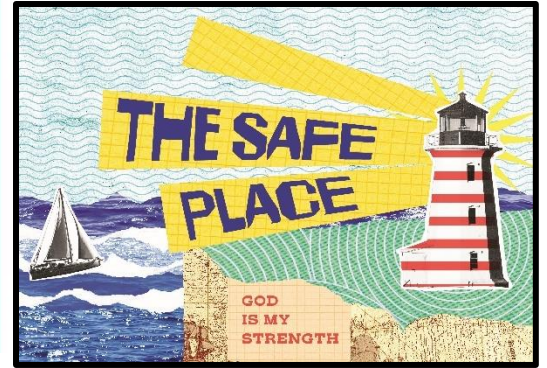


4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 1 - STARTER



Activity Name: Ships & Sailors

What You Need: ☐ “Ships & Sailors” command activity page

What You Do:

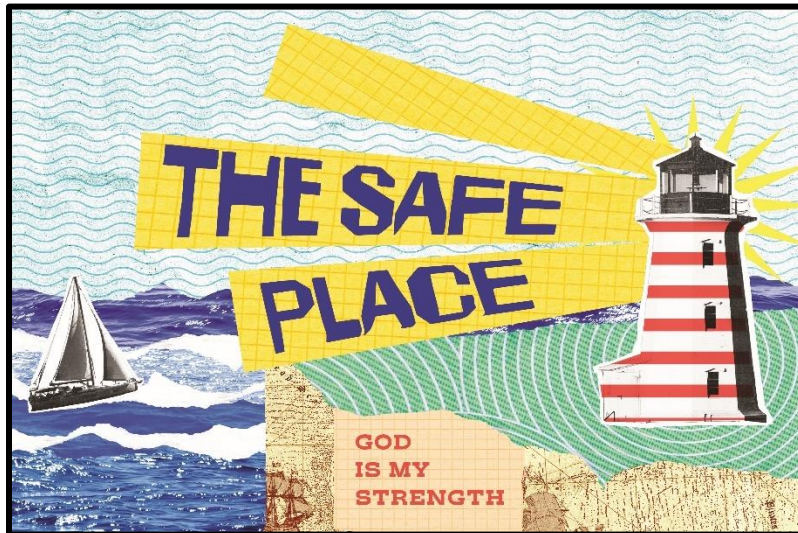
- Tell kids that they will be playing a game called “Ships & Sailors”.
- Say, “We’re going to pretend that we are all sailors on a huge, working ship. There will be one captain, and it is our job to follow the captain’s orders... or there will be consequences (say jokingly).”
- Go over the instructions on how to play (kids may have played varying versions of this game, so clarify the commands for today’s game):
 - One player will be the captain. The captain stands at the front of the designated play space.
 - Inform the kids that the area around the chair is the “island”.
 - The captain will give various commands. (*Refer to “Ships & Sailors- Commands” Activity Page*). Review the commands before playing.
 - Kids work to obey the commands as quickly as possible.
 - The last kid to obey the command or the kids who complete the order incorrectly are eliminated.
 - The last kid standing gets to be the captain for the next round.
 - Continue playing as time allows.

What You Say:

Whew! That took a lot of work and energy to follow the captain’s orders in that game! This month, we’re going to navigate through God’s Word and discover that God is our place of safety. God’s plans and commands are always for our good, so even when life feels challenging or uncertain, we can trust that He is our safe place.

Now, let’s go learn about a group of people who followed some very unusual commands from God!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: Israel Captures Jericho • Joshua 6:1-16,20

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:

- **[Conversation Starter]** What is a battle God can help you with?
- Imagine being Joshua. What do you think went through his mind as he spoke to the Commander of the Lord's army? (Refer to Joshua 5:13-15, if needed)
- Again, imagine being Joshua and receiving the unusual battle plans from God. What might he be thinking or feeling? (Refer to Joshua 6:2-5)
- Why do you think God gave such unusual battle plans to Joshua and the Israelites?

Activity Name: Walls Fall Down

What You Need: ☐ Bible ☐ Cones or cups (optional)

What You Do:

**** OPTIONAL:** Use cups or cones to create a path around your small group space. You can also just lead your group around your space. ******

- Gather the kids together and open your Bible to Joshua 6:1–6, 20. Read the passage aloud.
 - Say: After wandering in the wilderness for many years, God's people finally reached the city of Jericho. The problem was that Jericho had huge walls all around it. God gave Joshua a plan, but it wasn't the plan anyone expected.
 - Tell the kids they are going to experience what it was like to follow Joshua's instructions.
 - Day 1: Lead the group around the path one time in complete silence.
 - When you finish, ask: "Did anything happen to the walls?" (No.)
 - Day 2: March one time again.
 - "Would you be wondering why we were doing this?" (Yes.)
 - Days 3-6: Continue marching one lap for each "day." Between each lap, ask:
 - "Would you keep obeying?"
 - "Would it be hard to trust the plan?"
 - "Did God tell Joshua to stop?" (No.)
- Day 7: Explain that on the seventh day, God gave Joshua one more instruction.
- Lead the group around the path one final time.
 - Have everyone stop.
 - Invite the kids to pretend to blow their trumpets.
 - Count to three, then have everyone shout as loudly as they can, "God is strong!"
 - Ask:
 - "Did the Israelites make the walls fall down?"
 - "Who brought the walls down?"
 - "Why do you think God didn't tell the Israelites to fight the battle the usual way?"

What You Say:

Imagine being one of the Israelites. Every day you marched around the city, but nothing changed. It would have been easy to wonder if God's plan was really going to work. But Joshua and the people kept obeying because they trusted God.

On the seventh day, after they followed God's instructions, God did something only He could do. The walls of Jericho came down because of God's power.

Sometimes God asks us to trust Him even when we don't understand what He's doing. We might not see results right away, but we can keep obeying because God is always faithful. Just like Joshua and the Israelites, we can be brave because we know God is with us and His power is greater than anything we face. Remember, **[Bottom Line] God is strong, so I can be brave.**