



WEEK ONE - JUNE 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

Key Question: *Why does Jesus matter?*

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 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

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:

Key Question: *Why does Jesus matter?. By the time they reach their preteen years, kid who grow up in church have heard that Jesus matters because of what He did for us on the cross. However, some kids may start to wonder how that impacts their life each and every day. We start with this question for preteens to discover how they build their life on Jesus.*

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

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bag of Rocks

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle and place the stones in the center.
- Explain that you'll read some statements. If the statement is something students have experienced in their lives, tell them to grab a stone.
 - Say, "Grab a stone if you've ever felt confident . . ."
 - about getting an "A" on a test.
 - enough to tell someone about Jesus.
 - that you could win a race.
 - being in a new group where you didn't know anyone yet.
 - that God heard your prayer and would answer.
 - about trying something new.
- After each statement and as students are willing, ask them to talk about the experiences that came to mind when they grabbed the stones.
 - What happened that made you feel the way you did?
 - If students are reluctant to share, invite them to simply use one or two words to describe how they felt at the time.

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What are some things people put their confidence in other than Jesus? Why are those things weak or dangerous foundations on which to build our lives?
 - In what way is the Bible like an instruction manual for the extreme sport of LIFE?
 - How does someone live like he or she believes what God says is true?
 - If Jesus matters most to someone, what might that look like on a day-to-day basis?

- Is it wrong to be confident in yourself? Why or why not?

3. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse/Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Hand out Bibles or let students look up and read Psalm 20:7 on their phones.
 - **PRO TIP:** *Check to make sure everyone is familiar with chariots and their use in Bible times. If needed, explain that a chariot is a type of carriage pulled by primarily horses. Chariots were used by armies to transport weapons or as a mobile archery platform. The more chariots, the greater the army. Chariots were also used for hunting and as a fast way to travel. In Rome during Bible times, people who attended a circus could expect to see a type of an "X-Game" called, Chariot Racing. If time allows, let students use their phones to Google "chariots" or "chariot racing."*
- Get the students' interpretations of the verse by asking open-ended questions and giving them an opportunity to share their thoughts.
 - What do you think it means to trust in a chariot or a horse?
 - We don't use chariots or horses the way they did in Bible times, so how does this verse apply to us today?
 - What are some "chariots and horses" that we trust in for our confidence?
 - Why is it better to trust in Jesus?
- If time allows, form a circle and play the following game:
 - Choose one person to stand in the center of the circle.
 - Invite the person in the middle to point to someone in the circle and call out either "chariot," "horse," or "God."
 - For "chariot," the person pointed at pretends to hold the reins of a horse while the students on each side of him crouch down to become the wheels of the chariot.
 - For "horse," the person pointed at goes down on all fours, while those on each side pat the tops of their legs to make galloping sounds.
 - For "God," the person pointed at holds his arms in the air and spins around while the players to the right and left run around him one time.
- The person in the trio who is last to respond correctly will trade places with the student standing in the center of the circle.
- If everyone responds at the same time, play again going faster each time.

What You Say:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us a way to know You and for helping us find our confidence in You. Forgive us for the times when we put our confidence in ourselves or other things instead of what the Bible tells us to be true. Remind us this week that it's not about how much we know or what we can do or how much we have. Our confidence needs to be in what we know is true about YOU. You matter most. In your name we pray, amen."

As kids are dismissed, hand out the monthly overview cards to each child and challenge them to look at the story that they learned today throughout the week.