



WEEK TWO – JULY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Faithfully* ▪ Acts 12:1–19

Bottom Line: *Be faithful so others can count on you.*

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: Next, we discover how faithfulness shows up in an incredible moment that Luke records in Acts 12:1–19. Peter faithfully served God and preached the message of Jesus. The church faithfully prayed for Peter while he was in prison. God was faithful to Peter and sent an angel to help him escape. They could hardly believe what happened, but everyone praised God for his faithfulness.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: N/A

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
- Do one or both of the following trust-based activities.
- Trust Fall:
 - Divide kids into groups of four. One kid will be the “faller,” and the other three will be the “catchers.”
 - The faller stands with his legs locked and his arms folded over his chest.
 - The catchers stand two to three feet behind the faller in a tight semicircle. They brace their legs and put both hands out in front of them in a modified “stop” gesture with elbows slightly bent.
 - The faller tells the catchers when he is ready and falls backward with legs and waist locked, and the catchers catch him.
 - *Note: You will need to closely supervise this to make sure catchers are close enough to the faller and in proper position!*
- Zipper Game:
 - Guide kids to line up in two parallel lines with the lines facing each other so they’re about three feet apart.
 - Instruct kids to extend their arms straight out toward the opposite line, with their arms interspersed between the arms on the opposite side (so their arms look like a zipper).
 - Choose one kid to walk, jog, or run through the zipper (the path between the two lines).
 - The runner will ask, “Zipper, ready?” and the group will respond, “Ready!”
 - The runner will tell the group if they’re going to walk, jog, or run. Then they’ll say, “Unzip!” and start down the path.
 - As the runner moves down the path, kids will drop their arms just before the runner gets there.

2. I Don’t Think So!

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

What You Need: Deck(s) of playing cards

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of no more than six.
- Give each group a deck of cards, and tell them to play a game of “I Don’t Think So” (which you may know as “I Doubt It” or another version of those words).
- If kids don’t know how to play, give them these instructions:
 - Deal all of the cards. (Note: Some kids might end up with one more card than others do. That’s okay.)
 - Kids get to look at their cards, and they should make sure nobody else can see them.
 - The first kid will lay one to four cards face down, in a stack in the center of the playing area and say how many cards and which card (which are played in order from two to ace), such as: “Two 2’s” or “three 2’s.”
 - The kid to his left will lay down 3’s. The next kid will play 4’s, and so on. When you get to ace, it starts all over again with two.
 - Explain that the cards kids lay down don’t always have to be what they say they are. In fact, it will often happen that a kid has NO cards of the number he is supposed to play. But he has to play at least one card when it’s his turn.
 - Tell kids that after each play, the other kids get the chance to say, “I don’t think so!”
 - You might want to explain this further by saying, “You might come to this conclusion just by guessing, or you might know for sure, because the kid said he laid down three eights, but you have two 8’s in your hand. Since there are only four 8’s in a deck, you know he’s not telling the truth.”
 - After an “I don’t think so,” the kid who played the last cards turns them over. If the cards are what he said they were, the person who said, “I don’t think so,” has to pick up ALL the cards in the middle.
 - If the cards weren’t what the kid said they were, he has to pick up all the cards.
 - The winner is the first person to get rid of all of his cards.

What You Say:

*“In this game, you had to figure out whether the other people were being faithful in what they said. You didn’t know whether you could trust them or not, because in this game it was easier to win when you didn’t tell the truth. But in reality, we want to be faithful and trustworthy people, because that will show others the faithfulness of God through us. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear some more about that.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: ***Be faithful so others can count on you.** Faithfulness will look different for each of us. Some of us will be faithful to family members who need encouragement. Others will faithfully help friends who struggle a bit. We hope kids learn that when they are faithful to others, God can do some amazing things through them.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Faithful Chains**[Application Activity]**

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

What You Need: “Paper Strips” Activity Pages (or pre-cut strips), markers, scissors (if strips aren’t pre-cut), tape

What You Do:

- Remind kids that Peter was faithful to God even when he was chained up in prison.
- Give each kid an Activity Page (or pre-cut strips). If the strips haven’t been cut, allow time for kids to cut them out.
- Set out the markers.
- Tell kids to write a phrase or sentence on each strip that relate to being faithful.
 - Some can be generic, like: “Keep my promises.” “Do what I say I’m going to do.”
 - Others can be more specific, like: “At school, I will turn in my homework.” “At home, I will get my chores done when my parents ask.”
- Guide kids to make a paper chain out of their strips of paper.

What You Say:

*“There are many ways we can be faithful every day. Tell me some ways you will be faithful this week. (Pause for responses.) **[Make It Personal]** (Share a way you will be faithful this week in your job, at home, or in your walk with Jesus.) Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. It’s something God does in us to change the world around us. When we show faithfulness to others, we’re reflecting the faithfulness God shows to us. **[Bottom Line]** Be faithful so others can count on you.”*

2. Chain Relay

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Verse Phrases” (Activity Pages), prepared paper chains, tape

What You Do:

- Divide kids into two teams, and give each team a paper chain.
- Place a set of “Verse Phrases” across the room from each team.
- Instruct each team to slide their chain on the first person in line, with their hands behind their backs. They will need to be careful and not tear the chain.
- Kids will relay to get the phrases. They have to keep their hands in their chain the entire time. It’s up to them as to how they want to grab the phrase and get it back to their team.
- When a kid returns with a phrase, the other kids take the chain off him and put it on the next kid. If the chain tears, they can use tape to repair it.
- The goal isn’t to beat the other team. It’s for both teams to get the entire verse put in order.

What You Say:

*“It was tricky to do this relay while you were in chains, wasn’t it? And it was probably also VERY frustrating. It was probably frustrating for Peter to be in prison, too, but he was able to stay faithful to God during that time. He knew that the good work God started in him would one day be carried out to completion, just like our verse says. He was faithful, and God wants us to be faithful too. **[Bottom Line] Be faithful so others can count on you.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Pair kids up, and let them share something they wrote on their “Faithfulness Chain.”
- Tell kids to pray about that thing for their partner and ask God to help them be faithful in that way.
- Encourage kids to continue to pray for their partner throughout the week

What You Say:

*“I hope you will all be faithful to pray for each other this week. Praying for each other in this way will not only help the person you’re praying for, but it will also be a good reminder to YOU to be faithful as well. **[Bottom Line] Be faithful so others can count on you.**”*

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about what they wrote on their paper chains.