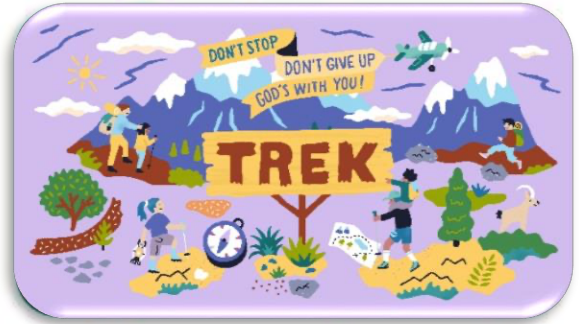


Lower Elementary

WEEK 5 - STARTER



Activity Name: Once Upon a Time...

What You Need: none needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Explain that you are going to create a story together, one sentence at a time.
- Tell them the most important rule: the story **MUST** have a happy ending.
- You start the story with, “Once upon a time, there was a brave little squirrel who wanted to climb the tallest tree in the forest.”
- Point to the next kid and have them add one sentence to the story. (e.g., “But a big scary owl lived in that tree!”)
- Continue around the circle with each kid adding one sentence to the story.
- Guide the story toward a happy conclusion.

What You Say:

What a great story! Even though there were some scary parts, it had a happy ending. That’s what we love about stories! Today, we’re going to hear a true story from the Bible about the end of God’s big story. And guess what? It’s the happiest ending of all, and, as a follower of Jesus, you are going to live it! It’s the ending of your story too! Let’s go learn about it.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: Heaven • *Revelation 21:3-5*

Bottom Line: God will make everything right in the end.

Conversation Starter: What do you think heaven will be like?

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:

- John saw Jesus in a big, amazing way. How do you think John felt? Why do you think Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid”? What does that show us about Jesus?
- God says He will take away all our tears and make everything new. How does that help you when you feel sad or when things are hard?
- One day, we will be with God again. What do you think it will be like to see God? How does that make you feel about heaven?
- John saw things that were beautiful and also a little scary. What can we learn about trusting God, even when we don’t understand?
- If you believe God will make everything right one day, how can that help you when something feels sad or unfair today

Activity Name: Something New

What You Need: Bible 'N' activity page coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Open your Bible and read Revelation 21:3-5 out loud to the kids.
- Share the following points:
 - This is your future that's coming!
 - God is going to move His home, heaven, down to earth, and we will live with Him forever!
 - There will be no more sadness, crying, or pain in our forever home.
 - God's going to fix everything that's broken, making it new!
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a marker.
- Say, "Our story today is about our forever home! There are a lot of things that we don't know about our forever home. But God did tell us some things about it in these verses! We do know that God is going to fix what's broken and make it new! 'New' starts with the letter N! See the letter N."
- Say, "Now use your imagination and turn your letter N into something brand new!"
- Give the kids a few minutes to use their imagination.
- Let the kids who want to share show their new drawing to the group.
- Remember, our forever home is the new earth where God has fixed what is broken. And the New Jerusalem has come down too!

What You Say:

Wow, look at all these creative pictures! They look brand new! They don't even look like the letter N anymore! "Our true story from the Bible tells us that in our forever home, there will be no more crying or sadness. One of our Bible verses from today says, He who was sitting on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' (Revelation 21:5a NIV). How incredible is that? At the end of time, God's rescue plan will be complete. He will make things exactly as He always wanted. God will live with people, just like in the Garden of Eden! And God will take away all the sadness, sickness, and death that entered the world after the fall. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Everything that's hard and painful will be made right again. **[Bottom Line] God will make everything right in the end.**

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