### Worship Theme:
- Jesus is Lord.

### Weaving Faith Into Life:
- Children will worship Jesus because he is Lord.

#### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Let's Praise God!** *(about 25 minutes)* | **Sing**
- “Sing Unto the Lord” (track 8)
- “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 11)
- “To God Be the Glory” (track 16)
- “King Jesus Is All” (track 13)
- “God Loved the World So Much” (John 3:16) (track 14) | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**
Songs From FaithWeaver
**Classroom Supplies:**
CD player, chalkboard (or whiteboard), chalk (or markers)

#### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Let's Learn the Point!** *(about 25 minutes)* | **Who's the Boss?**
Play a game following a boss's commands. | **Classroom Supplies:**
1 index card for each child, pen, tape

**Prove It!**
Help the leader prove a trick, and see that Thomas needed proof that Jesus had risen from the dead. | **Classroom Supplies:**
Bible

**Different Leaders, One Lord**
Act out what leaders do and find out what Jesus does as Lord. | **Classroom Supplies:**
Scissors, box, photocopy of “Leaders” (p. 94)
### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Session 7 • KidsOwn Worship**

#### Let’s Learn the Point!  
(about 25 minutes)

| *“Lord of the Realm”*  
Watch a video about the medieval practice of pledging fealty to a lord. | KidsOwn Worship Kit:  
*KidsOwn Worship DVD: “Lord of the Realm”*  
*Classroom Supplies:  
TV, DVD player* |
|---|---|
| *Convincing Thomas*  
Experience the story with "Thomas" and "Jesus" actors. | Classroom Supplies:  
*Bible* |
| The Right to Rule  
Pretend to be detectives gathering evidence to prove that Jesus is Lord. | Classroom Supplies:  
*Bibles, paper, pencils* |

#### Let’s Pray!  
(about 10 minutes)

| The Offering  
Offer their gifts to God. | Classroom Supplies:  
*Offering bowls* |
|---|---|
| Every Knee Will Bow  
Kneel as they tell Jesus they know he is Lord. |  |
| *“Sing Unto the Lord”*  
Sing a song about praising and worshipping Jesus. | KidsOwn Worship Kit:  
*Songs From FaithWeaver: “Sing Unto the Lord”* (track 8)  
*Classroom Supplies:  
CD player* |

* 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.
Hiding in a room with the doors locked “for fear of the Jews.” That’s where Jesus found his disciples the evening of his resurrection day! It’s easy to be hard on them and wonder, “What were they thinking? Shouldn’t they have been celebrating?” However, we should walk in their sandals before criticizing them. They knew Jesus had been crucified. Some, no doubt, had seen him die. They had seen the display in the heavens and on earth when God’s Son gave up his spirit (Matthew 27:45, 51-54). They had heard from the women that Jesus had risen, but they hadn’t seen him. Had the women been hallucinating because they wanted to see Jesus? How could it possibly be true? Confusion must have ruled their thoughts and conversation that evening. What makes us think we’d have responded any differently?

Jesus must have looked somewhat different in his new spiritual body. Mary didn’t recognize him at first outside the tomb (John 20:14). And apparently Jesus’ appearance to the disciples didn’t immediately allay their fears because his first words were “Peace be with you!” Then he showed the disciples the wounds in his hands and side to certify his identity. It may have taken a moment, but finally the disciples’ fears and confusion fell away, and they were overjoyed!

Having faith was not easy for these first-century disciples. Thomas was really no different from the others. He’s just pointed out as a doubter because he said he wouldn’t believe the resurrection until he had seen Jesus and touched him. The other disciples demonstrated by their actions that they doubted Jesus’ resurrection until they actually saw him.

It’s easy to think that those living in Jesus’ day had an advantage over us in developing faith. But that’s not necessarily true. In actuality, we may have the advantage. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection didn’t fit the disciples’ expectations of the Messiah. When he died and then rose from the dead, they had to reconsider all their preconceived notions of the Messiah. They had to match Jesus’ actions with what the Old Testament Scriptures predicted about the Messiah. Only then could they fully have faith.

Our advantage is that the results of their struggles are recorded for us in the Bible. We have Thomas’ declaration: “My Lord and my God!” We have the book of Acts that tells us of the disciples’ bold faith and proclamation of the good news about Jesus. And we have the epistles that explain details of faith and what it means. If one accepts that the Bible comes from God, all the evidence one could possibly need for faith is there.

