



## WEEK ONE – MAY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Runnin' Down a Dream* ▪ Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1–2

**Bottom Line:** *Keep going because God is with you.*

**Memory Verse:** *“But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.” – Isaiah 40:31 NIV*

**Life App:** *Perseverance – Refusing to give up when life gets hard*

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

**Summary:** We start the month in Matthew 28:16–20 and Acts 1–2 as we listen in on the last conversation Jesus had with His disciples before going back to heaven. He gave them a huge mission—to share His message to ends of the earth. He also promised that they wouldn't have to do it alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to help. When the Holy Spirit did come at Pentecost, the Spirit gave the disciples power to accomplish the task Jesus set out for them.

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

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### **1. Early Arriver Idea**

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

#### **What You Need:**

#### **What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Choose a “ducker” and begin to play “Duck, Duck, Goose.”
- After each ducker runs around the circle, encourage them to answer the question: If you were going to run a long race, what would you want to bring with you?
- Continue until each kid has had a chance to be the ducker and answer the question.

#### **What You Say:**

***[Transition] “Today in Large Group, we are going to learn why we can always keep going no matter what obstacles lay in front of us!”***

***Lead your group to the Large Group area.***

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**9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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#### **OVERVIEW:**

**Bottom Line:** *Keep going because God is with you. We all have jobs to do. Some jobs feel completely overwhelming and make us feel like we want to give up. God can give us the strength we need to keep going and finish what we started.*

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

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### **1. Pass the Pie**

#### **[Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** Brown Play-Doh, Spotify playlist (<https://spoti.fi/2ZKofWW>)

#### **What You Do:**

- Instruct your group to stand in a line so they're looking at the back of the person in front of them.
- Explain that you are going to give the first person in line the "mud pie" (chunk of brown Play-Doh), and they are going to pass the pie over their head to the person behind them.
- That person will then pass it between their legs to the person standing behind them.
- Encourage everyone to keep passing over/under until the mud pie reaches the end of the line.
- Do a practice round before beginning the game so kids can understand the over/under concept.
- Tell kids that you will play music as they pass the pie, and when the music is paused, the person holding the pie must answer a question about today's story.
- The goal is to pass the pie fast enough so that you're not holding it when the music stops!
- Continue as time and interest allow, or until all review questions are answered.
- Try not to stop the music on the same kid twice.
- Review questions:
  - What gift did Jesus say His followers were going to receive? (the Holy Spirit)
  - What command did Jesus give His followers? (go and make disciples; tell everyone else about Him)
  - What happened to Jesus after He gave them the command? (He went up into the sky)
  - Did anybody show up with the followers after Jesus went into the sky? (two angels)
  - What did the angels say? (Jesus will go to heaven, but He will come back the same way He left)
  - When Jesus' followers left the mountain and went back to their house, what did they experience? (the Holy Spirit came)
  - What happened when the Holy Spirit came? (they started speaking in languages they had never spoken before)
  - What did Peter and the others do after this? (taught people about Jesus)

### **What You Say:**

*"Okay! Who never had to answer a question? (Allow time for kids to raise hands.) Wow! Then you, my friends, are some seriously fast passers of pie. You know, in today's story we learned that God has asked us to pass on something way more awesome than a mud pie. He asked us to pass on the greatest story ever told: the gospel—the story of Jesus! There may be obstacles that we face or times when we get into sticky situations, but today we learned that we can always **[Bottom Line] keep going because God is with you.**"*

***[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example of how you persevered and told someone about Jesus even though there were obstacles that made it difficult or awkward.)***

## 2. Spread the News

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** “Spread the News” Activity Pages, markers

### What You Do:

- Talk with your group about what it means to persevere.
  - Ask if anyone knows how to tie their shoes. (If not, ask about other things that are difficult for kids that age to learn, such as writing their name or reading a short sentence.)
  - Ask if learning those skills was hard, and what kids had to do in order to be successful.
  - Did they have to practice and do that skill over and over again? Did it take a long time? Did they have someone who helped them?
- Lead kids to think about something they need to persevere in right now. Maybe it’s tying their shoes if they haven’t learned that yet. Maybe it’s getting along with a sibling. Maybe it’s doing a chore or task until it’s finished, instead of stopping before the task is finished.
- Give every kid an Activity Page and markers.
- Encourage them to decorate their “newspaper” and to draw in one way they are going to keep going and persevere this week!
- If you have kids who haven’t identified where they need perseverance, continue the conversation with those kids as the rest of the group works on their newspapers.

### What You Say:

*“Who wants to share a way you are going to persevere this week with our group? (Allow time for kids to share.) What AMAZING ideas! Now, who wants to share one of the obstacles or things that may get in the way of you finishing? (Allow time for kids to share.) You know, no matter what comes up this week, our story reminded us today that we can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God is with you.** Each of the ideas you wrote down can be finished because God will help us! I can’t wait to hear next week about how you finished things strong this week!*

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Kids’ newspapers from “Spread the News” activity

**What You Do:**

- Encourage your group to sit in a circle and think about the things they want to persevere through this week.
- Let kids refer to the newspapers they made.

**What You Say:**

*“God, we thank You that we get to be a part of spreading the best news ever! When times get hard or tough situations arise, we pray that Your Spirit will help us and give us the encouragement we need to keep going. Remind us when we grow tired that we can keep going because You are with us.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, let each kid display their newspaper. Ask them how they want to persevere this week. Remind kids that they can keep going because God is with them. Also, don't forget to hand out this month's content overview to each parent!***