

Gr 3-5

Gr 4-5

brite*
OLDER
SMALL GROUP

Elementary

APRIL 6



PETER'S DENIAL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:36–75, Luke 22:54–62

FOCUS VERSES: Romans 3:23; 1 John 4:19;
Romans 8:38–39; John 10:28

Summary: After sharing the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus prayed in a garden and asked God to spare Him from suffering but submitted to God's will. He returned and found His disciples asleep. He urged them to pray. Judas arrived with soldiers, and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest. Peter followed but denied knowing Jesus three times when

questioned by bystanders. When the rooster crowed, Peter was reminded of Jesus' prediction that he would deny Him. Peter left and wept.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

*For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only Son, that whoever
believes in Him should not perish but
have eternal life.*

(JOHN 3:16)

BRITE  *Idea*

**Jesus loves us no
matter what.**

HE

WE

ME

WHAT IS JESUS' LOVE LIKE?

Jesus loves unconditionally.

He loved us before we loved Him, and nothing will separate us from that love.

He also loves sacrificially, giving His own life to rescue us from sin.

CAN OUR SIN MAKE JESUS STOP LOVING US?

No. Even though we all sin, He will never stop loving us.

We didn't do anything to make Jesus love us, and we can't do anything that will make Him stop.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

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

brite*

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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: POWER OF YES



It's so easy to respond to a request with a quick and easy "no." Think of times you've been told no. Typically the "no" ends conversation. Consider how you might respond affirmatively to requests and keep the conversation going.

- **Reframe no:** When a kid asks for a snack before it's snack time, instead of responding with no, try "yes we'll have a snack after large group." If they ask for their parent, say "your parent will be back as soon as we finish with our small group."
- **Practice:** Think of times when you've responded no to a kid. How might you instead reframe your response to answer positively. Practice those responses. This communicates to kids that we understand their needs.
- **Look for opportunities to say yes:** Before declining a request from a kid consider how you might honor it. Sometimes it's just not possible, but other times by being flexible and saying yes we build connections with kids.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

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

Unconditional Love: love that never changes and always stays the same

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: BROKEN FRIENDSHIPS

Less than 10 percent of kids who are best friends in first grade will still be that close by the time they are in sixth grade. * Some friendships end naturally, but some also end in disagreements or hurtful situations. In today's lesson, kids will learn about how Jesus was hurt by His friends, and many kids may be able to identify with how that feels. Give kids space to talk about these situations while encouraging them to honor and not gossip about others. When you have friends in your group who aren't getting along, help coach them through healthy ways to navigate the situation, such as talking it out with each other, not involving other kids, and remaining kind even if they choose not to be close.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
<https://pin.it/4ovQBYupV>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

CROWING AND ROOSTERS

SUPPLIES: None

OR

NO MATTER WHAT!

SUPPLIES: Painter's tape

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

MUSICAL VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable page, 3 different colors of sticky note pads, bowl, painter's tape, soft worship music, music player, chairs (1 per kid)

OR

LOVE LIKE JESUS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors

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

THROWING LOVE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, medium sized box, painters tape, 3 small balls, small prizes (1 per kid)

OR

JESUS LOVES ME WHEN I...

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, heart stickers (8 per kid), coloring supplies

