



WEEK ONE – APRIL 2020 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *The Way • Matthew 26:36-56 (Supporting: Luke 22:39-46)*

Key Question: *How do you put others first?*

Memory Verse: *“Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)*

Life App: *Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve*

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

Summary: We start off the month in Matthew 26:36–56. Jesus had been with His disciples at a special Passover meal where He demonstrated service and humility as He washed their feet. Afterwards, Jesus led them to the garden to watch and pray. Jesus gave us an important lesson in humility as He prayed to His Father, “Not my will, but Your will.” Jesus was soon arrested and put on trial to humbly face the darkest moments of His life.

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Icebreakers / Zoom SetUp

What to ask:

- 2 people share: What has been the best thing you have done this week?
- 2 people share: What's one thing you miss being able to do right now?
- Leader share: What is one thing you look forward to during this Zoom call?

What to expect:

- Leader: Set healthy standards for what this group time will look like, how much time you'll spend just catching up, and how much time you'll be engaged with the discussion questions -- NOTE: you want to prompt them to watch the weekend message BEFORE this call so they understand what is being talked about.

Recap the Weekend:

- Leader: Recap the story
- ***Consider having one of your the kids retell the story, then you can fill in the gaps

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *When you don't forgive, you miss out. When we choose not to forgive others, we could miss out on rebuilding a broken relationship. We might miss out on friendships or new, fun memories with our family, or peace in our own hearts. We could also miss out on the joy that God can give us when we choose to show forgiveness.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - How have you put someone first recently?
 - Why are certain people easier to put first than others? Without naming names, who is easier? Who is harder?
 - Our world is often “all about me,” so how can you live the upside-down, others-first, life instead?
 - How can you put others first this week? Who is someone specific you can put first and how are you going to do it?

2. Verses to Take With You (Optional)

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles & Dictionaries

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Philippians 2:3 and read this month’s memory verse.
- Have them get a dictionary and ask the kids to look up the words “proud,” “humble,” and “value.”
 - Ask for three different volunteers (one for each word) to read the definitions aloud.
 - For each word, ask for another volunteer to use the word in a sentence.
- Ask someone else to read the Life App for the month—the word and the definition.
- Say: “Our memory verse makes it pretty clear that in order to put others first and give up what we think we deserve; we have to value others more than ourselves. But how do we do that? Let’s look at another verse for help.”
- Open the Bibles again and ask someone to read Romans 12:10.
 - Say: We need to outdo each other in showing honor! So it’s like a competition to out-honor each other! Who can show the most honor?
- Sit in a circle and go around giving each person a chance to honor the person to their right with their words by saying something kind and valuable about the person.
 - Examples: Chloe, you have the best smile. Damien, I love how you can always make us laugh. Sam, you’re great at finding verses in the Bible. Mariah, I love your style and fashion sense.
- If there’s time, say something you value about each kid as well.
- Remind kids that one way to help ourselves remember to put others first is to remind ourselves why that person is valuable to us.