

# Unit 13: We Are Important to Jesus

Unit Value: Love

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	<i>John 1:43-49</i>
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# RESOURCES For Your Early Elementary Class



## Early Elementary Teacher's Guide

Each of the 13 lessons contains step-by-step instructions to help you prepare and teach, with Bible background, tips for teaching Kindergarten and 1st graders, and a variety of activities to help your students learn and apply the Bible lesson. Need one per class.

## Early Elementary Creative Teaching Aids

This packet contains a variety of posters, games, 3D models, puzzles, an attendance chart, Praise Pac CD, and more. Each PraisePac CD contains three original worship songs that correlate with each unit. Also included on your PraisePac CD are downloadable song sheets, lyric sheets, an attendance chart, and postcards. Need one per class.

## Bible Beginnings

This student book offers a variety of full-color class activities for all parts of your lessons—Bible story character masks, games, puzzles, Bible story and memory verse sequence cards, puppets, and more. Need one per student.

## Bring the Bible to Life for Kids

# 1

### Step 1: Bible Readiness

Scripture makes it clear that God is relational (1 John 3:1; 4:9-10). Our goal is to help students see this part of God's nature by interacting with you and one another. Your goal in Step 1 is to help your kids build relationships with you and one another. This step gives your kids a chance to share about themselves and their lives, and be active participants in your classroom. You'll be able to guide students to see the connection between their lives and what happens at Sunday school. These conversations will flow naturally into Step 2, your Bible lesson.

# 2

### Step 2: Bible Story

God teaches us through His written Word how to live and relate with Him and one another (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16). Through Step 2, your class will dive into a portion of God's Word and then review it together. You'll lead the class with relevant questions that guide your kids to not only understand what they've just learned, but begin to connect it to their lives. Your class will also have an opportunity to learn the memory verse for the day. Through this step, you'll be able to make sure your students engage in a fruitful discussion about the Bible at their age level.

## Make It – Take It

Using simple classroom supplies, these craft pages become books, story puppets, pop-up cards, puzzles, and lesson reminders to help the Bible lessons learned at church be meaningful throughout the week at home. Need one per student.

## Stories

Send home this four-page booklet to help Bible lessons thrive in students' hearts and hands as they take Sunday's lessons home. Each weekly paper presents the Bible story, student activities, a contemporary story, and family suggestions for extending the Bible lesson at home during the week. Need one per student.



Visit [www.wesleyan.org/wph](http://www.wesleyan.org/wph) for more helpful resources.

# 3

## Step 3: Bible Activity Choices

God asks us to internalize His Word so we can grow in relationship with Him (Psalm 1:2; 119:97). Step 3 turns your class into a laboratory, giving you a chance to coach your kids to a deeper understanding of the Bible passage you've just studied. Activity options provided help students explore the Bible story at their levels, and with their interests so they can truly comprehend and implement God's Word into their day-to-day lives. Your kids can actively work through the Bible story, finding the tangible treasure in the text for themselves.

# 4

## Step 4: Bible Response

The Bible makes it clear that our faith is much more than a list of beliefs. It's also what we do—how we live out what we say we believe. Step 4 is a way for you to encourage life application with your students. Together you'll go over what you've learned and help your kids carry the Sunday school lesson into the rest of their week. You'll be able to provide them with practical suggestions for ways to live out their faith in real life so that they can be doers of the Word, not just hearers (Luke 11:28; James 1:22-25).

# SUPPLIES

## Standard Supplies

- Early Elementary**
  - Creative Teaching Aids**
  - Bible Beginnings** (student books)
  - Early Elementary Make It–Take It** (craft books)
  - Stories** (take-home papers)
  - Bibles
  - Beanbags or foam balls
  - Building blocks
  - Butcher or chart paper
  - CD player
  - Clear tape, masking tape
  - Construction paper, scrap paper
  - Cotton-tipped swabs and cotton balls
  - Craft sticks
  - Crayons and colored markers
- Envelopes
- Fabric pieces
- Flannel board
- Glue or glue sticks
- Paper clips
- Paper cups
- Paper fasteners
- Paper towels
- Pencils with erasers
- Play dough (purchased or homemade)
- Resealable plastic sandwich bags
- Scissors
- Song Sheets from Praise Pac
- Stapler
- Whiteboard, markers, and erasers
- Yarn or string

