

Upper Elementary

WEEK 4- STARTER



Activity Name: Desert Island

What You Need: Paper Writing supplies

What You Do:

- Ask the group to make a collaborative list of things they would want to have if they were stranded on a deserted island. Write down all the suggestions.
- Encourage kids to debate and discuss as a group what they want the final ten items to be until they all agree.
- After they have their list of ten, present a new challenge: “A wave just washed away eight of your items! You can only keep two. As a group, decide which two items are the most essential for survival.”
- Listen to their reasoning as they narrow down their choices.

What You Say:

That got pretty serious at the end! It's tough to choose when you have limited resources. You have to think about what will really help you persevere. In our Bible Story today, Paul and 275 other people got stranded after a shipwreck on an island, and they had to figure out how to survive. But Paul had one thing that was more important than anything on your list. Let's go find out what it was.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Bottom Line: Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Conversation Starter: How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

Memory Verse: “Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.” • Galatians 6:9 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Paul trusted God even when everyone else felt hopeless during the storm? What do you think helped him stay calm?
- What does this story show us about God's promises? How did God keep His promise to Paul?
- Paul thanked God and ate food while the storm was still happening. Why do you think gratitude is important even when life is hard?
- What are some “storms” kids your age might face today? (School stress, friendships, family problems, fear, etc.)
- What does “not giving up on God” actually look like in everyday life for a preteen? What are some practical examples?

Activity Name: Clothespin Prayers

What You Need: Jumbo clothespins Fine-tip markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a clothespin and a marker.
- Instruct them to write the phrase “God is always with you” on their clothespin. They can decorate it if they’d like.
- Explain the “secret mission” for the week: They are to take this clothespin and secretly clip it onto the backpack, jacket, or another belonging of someone they know who might need some encouragement.
- Challenge them that every time they see that person this week, they should say a silent prayer for them, asking God to help that person persevere and remember He is with them.
- Close in prayer together.

What You Say:

This is a cool way to be a secret encouragement for someone this week. It’s a way to help someone else persevere, just like Paul encouraged the men on the ship. Let’s pray for the people who will receive these pins.

Prayer: God, thank You for being with us in the middle of storms. Please encourage the friends and family members who will get these prayer pins this week. Help them to feel Your presence and not to give up. And help us to be people who, like Paul, show others what it looks like to trust You, even when things are hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

****Close in prayer. Invite kids to pray as well****