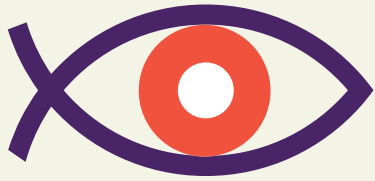


**SEEING  
THROUGH  
THE EYES OF  
JESUS**

**CHILDREN'S  
CURRICULUM  
SESSION 6**

***[www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus](http://www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus)***



# SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Calling us back to  
the central focus of  
our Christian faith:  
**The Risen and  
Living Jesus!**

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## CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

### SESSION 6

#### THE GREATEST INVITATION

**SCRIPTURE:**

Matthew 28: 16-20

**CENTRAL MESSAGE:**

We have received a party invitation  
from Jesus and we are called to invite  
others to the party, too!



#### EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

Ask children what they think is needed  
to have a good birthday party. You  
might get them started by suggesting  
something like cake. Then ask them

whom they would invite, and how they  
would decide whom to invite. Have  
them start to make a list of whom they  
would invite if they were throwing a  
party.



## GATHERING TIME

Share Highs and Lows (See Session 5 for explanation.)

Take prayer requests (See Session 5 for explanation.)

**Group Prayer:** Today everyone will participate in the prayer time. Sit or stand in a circle and ask everyone to say one thing they would like to pray for. It can be a celebration or a sadness, a hope or a dream.

***\*The following is written in a script-like form, but does NOT have to be used as such. In fact, try your best not to use it as a script, but to take the general idea and tailor it to your group. This will make it seem more like a conversation the children are a part of rather than strictly a lesson they are receiving.***

Have you ever received an invitation? This could be either a literal invitation in the mail to a party, or someone inviting you over to play after church. Allow children to share a time when they have been invited to something.

Facilitate conversation around the following questions:

- How does it feel to receive an invitation?
- Have you ever not been invited to something? How did that feel?
- Did you know that as followers of Jesus, it is our job to be inviters?

In the Scripture we're going to read today, Jesus is giving us an invitation. But it's a little different than an ordinary invitation. It's an invitation to be an inviter! Jesus is about to leave Earth to be with God, and he is telling his disciples what they should do when he's gone. They are to go out and make disciples, teaching everyone about Jesus and inviting them to be followers too. That is a big job!

We are now going to break into small groups and rotate through our different stations to learn more about what it means to invite people to follow Jesus.

***Use your best judgment to decide how to divide children into small groups for rotations based on your age range and number of children. I recommend groups of six to eight children. You will need one adult to facilitate each rotation, so this may determine how many groups you will have rotating at a time.***



## ACTIVITIES/ROTATIONS

### 1: Bible Explorers

*Materials: Several different biblical translations of Matthew 28:16-20*

Provide the group with several different printed translations of the Scripture: the NRSV, the International Children's Bible, The Message and the NIV. Feel free to add other translations as well. Before beginning, have a brief discussion about how the Bible was written in Greek and Hebrew and every English version that we have is called a translation. All the translations are slightly different from one another. This is a very neat thing, because it means we might notice different parts of the story based on which translation we are reading. Ask them to pay attention to the differences in the translations. After everyone has read their translation aloud, you might even have them compare them side-by-side. This is a great opportunity for them to learn about the richness and complexity of the Bible. Ask children what their favorite translation was and why.

After all the translations have been read and compared, facilitate discussion around these questions:

- How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus gave them these instructions to go and make disciples?
- How do you feel knowing that you are also given this same invitation?
- What does it mean to be a disciple?
- What does it mean to make a disciple?

Imagine that you are inviting someone to come to church with you. What would you say about church and what you do at church?

### 2: You're Invited!

*Materials: construction paper, markers/crayons, stickers, other card-decorating materials*

At this station, children are invited to make an invitation to a friend to invite them to a "Jesus Jam" party. Have them set up the invitation similar to a birthday party invitation, where they can make up the time and place to meet. On the inside of the invitation, have them list three to five reasons that their friends should want to come to this party to get to know Jesus.

As they work, ask some of these questions:

- If you were introducing one of your friends to Jesus, what are the top three things you would say about him?
- What do you think Jesus would want us to do at a party meant to celebrate him?
- Will there be cake at the party? What flavor?
- If you were bringing Jesus a gift, what would you get him?



## CLOSING

Bring children back together in the same space you had your Gathering Time. Ask them a few questions to help them process together:

- When we are inviting someone to follow Jesus, what kinds of things are we inviting them to do?
- How might they be different if they accept the invitation to get to know Jesus?
- When is it hard to invite people to know Jesus? How can we make it easier?

Ask someone to close your time in prayer before parents arrive. If children are reluctant to pray, write this simple prayer on a dry erase board and say it aloud together:

*God, thank you for this time together with our church family and friends. Help us to practice all that we learned about being your followers. Amen.*