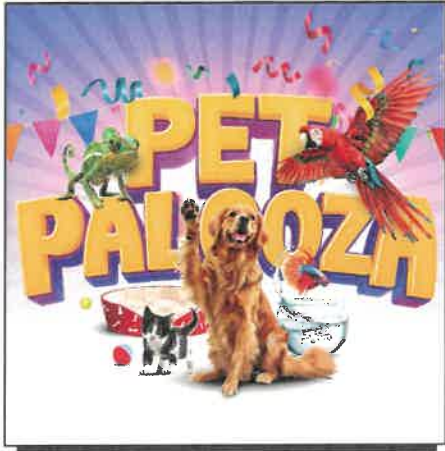


K-1



JESUS HEALS THE BLIND

BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 10:46–52

FOCUS VERSES: Psalm 66:19–20; Jeremiah 33:3; James 5:16

Summary: Jesus and His disciples were near Jericho when they encountered a blind beggar named Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus heard Jesus passing by and called out for mercy, recognizing Him as the Messiah. Despite being told to be quiet, Bartimaeus persisted, and Jesus stopped. Jesus asked what Bartimaeus wanted. Bartimaeus replied he wanted to see. Jesus commended the man’s faith and restored his sight. Bartimaeus followed Jesus, praising God.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

*Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you.*

(1 PETER 5:7, NIV)

BRITE  *Idea*

**Jesus hears us and
cares.**



HE

WE

ME

WHAT CAN WE ASK JESUS?
Jesus cares about us and our struggles, and we can call out to Him about anything at any time.

DOES JESUS ALWAYS ANSWER US?
Jesus always hears and always answers, but that doesn’t mean He always does what we ask. His answer may be “no” or “not yet.”

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: ALLERGIES

↳ Allergies are prevalent in our society and can even be life-threatening.

- **Post an alert.** Let parents know anytime you serve any food. Post a sign in an obvious place and/or communicate with parents as they drop off.
- **Limit what you have available.** Consider snacks that are low-risk for allergens, and never offer something with nuts or peanut butter. You may even consider eliminating snacks if allergies are prevalent in your church community.
- **Help families feel comfortable.** Parents with kids who have severe allergies live on edge, often fearful of what could happen. Communicate well with parents and guardians so you know how to protect kids and how to respond if something happens.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DOES PRAYER WORK?

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Anxiety: being worried about the future and about bad things that could happen

One-third of young adults, ages 18-29, report they seldom pray.* Prayer is not an assumed part of today's culture, either publicly or privately. In today's lesson, kids will learn that God hears us and cares about us. You may have kids in your group who have prayed for really big things, such as the healing of a family member, and they didn't see God answer like they wanted. This situation can cause a crisis of faith, even in younger kids. When you take prayer requests in your group, also follow up on previous ones. Celebrate when you can identify an answered prayer, no matter how small. Share stories from your own life about how you've seen God answer prayer. Also share about times when God didn't answer like you had hoped. Demonstrating authenticity as a loving, caring adult is powerful.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
<https://pin.it/5w4rEHrq2>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

WITH MY EYES CLOSED!

SUPPLIES: Blindfolds (1 per kid), jacket with a zipper, paper (1 per kid), writing utensils, shirt with buttons

OR

NOT LIKE THE OTHERS

SUPPLIES: Several soft objects (e.g: cotton balls, stuffed animal, pom-pom, blanket, etc.), sandpaper (or other rough object), blindfolds (1 per kid)

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

HE CARES FOR YOU

SUPPLIES: Bibles

OR

PET PUZZLES

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors, gallon zipper bags (1 per 3 kids)

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

HUMAN, MAY I?

SUPPLIES: Bible

OR

PRAYER PALS

SUPPLIES: Bible, stuffed animals (1 per kid), paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies, soft worship music, music player

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



HE CARES FOR YOU

SUPPLIES:

Bibles

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Have cards with the phrases of the verse on them to add a visual element to engage active learners.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lead kids to find 1 Peter 5:7 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.
2. **Discuss:** Does anyone know what anxiety means?
3. **Say:** Anxiety is being worried about bad things that could happen now or in the future.
4. **Discuss:** Do you ever worry about the future? What sorts of things might kids your age worry about?
5. *Share an age-appropriate example of an anxiety you have had.*
6. **Discuss:** What was Bartimaeus worried about?
7. **Discuss:** How did Jesus show Bartimaeus that He cared about him?
8. **Say:** Bartimaeus called out his worries to Jesus. Jesus heard him and healed him!
9. *Repeat one phrase of the memory verse at a time in a silly voice and have the kids repeat it back to you.*
10. **Discuss:** What does this Bible verse tell us about how Jesus feels about us?
11. **Discuss:** What does this Bible verse tell us we can talk to Jesus about?
12. **Say:** Jesus cares about us and our struggles, and we can call out to Him about anything at any time.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Just as Bartimaeus called out to Jesus for healing and we called out our verse to each other, the Bible tells us we should call out to Jesus with anything at any time. Jesus hears us and cares for us!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us that God is our Rescuer?

