

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



IMPORTANT DATES:

7/6 & 7/7 9:00am - 4:00pm: Room decorating (meet in room 18)

7/9 around 12:45pm: Prayer Walk around campus (meet outside Sanctuary)

7/10-7/14 8:30am: VBS prayer & announcements in the Fellowship Hall

ALL THINGS VBS:

children.cccm.com/VBS2023



SPIRIT DAYS:

Tuesday: Hat Day (wear a favorite or crazy hat)

Wednesday: Team Color Day (wear your team's color)

Thursday: Board or Card Game Day (dress as your favorite game)

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

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KIDS CHURCH OFFICE

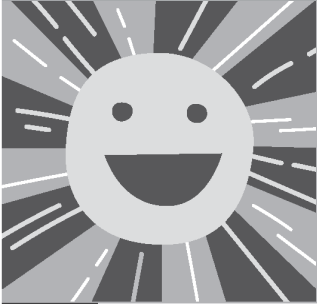
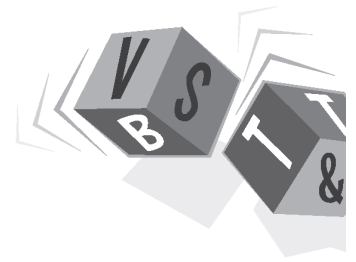
ext 2206 from any class phone



DAILY SCHEDULE

ALL GROUPS: MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:30am Prayer & Announcements - Fellowship Hall
9:00am Set up classroom
9:15am Begin checking in kids
9:45am Line up to go to Sanctuary Worship Rally
9:50am Worship Rally in Sanctuary



MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHEDULE: RED TEAM K/1ST

10:30am Games (field)
10:50am Class activities
12:00pm Check-out

MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHEDULE: GREEN TEAM 2ND/3RD

10:30am Class activities
10:50am Games (field)
11:10am Class activities
12:00pm Check-out

MONDAY-THURSDAY SCHEDULE: BLUE TEAM 4TH/5TH

10:30am Class activities
11:10am Games (field)
11:30am Class activities
12:00pm Check-out

FRIDAY WATER DAY SCHEDULE: PICK UP AT 12:30

GROUP A ROOMS: 12/13/14/23/24/25

9:45am Worship Rally in Sanctuary
10:15am-11:00am Field Water activities
11:00am-11:30am Lunch
11:30-12:30 Class activities

FRIDAY WATER DAY SCHEDULE: PICK UP AT 12:30

GROUP B ROOMS: 15/16/17/20/21/22

9:45am Worship Rally in Sanctuary
10:15am-11:15am Class activities
11:15am-12:00pm Field Water activities
12:00pm-12:30pm Lunch



VBS ROOM LOCATIONS



Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa 2023 "Twists Turns" VBS Classroom Locations and Schedule



M26	M25	M24	M23
Kindergarten 1st Grade	Kindergarten 1st Grade	2nd/3rd Grade	2nd/3rd Grade
M11	M12	M13	M14
Kindergarten 1st Grade	Kindergarten 1st Grade	Kindergarten 1st Grade	Kindergarten 1st Grade

	Boys	M22	M21	M20	M19
	Girls	2nd/3rd Grade	2nd/3rd Grade	4th/5th Grade	4th/5th Grade
		4th/5th Grade	4th/5th Grade	4th/5th Grade	Kids Church Office
		M15	M16	M17	M18

	J114	J113	J112	J111	J110
	Teacher Lounge				
	100 School Office				
	Stairs				
	J101	J102	J103		

Women	J109	J108	J107
Men	J104	J105	106

FIRST FLOOR

P10	P5
P9	P4
P8	P3
P7	P2
P6	P1

N-1 Nursery Foyer		Nursery	
	N-2	NURSE	
	N-3	Nursing Moms	
		Family Room	

Welcome
Center

Fellowship
Hall

Age	Room	Age	Room	Age	Room
Kindergarten/1st	M12	2nd/3rd	M21	4th/5th	M15
Kindergarten/1st	M13	2nd/3rd	M22	4th/5th	M16
Kindergarten/1st	M14	2nd/3rd	M23	4th/5th	M17
Kindergarten/1st	M25	2nd/3rd	M24	4th/5th	M20

Sanctuary

SUPPLY BOX CONTENT



SMALL GENERAL SUPPLY BOX

- Scotch Tape
- Green Painter Tape
- Masking Tape
- Black Sharpies
- Black Ball Point Pens
- Paper Towels
- Baby Wipes
- Band-aids
- White Board Makers
- Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer
- Scissors
- Tissue
- Roster Clip Board
- Daily Memory Cards



2 LARGE BOXES

- 2 boxes will be filled with bags for each day with everything needed for craft and activities.
- Note: Snack supplies will be delivered to your class each day.