## Extra Supplies

### LESSON 2

- “Yes ” and “No” signs

### LESSON 3

- Blindfolds
- Paper bag or other container
- Surprise object
- Variety of activities to try blindfolded

### LESSON 5

- Classroom chairs
- “Yes, I can,” “Someday I will,” and “No, never” signs

### OPTIONAL

- Container to shake
- Straws
- Towel or tablecloth

### LESSON 6

#### OPTIONAL

- Adhesive bandages
- Stickers

### LESSON 7

- Cornstarch
- Heart shape
- Large bowl
- Measuring cups
- Mixing bowls
- Sandal
- Towel
- Water

### OPTIONAL

- Slotted spoon

### LESSON 8

- Blindfolds
- Chalk
- Cardboard
- “Home,” “Road,” “Pigs,” and “Welcome Party” signs

### LESSON 9

- “True” and “False” signs

### LESSON 10

- “Yes,” “No,” “Day,” and “Night” signs

### LESSON 11

- Blue gelatin
- Chocolate sandwich cookies
- Plates, forks, and knives
- Vanilla crackers
- Whipped topping

### LESSON 12

- Boxes or laundry baskets—4
- Oversized seasonal clothing

### OPTIONAL

- Flower stickers

### LESSON 13

#### OPTIONAL

- Fish crackers
- Glitter
- Sand



# Jesus Knows Me

**Bible Basis:** John 1:43-49

**Lesson Focus:** Jesus knows all about us.

**Memory Verse:** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 John 3:16

## Lesson Path



### 1 BIBLE READINESS:

Through an activity and discussion about their experiences with getting to know people, the children will get ready to learn that Jesus knows all about us.

- People Search Activity: *Bible Beginnings*, p. 3, pencils
- Sharing Time: No materials needed



### 2 BIBLE STORY:

The children will learn from John 1:43-49 that Jesus knows all about us. Teach John 1:43-49: Jesus Knew All about Nathanael

- Bible Story: Bible, Teaching Aid 2 (from *Early Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*)
- Bible Story Review: One copy of *Bible Beginnings*, p. 5, scissors
- Memory Verse Practice: One copy of *Bible Beginnings*, p.6, scissors



### 3 BIBLE ACTIVITY CHOICES:

The children will participate in activities that help them practice the Bible lesson from John 1:43-49.

- Storytelling and Verse Practice: *Bible Beginnings*, pp. 5-6, scissors
- "My Feelings" Book: *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 1, stapler, crayons
- Getting to Know Me: paper, markers or crayons
- Tossing Game: Beanbag or foam ball or rolled and stuffed sock



### 4 BIBLE RESPONSE:

The children will apply this lesson at home by remembering something that Jesus knows about them.

- *Bible Beginnings*, p. 4, pencils; *Stories* for Lesson 1 and Parents' Section



This symbol will appear whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or whenever supplies are needed that are not included on the list of standard materials (on page 6).

## Teacher Devotional

Realizing that Jesus knows all about our private thoughts and actions can be a source of either fear or comfort. But it is a fact! Psalm 139:1-12 confirms that all we feel, think, do, and say is known to God in heaven. There are no secrets from God.

Which word best describes how you feel knowing that Jesus knows all about you?

Jesus knows all about each one of us. He wants us to be comforted by His unlimited knowledge and wisdom. He loves us and He can never love us less regardless of what we think, say, or do.

But He also wants us to live in obedience to His Word. And He wants us to respond in faith as disciples devoted to following Him. When Nathanael learned that Jesus knew all about him, he responded with belief. He knew with confidence that Jesus is the Son of God and chose to become His disciple.

As you begin a new week, ask God to remind you often that you are loved with an endless love. And pray that you will have the courage and wisdom to follow Him wholeheartedly so that every word, thought, and action will be pleasing to Him. This is our act of worship.

## Understanding the Bible

Jesus had been at the Jordan River where John had baptized Him (Matt. 3:13; Mark 1:9). Before leaving for Galilee, Jesus found a third disciple from Bethsaida (in addition to Peter and Andrew). This was Philip.

Philip of Bethsaida is not to be confused with Philip the evangelist who taught and baptized the eunuch of Ethiopia (Acts 21:8).

Philip told his friend Nathanael (also called Bartholomew) about Jesus.

Nathanael responded with contempt. Nathanael was from the village of Cana, about four miles from Nazareth. He may have looked down on Nazareth because a Roman army garrison was there. Nazareth was also in the vicinity of several trade routes, so it was somewhat pluralistic.