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing utensils



MUSICAL VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, printable page, 3 different colors of sticky note pads, bowl, painter's tape, soft worship music, music player, chairs (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the printable page and tape it to a wall. Place one sticky note under each chair, alternating colors with each chair. Crumple up one sticky note from each color and place it in the bowl.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. *Read the verse aloud together again pointing to each word on the printable.*
3. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us that God did because of His love?
4. **Discuss:** What happens when we die if we believe in Jesus?
5. **Say:** Let's play a game to help us learn our verse!
6. *Have kids arrange the chairs into a circle.*
7. **Say:** I will play music and you will walk around the inside of the circle. When the music stops, quickly take a seat. I will pick a sticky note out of this bowl, and everyone who is sitting in a chair with that color sticky note will recite the verse. Your sticky notes will be under your chairs.
8. *Recite the verse together.*
9. *Start the music and play the game!*
10. *Play until each color group has had at least one chance to recite the verse.*
11. *Lead kids to find Romans 8:38–39 in their Bible. Read verse aloud together.*
12. **Discuss:** What is Jesus' love like?
13. **Say:** Jesus loves unconditionally. He loved us before we loved Him, and nothing will separate us from that love. He also loves sacrificially, giving His own life to rescue us from sin.
14. **Discuss:** How did Jesus show Peter love in our story?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Jesus loves us no matter what! Jesus never gave up on Peter. Not a single thing will ever separate us from His unconditional and sacrificial love!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Why do you think Peter was afraid to admit he knew Jesus?

Say: It is easy to say you're not afraid, but it is challenging to act bravely. Peter boasted he would be brave for Jesus. However, Peter was afraid when the leader brought Jesus before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish court. The Sanhedrin were a group of 71 Jewish religious rulers, and Caiaphas was the most important. Historical records show that he ruled for 18 years and had the final authority in Jerusalem. Caiaphas wanted power and threatened harm to Jesus' followers. Even though Peter talked bravely, he denied Jesus when questioned. Peter forgot that Jesus loved him and was more powerful than any Jewish ruler.

Read John 13:34 directly from the Bible: *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.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . BROKEN FRIENDSHIPS?

Discuss: Have you ever had a friendship change or end? What was that like?

Discuss: Why does it hurt so much when people aren't our friends anymore?

Discuss: What does God have to say about this?

Say: Friends are a special gift from God and they are so much fun. But most of us have experienced a time when a friendship has changed. Maybe there was an argument or you just grew apart. It can really hurt when friendships are different. Romans 12:18 says: *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* When we have a problem with a friend, we should talk to them directly and try to work it out. If we talk to a lot of other people first and get them involved, it is usually harder to make things better. If the problems can't be solved, we can choose to still be kind, even if we aren't close, and we can speak kindly about the other person. Most of all, we can know that God is always there for us. Jesus loves us no matter what and that is a friendship that will never end.



JESUS LOVES ME WHEN I...

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable page, heart stickers (8 per kid), coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Pass out the printable page and heart stickers to each kid.*
2. **Say:** Jesus loves us no matter what! Let's spend a few minutes thinking about when He loves us. Your page has several pictures of situations kids might be in. Place a heart sticker on every picture that shows a time that Jesus loves that kid.
3. *Allow kids time to place their stickers.*
4. **Discuss:** Which scenes have heart stickers on them?
5. **Discuss:** Would it be possible to think of a situation that we wouldn't put a sticker on? Why not?
6. **Discuss:** Do you ever think you could do something so bad that Jesus couldn't love you? Why or why not?
7. **Read:** Romans 8:38–39 and 1 John 4:19.
8. **Discuss:** Can our sin make Jesus stop loving us?
9. **Say:** No. Even though we all sin, He will never stop loving us. Jesus loves us unconditionally. That means His love never changes and always stays the same.
10. **Discuss:** Did Peter's denial make Jesus stop loving him?
11. **Discuss:** How can we be sure that Jesus loves us no matter what?
12. *Lead kids to draw their own scene of when Jesus loves them in the last box. Allow kids to share their scenes and then add a heart sticker to them.*
13. *Lead kids in a "popcorn prayer" where they take turns saying, "Thank You Jesus for loving me when _____."*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Jesus loves us no matter what. He loved us first, and because of His perfect love, we can love others. This week, thank Jesus for His love and show His love to the people you come across.



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

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 this mean for my life?"

