

Jelly Bean Jesus Lesson

Age Level: Elementary (K-5th grade)

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7, 1st Timothy 4:10, John 8:12, 2nd Corinthians 5:17, John 18:37, John 15:9-13, 1st John 2:2

Objective: Children will begin to understand seven characteristics of Jesus (to be further explored at home with Jelly Bean Jesus Devotions)

Supplies Needed: White, orange, yellow, green, purple, pink and red paper, marker, carrot shaped treat bags, twist ties, white, orange, yellow, green, purple, pink and red jelly beans (separated by color in seven Ziploc bags), Jelly Bean Jesus labels, Jelly Bean Jesus treat cards, Jelly Bean Jesus devotions

One allergy note: Some children react badly to Red Dye #40 and other food dyes. Be sure you are aware of any children with this issue and notify parents you will have a snack as part of the lesson (if you plan to allow children to eat the jelly beans during class)

Introduction Activity

Supplies Needed: Squares of red, yellow, orange, green, purple, pink and white paper, marker, timer

Say: We're going to play a game to get started today. I'm going to hold up different colors and you are going to shout out as many different things that you think of when you see that color. I'll write them down as you shout them out. We'll have thirty seconds for each color.

(Once you have gone through each color) **Say:** We have lots of ideas about what colors stand for. Today, we're going to learn some ways to think of Jesus with colors and a very special colored candy treat that you can take home.

Lesson

Supplies Needed: carrot shaped treat bags, red, pink, purple, green, orange, yellow, white jelly beans (separated by color), teaspoons, ribbon or twist ties, printable cards, Jelly Bean Jesus Devotion booklet

Preparation: Separate your jelly beans by color in quart or gallon sized ziploc bags. On each bag, add the corresponding labels (characteristic and scripture verse). Hide the bags around your classroom. You could create clues to help your students find each bag if you choose.

Say: This time of year, every time I go to the store I see all kinds of these (*hold up a package of jelly beans*). There are so many kinds of jelly beans- all different colors and flavors. It got me thinking, how can I use these Easter candy to help us learn more about the reason we celebrate Easter- Jesus? So today, we're going to use the colors of the jelly beans to help us think about who Jesus is and how he loves us.

We are going to add different colors of jelly beans to these treat bags (*Hold up treat bags and pass them out*). But first, we need to find the jelly beans. The first color we are looking for is white. (*Give students a clue about how to find the white bag of jelly beans or send one or two children looking for the white jelly beans*)

(*Once white bag is found*) Jesus Redeems Us- what do you think that means?
(*Listen to children's responses*)

Let's read the verse that is on our bag of jelly beans and see if that gives us some clues.

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

When something is redeemed, it is made better by something else. We are made free from our sins because Jesus died for us.

Let's add a few white jelly beans to our treat bags to remember Jesus redeems us. *(Add a very small spoonful of white jelly beans to each child's treat bag and say "[Child's Name] you are redeemed by Jesus.")*

Next, we're looking for our orange jelly beans. *(Again either give a clue or send a few students to look for orange jelly beans)*

(Once bag is found, say) Jesus is our Hope. What does that mean? *(Listen to children's responses)* Here's what our verse says about Jesus being our hope.

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. 1st Timothy 4:10 (NLT)

Jesus is our hope because he saves us from death. We know that we have hope in a life that lasts forever in heaven, where there is no pain or sadness or sickness. When we trust Jesus, we know that the worst things that happen in our lives are never the last thing. *(Add a spoonful of orange jelly beans to each child's treat bag and say "[Child's Name], you can always have hope in Jesus")*

Let's look for our yellow jelly beans. Does anyone see them? *(Send children looking for the yellow jelly beans)*

(Once jelly beans have been found) These yellow jelly beans remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Does anyone know what that means? Does Jesus power all the lightbulbs in the whole world?

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

When we follow Jesus and trust Him, we will never be in the darkness. Jesus' light will be with us, guiding us and giving us hope.

(Spoon yellow jelly beans into children's treat bags and say "[Child's name] may you always know that Jesus is the light of the world.)

Let's look for our green jelly beans. *(Again give clues or send a few children looking for green jelly bean bag)*

(When they have found the green jelly beans) Great! Green jelly beans remind us that Jesus makes us new. That sounds a little confusing- how can we be new?
(Listen to children's answers)

The verse on this bag of jelly beans says ***"When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! 2nd Corinthians 5:17***

Have you ever made a craft out of something old, like an old toilet paper tube? Or has anyone ever planted seeds in a part of your yard that used to be just grass and weeds? That old thing is now changed into a new creation. Jesus is like that. He takes our old hearts that worried only about me, me, me and turned them into a new heart that has Jesus inside helping us to take care of others. Just like when we plant new seeds in the ground and a plant grows, when Jesus is in us, he changes our hearts and makes them new.

