



WEEK THREE – MAY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Speak Now | Matthew 16:13-20*

Bottom Line: *Practice talking about God*

Memory Verse: *“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living + the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8*

Virtue: *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice*

Series Overview: This month, we’ll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God’s Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God. God is continually working in our lives. When we talk about those moments with others, we can actually end up growing in our relationship with God. As kids process their growing faith, they will have questions and doubts. We want them to know that no question is off-limits when it comes to their faith. We hope that as they practice talking about God, they’ll discover that sharing about their faith isn’t so daunting. We pray that kids will find trusted adults who believe in Jesus who will help them talk through their questions about God.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name and greet all of the kids as they enter with a smile.
- Lead kids in a game of “What am I?”
- Say: “I’m going to read a list of clues about an object. Every object is either a skill or talent, or something you can use to *practice* a skill or talent.”
- One at a time, read aloud a list of facts about an object. (Some suggestions are below.)
 - Feel free to add your own examples.
- After each fact, ask: “What am I?”
- Invite kids to guess what the object is.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.
 - **Object Facts**
 - I’m often the color brown. You can hold me in your hands. Everyone runs after me. You can throw me or kick me. What am I? (*football*)
 - You can hold me, or I can stand on my own. I’m often used on a stage. I make everything louder. You can sing into me. What am I? (*microphone*)
 - I’m often colorful. You can hang me on your wall to make your space more beautiful. You can make me by using brushes, pencils, or paint. What am I? (*art*)
 - You wear me. I can help you move gracefully. Sometimes I make a sound when I move, and sometimes I’m completely

silent. You wear me on your feet. You wear me when you're on stage with music playing. What am I? (*dance shoes*)

- I'm long and skinny. I can be made with metal or wood. I help make delicious food. You can use me in the kitchen. I can flip pancakes. What am I? (*spatula*)

What You Say:

“Great job guessing! All of these activities take lots of practice! What are some of your favorite activities? (Invite responses.) Those are all great answers!

[Transition] Today, we're going to hear a story from the Bible about a very important question that Jesus asked His friends. We'll discover something important that we can all practice. Let's find out!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: For Week 3, we head to **Matthew 16:13-20**, where Jesus asked his disciples: *“Who do you say I am?”* After everything they'd seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say, what did they really think about Jesus? This gave Peter the perfect moment to declare what he believed: that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Beach Ball Bounce

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Prepared Beach Ball; Sharpie

What You Do:

- Direct kids to spread out in your group space.
 - Give one kid the prepared beach ball.
- Encourage kids to gently toss the prepared beach ball with the questions on it to each other.
- After a few moments of the kids gently tossing the ball, say: “Freeze!”
- Instruct the kid who is holding a ball to answer the question their left thumb is nearest to.
- Continue the game until all kids have a chance to answer.
 - Since questions are open-ended, it’s okay if questions are repeated!
- Use this as an opportunity for kids to practice talking about their life and experiences with God!

What You Say:

*“That was so much fun! I loved hearing about your thoughts, feelings, and experiences—especially about God. It felt like the more we played our game, the more comfortable we all were talking! In fact, the more we **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God**, the more we can keep our eyes open and be aware of all that God is doing. We can notice God doing amazing things all around us if we keep paying attention! When we **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God**, we can help people see who God is and how God is working too!”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to form groups of two or three.
- Once everyone has picked a spot to gather with their group, invite them to share something good God has done with their group.

- Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, direct the kids to come back in a circle as a whole group.
- Invite anyone who would like to share with the group.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for our time in groups where we can practice talking with others about You. Help us to slow down, keep our eyes open, pay attention, and be ready to notice what You are doing all around us. Give us the courage to share what You are doing with others. Thank You that we can grow in our faith as we practice talking about You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”