Philip didn't argue with Nathanael. Personal contact with Jesus is more convincing than any argument.

Jesus revealed His omniscience to Nathanael. Nathanael followed Jesus.

## When Teaching the Bible to Early Elementary Students . . .

Children usually are not interested in what we can teach them until they feel that we are interested in getting to know them and care for them. By demonstrating that your students are important enough for you to get to know, they will more easily learn from the Bible lesson that you teach.

Here are some ways to help you begin the spiritual journey on which you will lead your students.

— Give attention to the children. Get down on their level. Listen to them and respond to what they tell you. Let them know through word and action that they are important to you.

— Let the children know that you care about their needs and concerns. Tell them that even though you are just getting to know them, Jesus knows all about them, and He loves them and can help them too.

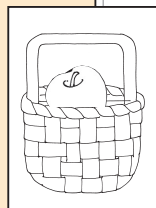
— Take personal comfort in Jesus who knows all about us because He made us, He goes with us, and He knows what we think, need, and feel.

## Early Bird Options

Give the children who arrive early something meaningful to do. Provide one or more of these activities.

### Attendance Chart and Bulletin Board

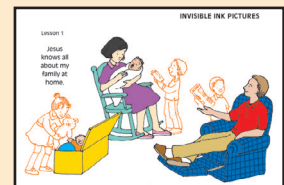
As children arrive, have them add their names to the attendance chart and place a sticker in the appropriate spot each week. Use the basket and apple from Make-It/Take-It page 3 and 31 respectively to create a bulletin board. Have students write or draw on the apple what they are thankful for. They can add an apple to their basket each week.



**Name Tags** – Jesus knows our names, but some in your class might not know and remember everyone's name. Put out small papers and markers. Ask children to make their own name tags.

**Invisible Ink** – This project comes from the top half of the first Invisible Ink page in the center section of Make-It/Take-It. Show kids

how to rub the side of the pencil over the picture to make the invisible ink appear.



## Link to Last Week

Ask your students about their experiences at home with sharing things they have. Accept their responses; praise and encourage their positive experiences.



STEP

1

# BIBLE READINESS

## LESSON 1 FOCUS:

Jesus knows all about us.

Through an activity and discussion about their experiences with getting to know people, the children will get ready to learn that Jesus knows all about us.

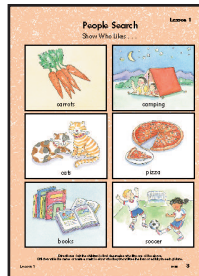
### MATERIALS:

- *Bible Beginnings*, page 3
- Pencils

Today's Bible lesson teaches the children that Jesus knows all about us. To get the children thinking about knowing others, have the children participate in this opening "ice-breaker" activity.

Gather the children around you. If you need to gain their attention, clap your hands as you say, **One, two, three, please listen to me.** Thank them for looking at you and being ready to listen.

Hand out *Bible Beginnings*, page 3, and pencils.



- ▶ **What things and activities do these pictures show?** Let the children take turns naming carrots, camping or sleeping out, cats, pizza, books, and soccer.

**Let's find out who likes each one of the things shown. When I say "Go," move around the room with your papers and pencils. Ask other children if they like carrots, camping, cats, and so on. When you find out what others like, have them write their names on your paper in the square that shows what they like. One person could write his or her name on several things, because they might like them all. And remember, others will be asking you what you like and you will need to write your name on the picture squares on their papers.**

You might tell the children that if they don't want to write their names, they can just make a mark or write the first letter of their names.

Tell them to go find others who like the things shown on their papers. Let them move around, talk, and write. When the moving and talking slow down because they have talked with all or most of their classmates, gather the children with you.

**Let's talk about what you know about others.**

- ▶ **Who do you know that likes carrots?** Let the children tell the names of people they found who like carrots.
- ▶ **Who do you know that likes camping and sleeping out in a tent?** Let the children tell the names of people they found who like this.

Continue with these types of questions for cats, pizza, books, and soccer. Let the children tell what they know about their classmates.

Ask the children to write their names on their papers. Then collect the papers and pencils.