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, writing utensils

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for loving us no matter what. Help us to be quick to ask for forgiveness and quick to remember what You accomplished on the cross because of Your great love for us. 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 PUT ON TRIAL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 27:1–2, 11–26

FOCUS VERSES: 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18;
1 Peter 2:24

Summary: After Jesus was arrested, He was brought before Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus was interrogated by religious leaders. Pilate was amazed by Jesus and wanted Him to be set free. He appealed to the people to have Jesus released. The crowd chose a murderous prisoner named Barabbas instead and demanded that Jesus be crucified. Even though Jesus had not been found guilty of anything, He was beaten and prepared to go to the cross.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

*For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only Son, that whoever
believes in Him should not perish but
have eternal life.*

(JOHN 3:16)

BRITE  *Idea*

**Jesus loves us so much
He took our place.**

HE

WHY WAS JESUS PUNISHED?

Jesus was perfect and never sinned. However, because He loves us so much, Jesus took our place and took the punishment we deserved for our sin.

WE

WHY IS IT GOOD FOR US THAT JESUS TOOK OUR PLACE?

There is nothing we can do to take care of our sin problem and make right our relationship with God. Because Jesus took our place and took our punishment, we can be forgiven and made right with God so we can live with Him forever.

ME

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

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: CONNECT BEFORE YOU CORRECT

Every interaction is an opportunity for connection. Even as Jesus disciplines us, He desires to connect with us and deepen our relationship with Him. As we correct and coach kids, consider how we might also increase connection through these interactions.

- **Name the feeling.** When you see a behavior that needs correction, first notice what that kid may be feeling. For example if you see a kid with their hands in tight fists and yelling, say “you seem angry. Can you please tell me again what you need in your inside voice.”
- **Identify the desire.** You know this kid likes trucks and he just grabbed one from another kid. You could connect first by saying, “I know you love trucks.” Then move to correction with, “We don’t take toys from our friends. Please return the truck to Layla.”
- **Tell them what to do instead of what not to do:** Rather than tell a kid what not to do—“don’t run”—tell them what you’d like them to do: “Walk to your small group room please.”

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Interrogated: repeatedly asked questions

Punishment: a negative result or consequence for breaking a rule

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DEALING WITH EMOTIONS

WebMD defines emotional dysregulation as “an emotional response that is poorly regulated and does not fall within the traditionally accepted range of emotional reaction.”* Kids’ ministries are experiencing increased numbers of kids who struggle with managing their emotions. Kids’ emotions are running high and they often don’t know what to do about it. In today’s lesson, kids will learn about the emotional crowd that demanded Jesus’ crucifixion, even choosing the release of a criminal. Look for opportunities in your group to talk about

emotions that appear in Bible stories. Identify the feelings experienced and how they impact the story. Help kids understand that God gave us emotions, there is nothing wrong with feeling them, and He can help us learn how to work through them. Encourage kids in growing in the fruit of the Spirit, learning how to exercise peace, patience, self control, etc. When a kid in your group loses control, offer an opportunity for them to take a break, talk or sit in a quiet space. If it happens often, communicate with parents to gain insight on what works best.

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

IF YOU LOVE

SUPPLIES: None

THIS OR THAT

OR

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

TAKING THE PLACE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

OR

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable page, writing utensils

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

WORD PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, red markers (1 per kid), toothpicks (2 per kid), Bible stickers (several per kid), glue sticks (1 per kid)

BITTER TO SWEET

OR

SUPPLIES: Bible, chocolate chips (1 per kid), cocoa powder (1 tsp per kid), napkins, spoon, hand sanitizer

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing utensils



SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, printable page, writing utensils

