



## WEEK TWO – JANUARY 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Do Not Worry* | Matthew 6:25-34

**Bottom Line:** *When you're worried, trust God.*

**Memory Verse:** *"Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up."* – Psalm 31:24 (NIRV)

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what*

**Series Overview:** With every season comes new and different challenges but also the chance to experience incredible joy. Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what.

**Bottom Line: When you're worried, trust God.** Have you ever seen a flower bloom or a bird find food? Just like God cares for nature, and the birds and flowers have what they need in life, God cares for us so much more! When we let worry consume our thoughts, it can cause us to forget to notice the ways God is already working in our situations. We can trust God with anything, whether we know the outcome or not.

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**9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

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**Opening Small Group Activity**

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

**What You Need:** “Birds of the Air” Activity Page

**What You Do:**

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group two sets of cards (so twenty cards total) from the “Birds of the Air” Activity Pages and place the cards face down.
- Model how to arrange the cards face down in rows and columns.
- Instruct the groups to arrange the cards face down in rows or columns.
  - Don’t worry if a grid is not “straight,” kids will still be able to play!
- Direct kids to take turns flipping two cards to find matching pairs.
  - Explain to kids that if the cards match, they can keep them. If not, they turn them face down again.
- Declare the kids with the most pairs as the winners.
- Continue playing additional rounds as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:**

“What pictures did you find on your cards? (*Invite responses.*) I saw some birds on those cards too! What do you know about birds? (*Invite responses.*) What things are the same? What things are different? [*Transition*] **Well, come with me today as we discover what Jesus says about the birds of the air!**”

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**9:15 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP**

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**Large Group Overview:** In Week 2, we head to Matthew 6:25-34 for Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. In it, Jesus reminded everyone not to worry about tomorrow

because “Tomorrow will worry about itself.” Every day will have its own set of troubles, but God will provide for us, just like the birds and the flowers.

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

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**Even Better**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Bible marked at Matthew 6, “When You’re Worried” Activity Page, white coffee filters, markers, plastic tablecloth(s), pipe cleaners, and wet wipes

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids together in your group space.
- Spread out a plastic tablecloth.
- Set out the markers.
- Give each kid two coffee filters.
- Direct the kids to place their two coffee filters on the tablecloth.
- Invite the kids to use the markers to color the coffee filters.
- As kids color, open the Bible marked at Matthew 6.
- Share the following points to summarize today’s Bible Story:
  - One day, Jesus sat down on a mountainside to teach a crowd of people about God's kingdom.
  - Jesus explained that life in God's kingdom is different—but in a good way! Jesus taught us to love everyone, even those who might not be kind to us.
  - Jesus said that we don’t need to worry about things like food or clothes because God takes care of everything—just like God cares for the birds and flowers.

- Just as birds don't worry about finding food and flowers don't worry about what to wear, we don't need to worry because God loves us so much and will take care of us.
- Jesus reminded everyone that worrying doesn't help, it just makes us unhappy. Instead, we should focus on showing love and doing good things, which helps grow God's kingdom.
- Jesus told us not to worry about tomorrow because He wants us to live joyfully today, knowing He will take care of all our needs.
- When each kid is finished coloring their coffee filters with markers, guide them to stack their two coffee filters together.
- Model how to fold the filters in half and then in half again.
- Once the filters are folded into quarters, help kids create an “accordion fold.”
- Give each kid a pipe cleaner.
- Explain that the pipe cleaner will be their flower stem.
- Show the kids how to wrap the tip of the pipe cleaner around the points of the folded coffee filter several times.
  - Help as needed with this step!
- Provide kids with a leaf from the “When You're Worried” Activity Page and a strip of tape.
- Guide kids to attach the leaf, demonstrating how to pierce a hole in them where indicated using the end of the pipe cleaner.
- Read the Bottom Line aloud from the leaf, encouraging kids to point to the words as you read.

**What You Say:**

*“Guess what? God knows that food and clothes are super-important. But guess what else? Worrying doesn't help you get those things—it can make you feel miserable and yucky inside. God knew that we would worry about things, that's why the Bible talks about it!*”

*“Maybe you're worried about something going on in your family, or if you'll make friends this year. Whatever it is, the next time you catch yourself worrying, think about how God takes care of the birds and the flowers. Remember, God LOVES*”

*you and knows EXACTLY what you need! So [Bottom Line] when you're worried, trust God!"*

## **All Of My Hope**

### **[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Bibles (marked at Psalm 31), and “Psalm 31:24 Signs” Activity Pages

### **What You Do:**

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a Bible (marked at Psalm 31).
- Direct the groups to look up Psalm 31:24 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:
  - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Psalm at the top of the page as you say “Psalm” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 31 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 31 for the little 24; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.
  - ***Finding verses with 1<sup>st</sup> graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find Chapter 31. Explain

*that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 24 in chapter 31.*

- Read the verse aloud to your group. Then, invite the group to recite it aloud together.
- Show the signs from the “Psalm 31:24 Signs” Activity Page and use them to demonstrate the Memory Verse motions to the kids.
- Instruct the kids to say and sign the verse with their group in the following ways:
  - Perform it loudly.
  - Perform it quietly.
  - Perform it facing someone in the circle.
- Come up with other fun ways to help kids memorize the verse!
- Invite any groups who would like to perform the Memory Verse for the rest of the kids to do so.

**What You Say:**

*“When we tell God all about our worries, remember that God is big enough and strong enough to help! God loves you more than you could ever imagine. Our Memory Verse this month reminds us that when we put our hope in God, we don’t have to worry—we can put our hope in God! So **[Bottom Line]** when you’re worried, trust God.”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line]** When you’re worried, trust God.*