

City SG—October 30th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: When You Believe (Israel Goes through the Red Sea) • *Exodus 13:17–14:31*

Today's Bottom Line: Hold on because God is still in control.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

1. Carabiner Review

What You Need: "Carabiner Review" cards (1 set per Kid), O-Ring (1 per kid), Hole Punch (1-2 per group), Scissors

What You Do:

- Give each kid a set of the cards and a pair of scissors.
- Explain that each card contains a piece of the Bible story.
- Tell kids to take their scissors and cut out all ten pieces.
- Have the kids punch holes in pieces as shown.
- Challenge kids to place their story circles facedown.
- On your "GO!" Kids will race to put their story circles in order on their O Ring.
- Once all the kids think they have the story in the right order, review it together.
 - Let my people go!
 - Yes, please leave!
 - Pillar of cloud by day
 - Pillar of fire by night
 - The Red Sea
 - Pharoah and his chariots
 - Moses with his staff
 - The Red Sea parts
 - The Israelites walk through the Red Sea
 - Hold on because God is still in control.
- Allow a couple of kids to tell the Bible story.

What You Say:

"You guys really knew that Bible story. God was with the Israelites, even when Pharaoh chased after them and they were facing a giant sea of water. If you were the Israelites, at what part in the story do you think you would have gotten scared? (*Invite kids to answer.*)

"God was in control and had a plan the whole time. Sometimes the things we face in life make us feel stuck like the Israelites seemed stuck. But just like God was in control of the Israelites, God is also in control in your life and will always be there to help you push through hard times. Because you know that to be true, you can **[Bottom Line] hold on because God is still in control.**"

2. Guide My Hand

What You Need: Paper plate (1 per kid) and pen

What You Do:

- Pair kids up. (If you have an odd number of kids, pair yourself with a kid.)
- Give each kid a paper plate and a pen.
- Tell kids to write their name on the rim of their plate.
- Instruct pairs to choose one kid to sit on the ground, place their plate on their own head, and draw a stick person (head, body, legs, and arms) on the plate.

- Encourage kids to look at their pictures when they're done.
- Instruct kids to flip the plate over and put it back on their head (blank side up).
- Tell them to draw a stick figure again, but this time their partner will guide their hand as they draw.
- Ask them to compare the two pictures.
- Direct kids to switch roles and do it again.

What You Say:

"A lot of times when things feel out of control, WE try to control them. When you were doing the drawing by yourself, did it turn out well? *(Allow kids time to answer and hold up their first drawing for everyone to see.)* How did your drawing turn out when your partner was in control of your hand? *(Allow time for answers and showing drawings.)* When things feel out of control in our own lives, do you think things will turn out better if we try and control them or if we trust God to be in control? *(Allow time for answers.)*

"When the Israelites came to the Red Sea, do you think they could have taken control and swum across? *(Pause.)* That definitely would not have worked. Instead, they trusted God, and He got them through HIS way. If you try out for the baseball team or cheerleading and don't make it, do you think God still has a plan for you and is in control of your life? *(Allow answers.)* YES! He loves you so much! What are some things that seem out of control in your life? *(Allow answers.)* How can you trust God is in control? *(Allow answers.)*

"I have to say, your first drawings made me giggle a little. They didn't QUITE look like people. But when you had someone in control, helping you, it looked so much better. When we let God be in control of our lives instead of us, our lives will be so much better—not always easier, but definitely better. God has big plans for us that we can trust, just like the Israelites did. You can **[Bottom Line] hold on because God is still in control.**"

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate story of a time you felt like you weren't in control of something in your life, but the more you trusted God with it, the better it was. It could be that you didn't like one of your teachers in elementary or middle school when you started the year but ended up loving them by the end of the year. Maybe you didn't make the softball team one year but that allowed you time to do something else amazing. Remind kids that God is always in control and at work in your life and theirs.)

3. Practice the Verse

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Help kids look up and read the verse Galatians 6:9 in their Bibles with the navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 1st through 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Galatians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 6.

- Read the memory verse out loud together.
- One at a time, tell kids to stand up, and say the verse. (Allow them to use their Bible for reference if needed.)
- *For added fun, instruct kids to try to say the verse as clearly as they can with their tongue sticking out.*

What You Say:

I'm glad we can have fun learning our verse. And I'm glad I get to learn the Bible alongside each of you. You teach me so much each week. As you go into this next week, I want to challenge you to look for ways you can do good and not get bored or tired with it. Be intentional and try to do good each day. What are ways you can do good this week? *(Allow time to answer.)* Those are all GREAT ideas. And let's not forget to **[Bottom Line] hold on because God is still in control.**"

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to pair up and face each other. (If you have an odd number, one group can have three.)
- Explain you will call out a part of the body: head, shoulders, knees, elbows, toes, back.
- When you call out, “head,” they have to each touch their own head, when you call out, “knees,” they have to each touch their own knees, etc.
- You will get faster each time you call out a body part.
- When one of the kids in a pair messes up by touching the wrong part, they sit down, and the winner of the pair finds someone else still standing, and they continue playing.
- Continue until you’re down to two kids standing.
- Make a big deal out of the last round, getting everyone involved in watching and cheering for the two kids left.
- If time and interest allow, play another round or two.

What You Say:

“Great job! That was so much fun! You were able to start out well, but then it all came at you at once, and you lost control! Good thing we can trust God to handle things, especially when it feels out of control.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

“I love knowing that God is in control. When I try to control my own life, it ends up a mess—a lot like your first drawings. When I let God be in control, it always turns out best for me. Remember when things get hard this week to **[Bottom Line] hold on because God is still in control.** Let’s pray.”

(Pray with kids and allow any kid who wants to pray out loud to do so. Ask God to help kids remember they can trust God to be in control of their lives, even when they seem stuck. When it seemed like there was no way out for the Israelites, God made a way.)