Say: Bartimaeus' life changed when he met Jesus on that road. Jesus rescued Bartimaeus, and He rescues us. We are blinded by sin, and our only hope is a Savior. Jesus is our Rescuer!

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . PRAYER? DOES IT WORK?

Discuss: How would you explain what prayer is?

Discuss: What would you say if someone said prayer doesn't really work?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: Hebrews 4:16 says: *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Prayer is talking to God. We can seek what we need and want from Him. That doesn't mean He will always answer just like we want Him to. He knows what is best for us, and He has a perfect plan that we may not understand. Just because God doesn't do what we ask, that doesn't mean prayer doesn't work. It just means He has a greater plan.



PRAYER PALS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, stuffed animals (1 per kid), paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies, soft worship music, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Consider purchasing inexpensive stuffed animals that kids can take home as a prayer pal and reminder to talk to God about anything, anytime, anywhere!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Have you ever struggled to tell God something?
2. *Share an age-appropriate example of a time that was hard for you to pray about.*
3. **Read:** Psalm 66:19-20.
4. **Say:** God listens to our prayers! He hears us and loves us.
5. **Say:** God wants us to talk to Him. No matter what we are feeling, God wants to hear about it because He loves us. We can talk to God about anything, anytime, anywhere!
6. **Say:** To help you remember this truth about God, you are going to pick out a “prayer pal” stuffed animal to pray with right now. When you look at your stuffed animal, it should remind you to pray and talk to God about anything, anytime, anywhere. Let’s practice praying with our prayer pals today!
7. *Have kids choose a stuffed animal and find a quiet spot to color and pray.*
8. **Say:** This is a quiet prayer time for you to color and write or draw what you are thinking about and share your thoughts with God. Remember, you can talk to God about anything! He likes to hear your worries, fears, wonders and joys.
9. **Discuss:** What is something that you want to ask God?
10. **Discuss:** What do you want to share with God about what you’re feeling?
11. *Pass out supplies and give kids time to color and pray with their stuffed animals. Play soft worship music as kids reflect.*
12. **Discuss:** How would our Bible story about Bartimaeus have been different if Bartimaeus hadn’t asked Jesus for his sight?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Prayer is our way to talk to God and hear from Him. The Bible tells us we can tell God anything at any time. Jesus always hears and always answers, but that doesn’t mean He always does what we ask.



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Say: We are going to take a few minutes to think about what we have learned today about Jesus. God wants us to love Him even more as we learn more about who He is.

Pass out the Take-Home page. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to "What does God want me to know about Him?"

SUPPLIES:
Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:
Print the printable page (1 per kid).

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE.

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.



PRAYER

Dear God, thank You that we can talk to You about anything, anytime, anywhere! Help us to be patient and trust You even when we might not hear the answer we were hoping for in prayer. Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 10:25–37

FOCUS VERSES: Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:4;
Matthew 25:35–40; 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

Summary: A lawyer asked Jesus what he should do to receive eternal life. Jesus asked him what the law says. The man responded that it says to love the Lord and love his neighbor as himself. Jesus replied that he answered correctly. The man, trying to justify himself, asked: Who is my neighbor? Jesus responded with a parable about a man who was robbed on the road and, after being ignored by a priest and a Levite, was helped by a Samaritan. Jesus shared this parable to make clear that we are called to be neighbors and show mercy to all people, not just those who are like us.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you.*

(1 PETER 5:7, NIV)

BRITE Idea

**Jesus teaches us to care
about others.**

HE

WHY DOES GOD CARE IF WE LOVE OTHERS?

God loves all people. He designed us to show the world His love when we love others.

WE

SHOULD WE HELP OTHER PEOPLE?

Because Jesus helps us, we can help others. We show the love of Jesus when we put others' needs ahead of ourselves, helping however we can.

ME

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: ROUGHHOUSING

Kids will be kids, right? We often say that as kids play around and get physical with each other. However, avoiding horseplay creates a safe environment and prevents unintended injuries and hurt feelings.