(Spoon a small amount of green jelly beans into children's treat bags saying "[Child's Name], you are made new in Jesus.")

Can anyone see where our purple jelly beans are? *(Send children to find the purple jelly beans)*

(Once jelly beans have been found) This says purple jelly beans remind us that Jesus is the king of all kings. What do you think that is about? *(Listen to children's answers)*

The Scripture verse on the purple jelly beans says: ***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)

Jesus came to be the King of all kings, more powerful than any ruler on earth. Jesus is our King and ultimate ruler. We listen to his Word and his direction above any other.

(Pour a small spoonful of purple jelly beans into each child’s treat bag and say: “[Child’s name], when you eat purple jelly beans, remember that Jesus is the King of all Kings.)

Let’s look for the pink jelly beans. *(Give clues or send children looking for the pink jelly beans)*

(When the pink jelly beans have been found) Say: These pink jelly beans remind us that Jesus loves us. How do you know that is true? *(Listen to children’s responses)*

Our Scripture verses about Jesus’ love are a little longer than the others because they teach us both about how Jesus loves us and how he wants us to love.

“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)

Jesus loves us so much he gave his life for us. He wants us to love each other that way too. Jesus’ kind of love isn’t about hearts and flowers, it’s about giving everything we have to other people. We give our time, our attention, our gifts, our lives to others just as Jesus gave to us.

(Spoon a small amount of pink jelly beans into each child’s treat bag saying “[Child’s name], Jesus loves you.”)

One last color of jelly beans to find- red! Can anyone find the red jelly beans?
(Send children looking for the red jelly beans)

Does anyone have an idea what the red jelly beans might remind us of? (*Listen to children's ideas.*) The red jelly beans remind us that Jesus sacrificed everything for us. That's what we celebrate at Easter- the sacrifice, which is giving something up for someone else, that Jesus made for us. What did Jesus sacrifice for us? (*His life*)

Our Scripture on these jelly beans says: ***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***

Jesus gave his life so that we could be free from sin and punishment forever. We are forgiven because Jesus sacrificed his life for us.

(*Spoon a small amount of red jelly beans into each child's treat bag and say "[Child's name], Jesus sacrificed his life for you because he loves you."*)

We're going to close up our treat bags of jelly beans with a little card that has all the Scripture verses we talked about today on it. You are going to take these treats home as well as a special booklet that has ideas for things you can do with your family to help talk and learn more about Jesus.

(*Pass out twist ties, jelly bean Jesus cards and devotion booklets. Children should place these items under their chair or in a mail cubby if you have them available until the end of class*)

Review Game

Supplies Needed: Papers from introduction activity, clickers or noisemakers (could be rhythm instruments)

Say: We're going to play a game to see how much you remember. (*Divide children into teams of seven-eight*)

I will call up a member of each team. When everyone is set, I will hold up a color. The team that can tell me what that color stands for in our jelly bean bags will get a point. We'll see which team knows their colors the best

(*Go through the whole stack of colors at least once and review what they stand for. Cheer wildly when teams get an answer correct*)

Craft: Jelly Bean Painting

Supplies: Jelly Bean Paints (or other sensory paints with scents or texture added), paint brushes, large paper, Jelly Bean Jesus Labels, clean up supplies, paint shirts

Say: We're going to have some free art time. I have some very special paints that we are going to use to express ourselves. Each of you can choose one verse from the verses we talked about today to put on your painting and make some art that is related to that verse. You might try to illustrate what the verse is saying or paint symbols of the verse or phrase that goes with it like Jesus makes us new. Paint what you think best expresses the things you are thinking and feeling about the verse you choose.

(Pass out painting supplies, labels and allow children to begin painting.)

Teacher Note/Modification: If painting is not practical, use smelly markers or other craft supplies to allow children time to freely express themselves and connect with the verse they choose. See KidMin Solutions Easter Fun Pinterest Board for ideas on making Jelly Bean Paints or Sensory Paints

Prayer

Supplies Needed: Jelly Bean treat bags, booklets

Say: It's almost time to go. Before we do, let's pray together. Bring your jelly bean treat bags to our prayer circle. *(Gather students in a circle)*

I'm going to pray out loud. While I'm praying, hold your jelly beans in the middle of the bag. We're going to ask God to bless our jelly beans and help us learn more about him.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Help us to learn and love him more this week. Thank you for redeeming us, loving us and sacrificing for us. Bless these jelly beans and all that we do this week. We want to know you more, love you more and trust you more this week. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.