

Lesson Plan

September 6th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Valued

Bible Story: Jesus and the Children (Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16)

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: This September, we get to teach kids that they are uniquely designed and are made with value. This week, we will teach that God made us with worth. When people brought children to Jesus to be blessed, He welcomed them. (Read Mark 10:14.) Jesus sees children as worthy of His love and attention—and He sees us the same way!

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help kids and families recognize their worth and value in Him.

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: Hi, everyone! My name is ____, and I am so happy to see you all here! This month, we are jumping into the Theme VIP! VIP stands for "Very Important Person!" Very Important what? (Person!) That is right! If your name is on a VIP list, that means you get special access to something exclusive and exciting! Turn to a neighbor and say, "Ooh, exciting!" (Ooh, exciting!) When it comes to God, we are all VIPs because we are so important to Him!

VIP Walk

Game Rules:

1. Instruct kids to disperse throughout the room so that they have space to move.
2. Direct kids to walk around the room while the music plays.
3. Bend knees and get low when a phrase appears on the screen. Kids who relate to the prompt on the slide will pop up and do five jumping jacks. Consider allowing kids with mobility limitations to clap instead.
4. Keep playing until the video ends.

What You Say: It's game time! Today we are playing "VIP Walk!" What kind of walk? (VIP!) And guess what? Ask, "What?" (What!) You are a VIP, and we get to celebrate that! Here is how the game will work. When the music plays, you will walk around the room like you are on the red carpet. You can pretend you are a movie star or a rock star and people are taking pictures of you or trying to get your autograph. After a little while, a phrase will pop up on the screen, and everyone will bend your knees and get low to the floor. If that description fits you, you get to pop up and do five jumping jacks! (Add a note that kids can also clap their hands five times to incorporate kids with mobility issues, if this applies.)

Ready to celebrate with each other and have a blast? Let's get moving! Remember, when a new category pops up on the screen, either jump up and do your jumping jacks or bend your knees and get low while you cheer on your friends! All right VIPs, get ready to walk!

Leader Tip: Read the prompts out loud when they appear on the screen to help all kids participate. Keep the energy high, cheering on kids as they walk and do their jumping jacks.

Great job! Go ahead and have a seat. (Allow time.) You all did a great job celebrating each other! It was so great getting to see what makes each of you a VIP! Everybody say, "I am a VIP!" (I am a VIP!) That's right! God knows everything about you. He made you, and you matter to Him! To God, you are a valued VIP! Say, "I am valued!" (I am valued!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: What is the name of the last movie you watched? Let me hear you say it in 3-2-1! (Allow responses.) That is a lot of movies! Today, we get to watch a video that is about some movies. When I say, "Lights! Camera!" you call, "Action!" to start our video. Ready? "Lights! Camera!" (Action!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: If you had to choose between watching a movie starring Maxwell Sterling or Princess Magnolia Pennington, which would you choose? Raise your hand if you choose Maxwell's movie. (Allow time.) Raise your hand if you choose Princess Magnolia's movie. (Allow time, then direct kids to sit down.) They are both very different actors who star in very different movies. However, both people in the video are special and made with worth—like us! Having worth means having value. Everyone, raise your hand, and say, "God made me with worth!" (God made me with worth!)

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 Matthew 19:13-15.) The Bible is God's true message about Himself. In the Bible, God tells us who He is and who He made us to be. When we read it, we can see that God made us with worth. Say, "God made me with worth!" (God made me with worth!) We are going to read a story from the Bible about a time when God's Son, Jesus, showed His disciples that children are special and valuable to Him. Today's story comes from a book in the Bible called Matthew. What book? (Matthew!) Great job, VIPs! Let's check out this Bible story video with a fashion designer named Quinn and learn more about what Jesus had to say about value. Get our Bible story started by saying, "VIP!" in 3-2-1! (VIP!)

