

City SG—May 22nd-24th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Whatcha Say (Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Today's Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises to help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

1. People Cards

What You Need: "People Cards" (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Place the "People Cards" face down in a stack.
- Choose a kid to stand up and select a card from the pile without showing it to anyone else in the group.
- Instruct the kid to describe the occupation or job on the card without using any part of the title (the part that is circled and crossed through).
- All cards are labeled so kids know what the correct title is and what they are not allowed to say.
- The first kid to guess correctly gets to select a card and give clues for the next round.
- Continue until all cards have been identified or time runs out.

What You Say:

"In this game, you figured out the name or title by the description you were given. **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we heard about a time when Jesus asked His friends what His title or position was."

2. Let's Talk about God

What You Need: Die (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Let the kids take turns rolling the die and asking the question it lands on based on the following:
 - 1: Tell the group about a time you knew that God loved you.
 - 2: What is one thing that you love about God?
 - 3: Who is Jesus to you?
 - 4: How can you show others that you love and follow Jesus?
 - 5: What is something God has given you that you are thankful for?
 - 6: What have you learned about God recently?
- Give several kids time to share their answers to each question.
- If a kid rolls the cube and it lands on a question you've already discussed, let them roll again.
- Continue until all questions have been discussed.

What You Say:

"Wow, what an awesome discussion! I LOVE to talk to you guys about God. It's one of my favorite things about our Small Group time. I think sometimes I learn just as much as you do!

"Just like you discuss things in class at school to help you grow in your understanding, we can talk about God as we learn to follow Him. It's one big way to grow our faith. We can also talk about God to the people around us who don't know much about Him! You can share what you know. You can invite them to church. Telling others about God helps you grow to know Him more, too.

"Let's make a commitment to grow in our faith and **[Bottom Line]** practice talking about God."

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids how you first learned about Jesus. Share a little of your personal story of life with Jesus. Spend a minute or two talking about the people who helped you learn about God. Share some of the questions you remember asking and what you learned as you talked about God.)

3. Telephone

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a spaced-out circle.
- Tell the kids that you will play a version of the telephone game.
- Kids will close their eyes and plug their ears until it's their turn to talk or listen. Tell them they'll be tapped on the shoulder when it's their turn.
- Once they're tapped on the shoulder, they should listen to the sentence quietly spoken to them, tap the next kid, then speak the sentence quietly.
- Instruct the kids to close their eyes and ears.
- Choose one kid to start the "telephone" conversation by tapping them on the shoulder.
- Quietly speak one of the sentences below to the kid.
- Continue the game until it reaches where it began.
- Direct the last kid to say what they heard.
- Instruct the kid who went first to share what was actually said.
- Try to prevent kids from getting too close to one another and encourage them to speak in a low, almost whispering voice.
- Sentences:
 - Practice talking about God.
 - Who do you say I am?
 - Training the body has some value.
 - But being godly has value in every way.
 - It promises help for the life you are now living.
 - Jesus is the Messiah.

What You Say:

"It can be hard to say something when you aren't sure what you heard. We have to practice listening in order to say the right thing. *[Transition]* Jesus once asked His disciples a very important question. And one of the disciples gave an answer that showed that he had really listened. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah! The promised One to come to Earth and be our Savior!"

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids for prayer.
- Ask them to think about one person they know and trust who follows God.

- On the count of three, have the kids call out, in a normal speaking voice, one of the names they thought.
- Invite the kids to think of one person they know who doesn't go to church or doesn't know much about God.
- On the count of three, have the kids call out, in their normal speaking voice, one of the names they thought.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, thank You for reminding us this month that following You takes practice! There is always something new to learn about You. Help us talk to the people we trust who follow You when we have questions. Help us have the courage to share what we do know about You—about how much You love us—with our friends who don't know much about You. You are an awesome God. Thanks for this small group where we can learn more and more about You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

PASS OUT THE GOD TIMES SHEET – you can work on day 1 if there is time left. Remind the kids they can return the completed sheet next week for a prize.