



# Jelly Bean Jesus

A Family Devotion Series

By Amanda Rousu



## A Note for Parents

Welcome to Jelly Bean Jesus! This devotional booklet is meant to help parents of elementary students to share with their children who Jesus is. My hope is that these activities would help you experience and share the love of Jesus with your children.

The verses chosen are in a variety of translations for the sake of finding the simplest language to help your child understand what you are reading. You are welcome and encouraged to use your own Bibles to look these verses up, while also referencing the translations provided if needed for clarity. You know what your child will respond to best.

How to use this booklet: Each day, read the Scripture that corresponds with the color and characteristic of Jesus. Give your child the jelly beans (or other colored candies) that match that day's characteristic to eat as you discuss the verse and discussion questions. Modify and use your creativity to make the devotions work best for your family.

The activities included in these devotions are simple and require basic supplies. Choose activities that will appeal to your family and deepen your conversation about the characteristic of the day. Modify the activities based on what you have at home. This is not intended to be complicated, but fun for you and your family.

Blessings to you and your family as you experience the character of Jesus.

## Day One: Red

### Jesus Sacrificed Everything for Us

Scripture: He gave (sacrificed) his life to pay for our sins. But he not only paid for our sins. He also paid for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2 (NIRV)

#### Discussion:

What is a sacrifice? Can you think of sacrifices people make for each other or while trying to reach a goal? (Share as a family sacrifices you have made-big and small ones)

Jesus gave up or sacrificed his life to pay for our sins- the bad choices and mistakes we make that pull us away from God. He made this sacrifice because he loves us so much. What sacrifice can we make today to remember this sacrifice?

#### Activity:

Ask your child to sacrifice their red jelly beans for someone else.

Place a red dot on your hands (with a marker or sticker or ink stamp pad). As a family, remember that Jesus sacrificed for you each time you see the red dot.

This might be a great time to go through your child's toys to find things to give away to a younger sibling, cousin or to a Charity.

## Day Two: PINK- Jesus Loves Us

Scripture: “Just as the Father has loved me, I have loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love. In the same way, I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that you will have the same joy that I have. I also want your joy to be complete. Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends.” John 15:9-13 (NIRV)

### Discussion:

How do you know someone loves you? How do you show love to someone? How does Jesus show us love? How can we love each other and the other people in our lives better by thinking about how Jesus loves us?

### Activity:

As a family, challenge each other to out-do one another in serving and showing love to each other.

Choose someone in your family’s life- a neighbor, a teacher or coach- that you do a secret act of love for.

Make a poster with today’s verses (or a shorter version of these verses) and hang it somewhere that your family will see it each day

Hide love notes around the house for your children. Include reminders of God’s love for them as well.

## Day Three: Purple- Jesus is the King of all Kings

Scripture: "So you are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, that's the reason I was born. I was born and came into the world to be a witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:37 (NIRV)

### Discussion:

How are people supposed to treat a king? If a King came to dinner at our house, what would we do to get ready?

If Jesus is the king of all kings, he is above all kings or presidents or important people in this world. What should we do to make this clear in our lives today?

### Activity:

Make a royal meal or a royal celebration of some sort with a special seat of honor for Jesus. Use your best dishes and fancy tablecloths. Before you begin to eat, take a few moments to honestly and fully praise Jesus for who he is and what he has done in your lives.

Make a royal collage for Jesus. Use words cut from magazines or doodled with markers. Add in pictures or symbols that remind you of royalty. Hang this artwork somewhere the whole family will see it and remember to make Jesus the king of your lives.

## Day Four: Green- Jesus Makes Us All New

Scripture: When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17

### Discussion:

What is it like to get something that is brand new? It's exciting, right? What do you think of when this verse says we are a new creation? When we start to trust Jesus with our lives, he makes us new inside.

### Activity:

Grow something together- plant grass seeds in a paper cup or plant flowers or herbs or vegetables in your garden. Talk about how we are like the seeds or seedlings, new and growing in His love.

If planting and gardening is not your thing, make anything new. A cake, an art project, a building project. Talk about the raw ingredients or supplies you begin with and how you will use them to make something unique and special. When we love Jesus, he takes the raw ingredients of our lives- the good and bad things- and makes us into a new creation. We are something precious and uniquely new because of his love.

Make something new out of an old thing- re-purpose leftovers into a new meal, make a craft using trash (like toilet paper rolls or empty cans). Talk about how God makes us new when we trust him.

## Day Five: Yellow-Jesus is the Light of the World

Scripture: Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." John 8:12

### Discussion:

Have you ever been in a strange room that is completely dark and tried to find your way to the door? It can be hard and even a little scary. Our world can be a little dark and scary when we forget that Jesus loves us and will take care of us.

What do you think it means when we say Jesus is the light of the world? How does Jesus give us light and life? How can we trust these words more in our lives?

### Activity:

Go on a family trust walk or obstacle course challenge. Take turns blindfolding each other and leading one another around an obstacle course or even just a dark room. Talk about how Jesus wants to guide us in all that we do. He is our light when we can't find our way.

