

Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown

Luke 4:22-30



Worship Theme:



Jesus is for everyone.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise Jesus for coming for everyone.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>Sing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "He's the King" • "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" • "Into the Bible" • "All Creatures of Our God and King" • "All That I Am" (Psalm 103:1) • "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) 	<p>KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i></p> <p>Classroom Supplies: Video equipment, magazines, scissors, newsprint, marker, tape</p>

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>One for Everyone Play a game to see what it means that Jesus is for everyone.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Stuffed animals, small toys, copies of "Jesus Is for Everyone" (at the end of this session), scissors, bucket</p>
	<p>Jesus Goes to the Synagogue Hear the Bible story, and play a sharing game.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Pictures from "One for Everyone"</p>
	<p>Jesus Is for Everyone Decorate pictures of Jesus to give to others.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Copies of "Jesus Is for Everyone" (at the end of this session), crayons, children's scissors</p>

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)	* For Everyone Experience being separated and then brought together. Talk about Jesus coming for everyone.	Classroom Supplies: One 3-inch square of red construction paper for one fourth of the children; one 3-inch square of green construction paper for the rest.
	* Agree or Disagree Listen to "Jesus" and agree or disagree.	Classroom Supplies: 1 index card and marker per child, newsprint, 2 cardboard tubes, copy of script (see activity), costume
	* For All the World Come up with a way to tell the world that Jesus is for everyone.	Classroom Supplies: Bibles, paper, pencils, art supplies

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! (up to 10 minutes)	The Offering Donate the offering to a missionary organization that spreads the gospel.	Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls
	Who We Are Explore who they are and praise God for sending Jesus to everyone.	
	We All Need Jesus Sing "Love the Lord" as a prayer.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown

Luke 4:22-30

In this passage, Jesus continued the commentary on the passage from Isaiah 61:1-2 he had read. Though identifying himself as the Messiah probably upset his listeners, his further teaching made them furious.

Jesus had sensed and probably heard that the people doubted that he was the Messiah. Before they would believe, they demanded that he perform miracles as he had in Capernaum. In his reprimand for their unbelief, Jesus referred to incidents involving two of the most highly revered Jewish prophets: Elijah and Elisha. He pointed out that God sent Elijah to perform a miracle for a non-Jewish widow in Zarephath, a wicked city where idol worship was practiced. Jesus also mentioned that Elisha healed the leprosy of a Syrian named Naaman but he never healed any of the lepers in Israel. In doing this, Jesus was comparing the people of his hometown to the faithless Jews during the time of Elijah and Elisha. This comparison angered the people, but even more offensive to their culture was the suggestion that non-Jews could enjoy the blessings of God.

In their anger, the people from the synagogue rose and drove Jesus out of town. They no doubt assumed Jesus was guilty of blasphemy—of falsely claiming to be the Messiah.

Though it was the Sabbath, when an execution would have been unlawful, it appears they intended to kill Jesus by throwing him off a cliff. We don't know if Jesus escaped miraculously or simply through his air of authority, but he simply passed through the crowd and walked away (Luke 4:30).

Devotion for Leaders

Praise God for our relationship with Jesus. But let's not be prideful like the people in his hometown, who thought only they—and not the Gentiles—were worthy of the Messiah.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Put yourselves in the shoes of the Jewish people in Nazareth as you re-read Luke 4:22-30. Examine your life and think of times when you may feel people are not worthy of God's grace. Why do we at times believe only a certain type of person can receive God's grace? Now list reasons you should be grateful for what the Lord has done for you.

Why We Worship for Leaders

The Bible tells us that God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him can spend eternity with God. The Bible also says that it doesn't matter what country we're from, what our position in life is, or what our gender is. God offers salvation to all people. Could there be a better reason to worship God?

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready.

For Everyone—Cut 3-inch squares from green and red construction paper. You'll need one square per child, with about three times as many green squares as red squares. Mix the squares together.

Agree or Disagree—Recruit a volunteer to play the part of Jesus, and provide the volunteer with a Bible-times costume. Photocopy the script in the activity, and go over the script with your volunteer once or twice. Make the script look like a scroll by gluing it onto a length of butcher paper. Glue or tape the ends of the butcher paper to cardboard tubes.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let's Praise God!

Play music videos from the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, "Welcome to children's church."

When you are ready to begin worship,

Say ▶ **Hello, everyone! Welcome to children's church. To begin our time together, I'd like all of you to think of a time you felt left out and all alone. I'll give you just a moment to think.** (Pause.)