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: The disciples in today's Bible story tried to keep the children away. This was not because they didn't like children. It was probably because Jesus was very busy with teaching and helping people, and spending time with children would be another time-consuming thing. But guess what? Ask, "What?" (What?) Jesus wanted the children to come to Him! He said, "Let the little children come to Me!" Amazing! Jesus taught the disciples something super important! Say, "Super important!" (Super important!) Jesus helped people see that kids matter to Him. In God's eyes, kids are not less important than adults or anyone else. Jesus even said the kingdom of God belonged to them. The phrase kingdom of God means the world the way God made it to be—where people follow Jesus and honor God as their King.

You see, Jesus welcomes people not because of what they do but because of who He is! And He invites and welcomes us to come to Him too! We cannot do anything to earn a spot on God's VIP list, but He wants to freely give one to us! This Bible story shows that God made us with worth, which means that we are valuable to Him. Say, "God made me with worth!" (God made me with worth!)

Sometimes you may wonder if you are valuable or special. Kids your age can sometimes think they are not going to be important until they are older. But God says you are valuable because He made you, and you are valued right now! You are valuable because God made you, and He loves you! Say, "I am valued!" (I am valued!)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 1) God created all people—including kids—with worth. When God made people, He made them to enjoy a perfect relationship with Him. God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, and they lived in a perfect world. They walked and talked to God with special VIP access!

(Circle 2) Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to sin. Sin is when we choose what we think is

best instead of following what God says is best. Because of sin, brokenness came into God's good world, and Adam and Eve lost that VIP access. We all struggle because we want to do what we want instead of what God wants. We all sin and, as a result, we experience brokenness in our lives and our world. This brokenness can even cause us to doubt the truth about who we are and how much God values us. Sin breaks our relationship with God, and all deserves punishment. It doesn't matter if we think our sin is big or small. Because of sin, we can no longer be close to God.

People sometimes try to fix their broken relationship with God by trying really hard to do a lot of good things. Maybe you have thought like this, too—that to be special to God, you need to get really good grades, be great at sports, or be the kindest person out of all of your friends. But the Bible says that we cannot fix our brokenness on our own. We need Someone to fix our sin problem and broken relationship with God.

(Circle 3) The good news is that Jesus is our Rescuer! God sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Jesus lived a completely perfect life and never sinned! He died on a cross and took the punishment that we deserved for our sin. But Jesus did not stay dead. He came back to life on the third day, showing He is more powerful than both sin and death. Because of Jesus, we get to have a relationship with God. When we trust and follow Jesus, God helps us know, believe, and follow the truth about who He is and who He made us to be. God invites each of us to respond by turning away from our sin so we can have a relationship with Him.

Just like Jesus brought the little children near, He draws you near too! God sees, knows, and has a plan for each one of you. He made you with worth, and He wants you to be a part of His family. Say, "God made me with worth!" (God made me with worth!) To God, you are so valuable and special because He made you and loves you.

If you have questions about what it means to respond to God by following Jesus, you can talk with me or a Small Group Leader. We would love to help you understand how you can know God and know how valuable you are to Him.

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: We have a very important Theme verse that we get to learn together! This Bible verse teaches us that God loved us so much that He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Everyone, say, “God made me with worth!” (God made me with worth!) Let’s welcome back Maxwell Sterling and learn this Bible verse together!

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: Amazing! Our Theme verse teaches that God loves us so much that He sent His own Son to rescue us! God did not do this because of anything special we have done. He did this because of who He is and because He cares about us. God made us with worth—which means He made us special and valuable to Him—and He made us to be close to Him now and forever! Say, “God made me with worth!” (God made me with worth!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Call out, “God made me with worth!” as loud as you can in 3-2-1! (God made me with worth!) God made each and every one of us, and He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Remember, God does not value us because we are impressive. He values us because He made us. When we feel lonely, hidden, or like nobody understands us, we can have hope because God made us, knows us, and loves us. Just like Jesus invited the little children in the Bible story to have full VIP access to God, He invites us to have that same access! We can respond to God’s invitation by trusting and following Him. We can also know that what God says about us is true! Let’s pray and talk with God, thanking Him for caring for us and making us with worth. Pray with me in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for creating us. We are so grateful that You sent Jesus to rescue us from our sins, so that we can follow You and live the way You made us to live You made us

with worth, which is amazing because You are amazing! Help us to trust You and follow You. We love 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: Hey, VIPs! We have more to discover! Let's dive in together!