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Say:** Jesus loves us so much that He took our place!
3. **Discuss:** Did Jesus deserve to be sent to the cross? Why or why not?
4. **Discuss:** Did Barabbas deserve to be sent to the cross? Why or why not?
5. **Discuss:** Why was Jesus punished?
6. **Say:** Jesus was perfect and never sinned. Jesus loves us so much, He took our place and took the punishment we deserved for our sin.
7. *Pass out the printable page and writing utensils.*
8. **Say:** On the page in front of you, there is a secret code you'll need to crack to find the Scriptures that point to God's love for us in taking our place on the cross.
9. *Give kids time to work on cracking the code. Encourage them to work together if needed.*
10. *Once kids have had a chance to crack the code, take turns reading the Scripture references together.*
11. *Ask these discussion questions after the corresponding verse has been read on the printable page:*
 - John 3:16—**Discuss:** Did Jesus take our place willingly or begrudgingly?
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21—**Discuss:** Why did God send His only Son to die?
 - 1 Peter 3:18—**Discuss:** What was the goal in Christ's death on the cross?
 - 1 Peter 2:24—**Discuss:** What does this verse say Jesus did for us?
12. **Discuss:** Which verse was most meaningful to you? Why?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

I cannot think of any better news than Jesus taking our place on the cross and dying for us so that we could live eternally with God! What an amazing truth from our amazing God.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Have you ever seen a court trial in a movie? What was it like?

Say: Jesus had two trials, and neither was fair. The first trial with the Sanhedrin was not legal. It broke Jewish law because it was at night, on a feast day, and held in a house. The second unfair trial was with the Roman leader, Pilate. Historical records report Pilate was a cruel leader. Even though Pilate found Jesus innocent, he had him beaten and sent to death so that he could keep the peace with the Sanhedrin. Jesus never complained or argued that the trials were unfair. Instead, He willingly went to the cross so we don't have to die. That's not fair—just amazing love!

Read Romans 5:8 directly from the Bible: *But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . DEALING WITH EMOTIONS?

Discuss: What are some emotions that kids your age feel?

Discuss: Which emotions do you feel are hardest to control?

Discuss: What does God have to say about this?

Say: It can be really hard to manage emotions. God gave us every feeling that we have and it isn't wrong to be happy, sad or even angry. Sometimes, though, we let our emotions get out of control, and that ends up getting us into trouble. Proverbs 29:11 says: *A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.* This verse tells us that it isn't wise to just let our emotions let our actions run wild. We can work to control them. If you are having a really hard time with emotions, especially something like anger or sadness, talk to a trusted adult about what you are dealing with. They can help you find the right help. You can also know that God always wants to hear what you are feeling, no matter what it is. In the Psalms, David talked to God about how angry he was and how sad he was. God knows our hearts, loves us and is always there to help us.



WORD PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable page, red markers (1 per kid), toothpicks (2 per kid), Bible stickers (several per kid), glue sticks (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP:

Check out our Pinterest page for a Bible sticker suggestion: <https://pin.it/3l5lpr15F>

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Read:** 1 Peter 2:24.
2. **Discuss:** Why is it good for us that Jesus took our place?
3. **Say:** There are so many different ways to pray! Today we will use some important words to help us talk with God.
4. *Pass out a printable page and writing supplies to each kid.*
5. **Say:** On your paper, there are three words: "remember," "plan" and "love." The words have bubble letters so that, as we are praying today, you can use your supplies to fill in the inside of the letters.
6. **Say:** We will focus on one word and prayer at a time.
7. **Say:** Break the toothpicks and glue them inside the word "remember." Pray quietly that God would help you to remember who He is and what He has done for you. The toothpicks are a reminder of the wooden cross that Jesus took on for us.
8. *Give kids time to fill it in and pray.*
9. **Say:** Use the Bible stickers to fill in the word "plan." Thank God for His incredible plan for sending Jesus to take our place. The stickers are a reminder that the Bible is our way to know and trust God's plan.
10. *Give kids time to fill it in and pray.*
11. **Say:** Finally, "love." Use the red marker to draw hearts inside each letter. Pray that you would notice God's love for you and show His love to others.
12. *Give kids time to fill it in and pray.*
13. **Say:** This week, continue to think about these three words and to talk with God about who He is, His amazing plan, and His incredible love.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Close the time by thanking God for who He is and all that He has done.



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

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 this mean for my life?"