Ask ▶ • **How does it feel to be left out and all alone?** (I don't like it; it makes me feel sad.)

Say ▶ **At one time or another, every single one of us has felt left out. Feeling left out is no fun. It can make us feel sad, lonely, and discouraged. Today we're going to talk about the fact that Jesus is for everyone. Jesus doesn't leave anyone out—he came for all people. No matter what you look like or how you act, Jesus loves you and wants you to be part of his family. Let's sing.**

▶ Sing "He's the King."

Say ▶ **Let's talk about the reasons people are left out and looked down on.**

Ask ▶ • **When have you seen people being left out? Why were they left out?** (I see them left out at school; they were left out because they looked different; they were left out because they were younger.)

Leader Skillbuilder

Today's worship theme—that Jesus came for everyone—may be what motivates you to lead children in worship. And helping all children to know and love Jesus is an excellent ministry to have! But there may be times you don't feel like sharing Jesus' message of love to children. For a variety of good reasons, you or others on your children's worship team may wish you were anywhere but in the middle of children's worship time. We all have bad days. Here are some ideas to use when you do:

- Accept God's grace. The last thing you need to do is feel guilty. You may feel that people rely on you to make everything happen, but remember that even Jesus chose not to live up to everyone's expectations on occasion.

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Leader Skillbuilder

- Lower your expectations. You may not have the energy, time, or people to lead the worship the way you planned. As much as you want to serve God with excellence, remember that God's Spirit can work even when you are not able to lead as effectively as you would like.
- Simplify the worship session. You may need to combine preschool and elementary kids (if you don't already) when a leader doesn't show up. You might extend Let's Praise God! You can hardly go wrong with more praise! Or you may choose to allow kids more time to share or to pray for one another.
- Get help. If you are truly overwhelmed or sick, ask another leader (or even your pastor) to help or lead the session. Know your limits and don't be ashamed to ask for help.

Remember that your leadership is a blessing to the children (and adults!). Know that your service is pleasing to God and that he understands when you're not at your best. Thank you for your children's church ministry.



Ask • **For what reasons do people look down on other people?** (Because their skin is a different color; because they aren't dressed like everyone else.)

Say **Sometimes people are treated badly because of their age or the color of their skin or the country they come from. Sometimes people have a hard time liking those who are different from them. We call this discrimination. Jesus doesn't want us to discriminate against others. He wants us to be as loving and accepting as he is. Jesus loves everyone, and Jesus wants all people to believe in him and follow him. Jesus is for everyone. While we sing our next song, let's play a game to show that Jesus wants to include everyone. While we're singing, I'll ask someone to put both hands on my waist. Then someone else will hold that person's waist and so on until we make one big chain. Then we'll walk around the room in our great big chain to show that Jesus wants to include everyone.**

▶ Sing "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

While you're singing "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," ask a child to put both hands on your waist. Then another child should put both hands on that child's waist. Keep going until all the children are linked together in one long chain. Keep walking around the room, holding onto the waist of the person in front of you throughout the entire song. When the song is over, have the children rub both elbows with the person in front of them and behind them and say "Jesus is for you." Then have the children all return to their seats.

Say **The Old Testament tells us that the Jewish people had been watching and waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years. When Jesus finally came to live on earth, many Jewish people thought that the Messiah was only for the Jews. Jesus told them that the Messiah was for all people in every country. Many people just didn't understand that. But Jesus wanted all people everywhere to see the truth and know that he is the way to heaven. When we get into the Bible, we see Jesus more clearly. Let's sing about that.**

▶ Sing "Into the Bible."

Say **Now let's praise Jesus with another song. Let's worship the Holy One with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our might.**

▶ Sing "All Creatures of Our God and King."

Ask • **Why do you want to praise Jesus today? Why is he worthy of praise and worship?** (Because Jesus is our Savior; because Jesus loves us; because Jesus takes care of us.)

Say ▶ Let's tell Jesus how much we want to praise him.

▶ Sing "All That I Am" (Psalm 103:1).

Say ▶ Let's make a mural that shows that Jesus is for everyone.

Provide magazines such as National Geographic (which are often available at used bookstores) or literature from World Vision, Compassion International, or another similar organization. Have the children cut out pictures of people from different cultures. Meanwhile, write "Jesus is for everyone" on newsprint and tape the newsprint to the wall. Ask children to tape their pictures to the newsprint.

Say ▶ Jesus came for all people in every country around the world.

