



The Best Big Brother!

By Deborah Wassenberg

It was during worship in my brother's church that the Holy Spirit said the words, 'Jesus is the best big brother'. My brother (younger by 15 months but bigger in every other way!) preached on Jesus the Son of Man and how wonderful that the one who would one day judge us is the one who knows and understands what it's like to be human. These two certainties connected to make this lesson so children can understand Jesus is their best big brother.

Family Photo:

Set up a photo booth at the entrance to your room. Ask a volunteer to take a photo of each child. While the program runs print out the photos in readiness for today's craft.

You Tube Song Suggestions:

- Heaven Is Our Home (Hillsong Kids)
- Jesus, Strong and Kind (Summit Kids)
- Child of God (Big Big Worship)
- Good Good Father (chapelhill kids)

Bible Lesson:

You'll find free Bible story illustrations at [Free Bible Images](#).

Visuals:

- Picture 1: Jesus (birth, ministry, on the Cross)
- Picture 2: Jesus and children
- Picture 3: Jesus calms the storm
- Picture 4: Jesus and the Centurion
- Picture 5: Jesus and the woman at the well
- Picture 6: Jesus and children
- Picture 7: Jesus feeding the 5000
- Picture 8: Jesus telling the disciples a parable
- Picture 9: Peter and the fish with a coin in its mouth

Words:

1. Father God saw people needed **big** help.
Sin had caused them to make a mess of their lives
and the lives of the people around them.

So, He sent His own Son Jesus to the earth to save them.
Jesus arrived as a baby.
He grew into a man.
He showed everyone what Father God was like. (*John 14:9*)
Then died on the Cross for the sins of the world. (*John 3:16*)

2. The good news is that Father God raised Jesus from the dead!
When you believe in Jesus you must ask Him to forgive you for your sins.
(Sins are wrong things you've done.)
When you accept Jesus into your life you become part of God's family.
God is now your Heavenly Father and you are His child.
(*Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1:5*)
That makes Jesus your **big brother**.
I don't know if you have a big brother,
or what type of person your big brother is,
but I know Jesus is the **BEST big brother** you could ever have!

3. Jesus your big brother is **strong and fearless!**
You might have seen paintings of Jesus and the
artist has made Him look weak and sickly.
Like He couldn't fight His way out of a wet paper bag!
It's true Jesus is meek, but that doesn't mean 'squeak'.
He's not mousey! Jesus is meek because He keeps His
strength under control.
But there were times when it was necessary for Him
to show He was upset.
Like the time He visited the temple and found it had been
turned into a market place where merchants were making money
out of people's worship.
He threw over the tables in the temple. (*Matthew 21:12-17*)
He made a whip and chased money changers out of the temple, too.
(*John 2:13-17*)
Jesus wasn't afraid to face a man so full of demons he snapped the chains
people put on him.
Jesus told the demons to go and He set the man free! (*Mark 5:1-13*)
Jesus wasn't afraid of storms. (*Mark 4:35-41*)
Jesus wasn't afraid of what other people thought.
He didn't care about being seen with sinners. (*Luke 15:1-2*)
He wasn't afraid to touch lepers. (*Mark 1:40-42*)
He wasn't afraid of the religious leaders who were bullies. (*Mark 3:6*)
If you are afraid, or being bullied, ask your **big brother Jesus** to help you.

4. Jesus your big brother is **tough!**
 He had stamina (endurance). *(Luke 9:11; John 6:2)*
 He could keep going no matter how
 much he was suffering physically or mentally.
 He could go without food, water and sleep
 when people needed to hear about God's kingdom,
 or they needed prayer for healing. *(Luke 4:40)*
 Jesus could talk man to man with a Roman Centurion *(Luke 7:6-9)*
 If you are feeling weak ask your **big brother Jesus** to help you.

5. Jesus your big brother is **patient!**
 Jesus was never in a hurry.
 He was always exactly where He needed to be. *(John 11:32-44)*
 Jesus was never too busy to heal. *(Matthew 4:23)*
 Never too busy to talk.
 Never too busy to listen.
 Jesus will never give up on you. *(2 Peter 3:9)*
 If you need someone to spend time with you, ask your **big brother Jesus**.

6. Jesus your big brother is **honest!**
 He never lies.
 His every word is true and can be relied on.
 He will not trick you.
 He will not make fun of you or laugh at your mistakes.
 You are not a joke or someone to be made fun of.
 Jesus sincerely loves you.
 If you are hurt or disappointed by people, tell your **big brother, Jesus**.