BADGE LANYARDS

- Kid's name badges will be kept in the room each day
- Kids will be given a new pin each day



STICK ROOM SIGN

- This will be used to hold up and help keep kids organized while traveling.



WINDOW TAGS

- Registered kids will have a window tag taped in the window. Extra blank tags are for new kids and to write their name and put in the window.



KIDS BAGS

- Write kid's name & favorite game
- Includes:
- pencil
 - waterproof sticker
 - crayons
 - temporary tattoos
 - stickers



WATER BOTTLES

- Sports Top Bottles to use throughout the week.
- Write kid's name on label and refill at drinking fountain as needed.

BEGIN PLAY!

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST!

- Read the daily Scripture passages from your Bible.
- Read the daily Leader Devotion.
- Pray that God will speak to you through His Word.
- Read the daily lesson and know all the activities.
- Pray for the kids you will teach.
- Pray for yourself and the other leaders at VBS.
- Ask people to pray for you.

WHAT YOU NEED TO PLAY

- You will be provided with all the materials needed to complete each of the activities. They are in boxes divided into daily bags.
- Also included in your box is a bag of general supplies: tape, scissors, sharpie, etc.
- This leader guide.
- Daily Rotation Schedule.
- Check-in roster sheets.
- Leader & Kid Name Badges.
- Daily Pins.
- Daily Response Cards.
- Each kid will get a bag with supplies: Crayons, stickers, pencil, temporary tattoo, etc.

SET UP THE GAME

- If you are available, help with room decorations on July 6th & 7th.
- Arrive at 8:30 am each day in the Fellowship Hall for a time of prayer and announcements. Continental Breakfast will be available.
- When you arrive at your class, organize your daily activity supplies.
- Have your greeting area set with roster & kid's name badges.
- Be ready to greet the kids at 9:15 am.

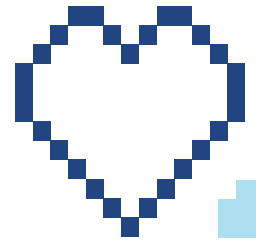
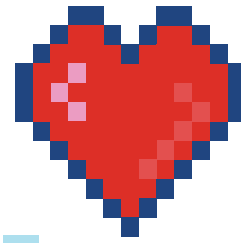
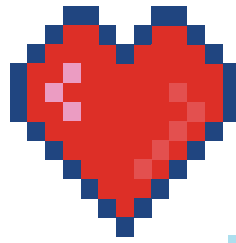
BE READY TO ZIG INSTEAD OF ZAG!

- Relax and enjoy building relationships with your kids.
- Be flexible. Adjust your plans to make this the best experience possible for you and your kids. If your kids get restless, move on to the next activity.
- Have fun and let the kids have a joyful church experience.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE

- The ultimate goal is to help kids know, love, and follow Jesus.
- Look for every opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with the kids.
- Our desire is that the kids will leave each day with a deeper understanding of Jesus' love for them

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS



The word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



GOD RULES. The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything.
(Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17)



WE SINNED. Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death.
(Romans 6:23)



GOD PROVIDED. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us.
(John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)



JESUS GIVES. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)



WE RESPOND. We can respond to Jesus. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to receive the gift Jesus offers.

ADMIT to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey. (Romans 3:23)

Tell God that you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing, and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions.

Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) Repent doesn’t just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works, and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

BELIEVE that Jesus is God’s Son and receive God’s gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you, and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

CONFESS your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10,13)

If you sense that kids are under conviction from the Holy Spirit and would like to respond to the good news, spend some time counseling and praying with them individually. If you sense that a child is not ready to pray and respond in faith and repentance, continue to prayerfully teach him about Christ during the week.

OVERVIEW

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS! Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to strategy games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS with lots of fun activities such as Worship Rally, Bible Lessons, Creative Crafts, Scrumptious Snacks, and Outdoor Recreation! But more importantly, they'll see Jesus through the eyes of one of His closest friends, Peter, and discover that trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him changes the game entirely!

Jesus guides us through all the twists and turns of our lives. He helps us know His ways and teaches us His paths. (Psalm 25:4) Following Jesus changes everything!

1 MON JESUS IS HOLY

Bible Story: Peter Followed Jesus

Daily Verse: Acts 2:21

The Point: Jesus is holy and that changes everything!

Christ Connection:

Jesus changes everything. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us new purpose. We can invite others to follow Him too.

