



WEEK ONE – APRIL 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *You Raise Me Up • John 11:1–45*

Key Question: *How do you react when bad things happen?*

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 start the month with friends of Jesus who had lost all hope. John records an incredible moment that we find in John 11:1–45. When Lazarus died, Jesus used the opportunity to point people to God. Jesus was stronger than even death itself and raised Lazarus back to life four days after he had died.

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

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Clear glass jar, pitcher of water, “Early Arriver” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Ask students to brainstorm things that are powerful.
- Write each of their ideas on a separate notecard.
 - If needed, interject a few additional suggestions that students might not come up with on their own.
 - For example, words, technology, anger, hot sauce, or a chainsaw.
 - The group will likely have named GOD or JESUS, but if not be sure to include them in the list.
- Place all the cards face down on the floor.
- Invite two students to each turn over one card and then decide which of the two is more powerful and why. Remove the cards after each turn.
- Repeat until everyone has had at least one turn. Encourage students to turn over a different combination of cards each time.

What You Say:

“There are a lot of things in our world that are powerful, but our great God is above them all. That’s something we should never forget no matter what happens. The Bible is full of evidence of God’s strength. In Large Group, we’ll hear one of the most amazing stories of all.”

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: *How do you react when bad things happen? We can’t escape them. We will all face moments in our lives that seem difficult. We can respond to them in all sorts of ways. We want kids to identify the way they react in these moments and figure out a plan for how they can find hope, respond well, and trust God no matter is happening in their life.*

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

1. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bibles, prepared “Lip Sticks”

What You Do:

- Place each of the “Lip Sticks” face up on the floor then gather around.
- Review the Bible story by selecting and reading aloud key portions of your choosing from John 11:1–45.
- Pause the story to let students interject what they think the characters may have been thinking and feeling at that time.
- Invite the group to choose one of the “Lip Sticks” to hold in front of their mouths as they share.
- At the end of the review, read John 11:45 then ask . . .
 - Why do you think the people in this verse believed in Jesus?
 - If you had been there when this miracle took place, what would you be thinking or feeling?
 - Why do you think Jesus waited until Lazarus was dead for several days before He came?
 - How can this story give you hope when you’re in a tough situation?

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Read John 11:4 aloud. What are some ways that sickness, suffering, or other tough situations bring glory to God?
- If God is powerful enough to bring a dead person like Lazarus back to life, what does that tell you about Him?
- If God is super-powerful, why do you think He doesn’t bring all the people we love back to life again or make every sick person well?
- How do you react when bad things happen?
- What helps you when you need to trust God in tough situations? **[Make it Personal]** (Give students an example from your own life of what helps you to trust God in difficult circumstances. Is there a particular verse you recite over and over to yourself? Is there a friend who continually reminds you to take comfort in God’s power?)

3. Verses to Take With You

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, pens, “Verses to Take with You” Activity Page, tape

What You Do:

- Give students a Bible, pen, and a copy of the “Verses to Take with You” Activity Page. If you have more than five students, allow them to work in pairs or groups of three.
- Ask students to look up and read the verse written at the top of their Activity Page then finish one or more of the sentences in their own words.
- When everyone is finished, bring students together then ask them to read their verses to the whole group and share what they wrote.
- For your reference, here is the NIRV translation of the verses students will be looking up:
 - John 16:33b: “In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.”
 - Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power.”
 - Psalm 28:7: “The Lord gives me strength. He is like a shield the keeps me safe. My heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart jumps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”
 - Matthew 19:26: “Jesus looked at them and said, “With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.”
 - Romans 15:13: May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.
- Give students (or each group of students) a roll of tape and challenge them to come up with a way to make the sheet of paper they used in this activity hold a Bible at least four-inches above the floor or tabletop.
 - If successful, up the challenge by adding more Bibles.
 - *Note: If students don't come up with a strategy that works, suggest they roll the paper into a tube about the size of paper towel roll and secure it with tape. Another method is to fold the paper like a fan.*

What You Say:

“No one would expect a sheet of paper to hold up under the weight of a heavy book, but we just proved it can. You might not think that you're able to be strong in your faith when you're facing a tough time, but you can. When you feel weak and without hope, remember how powerful God is. Ask Him to help you trust Him even when life doesn't make sense. When you do, God gets the credit in a big way.”

4. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Invite students to share a personal struggle of their own or a difficult time that a friend or family member is going through right now.
- Encourage them to think of something they learned about hope today as they pray for the people who were mentioned.

What You Say:

“Dear Jesus, you have told us to expect some tough times. Help us remember that You are greater than our most gigantic problem. You can make dead things alive again, so we know that You have the power to give us hope on our dark days. Help us remember how powerful you are. Amen.”

Don't forget to hand out this month's content overview to each parent!