

4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: Impossible Challenge

What You Need:

- ☐ Large index cards
- ☐ Safe scissors

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid an index card and a pair of scissors.
- Present them with a seemingly impossible challenge: “Can you cut this single index card in a way that creates a hole big enough for your entire body to fit through without breaking the loop?”
- Give them a few minutes to try and figure it out on their own. They will likely try cutting a simple hole in the middle, which won’t work.
- After they’ve experimented, reveal the secret method:
 - Fold the index card in half lengthwise.
 - Cut a series of alternating slits from the folded edge and the open edge, being careful not to cut all the way through to the other side.
 - Finally, carefully cut along the folded edge *between* the first and last slit.
 - Carefully unfold the card to reveal a large paper chain loop they can step through.

What You Say:

That was pretty cool, right? At first, it seemed impossible. You had to look at the card in a totally new way to see its potential. That’s a great picture of what we’re talking about today. Sometimes our situations look messy or like they could never be used for anything good. But God sees things differently. In our Bible Story today, we’ll see how God took all the confusing pieces of someone’s life and used them for an incredible purpose. Let’s go find out more!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: In All Things God Works for Good • Romans 8:28-29

Bottom Line: God can use all things.

Monthly Memory Verse: *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* • Psalm 139:14 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **[Conversation Starter] What do you need to trust God with?**
- When something hard happens, why is it difficult to believe that God could bring anything good out of it?
- Looking at Moses or Paul, how did their hardest moments actually prepare them for something bigger later on?
- If God's goal is to make us more like Jesus, how could struggles or challenges help shape things like your character, choices, or faith?
- When you can't see any "good" in a situation yet, what does trusting God actually look like in real life?

Activity Name: Memory Verse Relay

What You Need: ☐ Bibles ☐ 2 sets of memory verse cards ☐ Tape

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Psalm 139:14 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Divide the group into two teams, and have them form lines on one side of the room.
- Give each team their shuffled set of verse cards.
- Explain the rules: "This is a relay race to build our Memory Verse on the wall. The first person in line will take their word of the verse, run to the wall, and stick it on where they think it goes. Then they'll run back and tag the next person, who will run and place their word on the wall where they think it goes in the verse, and so on. Once all the cards are on the wall, each team will send one teammate to the wall to rearrange any words of the verse."

****If no wall space is available, have kids arrange cards on the floor****

- The first team to get the whole Memory Verse in the correct order wins!
- The verse to assemble: ***How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well (Psalm 139:14 NIV).***

What You Say:

Awesome job! That took speed and teamwork! Knowing this verse is like having a secret weapon. When things get hard or confusing, you can remember that God made you one of a kind! Our Memory Verse says: *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well (Psalm 139:14 NIV).*

When we choose to love God and give our lives to Him, we can be confident that He will bring good out of everything we've experienced and everything we've done. This doesn't mean God *causes* hard things to happen—but it does mean that God is so good and powerful, He can work good through every single thing in our lives.

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.