



TURN "CHILDREN'S TIME"  
INTO FAMILY TIME

# JESUS HAS AUTHORITY



**MATTHEW 7**  
**SEASON 3 WEEK 27**

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Big God Project, where Children's Time becomes Family Time! If this is your first time working with our curriculum, take some time to familiarize yourself with our model and answer any questions you might have by visiting our website at [BigGodProject.com](http://BigGodProject.com)

## THE GAME

The game this week is called "Would you rather?" We ask a fun question giving you two choices that are hard to choose between. Each person can hold up their hands to say which one they think more people would choose. Then you get to see the results of a large survey. Did you guess right? This game reminds us that we people have all kinds of opinions about what is right and what is wrong, but what Jesus teaches and models is ALWAYS right!

## THE THEME

This week's theme is "**JESUS HAS AUTHORITY**". This theme reminds us that Jesus is God in the flesh! That means he comes with all the authority to teach the truth, heal people, do miracles, and even forgive people's sins!

## THE QUESTION

This question this week is: "What is something you are an expert at?" This question helps us think about what it's like to know a lot about something, and be able to tell other people about what we know. Just like Jesus was able to teach people about God!

## THE STORY

In his week's story, Jesus is teaching, but not like the other teachers. He teaches like He knows God personally. Because He does! He teaches the people not to judge each other. He teaches them that they will be judged by how they judge others. And He teaches them to show what they are like on the **inside** by how they act on the **outside**.

## THE JOURNAL

This week's journal questions are:

1. I wonder why it's easier to judge other people than it is to judge ourselves?
2. I wonder why Jesus said that the other person has a "speck" of dust in their eye, but we have a "plank" in our eye? I wonder how a "plank" in our eye would affect what we can see?
3. I wonder what it would mean to have "bad fruit" in your life. I wonder what it would mean to have "good fruit" in your life?

These questions help us think about what Jesus teaches about judging others.

## THE ACTIVITIES

The activities for this Sunday are described below. These can be integrated with the other parts of your Sunday School time (prayer time, snacks, singing, etc).

Note that there is also an **instructional video** available for each week's lesson on the Big God Project website ([www.BigGodProject.com](http://www.BigGodProject.com)). You can either send the video to your teachers to help them prepare the lesson, and/or you can play the video in the classroom for the children, before they do the activities themselves. If you have a laptop or a tablet, you can use this to stream the video in the classroom.



## **ACTIVITY #1 - FRUIT TREE CRAFT**

In this week's Big God Story we learned that Jesus has authority. We also saw how some people can pretend they have authority, just to try to get power (sometimes called false prophets). Matthew 7 verse 20 says that we can tell each tree by its fruit, meaning that we can see how someone's actions reflect their true intentions. So we are going to make a tree craft with some beautiful fruit.

### **SUPPLIES**

- pencils
- scissors
- brown and green construction paper -sequins or gem stickers
- glue
- markers

1. First, kids can trace their non-dominant hand and upper forearm onto brown paper. Make sure your fingers are spread out wide.
2. Cut these out to form the trunk and branches of your tree.
3. Next, cut out a roughly circular shape from green construction paper. Try to make the edges look leaf shaped.
4. Glue the hand shape to the bottom of the green cutout you just made.
5. Next, add the fruit to the tree by gluing on sequins or using fancy stickers.
6. You can also write this week's God Statement in the leaves or on the trunk.

## **ACTIVITY #2 - PLANK PICTURES**

One of the things that Jesus has Authority means for us is that we shouldn't judge other people. Jesus alone has the authority to do that. As we saw in this week's Big God Story, when we point out the speck of sawdust in someone else's eye, we might not notice the huge wooden board we have in our own eye. So for this activity we are going to use some pieces of wood to hide the true picture.

**SUPPLIES**

- 8.5x11 paper cut in half
- markers/pencil crayons/crayons
- large popsicle sticks or wooden paint stir sticks

1. Children can draw anything they'd like a piece of paper. Be as creative as you want!
2. When the kids are done with their drawings they totally cover their papers with the pieces of wood (paint sticks or large popsicle sticks).
3. Assign partners and have the kids take away one piece of wood at a time and try to guess what the drawing is.
4. Switch partners or make new drawings as time allows.

## **DIG DEEPER (OLDER KIDS)**

The **DIG DEEPER** section is for your older children, in order to challenge them to dig deeper into the meaning and application of the scripture passages. The questions included most weeks in the Big God Journal are a good place to start. This section gives additional ideas and resources.

**ACTIVITY #1**

Have older kids read aloud Matthew 7:15-20. They can sketch images from the passage. Which one stands out most to them?

**ACTIVITY #2 - SAME AS ABOVE.**

Have kids see what other words they can spell

**DISCUSSION**

Who has authority in your life? Why is it hard to deal with authority sometimes?