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, writing utensils

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for Your amazing love! Thank You for loving us so much that You took our place on the cross. Help us love the people around us this week! 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



PETER IS RESTORED

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 21

FOCUS VERSES: Ephesians 2:8–9; James 4:6; John 1:16; Titus 2:11–13

Summary: After they heard about the empty tomb, Peter and some other disciples were fishing. They had no luck catching fish. Jesus called out from the shore and told them to place their nets on the opposite side. When they did, their nets were filled. One of the disciples realized it was Jesus speaking to them. Peter jumped in and swam to shore. Jesus cooked breakfast for them. He asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter replied, “Yes,” and Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep. He repeated this twice more. Jesus had not only forgiven Peter for denying Him three times, but He was restoring Him to ministry.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

(JOHN 3:16)

BRITE  *Idea*

Jesus gives us grace.

HE

HOW DOES JESUS SHOW US GRACE?

Because of our sin, we deserve to be separated from God forever. But Jesus shows us grace that when we have faith in Him, He rescues us from our sin. Jesus restores our relationship with God when we trust Him. Someday He will restore everything when He returns.

WE

HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO GRACE?

We can worship God for rescuing us through His grace and we can seek to grow closer to Him, honoring Him in all we do.

ME

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

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: LISTEN



We listen not only with our ears. There are many ways to communicate to kids that they are heard and that we are tuned in to what they are saying. When a kid feels heard and understood they feel safer and more connected.

- **Put your phone or lesson plan down.** These items can be barriers to connecting with the kids in front of us and can communicate that they are a lower priority than our phone or getting through all the points on the lesson.
- **Look in their eyes.** As a kid is talking, look in their eyes even if they aren't able to look into yours. Lean in while listening. With a roomful of kids this may be difficult, but try to give each kid at least one minute of a leader's undivided attention during their time with you.
- **Practice active listening:** Repeat back what you believe the kid is communicating. This tells the kid you're listening and also enables them to correct any incorrect perceptions you may have. For example, "it sounds like you're enjoying your new soccer team and are nervous about your game this weekend."

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Grace: giving what is not deserved

Restore: make new

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FORGIVING OTHERS

Forgiving others is hard, both for kids and adults. Sixty-two percent of adults feel they need more forgiveness from others in their lives.* Unforgiveness can become a huge burden when we carry bitterness or anger in our hearts. Kids often mistake the act of forgiveness with saying what was done to them was okay or not a big deal. You can help kids understand that God asks us to forgive others and not hold their mistakes against them,

but it doesn't erase what happened. In today's lesson, kids will learn about Jesus forgiving and restoring Peter even though Peter had denied Him when Jesus needed a friend the most. When disagreements occur in your group or when kids bring up challenges with friends, encourage them that they can model God's love for us by choosing to forgive those who offend them.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/2WglnlBJY>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

THREE STRIKES

SUPPLIES: Paper towel tube, paper, 5 pieces of cardstock, painter's tape

OR

REMAKE

SUPPLIES: Cups, modeling dough, blocks, paper, coloring supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

COVER IT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase markers, 26 sticky notes

OR

FISHING FOR GRACE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors, 4 craft sticks, 20 paper clips, 8 round magnets, glue

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACE

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, writing utensils, coloring supplies, soft worship music, music player

OR

GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

SUPPLIES: Bible, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, whiteboard eraser, paper, permanent marker, scissors, tape

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing utensils



COVER IT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase markers, 26 sticky notes

PREP:

Write out John 3:16 on the whiteboard.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

