

Using the Discovering Jesus Skits

These skits have been provided as an optional way to build on the fun detective theme of this lesson series. Each skit can be acted out by volunteers or presented with puppets. Use your imagination and help the children have fun as you begin and end your teaching time with them each day.

Opening Skits

You can use each opening skit as an alternative way to introduce the rules and Word Up! at the beginning of your *5-Day Club*® or as a part of the opening assembly/rally if you are using this series as part of a Vacation Bible School or Camp ministry.

Extended Opening Skit Option: If desired, the opening skits could be extended by having the Detective share the prayer teaching of the day with the children. However, the detective must be careful that the prayer teaching is not done in a silly way that would distract from the importance of what is being taught. Keep in mind that puppets should not be used for the prayer teaching segment as puppets are not real and cannot pray.

Closing Skits

Closing Skits: You can use these skits as an alternative way to conclude the teaching portion of your *5-Day Club* or as part of a final assembly/closing rally if you are using this series as part of a Vacation Bible School or Camp ministry.

Extended Closing Skit Option: If desired, the closing skits could be extended by having the detective and the sidekick lead the review game suggested in the text before they conclude with the skit. If needed, someone else could explain the game and the detective could ask questions while the sidekick keeps track of the score for each team or leads the children in cheering for their team.

Skit Preparation

Costumes/Props Needed: Provide each person in the skit with either a costume or some accessory that identifies them as their particular character. The Detective could wear a trench coat, sunglasses, a goofy tie, or carry a magnifying glass. The Sidekick could wear sunglasses with a pen behind his ear and carry a small notebook in his hand.

Note: If you are extending a skit by having the detective lead the prayer teaching or the review game, be sure to provide them with any materials needed ahead of time.

Lesson One – Opening Skit

Detective: My powerful private eye skills indicate that it's somewhere close by. Keep your eyes peeled sidekick! We're about to bust this case wide open! After examining the evidence and considering the clues I am quite certain that we will find a *5-Day Club*[®] right here!

Sidekick: *(Looking at children.)* Let's ask these smart looking kids if they have seen it! Have you guys seen a *5-Day Club* anywhere around here? *(Allow response.)*

Detective: Aha! I have found it! *(Points toward children.)* Exactly where I thought it would be! Sidekick, don't we have a few important clues to share with these clever kids?

Sidekick: I have them right here, sir! First, you need to teach them the Code of Conduct, so they know how a good detective is supposed to behave.

Detective: Splendid work, Sidekick! *(Speaking to children.)* Your conduct is the way you act. My sidekick is going to show you how to act like a good detective by teaching you our Code of Conduct. You can follow along and copy every move my sidekick makes!

(Detective briefly explains the 5 UPs rules, encouraging children to follow along as the sidekick sits in a chair and demonstrates each rule by sitting up super straight, raising his hand quietly and enthusiastically, etc.)

Detective: Well done, detectives! Now you know how to act like good detectives so you're ready for today's Code Word! Each day we will have a Code Word that will help us discover something about Jesus. Sidekick, what is the Code Word for today?

Sidekick: Today's Code Word is "**Jesus Loves Me!**" so every time you hear a teacher say, "Code Word!" you need to shout, "**Jesus Loves Me!**" *(If desired the sidekick may also teach motions to accompany the Code Word. Motions are found in the sidebar of the text.)*

Detective: Well done detectives! Now, be sure to follow the Code of Conduct as you gather evidence about Jesus in *5-Day Club* today. We'll be back later to check on your progress.

Note: If desired, you may choose to extend this skit by having the detective share the prayer teaching for the day. However, the detective must be careful that the prayer teaching is not done in a silly way that would distract from the importance of what is being taught.

Lesson One – Closing Skit

Detective: I gave my sidekick a tricky mystery to solve, but *5-Day Club*[®] is almost over and I think he could use some help.

Sidekick: (*Looking at children.*) I am extremely puzzled and confused by this strange mystery. Perhaps you know the answer. What is a detective's favorite animal? (*Allow response.*)

Detective: It's a SPY-der! Get it? SPY-der! (*Laughs*)

Sidekick: (*Rolling eyes*) Oh brother – I thought this was an important mystery.

Detective: The *really* important thing in club today wasn't a mystery at all – it's something God wants everyone to know. Can you detectives remember the Code Word for today? (*Shout "Jesus Loves Me!" with children.*) God does love you – that's why He sent His Son to save you!