- **Be clear about physical boundaries.** Kids should keep their hands and bodies to themselves, including riding on each others' backs, sitting in laps, wrestling and other contact that can escalate.
- **Keep kids busy.** Roughhousing often occurs when kids are bored or have downtime. Keep your plan structured and have ideas to fill in dead time.
- **Be consistent.** It is easier to let some physical behavior slide during high-energy games or when waiting for the next activity. Remember that giving an inch quickly becomes a mile when it comes to behavior and physical contact.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Parable: earthly story with a heavenly meaning

Samaritan: people who were disliked by the Jews because they were part Jewish and part gentile

Anxiety: being worried about bad things that could happen now or in the future

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PUTTING YOURSELF FIRST

A quick Google search will result in hundreds of articles about why it is beneficial to put yourself first above anyone and everything else. While self-care is undoubtedly important, culture is communicating to kids that they should prioritize looking out for themselves. In today's story, kids will learn that Jesus taught that we should prioritize caring for others. Consider looking for opportunities to help your group look outward. Is there a small service project your group could do, even while meeting together? When you hear "me first" lines of thinking, respond gently but push back, asking kids to consider God's viewpoint and what it would be like to put others first.

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

PET CHARADES

SUPPLIES: Printable page, scissors

OR

LET'S GO FOR A WALK!

SUPPLIES: Stuffed animals (1 per kid), yarn, scissors

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

SHOW THEM LOVE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

OR

CARING CANVAS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, butcher paper, scissors, coloring supplies, soft worship music, music player

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

AFTER YOU

SUPPLIES: Bible

OR

HEALING HEARTS

SUPPLIES: Red construction paper, scissors, self-adhesive bandages (1 per kid), writing utensil

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



SHOW THEM LOVE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. Tape the pet pictures in the correct verse order on the wall or floor of your space.

LEADER TIP:

For groups with more than 12 kids, make two sets of hearts and divide kids into two groups. To minimize wait time, put a loop of tape on the back of each heart before giving them to kids.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Have quiet fidgets for kids who need movement during discussions.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find 1 Peter 5:7 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** Does anyone know what the word "anxiety" means?
3. **Say:** Anxiety is being worried about bad things that could happen now or in the future.
4. **Discuss:** What kinds of anxieties do you think the hurt man had?
5. **Discuss:** What kinds of anxieties do you think the Good Samaritan had?
6. **Discuss:** This verse tells us that God cares about us. What does the Bible tell us about caring for others?
7. *Pass out the hearts everyone. Kids will match their hearts to the pets on the wall.*
8. *Once kids have found their match, tape the heart on the pet page.*
9. *Read the verse aloud together. Repeat one phrase at a time to help non-readers.*
10. **Discuss:** How did the Good Samaritan show love to the hurt man?
11. **Discuss:** Why does God care if we love others?
12. **Say:** God loves all people. He designed us to show the world His love when we love others.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

People passed by the man who was hurt and did not help him. They did not show him love. The Samaritan showed the man love and took care of his needs! This week let's be like the Samaritan and show love to others.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us that God is our Rescuer?

Say: Not only does God rescue us, but He also works through us to rescue others as well. Whether it is helping someone on the side of the road like the Good Samaritan did, or sharing the good news of the Gospel so they can believe in Jesus, we can be a part of God's awesome rescue plan.

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . PUTTING MYSELF FIRST?

Discuss: Can you think of a show or movie where people put themselves ahead of other people?

Discuss: What are some situations when that happens in real life?

Discuss: What does God have to say about this?

Say: Our world tends to be a "me first" place. People say, "Look out for number one," or "You do you." God loves you and wants you to take care of yourself, but He also wants you to care about other people. Philippians 2:4 says: *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* In a world that is focused on selfishness, we can shine the light of Jesus brightly by not caring if we get all the attention, or the first place in line or the first piece of cake. We honor Jesus when we put others first, even if it doesn't make sense to the rest of the world.