Music: "Twists & Turns"; "Our God is Holy"

Crafts: Gospel Message Bobber

Snack: Fishing Gear

2 TUE JESUS IS TRUSTWORTHY

Bible Story: Peter Walked to Jesus on the Water

Daily Verse: Isaiah 41:10

The Point: Jesus is trustworthy even when I doubt.

Christ Connection:

Jesus changes everything. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us new purpose. We can invite others to follow Him too.

Music: "Twists & Turns"; "Do Not Fear"

Crafts: Trustworthy Scrabble

Snack: Walking on Water

3 WED JESUS IS FORGIVING

Bible Story: Peter Denied Jesus and Was Restored

Daily Verse: Colossians 1:14

The Point: Jesus is forgiving even when I sin.

Christ Connection:

Jesus changes everything. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us new purpose. We can invite others to follow Him too.

Music: "Twists & Turns"; "Make Your Move"

Crafts: Finger Twister

Snack: Sea of Galilee Breakfast

4 THU JESUS IS WORTH FOLLOWING

Bible Story: Peter Spoke Boldly About Jesus

Daily Verse: Acts 4:12

The Point: Jesus is worth following even when it gets tough.

Christ Connection:

Jesus changes everything. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us new purpose. We can invite others to follow Him too.

Music: "Twists & Turns"; "Jesus You're All I Need"

Crafts: Tic-Tac-Toe

Snack: Leaping Treats

5 FRI JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE

Bible Story: Peter Told Cornelius About Jesus

Daily Verse: Acts 10:43

The Point: Jesus is for everyone, including me.

Christ Connection:

Jesus changes everything. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us new purpose. We can invite others to follow Him too.

Music: "Twists and Turns"; "Everyone"

Crafts: No Craft-Special Water Day

Snack: Jesus is for Everyone Adventure Mix

Bible Verse

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.

Psalm 25:4

Christ Connection

Jesus changes everything. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us new purpose. We can invite others to follow Him too.

VBS Motto

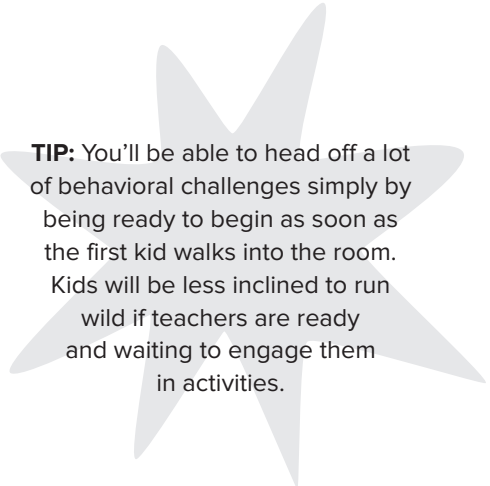
Following Jesus changes everything.

GET TO KNOW YOUR PLAYERS 2nd–3rd GRADE

Knowing Jesus! During VBS, kids have the opportunity to see how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is crucial. They can learn that they are able to trust Jesus every step of the way. To help you lead kids of this age to begin and grow their relationship with Jesus, here are a few things to keep in mind:

2nd-3rd GRADERS...

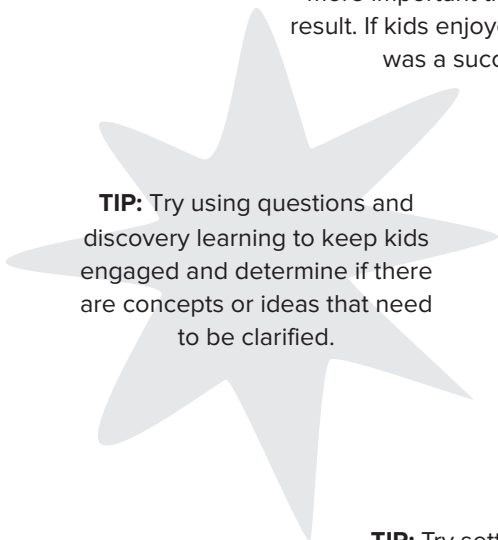
- Shift quickly from one activity to the next and are extremely active. They benefit from a variety of high-, moderate-, and low-energy activities. They use their entire bodies to learn. They benefit from learning experiences that incorporate all senses.
- Love discovering things and having opportunities to be creative. They benefit from activities like solving simple codes, playing games, or retelling the Bible story through drama.
- Are learning to view Jesus as a friend and are beginning to feel the need to trust Jesus as Savior. They benefit from teachers who lovingly share information about what becoming a Christian means without putting pressure on them to make an immediate decision. Children should be reassured that it's OK if they don't feel God's Holy Spirit leading them to trust Jesus right now.
- Are limited in their ability to think abstractly. They benefit from teachers who explain things clearly in simple terms without the use of abstract object lessons or analogies. They understand better when directions are short and simple.
- Are focused on their own needs and moving toward independence. They benefit from simple rules and routines that are consistent. However, they like opportunities to make simple choices.
- Are sensitive and desire approval. They can experience sudden mood swings.
- They benefit from positive words and encouraging facial expressions. They respond to teachers who listen to them and are patient with them during trying times.