Sidekick: That reminds me of our memory verse! It's an important clue that helps us remember why Jesus came. Can you say the memory verse without looking? (*Say Luke 19:10 with children.*)

Detective: Well done detectives! As you leave today don't forget to take a special clue card (*show a memory verse token*) that will help you remember this verse. It's a very important clue for you. Detectives sometimes memorize very important things. See if you can memorize this verse and say it with your eyes closed when you come back to *5-Day Club* tomorrow!

Sidekick: (*Share any other important announcements and distribute any gifts or prizes that have been promised to the children.*)

Lesson Two – Opening Skit

Detective: (*Clasps hands together*) Look over here! I've got a very important clue! You've got to investigate this mysterious evidence!

Sidekick: What? Where? Let me see!

Detective: It's in my hands. Here I'll show you. (*Opens hands to reveal that they are empty.*)

Sidekick: Where is it? I don't see it?

Detective: That's because it's gone now. (*Looks at children.*) Can you guess what it was? (*Allow response and then clasp hands together again.*) I have the clue in my hands again, but when I open them – it goes away! The clue is darkness! When I hold my hands together there is darkness between them, but when I open them the light shines in and the darkness goes away.

Sidekick: Wait! That reminds me of our Code Word for the day, "**Jesus Takes Away Sin!**" (*If desired, the sidekick can demonstrate motions to accompany the Code Word.*) When Jesus comes into your life, He takes your sin away, sort of like the way the darkness goes away when you shine light on it!

Detective: That's right! Ok detectives now it's your turn. Remember to say the Code Word every time one of your teachers says, "Code Word!" (*Say, "**Jesus Takes Away Sin!**" with children.*) And don't forget our other important code—the Code of Conduct.

Sidekick: I have them written down in my clue notebook, but can any of you tell me one thing from the Code of Conduct? (*Allow response and review the 5 Ups rules with the children.*) Wow! You guys are pretty clever. (*Looking at Detective*) What type of school do you think these clever kids go to?

Detective: Elementary my dear sidekick—elementary. But right now it's time for them to listen up for more clues in the rest of their *5-Day Club*. We'll be back later with an even bigger challenge for them!

Note: If desired, you may choose to extend this skit by having the detective share the prayer teaching for the day. However, the detective must be careful that the prayer teaching is not done in a silly way that would distract from the importance of what is being taught.

Lesson Two – Closing Skit

Detective: I hope you used your super sleuth skills to discover more clues about Jesus. Point at something green if you can tell me something you saw or heard about Jesus today. *(Allow response.)*

Sidekick: Wow! Can you also remember the Code Word? *(Say “Jesus Takes Away Sin” with children.)*

Detective: You have listened well detectives, but now we’re going to try something even harder! I’m going to use a secret code to see how well you remember the memory verse! We’re going to say the verse together. But pay close attention because if I secretly put my hands behind my back that means you all have to stop saying the verse and freeze in place. When I bring my hands out from behind my back, we’ll continue saying the verse. Let’s try it. *(Do with children.)*

Sidekick: Great job! But can you remember all the words with your eyes closed? Let’s all close our eyes and try to say the verse together. *(Do with children.)*

Detective: Well done! As you leave today don’t forget to take a special clue card. *(Show a memory verse token.)* This will help you memorize today’s verse. It’s an important clue that helps you remember how Jesus takes away sin.

Sidekick: *(Share any other important announcements and distribute any gifts or prizes that have been promised to the children.)*

Lesson Three – Opening Skit

Detective: I’ve solved many mysterious mysteries and been on many adventurous adventures, but today I want to tell you about the oldest mystery in the world!

Sidekick: Even older than your _____ *(something the detective is wearing)?*

Detective: This is no time for jokes, sidekick! This is a serious mystery—something people have been trying to figure out for thousands of years! But first, we need to make sure these young detectives are ready to hear about such an old mystery.

Sidekick: We could test their detective skills! *(Looking at children.)* I want all of you to remain perfectly silent—like a detective on a TOP SECRET mission! When I count to three, I want you to *show me* what you would look like if you were following one of our Code of Conduct and then freeze that way. I’ll try to guess which Code of Conduct some of you are doing and then I’ll tell you when to unfreeze. *(Do with children.)*

Detective: Excellent work! I think you’re ready for me to clue you in on this ancient mystery. For thousands of years, people have felt like something was missing in their lives. Billions of people have felt sad, angry, and confused because they felt like they were missing something important.

Sidekick: Did they try going to the doctor? That might help! Or maybe they should try taking a nap. That might help them feel better.