HEALING HEARTS

SUPPLIES:

Red construction paper, scissors, self-adhesive bandages (1 per kid), writing utensil

PREP:

Cut the construction paper into heart shapes (1 per 2 kids). Then cut the hearts in half (½ heart per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Think of a time someone helped you. How did that make you feel?
2. **Discuss:** Think of a time you helped someone. How did that make you feel?
3. **Discuss:** How do you think the man on the side of the road in our Bible story felt when the Samaritan helped him?
4. *Ask the kids to give you suggestions on how they can help others and show them love. Write each idea down on ½ of the heart.*
5. *Divide kids into pairs and pass out a ½ heart to everyone.*
6. *Have the kids work together to piece the hearts back together.*
7. *Pass out two bandages to each pair.*
8. **Say:** Let's put the hearts back together by making a cross with your bandages. You will make a cross shape with your bandages over the heart. We are using a cross because the Bible tells us in 1 John 4:19: *We love because He first loved us.* Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
9. **Discuss:** Should we help other people?
10. **Say:** Because Jesus helps us, we can help others. We show the love of Jesus when we put others' needs ahead of ourselves, helping however we can!



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Look for ways to help your friends, neighbors and family members by putting their needs first and helping them however you can.



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Say: We are going to take a few minutes to think about what we have learned today about Jesus. God wants us to love Him even more as we learn more about who He is.

Pass out the Take-Home page. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to "What does God want me to know about Him?"

SUPPLIES:
Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:
Print the printable page (1 per kid).

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE.

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.



PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how we can love others by putting their needs first. Help us to point them toward You with everything we say and do. Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 12:13–21, 32–34

FOCUS VERSES: 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 3:7–8;
Proverbs 3:9

Summary: Jesus often taught using parables to explain truths about God’s kingdom in relatable stories. During one teaching, someone asked Jesus to settle a family inheritance dispute. Jesus warned against greed and told a parable about a rich man with surplus crops. The man decided to build bigger barns to store his excess, planning a life of ease.

But God called him a fool, saying his life would end that night. Jesus emphasized the importance of being rich toward God, not just accumulating earthly possessions. He urged people to prioritize heavenly treasures and generosity toward the needy, teaching that one’s heart follows where their treasure is stored.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

*Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you.*

(1 PETER 5:7, NIV)

BRITE  **Idea**

**Jesus cares about
our priorities.**

HE

WHY DOES JESUS CARE ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES?

Jesus knows what is best for us and teaches us the best way to live. Jesus knows we will never find true happiness or fulfillment in earthly things. True joy is found in Christ alone.

WE

HOW CAN WE HONOR GOD WITH OUR STUFF?

When we recognize everything comes from God and His kingdom is most important, we can live generously toward others. We can focus on things that have eternal value. We can love Him more than any material things.

ME

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BULLYING

Bullying is a commonly used term, and it can be hard to identify. Bullying can be defined as intentional, repeated, targeted behavior. Unfortunately, churches are not immune to bullying behavior.

- **Have a zero-tolerance policy.** We want kids to feel safe at church! Keep your group dynamics positive by shutting down any teasing or meanness, even if you think it is innocent.
- **Watch for repeated teasing.** Kids will pick on other kids. Keep an eye out for anyone who might be a target for being picked on and don't be afraid to intercede.
- **Don't blow off a kid's concerns.** If a kid expresses concern, listen and address it immediately. If you discover a larger problem, pull in your ministry leaders and even the parents to be a part of the conversation.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Treasure: something that is highly valued, precious

Greed: selfish focus on having more of something like money

Anxiety: being worried about the future and about bad things that could happen

A 2023 survey by Lifeway Research reveals that 45 percent of believers feel they must do things for God to be financially blessed by Him.* This idea, as well as other opinions expressed in the survey, indicates an increase in beliefs aligned with the prosperity gospel, a teaching that focuses on God blessing believers financially as a result of their faith and good works. While God blesses us in many ways, that does not mean He will always give us abundant financial resources. Proverbs 22:2 says, "The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all." The prosperity gospel ignores Jesus' teachings about suffering and minimizes the faith of millions of believers all over the world who live in poverty. Kids in your group may be confused about God's blessing. He does promise to bless generosity, but that doesn't mean He will make us rich. Listen for kids' misconceptions and point them to God's truth.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
<https://pin.it/55WeuhuDV>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

DIG FOR TREASURE

SUPPLIES: Storage bin, pennies (1 per kid), spoon, 5-pound bag of rice

OR

TRASH OR TREASURE

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

TREASURE HUNT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, 12 sticky notes, writing utensil

OR

MY GREATEST TREASURE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable page, coloring supplies, jewel stickers (several per kid)

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

I LOVE HIM MORE THAN...

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies, brown paper (1 per kid), glue sticks (1 per kid), scissors

OR

FOREVER OR FOR NOW?

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors, 2 sticky notes, writing utensil

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



TREASURE HUNT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, 12 sticky notes, writing utensil

PREP:

Write 1 Peter 5:7 in order on the sticky notes.