To increase engagement and movement, choose a kid to cover a word each round.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.
2. **Discuss:** What is grace?
3. **Say:** Grace is when we are given something we don't deserve.
4. **Discuss:** How does God give us grace in this verse?
5. **Discuss:** What did God give us instead of what we deserved?
6. **Say:** Let's work on memorizing our verse together!
7. Direct kids to the verse written on the board and have them read it out loud with you. Repeat it a few times together.
8. Now, have kids close their eyes. While their eyes are closed, cover up a word with a sticky note. Have kids open their eyes, stand up and repeat the verse together again as kids try to remember what word is covered up.
9. Repeat a few times, covering a different word each time.
10. As the kids begin to memorize the verse, use variations in speed of recitation and inflection to keep it interesting. For example: say the verse slowly, say it in a whisper, say it in a deep voice, say it fast, say it like a pirate, etc.
11. Finally, have kids close their eyes and cover up the whole verse with sticky notes to see if they can repeat it all from memory!
12. **Read:** Titus 2:11-13.
13. **Discuss:** How does Jesus show us grace?
14. **Say:** Because of our sin, we deserve to be separated from God forever. But Jesus shows us grace that when we have faith in Him, He rescues us from our sin. Jesus restores our relationship with God when we trust Him. Someday He will restore everything when He returns.
15. **Discuss:** In our story today, how did Jesus show grace?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

What a gracious God we have who doesn't give us what we deserve but instead give us grace when we put our faith in Him!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: What do you think fishing was like in Jesus' day?

Say: After Jesus died, Peter returned to fishing. He had spent many years net fishing. In the Sea of Galilee, fishermen used a round net with weights. The net was thrown over the side of the boat, and the weight would sink to the bottom, catching any fish swimming below. Peter had no luck with fishing until Jesus arrived. Jesus helped Peter catch fish, but more importantly, Jesus showed Peter grace!

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9b directly from the Bible: *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT . . . FORGIVING OTHERS?

Discuss: How would you describe what it means to forgive someone?

Discuss: What might make it hard for someone to forgive?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: You may have heard people say that forgiving someone means that what they did to you is okay. In today's story, we see Jesus forgiving Peter even though Peter had denied Him three times right when Jesus needed a friend the most. That doesn't mean what Peter did was okay. Sometimes we get hurt, even by the people who love us. Sometimes we can hold a grudge for a long time. Ephesians 4:32 says: *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.* God wants us to forgive others, meaning we won't hold what they did against them. However, forgiving doesn't mean we are saying what happened doesn't matter. It means we are trusting God to help heal our hearts and restore the relationship, if possible.



GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, whiteboard eraser, paper, permanent marker, scissors, tape

PREP:

Cut a rectangle out of paper the same size as the whiteboard eraser. Write "GRACE" on the paper in permanent marker and tape it to the eraser.

LEADER TIP:

If you have small, individual whiteboards and erasers, you can have kids draw along.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we have been learning that Jesus gives us grace.
2. **Discuss:** What is grace?
3. **Say:** Grace is when we are given something we don't deserve. Jesus is so kind to offer us grace even when we sin.
4. **Discuss:** What are some ways we sin?
5. *Allow kids to respond; e.g., lying, cheating, disobeying parents, being unkind to others. Write their responses on the left-hand side of the whiteboard.*
6. **Say:** Because of our sin, we deserve to be separated from God forever.
7. *Draw a cross down the middle of the whiteboard.*
8. **Say:** But Jesus shows us grace that when we have faith in Him, He rescues us from our sin!
9. **Read:** Titus 2:11-13.
10. **Say:** God offers us the gift of life forever with Him through Jesus! When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we receive the gift of God's grace. Jesus restores our relationship with God when we trust Him! He forgives ALL our sins.
11. *Have a volunteer erase all the sins written on the left-hand side of the board. Be sure that the kids see the word "Grace" on the eraser.*
12. **Say:** When God looks at us after we are saved, He doesn't see our sin. He only sees what Jesus has done for us! That is God's grace!
13. **Discuss:** How does Jesus give grace in our story?
14. **Read:** Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 4:6.
15. **Discuss:** Can we earn God's grace?
16. **Discuss:** How can we respond to grace?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

One way we can respond to God's grace is to express our thanks. Let's pray and thank Him for His incredible gift of grace!



Wrap-Up



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE?

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 this mean for my life?"

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, writing utensils

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for rescuing us through Your generous grace! Help us seek to grow closer to You this week and honor You! 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