



# Jesus Knows and Loves You



## THE MISSION AIM

Jesus knows and loves us—that brings value to our lives and shapes how we live.



## KEY VERSE

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17:** “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”



## Pre-Mission Activity



## Supplies Needed

Option 1: Music player and music

Option 2:

- Jar of gumballs or M & M™s or Smarties™ which can be used for “Guess the Number” game; be sure to count the number
- Sheet of paper
- Pencil with the jar for guesses

## Directions

**DO:** Choose one or both of the following options.

**Option 1:**

**SAY:** Today we are going to be learning about how God knows us so I thought it would be fun to get to know each other a little as well. While the music plays you will run, skip, and jump around the room as you wish. When the music stops, I'll say “Find someone who \_\_\_\_\_ (likes the same colour that you do, goes to the same school, has the same number of brothers/sisters, likes the same flavour of ice cream, etc.). When you find someone sit down together.

**DO:** Play several rounds of the game and don't worry if not everyone gets a partner right away. Just continue to the next round fairly quickly so that people don't feel left out.

**AND/OR**

**Option 2:**

**SAY:** Sometimes it's hard to believe that God knows everything. Yet as you will find out today, He really does. In fact, He knows how many (gumballs, M&M™s, Smarties™, etc.) are in this jar. I know that none of us is even close to being God but we can make a guess as to how many (gumballs, M&M™s, Smarties™, etc.) ...are here. So write down your guess. Remember to put your name beside your guess because whoever is the closest takes home the jar.



## Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Jesus On The Inside Episode 1: Jesus Knows and Loves You"

Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 1 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have JOI-Episode\_1-Jesus\_Knows\_and\_Loves\_You.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



## Mission #1



### Supplies Needed

- Bag of rice
- A leader selected to come in and spill the bag of rice
- Bible
- Large piece of paper to post responses on the wall, tape, markers
- Supplies for picture frames - see the following website for frames from popsicle/craft sticks which can be purchased at various dollar stores or feel free to create your own; you'll need to have these prepared ahead of time to save time: [firstpalette.com/Craft\\_themes/People/craftstickphotoframe/craftstickphotoframe.html](http://firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/People/craftstickphotoframe/craftstickphotoframe.html)
- Markers
- Small business card size print outs for each recruit of 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17: "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."
- Glue



### Mission Assignment

**SAY:** Well you heard Michael, we really need to understand just how well God knows us so that we can get to know Him. So...let's hear the drum roll please...Our first mission of the day is, (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, go to the Bible and find out just how well Jesus knows you. Don't just read the verses really listen to how well God knows you."

**DO:** Immediately after reading the mission have someone fumble into the room with a bag of rice and spill quite a bit of it on the table (make sure they are somewhat controlled so that the rice doesn't go all over the place.)

**SAY:** Oh no \_\_\_\_\_ (name of person who spilled the rice) what just happened? That rice was for the church supper this week and I had measured out the perfect amount. Oh well, we have lots of recruits here who can count each of the grains for me. Okay recruits, here's the task, we need to count each of these grains of rice to make sure that I have enough for supper. We'd better do this quickly too because we can't cut into our mission time too much.



**DO:** Have the recruits begin to count the grains of rice. Suggest ways that they can approach the task - taking a pile each, etc. Let them get to work counting. As they begin counting, pick up a grain or two near their piles and ask, "Did you count these yet" or "Don't forget these three over here!"

**SAY:** Remember I need to know exactly how many grains of rice there are.

**DO:** Allow them to count for just a couple of minutes, then stop them and check what count they have so far. Act surprised when you find out that they are losing count.

**SAY:** What happened? Why were you not able to count the rice? *(There were too many to count, we kept missing some, it would take forever, there wasn't enough time, it's impossible...)*

**SAY:** I guess it is a bit of a challenge to count individual pieces of rice. Thanks so much for trying. But hey, this reminds me of something that ties in perfectly with our mission. Imagine how hard it would be if you had to count the number of hairs on your head! And even harder, to count the hairs on everyone's head in this room, in your school, in the world! And subtract the ones that fall out every day, and add in the new ones that grow in! Well, believe it or not, Jesus loves us so much that He even knows the number of hairs on our head. It says in the Bible in Matthew 10:30 that "...even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Isn't that incredible? And there are even more verses that tell us just how much God knows us. Listen to this.