There should be one word per sticky note.

Number the sticky notes 1-12 in verse order.

Hide the sticky notes throughout your space.

LEADER TIP:

You could also write the memory verse words on shiny paper and cut them in the shape of gold coins or gems.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Allow kids who are not able to participate in the physical challenges to call the clues out to the group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find 1 Peter 5:7 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about how God feels about us?
3. **Discuss:** If God cares for us—does that mean He cares about everything about us?
4. *Gather all the kids together.*
5. *Give kids treasure hunt style clues to find the sticky notes. E.g.—take 5 steps towards the door, take 3 giant steps towards the window, etc.*
6. *When all the sticky notes are found, give kids time to work together to put the verse in order.*
7. *Read the verse together. Repeat the verse one phrase at a time to assist non-readers.*
8. **Discuss:** What do you think the rich man in the story treasured most?
9. **Discuss:** What does God want us to treasure most?
10. **Say:** What you treasure most is your top priority. What you treasure least is your lowest priority.
11. **Discuss:** Why does God care about our priorities?
12. **Say:** Jesus knows what is best for us and teaches us the best way to live. Jesus knows we will never find true happiness or fulfillment in earthly things. True joy is found in Christ alone!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Because Jesus cares so much about us, we need to trust that HE is where we will find our true joy and happiness.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us that God is our Rescuer?

Say: Many people depend on money and things to give them safety and security. But money is not very dependable. It can be lost or stolen, and even if we have plenty, it doesn't help us at all when our life on earth is done. Jesus should be our only true treasure because He provides a way for us to have eternal life. He rescues us from our sin!

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . PROSPERITY GOSPEL?

Discuss: Does God make us rich because we believe in Him? Why or why not?

Discuss: What would you say if someone told you that God will make you rich if you give to Him?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about this?

Say: God loves us and blesses us in so many ways. However, God never promises that He will make us rich. In fact, there are faithful believers all over the world who live in terrible poverty. That doesn't mean that they don't love God enough. God cares more about our hearts than our wallets. Sometimes He does bless us with money, but it is never a guarantee. He is not a magic genie who grants our wishes. He is the God of the universe who owns everything. He entrusts us with money and belongings to manage them well for Him and to serve others. God calls us to work hard (Proverbs 10:4-5). He calls us to honor Him with whatever wealth we have (Proverbs 3:9) and to be generous to those in need (Proverbs 28:27).



FOREVER OR FOR NOW?

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, scissors, 2 sticky notes, writing utensil

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. Make a stack of the cards. On one sticky note, write "Forever" and on the other write "For Now."

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What is something you think will last a very long time?
2. **Say:** When we recognize everything comes from God and His Kingdom is most important, we can live generously toward others! We can focus on things that have eternal value. We can love Him more than any material things.
3. **Say:** We will look at a group of pictures and decide whether or not these are "forever" things (things that are eternal) or "for now" things (things that are earthly).
4. *Let each kid choose a card from the stack.*
5. *Have them look at the card and decide whether it is depicting something that will last forever (eternal things) or is for now (earthly things).*
6. *Kids will put the card under the corresponding sticky note.*
7. **Discuss:** If God and His Kingdom are the only things that are forever or eternal things, how should that affect what matters most to us?
8. **Discuss:** Did the rich man from the Bible story build bigger barns for "forever" things (eternal things) or "for now" things (earthly things)?
9. **Discuss:** How can we honor God with our stuff, or the things in the "for now" group?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Earthly things are a blessing, but it is important to remember that they will not last forever. God and His Kingdom will last forever. While we are on earth, we can live generously with the earthly things God has blessed us with.



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Say: We are going to take a few minutes to think about what we have learned today about Jesus. God wants us to love Him even more as we learn more about who He is.

Pass out the Take-Home page. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to "What does God want me to know about Him?"

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE.

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

SUPPLIES:
Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:
Print the printable page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for blessing us with so many things to enjoy. Help us focus on You and Your Kingdom and be generous with our earthly treasures. Amen.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



JESUS WELCOMES ALL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 18:15-17; 19:1-10

FOCUS VERSES: John 13:34; Galatians 3:28; Romans 15:7

Summary: Jesus was traveling when crowds gathered to hear Him. The disciples tried to stop children from reaching Jesus. Jesus rebuked the disciples, welcomed the children and blessed them. Later He encountered Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector who climbed a tree to see Him. Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus' home. Zacchaeus listened to Jesus and believed in Him. He pledged to give to the poor and repay those he wronged. Jesus welcomes everyone.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

*Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you.*

(1 PETER 5:7, NIV)

BRITE  *Idea*

Jesus cares for everyone.