That's because we all need Jesus and the salvation he offers. Jesus wants everyone to believe in him, to love him, and to follow him. Let's sing about loving Jesus.

▶ Sing "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Pray ▶ God, we do want all in this place to know that you are God, that you are mighty and holy, that you love us, and that we believe in you. God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to the entire world. We know that Jesus is for everyone. Thank you, God. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Extra Impact

For today's session, you may want to invite someone who sponsors a child through World Vision, Compassion International, or another Christian relief agency to talk to the children about telling people from other cultures about Jesus.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 135-136

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

** For Everyone*

Say ▶ For a long time, the prophets promised a new king, or Messiah, for God's people. When Jesus came to the people, he told them he was the Messiah. Let's see what that might have felt like. Let's pretend we are the people in Jesus' day. We are waiting to hear Jesus.

Hand out one red or green construction paper square to each child, and have children mingle for a minute. Then get the children's attention.

Say ➤ **Jesus is coming to talk to his people! If you're holding a green card, gather with all the other kids with green cards. Jesus is coming to talk to you. If you're holding a red card, you'll need to gather with other kids who have red cards, and you'll need to gather away from the other group.**

Have kids gather in their groups and sit down.

- Ask** ➤
- **How did it feel while you were all gathered together?** (I felt like part of the group; I was able to talk to my friends.)
 - **How did you feel when I made you get into a group based on the color of the card you held?** (I didn't want to be with the small group; I was separated from my friends; Jesus wasn't coming to talk to my group.)
 - **If you were in the green group, what were you thinking when I said Jesus was coming to talk to you?** (I was glad I was in the green group; I felt bad for the red group.)
 - **If you were in the red group, how did it feel to be left out of the group that was going to hear Jesus?** (I felt bad; I wanted to be in the other group; I didn't understand why we couldn't hear Jesus, too.)

Say ➤ **We did this activity to help you see that not everyone had the chance to hear Jesus. God had chosen the Israelites as his special people, and they believed God didn't care about other people. But Jesus' message said something different. Let's look into this more.**

** Agree or Disagree*

Hand out index cards and markers. Have the children each write "yes" on one side of their cards and "no way" on the other side. Then have them put the cards on the floor in front of them while they listen.

Say ➤ **Let's continue to do some pretending so we can understand how people could be confused about Jesus and his message.**

Let's pretend that you are all the people meeting at the synagogue in the town of Nazareth one Sabbath. On this particular day, a man named Jesus is at your synagogue. The Bible tells us that Jesus was just starting his ministry but that news about him had already spread through the whole country. But even if Jesus wasn't well known, you would have known about him because Jesus grew up in Nazareth—you've known him your entire life.

Now, in those days, any man who wanted to speak could do so. On this particular day, Jesus wanted to speak to the people—to all of you. Invite the man you've invited to play the role of Jesus to stand in front of the children. It will be your job to listen to what

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Worship Theme:



Jesus is for everyone.

Easy Prep for Leaders

One for Everyone—Photocopy the “Jesus Is for Everyone” handout at the end of this session, and cut out the pictures of Jesus so that you have a picture for every child. Gather lots of stuffed animals and a bucket of small blocks or other small toys so that you have one for each stuffed animal.

Jesus Is for Everyone—Make additional photocopies of the “Jesus Is for Everyone” handout (at the end of this session).

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo help count the toys and the pictures of Jesus during the “One for Everyone” activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



One for Everyone

Have the children position the stuffed animals in a line across the room.

Say In this bucket, I have enough toys for every stuffed animal. But right now, none of the stuffed animals has a toy to play with. We need to make sure that every stuffed animal gets a toy.

Have the children work together to put a small block or toy in front of every stuffed animal. Then go down the row of stuffed animals, and say with the children something like, “The teddy bear has a toy. The stuffed horse has a toy. The stuffed puppy has a toy.” Name each of the stuffed animals to emphasize that every stuffed animal has a toy to play with.

Say There was a toy in my bucket for every stuffed animal. Now every stuffed animal has a toy.

Play the game again. Gather up the toys, and place them in the bucket. This time, as the children hand out the toys, make sure that they don’t give a toy to one or two of the stuffed animals. Then say with the children something like, “The teddy bear has a toy. The stuffed horse has a toy. The stuffed puppy

does not have a toy...” When you get to a stuffed animal that doesn’t have a toy, ask, “Is there a toy for this stuffed animal?” Show the children the bucket of toys. When the children indicate that there is a toy for the stuffed animal, say, “Yes, there are toys for all the stuffed animals.”

