



WEEK ONE – AUGUST 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *I'll Remember (What Is the Bible?) • Psalm 119:105*

Bottom Line: *When you learn about God, it's easier to follow Him.*

Memory Verse: *“The way we show our love is to obey God’s commands. He commands you to lead a life of love. That’s what you have heard from the beginning.” – 2 John 6 (NIRV)*

Life App: *Obedience—trusting who’s in charge by doing what you’re asked to do.*

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

Summary: We start the month by helping kids understand the importance of the Bible. In Psalm 119:105 we read that God’s Word can guide us in the way we should go. The Bible is made up of 66 books that include history and wisdom, letters and parables, even poems and promises that make up God’s One Big Story. When we dig into the Bible, we find out about God’s plan to rescue the world through Jesus.

PRE-SERVICE 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:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Lead the children to discuss their favorite books. Ask:
 - What is your favorite book? Why is it your favorite?
 - What book have you read more than once?
 - What is your favorite kind of book? Examples: picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, history, non-fiction, fiction, etc.

2. Look!

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

What You Need: “Look!” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Show one of the “Look!” close-up images and encourage kids to guess what it is.
 - *Tip: Direct kids to give a silent, subtle signal (such as touching their nose) when they think they know the answer. This can help prevent outbursts and allow all kids a chance to think and guess.*
- When kids guess, unfold the page to reveal the full image.
- Continue through the remaining cards, ending with the “Bible.”

What You Say:

*“What do you think the planets, the earth, the moon, astronauts, and the Bible have in common? (God made the planets and everything in space; the Bible tells us about everything God made.) Good thinking! **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and learn more.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *When you learn about God, it's easier to follow Him. Throughout the month, we'll help kids learn that obedience and trust go hand-in-hand. The more you know an adult, the more likely you'll do what they ask. The same is true about God. The more you know Him, the easier it is to do what God asks you to do. We'll help kids learn how they can discover more about God as they read the Bible.*

SMALL GROUP

1. The Bible Timeline

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Prepared butcher paper, “Bible Story Images” Activity Pages, crayons or markers, and wall tape

What You Do:

- If possible, use the wall tape to hang the butcher paper on a wall at a kid's eye level. If your space does not allow for this, place the butcher paper on the floor.
- Pass out the “Bible Story Images” to the kids to color. Make sure each kid understands what their image represents (descriptions below).
- If you have a large group of kids, pair them up to color an image together.
- Once the images have been colored, work together to place them in the following order on the timeline—from left to right—and review today's Bible story.
 - Old Testament Images:
 - The earth: God creates the entire universe by His own power.
 - Adam and Eve: Then He creates human beings in His image. But they disobey his one command. Sin (another word for disobedience) enters the world and our relationship with God is broken.
 - Abraham: Years pass. God begins His amazing plan to fix man's broken relationship with Him. He chooses Abraham, who will be the father of a great nation (the Israelites). From Abraham's line of descendants, a Savior will one day come.
 - Prophets tell of Jesus' coming: God selects men to speak for him. We call them prophets. These prophets talk about a Savior who will come to save everyone—not just the Israelites.
 - “SILENCE” (Place this image over the hash mark): For hundreds of years, we don't have a single recorded word from God.
 - New Testament Images:

- Mary kneeling: God chooses Mary. She will have a baby and name Him Jesus. He will come to take away the sins of the world.
- A manger: Jesus is born as a baby in Bethlehem. He grows up in wisdom, faith, and friendship.
- A cross: Though Jesus treats everyone with love, the religious leaders arrest Him, convict Him, and then crucify Him. Jesus dies. His followers are devastated.
- An empty tomb: Three days later, the tomb is empty! Jesus is alive! Jesus gives His followers the command to tell others about Him before returning to heaven.
- A modern-day church building (Place this image to the far right of the timeline): Those first disciples shared the news about what they had seen: Jesus died and rose again. Generation after generation shared that same message until it reached us today! That good news about Jesus is the whole reason we have a church!

What You Say:

*“Wow! What an incredible timeline. (Point to the first two pictures.) When Adam and Eve decided to disobey God, sin and disobedience entered the world. But God put a plan in motion to fix that broken relationship. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to save us. And when you understand what God has done for you, it makes it easier follow Him. It’s so much easier to obey someone when you can trust them. This timeline reminds us that God can be trusted. Just look at ALL He’s done to rescue us! **[Bottom Line] When you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him.**”*

2. GodTime Card Review

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: GodTime cards, Bibles, pencils

What You Do:

- Pass out a GodTime card and a Bible to each child.
- Explain that a GodTime card is a tool to help you spend your own time with God each week.
- Point out the parts of the card. Each day there is:
 - a verse to look up.
 - a short paragraph of explanation to help you understand the verse.
 - an activity to help you put the verse into practice.
 - a prayer prompt to help you talk to God about what you’ve learned.
- Ask the kids to look up the scripture for Day One on their cards.

- Let a volunteer read the verse aloud.
- Read the paragraph below the verse and encourage the children to complete the activity. Take a few minutes to discuss the verse.
- Pray together.
- Explain that each week, they'll receive four days of GodTime cards to complete the following week.
- Encourage kids to think about the week ahead. Next to each of the remaining days, ask them to write down a day and time they will complete it. For instance:
 - Day Two: Monday after school or Wednesday at bedtime

What You Say:

*“These GodTime cards are a great way to start a regular habit of spending time with God. Reading God’s Word and spending time talking to Him through prayer are great ways to grow in your relationship with God! God loves us and He wants us to follow Him in obedience. That’s why He’s given us His word. **[Bottom Line]** When you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him.”*

3. Memory Verse Bookmarks

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, cardstock strips, and markers

What You Do:

- Look up the month’s memory verse (2 John 6) together using the navigation tips below.
 - ***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 2 John in the list under “New Testament.” Point out the difference between the books of John and 1, 2, and 3 John in the Table of Contents. When the kids find 2 John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 2 John. Help the kids find the page. When they find 2 John, explain that this book only has one chapter, so they only need to find the verse. Help them find verse 6.
- Pass out a cardstock strip to each child.
- Encourage them to write out the words of this month’s verse and decorate it to create a bookmark.

What You Say:

*“I hope you’ll use these bookmarks in your Bibles this week as a reminder that we show God we love Him when we obey Him and follow His commands. He wants us to trust that His way is the best way. He made you and loves you more than you could ever imagine. **[Bottom Line]** When you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Tell your few about something you’ve learned from Scripture that has helped you follow God in obedience. You can point to a specific story or favorite verse. Share how following that command has made your life better and helped you grow in your relationship with God.)*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: GodTime cards and Memory Verse bookmarks from previous activity

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to hold their GodTime cards and bookmarks as you lead them in prayer.

What You Say:

*“I have a little challenge for you this week. I want you to place this GodTime card and bookmark inside your Bible when you get home. But that’s not the challenge! The challenge is to MOVE your bookmark as you complete Days Two, Three, and Four. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** when you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him.*

“Let’s pray. Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us SO much that You sent Your only Son for us. Thank You for the Bible, where we can learn how to follow You. Help us to move our bookmarks and complete our GodTime cards this week as we spend time reading Your Word and applying what we’ve learned. We know that following You in obedience is the best way to show that we love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their bookmarks and GodTime cards to complete with a Bible at home. If someone doesn’t have a Bible, work with your church to have some on hand if possible. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!