



WEEK THREE – MAY 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Peter Says That Jesus Is The Messiah / Matthew 16:13-20*

Key Question: *Who do you talk to 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 can trust God no matter what*

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.

Key Question: Who do you talk to about God? If you want to grow in your faith, it’s important to talk about what God is doing in your life. However, for kids, this can feel overwhelming, especially if they’ve never really chatted about their faith with anyone before. This week, let’s help kids understand that talking about God with others can be helpful as they grow in their relationship with Jesus. We hope they’ll figure out some of the trusted people in their lives who can be a sounding board to help them process their questions and listen to their faith stories.

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: Blindfold; Dry Erase Board; Dry Erase Marker; Dry Eraser

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Choose one kid to stand up in front of the group. Place a blindfold over the kid's eyes so they cannot see anything.
- Explain that the rest of the group will give the blindfolded kid instructions to draw a piece of sports equipment on the dry erase board without saying what it is or giving any clues that would reveal it.
 - *For example, for baseball kids might say: Draw a circle. Draw two curved lines inside the circle. Add notches to the lines inside the circle.*
- Make sure the blindfolded kid cannot see, then write a word from the list below on the dry erase board for the rest of the group to see.
 - Baseball
 - Hockey stick
 - Soccer ball
 - Basketball hoop
 - Football field goal
 - Tennis racket
 - Swim goggles
 - Balance beam
- Make sure the rest of the group has seen the word and then erase it from the board.
- Hand the marker to the blindfolded kid.

- Ask the group to raise their hands and call on them to take turns providing instructions for drawing the piece of equipment.
- Once the kid has finished drawing, let them take off their blindfold so they can see what they drew. Give them a chance to guess what the piece of equipment is. The group can reveal the answer if they are unable to figure out what it is.
- Continue playing, allowing more kids to take turns drawing.

What You Say:

“It was not easy to draw these pieces of sports equipment! Just like it takes commitment and a teamwork effort to play any of these sports, it also required you all to work together to draw each item. You did a great job talking about what the blindfolded person should draw each round. [Transition] Today, we’ll learn about something very important we should practice talking about.”

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

Large Group Overview: In **Matthew 6:9-13** we find Jesus talking about prayer during His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus shared a model for prayer that helps us understand more about how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs, and ask for forgiveness. It’s comforting to know that we can pray while remembering that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live For God | App]

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

What You Need: “Talk Time” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Invite the group to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first and let them pick one of the “Talk Time” Activity Page cards. Ask them to read what’s written on the card out loud for the group.
- Once they have read the scenario, give them a chance to answer the question about how they can talk about God in that scenario.
 - If they are having trouble thinking of an answer, they can choose another kid in the group to help them. Allow the group to contribute to the discussion for each scenario.
- Continue passing the stack of cards around the circle until everyone has had a chance to read a scenario or you have gone through the entire stack.
- Remind kids that the way we live our lives and our interactions with those around us can lead to conversations about God. Sometimes just choosing to be a good listener is what helps others trust us and become more receptive to what we have to say.
- ***[Make it Personal] Share a story about a time where you talked to someone else about God. Be sure to explain how you felt. Were you nervous or apprehensive? Allow kids to see that even adults find it challenging sometimes to talk to others about God. But when we do, we are helping someone else see and understand who God is.***

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others + build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:

- Who do you talk to about God?
- What kinds of things can you say about God?
- Is it difficult for you to talk to others about God? Why or why not?
- How can you overcome a fear of talking to others about God?
- Why does talking about God take practice?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- P Explain to kids that one of the purposes of being in a Small Group is to have people you can feel safe and comfortable with when it comes to talking about God. You can be there to encourage, build each other up, and give confidence to tells others outside of the group about God as well.
- Ask:
- What is something you know about God?
- What is something that God has done?
- What questions do you have about God? (*Ask this question without the purpose of answering kids' questions. Simply give them a safe place to voice questions they may have about God and reassure them that it's absolutely normal to have questions!*)
- Encourage kids to think of one person in their life, outside of church, that they can tell about God. If they feel comfortable sharing with the group, invite them to do so.
- Say a prayer for the group. Reserve some time during the prayer where kids can pray silently about the person whose name came to their mind. Close the prayer time by thanking God for the group.

As adults arrive, make sure to hand out Week 3 Devos to the kids + say that if they bring it back next week completed/signed by parents, they will get a prize!