



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to help him connect to our family, friends, and world.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of connecting others to Christ.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:43-51. Jesus calls Philip.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." - Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SUMMARY:

In Connect Four the object of the game is to connect four game pieces in a row. God wants us to connect people to him. He's counting on us to connect our families, our friends, and our world to Jesus. But we must also connect to him ourselves if we want Jesus to work through us and connect to others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for placing people in our lives who connected us to Jesus. Help us to connect the people we love to Jesus so they can know you as their Savior.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A small TV or appliance

An extension cord

Bring the TV out and set it in front of the kids. Make sure it is out of reach from an electrical socket.

Let's say you just got a new TV. You want it to go in a certain spot in your room, but the TV power cord only goes so far. It's too short to reach the outlet, ten feet away on the wall. Is there anything we can use to help us watch TV without having to move the TV to a different location?

Take answers from the kids. Then pull out the extension cord.

I'm sure almost all of you have one of these in your home, if not more. It's an extension cord, and it's really useful for bridging the gap between that electronic device and that inconveniently placed electrical outlet. If it's not connected to the outlet, there's no power. And without the extension cord, there's no way it can connect to the power.

All of you here know people who need to connect with God. They need God in their lives, and God is counting on you to tell them. In a way, you are the extension cord that can bridge the gap between those people and God!

Jesus sent his followers into the world to connect people to him. One by one, one person at a time, those connections were made. One on one connections played a part in how you and your family came to be here. Someone somewhere in the distant past - or maybe the recent past - told someone in your family about Jesus.

Now, that calling comes to all of you. We need to begin by connecting ourselves to God so his power can dwell in us. Then, like an extension cord, we can connect our families, our friends, and the world around us to Jesus.



FAMILY GAME TIME

CONNECT THE DOTS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pen and paper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Draw 8 rows of 8 dots across the page (64 total dots spaced evenly). Everyone will take turns drawing 1 line to connect 1 of the dots on the page to one of the dots closest to it. Whoever draws a line that makes a complete square gets to put their initials inside the square. Whoever connects the most squares once all of the lines between dots have been drawn (49 total squares) wins.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

One person at a time, we can connect people to Jesus.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

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John 1:43-51. Jesus calls Philip.

INTRO

How many of you know how to use a computer? How many of you in here know how to use a computer better than your mom or dad? Computer's today are designed to be as easy to use and fix as possible. But early computers could be very complicated and confusing. That's why the computer makers created tech support centers, places you could call when you had a problem or a question. Tech support was a valuable help to a lot of people who had very real problems. But for every real problem that called in to tech support, they'd get another call that would be just ridiculous.

For example, one time a lady called tech support to complain that the foot pedal on her computer was not working. The tech support agent told her that her computer didn't have a foot pedal. The lady told him it did. It was just like the one on her sewing machine, except it was round with two buttons on top and a little ball on the bottom. Can you guess what it was? It was her computer mouse!

Another person called in and asked if the computer company could fix the drink holder on his computer. The tech support agent told him that his computer didn't have a drink tray. "Yes it does," said the man. "I push a button, and it pops out of the machine. Only it broke off and I need to get it replaced." The tech support agent asked the man to look at the tray and read what it said on the end of the tray. It said, "C-D-R-O-M." It was his CD-Rom drive!

Many people call in and say they can't get the machine to come on at all. The machine's not starting, not working, not doing anything. When they do, the tech support agents always start with one question: is the computer plugged in? Yes, it's a silly, silly question, but guess what? Tech support agents have been taking calls long enough they know that most of those people forgot to plug in the computer! If you're not connected to the power, you can't run the computer.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Today's theme is Connect Four. You don't have to plug a Connect Four game into the wall to play, but if you want to win, you have to connect four pieces in a row. I want to challenge you to make a similar connection in your own life. I want to challenge you to help the people in your life connect to Jesus.

Let me tell you a story about a man named Philip. Philip was one of Jesus' disciples, and he was the very first to connect someone to Jesus.

READ John 1:43-51

MAIN POINT

The Bible tells us that Jesus is God's son. Jesus died for our sins so he could offer us a new life. He sent his Holy Spirit to dwell with us so that we could live for him. With Christ in our hearts, we can face any challenge, any hardship that life brings. But unless we're connected to God, we're on our own. And no one gets connected to God unless someone helps him to connect.

After meeting Jesus, Philip went straight to his friend Nathaniel. He was so excited about knowing Jesus, he wanted his best friend to know him as well. That's the kind of enthusiasm God wants us to have in connecting others to Jesus.

DRIVE IT HOME

There are four connections I want us to make. First, we need to connect ourselves to Jesus. We need to accept him as our Savior and commit ourselves to following him. Jesus tells us unless we make that connection, we can do nothing to connect others.

READ John 15:5

Second, we need to connect our families. Most of you came here with your family today, which means your parents probably connected you to Jesus. We can do other things to keep our family connected besides going to church. We can pray together at meals and at other times. We can share Bible study.

Third, we need to connect our friends! We can connect them by sharing our faith with them. We can connect them by inviting them to church or church activities. Most importantly, we need to show them with our lives that our faith is real by living differently. We need to say no to sin, avoid gossip, and look for ways to serve others. Then just like Philip, we can invite our friends to meet Jesus.

Finally, we need to connect our world to Jesus. Before returning to his Father, Jesus gave us the great commission:

READ Matthew 28:18-20

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

We can connect our world by living out our faith. We can connect our world by serving with our hands. We can take mission trips. We can do service projects. We can witness to those who will listen.

Philip spent the rest of his life connecting people. The book of Acts tells several stories of Philip connecting total strangers to Jesus, from the people of Samaria to an Ethiopian eunuch. Philip was ready to connect people to Jesus any time God gave him the opportunity. God wants us to have a heart willing to do the same.

Connecting others to Christ begins with connecting ourselves. Once we are connected, we can connect our families, our friends, and our world. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit so that we could continue the work he began - connecting people to Him one person at a time.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for placing people in our lives who connected us to Jesus. Help us to connect the people we love to Jesus so they can know you as their Savior.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER

When you want to reach out to your friends, do you call, text, or email? Or do your parents call their parents?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read John 1:43-51

Who was Philip?

What did Philip do after he met Jesus?

Who do you remember first telling you about Jesus?

Why is it important for us to connect others to Jesus?

What are some ways we can connect our friends to Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for reaching out to connect with us through your son, Jesus. Help us to stay connected to you, and give us opportunities to connect others to Jesus!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



LESSON REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

When Philip met Jesus, the first thing he did was introduce his best friend to Jesus.
TRUE

Most people meet Jesus on their own and without any help.
FALSE

Jesus does not need our help to reach out to other people.
FALSE

Even as kids, we can share the good news of Jesus with the world.
TRUE

I can share Jesus with my friends by inviting them to church.
TRUE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create and color an invitation to church to give to their friends.

Older kids can discuss a text message they could send to invite friends to church.