Sometimes it feels like we are living in a “dog eat dog” world. Our relationships tend to be more like dog fights than loyal friendships. In this unit, children will explore I Corinthians 13 and how to be the kind of friend that Christ intends us to be.

Each Lesson Contains the Following Activities:

1. Deputy Catch U. Dog
2. Puppet Song Suggestion
3. Special Guest
4. Bible Story
5. Prayer Time
6. Dog House
7. Dog Training
8. Obedience School
9. Time Stretchers
10. Parent Take Home Page
Deputy Catch U Dog

- Puppet (can use actors)

Deputy Catch U Dog is a puppet; however, an actor could play the part. Each week the deputy introduces the dog breed for the day. He will give some basic information about the dog. Also, there will be a picture of the dog on a PowerPoint slide.

Puppet Songs

The suggested songs all come from the CD “Splash” by Go Fish except for lesson one. The Splash CD can be downloaded from CBD.com. The song for lesson one makes a wonderful theme song for the unit. It is on the CD Scripture Rock which can be purchased from One Way Street or other children’s ministry suppliers.

If you do not have puppets, you can have the children either sing along with the songs or have the older children “act out” some of the songs in a human video.

LESSON ONE: “God is Love!” from Scripture Rock by Brentwood Kids, 1997.


LESSON THREE: “I’ll Do My Best” from Splash by Go Fish, 2003.

LESSON FOUR: “Planes, Phones and Microwaves” from Splash by Go Fish, 2003.

LESSON FIVE: “This Little Light of Mine” from Splash by Go Fish, 2003.

LESSON SIX: “My Very Own Church” from Splash by Go Fish, 2003.
Lesson Seven: “Big, Bad Billy” from Splash by Go Fish, 2003.


Lesson Eleven: “Alleluia” from Splash by Go Fish, 2003.

Lesson Twelve: Choose a favorite song from the unit or use “God is Love” as a theme song.

Special Guest

♦ Puppet or Actor

Each week a special guest will do a short monologue that usually has an interactive segment to it. Pick people who will interact well with the children. You could have one person do this who changes costumes each week or have different people each week. Also, this is a good way to get teens involved in ministry.

Bible Story

The Bible stories are told using varying methods each week such as dramatic play, game shows or other hands on activities. This is not a time for children to sit still and listen. They need to be actively involved while they are listening. They need to become part of the action which will help the children retain what they have learned. Be sure to be open to God’s leading to expand the stories. Keep it exciting and fun.

Every other week, the game show host “Bob, Bark the Truth” will lead the children in playing a game. Recruit someone to do this part that is high energy and a bit quirky.
**Prayer**

The prayer time has suggestions for specific things to pray about. This is a crucial part of the lesson. During this time, children are given the opportunity to reflect on changes they need to make in their lives. Without this special time to talk to God and evaluate their lives, the lesson becomes just a time of filling them with knowledge. The goal of this curriculum is to change lives, not to just learn facts.

**Dog House**

Each week a child looks in the dog house to find an item that is used in an object lesson. This object lesson applies the Bible point for the day.

**Dog Training**

The dog training time is a physical activity that ties in to the bible point for the day.

**Obedience School**

Obedience School is a small group time when the children can discuss real life situations and how to handle these situations God’s way. Divide the children into groups of five to six. There will be three situations for them to discuss. They can role play the situations by acting out the right way of dealing with the problem presented. They can also discuss a solution instead of acting it out. If time permits, the children can share with the other groups their solution to the problem.
**Time Stretchers**

The time stretchers are optional activities. You may pick and choose different options depending on your time constraints and needs. The main part of the lesson runs from 45-50 minutes. If you have music before the lesson, it will run about one hour. The time stretchers are divided into four categories: Doggie Bag (snack), memory verse activity, craft and game. Some of the activities will take prep work while others can be done on the spur of the moment.

Also, many of the lessons have movies listed in the Time Stretcher section. These movies contain the dog discussed in the lesson. Short clips from the movies could be used during snack time or to give the children an opportunity to see the dog breed “in action.”

**Together Time Take Home Page**

Photocopy the Together Time on bright colored paper and send one home with each child. These papers give the parents an inside look at what their child learned during class. It also gives suggestions for family activities. Parents are given the biblical mandate to provide the spiritual teaching for their children. Often, however, they are unsure of how to accomplish this. By providing these take home pages, parents are given a tool to use at home in their child’s spiritual training.

**Planning Ahead**

**Supplies**

At the beginning of each lesson, you will find two supply lists. One list contains supplies you will need to collect on your own. The other list contains supplies found in the optional kit which may be purchased from River’s Edge Curriculum. Neither list includes supplies used in the time stretchers. If you choose to use the time stretchers, you will find supply lists at the beginning of each of these activities.

In gathering supplies for the Dog House section, be sure to inquire with dog owners in your church. All of the items should be easily available from them.
Special Characters

You will need to recruit the following special characters:

Bible Story Game Show Host

Bob Bark the Truth: Lessons two, four, five, seven, nine, eleven

Special Guest Section

Lesson One: Dog Trainer
Lesson Two: Dr. Shotts, Veterinarian
Lesson Three: Miner
Lesson Four: Francine/Francois the Dog Groomer
Lesson Five: Dr. Spot, The Pet Psychologist
Lesson Six: Pet Store Owner
Lesson Seven: Fire Chief
Lesson Eight: Dog Pound Owner
Lesson Nine: Sled Dog Racer
Lesson Ten: Police Officer and Thief
Lesson Eleven: Detective
Lesson Twelve: Rescue Worker

Costuming

Suggestions for character costumes are listed below. Be creative with what you have. You do not have to spend a lot of money to costume your actors. Advertise your needs around your church and improvise with what you have.

