

2nd & 3rd Grade

WEEK 1 - STARTER



Activity Name: Would You Rather

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have kids line up, one friend behind the other, facing you to play a game of “Would You Rather.”
- Read the two “Would You Rather” options listed below. Point to your right for the first option and to your left for the second. Kids will jump left or right to indicate their preference.

Would You Rather...

- kiss a jellyfish or step on a Lego?
- eat a whole cake or a whole gallon of ice cream?
- have an octopus or an otter in your bathtub as a pet?
- wear a superhero cape or an eye patch every day to school until the end of the year?
- try to swim in a pool of marshmallows or a pool of M&M's®?
- shovel snow or rake leaves?
- take an elevator or an escalator?
- be so tall your head always touches the ceiling or so short you can't reach the counter?
- eat a cookie or a cupcake?
- have bright green hair or bright blue feet?
- eat all your food hot or all your food cold?
- sneeze every time someone says your name or scream every time someone says, “Hello?”
- walk on your tiptoes or stomp your feet anywhere you go for 24 hours?

What You Say:

That was SO fun! I learned a lot about you and the choices you'd make in some very silly situations. Today, we're going to learn about the ONE who loves us most and that we can always depend on for strength. Let's go!

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Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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Small Group Week 1



Bible Story: Israel Captures Jericho • Joshua 6:1-6, 20

Bottom Line: God is strong, so I can be brave.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1 NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is one hard thing God can help you do?
- Pretend you are Joshua. How do you think he felt when he met the leader of the Lord's army?
(Read Joshua 5:13-15.)
- God gave Joshua a battle plan that sounded strange. What do you think Joshua thought about the plan? (Read Joshua 6:2-5.)
- Why do you think God gave Joshua this special plan?

Activity Name: Quiet Challenge

What You Need: ☐ Cups

What You Do:

- Gather kids together in an open area.
- Say: “We’re going to play a game called the ‘Quiet Challenge!’ In this game, you’ll have to follow directions very carefully – while staying completely silent.”
- Explain the rules:
 - Kids must complete each challenge without talking.
 - If someone talks, the round starts over.
 - Encourage kids to pay close attention and work together quietly.
- Begin with simple challenges:
 - Walk to the wall and back silently.
 - Hop three times.
 - Sit down and stand back up.
 - Balance on one foot for five seconds.
- Continue with a few more difficult or silly challenges:
 - Carry a 3-cup pyramid across the room without dropping it.
 - Kids pretend to carry an enormous heavy rock across the room as quietly as possible.
 - March in slow motion.
 - Walk backward carefully.
 - Kids pair up silently and copy each other’s slow movements like a mirror.
 - Freeze in place when the leader raises a hand.
- Celebrate successful silent rounds together.
- If time allows, let kids suggest a silent challenge for the group.

What You Say:

That was harder than it sounded! Most of us are used to talking when we work together! But in this game, you had to listen carefully and follow instructions, even when the directions seemed a little unusual. In today’s Bible Story, God gave Joshua and the Israelites some very unusual instructions too. God told them to march around the city of Jericho once a day for six days. Then on the seventh day, they were supposed to march around it seven times. And during most of the marching, they had to stay quiet! Imagine how strange that must have felt. The people inside Jericho were probably watching and wondering, ‘What are they doing?’ Joshua and the Israelites could have decided God’s instructions didn’t make sense. They could have tried to do things their own way instead. But they trusted that God knew what He was doing. And because they obeyed Him, God did something only He could do – the walls of Jericho came crashing down! Sometimes God asks us to trust Him even when we don’t fully understand what He’s doing. We may not see the whole plan yet. But we can remember that God is strong, wise, and always with us. Because **[Bottom Line] God is strong, we can be brave.**