



## Telling My Friends about Jesus Using Jelly Beans

By Cheryl Hatfield

This lesson can be used with one child or many. With one child, the teacher or parent can be the partner.

**Materials:** self-sealing snack size bags, jelly beans—one of each color per bag: pink, purple, red, white, blue, and green, one Jelly Bean Card per bag, napkins, and Bibles in an appropriate translation for children. NIRV is the translation used in this lesson.

### **Preparation:**

Make copies of “Jelly Bean Card” included with this lesson (print this page on cardstock if possible.)

Helpful Hints:

- ❖ Be sensitive to those in the group who have not accepted Jesus yet. This lesson may open doors to share more about becoming a Christian.
- ❖ For Visual Learners: Prepare note cards with scriptures used in the lesson ahead of time so that the children can have the Bible references in front of them when you present each color.
- ❖ For Oral Learners: Repetition of verses and color explanation, telling a partner at the end of each procedure, and telling in their own words what they learned are all methods that meet the needs of an oral learner.
- ❖ For Tactile Learners: Have children trace in their hand or on the table with their index finger the color of each jelly bean when presented.
- ❖ If your kids have a tendency to work with the same partners, you can draw names on craft sticks or slips of paper to assign partners, or you can use another method that creates new partner groups. This promotes relationships and teaches them to work with everyone, not just with their “friends.” Model how to partner share.
- ❖ As children are partner sharing, be attentive to what they are saying and doing so you can affirm their conversations and give guidance/encouragement as needed.

### **Procedures:**

1. Have children wash their hands before starting. Lead them to place in each snack bag one pink, one black, one red, one white, one blue, one green, and one yellow jelly bean, plus one jelly bean card. Each child can make one set for themselves and one set to share with a friend.

**Note:** After each color is presented, you may decide to have the children eat the jelly beans individually as they are discussed, or they can eat all of them at the end of the lesson.

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2. Distribute Bibles, napkins, and prepared snack bags. Ask the children to place all jelly beans out onto the napkin before you begin. You may want to set some guidelines during the lesson for the jelly beans so the children do not handle them, etc.
3. Assign partners.
4. Begin the lesson with prayer, and then say the following: *Today we are going to learn how to tell our friends about Jesus by using jelly beans. The pink reminds us that God loves us. Everyone needs to know that God made us and God loves us very much and has a plan for our lives. God really wants to be with us.*
5. **Pink Jelly Bean:** Ask the children to open their Bibles to John 3:16. Ask for a volunteer to read. Reread the verse aloud together.

Say: *John 3:16 tells us that God loves us.* Ask the children to pick a partner and take turns telling in their own words what the pink represents. You may want to model this part of the lesson for them. Give guidance as needed. Encourage them to read the Bible verse to their partner.

6. **Purple Jelly Bean:** Say: *God loves us, but there is a problem. It is called sin. Telling lies, fighting, and stealing are examples of sin. We have all sinned, and the punishment or penalty for our sins is that we cannot be with God. Sin separates us from God. We need to admit that we sin. The Bible says, "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory" (Romans 3:23).* Have the children open their Bibles to Romans 3:23 and repeat the verse together. Say: *The purple reminds us that sin is not good. Now share with a partner about the purple jelly bean.* Encourage partners to read the verse to each other.
7. **Red Jelly Bean:** Say: *God really wants to be with us. He sent His Son Jesus to bring us back to Him. Jesus came to earth to take the punishment for our sins. He died on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven. We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross and rose again. The Bible says, "But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).* Ask the children to find Romans 5:8 in their Bibles. You can lead them in reading the verse together as a group or ask for an individual to volunteer to read the verse.

Say: *The red jelly bean reminds us that Jesus died for our sins. Now share about the red jelly bean with your partner.*

8. **White Jelly Bean:** Say: *We do not have to be separated from God any more. Everybody who believes in Jesus and asks Jesus to be their Lord and Savior can be with God. God wants all of us to worship Him only and be His forever. We must pray and talk to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness. We*

*must ask Jesus to help us be better people with Jesus being the most important part of our lives.*

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Have the children turn to John 1:12 and ask for a volunteer to read the verse aloud or read it together as a group. Say: *White means we are able to be with God forever. Share with your partner what the white jelly bean represents.*

9. **Blue Jelly Bean:** Say: *Anyone who believes in Jesus and has asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior will want to do what Jesus commanded, which is to be baptized. When a person is baptized it shows that they love Jesus. The Bible says, "After hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:5). Blue reminds us of our need to be baptized. Ask the children to turn to Acts 19:5 and read together or have an individual volunteer read the verse. Partner share.*
10. **Green Jelly Bean:** Say: *People who follow Jesus are so happy that they want to do the right things and they pray and learn more from the Bible. The Bible says, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory belongs to him both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18). Green means to grow in your new way of living. Partner share.*
11. **Yellow Jelly Bean:** Say: *People who are followers of Jesus will go to Heaven. When they die, they will live with Jesus forever and ever. The Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life" (John 3:16). Yellow means that God loves us and that we were to live with Him forever. Partner share.*
12. If time allows, children can continue to partner share, starting with the pink jelly bean and working through to the yellow jelly bean. Tell the children that now they can tell a friend about Jesus. Point out that the Jelly Bean Cards will help them to remember what each color represents and the scriptures.
13. Close the lesson with prayer. Pray for each child by name and ask God to give them the words to tell their friends about Jesus.

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## Jelly Bean Cards

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