



.....so that all children might know their Father

**LESSON PLAN for CHURCHES
to be done ONE SUNDAY before CHRISTMAS**

**ALSO USER FRIENDLY FOR CAREGIVERS
Grades 1-3**

Gingerboy's Search for Christmas provides a wonderful way to share the Christmas story during the Christmas season. This lesson plan is provided to help parents, teachers and caregivers share how has shared how much He loves us, through the birth of Jesus.

We recommend that churches provide a complimentary copy of the book to children in class the Sunday before it will be discussed. We recommend that parents, grandparents, or caregivers be encouraged to read the book to their child(ren) on four separate nights, one chapter each night, the week before the Sunday morning lesson.

The recommended age for this activity is grades one through three.

It is important that a model of the manger and baby Jesus also be provided.

Lesson Plan Objective: To understand why the birth of Jesus has reunited us with Our Heavenly Father.

Lesson Plan: (Estimated time is 45 minutes.)

What you will need: You will need a copy of “Gingerboy’s Search for Christmas”, a small model of the nativity, an 8 by 10” cardboard heart to trace, red construction paper, scissors, and “Post It” notes. If you are teaching within a classroom, it will be important to have a white board or black board available for times of discussion. A sheet of paper can be easily used by the parent or caregiver.

- I Read page 50 out loud. Why is Gingerboy sad?
- A. What does Gingerboy wish for? What is the problem?
 - B. Why does Jesus understand how Gingerboy feels?
 - C. How can Gingerboy fix this problem?
 - D. What happens at the manger?
 - 1. Read pages 52 and 53
 - 2. Why do the children kneel?
 - 3. What happens that makes Gingerboy feel so loved?
(There is no judgment on Jesus’ face.)
 - E. What does Gingerboy ask Jesus to do?
 - 1. To forgive him
 - 2. To come into his heart.
 - F. What promise does Gingerboy make to Jesus? (To serve Him and love Him for all eternity.)
 - G. What happens when Gingerboy prays?
 - 1. Why? (Reread the last verse on page 53.)
 - 2. How did Jesus solve the problem?
 - H. Why is Gingerboy so happy? Read page 54
 - 1. He is reunited with his Papa.
 - 2. He knows just how much his Papa loves him.
- F. Why is Billy so happy? (He knows his Heavenly Father.)
- 1. Can we know Him too?
 - 2. What do you think Billy did?
 - 3. Can we do it too?

II Let’s make a heart.

A. BRAINSTORM

1. Invite the child (ren) to share one thing they have done that they knew was wrong. Write down each response. (Try to keep sentences short.)
2. The teacher, or caregiver, is encouraged to share and write down something he or she has done that was wrong.

B. Give each child a piece of red construction paper.

C. Pass out a white cardboard heart which they can use to trace the heart onto their piece of construction paper

D. Have them cut it out. (Hearts can be cut in advance if time is a factor.)

E. Have each child write what they have done wrong on their “Post It.”

1. They can use the sentences on the board to help them.
2. If they can think of more than one thing, encourage them to use another “Post It” to write it down.

F. Have each child put what they have written on their “Post Its”, on their hearts. (Caregivers can follow these steps, as well.)

III Let’s bring our hearts to the manger. (Each child will be asked to bring their hearts to the manger.) If it is possible have them kneel at the manger Otherwise instruct them to go back to their seats. (It is recommended caregivers find a small model of the manger and baby Jesus and follow these same steps.)

IV Pray with the child(ren).

A. “Let us pray the same prayer Gingerboy prayed at the manger.” The teacher or caregiver need only speak the prayer found on the top of page 53.

B. **A teacher or caregiver, may want to share that if a child has already prayed to ask Jesus into their heart, they need only ask Jesus for forgiveness. “Jesus, please forgive the things I have done wrong this day. Thank you for always loving me. Amen**

V What happened when we prayed?

A. Have each child take turns coming to the manger to remove the “post its” from their hearts. They may then take their heart back to their seat.

1. The teacher will share that Jesus has forgiven their sins.
2. They have been washed away! They are no longer there!

3. Jesus now lives in their hearts!
- B. We are reunited with our Heavenly Father!
 1. Do you feel happy?
 2. Why?
- C. Why did Jesus come on Christmas Day? (To reunite us with our Heavenly Father!)

VI End in prayer: “Thank you so much Jesus for coming on Christmas Day. Thank you for forgiving me. My sins have been washed away and I can talk to you and my Heavenly Father whenever I want to. We will never be apart again! Thank you for how much you love me! Amen!”