HE

WHY DOES JESUS CARE ABOUT PEOPLE?

Jesus is love and loves all people deeply. People are created by God and every person is made in His image.

WE

WHO IS IMPORTANT TO JESUS?

Every single person, no matter their age, status, or background, is precious to Jesus. He loves and welcomes everyone.

ME

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service





Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: MISSING KID

Have you ever had that heart-stopping moment of realizing you don't know where one of the kids in your group is? Sometimes kids end up in the wrong place, intentionally or unintentionally.

- **Be aware of how many kids are in your group at all times.** Count before and after every transition. Don't let any kid go anywhere unaccompanied.
- **Don't panic.** Kids are usually just misplaced, not missing. Calmly follow next steps without upsetting the other kids in the group. Check other groups, bathrooms and other common areas.
- **Get help.** Immediately let a leader know if you cannot find a kid. Keep all other kids in place and follow your church's procedures for what happens next. If your church does not have a procedure, talk to your kids ministry leader and request one.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Anxiety: being worried about the future and about bad things that could happen

Both research and basic human experience show us that people tend to gravitate to others who are similar.* Kids naturally do this as well. The downside comes when kids exclude, or even fear, people who are different from them. This can show up in racial differences, socioeconomic differences, and differences of ability, such as kids with special needs. You must demonstrate in your group that everyone is welcome. Watch out for your own biases, being cautious not to show preferences to some kids over others. This can be challenging, especially when you have challenging kids in your group. In today's story, kids will learn that Jesus welcomed all people. Help make your group a place that models Jesus' acceptance of all kids.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
<https://pin.it/44by9ZKZn>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

MEMORY MATCH

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors

WELCOME MAT

OR

SUPPLIES: Poster board, coloring supplies, painter's tape

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

CATCH THE PET

SUPPLIES: Bibles, stuffed animals (1 per 2 kids)

COFFEE FILTER WORLD

OR

SUPPLIES: Bibles, coffee filters (1 per kid), blue and green markers, brown paper, glue sticks (1 per kid), tablecloth

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

IMPORTANT PORTRAITS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies, soft worship music, music player

SHOW ME THE LOVE

OR

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, scissors

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



CATCH THE PET

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, stuffed animals (1 per 2 kids)

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find 1 Peter 5:7 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** Our memory verse tells us that Jesus cares for us. Who did Jesus care about in our Bible story today?
3. **Discuss:** How did Jesus show He cared about kids and Zacchaeus?
4. *Divide kids into pairs and give each pair a stuffed animal.*
5. *Have the partners stand an arm's length away from each other, facing each other.*
6. **Say:** I will say our memory verse one word at a time. You will repeat it after me and then toss the stuffed animal to your partner.
7. *Say the memory verse to the kids one word at a time (then two words, three words, etc.) until kids are repeating the entire verse back to you.*
8. *If space allows, kids can step farther apart each time they say the verse and continue tossing the stuffed animal back and forth.*
9. **Discuss:** How does it make you feel to know that Jesus cares about you?
10. **Discuss:** Why does Jesus care about people?
11. **Say:** Jesus is love and loves all people deeply. People are created by God, and every person is made in His image.


ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Because Jesus loves you so much, you can trust Him with all your worries and fears. You can tell everyone you know that Jesus loves them and cares for them, too!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us that God is our Rescuer?

Say: God loves all people, and He rescues all who trust in Him. Whoever believes in Jesus, repents of their sins and trusts in Him as Savior can be rescued from sin. God rescues us out of His grace and love, not because of anything we do or don't do.

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT?

Discuss: What are some ways that other people might be different from us?

Discuss: Have you ever seen someone be treated differently because they were different? What was that like?

Discuss: What does God have to say about this?

Say: Our world can be very divided. People tend to like others who look like them, think like them and talk like them. Sometimes differences make us uncomfortable. Sometimes we may decide we don't like someone because they look, act or dress differently than we do. God loves everyone, and every person is made in His image. That makes every person important, even if they are different from us. God created a huge variety of people—different races, cultures, languages, interests, abilities and so much more. And He loves each unique person. In John 13:34, Jesus says: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."* Jesus loved and welcomed everyone. We can follow His example and show His love to every person, even if they are different from us.



SHOW ME THE LOVE

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable page, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable page and cut out.
Stack the cards to form a deck.