Detective: Those are both good ideas. People have tried them and many more things. They have tried everything they could possibly think of to satisfy their greatest need, but many of them still haven’t found the answer. Can you guess what these people need? *(Allow response.)*

Sidekick: I’ve solved it! That’s what our Code Word is about today! Our Code Word is **“Only Jesus Satisfies!”** *(Say with children and teach motions if desired.)*

Detective: Brilliant work sidekick! People are born needing friendship with God—that’s how we’re made. But many people don’t know that Jesus is the only way to have friendship with God. Only Jesus can satisfy someone’s need to be near God! Listen up in *5-Day Club*® today for more clues about how Jesus satisfies this need.

Note: If desired, you may choose to extend this skit by having the detective share the prayer teaching for the day. However, the detective must be careful that the prayer teaching is not done in a silly way that would distract from the importance of what is being taught.

Lesson Three – Closing Skit

Detective: Today you learned about the oldest mystery in the world. For thousands of years, people have been trying to discover their own ways to get to God.

Sidekick: But the mystery has been solved! I think these young detectives have recently learned a clue called John 3:16 that explains exactly how to get to God. Let's say it together in our loud voices so everyone can hear! Then it won't be a mystery anymore. *(Quote John 3:16 with children.)*

Detective: The Bible tell us exactly how to get to God. It doesn't have to be a mystery. But many people all over the world have never heard about what Jesus did so they can get to God. Other people choose to ignore it because they don't realize how much they need Jesus.

Sidekick: That's sad! We need to help them learn the Good News and show them God's love so they can solve the mystery for themselves and discover that only Jesus satisfies. Let's shout our Code Word together three times! *(Say, "Only Jesus satisfies!" with children.)*

Detective: You can share the clues you are learning about Jesus in *5-Day Club* with others so they can also learn that only Jesus can satisfy their need to be near God. You can tell them what God says in John 3:16. Don't forget to take a clue card that will help you remember this verse. *(Show a memory verse token.)* Maybe you could even give it to someone who hasn't been able to come to *5-Day Club* so they can see what the Bible says about the one way to be near God.

Sidekick: *(Share any other important announcements and distribute any gifts or prizes that have been promised to the children.)*

Lesson Four – Opening Skit

Detective: Welcome back to *5-Day Club*! We are going to be sharing lots of important clues today. This first clue is top secret. It's a good thing all of you know the super-secret signal or I wouldn't be able to share it with you.

Sidekick: What super-secret signal?

Detective: You mean you don't already know the super-secret signal?

Sidekick: Wait! Let me think! Maybe we do know the secret signal. *(Whispers to kids.)* It's probably from our Code of Conduct—let's try each of those and see if one of them works. *(Review the rules with the children as you lead them in demonstrating each one.)*

Detective: That was a good guess, Sidekick, but none of those were the super-secret signal.

Sidekick: Wait—let me try again! *(Whispers to kids.)* Maybe the super-secret signal is the Code Word for the day. Today's Code Word is **"Jesus has all power!"** If we shout that while we do our sign for Jesus *(point at center of each hand)* and then flex our muscles, I'm practically positive that will be the super-secret signal! Let's try it three times! *(Do with children.)*

Detective: Brilliant guess, Sidekick! But you still haven't guessed the super-secret signal.

Sidekick: Wow! This is tough. Can you teach it to us? These are clever kids—I'm sure they will learn it quickly.

Detective: Well, it's kind of tricky. Maybe if I teach it to you now, you can practice it with your teachers during *5-Day Club*. If you can still remember it at the end, I'll be able to share the top-secret clue with you.

Sidekick: Yes! Yes! We'll practice it with our teachers!

Detective: Alright then, the super-secret signal goes like this. *(Put both hands on your head and stomp both feet.)* Now you try it. *(Do several times with children.)* During club today watch your teachers carefully and if you see one of them do the super-secret signal, sit up super straight and do it back to them. If you can learn it really well and remember it when I come back, I will reveal the top-secret clue.

Note: If desired, you may choose to extend this skit by having the detective share the prayer teaching for the day. However, the detective must be careful that the prayer teaching is not done in a silly way that would distract from the importance of what is being taught.

Lesson Four – Closing Skit

Detective: I have returned to investigate your progress on the case of the super-secret signal. Have you learned it well?

Sidekick: Yes, I think we have. Let's all do it together. *(Put both hands on your head and stomp both feet.)* Come on! We can do it faster and louder than that. Let's try it again. *(Do with children.)*

Detective: Nice work everyone! At last, you are ready for the top-secret clue. Do you remember the name of the man who Jesus helped in the lesson today? *(Allow response.)* His name is actually a clue that can help you remember that you can hope in God no matter what happens. The name Lazarus means, "God has helped!"