**You know some things about the people in our class. Let's talk more about knowing about people.**

## Sharing Time

- ▶ **How do you get to know people?** Let the children think and talk. They might say that they ask questions just like they did in the opening activity. Others might talk about watching what people do. Friends and family might help the children get to know others.
- ▶ **Who knows you?** Encourage everyone to tell their ideas, even if answers are repeated. You will probably hear about parents, brothers, sisters, other family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, God, and so on.
- ▶ **Who do you think knows all about you?** Let the children think and talk. If necessary, encourage them to name who knows them the best. Accept what they say. The rest of this Bible lesson will teach them who really knows all about them.

**There is someone who knows all about us. In today's Bible story, a man named Nathanael meets someone who knows all about him.**

### MORE TO KNOW

Terminology of life in the Spirit. God does not have a double standard—one for the born again or newly redeemed and one for the sanctified believer. His standard is one—"Be ye holy, for the Lord thy God is Holy" (Lev. 11:44-45; Deut. 26:19; Matt. 5:48; 1 Pet. 1:15-16.) This quarter, we'll look at some of the steps and biblical support to living the holy life, or life in the Spirit.



STEP

2

# BIBLE STORY

## LESSON 1 FOCUS:

Jesus knows all about us.

LESSON 1

■ The children will learn from John 1:43-49 that Jesus knows all about us.

### MATERIALS:

- Bible
- Teaching Aid 2

**B**efore class, study the Scripture passage for this Bible lesson. Read the Bible story given below. Learn the Bible story well enough to be comfortable telling the story rather than reading it. Then you can more frequently look at the teaching aid pictures and the children. Use your voice to show the different emotions of Philip and especially Nathanael. Express

the awe Nathanael must have felt when he declared that Jesus is the Son of God because Nathanael realized that Jesus knew all about him.

In class, let the children get settled before you begin your Bible instruction. When you have their attention, open your Bible to John 1:43-49. Show the children the verses of Scripture that teach that Jesus knows all about us. Keep your Bible open to John 1:43-49 as you tell the story.



## Jesus Knew All about Nathanael: John 1:43-49

God sent His Son, Jesus, to help people know about His love. Jesus asked some men to follow Him and learn from Him. These men would learn to teach others about God's love. They would be called Jesus' disciples. A disciple is a person who learns from someone else. Jesus' disciples would learn from Him.

Jesus had already picked three disciples, and He was going to choose more. There was a man named Philip. Jesus wanted Philip to be one of His disciples. As Jesus was going to Galilee, He said to Philip, "Follow me." Philip immediately went with Jesus and became a disciple.

Philip was so excited about being picked by Jesus that he went to tell his friend Nathanael.

Philip found Nathanael sitting under a fig tree. (*Show Teaching Aid 2, half scene.*) Philip said, "Nathanael, I just talked with Jesus. He is the Son of God. He is the one that God's Word tells us about. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, just as the Scriptures say, and He is here right now!"

Nathanael laughed and said, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Philip was still excited. He pointed to Jesus. "Come and see," Philip said.

Philip and Nathanael went to Jesus. (*Show Teaching Aid 2, full side.*)

Just as Nathanael walked up to Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Nathanael, you are a good man who loves God. I know you always tell the truth."

Nathanael was surprised that Jesus knew all about him, even though he had never met Jesus before. Jesus knew Nathanael's name without asking. Jesus knew that he worshiped God and was honest, yet Nathanael had never been around Jesus. Nathanael was surprised at all that Jesus knew about him. He asked Jesus, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you sitting under the fig tree. I knew you before Philip called you to come."

Nathanael said to Jesus, "You are the Son of God!" Nathanael knew that only Jesus, the Son of God, could know these things about him. That is why Nathanael told Jesus, "You are the Son of God." Then Nathanael happily followed Jesus and became one of His disciples.

Jesus knew all about Nathanael. He knew about his life, where he went, and how he felt about things. Jesus knew all about Nathanael before He ever saw him, because Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus knows all about us, too. He knows where we've been and where we're going. He knows what we think and feel. Jesus knows all about us and loves us.

## Bible Story Review Questions

- ▶ **Who told Nathanael about Jesus?** (Philip told Nathanael about Jesus.)
- ▶ **What did Philip say about Jesus?** (Philip said that Jesus is the Son of God. He grew up in Nazareth.)
- ▶ **What did Jesus tell Nathanael?** (Jesus told Nathanael that he is a good man who loves God and tells the truth.)
- ▶ **Why was Nathanael surprised at all that Jesus knew about him?** (Nathanael had never seen or met Jesus.)
- ▶ **How did Nathanael know that Jesus is the Son of God?** (Nathanael knew that only God's Son could know all about him.)
- ▶ **Who knew all about Nathanael?** (Jesus knew all about Nathanael.)
- ▶ **Who knows all about us?** (Jesus knows all about us.)

