



WEEK TWO - MARCH 2019 - PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Between You & Me • Genesis 1:26-28*

Key Question: *What does it mean to have a relationship with God?*

Memory Verse: *“How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” - Psalm 139:14 NIrV*

Life App: *Individuality - Discovering who you are meant to be*

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

Summary: Next, we take a look at a parable Jesus told in Luke 15:1-17. In the story, Jesus talks about a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep behind to search for the one sheep that was lost. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who rescues us and makes it possible for us to have a forever relationship with God.

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

1. Just For Fun

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Paper, ink pads, wet wipes, markers, pencils

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Ask if anyone accepted the challenge from last week and read through Psalm 139:14. Allow kids to look it up and read it to the group if they want.
- Pair kids into teams.
- Explain that the teams will race to determine which team can stamp 100 fingerprints on a piece of paper first.
- Allow kids time to plan a strategy. Remind them they need to make sure it is easy to count their fingerprints.
 - *Optional: Challenge kids to create sheep using fingerprints. If you have time, see how many sheep the teams can stamp in a minute.*

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 does it mean to have a relationship with God? Preteens are starting the process of really owning their faith. Through this lesson, we want to give them a chance to articulate what that means for their life. A relationship with God isn't only something that we know in our heads, but something we live out with our lives.*

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

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Prepared butcher paper, markers, tape

What You Do:

- Tape your piece of butcher paper on a wall or lay it on a flat surface. There are several words written on the butcher paper.
- Explain how the words on the butcher paper relate to relationships.

- Tell kids to take turns and circle the words they associate with a good relationship and to draw a “no symbol” (circle with a backslash) over the words they associate with a bad relationship. Beside the words they circle, challenge them to create an emoji to represent the meaning of the word. If necessary to prompt kids, ask: How is this word connected with relationships? Do any of the words describe what you look for in a friend? What words describe actions necessary for a good relationship with someone? What actions make a relationship hard or difficult with someone?
- Encourage discussion as kids classify the words on the butcher paper. Why did they circle the word? Why did they cross out the word?
- Allow kids to debate if there is disagreement about a word being associated with a good or bad relationship. To settle debates, the group can vote, and the majority wins, or if there is a tie, write the word again on the paper to represent both options.
- Ask:
 - Can you think of any other words we should add to the paper that could be associated with relationships?

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Imagine a new kid moved into your neighborhood. He seems like a nice kid and you would like to get to know him better—what would you do to get to know him? What can you do to help this new kid get to know Jesus? Role-play a discussion with this new kid.
 - Why do you think God wants a relationship with us? Why should we want a relationship with God?
 - Talk about a time you’ve felt like a lost sheep. Maybe you were actually lost or you just felt lost. What happened? Who found you and helped you get back to where you belonged?
 - What can you do if you feel like you’re far from God? Who can you talk to about it?

3. Verses To Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Index cards, “Psalm Cards” Activity Page, pencils

What You Do:

- Pair kids into teams.
- Give teams five index cards and pencils.

- Fan out the “Psalm Cards” and instruct teams to select a card.
- Instruct teams to read their cards and summarize the verses into one sentence. Tell kids to write their summary on one of their index cards.
- When teams are finished summarizing, ask teams to pass their “Psalm Card” to the team on their right.
- Repeat the activity with the new “Psalm Card,” using another index card to write their summary.
- Continue until teams have summarized all the “Psalm Cards.” Teams should have five index cards with summaries.
- Lay out the “Psalm Cards” and ask teams to match their index cards with each of the respective “Psalm Cards.”
- Discuss the summaries. Potential discussion questions could include:
 - Compare and contrast the summaries. For each “Psalm Card,” what is the similar? What is different?
 - What do the verses say about God?
 - What do these verses tell you about God’s desire to have a relationship with you?
 - What can we do to know God?
 - If you didn’t ask this question in the discussion for the Bible story Extension Activity or if you want to review the kids’ answers from the previous activity, ask: What does a relationship with God look like? What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

4. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Index cards from the Verse to Take with You Activity, pens

What You Do:

- Allow kids time to reflect on the discussions today and on the story of the lost sheep.
- Challenge kids to pick one thing they are going to do this week to get to know God or to grow their relationships with God. Maybe they are going to start a journal as an ongoing conversation with God. Or memorize a verse. Or spend time each day in the Bible, maybe a parable each day.
- Ask kids to select one of the index cards from the Verse to Take with You activity and write on the back of it what they plan to do this week and write a prayer asking God for His help and guidance.
- Encourage kids to take their index cards home as a reminder.
- Close in prayer.