**Devotion for Leaders**
Reread John 20:29. Jesus is talking about you! It takes great faith to believe when you can’t see or touch Jesus; that’s why he calls your relationship with him “blessed”!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Do you ever feel like Thomas? Jesus revealed himself to Thomas and allayed his doubts. What doubts or faith questions do you have? Speak openly to God about them in prayer, and then look for ways God will reveal himself to you through Scripture, your pastor’s words, Christian friends, prayer, nature, or the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
Why We Worship for Leaders

When Thomas was finally convinced that the man standing before him was Jesus, he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” Everything that had happened to Thomas clicked, and he understood exactly who Jesus is. How many times have we used the phrase “Jesus is Lord” without fully understanding what that means in our lives? The activities in today’s worship session will help you lead children to the same conclusion Thomas arrived at. What a privilege it is to help others understand that Jesus is Lord. When we truly understand what it means that Jesus is Lord, we’re blown away by the reality of who Jesus is. When we truly understand what it means that Jesus is Lord, our entire lives change. Come, let us bow down before our Lord in worship!

Easy Prep for Leaders

“Lord of the Realm”—Set up a TV and DVD player. Set the KidsOwn Worship DVD to play the segment titled “Lord of the Realm.” Watch the segment at least once before the session.

Convincing Thomas—Enlist two people to play the parts of Jesus and Thomas. Read through the activity, and help “Jesus” and “Thomas” rehearse their roles.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver, Spring 2012 as children arrive. As each child comes into the room, greet him or her by saying, “Jesus is Lord.”

When you’re ready to begin, greet the children warmly.

Say We’re here to worship today because Jesus is Lord. Last week we celebrated because Jesus rose from the dead, and today we will celebrate because Jesus is Lord. We don’t use the word lord very often these days. Let’s talk about what it means.

Ask • What do we mean when we say, “Jesus is Lord”? (He has power over everything; he’s in charge; Jesus is in control; he has authority.)

Say A lord is someone who is above you and has authority over you. Saying that Jesus is Lord means that Jesus is the ruler, or the master. It means he is more important than we are and has the right to be the boss of us. Jesus is like a king. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the King of kings. Let’s sing a song about praising and serving our King.

Sing “Sing Unto the Lord.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
As Christians, we recognize that Jesus is our Lord and our King. The Bible says a time is coming when everyone will agree that Jesus is Lord. The Bible says that time will bring glory to God. So let’s give God glory today.

Sing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

- What does the word glory mean? (Honor; praise; worship.)
- When we say Jesus is glorious, what do we mean? (He deserves our honor; we should worship him.)

When we say Jesus is glorious, we’re saying he does things that are worthy of glory. It means he has character traits that are worthy of glory. Let’s think of words that describe who Jesus is. I’ll start. Jesus is magnificent! That’s a big word.

- What other words describe Jesus? (Amazing; loving; friend.)

As kids call out words, write the words in large print on a chalkboard. Make sure you have at least six words written on the board.

Now let’s take these words and combine some of them to make up our own words to describe what God is to us. Help kids combine parts of the words on the board to create new three-syllable words. For example, combine “magnificent” with “wonderful” to create “wonder-cent.”

Now let’s sing “To God Be the Glory.” As we sing, think about how our new words describe Jesus.

Sing “To God Be the Glory.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

The book of Philippians says that when every knee bows and every tongue says that Jesus is Lord, it brings glory to God. A lord is a ruler over everything, like a king. So let’s say that Jesus is Lord in our next song. We’re going to sing “King Jesus Is All.”

Have the children form two lines, and have the lines face each other. Point to one of the lines.

You are Group 1. Group 1 will start the song and sing the first line.

Point to the other line.

You are Group 2. Group 2 will sing the echo after Group 1 sings. We’ll keep singing through the song with both groups alternating lines. Watch me, and I’ll point to you when it’s your turn to sing. We’ll be like cheerleaders leading each other in bringing glory to Jesus, our Lord and King, as we sing this song.

Sing “King Jesus Is All.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
Jesus is our Lord and our King. It’s our job to follow him and worship him. One of the reasons we worship Jesus is because he’s such a good leader. Let’s praise Jesus for being such a good leader and Lord that he’s given us eternal life. Eternal means “forever.” Our special time with Jesus will never end. Let’s think about God’s love for us as we sing “God Loved the World So Much.”

