Little Leaders Children Lesson
Topic: "Greater Is In You!"

Scripture Focus: 1 John 4:1–4

Theme: Everything we hear is not always true. We can check what we hear, compare it with what we know about Jesus, and stay confident because the Greater One is in us.

Materials Needed:
• Bible
• Two signs: "CHECK IT" and "TRUST IT"
• Open space for movement

Words to Know

Opening Prayer - A way to invite God in and get students to pray

1. Opening Activity - an activity to get the children ready to focus in
2. Memory Verse - the verse that will be taught to children that they may commit to memory
3. Transition - a statement that helps you move smoothly through lesson
4. The Lesson - is the outline of the lesson
5. Main Point - is the topic of the point you will teach in lesson, sometimes it's one and sometimes it's more than one.
6. ( ) Inside the parenthesis are little things for the teachers to say or do
7. Explanation - a statement that further explains a word or point
8. Engager/Discussion Question - a question or activity to get children involved
9. Reinforcer - something used to drive the main point(s) home
10. Bottom Line - the close of the lesson
11. Did We Get It - an activity to make sure children understood lesson and takeaways

Closing Prayer - a way to thank God and get students to pray

Opening Prayer

The teacher(s) will ask a student volunteer to pray.

Review of Children's Church Expectations

The teacher(s) will go over the expectations with the students.

Review of Recent Memory Verse

Genesis 32:27 – "Then the man said, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.'"

Opening Activity: "Truth Detectives!"

(The teacher(s) will place the "CHECK IT" sign on one side of the room and the "TRUST IT" sign on the other side.)

Tell the students:

"Today you are going to become **Truth Detectives!** A detective does not just believe everything. A detective pays attention, checks the clues, and finds out what is true."

Tell the students:

"When I read a statement, you must move quickly to **TRUST IT** if you already know it is true or **CHECK IT** if you think we need to stop and make sure."

Begin with easy statements:

• "There are seven days in a week."
• "Dogs can fly to school."
• "Water can help you when you are thirsty."
• "Eating candy for every meal makes your body stronger."

After each statement, allow the students to move to their choice.

Then make it more challenging:

• "If all my friends say something is true, it must be true."
• "Everything I see online is true."
• "If somebody sounds confident, that means the person must be right."
• "Jesus teaches us to love other people."
• "It is okay to be mean if somebody is mean to me first."
• "God's truth does not change just because somebody disagrees with it."

After several rounds, choose two or three students to become the **Truth Detective Leaders** and create a statement for the class.

The rest of the students must move to:

CHECK IT
or
TRUST IT

After several rounds, ask:

• Did everything I said sound silly?
• Were some wrong statements harder to notice?
• Should we believe something just because somebody says it?
• What can we do when we are not sure something is true?

Then say:

Great Truth Detectives do not believe everything they hear. They **stop, check, and find out what is true.**

The Bible calls this being able to tell the difference between what is true and what is not true.

Everybody say:

"STOP!" *(Hold up one hand.)*
"CHECK!" *(Point to your eyes.)*
"KNOW WHAT'S TRUE!" *(Point to your head.)*

Today John is going to teach us that we can check what we hear, know what is true about Jesus, and stay confident because **Greater is in us!**

Today's Memory Verse

(Must write it on the board and teach it with hand motions so students can commit to memory.)

1 John 4:4 – "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Hand Motions:

• The one – (Point upward)
• Who is in you – (Point toward your heart)
• Is greater – (Stretch both arms high and wide)
• Than the one who is in the world – (Point outward)

Repeat the verse together three times:

• First time — normal voice
• Second time — whisper voice
• Third time — strong, confident voice

Transition to the Lesson:

(The teacher(s) will say)

"Being a Truth Detective is important because everything we hear is not always true. Sometimes something may sound really good. Sometimes everybody around us may believe it. But John teaches us that we should not just believe something because it sounds good. We should check it. We should know what the Bible teaches about Jesus. And when something wrong tries to confuse or scare us, we can remember that the Greater One is in us!"

Lesson Scripture:

1 John 4:1–4 (Children's Edition)

Main Point 1: Check What You Hear

Read 1 John 4:1 – John told the people, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God."

Discussion Question: What can you do when somebody tells you something and you are not sure it is true?

(The teachers should allow the students to answer and then add): You do not have to believe everything you hear. You can stop and check it! You can ask a trusted grown-up. You can learn what the Bible says. You can pray and ask God for help. Checking something does not mean you are scared. It means you are making a wise choice.

Main Point 2: Compare It to Jesus

Read 1 John 4:2–3 – John taught the people that what they heard should agree with the truth about Jesus Christ.

Discussion Question: How can knowing more about Jesus help you notice when somebody says something that is wrong?

