

City LG—June 12-14, 2021

Today's Bible Story: You Say (God So Loved the World) • *John 3:16 (supporting: John 3:1-21)*

Today's Bottom Line: You can be confident because God loves you.

Monthly Memory Verse: Here is something I am still sure of. I will see the Lord's goodness while I'm still alive. (Psalm 27:13 NIV)

OPENER: Freeze Dance

(Begin this Activity 5-7 Minutes before your Start Time)

"Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to be with you today. This whole summer, we'll talk about confidence!

"There are lots of reasons people feel confident. You know when you hear your favorite song, and you feel like you can do anything? Or when someone gives you a compliment . . . your teacher tells you that you did a great job on an assignment . . . or your parent tells you they appreciate something you did for them . . . and you just feel so good about yourself? Those are all great reasons to feel confident.

"But there's one reason to be confident that's more important than any other. This is what REAL confidence is about.

SLIDE: Confidence

"Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

"In case you're wondering how God sees you, He's CRAZY about you! We'll find out exactly how God feels about us in a minute. But first, we've got a game to play. I'm talking about a little bit of 'Freeze Dance!'

"It's time for us to 'get in the mix' and play lots of different styles of music. Who knows—maybe you'll hear the kind of music that makes YOU feel extra-confident!

"The game is pretty simple. As long as the music plays, you dance! When the music stops, you freeze! If you're caught moving when the music stops, then you have to sit down for the next song. Then you can get up again. Your leaders will keep an eye out for anyone who forgets to freeze. If they do this—ZAP! (*do a funny motion with your hand*)—that means you need to have a seat. Cool?

"Oh—and I almost forgot. Each time we play the music, I'll tap one of you on the shoulder, and you get to shout 'PRESS PLAY!' Sound like a plan? (*Pause for response.*) Let's do it!

"Raise your hand if you want to kick us off. What kind of music will be first? Let's see!

Tap a kid on the shoulder. He/she will shout "PRESS PLAY!" Then play the music for a few seconds. When the music stops, yell "FREEZE!"

AUDIO: *Short clips from different genres of music (ideally, instrumental versions)—follow Host's lead*

Make sure the leaders “air zap” any kids who are still moving when the music stops. Those kids should sit for one song, then let them get up again.

Each time, let a different kid shout “PRESS PLAY!” Comment on the different types of music and mention how confident they make you feel.

“That was SO FUN! After hearing all that great music, I feel more confident already! Now, let’s all get ready to sing and dance as we worship God together.”

WORSHIP: Not the Same and Fireblazin’

“Hey, everybody! Like previously mentioned, we’re spending this summer talking about confidence. We’re learning why we can be confident in the first place.

SLIDE: Confidence

“Remember, **confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.**

SLIDE: Theme Background

“No matter what happens in our lives, we know for sure how God sees each and every one of us. That’s what we’re looking at today as we check out what happened between Jesus and a man named Nicodemus. (*Hold up Bible.*)

“When Jesus grew up to be an adult, He began to travel, teach, and perform miracles. Jesus could do amazing things that no one else could do! And the people began to wonder who He was—if He was just a man, or if He was something more. One of the people who wondered about Jesus was a religious leader named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was curious about Jesus, but he didn’t want the other religious leaders to know what he was up to. So he went to see Jesus at night. Nicodemus made his way to Jesus in the middle of the night . . . and they had a very interesting conversation. Let me read it to you. Nicodemus told Jesus . . .

Open the Bible to John 3:2 (NIRV) and read.

“We know that you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren’t, you couldn’t do the signs you are doing.

“In other words . . . Jesus, there’s no way You could do these things if You weren’t God’s Son. Let’s take a look at how Jesus handled this conversation with the help of this week’s episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)

“You never have to wonder how God feels about you. Remember, God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to be your Savior! THAT should give you confidence that nothing in this world can take away.

“When you follow Jesus and put your trust in Him, you can have confidence that you’ll be part of the incredible, never-ending story that God is telling. And as you grow in loving God and others, you’ll begin to share that story more and more.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can be confident because God loves you.

“Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus for us.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Thank You for making a way for us to be part of Your family. Please help us trust You and put our confidence in You, every single day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Jesus is the Savior God promised. He died on the cross for our sins. If we believe and put our trust in Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever!

“Whatever you might be going through, or whatever might happen in the future, never forget how much God loves you. He sent Jesus FOR you. That’s the very best reason to be confident!

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can be confident because God loves you.

“Your relationship with God is what gives you true confidence. **You can trust Him no matter what!** His great love will help you be strong and brave in any situation.

“As we read in our memory verse, Psalm 27:13 . . .

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Here is something I am still sure of. I will see the Lord’s goodness while I’m still alive. (Psalm 27:13 NIRV)

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about how good it is to know that God loves you. I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.