**DO:** Read Jeremiah 1:5 and Psalm 139:2-4, 13 and 16.

**SAY:** I'm going to read those verses again. Listen for all the times it says that God knows...

**SAY:** Did you catch how much He knows us? What did you hear? *(Jeremiah 1:5 - He knew us before we were born, Psalm 139:2 - He knows when we sit and when we get up; He knows all our thoughts, Psalm 139:3 - He knows when we go out and when we come home; He knows everything about us - all our ways, Psalm 139:4 - He knows what we are going to say before we say it, Psalm 139:13 - He put us together in our Mom's belly, Psalm 139: 16 - He knew how we would look before we were made; He knows how our days will go before they even happen.)*

**DO:** As the recruits share have someone write down what is said on a large sheet of paper.

**SAY:** Now that we have seen how much God knows us, I'd like you to take a few minutes to write or draw some of these ideas around the edges of the picture frames that we are handing out to you. Just leave a little space because we'll be adding other words and pictures later. While you're doing that, I'll send our results through to the Recon Team so that they can let Anthony know just how well God knows him. God knows everything about us! He knows us even better than we know ourselves! He loves us more than we can even imagine. Speaking of His love, here is a Scripture verse from 2 Thessalonians 2 that I'd like you to read and glue on the back of your frame. It's a reminder of God's amazing love for us.

**SAY:** Your frames are looking great and will look even more fantastic when you finish them up and put pictures of yourselves in them. Well, we'd better get back to the Recon Team and find out what else we need to do today.





## Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 1 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



## Mission #2



### Supplies Needed

- Slips of paper with all of the following verses on them (enough for groups of two or three):  
 Luke 12:24 – Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no store room or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds.  
  
 Isaiah 49:16 – See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.  
  
 Isaiah 43:4a –You are precious and honoured in my sight.  
  
 Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.
- Large sheet of paper posted for writing out ways that God shows that we are valuable; markers; and tape
- \$20 bill (to offer to give away)
- Magnetic dart board OR target of some sort i.e. bean bag toss, target on the wall to hit with a bean bag (ensure that it looks like a bull's eye)
- John 3:16 written out and posted on the wall
- Small crosses to glue onto photo frames (cut from foam paper, paper) – your choice but something that recruits can write on
- Markers
- Glue
- Large cross made from paper, posted on the wall (Or if you have a cross that can be used in your space use that)
- Slips of paper dark coloured paper by the cross
- Quiet music and music player



### Mission Assignment

**SAY:** We have already discussed how evident it is that God knows us. It's amazing that He knows the intimate details of our lives and has counted the hairs on our heads. But as Michael says, I think we're onto something. God wants us to know that He not only knows us but He values us and loves us beyond our understanding. So let's check out Mission # 2. Drum



roll please... (Reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, go to the Bible to see how valuable you are to God and to find out how you can respond to that love."

**SAY:** We're going to take a few moments to read some Bible verses about how valuable we are to God.

**DO:** Have the recruits get into groups of two or three. Hand out slips of paper with each of the Bible verses from the supply section written out. Have recruits read each of the verses and share what the verse says about how valuable they are to God. Have a leader or older recruit in each group to assist with reading and writing.

**DO:** As each of the groups is working have a leader write down on a large sheet of paper the references and what each verse says about being valued/loved by God so that it is visible for everyone.

**SAY:** It's very clear that God loves you, He has counted all of the hairs on your head and He's got you engraved in the palm of His hand. You are precious and honoured in His sight. He knows you and knows the plans He has for your life. And well, He cares about the birds of the air so surely He values you. I think you'd better repeat after me in a voice as loud as you can... **GOD LOVES ME!** It is so clear that He loves you. Let's write **GOD LOVES ME** on our frames as well.

**DO:** Give the recruits a chance to write down **GOD LOVES ME** on their frames.

**SAY:** So, we know that God knows us and loves us. Isn't that great news? Say it again. **GOD LOVES ME.** Before we move on to some more of the really important stuff, let's take a break to play a quick game.

**SAY:** I need a volunteer to come and play darts (or bean bag toss or whatever target you have set up). I'll give you \$20 if you get the bull's eye 10 times out of 10 tries. Promise.

**DO:** Get your volunteers and have them aim away. Make sure that the target is difficult enough so that there is no way that they will get 10 hits.