Sing “God Loved the World So Much” (John 3:16).

God, we thank you because we can spend eternity with you. Help us to learn more about letting Jesus be the Lord of our lives. Help us to bring glory to you in all that we do. Amen.

Preschool Activities, pages 89-90

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

* “Lord of the Realm”

When we say that Jesus is Lord, we mean that Jesus is the boss, the one with all the authority. Today, it can be hard to understand that it is good to put ourselves under the authority of someone else—even when that someone else is Jesus. But years ago, people were used to the idea of having a lord, an earthly lord. Let’s watch a video about knights and lords in the Middle Ages.

Show the DVD segment titled “Lord of the Realm.” It explains the medieval practice of pledging fealty to a lord.

- **Why do you think this person was so willing to commit himself to his lord?** (He believed in his lord; he wanted to serve his lord; his lord was good to him.)

- **What did it mean when he said that the king was lord?** (The king had power; he had authority.)

- **What does it mean when we say Jesus is Lord?** (Jesus has power over all; he has the highest authority of all.)
If Jesus is Lord, what does that mean to us? What should we do to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord? (We should follow Jesus; we should praise and worship Jesus.)

If Jesus is Lord, how does that affect our everyday lives? (We should always live for Jesus; everything we do should show that we love Jesus.)

We live in a very different culture from the one shown in this video. In medieval times, it was normal for people to promise to serve someone else for their lives. But today, most people feel they have the right to make their own decisions. They want to decide for themselves what they want to do with their lives. But that’s not how Christians live. As Christians, we know that Jesus is Lord, a loving and kind Lord. Jesus wants us to serve him and consider him as our authority just as the people in our video served their earthly lord. Next let’s look at a story from the Bible about a time someone recognized that Jesus is Lord.

* Convincing Thomas

Make sure the people you’ve enlisted to play Jesus and Thomas are ready to play their parts. Open your Bible to John 20:19-31.

It was Sunday evening. Many of the disciples were together, and they were scared. This was the third day after Jesus had died. The disciples were scared of the Jews, so they had locked the door. Let’s pretend we’re the disciples and we’re scared that the Jews might harm us.

Send a helper to “lock” the door.

We should be safe now. I’m sure no one can get through that door when it’s locked.

Have “Jesus” come and stand in the middle of the group. Have him raise a hand and say, “Peace be with you!” Then have “Jesus” silently show the children his hands and his side. Then have “Jesus” say, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” Have “Jesus” breathe on the children and say, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Then have “Jesus” leave the room.

That’s exactly what happened to the disciples. This is what happened next.

Have “Thomas” enter the room. Have “Thomas” say, “Hello, everyone. What’s been happening while I was gone?”

Have kids explain that Jesus came to visit them. “Thomas” should act doubtful and ask questions such as, “But how do you know it was really him?” Encourage the children to try to convince “Thomas” that the visitor was Jesus. Finally have “Thomas” conclude his visit by saying, “Unless I see for myself the nail marks in his hands and unless I can touch the nail holes myself, I won’t believe.”

(continued on page 91)
Preschool Activities

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Worship Theme: Jesus is Lord.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Who’s the Boss?—You’ll need an index card for each child, tape, and a pen. On half of the cards, write the letter B.

Different Leaders, One Lord—Photocopy the “Leaders” handout (p. 94) from the KidsOwn Worship Leader Guide. The worship leader has a copy of the book. Cut apart the pictures, and put them in a box.

Who’s the Boss?

Gather the children in a circle.

Today we’re talking about Jesus. Jesus is Lord. That means he’s the boss or the leader. We’re going to play a game about being the boss or the leader. I’m going to tape an index card to your back so you can’t see it. Some of the cards will be blank. Other cards will have a B on them. The B stands for “boss.”

You will each have a card taped to your back when we begin the game. When I say “Go,” you’ll find a partner. Give your partner a command like “Turn around in a circle” or “Bark like a dog.” Your partner will give you a command, too.

Then look at the card your partner has on his or her back. If your partner’s card has a B on it, you have to do the command because he or she is the boss. If your partner’s card doesn’t have a B on it, you don’t have to do the command.

If both of your cards have B’s on them, you both have to do the commands. If neither card has a B, neither of you has to do the command.

When I clap my hands, you’ll find a new partner. Ready? Here we go.

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 guess who the different leaders are in the “Different Leaders, One Lord” activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

John 20:19-31

Play the game. Have the children change partners several times. Then have the children sit in a circle again.