7. Jesus your big brother is **compassionate!**
 He showed sympathy and concern for people and
 He always did something to help them.
 Crowds of sick people would gather around Jesus and He would heal them.
(Matthew 12:15; 14:14; 19:2; Luke 4:40; 6:19)
 When He saw the crowd was hungry He fed them. *(Matthew 14:13-21; 15:29-39)*
 When He saw a sad widow at her son's funeral, with no more family
 to help her, He brought the son back to life! *(Luke 7:11-17)*
 Jesus has the same compassion for you.
 If you are sad, sick or hungry, ask your **big brother Jesus** to help you.

8. Jesus your big brother is great at **telling stories!**
 Jesus told lots of stories called parables.
 He used the parables to explain tricky things to people
 so they could understand God's kingdom.

Crowds of people loved the way Jesus spoke.
If you want to read amazing true stories,
read about Jesus your **big brother** in the Bible.

9. Jesus your big brother is **fun and adventurous!**

He has a great sense of humour.

When the Temple Tax had to be paid he told Peter to catch a fish
and a coin to pay the tax was in the fishes mouth.

One day, when the disciples couldn't catch any fish, he told them to lower
their nets again and they caught so many fish the net broke!

He cooked breakfast on the beach for them.

When something funny happens, tell **Jesus your big brother**
about it. He will laugh, too.

Ministry to the Children:

When you see Jesus how He really is then you see He is someone you can trust and rely on. The better you know Him the better you will love Him. He's the **best big brother** you could ever have. He will not let you down! After all, you're family. You can talk to him. He understands you! Do you need a big brother? (*Altar call*)

Once Jesus becomes your big brother you need to copy Him. Do what He did. Say what He says. You need to live your life so that when people look at you they see a **family resemblance**. Jesus did the will of His Father. We need to do the Father's will, too. (*Pray*)

Memory Verse: Romans 8:15b (ERV)

The Spirit that we have makes us God's chosen children. And with that Spirit we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'

Sticky Note Wall Sock Bop

Ask a couple of your volunteers to dress up as a brother and sister. They pretend the wall used for the Memory Verse is somewhere in their house. Their job is to run the game component of the Memory Verse and help the children put the words together.

You will need:

- A pretend wall of a house
- 26 sticky notes with a letter of the alphabet on each one scattered on the wall
- Rolled up pairs of socks
- Dashes on another wall for every letter of the Memory Verse and where it's found (like those used in hangman)

What to do:

- Every child has a turn at throwing the sock ball at a sticky note alphabet letter
- With every direct hit the letter hit is added to the Memory Verse dashes. Eventually, the children will work out the words and know what letter of the alphabet to aim for to fill in any blanks.
- Recite the Memory Verse and when the children know it, erase or cover a word at a time, until they can recite it without any prompting.

Game: Family Picnic Relay

You will need:

- Teams
- Picnic basket per team with:
 - Blanket
 - Tea set
 - Fake food
- Start line and marked 'picnic ground'

What to do:

- Mark your start and picnic ground
- Put children into 'family' teams
(They might like to make up a family name for themselves)
- Give the basket of goodies to the first family member
- On 'go' the first family member takes the basket to the picnic ground and unfurls the blanket and sets up the tea set and food. Then the family member runs back to the rest of the family and hands the basket over to the next family member
- That family member runs to the picnic ground and Packs up the picnic (Leader: 'Oh no, it's raining!') and brings the basket back to the next family member
- (Leader: 'Oh, the sun is out!') The next family member takes the basket and sets up the picnic again and returns to the family...
- Repeat until all the family members have had a turn setting up or packing away the picnic
- The first family through all their members is the family that wins!

Craft: Photo Frame

You will need:

- Strong cardboard
- Decorative materials
- Glue and brushes

What to do:

- Pre-cut strong cardboard to the size of the photos (backing) and also into the shape of the frame to surround the photos (You'll find lots of styles of photo frame templates online)
- Glue the photo to the cardboard backing
- Glue the frame on top so it surrounds the photo
- Decorate the frame:
 - Pompoms
 - Shells
 - Paddle pop sticks
 - Flowers (silk, dried or sequins)
 - Scrabble tiles
 - Puzzle pieces
 - Buttons