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**Children’s Activity**

**John 1:14, 16**

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Lesson Objectives: Grace and Truth in the Flesh

1. Children/families will identify the qualities that made the Gingerbread Man be alive.
2. Using Jeremiah 29, children/families will explore what it means to embody grace and truth through song, video and/or stories.
3. Children/families will identify what made God’s word come alive.

**GATHERING ACTIVITY (10 minutes)**

As the children enter the space, say “WELCOME” to each child. Allow children to gather at one table as they enter the space. Allow them to choose an animal mask to color/decorate. (These masks will be used later for the reading of the story of the Gingerbread Man.) The animal they decorate will be the “character” that they play for the story.

NOTE: You can glue the masks to craft sticks or not. You could also have the animals pre-cut or have the students cut out their own, taking those who may not have a good command of scissors into consideration.

Once all students have gathered, allow each person to continue decorating their animal mask. Engage in casual conversation about the animal each person decided to decorate.

**Say:**

*Have you ever seen a pig (cow, chicken, horse, crow)* *in real life?* (Allow time for answers.) *Are these animals alive?* (Allow time for answers.)

*We are going to hear two stories today about things coming to life. One story is about a gingerbread man.* (NOTE: You can offer hints for the students to guess instead of telling them it is the gingerbread man.) *The other story is about God’s Word coming to life through Jesus Christ.*

**Exploring More ACTIVITY\* (10 minutes)**

[The Gingerbread Man Fairy Tales and Bedtime Stories for Kids in English](https://youtu.be/hsEorBffl3o)

\*If you have another version of the Gingerbread Man story that you would rather use, please do so.

**SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION (25 minutes total)**

**SAY:** *Before we explore the Scripture, let’s say a prayer.*

Say the prayer below or invite one of the children to pray.

*Dear God, thank you for our time together. Thank you for our friends. Help us hear your words. Help us accept your grace and your truth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

* **Read John 1:14, 16 (NRSV) – reading exploration (15 minutes)**

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

[The Gospel Project for Kids: Christmas (John 1)](https://youtu.be/qzEa81HYfKY)

Read the story and allow the participants to watch if possible.

After you have read the Scriptures, ask the following questions and allow the children time to answer:

**ASK:** *What name did John call God’s Word?* (Jesus)

**ASK:** *The Scripture says God’s only Son, Jesus, is full of what?* (Grace and truth.)

**ASK:** *How can we show thanks to God for grace and truth?* (Being kind; loving one another, etc.)

**SAY:** Earlier we heard the story of the Gingerbread Man. We used masks and we acted out the story. We are going to take the last few minutes of our time together to put the Scripture with our story of the Gingerbread Man.

**ACTIVITY:** Allow participants to color/decorate the Gingerbread Man coloring sheet. Recite John 1:14 and allow the participants to repeat after you. Remind them that John 1:14 is the Scripture of the day. You can play the song while they color/decorate the Gingerbread Man.

**Play the song “Grace and Truth” – singing exploration\* (10 minutes)**

[***Grace and Truth song***](https://www.worshiphousekids.com/kids-worship-song-tracks/97971/grace-and-truth--john-114)

**CLOSING prayer**

*Dear God, please help us to live in your grace and truth. Give us courage to share your grace and truth with our family and friends. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

**EXTENSION OPTION**

There is an instructional video with movement to the “Grace and Truth” song. Learn the movement ahead of time and teach it to the children or let them learn it from the video.

\*It is recommended that the teacher read John 1 for full context.