**SAY:** No one was able to hit the mark every time. Sorry about the \$20. I guess I'll have to keep it. Well, that ties into what I wanted to talk about next. You see we know that God loves us but sometimes it can be tough to really believe it because, like Anthony we think "How can God love me when I keep missing the bull's eye? When I keep sinning? Sin is when we know what we should do but just keep doing what is wrong. It's missing the mark of what we are learning God expects of us. We are missing the mark of God's goodness, purity and his holiness. When we lie, when we cheat, when we hurt our brothers, when we disobey our parents, we are sinning. All sin is against God and we hurt him when we sin. Can anyone think of other sins or other times when we miss the mark of what we know God expects?"

**DO:** Let the recruits respond with other answers.

**SAY:** Well, guess what, God does love us and in fact it says in the Bible that we are all sinners. It says "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. You, me, your parents, our corps officer, everyone has sinned and God still loves us.



**SAY:** Repeat after me, **GOD LOVES ME! I HAVE SINNED!**

**SAY:** Okay so we've all sinned and quite frankly God can't stand sin BUT there is good news, He sent Jesus to die for us and to forgive us for our sins. Many of you know John 3:16. It's up on the wall for us, let's read it together, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**DO:** Have the recruits read the verse with you a few times. While they are reading the verse have a leader hand out the small crosses, glue sticks and markers listed in the supply section.

**SAY:** When we tell Jesus that we have been wrong and that we would like Him to forgive us, He does! As a little reminder of that, take a moment to write 'JESUS DIED FOR ME' on the cross that you have been given. Glue the cross somewhere on your picture frame.

**DO:** Give the recruits a few moments to write on their crosses and complete their frames.



### Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 1 (3/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



### Supplies Needed

- None

### Directions

**SAY:** In your loudest voice, repeat after me, **GOD LOVES ME, I HAVE SINNED, JESUS DIED FOR ME.** These are three essential things to remember but we also have another response. We have to decide to live for God. We need to choose to pray not only that God will forgive us but that He will also help us to trust that He loves us and that He will help us to make right choices. To stop lying when it helps us feel better, to stop cheating when we're unsure of an answer, to start obeying our parents. So let's add a fourth part to this and say **I NEED TO DECIDE TO LIVE FOR GOD!**

**SAY:** That's the choice we are asking you to make today as we spend some time in prayer. You will see that we have a cross on the wall. God knows you. He knows your sins. He knows your heart. He knows that He loves you beyond anything you can imagine and He wants you to come to Him and to believe that Jesus will forgive you for your sins. We're going to play some quiet music and as we do we invite you to pick up a piece of paper from the sides here as a reminder of your sin. Then come to the cross and rip up that paper to show Jesus that you want to leave that sin and that you want to live for Him. Thank Jesus for loving you even before you were born and ask Him to forgive you. Then ask Him to help you make the choice to live for Him.



**SAY:** If you don't feel that you can do this today, then please don't. Please talk to one of the leaders after and share what you are thinking or feeling. But please know that God loves you beyond anything imaginable.

**DO:** Have leaders ready to pray with kids. Observe to see who is holding back and be sure to follow up with them this week.

**SAY:** You have made some very important decisions today. I want you to know that if you want to talk about any of these decisions this week you can come to any of us at any time. For now, let's get back to the Recon Team and see how they are doing.



### Mission Uplink 3



**YouTube:** Play "Jesus On The Inside (S1) Episode 1 (4/4)". Pause the video when the RTS SHIELD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

**PPT:** Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when RTS SHIELD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



### Field Mission Project



### Supplies Needed

- Cards with the following written on them for each recruit:  
GOD LOVES ME, I HAVE SINNED, JESUS DIED FOR ME, I NEED TO DECIDE TO LIVE FOR GOD

### Mission Project

**SAY:** We can't just leave today without focusing on what we can do this week. We need to respond. We have learned that Jesus loves us incredibly and so we need to let Him know this week, that we love Him. One way to do that is to remind ourselves daily that GOD LOVES ME, I HAVE SINNED, JESUS DIED FOR ME and I NEED TO DECIDE TO LIVE FOR GOD and to consistently be thanking Jesus for loving us. Here are some cards to go home with you to remind you to do that this week.

**DO:** Hand out cards for the kids to take with them.

**SAY:** We can also show Jesus that we love Him by telling Him. My challenge to you this week is to write a letter or a song, draw a picture or make a sculpture to Jesus that says, "I love you." Or hey, maybe you have an even better way to tell Him that you love Him. Does anyone have any ideas that they'd like to share with us?

**SAY:** Recruits this has been a great introduction to our unit. It's been challenging but amazing all at the same time. Remember, God knows you and loves you and He wants you to love Him by believing in His forgiveness and choosing to live for Him. Have a great week and remember we are always available to talk to you if you wish.