Put the bucket of toys aside.

Say The Bible tells us that Jesus is for everyone. Just as there were enough toys to go around, there is enough of Jesus to go around.

Have the children line up and sit on the floor. Pass out the pictures of Jesus, saying “One for you; one for you; one for you...”

Then say with the children, “Jesus is for [name of child in the group], Jesus is for [name of another child], Jesus is for [name of another child]” until all the preschool children have been named.

Ask • What does it mean when we say Jesus is for everyone?

Say It means that Jesus wants to be everyone’s friend, and it means that Jesus loves everyone. Jesus is for everyone.

Collect the pictures of Jesus to use in the next activity.

Jesus Goes to the Synagogue

Gather the children.

- Ask** ▶ • **What does it mean to share?**
- **Is it ever hard to share things with others? Tell us about a time it was hard for you to share.**
 - **How do you feel when others share with you?**
 - **How do you feel when you share with others?**

Say ▶ **There's a story in the Bible about a time Jesus talked to some people about sharing. Listen while I tell you the story.**

One day Jesus went to the synagogue to worship God with the other Jewish people. He told the people that God had sent him to help make sick people feel better and to help sad people not be sad anymore. Then Jesus told them that he wasn't just going to help God's people, the Jews. Jesus said that he was for all people in the world.

This made the Jewish people very angry. They thought that Jesus should only help them. They didn't want to share Jesus with the rest of the world. Let's see what that was like.

Choose two or three children to pretend to be the Jews. Tell everyone else that they are the rest of the people in the world. Give the "Jews" all of the pictures of Jesus.

To the children pretending to be Jews,

Say ▶ **Pretend that you want to keep Jesus all to yourself. You don't want to share Jesus with anyone.**

To the children pretending to be the rest of the world,

Say ▶ **Pretend that you really want to be friends with Jesus. Ask the Jews to share Jesus with you.**

Give the children a minute or so to interact. You may need to prompt the children to ask the "Jews" to share Jesus.

Say ▶ **The Jewish people didn't understand that Jesus was for everyone. Jesus wanted the Jews to share with the rest of the world. The Bible tells us that Jesus really is for everyone.**

Have the "Jews" pass out pictures of Jesus to everyone in the group.

Say ▶ **Jesus really is for everyone.**

Jesus Is for Everyone

Give each child several pictures of Jesus. (Older preschoolers will enjoy cutting out the pictures.) Have the children color the pictures.

Say ▶ **Jesus is for everyone. You can take these pictures home with you and give them to everyone in your family. You can tell them that Jesus wants to be their friend.**

While the children are working, talk about who they'll give the pictures to.

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Jesus has to say and determine whether you agree (hold up a “yes” card) **or disagree** (hold up a “no way” card) **with what he says.**

Place a chair next to “Jesus.” Have “Jesus” open the scroll prepared before worship and read the script, pausing where appropriate. Be sure you have a copy of the script, too.

Jesus: Many years ago, the prophet Isaiah wrote these words. (*Looks at scroll.*) “The Lord’s Spirit has come to me, because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, ‘This is the year the Lord has chosen’” (Luke 4:18-19, *Contemporary English Version*).

(*Sits down in the chair provided.*) Everything you have just heard me read has come true today. I am the one Isaiah was writing about.

Worship Leader: Children, do you say “yes” or “no way” to what Jesus has just said? (*Pauses for children to hold up their cards.*) When the people in the synagogue heard what Jesus said they were amazed and said good things about Jesus.

Jesus: I know that you’ve all heard about me. And I know that you will ask me to prove who I am by doing miracles and healing here in my hometown like the miracles and healing I did in the town of Capernaum. But I can tell you that you won’t really accept me—prophets are never accepted by those in their own hometown.

Worship Leader: Children, do you say “yes” or “no way” to what Jesus has just said? (*Pauses for children to hold up their cards.*) At this point, I think the people in the synagogue were starting to be a little worried about what Jesus was saying. Let’s rub our chins to show we’re concerned about what Jesus is saying. (*Rubs chin in a thoughtful manner, saying, “Hmmm.”*)

Jesus: I tell you the truth. What will happen in these times is the same as what happened in the past. In the days of long ago, there were times when God didn’t send his prophets to help the Jews. Instead he sent his prophets to help people who weren’t Jewish. He did this because God’s people had rejected his ways. You should accept me because I come from God. But you won’t fully accept me. I came not only for the Jews, but for the entire world.