## Bible Story Review Activity

**MATERIALS:** One copy of *Bible Beginnings*, page 5, scissors

Cut apart the four Bible story picture cards from one page of *Bible Beginnings*, page 5. Spread them in random order on a table, the floor, or a chalkboard tray so all of the children can see the



cards. Tell the children to follow your directions.

**Raise your hand if you know which picture card shows Jesus talking to Philip.** Wait for the children to respond. Ask one child to go get the correct card and show it to everyone. Have the class check for the correct card. It shows Philip (in the brown coat) talking with Jesus.

**If you can find the picture card that shows what Philip did next, stand up.** Let the children look and stand up. Have a child go get the card and show it. Have the others sit down. Reinforce that Philip went and spoke to Nathanael (sitting under the tree). Philip said, "Come see Jesus."

**Lift one foot off the floor if you know which picture shows what Philip and Nathanael did.** Let them look and you look for lifted feet. Have a child with a lifted foot walk to get the picture. Let everyone check. Philip and Nathanael lifted their feet to walk to Jesus!

**Put up four fingers if you know the last picture in the story.** Watch for their fingers. Let one with four fingers up get the fourth picture. Let everyone check the card. Reinforce that Jesus talked with Nathanael. Nathanael learned that Jesus knew all about him. Philip is standing with Nathanael, listening to Jesus.

Repeat the activity if time allows to let more kids go get the correct cards.

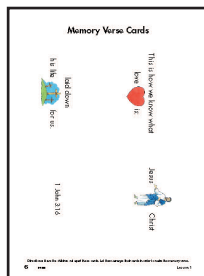
## Memory Verse Practice

**MATERIALS:** One copy of *Bible Beginnings*, page 6, scissors

**We learned that Jesus knows all about us and still loves us. Our Bible memory verse says that Jesus "laid down his life for us." This means he died for us. We know Jesus loves us because He laid down His life for us.**

Turn over the Bible story picture cards from *Bible Beginnings*, page 5. Arrange the memory verse word cards so the class can see them right side up, and in verse order.

Slowly say the verse aloud while pointing to each word on the verse cards as you say it. Explain that the heart shows love, the picture of Jesus helps us know



the words "Jesus Christ," and the crosses remind us that Jesus died for us.

Encourage the children to join with you, saying the verse as you continue pointing to each word. Continue saying the verse in this way a few times.

Mix up the cards. Ask a volunteer to put them back in order. Repeat with other volunteers.

Hand out the cards. Have these children stand in front in order. As you lead everyone to say the verse, have the other children point to the correct card as you say each part of the verse. Collect the cards.

### Memory Verse:

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.**

**1 John 3:16**



# STEP 3

# BIBLE ACTIVITY CHOICES

## LESSON 1 FOCUS: Jesus knows all about us.

The children will participate in activities that help them practice the Bible lesson from John 1:43-49.

**P**lan to offer as many of these activities as you are able to provide. Explain each of the choices you offer to your class. Then encourage the children to begin

the activity they think will be the most interesting to them. If time allows, when children finish one activity, let them move to another option.

### Getting to Know Me

**MATERIALS:** paper, crayons or markers

Help your kids get to know each other by doing this simple activity. Give each student a sheet of paper and have them fold it in quarters. In each section, have students draw a different thing about them, such as a family portrait, favorite Bible story, favorite activity, and favorite animal. After students have completed their drawings, have them tell other students about what they drew.

### Tossing Game

**MATERIALS:** Beanbag or ball or rolled and stuffed sock

This game helps the children remember that Jesus knows about us, while learning about each other.

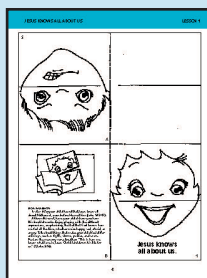
Players sit in a circle. The leader (a child or an adult) tosses the beanbag or other soft object to another player. The one who catches the beanbag tells something about himself and tosses the beanbag back to the leader. The leader tosses the beanbag to another player who tells something and tosses the beanbag back. Continue the pattern until the leader says, "Jesus knows all about us," and a number under 20. Players toss the beanbag around the circle, counting aloud each toss until the number said by the leader is reached. The player with the beanbag when the last number is said becomes the new leader.

