



WEEK THREE - JUNE 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

Bible Story: *Clip My Hair • Judges 13-16*

Key Question: *What happens when you trust yourself more than God?*

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: There's an important story about honesty throughout the book of Judges 13-16. From the start, Samson was set apart to lead God's people. His life had many ups and downs as he tried to live from his own strength, but ultimately his confidence in God allowed him to carry out the plan for his life.

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. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: Various Random Items

What You Do:

- Use what you have to challenge students in a few strength tests.
- Some ideas include:
 - See which tub of supplies you can pick up
 - Pick up an increasingly larger stack of books or Bibles to see how many you can hold
 - Do 10 pushups
 - Do 10 squats while holding a Bible in each hand
- Invite students to come up with some challenge ideas of their own!

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: *What happens when you trust yourself more than God? Preteens are at a point where they can do a lot of things on their own. They can confidently navigate through their life without much difficulty, but what happens when they become overconfident and start trusting their own strength more than the strength of God? We hope kids start to understand that they need God to help them through life.*

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: Paper; Pens

What You Do:

- Hand out paper and pens and ask students to draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on their pieces of paper.
- Explain that you will name a category such as "places to eat."
 - The students will then write down one place in each box on the Tic-Tac-Toe grid, without letting others see what they wrote.
- Emphasize that the goal of the game is to write down answers they think others will also write down.
- Provide a few minutes for students to work, and when they're finished, invite them to go around and check to see what others wrote.
 - If they have written the same word in any of the boxes that someone else did, they can X it out.
 - The words must be the same, but they do not have to be placed in the same areas of the grid.
 - The first person to get three in a row wins.
- Play a few rounds, using these categories:
 - Things that make us strong
 - Things we trust
 - Powerful people
 - Things with hair
 - Objects found in today's story
- Finish by asking students to fill in each square with a word that reminds them of something from the story of Samson - for example, "hair."
 - For a word to count in this round, though, it must be in the same square as someone else's grid.

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:

- Our culture is all about believing in ourselves. We are often told, "You can do it! Just believe in yourself." What's one good thing about having confidence in yourself? When might having confidence in yourself be a bad thing?
- What's the difference between being confident and being proud?
- What could happen when you trust yourself more than you trust God?
- If you could have one of the gifts God gave Samson, what would it be? How would you use it?
- How does knowing and believing that God is stronger than anyone help give you confidence? When might you need to remember to trust God more than yourself this week.

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Return to Psalm 147:5 and read it aloud to the group.
- Invite the students to focus their prayers around praising God for His power and to use the words of this verse as a backdrop.
- Tell them that you will recite a portion of the verse and they can simply repeat it as a personal prayer or they can use their own words in a sentence prayer of their own—silently or out loud.
 - *Great is our Lord. His power is mighty. There is no limit to his understanding. (Psalm 147:5 NIrV)*

What You Say:

"Dear God, You are the greatest of the great. You are the most powerful of the powerful. You are the mightiest of the mighty. You have no limits, no weakness, no boundaries, and no end. We praise You for Your incredible understanding, wisdom, and love. Let our strongest confidence rest on You and not ourselves. In your name we pray, amen."