Worship Leader: Children, do you say “yes” or “no way” to what Jesus has just said? (*Pauses for children to hold up their cards.*) When the Jews heard Jesus’ words this time, they were very angry. Let’s show how angry they were by grumbling. (*Helps the children say, “Grumble, grumble, grumble.”*)

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Ask • **Why do you think they were angry?** (Because they thought they were the only ones the Savior would come to; because they didn't believe what Jesus was saying.)

Say **The Jews believed that they were God's chosen people. They thought they were special and set apart by God. They thought the Messiah was just for them. It made them angry when Jesus said that he was for the entire world. It made them angry because it sounded like Jesus was saying something that was against what everyone accepted as the truth.**

Ask • **What do you suppose the Jews did when they heard what Jesus had to say?** (They said angry things to him; they argued with him.)

Say **They really respected the laws and teachings about God. And they thought Jesus was being disrespectful of what they knew was right. The Jews in the synagogue were so furious that they got up from where they were worshipping and drove Jesus out of town. They intended to kill Jesus by throwing him off the cliff. But Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on his way.**

Signal "Jesus" to quietly get up and leave the room.

Ask • **What do you think the Jews thought when Jesus just walked away from them when they were so angry?** (It made them more angry; it made them think that maybe he was telling the truth.)

- **Were the Jews right to be so angry?**
- **Why couldn't they accept what Jesus was telling them?** (Because they had been taught against that all their lives; a lot of them knew Jesus and didn't think he could be the Messiah.)
- **Do you think you would have reacted differently to Jesus than the people in his hometown did? Why or why not?** (Yes, because Jesus showed through his miracles that he was the Son of God; yes, because I would have given him a chance.)

Say **It's hard to know how we would have reacted to Jesus because we already know so much about him. The Jews were looking for the Messiah, but when Jesus said things they didn't agree with, it was hard for them to believe that he was the Messiah. Jesus wanted the people to understand that he was the Messiah and that he was for all people.**

** For All the World*

Say **It's easy for us to understand that Jesus is for everyone, but it wasn't all that easy for the Jewish people. For hundreds of years, they'd heard that they were God's special, chosen people. They didn't think that people from other nations were as good as they were. In a way, they were prejudiced against people who weren't Jewish, but they really just didn't understand who Jesus was and who he came for.**

Let's pretend that it's our job to convince people all over the world that Jesus is for everyone. In a moment, I'll ask you to form small groups. Then you'll have some time to work together to come up with a way to persuade people that Jesus is for everyone. You can write a song or a poem or a commercial. You can draw a picture or design a mural. You can come up with a game or a dance. It's your choice! You'll have five minutes to put your presentation together.

Have the group form small groups of three or four children. Give each group Bibles, paper, and pencils. Make art supplies available. You may want to direct the children to Scripture passages such as John 3:16-17 and John 16:27.

Give the children five minutes to develop a presentation to show people all over the world that Jesus is for everyone. If you have five or fewer small groups, have each group give its presentation for the rest of the group. If you have more than five small groups, consider having the groups pair up with one other group to do the presentations.

Ask

- **Why is it a good thing that Jesus is for everyone?** (So that everyone can get a chance to know God; everyone has the opportunity to go to heaven.)
- **What would the world be like if Jesus was only for one group of people?** (There would be a lot of non-Christians; no one else would be able to hear about Jesus.)
- **Why do you think people don't understand that Jesus is for everyone?** (Because they think they are the most important; because they might still think the Jews are the only people Jesus came to save.)
- **Why is it important that people understand that Jesus is for everyone?** (Everyone needs Jesus; everyone needs to know that they can have a relationship with Jesus.)

Say

Jesus wants all people to come to him, to love him, and to follow him. Jesus came to save all of us because he loves the entire world. Let's thank Jesus.

3

Let's Pray!

The Offering

Donate this week's offering to a missionary organization that spreads the good news about Jesus to people who've never heard of Jesus. Check with your church office to see if the staff has any literature about the organization that you can show to the children in children's church.

Tell the children about the work the missionary organization does, and explain that this week's offering will go to that group. Explain that the missionaries are telling people all over the world that Jesus is for everyone.

Take the offering.

Who We Are

Say People talk about themselves in lots of different ways. You might tell someone about yourself by saying that you're from a certain cultural heritage, that you're a certain age, that you go to a certain school, and that you like a certain sport. For example, someone might say that he or she is in second grade, has two brothers, and loves to play soccer.

Think of three things about yourself that tell about who you are. We'll use them in a prayer in just a moment.

