



WEEK ONE - JUNE 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Thou Raise Me Up • Ephesians 2:20-21a*

Bottom Line: *Jesus matters most.*

Memory Verse: *"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." - Psalm 27:13 NIV*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We start the month with something that Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:20-21. He explains that we are held together by Jesus. When we build our life on Jesus, we have a strong foundation that will stand against whatever life might throw at us.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. What Matters Most

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Whiteboard; Dry Erase Marker; Paper; Pencils

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids to your group and use a couple minutes to ask about their week (highs/lows)
- ASK: What are some things you want to do this summer?
- Write down kids' answers on a white board.
- Once you've filled up the board with their answers, pass out the paper to let the kids make their own lists of important things to do this summer.
- Instruct kids to number their lists in order of importance.
- After they've made their lists, ask kids to pair up and share their top five list with their partner.

What You Say:

""Wow! I'm not sure anyone could do ALL the things we've listed here. But you have identified what matters most on your own lists so maybe you can make those the priority this summer! [Transition] In Large Group, we're going to hear about something that matters EVEN MORE than all those great plans. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Jesus matters most.* "Jesus came to bring us life to the full. We find confidence when we build our life on Him. We pray that kids will understand that living fully alive is best when they put their trust in Jesus."

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. This is the Church

[Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing & designing

What You Need: Half-sheets of paper; markers/crayons; stamp pad; wipes

What You Do:

- Pass out a piece of paper to each kid and set the markers/crayons in the middle of the group.
- Encourage them to draw a picture of your church building.
- When they are wrapping up their drawings, place the stamp pads in the center of the small group space.
- Encourage each child to press his pointer finger onto the stamp pad and then place his fingerprint inside the church.
- Then let the kids pass their papers around the circle, placing their fingerprints on each other's drawings. When finished, they should have their own drawing of the church with their own and everyone else's fingerprints inside.
- Pass out the wipes for kids to clean their hands.

What You Say:

*"You did a great job on your drawings. But a church isn't really a building. Well, it is, but the Church—or the 'body of Christ' as the Bible calls it—means people. We, as followers of Jesus, are the Church. Take a look at all your fingerprints. Are they the same or different? Yes, they're all different, just like each one of you is different. And that's a good thing! We can all be very different but have the same faith and the same confidence in what matters most: Jesus! That's what we have in common. We come here to worship Jesus because of what He's done for us. And that gives us confidence because [Bottom Line] **Jesus matters most.***

*[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell the kids about your history in church. Did you grow up coming to church? Was your childhood church different than your current one? Were you taught about Jesus when you were growing up?) "I'm so glad I learned about Jesus. I can have confidence in knowing that [Bottom Line] **Jesus matters most.**"*

2. Confidence

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Unpack the word confident—acting like you believe something is true—and then cue kids to move as different animals might move if they were either confident or not confident.
- You might choose: an elephant, a lion, a snake, a monkey, a dog, a cat, a fish, a bird, or a horse. End by guiding kids to move like THEY are confident.
- Help kids look up the memory verse using the navigation tips below.
 - *When finding verses with second and third graders, guide them 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 Psalms in the list under "Old Testament". You can also explain that if you try to open to the center of your Bible, you will likely find yourself in the book of Psalms! When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 13 in chapter 27.*
- Unpack the phrase "remain confident." Emphasize the fact that we can ALWAYS be confident of God's goodness.

What You Say:

"What do you think it means to 'remain confident'? (To stay confident; to always be sure; to trust; to believe) Yes! Psalms 27:13 tells us that we can always be confident that God is good. We can trust and be sure that we will see His goodness.

*"What are some ways we can see God's goodness? (In the world He made; in how He gives us families and people who love us; He gave us Jesus.) Yes! We can see God's goodness in many ways, can't we? But the biggest way we can see God's goodness is through Jesus. God loves us SO much that He sent Jesus to live on earth, to die on the cross, and to come back to life so that if we believe in Him, we can have confidence that we'll live forever with God and that He'll help us through anything. Wow! So remember: **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most!**"*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Kid's drawings from "This is the Church" activity

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to hold onto their church drawings from earlier.
- As they hold their drawings, encourage them to individually and privately pray that they would always remember that what Jesus did for us (his death and resurrection) is what matters most.
- After giving kids a few moments to pray on their own, close in prayer.

What You Say:

*"Heavenly Father, thank You for the confidence we have in knowing that what You say is true. You promised to send a Savior, and You did! You sent Jesus to this broken world that needed a Savior. Jesus died and rose again on the third day and is now in heaven with You. Of all the things we believe and celebrate here at church, this is the MOST important thing. It's what our faith is built on. Because [Bottom Line] **Jesus matters most**. Help us to confidently believe that and to trust in Jesus. It's in Jesus' mighty name we pray, amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their church drawings to explain that today we learned that we are the church and the church is built on Jesus because [Bottom Line] **Jesus matters most** as well as hand out the monthly overview cards to each child.*