What was fun about this game?

How did you know whether to follow your partner’s commands?

Did you like following the bosses’ instructions? Why or why not?

Who’s the boss at your house?

What does that person do to let you know he or she is the boss?

Jesus is our Lord. That means he’s the most important leader we have. What kinds of things does Jesus ask us to do?

The Bible tells us that Jesus is our Lord. That means he’s the boss. He’s the best leader we could ever hope to find. The things Jesus asks us to do are always good for us. Jesus is a kind and loving leader. We can gladly follow Jesus’ commands because he’s a good boss. Let’s learn about a time someone wasn’t too sure about who Jesus was.
Preschool Activities

* Prove It!

You'll need a Bible.

**Ask** • Has someone ever told you something that you thought couldn't possibly be true? Tell us about it.

Allow volunteers to share.

**Say** Sometimes the truth is hard to believe. For example, what if I told you that I could make it so that none of you could stand up? Would you believe me?

What if I said that I won't touch you and you still won't be able to stand up? Do you believe that I can make you unable to stand up without even touching you? What would convince you? Will I need to show you to prove it to you?

OK, I’ll prove it. Everyone needs to listen carefully to my instructions. Sit on the floor, and put your hands in your lap. Your hands have to stay in your lap. Then put your feet flat on the floor. Don't touch your knees together. Now try to get up. (Pause.) See, you can’t do it! No one can.

Tell the children not to sit cross-legged; the soles of their feet should touch the ground.

**Ask** • Did you believe that I was telling the truth before I proved it to you?

Open your Bible to John 20:19-31.

**Say** The Bible tells us about a man who heard something he just couldn’t believe until it was proven to him.

The man’s name was Thomas, and he was one of Jesus’ special friends, the disciples.

One day some of the disciples—not including Thomas—were together in a room. They were sad because they thought Jesus was still dead. They didn’t know that Jesus had come back to life again. Show me your saddest face. (Pause.) That’s exactly how the disciples felt.

But suddenly, Jesus was right there with them. Jesus talked with them, and the disciples were so happy because Jesus was alive. They excitedly told Thomas the news. Show me your happiest, most excited face. (Pause.) That’s just how the disciples felt.

Thomas listened to their story, but he wasn’t so sure that he believed them. He wanted them to prove that Jesus was alive. He said, “I won’t believe that Jesus is really alive until I’ve seen him for myself.” Thomas was kind of stubborn about it. Let’s cross our arms to show how stubborn Thomas was. (Pause.)

The next week, Thomas was with the disciples. All of a sudden, Jesus was there with them. Jesus said, “Thomas, stop doubting and believe. It’s really me. You can touch my hands and see my wounds.”

**Ask** • What do you think Thomas did?

**Say** Thomas didn’t need any more proof. He said to Jesus, “You are my Lord and my God!” Thomas knew that only his Lord could come back to life. Thomas knew that Jesus was his true leader.

Different Leaders, One Lord

**Say** Today we’ve been talking about leaders. We know that Jesus is the best and most important leader. He’s our Lord. Let’s play a game about all the different kinds of leaders we have. Everyone will have a turn to pull a picture of a leader out of the box and act out what this leader does. We’ll all try to guess who the leader is. If the picture you choose is Jesus, we’ll do something special because he’s our Lord. Ready? Here we go.

Play the game, having the children take the pictures out of the box one at a time. Have the children act out what that leader does to help or lead them. Be ready to whisper in their ears ideas of what they can act out.

If a child pulls out Jesus’ picture, have the child act out things Jesus does until the children guess who it is. Then have the children all kneel and say the following with you.
A week passed, and the disciples once again were gathered together. This time Thomas was with them. And once again, they locked the doors to keep safe.

Have “Jesus” come in and stand in the middle of the group. Have “Jesus” say, “Peace be with you!” Then have “Jesus” turn to “Thomas” and say, “Touch my hands; see the nail holes. Reach out your hand, and touch the wound in my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Have “Thomas” exclaim, “My Lord and my God!”

And that’s how Thomas found out that Jesus had truly risen from the dead.

Dismiss “Jesus” and “Thomas.”

Have kids form discussion groups of three or four to answer the following questions.

• Why do you think Thomas was so careful about deciding whether the man the disciples had seen was really Jesus? (He didn’t want to believe in something fake; he didn’t want to look dumb if they were playing a trick on him; he knew that people don’t usually rise from the dead.)