TIP: You'll be able to head off a lot of behavioral challenges simply by being ready to begin as soon as the first kid walks into the room. Kids will be less inclined to run wild if teachers are ready and waiting to engage them in activities.

TIP: Remember that as the teacher, you are “the lesson.” Use a variety of tools (music, games, play, activities, and Bible stories) to teach kids Bible truths.

TIP: Don't stress if art projects end up looking much different than imagined. The process is more important than the end result. If kids enjoyed doing it, it was a success!



TIP: Try using questions and discovery learning to keep kids engaged and determine if there are concepts or ideas that need to be clarified.

TIP: Try setting up Bible-learning activities in different areas of the room and letting kids move freely from activity to activity. This will help kids stay engaged at their own pace!

DAY 1

JESUS IS HOLY

BIBLE STORY

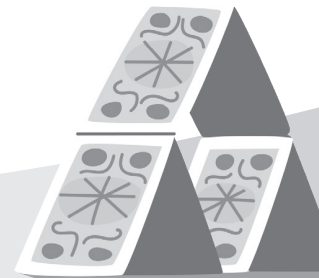
Peter Followed Jesus
Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 5:1-11

BIBLE VERSE

"I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth." Acts 2:21

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is holy and that changes everything



LEADER DEVOTION

Have you ever followed a map or road sign, confident of the directions, only to be turned onto a road where you never intended to go? If so, you likely felt frustrated. There are times in all our lives that we can look back and remember with certainty a path or direction in life that we were following with confidence, only to be derailed by an unexpected encounter.

In today's Bible story we meet Peter, a fisherman by trade who probably had very clear expectations of his path and direction in life. One day, Peter had been fishing all night and was washing his nets near the shore where Jesus was teaching crowds of people. Perhaps Peter was listening to Jesus with curiosity at a distance as he cleaned his nets, unaware of the twist he was about to encounter.

After teaching the crowds from a boat that belonged to Peter, Jesus turned to Peter and asked him to go out to catch fish. Peter responded that they had fished all night and caught nothing. Yet, at Jesus' request, Peter obeyed, and he caught more fish than he could have ever imagined.

"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!'" (Luke 5:8)

Peter sank to his knees in repentance and worship, recognizing that this miracle of fish was something only someone with God's power could do. Encountering Jesus changes everything.

This week, you will introduce kids to Jesus, perhaps for the very first time. Some of the kids you encounter will be new and curious about who this Jesus is, like the crowds

on the shoreline. Some may be listening more intently, questioning if this Jesus is worth following. You will meet kids who are beginning to understand foundational truths about Jesus. Others will have already believed and trusted in Jesus and are taking their first steps toward growing in their faith. No matter where the kids you teach are in their spiritual journeys, Jesus has something to teach them this week about who He is—and He is going to use you to help kids encounter Him.

As you prepare to lead, ask God to speak His truth through you, so children may encounter Jesus as Peter did, recognizing that He is truly the Son of God. As we will learn this week, Peter's life did not come without twists and turns along the way. Nevertheless, Peter followed because he met Jesus, and that changed everything.

REFLECT

- What twists and turns in your life have brought you to where you are today?
- Think about circumstances that have helped you know who Jesus truly is. What have you learned?
- How can you help the kids you teach know that Jesus is real and that He loves them?



1 EXCITE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Twists & Turns Banner (Place in front of teaching area and leave up the whole week)
- Day One add-on card (Double-sided tape is on the back of the add-on card.)
- Tape



Welcome kids! Explain that kids will play many games during VBS to help them learn more about the importance of following Jesus. Emphasize that following Jesus means to trust Him as Savior and to try to live as He did. Share that they will be learning more about trusting Jesus as their Savior during this week of VBS.

Show kids the “Twists & Turns Banner” and the add-on cards. Explain that each day a card will be added to the banner which will reveal the story of the day and how following Jesus changes everything! Then you (or one of the kids) can peel off the paper strips, located on the back of the add-on card, to expose the sticky side of the double-sided tape. Then place the add-on card in the day one square located on the banner and say, “today we will see that **Jesus is holy** and that changes everything.”

