



PRETEEN

JUNE 2023

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

FAITH IS TRUSTING IN WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE.

Since the beginning, God has always been deeply involved in the world. We see God's handiwork on display in creation. We see God's love on display through Jesus, who came to rescue us. We respond to God in faith, believing in what we can't see because of what we can see. When we focus on what we know to be true about God and the world God created, we can have faith in what we can't see or fully understand. We put that faith into action as we follow Jesus and show His love to the world.

WEEK 1

Key Question: **What do you know about Jesus?** As we kick off our month on faith, we hope preteens can discover that they might already know a whole lot about Jesus, who He is, what He did for us, and the impact He makes on our life. We also hope they'll realize that there's so much more they can learn about Jesus too. When we follow Jesus, we'll soon find out that our entire life can be transformed by our faith in Him.

We start off the month in **Acts 9:1-9** and meet a man named Saul, also known as Paul. Saul was on his way to arrest and persecute followers of Jesus. But Jesus had other plans for him. Jesus stopped Saul on his journey and spoke to him. In a moment, Saul went from believing that Jesus was a false teacher to believing that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world.

Bottom Line: **Knowing Jesus changes how you see things.** When we put our faith in Jesus, it truly changes everything! We'll start to see people as God sees them. We'll discover a personal mission to join God in helping others experience new life in Jesus. We'll start to see opportunities to help, serve, show kindness, and live with generosity.

WEEK 2

Key Question: **When have you faced a fear?** One

of the best ways to work through your fear is to name what makes you scared and think about a time when you overcame that fear. We pray that as kids start to understand their fears, they'll experience the peace that can come from knowing that Jesus is with us.

In week 2, we head to **Acts 9:10-31** to see what happens after Jesus spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus. In a vision, Jesus spoke to Ananias, a follower of Jesus living in Damascus. Ananias knew Saul's reputation, but he trusted that God would take care of him. He trusted that Jesus could change anyone—even a man like Saul. When some of the religious leaders plotted to kill Saul, Ananias even helped him escape from Damascus.

Bottom Line: **God can help you face your fears.** God is always with us. Knowing that can give us a peace that passes all understanding. When we believe that Jesus conquered death itself, we can believe that He can do anything. We might fear things from time to time, but we can put our trust in Jesus and know that we can face anything because He's with us.

WEEK 3

Key Question: **When have you changed your mind about someone?** Preteens are very aware of how they are different from others in their life. Sometimes those differences get in the way of how we show friendship to others. When we follow Jesus, we can see others the way He sees them. Hopefully, seeing people like Jesus does will change the way we think about them. Our differences are something to celebrate, as God brings us all together through Jesus.

In **Acts 10**, we pick up Peter's story. Through a pretty crazy vision and encounter with a non-Jewish follower of Jesus, Peter learned that the message of Jesus is for all people. Peter now understood that everyone could be



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part of what God was doing in the world through Jesus.

Bottom Line: **God can change the way you see others.**

We might not always get along with everyone, but Jesus can help us see others the way God sees them. God loves each and every one of us, and each us is made in the image of God. We should love and accept each other just as God loves and accepts us.

WEEK 4

Key Question: **What does it feel like to be stuck?**

Sometimes we're physically stuck. Our shoes get stuck in the mud, or we're squished in the back of a crowded elevator. Other times, we might just feel stuck. We might be caught between friends who are arguing with each other, we might not like where we live, or we might not know how to make an important decision. Naming these moments out loud can help us trust God and have faith that God will help us get through them.

We finish the month in **Acts 12:1-19**. Because of King Herod, Peter found himself chained up between two guards, with another two guards at the door. That night, God sent an angel to the rescue. With the angel's help, Peter walked right out of the prison to the home where other Jesus-followers had met to pray for him. The other believers could hardly believe what they saw. God had answered their prayer, and Peter was with them again!

Bottom Line: **God is with you even when you feel stuck.** It can be really hard to feel stuck. We might feel like we're alone in our circumstances. Thankfully, throughout the Bible we can read about people who faced situations when they not only felt stuck, but were stuck. God was with them and gave them the strength to face their situations with faith. We pray that kids will really believe that they can trust God no matter what.