1. What is something that makes you special? (Allow responses and share your own.)
2. What do you know about someone who is on a VIP list? (They have special access. They get to go somewhere that others don't get to go.) How can a VIP list remind us how God sees us? (God made us valuable. We are VIPs to God.)
3. The Bible tells us that God made us with worth, and He values us. Let's open our Bibles to **Mark 10:14** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.) Jesus was not happy with what He saw happening. He told the disciples to let the children come to Him because the kingdom of God belongs to kids just like them. Jesus taught the people that God made all people with worth and value. Remember, they did not do anything special to earn access to Jesus, and the same is true for you and me. We are valuable to God because He made us. It's not about anything special we do, but it is about how amazing and special God is! God made us and He gets to say what is true about who we are, and God says we are valuable to Him! How does this Bible story help us know that we are valued? (We are valued because God made us and what He says about us is true. The same way Jesus invited children to come to Him, God invites us and made the way for us to have a relationship with Him.)
4. God made us with worth. Even after sin broke our relationship with God, He sent His only Son, Jesus, so that we could have a relationship with Him. What can help us know and remember about value when it comes to God? (I can read this Bible story again. I can talk with people who follow God about what makes us valuable. I can pray and ask God to help me know that I am valuable to Him.)
5. We are valuable to God because He made us! When would it be helpful this week to remember that God made you with worth? What is something you learned today? Is

Community Big Kids

there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Jesus and the Children Balloon Activity

Leader Tip: You can either prepare the tissue paper children ahead of time or let the kids cut out their own.

What To Do: Today we are going to be making something and act out our Bible story. This will help us remember our Bible story and how Jesus always welcomes us.

First, I am going to pass out a balloon to everyone and I want you to hold it and wait for the next direction. Now we are going to take our balloons and use a permanent marker to draw a face on it. You can make it as simple or add as much detail as you would like. This balloon is going to represent Jesus from our Bible story. You can write the name “Jesus” on the balloon as well. (Allow time to complete this step.)

Now we are going to take this tissue paper and create little children out of it. We are going to trace the shape on the folded tissue paper and then cut it out. (Either pre-cut the shapes or allow the kids to do it themselves.) (Allow time to complete this step.)

Now we are going to blow up our balloon and tie it off. Now we are going to spread out the “little children” on the table. We are going to take our balloons and rub them on our shirts (or on a rug or carpet if needed). Then you are going to hover your balloon over the “little children” and say, “Let the little children come to me”. This is what Jesus said in our Bible story!

Keep It Going: Set out as many “little children” as you can and see if anyone can “collect” them all. Send home some “little children” with each kid to do the activity with their families.

Loud And Clear: That activity was so fun and will help us remember our Bible story from today! Now you have a special reminder that you are welcomed by Jesus. He made the way for you to have a relationship with God. Jesus never turns away anyone who wants to have a relationship with Him, and that includes you! Say, “Jesus welcomes me!” (Jesus welcomes me!)

Option #3: Activity Page

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

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that Jesus welcomed kids, showing they were valuable. We can know that Jesus values us too because God made us with worth!

Loud And Clear: Jesus welcomed children in today's Bible story, and we learned that He welcomes all people to know and follow Him! Ask, "Why?" (Why?) Because God made people, and He says that people are made with worth. We can trust and believe that what God says about us is true. We can also know that God values us so much that He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him forever!

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

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

What You Say: God, thank You so much for making us valuable. We are so thankful that You made us with worth, and we are valuable in Your sight. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to have a relationship with You. Help us know that our worth is not because of what we do but because of who You are and who You say we are. 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.