Sidekick: Wow! No matter what we are going through, the true story of what happened to Lazarus reminds us that God wants to help us have hope!

Detective: Exactly! We never have to give up hope because Jesus has all power! Do you think you can say the Code Word and do the super-secret signal at the same time? Let's try it. *(Do with children.)*

Sidekick: That reminds me of our verse! It tells us the power of Jesus is even greater than sin and death. Can you guys remember that too? I'm going to say part of the verse, but when I pause, I want you to shout out the word that comes next. *(Quote John 11:25, pausing several times for children to shout out key words.)*

Detective: Magnificent! Now, can you guess what important tool you should take home with you to help you remember this important verse? *(Allow response and show a memory verse token.)* Ask God to help you learn this verse by heart so you will never forget that Jesus has all power.

Sidekick: *(Share any other important announcements and distribute any gifts or prizes that have been promised to the children.)*

Lesson Five – Opening Skit

Detective: Have any of you seen my sidekick? I can't find him anywhere. I hope he gets here soon—it's time for *5-Day Club* to start. Maybe we can review our Code of Conduct while we wait. Point at something blue if you can tell me something from our Code of Conduct. *(Review rules with children.)* Great work! I'm sure my sidekick would be proud—if he was here.

Sidekick: *(running in gasping for breath.)* Sorry I'm late! I had a weird dream about a dragon last night and I was thinking about it on my way here when a fierce dragon suddenly came out of nowhere and tried to attack me! I had to run away and find a different way to *5-Day Club*.

Detective: Wow! I didn't know we had dragons around here! What did it look like?

Sidekick: Well, I actually couldn't see it very well. I could hear it flapping its dreadful wings and screaming, "Quack, quack, quack!"

Detective: Hmmm. That's pretty peculiar evidence sidekick. Maybe we can ask these clever kids to help solve this case. What do you guys think my sidekick heard? *(Allow response.)* It seems to me, Sidekick, that the evidence indicates this creature was actually a duck.

Sidekick: That's crazy! Why would a duck pretend to be a dragon?

Detective: The duck wasn't pretending to be a dragon. It was acting like a duck by flapping its wings and quacking, but you ignored the evidence and chose to believe it was a dragon because you were thinking about your dream.

Sidekick: Wow! I guess it's important to think about the evidence before you believe something. That reminds me of our Code Word for today, **"I can put my faith in Jesus!"** Let's say that together. *(Repeat several times with children, adding motions if desired.)* This week we have seen and heard a lot of evidence about Jesus. God wants you to choose to believe that evidence and put your faith in Jesus!

Detective: That's right, Sidekick. *(Looking at children.)* This is the last day of *5-Day Club*, and there is still more evidence for you to learn about Jesus. Think about this evidence today and listen closely to learn more about what it means to put your faith in Jesus.

Note: If desired, you may choose to extend this skit by having the detective share the prayer teaching for the day. However, the detective must be careful that the prayer teaching is not done in a silly way that would distract from the importance of what is being taught.

Lesson Five – Closing Skit

Detective: My keen mind and investigative nature have detected that there is someone in this room who can tell me something they have discovered about Jesus today. I'm looking for someone who is wearing blue and raising their hand to tell me one thing they have heard about Jesus this week. *(Allow response.)*

Sidekick: Wow! These clever kids have learned a lot! I'm wondering if everyone who is wearing something black can say our Code Word with me. *(Say, "I can put my faith in Jesus!" with children.)*

Detective: Excellent job everyone. You have discovered many important clues this week. Now, what you choose to do with all this evidence is up to you. *5-Day Club* is almost over, but that doesn't mean you have to stop searching for clues about Jesus.

Sidekick: I sure hope they all have a magnifying glass to help them find more clues.

Detective: You don't need a magnifying glass or any high-tech detective gear to discover clues about Jesus. Do you guys know where you can find more clues? *(Allow response.)* The Bible is God's message to you, and He has given you every clue you need to know about Jesus so you can put your faith in Him.

Sidekick: That's brilliant! Every one of you can read the Bible and ask God to help you discover more clues about Jesus!

Detective: When *5-Day Club* ends, don't forget to keep on using your super-sleuth skills to discover more about Jesus. You can put your faith in Him and trust Him to do what is best for you. You have done well this week young detectives. Never stop searching for clues and discovering more about who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

Sidekick: *(Share any other important announcements and distribute verse tokens and any gifts or prizes that have been promised to the children.)*