### 'My Feelings' Book

**MATERIALS:** Make-It/Take-It for Lesson 1, stapler, crayons

Jesus knows all about us—even how we feel. Let the children make this fun book that helps them remember that Jesus knows what they feel because He knows all about us.

Show the craft page as you explain how to separate and fold the parts. As the children change the expressions in their books, ask them to tell a partner about a time they felt the way the face looks. For example, they might talk about being sad when a pet died, or angry when their little brother broke something.

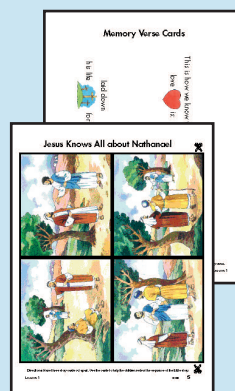


### Storytelling and Verse Practice

**MATERIALS:** Bible Beginnings, pages 5 and 6, scissors

Let the children use these colorful cards to review the Bible story from John 1:43-49, and the memory verse.

Show the page as you tell them to cut apart their cards. Ask them to arrange their cards in order. Have them tell the Bible story to a partner and practice saying the memory verse together. Both activities will help the truth of God's Word be planted in their hearts and minds.



★ Give the children time to clean up their activities before gathering back together as one group.



STEP

4

# BIBLE RESPONSE

## LESSON 1 FOCUS:

Jesus knows all about us.

■ The children will apply this lesson at home by remembering something that Jesus knows about them.

### MATERIALS:

- *Bible Beginnings*, page 4
- Pencils

**W**hen the children finish cleanup, have them join you. When they are ready to listen, begin this closing step of the Bible lesson.

**Jesus knew all about Nathanael. Jesus knows all about us, too. Because He knows us and loves us, He can help us with all of our problems.**

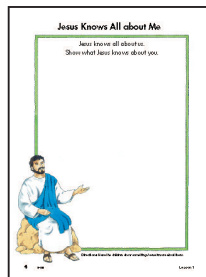
### ► What is something Jesus knows about you ?

Let the children have time to think and talk. They might tell about favorite foods, or activities, abilities, their names, fears, wishes, and so on.

**Let's make our own reminders that Jesus knows all about us.**

Hand out pencils and *Bible Beginnings*, page 4. The front side, page 3, was used in Step 1.

Read the title and directions at the top. Have the children draw or write in the frame something that Jesus knows about them.



► **What did you draw or write that Jesus knows about you?** Encourage each child to tell what they put on their papers. Accept their ideas because Jesus knows everything about us!

**Jesus knows what you put on your paper. He knows all about us. Whatever we think, feel, say, and do, Jesus knows. Jesus knows all about us and loves us as we are.**

► **What are you going to do with your reminder so you will remember this week that Jesus knows all about you?** Encourage them to tell their plans. Accept their ideas because they will be the most meaningful. Children might talk about places to put their page, or ways to carry it with them during the week at school, home, or play.

**Let's thank Jesus for knowing all about us. We can also ask Him to help us with our problems—He already knows them—He just likes us to ask.**

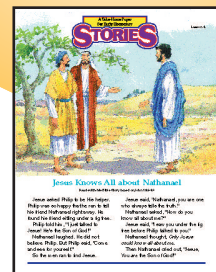
## Prayer Time

Here is a suggestion for a prayer you might teach your class. **Dear Jesus, thank You for knowing all about me. Please help me remember that You know all about me and I can ask for Your help about anything. In Your name I pray. Amen.**

Practice your class prayer aloud and slowly a few times so the children can learn the prayer. Then ask everyone to pray together.

## TAKE-HOMES

- ▲ *Stories* for Lesson 1 and Parents' Section
- ▲ Story Pictures and Verse Cards
- ▲ "My Feelings" Book
- ▲ Invisible Ink Picture
- ▲ Reminder Page



## Extra-Time Activity

**MATERIALS:** PraisePac CD (from *Early Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*), CD player

We know are important to Jesus. Teach the children the Unit 13 song "We Are Important to Jesus," from the PraisePac CD. The song is easy to learn. Play the song on the CD two times. Then invite the children to sing along with you. As the children leave your room, ask them to remember that Jesus knows all about them.