(The teachers should allow the students to answer and then add): Think about a puzzle. If you know what the picture is supposed to look like, you can notice when a piece does not fit. It is the same with what we believe. The more we learn about Jesus, the easier it is to notice something that does not fit what Jesus taught. That is why we read the Bible, come to church, listen, and ask questions.

Main Point 3: Carry Confidence

Read 1 John 4:4 – John told the children of God that they had already overcome because the One in them is greater than the one in the world.

Discussion Question: What can you remember when something wrong, confusing, or scary feels bigger than you?

(The teachers should allow the students to answer and then add): You can remember, **"Greater is in me!"** Fear may feel big, but God is greater. A lie may sound loud, but God's truth is greater. A problem may look hard, but you are not facing it by yourself. You can stand strong because the Greater One is with you and working in you.

Second Activity: "What Would You Do?"

(The teacher(s) will ask all the students to stand up. One side of the room will represent Choice A, the middle will represent Choice B, and the other side will represent Choice C.)

Tell the students:

"I am going to give you a situation and three different ways you could respond. Listen carefully, decide what you think the **wisest choice** would be, and move to that choice."

"Be ready to tell us **why** you chose it!"

Situation 1:

Your friend tells you:

"Somebody told me that Jesus does not care when people are hurting."

What would you do?

A. Believe it because your friend said it.
B. Think about what you have learned about Jesus and check whether it matches.
C. Tell everybody else what your friend said.

Allow the students to move.

Ask:

“Why did you choose that answer?”

Then explain:

The wisest choice is **B**. We should not believe something just because somebody says it. We can compare it with what we know about Jesus.

Situation 2:

Some kids at school are making fun of you because you will not join them in doing something you know is wrong.

What would you do?

A. Join them so they will stop laughing.
B. Pretend you do not know what is right.
C. Stand strong and make the right choice even if they disagree.

Allow the students to move and explain their answers.

Then say:

The wisest choice is **C**. Sometimes you already know what is right. You do not need more information — you need confidence to stand on what you know.

Situation 3:

Someone shows you a video and says: “This is definitely true!” But you have never heard anything about it before.

What would you do?

A. Share it immediately.
B. Stop and find out whether it is actually true.
C. Believe it because the video looked convincing.

Allow students to move and explain.

Then say:

The wisest choice is **B**. Something can look convincing and still be wrong. Sometimes the first thing we need to do is slow down and check.

Situation 4:

Someone tells you:

“If somebody is mean to you, Jesus says you should be mean right back.”

What would you do?

A. Ask, “Does that really match what Jesus teaches?”
B. Start being mean back.
C. Believe it because it sounds fair.

Allow the students to move and explain.

Then say:

The wisest choice is **A**. We can use what we already know about Jesus to notice when something does not fit.

Situation 5:

You know you made the right choice, but somebody keeps telling you:

“You are wrong. You should have just done what everybody else was doing.”

What would you do?

A. Change your choice just to fit in.
B. Keep standing on what you know is right.
C. Decide that right and wrong do not matter.

Allow the students to move and explain.

Then say:

The wisest choice is **B**. Once you know what is true, you do not have to let another voice make you afraid to stand on it.

Make It Harder:

(The teacher(s) will tell the students that the next situations will not have choices.)

Say:

"Now you have learned how to think it through. This time I will give you the problem, but **you** have to tell me what you would do!"

Give situations such as:

• "A friend tells you something about another student, but you do not know if it really happened."
• "Someone tells you something about Jesus that is different from what you have learned."
• "You know the right thing to do, but everybody around you chooses something different."
• "You see something online that scares you, but you do not know whether it is true."

For each one, ask:

"What would you do first?"

Then ask:

"Why?"

Allow several different students to answer.

After several rounds, ask:

• Do we always need to respond to every situation the same way?
• When might we need to slow down and get more information?
• How does knowing Jesus help us make good choices?
• What helps us stand strong once we know what is right?

(The teacher(s) will say): Sometimes we need to **check** because we do not know enough yet. Sometimes we need to think about what we already know about **Jesus**. And sometimes we already know the truth and just need the **confidence** to stand on it. The goal is not just remembering three words — it is learning how to make a wise choice when something comes your way!

Did We Get It? (If time permits)

Ask:

• Should we believe everything we hear?
• What should we do first when we are not sure something is true?
• Who should what we believe match?
• What can help us learn more about Jesus?
• Who is greater than the one in the world?
• What are our three main points?

Let the students answer and then repeat together:

Ask the students to repeat:

"Check what I hear!"
"Compare it to Jesus!"
"Carry confidence!"

Then ask:

"WHY CAN I BE CONFIDENT?"

Students respond:

"BECAUSE GREATER IS IN ME!"

Bottom Line:

"I will check what I hear, compare it to Jesus, and carry confidence because Greater is in me!"

Closing Prayer:

The teacher(s) will ask a student volunteer to pray and ask God to help us check what we hear, know the truth about Jesus, make wise choices, and remember that the Greater One is in us.