not by doing a lot of right things, and new life is a gift we receive, not something we earn. When we respond by trusting Jesus, God makes us alive in Him. Let me hear you say, “God sent Jesus for me!” (God sent Jesus for me!)

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You so much for sending your Son, Jesus. Thank You for making the way for us to have a new life with You. Help us turn away from our sins so that we trust and follow You forever. As we follow You, help us do good works as Your workmanship. Thank You that we do not have to earn Your love or forgiveness. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.