• What made Thomas see that Jesus is Lord? (He had to feel Jesus’ hands; he had to see for himself.)

• How did Thomas react when he realized that Jesus is Lord? (He was surprised; he called him Lord and God.)

• Can you think of a time when, all of a sudden, you really understood who Jesus is? Explain. (When I discovered that Jesus wants to have a friendship with me; when my dad became a Christian, I knew that Jesus could do anything.)

Get everyone’s attention. Have several kids share their answers and insights with the rest of the group.

Thomas doubted that the disciples had really seen Jesus. He wanted evidence that told him beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus had risen from the dead and had appeared to the disciples. But when Thomas got the evidence he needed, he quickly recognized that Jesus really was his Lord and his God. Let’s talk a little bit more about the evidence that helps us know that Jesus really is Lord.
The Right to Rule

Have kids form three groups.

**Say** Let's pretend that we're detectives on a case. We have to prove that Jesus really is Lord. I’ll give each group an assignment. Your job will be to find as much evidence as you can to prove that Jesus is Lord.

Give each group a pencil and paper. Have a teenage or adult helper assist each group. Have the helpers team younger children with older children.

Here are the assignments:

- Provide Group 1 with Bibles. Have kids look in the Bibles for things Jesus did that prove that he is Lord. Suggest that they look at the section headings in one of the Gospels. Nonreaders can either work with older children or can collect evidence based on their memories of what Jesus did.

- Provide Group 2 with Bibles. Have them look for Jesus’ character traits that prove he is Lord. Suggest that they look at the section headings in one of the Gospels. Nonreaders can either work with older children or can collect evidence based on their memories of what Jesus is like.

- Have Group 3 look for evidence of what Jesus is doing today. Have these children interview each other to find out how Jesus is Lord today. For example, kids might discover that Jesus helped someone choose to be loving toward an enemy.

Give kids five minutes to collect evidence. Then have a spokesperson from each group share the group’s findings with the entire group.

**Ask**

- What do you think now about Jesus? Is he Lord? Explain. (His characteristics show that he is Lord; he’s done so many wonderful things, he must be Lord.)

- How do you think we should respond to all this evidence? What should we do about the fact that Jesus is Lord? (We should worship Jesus our Lord; we should tell others about him.)

**Say** Right now, let’s worship Jesus, our Lord, by offering him our gifts.

3 Let’s Pray!

**The Offering**

**Say** As Christians, we know that everything we have really belongs to Jesus, our Lord. When we give a portion of what we have back to Jesus, we’re telling him we understand that it all belongs to him. We’re telling him we’ll let him be in charge of what we do and how we spend what we have. Let’s give our gifts to Jesus. If you didn’t bring money for the offering, you can still tell Jesus that he’s Lord of your life. When the offering bowl comes to you, you can pretend to put in your life as an offering to Jesus.

Take the offering.
Every Knee Will Bow

**Say**
Philippians 2:10-11 says that God made Jesus’ name greater than any other name. Jesus is so much greater than us that when we understand who Jesus is, it should be natural to kneel. The Bible says someday everyone will bow down before Jesus. And someday everyone will say that Jesus is Lord.

Let’s not wait for someday. Let’s kneel right now and tell Jesus we know that he is Lord. Kneel next to your chair right now and repeat this prayer after me.

**Pray**
Dear Jesus, you are our Lord. You alone know everything. Jesus, you are our Lord. You are most powerful. Jesus, you are our Lord. You are love, and you give us life. Jesus, you are our Lord. Amen.

Now, before you get up, take just a moment to pray silently. If you need to ask for forgiveness, you can do that now. If you want to talk to Jesus about the fact that he is Lord, you can do that now. If you just want to tell Jesus how much you love him, you can do that now.

Give the children about 30 seconds to pray. Then say “amen,” and have the children take their seats.

“Sing Unto the Lord”

**Say**
Jesus is the Lord of our lives. Because he is our Lord, we worship him, praise him, and serve him. Let’s end our worship time by singing “Sing Unto the Lord.”

Sing “Sing Unto the Lord.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Track 8
Leaders

Photocopy and cut apart these illustrations.
Dear Lord, thank you for showing us what real love is. Please help me to pass that love onto the kids I teach. In Jesus’ name, amen.

From Heartfelt Thanks for Sunday School Teachers.
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