Give the children a moment to think of three things. Then form a circle, and have each child call out three things about himself or herself.


Pray God, we are all different in many ways. We like different activities, we look different, we come from different places. But we're the same, too. We all need you. And we know that we are all loved by you. Best of all, we know that Jesus came for each one of us. Thank you, God. In Jesus' name, amen.



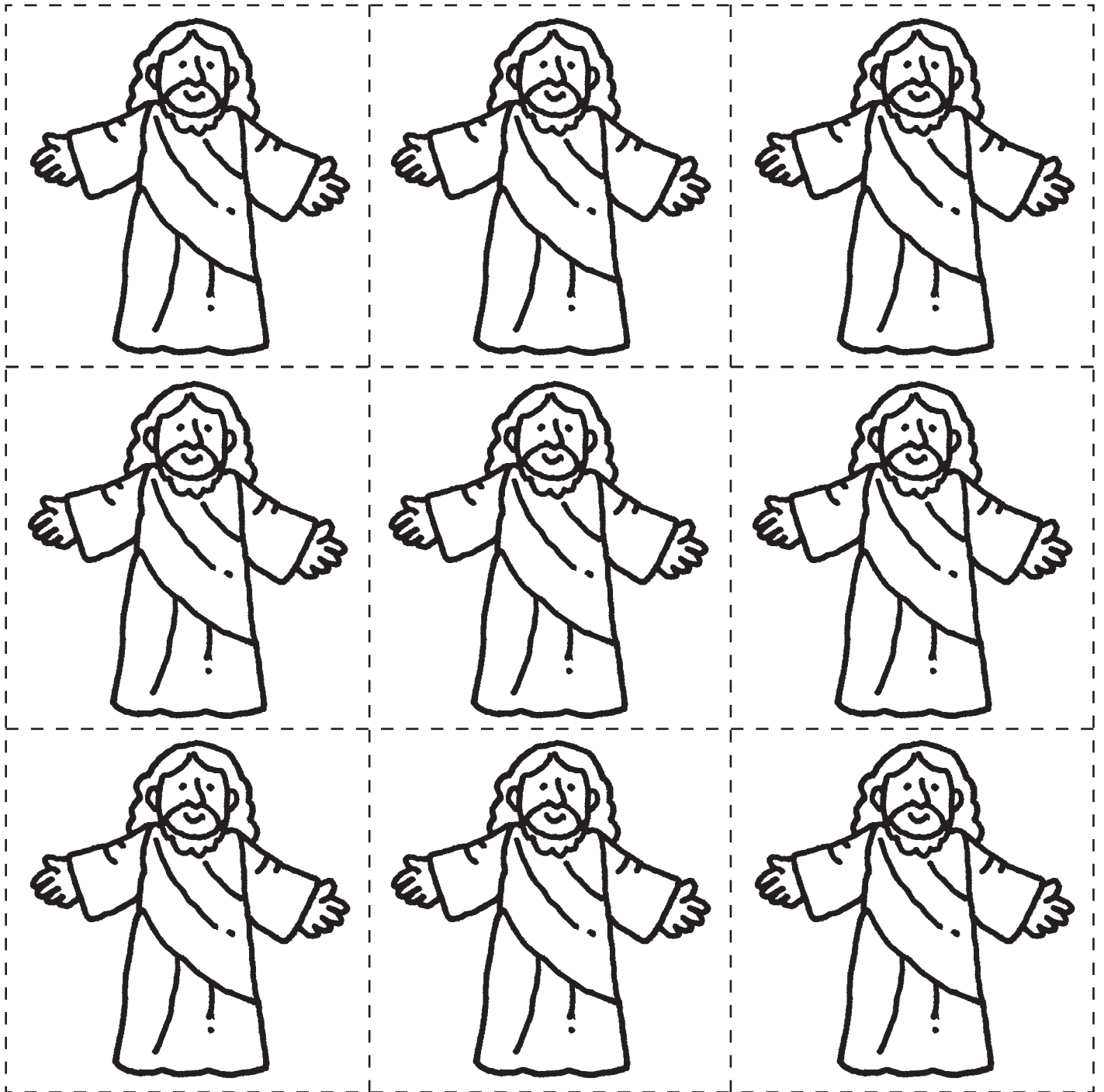
We All Need Jesus

Ask • Who needs Jesus? If you do, raise your hand.

Say We all need Jesus. Jesus is for everyone. Let's close our time together by singing "Love the Lord" as a prayer.

 Sing "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Jesus Is for Everyone



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