LEADER TIP:

There are six scenarios that can be acted out. You can also divide kids into larger groups and assign them multiple scenarios.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Make sure to mix up outgoing and shy kids among the groups. Allow kids who get anxious performing in front of groups to be “director.”

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Have you ever experienced a time when it was difficult to show love to someone? What made it difficult?
2. **Discuss:** Do you think people found Zacchaeus difficult to love? Why or why not?
3. **Read:** Romans 15:7.
4. **Discuss:** According to this verse, how should we treat each other?
5. *Divide kids into six groups and give each group a card. Try to pair older kids who can read with younger kids.*
6. *Give kids time to come up with a short skit showing how they could respond as loving, resilient disciples of Jesus.*
7. *Help kids work on their skits, as needed.*
8. *Read each group’s skit card and have the group perform their skit.*
9. **Discuss:** Did any of these situations sound like something you’ve experienced before? If so, did you respond the same way as the characters in the skit?
10. **Discuss:** Do you think Jesus loves all the people who were represented in the skits? Why or why not?
11. **Discuss:** Who is important to Jesus?
12. **Say:** Every single person—no matter their age, status or background—is precious to Jesus. He loves and welcomes everyone.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

This week when you are at home, at school or in your neighborhood, remember that every person is important to Jesus. Even if they seem difficult to love, they are loved by God. Challenge yourself to show God’s love to even the difficult people in your life.



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Say: We are going to take a few minutes to think about what we have learned today about Jesus. God wants us to love Him even more as we learn more about who He is.

Pass out the Take-Home page. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to "What does God want me to know about Him?"

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE.

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for caring about me deeply and showing me that I am important to You and Your Kingdom. Help me to love others like You do and show them that they are important. Amen.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



THE LAST SUPPER

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:1-5, 20-35

FOCUS VERSES: Hebrews 10:10; John 3:16; Isaiah 53:5

Summary: The religious leaders schemed against Jesus, plotting to get rid of Him. During the Passover meal, Jesus revealed that one of His disciples would betray Him. Judas asked if he was the betrayer, and Jesus agreed. Jesus talked about His coming sacrifice using bread and wine, symbolizing His body and blood. They sang before heading to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus predicted the disciples would desert Him. Peter promised He never would, but Jesus said Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you.*

(1 PETER 5:7, NIV)

BRITE Idea

**Jesus chose to be
our sacrifice.**

HE

HOW IS JESUS OUR SACRIFICE?

Jesus never sinned, but He chose to take the punishment for our sin in our place. Because of His great love for us, He died in our place so that we could be forgiven.

WE

WHY DID WE NEED A SACRIFICE?

We all sin. Sin is so bad the only true punishment for it is death. We deserve to die for our sins. To be rescued, we needed someone to die in our place to take the punishment we deserved.

ME

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service





Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: CHOKING HAZARDS

No one wants to think about a kid choking, but the danger is real! We can keep our environments safe by being proactive and removing choking hazards.

- **Preschool.** The general rule for this group is that anything that will fit through a toilet paper tube can be a potential choking hazard. Keep this in mind when selecting art supplies, candy and snacks. Snacks such as crackers and cereal should dissolve easily.
- **Younger Elementary.** While 5- to 8-year-olds will not be quite as likely as preschoolers to put things in their mouths, you may be surprised. Keep a watchful eye when using craft supplies such as beads or buttons. Also, avoid treats such as hard candy.
- **Older Elementary.** Keep kids seated when they have food and don't let them run with objects or candy in their mouths.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: BETRAYAL

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Passover: a celebration to remember when God saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt

Anxiety: being worried about the future and about bad things that could happen

Research on bullying indicates that kids are more likely to be treated aggressively by friends or friends of friends than people they do not know.* Many kids in your group have likely experienced betrayal on some level, whether it is friends who turn against them or a family member who has broken their trust. In today's lesson, kids will learn how Jesus was betrayed by one of His very closest friends. Betrayal is painful at any age, but in young kids it can create defensiveness and even jadedness. If you have kids in your group who seem to be difficult to connect with, be aware they have been hurt in the past and are hesitant to connect. Communicate to every kid that your group is a safe place where they can trust each other. Build trust by reminding kids to treat each other kindly inside and outside of the group and to keep prayer requests and discussion topics private.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
<https://pin.it/68hRUndmh>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

PASS THE PUPPY

SUPPLIES: Stuffed animal puppy, upbeat worship music, music player

OR

HOPSCOTCH

SUPPLIES: Painter's tape, small stuffed animal

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

STICK IT RELAY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, heart stickers (1 per kid), butcher paper, scissors, permanent marker

