



WEEK ONE – JULY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Back 2 Good • James 1:17a*

Bottom Line: *Show God's goodness to others.*

Memory Verse: *"God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6, NIV"*

Life App: *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

Basic Truth: *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

Summary: We start the month in James 1:17a. Jesus' brother, James, shares a bit of wisdom that reminds us how everything that's good comes from God. It's true! Everything good in our lives is because of God. And the best gift that God gives is Jesus. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can show God's goodness to others.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: Butcher paper; markers

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
- Spread out the butcher paper, and invite kids to gather around it.
- Challenge kids to each write and/or draw something they're good at doing.
- As they work, encourage them to talk to the others about what they're writing/drawing.

2. Gift Game

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- The first kid says a gift he has received.
- The kid to his left says a gift he has received, BUT it has to start with the last letter of the previous kid's gift. (Encourage them to be creative in their responses! They can use adjectives if they wish.)
- Continue around the circle until interest wanes.
- If you want, you can do it "Going on a Picnic" style, where each kid has to repeat everyone else's responses before they say their own. ("Kason got a dog. Arielle got a gold necklace. Tekoa got an Easter bunny treat. And I got a ticket to the basketball game.")

What You Say:

"Those are some awesome gifts you've received. [Transition] Let's go to Large Group, where we'll talk some more about gifts we have received."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Show God’s goodness to others. When we understand that God has been so good to us, we can’t help but show goodness to others. From being kind to helping others, we hope kids come up with some great ideas to point others to Jesus with their actions.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Pipe Cleaner Gifts**[Bible Story Review]**

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

What You Need: Pipe cleaners

What You Do:

- Give each kid a handful of pipe cleaners.
- Instruct kids to use the pipe cleaners to create a gift God has given them. It could be a tangible object, or it could be a talent or ability.
- As they work, give each kid a turn to explain their gift and then come up with one way they could pass that goodness on to others. For example:
 - “I can use my gift of a paint set to make cards for my neighbors and tell them about Jesus.”
 - “I can use my gift of singing to sing at the nursing home and make the residents happy.”
- ***[Make It Personal] (Make a pipe cleaner gift of your own, and share your thoughts and ideas with the kids.)***

What You Say:

*“There are so many ways we can use the gifts God has given us to do good things for others. When He gives us things, they’re not usually just for us—they’re also for the people around us. Let’s always look for ways to pass the goodness we have received on to others in our lives and our communities. We can **[Bottom Line] show God’s goodness to others** by doing the things we just talked about and so many other things. Let’s keep an eye out for ways we can pass it on. Take your pipe cleaner gift home, and put it somewhere you’ll see it as a reminder to show goodness to the people around you.”*

2. Complete It**[Memory Verse Activity]**

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

What You Need: Bibles**What You Do:**

- Say the beginning of well-known phrases, song lyrics, or catchphrases, and let kids complete them. You can come up with your own, based on what you know your kids will be familiar with, and/or you can use some of the following to get you started:
 - Twinkle, twinkle, little star . . . (how I wonder what you are)
 - Jesus loves me this I know . . . (for the Bible tells me so)
 - Peter Piper picked a peck of . . . (pickled peppers)
 - Do you want to build . . . (a snowman)
 - Treat others the way . . . (you want to be treated)
- If you have time, give kids the opportunity to come up with some “beginnings” of their own for the rest of the group to complete.
- Guide kids to look up Philippians 1:6 using the following tips.
 - **Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 6 in chapter 1.*
- Read the verse together several times.
- Point out how the verse talks about how God begins something in us, and we can be sure that He will complete it.

What You Say:

*“Today we’re talking about goodness, which is a fruit of the Spirit. It’s also something that describes God, and we can see that in our verse today. Just like we completed the song lyrics and phrases a few minutes ago, God will complete the good works He has begun in us. We can **[Bottom Line]** show God’s goodness to others so that they can also see how He can complete the good works He is beginning in us.”*

3. Pray and Dismiss**[Prayer Activity]**

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

What You Need: Paper; pencil**What You Do:**

- Hand out paper and pencils.
- Encourage kids to think about a way they can [Bottom Line] show God’s goodness to others.
 - This can be something they shared with the group earlier today or something entirely different.
- Instruct kids to write a short prayer asking God to help them show others His goodness in that way this week.
- Finish with a prayer like the one below.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for being the perfect example to us of goodness, and help us each to show Your goodness to others. Be with each kid here today, and help them as they go out to show Your goodness to the people in their lives this week. Give them the opportunities and the courage they need. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about their pipe cleaner objects and what they are supposed to remind them of. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!