



WEEK FOUR – APRIL 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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 NIV*

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:

- Ask kids a series of “Would You Rather” questions, such as: Would you rather be:
 - an elephant or a whale?
 - a dog or a cat?
 - a horse or a cow?
 - a chicken or a pig?
 - a dinosaur or a robot?
 - a bird or a mouse?
 - a butterfly or a bee?
 - a frog or a fish?
 - a pancake or a waffle?
- Kids can vote by making the sound of the animal or object they’d rather be. (What sound does a waffle make? The kids’ creativity is the only limit!)

2. What Is It?

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

What You Need: “What Is It? Cards” Activity Pages in an opaque bag

What You Do:

- Lead kids to gather around you.
- Invite a volunteer to draw a card from the bag and hold it where the other kids can’t see it.
- Lead kids to take turns asking yes-or-no questions to identify the object on the card. If the group is stuck, offer sample questions such as: Is it an animal? Is it bigger than a mailbox? Does it have two legs?
- If a child thinks they know what the object is, they can ask, “Is it a ____?”

What You Say:

*“You guys asked some great questions to figure out what the objects were. **[Transition]** In Large Group we’ll hear about some other questions we can ask. Let’s go learn more.”*

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. Believing Without Seeing

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Pillowcase with a stuffed animal inside

What You Do:

- Help kids understand in a concrete way that even though they can't see Jesus, they can know without a doubt that He's real!
- Ask kids if they think they can tell you what's inside the pillowcase without seeing it. How? (They can feel it and guess what it is.)
- Invite kids to feel the object through the pillowcase. Ask them to tell whether they think the object is hard or soft; what shape it is; or what kind of stuffed animal, ball, or vehicle it is.
- Add fun by asking kids to vote about the object in active ways:
 - If you think it's soft, wiggle your body.
 - If you think it's hard, stomp your feet.
 - If you think it's a stuffed animal, jump up and down.
 - If you think it's a stuffed animal rabbit, hop in place.
 - If you think it's a stuffed animal dog, wag your "tail."
 - Invite a volunteer to look inside the pillowcase.
- Guide her to tell the group more about the item: what color it is; what kind of stuffed animal, ball, or vehicle it is; and any other details she can describe. She might say: "It's a stuffed bunny with a red baseball cap and white tennis shoes. The bunny is brown and white and it has a pink nose."

What You Say:

"So, what's in my pillowcase? (Pause.) How do you know? (We could feel it. Alyssa told us what it was.) (Pull out the item for kids to see.) So, even though you couldn't SEE what was inside the pillowcase, you KNEW what was inside! You felt that it was a (insert type of toy) and

that it had (describe something on its head and on its feet), but then [kid's name] told you about it and you knew for certain what it was.

“You know what? The same thing can be true about us and Jesus. Can we see Jesus? No, we can't see Jesus, but we can KNOW that He's real. We can believe because we can see the wonderful world He made, we can believe because of the true stories people told about Him, and we can believe because He tells us deep inside that He's real.

*“And remember what Jesus told Thomas? “Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed” (John 20:29 NIV). So, even though we can't see Jesus, we can believe in Him. And if you have questions about Jesus, that's okay. Because **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.** He loves you, and you can always talk to Him.”*

2. God is Bigger

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, “God Is Bigger” Activity Pages, pencils

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up John 16:33b using the Bible navigation tips from Week One.
- Read the verse aloud.
- Ask kids to describe some troubles they might have.
- Explain that the troubles we have in our lives can sometimes make us feel sad or confused or even scared. But no matter what kind of troubles we have, God is bigger.
- Give each child a “God Is Bigger” Activity Page, and guide them to complete the dot to dot.
- When they finish, ask:
 - What do you see? (A question mark)
 - When do you use a question mark? (When someone asks a question)
 - Have you ever had questions for God?
 - What were they?

What You Say:

*“God is bigger than our troubles, and He's bigger than our questions. So **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.** He loves you, and you can always talk to Him.”*

3. Questions for Jesus

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Jesus Silhouette” Activity Page, dry erase board marker, sticky notes, pencils

What You Do:

- Post the “Jesus Silhouette” and invite kids to think of questions they may have for Jesus.
- Print their musings on a dry erase board or tear sheet.
- Set out the sticky notes, and invite kids to write or draw their questions on the notes.
- When they finish, they can stick their notes to the silhouette.
- **[Make It Personal] Write and post your own questions for Jesus, too.**

What You Say:

*“Is it okay to have questions for God? (Pause.) Yes! We all have questions sometimes, and that’s okay. So who can you talk to whenever you have questions about God? (my mom or dad, my grandparents, my teacher, my Small Group Leader) Yes, you can talk to anyone who loves God. They’ll be happy to help you as best they can. And you can talk to me, too! You know what? You can even talk to God himself! You can be honest with Him, because He already knows your questions, and He’s right there with you. He loves you, and He wants to help you trust Him! So **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**”*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Jesus Silhouette” from previous activity

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around the “Jesus Silhouette.”
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

“Is it okay to have questions for God? (Pause.) Yes! When there are things that are hard for you to believe—or hard for you to understand—you don’t have to hide your feelings. You can talk to God and be honest with Him. He knows how you feel, and He wants you to talk with Him. He loves you! Let’s talk to God right now.”

Lead kids in a silent prayer, encouraging them to talk to God about any questions they have. Close by thanking God that He’s okay with our questions and that He wants to help us trust Him. Thank Him for His unfailing love.

As adults arrive to pick up, lead kids to tell them today's Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions. 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.