OR

CROSS COLOR BY NUMBER

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, coloring supplies

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

WASH MY SINS AWAY

SUPPLIES: Washable markers, paper towels, scissors, plastic bin, water

OR

SALVATION BRACELETS

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, pipe cleaners (1 per kid), pony beads (gray, red, clear, green, gold; 1 color each per kid), scissors, 5 bowls

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



STICK IT RELAY

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, heart stickers (1 per kid), butcher paper, scissors, permanent marker

PREP:

Cut a piece of butcher paper and draw a large cross on it. Write out 1 Peter 5:7 in large letters above the cross. Place it on one end of your space.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Relays can be highly stimulating; have the group take a few deep breaths together before reciting the verse to get ready for discussions.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find 1 Peter 5:7 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did Jesus show that He cares for us in our Bible story?
3. *Show kids the cross and pass out heart stickers.*
4. *Have kids form a single-file line on the side of your space opposite from the cross.*
5. **Say:** You will race to get all the heart stickers on the cross as you practice your memory verse. Only one player can move at a time. After you put your heart sticker on the cross, come back so the next person can have a turn.
6. *Say the first word from the memory verse. Have all the kids repeat after you. Then the first player will run to place their heart sticker on the cross and go to the back of the line.*
7. *Then say the first two words from the memory verse. Have all the kids repeat after you. After this, the second player will run to place their heart sticker on the cross.*
8. *Repeat until the verse has been completely repeated and all kids have had a turn.*
9. *Say the verse together.*
10. **Discuss:** What is a sacrifice?
11. **Say:** A sacrifice is when you give up something very important for someone else.
12. **Discuss:** How is Jesus our sacrifice?
13. **Say:** Jesus never sinned, but He chose to take the punishment for our sin. Because of His great love for us, He died in our place so that we could be forgiven.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Jesus chose to die on the cross for our sins. He cares for us so much, He was willing to die in our place and take the punishment for our sins. Next time you hear that Jesus loves you, think about the cross and remember just how big that love is!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us that God is our Rescuer?

Say: Jesus shared God's ultimate plan with the disciples. He would be crucified. His body would be broken and His blood would be shed. But He also shared why — it was for them! Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. He died on the cross even though He did nothing wrong. He is our Rescuer.

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . BETRAYAL?

Discuss: What does it mean to be betrayed by someone?

Discuss: Can you think of an example of a betrayal, either from real life or from a movie or show?

Discuss: What does God have to say about this?

Say: When someone betrays us, they let us down by doing something harmful to us, such as telling a lie or breaking our trust in a big way. It hurts badly when that happens. It can make it really hard to trust the other person. Jesus knows what it is like to be betrayed by people close to Him. He knows how much it hurts when we're betrayed and how alone it might make us feel. We can also trust that God will never betray us. People will hurt us, but God never fails. We can trust that His love never changes and He will never trick us or do something behind our backs. We can talk to Him about the hurt we have experienced and ask for His help to forgive and to know how to trust other people. Deuteronomy 31:8 says: *It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.*



SALVATION BRACELETS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable pages, pipe cleaners (1 per kid), pony beads (gray, red, clear, green, gold; 1 color each per kid), scissors, 5 bowls

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per kid). Separate the beads by color into bowls.

LEADER TIP:

Make a hook on one end of each pipe cleaner to prevent the beads from falling off.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's make a craft to help us remember Jesus' sacrifice for us!
2. **Discuss:** Is it possible for humans to never sin? How do you know?
3. **Say:** Ever since sin entered our world, every person has been born with sin.
4. *Pass out the pipe cleaners and explain what each bead represents by using the printable page.*
5. *As you discuss each bead, kids will add that color to their bracelets.*
6. *Once complete, help kids tie their pipe cleaners to the appropriate length and cut off any excess.*
7. **Read:** John 3:16.
8. **Say:** Always remember that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. We can trust in Jesus and live with God forever.
9. *Give everyone a card with the bead color explanations to take home.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

When you look at your bracelet, practice explaining what each of the bead colors mean. Thank Jesus this week for loving you so much that He died for all your sins!




WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Say: We are going to take a few minutes to think about what we have learned today about Jesus. God wants us to love Him even more as we learn more about who He is.

Pass out the Take-Home page. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to "What does God want me to know about Him?"

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE.

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

SUPPLIES:
Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:
Print the printable page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us so much that You died in our place as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. Help us to live more like You each day! Amen.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room