



WEEK FOUR – APRIL 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *All I Ask of You* • John 20:19–29

Bottom Line: *Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.*

Memory Verse: *“In this world, you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” – John 16:33b NIRV*

Life App: *Hope – Believing that something good can come out of something bad*

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

Summary: We finish the month with an important moment recorded in John 20:19–29. Although Thomas was one of Jesus’ disciples, he hadn’t yet seen Jesus face-to-face after the resurrection. When the rest of the disciples tried to tell him that Jesus was alive, Thomas couldn’t believe it. Jesus showed up again, went to Thomas and gave him a chance to touch the scars. Thomas knew once and for all that Jesus was alive!

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

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids to Small Group, and show them where to put their offerings.
- Play a few games of “20 Questions.”
- Choose a person, place, or thing in your mind and let the kids ask yes-or-no questions to try to guess what it is. They can have 20 questions before they must guess.
- Let kids have a turn answering the questions.
- Say, “Questions are important! They’re how we learn about almost everything.”

2. Question It

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

What You Need: Paper; pens; bowl

What You Do:

- Hand out paper and pens.
- Instruct kids to write down a question or two that they would like to know about the other kids in the group.
- When they have written their question, have them fold it up and put it in the bowl.
- Invite kids to take turns pulling a question from the bowl and answering it.
- You may want to write down a few of questions to supplement, such as:
 - What is your favorite color?
 - What book did you last read?
 - If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?
 - What is your favorite game to play?
 - If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
 - What is your favorite season and why?
 - What has someone done for you that made you feel good?

What You Say:

“I hope you all learned something new about each other by asking questions today. Asking questions is a good way to get to know people better, even if you’ve known them for a long time. [Transition] In Large Group today, we are going to hear a story about someone who had a lot of questions.”

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: *Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions. Questions are a normal part of following Jesus. We won't always understand what we read in the Bible or why our life looks the way it does. God wants us to be honest about our questions and doubts. We pray that kids will understand that they can have hope knowing God will help them through those doubts.*

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

1. Beauty Revealed

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Paper, white crayons, watercolors, cups of water, paintbrushes

What You Do:

- Draw a picture on a white piece of paper using a white crayon.
- Hold up the paper and ask the group to tell you what you drew.
- After several guesses, paint over the whole paper with watercolor paints.
- As you paint, have the kids watch carefully as your drawing is revealed.
- Pass out paper and a white crayon to each kid.
- Allow the kids to try drawing on their own paper.
- When they are finished drawing, hand out watercolors.
- Encourage kids to paint over their crayon drawing with watercolors to reveal their pictures.

What You Say:

*“Sometimes we have questions that we cannot see the answers to. It's always easier to understand and believe things when we see them with our own eyes. However, God asks us to believe in Him even when we can't see Him in physical form. **[Make It Personal]** (Talk about the reasons you believe God is real.) God knows it is hard for us to believe what we can't see, but **[Bottom Line]** whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.”*

2. Mystery Box

[Application Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Opaque box with small object inside

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the box in the middle of the group.
- Don't let anyone touch or pick up the box for hints!
- Go around the group and encourage kids to ask yes-or-no questions to get clues about what is inside the box.
- If a kid asks a question and the answer is yes, she gets to ask another question. If the answer is no, the next kid can ask a question. (Limit this to two questions per kid.)
- If kids want to make a guess about what is in the box, they can do so during their turn.
- Keep going until someone guesses or as time allows.

What You Say:

*“This box contained something you couldn’t see, but you knew it was there. You believed me when I told you it was there, and you asked questions to learn more about it. That’s a lot like God; we know He is there even though we can’t see Him. We need to ask questions about Him to learn more about who He is and what He’s like so we can get to know Him better. We never have to worry that we are asking too many questions or the wrong questions. **[Bottom Line]** Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.”*

3. That’s What That Means

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “That’s What That Means” Activity Page, white board, dry erase marker

What You Do:

- Write the memory verse (John 16:33b) on the board.
- Hand out one of the action strips from the Activity Page to each kid (or pair of kids).
- Instruct kids to start doing the motion on their strip of paper, but without using words.
- Ask them to group up with anyone else doing the same motion.
 - *Note: The motions will work with all translations and versions of the verse.*
- Encourage kids to work together as a group to see if they can figure out what part of the verse goes with which motion.
- Once the group has figured out all the motions, guide them to arrange themselves in order and say the verse all together.

What You Say:

“This verse tells us that God has all the answers. He knows everything about the world and all the things in it. He even knows about space and time and heaven and all the things outside of

*the earth. Even though God might not always answer all of our questions, He never gets upset with us for asking. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.** God will always be there for us, and He wants us to keep talking to Him and keep asking more about Him and His creation.”*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to make their bodies as big as they can and say, “God is bigger.”
- Tell them to make their bodies as small as they can and say, “than our questions.”
- Talk about what questions they have for God.
- After kids share for a few moments, lead them in prayer about their questions.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for allowing us to ask questions. We are grateful that You have given us Your Word where we can look for answers to all the things we are wondering about. Please continue to also put people in our lives who can answer our questions for us. We also pray that whatever happens, we will remember You are bigger than our questions. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to show parents their paintings and talk to them about how they revealed their drawing. If possible, prepare parents that the kids might have some big questions about God—perhaps even questions that none of us know the answer to! And that’s okay. Encourage parents and guardians to be honest with kids about the questions they don’t know the answers to. Tell them to encourage kids that God can handle those questions and wants to help them trust Him.