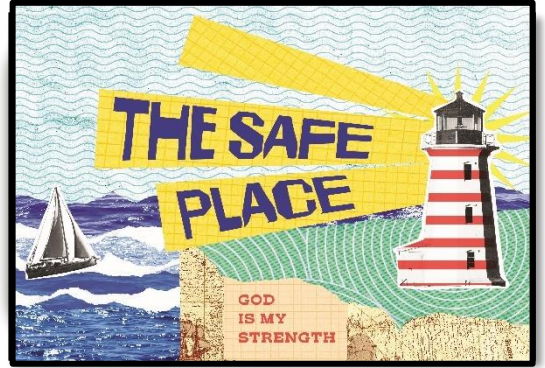


4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: Choose Your Own Adventure

What You Need: None needed

What You Do:

- Play a round of “Choose Your Own Adventure” by creating a story with the kids in your group.
- Give one story starter from the list below and have the kid on your left add a line to the story.
- Continue moving around the circle, encouraging each kid to add to the story. Anything added must make sense with the rest of the story. In other words, each line that’s added must move the story along.
- At random times throughout the story, say “PAUSE!” and give a new prompt to add to the story from the “Prompt List” below. After the “PAUSE!” and the new story prompt, the next kid has to add their line so that it fits the rest of the story.

Story starters

1. “Little Johnny was a curious boy who loved to go fishing. One day...”
2. “Frannie loved her family and bugs. Of course, some days she loved bugs most, but that was because her little brother was always getting into her stuff. One day...”
3. “Sam is 9. He has one brother, one sister, two dogs, and no cats. Cats make him sneeze. But he really, really wants a cat. One day... “
4. “Today was not a great day. In fact, it was the worst day ever.”

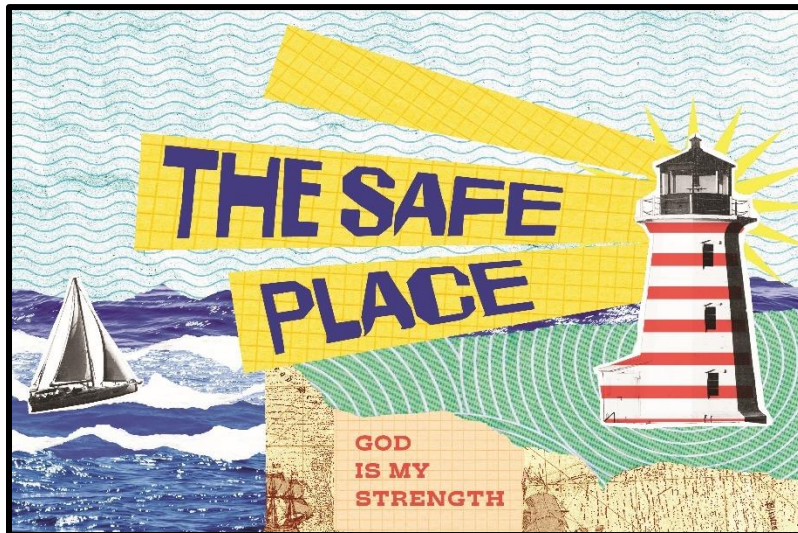
Prompts

1. “All of a sudden, a big thundercloud appeared, and it started to storm.”
2. “He/ she froze, terrified. Right before his/her eyes, there was a huge *(fill in the blank with something that makes sense)*.”
3. “And right then, his nose grew three sizes larger. Suddenly, he could smell things that were miles away.”
4. “But the day started to turn around because finally...”

What You Say:

Whoa! That was quite an adventure. Let’s head to Large Group where we’ll hear about a crazy adventure that happened when a BIG storm hit out of nowhere. Thankfully, there was someONE who knew exactly what to do!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:36-41

Bottom Line: God is in control, so I can trust Him.

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 something you can trust God with right now?
- Why do you think Jesus could sleep during a massive storm?
- Mark 4:41 says this about the disciples, “*They were terrified. They asked each other, ‘Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him!’*” The disciples saw Jesus calm the storm. What did they learn about Jesus?
- Sometimes God stops hard things. Sometimes He helps us through them. Why might God help us through a hard thing instead of stopping it right away?

Activity Name: Scroll Prayers

What You Need: ☐ Bibles ☐ Scroll activity page ☐ Twine or yarn ☐ Coloring/writing supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Scroll” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that they will create a message that will include a prayer for someone else in the room. It can also include words of encouragement. Tell them that they will not know who gets their message, so they can ask the Holy Spirit to help them with the words that they will write in their message.
- Guide kids to write a prayer on the scroll for another kid in their Small Group. They can also add words of encouragement if they would like. Encourage kids to ask you for help if they get stuck. Kids can also add drawings if they prefer.
- Instruct kids to roll up their scrolls tightly and tie with a piece of twine/yarn.
- Ask kids to place their scrolls in the center of the Small Group area.

What You Say:

We’ve talked a lot today about how God is always with us to help us in times of need and trouble. One of the ways that God might help you in a time of need is to guide another believer to come alongside you and encourage or pray for you. God will also use you to be an encouragement and support for someone else who is going through a difficult time. This is why the church is so important. God doesn’t just promise to be with us; He gives us a whole family who is there to celebrate the good times and encourage us through the hard times. You are going to have an opportunity to pray and encourage someone in this Small Group by making a message in a bottle.

Each of you will receive a message in a bottle to take home with you today. When you get home, open up the message, which should have a prayer for you. Read the prayer and receive the words that are there for you. When storms come into your life, you can remember **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him.** You can also remember that you have friends here who are rooting for you and praying for you. Let me pray for you right now.

(Optional: Ask kids to share any tough stuff that they have in their life right now and pray specifically for those needs.)

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.