

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

OPENING ACTIVITY: Thank You Cards for Teachers

Note: Please do not skip this activity

What You Need: Blank Thank You Cards (1 per kid, per service, pens and markers)

What You Do:

- Hand out Thank You Cards (1 per kid) and pens/markers
- Tell kids that they are going to be writing Thank You Cards to all of our amazing teachers in the area, for all of their hard work throughout the year.
 - Example: "Thank you Teachers for teaching us with love and care, even when it seemed hard or impossible. We love you!"
- Collect Thank You Cards and hand them to your Room Coordinator upon completion.

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. Go Fish Story Review

What You Need: "Go Fish Cards" (2 decks per Group)

What You Do:

- If your group is larger than five, divide into two groups and use two decks of cards.
- Explain that you will play a version of "Go Fish."
 - Shuffle the cards.
 - Make sure that the "Messiah" card is not dealt to a kid, but is left in the draw pile.
 - Deal five cards to each player, instructing kids to make sure no one else sees their cards.
 - Set the rest of the cards face down in the center of the group.
 - Remind the group that the goal is to collect four of the same card.
 - Choose a kid to go first.

- Direct that kid to either draw a card from the “draw” pile or ask another kid for a specific card. For example, “[Kid’s name], do you have any purple prophets?”
- If the kid has the card that is asked for, they must hand over all the cards that match. (In the example above, if they had two purple prophets, they would give both to the kid who asked for them.)
- If the kid does not have the card that is asked for, the first kid’s turn is over, and play moves to the kid on their left.
- If at any point a kid draws the “Messiah” card, they automatically win the game!
- Play until the Messiah card is found. (If anyone gets a set of four, let the rest of the kids continue playing.)
- Use the questions below to discuss the Bible story.
- Open a Bible to Matthew 16:13-20 and let the kids look up the answers to the following questions if they get stumped.
 - Jesus asked His friends a very important question. Does anyone remember what He asked? (*Who do people say that I am?*)
 - What were some of the answers they gave? (*John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets*)
 - What was the answer that Simon Peter gave? (*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*)
 - Why did the Messiah card win the game? (*Because that’s the right answer to Jesus’ question. He wasn’t just a prophet who spoke for God. He wasn’t Elijah or Jeremiah or John the Baptist— He is God’s one and only Son, the chosen One who would save us from our sin.*)

What You Say:

“Jesus asked His friends this question for a reason. He wanted to make sure they knew who He really is! Then, almost as soon as they answered, Jesus asked them to wait. It wasn’t time yet for them to reveal who He is. Jesus still had work to do on Earth. He would still face the cross and be raised back to life so that we could be forgiven.

“But guess what? We know the rest of the story. We know that Jesus came to Earth to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. And we have the opportunity every day to tell others about Jesus and talk about Him with the people we love who follow Him! We don’t have to wait. But it takes practice!

“One of the ways we get better at talking about God is by coming to Small Group. We learn about God and how to follow Him every single week. Remember, one big way to grow in your faith is to make a commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**”

3. 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.)

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.