Put your child's new glow sticks and finger lights to work. Hide an egg or another object in a dark room, but place glow sticks in a path to light the way towards the prize. Talk about how Jesus shows us the way when we are lost, we only need to look for his light.

## Day Six: Orange- Jesus is Our Hope

Scripture: This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers.  
1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:10 (NLT)

### Discussion:

What is hope? Hope is that feeling that something better is coming, even if we don't know what it is yet. Sometimes we hope for a better day tomorrow, when today isn't so good. Jesus gives us hope that even when hard things happen and our day goes badly, there is always something better coming.

### Activity:

Make a list of all the reasons your family can have hope even in bad situations. We will have trouble, but Jesus has promised us we can have hope and peace when we trust him. He will always be with us. The worst thing is never the last thing because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. We will always have hope in Jesus.

Make a Hope List full of things that will brighten your day when everything seems to go wrong. Simple things like picking up a special snack at the store or reading a good book can be a treat that turns the whole day around. When you enjoy these day brighteners, talk about how God has given us these simple joys to give us hope when things are hard.

Find Hope-filled verses in the Bible and write them on construction paper that your child can doodle or illustrate. Hang the hope drawings around your home as a reminder of God's love.



## Day Seven: White: Jesus Redeems Us

Scripture: We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Because he bled and died our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich. Ephesians 1:7 (NIRV)

### Discussion:

When something is redeemed, it is made better by something else. Our sins- the mistakes and bad choices we make that push us away from God are forgiven because of what Jesus did on the cross. What do you think of when I say that we are set free because of what Jesus did? How does being forgiven set us free?

### Activity:

Play quiet music. Give the whole family a coffee filter (you can cut them into heart shapes if you are feeling extra crafty) and washable markers. On the coffee filter, each of you draw or write or doodle the ways you have made mistakes or fallen short of what God hopes for us. If you are doing this with young children, you may choose to use one coffee filter and talk about the ways you as a family sin.

It is very important that you do not shame your child as you do this. This is not the time to bring up their specific bad behaviors ("Remember how you hit Joey yesterday. I'm writing that down on our heart because that was bad") Instead phrase it like this "We all make mistakes and sin. I lost my temper yesterday when...I know that God wants me to love you and be patient with you, but I can't do that on my own. Sometimes, you and your sister argue and are unkind to each other. That isn't what God wants either. Can you think of anything else that we might want to add to our heart that needs to be washed away and forgiven?"

When you are finished writing or drawing, float your coffee filter, marker side down in the water and watch as the ink washes away. God's forgiveness is like this. We are redeemed and made new when we trust Jesus. He paid the price

for our sins and we are set free. As you wash away the sin coffee filter, remind your children that there is nothing that they can do that will make God stop loving them. No matter how far we go away from God's best, he is always waiting with his arms wide open to forgive us and make us clean again.

Celebrate being forgiven and free of the sins on your heart. Have a dance party or a special snack. Do something special and fun to celebrate the joy of being redeemed by Jesus.

Resurrection Rolls (this recipe is flexible for your quantities)

Ingredients:

Crescent roll dough (like Pillsbury crescent rolls in a tube)

½ stick of Butter

Sugar

Cinnamon

Large Marshmallows (But Not the Jumbo Marshmallows- this will make a mess!)

Melt butter in a small bowl

Mix equal parts sugar and cinnamon (or more sugar than cinnamon depending on your personal taste)

Give your child a marshmallow. Say "This marshmallow is like Jesus. It is pure white, which reminds us that Jesus was completely without sin. Even though Jesus never sinned, he died on a cross for all of our sins."

Tell your child to roll the marshmallow in the melted butter and then the cinnamon and sugar and say "This butter reminds us of the oil that Jesus' body was anointed with. The cinnamon and sugar are the herbs used to prepare Jesus' body for burial."

Wrap the marshmallow with the crescent roll dough. Tell your child "Jesus' was wrapped in burial clothes and put in a tomb. He stayed in the tomb for three days."

Bake the rolls on a well greased cookie sheet in a 400 degree oven for 10-12 minutes (until the rolls are cooked) Rolls will puff up, but the marshmallow will melt. Jesus is not there- he is risen! Hallelujah!

## Parent Resources

Below are great online sources for more ideas for celebrating Easter with your child.

OhAmanda.com/oh-easter – a great mom blog by a former children’s ministry director with all kinds of fun ways to talk about Easter with children. She has an ebook called “A Sense of the Resurrection” that looks like a great way to talk about the Easter story with kids.

What’s In the Bible Easter Series- <http://whatsinthebible.com/what-is-the-meaning-of-easter-and-how-can-we-celebrate-it/>

By Phil Vischer (the creator of Veggie Tales) and his team, this has a great video series and many blogs to help parents find creative ways to share about Easter

See the KidMinSolutions Pinterest board for more Easter Fun

<https://www.pinterest.com/KidMinSolutions/easter-fun/>

## Fun Crafts to Repurpose Other Items

<https://www.pinterest.com/KidMinSolutions/repurposing-crafts/>