Deputy Catch U Dawg

The deputy should wear a “dog pound officer” type costume: Police hat, blue or black uniform shirt. A vinyl police hat is included in the optional kit that can be purchased from River’s Edge Curriculum.
**Bob Bark the Truth**

Bright suit coat with non-matching plaid pants, wild patterned tie, dog hat or mask. Be sure to dress him in something memorable. A dog nose is included in the optional kit that can be purchased from River’s Edge Curriculum.

A fun song to be used when Bob enters is “Doggy (Who Let The Dogs Out)?” from Unleashed by Raggs Kids Club Band, 2004. Lamon Records. This can be purchased from ITunes.com. There are many versions of the song available so be certain you get a kids version. The adult version is not appropriate for children.

**The Wheel (Lesson 4):** You can use a variety of supplies. You may already have a carnival wheel that would work. You can also use the spinner from the Twister® game. You can have someone in your church make a wheel out of wood and put it on a wooden stand. You can use PVC pipes to make a stand for a wheel. You can also use foam board for the wheel. Then make a spinner out of poster board and use a large brad to attach it in the center of the wheel. Divide the wheel into eight pie shape portions. Label the portions of the wheel: Lose Turn, Go Again, 500, 100, 50, 5000, 200, 300.

**Dr. Shotts, Veterinarian**

White lab coat, stethoscope

**Miner**

Dirty work clothes, shovel

**The Dog Groomer**

Flamboyant clothing, bright colors

**Fire Chief**

Fireman hat, big overcoat, boots,
**Sled Dog Racer**

Parka or other winter coat, gloves, snow boots

**Police Officer**

Police hat, blue or black clothing, badge

**Thief**

Ski mask or bandana around face, black clothing

**Detective**

Magnifying glass, trench coat, Sherlock Holmes style hat

**Constructing a Dog House**

Find a box the size that you would like your dog house. You can use a stove box for a large dog house or a regular shipping box for a smaller house. Lift the flaps on the sides to form the roof. Cut the other two flaps to fill in the space left when forming the roof. Cut a hole in the front of the dog house for the entrance. Paint the roof black. Paint the rest of the dog house red or another color. Choose a name for your dog and write it on the front of the dog house.

**Teacher Tips**

Teach from your heart and your experience! Never read the lesson to the class. Always study ahead of time, taking time to go over the details in your head. Paraphrase the lesson in your own words. The “scripts” are meant to only be a guide. If you read these or memorize them, your teaching will be stilted. Let the Holy Spirit work through you. The curriculum will not carry the class. The teacher is a vital, important part of the curriculum.

Make sure you have prayed for the class before even beginning. When teaching, move around the room, interacting with the children. Talk in an
excited voice (being careful not to sound fake). Watch out for a monotone sound. Remember, this is God’s word and His truth you are teaching.

Option - Advanced Puppet Team. Use puppets to act out some of the stories. Give some freedom to your puppets to interact with the teacher during the Catch U Dog time.

**PowerPoint PC Format**

PowerPoint is a wonderful tool to enhance your teaching. When you see a symbol in the lesson book, that is your cue that there is a slide to complement a specific point. Be sure to practice the PowerPoint as you study your lesson. Have an assistant follow the lesson and advance the screen as necessary. Another option is to purchase a PowerPoint remote control.

**PowerPoint DVD Format**

The DVD format is different than regular PC PowerPoint. Think of it as being like a DVD movie…as you watch a chapter in a movie, it does not stop. If you hit the “next” button you will get the next chapter (in our case the next lesson). When you hit the stop button it will return to the main menu. The trick is to use the “pause” button. You will use the pause button until it is time to continue to the next slide. Then you press “play”. Those are the only 2 buttons you will need to use on your remote. There is approximately 3 seconds between each sound effect and each slide.
## Unit at a Glance

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<td>Great Dane</td>
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<td>The unforgiving servant. Matthew 18:26-34</td>
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<td>2. Fetch!</td>
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<td>Love doesn’t keep a record of wrongs.</td>
<td>Dog Pound Owner</td>
<td>Dog tag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# It's A Dog's Life Kit Supply List

**Lesson 1**

- Crown

**Lesson 2**

- Lab coat, dog nose

**Lesson 3**

- Hard hat

**Lesson 4**

- Dog nose

**Lesson 5**

- Dog nose, four water guns

**Lesson 6**

- Nothing

**Lesson 7**

- Dog nose, inflatable sword, fake ear, flash paper

**Lesson 8**

- Dog tag

**Lesson 9**

- Dog nose

**Lesson 10**

- Police hat

**Lesson 11**

- Dog nose

**Lesson 12**

- Nothing
Leading A Child To Christ

1. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Never force, push or coerce a child to accept Christ. It is the Holy Spirit’s work to draw a child to Him.

2. Use the Bible. Even if a child does not read, make sure you have a Bible. Children need to understand that what you are telling them comes from God’s word.

3. Have a clear understanding of how to present the plan of salvation. Two good methods are:

   **ABC’s of Salvation**

   A: Admit that you have sinned.
   “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23.

   B: Believe that Jesus died for your sins.
   “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

   C: Confess your sins to Jesus.
   "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

   **Colors of Salvation**

   Use the wordless book, beads on a bracelet or jelly beans to explain the colors and their meanings.

   ♦ Black-----sin
   “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

   ♦ Red-------the blood of Jesus
   “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

   ♦ White------forgiveness of sin
   “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9
4. Give the child a chance to pray. You might pray something like this:

   Jesus, I know that I have sinned. I believe that you died on the cross to take the punishment for my sin. I believe that you rose from the dead. Please forgive me for my sin. I am sorry. Help me to follow you and live my life for you. Amen.

5. Encourage the child to tell his parents and other people about his decision.