



WEEK THREE – MAY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name and greet all of the kids as they enter with a smile.
- Say, “We’re going to play the game, Who Is Jesus?”
- Instruct the kids to ask: “Who is Jesus?”
- Give an answer from the dialog below.
- Direct the kids to act out your answer as best as they can.
- Here are some sample conversations:
 - “Who is Jesus?”
 - Respond by saying: “Jesus is brave!”
 - Direct kids to act out “brave.”
- “Who is Jesus?”
 - Respond by saying: “Jesus is kind!”
 - Direct kids to act out “kind.”
- Continue in the same pattern with the following responses:
 - “Jesus is King!”
 - “Jesus is a friend!”
 - “Jesus is helpful!”
 - “Jesus is God’s Son!”
 - “Jesus is a teacher!”
 - “Jesus is . . .” (*Fill in additional words as time and interest allow.*)

What You Say:

“*[Transition]* Today, we’ll hear about something Jesus encouraged His followers to talk about!”

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

On This Rock

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Black Construction Paper; White Crayons

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to gather in a circle.
- Use a white crayon to write “Jesus is . . .” on a piece of black construction paper.
- Show the kids the paper.
- Set the paper out where they can see it.
- Give each kid a piece of black paper and a white crayon.
- Invite them to draw something on their paper to finish the phrase “Jesus is . . .”
 - For example: *crown for king; arm for strong; smiley face for friend; cross for Savior, etc.*
- Review the Bible Story by asking:

- What questions did Jesus ask His friends? (“Who do people say the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13 NIrV. “Who do you say I am?” Matthew 16:15 NIrV.)
- Which friend answered Jesus first when He asked them, “Who do you say I am?” (Matthew 16:15 NIrV). (Peter)
- What was Peter’s answer? (“You are the Messiah,” Matthew 16:16 NIrV.)
- How can we be like Peter? (Answers will vary: we can be brave, we can trust God, etc.)
- Who is Jesus? (Answers will vary: Invite kids to show their pictures.)
- Show the kids how to crumple their paper to look like a rock.

What You Say:

“Jesus’ friends had questions. They heard what others were saying and the questions that other people had about Jesus. They weren’t always sure what to think. Jesus knew about their questions, and helped them talk about it! You may have questions too. That’s okay!

“Hold your paper rocks up in the air. (Pause for kids to hold up their rocks.) In our story today, Peter showed how strong his faith was when he said to Jesus, “You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16 NIrV). Let’s be strong like a rock when we [Bottom Line] practice talking about God so the people around us can hear how much God loves them!”

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need:

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask: “What are some ways you’ve seen God at work in your life this week?”

- Be ready with prompts, like: What kind of food did they eat, did they remember their spelling words, figure out how to solve a math problem, grandma got better after being sick, etc.
- Share with the kids that you're going to begin a prayer with an example of your own.
- Encourage the kids who would like to pray out loud to take turns after you.
- Say: "Praying out loud is another great way to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God!**"
- Close your group time in prayer after everyone who wants to has shared.

What You Say:

"God, thank You for how You love us and take care of us! I want to thank You for _____ this week!" (Pause and invite kids to thank God for something from their week.)

"Wow, God! You have done so much in each of our lives! Please help us to keep our eyes open to all You are doing around us! Thank You, God, for all You have created and blessed us with! We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share their Very Important Rocks with their friends and family!