



WEEK ONE – AUGUST 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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
- School has started for many of them. Encourage kids to tell the group about something they're learning—their ABCs, counting by 5s, how to tie their shoes, how to ride a bike, how to play an instrument, 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. A Light That Guides Us

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Big Story Stars” Activity Pages, “Big Story Summary” Activity Page, tape

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Tape a “Big Story Stars” card to each child’s back. (No peeking!)
 - *NOTE: If you have fewer than nine kids, place two cards on one or more kids’ backs.*
- Guide kids to mingle around your environment.
- Begin reading the “Big Story Summary.”
 - When you come to the word “creation” in parentheses, pause, and lead kids to gather around the child(ren) with that picture.
 - Post the creation picture where the group can see it.
 - Continue reading, pausing, and guiding kids to find each picture.
 - Post each picture as kids find it to create a Biblical “timeline.”
 - When you post the “Jesus is coming back” card, make sure to read the words for those who aren’t reading yet, and leave a gap between it and the “Jesus is alive” card.
- Use the conversation below to help make “God’s Big Story” personal!

What You Say:

“Each and every one of these Bible stories is an amazing truth about God. But do you want to know what one of the most amazing parts of the Bible is? (Pause.) YOU’RE in it! (Make a “wow” face.) Yes! (Look at each child as you say:) You and you and you and you . . . all of us! We’re living right here (point to the gap between the “Jesus is alive” card and the “Jesus is coming back” cards) between the time of Jesus and the early church and the time when Jesus is coming back to make everything right.

(Guide kids to come and huddle closely in the gap.) “Wow! YOU’RE a part of God’s Big Story! You may not understand everything now. And that’s okay. But as you read and hear God’s

*Word, He'll help you understand. He'll also help you obey. The Book of Psalms tells us: **Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me. (Psalm 119:105, NIV)***

*“And you know what? The more you read or hear the Bible and the more you talk about Him with older people who know Him, the more you'll discover who God is and how you can follow Him in everything you say and do. So the thing to remember today is this: **[Bottom Line] When you learn about God, it's easier to follow Him.**”*

2. Star Light, Star Bright

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, paper tubes, aluminum foil, tape, “God’s Word” cards (Activity Page), markers or crayons, stickers, glue sticks, pins (SGL use only)

What You Do:

- Give each child a Bible. Use the navigation tips below to help kids look up and “read” 2 John 6.
 - **Finding verses with kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the words 2 John at the top of the page as you say “2 John” (Second John) aloud. Then guide children to find the little number 6 on the page. Explain that this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
 - **Finding verses with 1st 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.” You can help by telling them that 2 John starts with the number 2, followed by the letters J–O. 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 the small numbers on the page are verse numbers. Help them find verse 6. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
- Unpack the truth that one way we show our love for God and for others is by doing what He says.
- Give each child a paper tube and a piece of foil.
- Show kids how to wrap the foil over one end of their tubes.
- Help kids tape the foil in place.
- Give each kid a “God’s Word” card and invite them to decorate it as they choose.

- Guide kids to spread glue over the backs of their cards and wrap them around their tubes.
- Use the pin to poke several holes in each child’s foil, creating a miniature “constellation.”
- Show kids how they can hold their tubes toward a light and look through them to see the “stars.”

What You Say:

“Long ago—and even today—people used the light of the stars to guide them on their journeys. Psalm 119 says that God’s Word is like a light that guides us. And 2 John 6 tells us: The way we show our love is to obey God’s commands. So this week, let your star viewers remind you to follow God’s Word and to show your love for God and for others by doing what He says.”

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Use the conversation below to guide kids in a prayer based on 2 John 6 and Psalm 119.

What You Say:

“Lord, thank You for loving us more than we could ever imagine! Help us show our love for You and for others by obeying Your commands. Help us trust in You with all our hearts and not wander away from Your commands. May we hide Your Word in our hearts so that we won’t sin against You. May we spend time thinking about Your rules and be careful to obey all that You say. Lord, your Word lasts forever, and You are faithful forever. We love You, Lord. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] When you learn about God, it’s easier to follow Him. Be sure to provide prompting help as necessary. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!