SILENT GAME

Suggest kids play a silent game as they listen to different statements you make.

Explain that if you mention something a **kid can do**, kids should point to themselves; but if you mention something that **needs to be done by an adult**, kids point toward a VBS leader. Instruct kids to listen for one more thing: **things only God can do**. Suggest kids point upward if you name something only God can do. Name actions such as: drive a car, take out the trash, go fishing, answer a prayer, work a puzzle, pray, work to earn money, create the world, brush teeth, and buy a cell phone.

DEBRIEF

- Invite kids to raise their hands if they have ever been fishing.
- Ask whether that is something only adults can do.
- Explain that today’s Bible story is about an adult who was a fisherman who witnessed something that only God could make happen.

EXPLORE!

1

STAND UP, SIT DOWN

- Begin by showing where the story is in the Bible and challenge the kids to listen for the name Jesus.
- Instruct them to stand up when they hear the name Jesus the first time in the story and to stay standing until they hear the name Jesus a second time.
- When they hear the name called a third time, they are to stand up again.
- Instruct the kids to repeat these actions as they listen to the Bible story. (Practice a few times with the kids before beginning the story.)
- You, and or your co-leader, may also want to stand up or sit down each time you say Jesus if you think the kids need the visual cues.)

PETER FOLLOWS JESUS

Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 5:1-11

Jesus (stand up) had been teaching large crowds of people about the kingdom of God. While **Jesus (sit down)** was standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, the crowds began pressing in to hear God's Word. **Jesus (stand up)** noticed two boats at the edge of the lake. Some fishermen had left their boats on the shore and were washing their nets from fishing the night before. **Jesus (sit down)** got into the boat that belonged to Peter.

Jesus (stand up) asked Peter to take the boat into the water a short distance from the shore. **Jesus (sit down)** sat down in the boat and continued teaching the crowds.

After teaching the people, **Jesus (stand up)** turned to Peter. "Take the boat out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch fish." Peter answered Jesus. "Master, we worked hard all night to catch fish, and we did not catch anything. But if You say so, I will let down the nets."



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None





1

EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None

PETER FOLLOWS JESUS

(Cont.)

Peter and the other fishermen obeyed **Jesus (sit down)**. They took their boat into the deep water and let down their nets to catch fish. When they did, they caught so many fish that their nets began to tear and break. The fishermen were amazed! They signaled for the other fishermen along the shore to come help them. The men filled both boats with so many fish that the boats started to sink. When Peter saw this miracle, he recognized that **Jesus (stand up)** is holy.

Peter fell down at **Jesus' feet (sit down)**. "Go away from me," Peter told **Jesus (stand up)**, "because I am a sinful man, Lord!" Peter knew how sinful he was next to **Jesus' holiness (sit down)**.

"Don't be afraid," **Jesus (stand up)** told Peter. "Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people." Peter and the other fishermen brought the boats to shore, left everything, and followed **Jesus (sit down)**.

DEBRIEF

Jesus demonstrated that He is Lord of everything, including the sea and everything in it. Peter saw the fish and knew that this miracle was something only God could do. He recognized that Jesus is holy and has power that comes from God alone. Peter was just beginning to understand who Jesus really is.

1. Why do you think Peter went fishing when Jesus told him to go?
2. What does being holy mean? (Holy--To be separate; holy describes God's character as totally unique and separate from what he created. Sin separated us from God.)
3. How did Peter feel after he saw all the fish in the net?

LET'S GO FISHING

Place the fish in a pile on the floor.

Remind kids that Peter went fishing before Jesus came to the shore and then fished again after Jesus told him what to do. Point out that Peter used a net to fish but they will use a fishing rod for their game.

Let kids take turns trying to catch a fish by making the magnet connect with a fish's paper clip. Kids should stand and hold the "rod" by one end as they hover the magnet over the pile of fish. As a fish is caught, let the "fisherman" read the statement about Jesus and/or the Bible story. Assist as needed.

DEBRIEF

After all the fish have been caught and each kid has had a turn, encourage each of them to remember that these statements about Jesus and the Bible story are true! Jesus is holy and that changes everything! Work together to toss the fish back into the "lake" to be caught again as time allows.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Magnetic Fishing rod
- Fish with paperclips attached
- Paper Pond

Then everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord
will be saved.

Acts 2:21



1 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 1 Memory Maker Cards
- Fish Daily Point Button
- Pencil

MEMORY MAKER CARDS/DAILY POINT BUTTONS

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Direct the kids' attention to the button and ask how fish were important in the story. Ask what was unusual about Peter's second try at fishing.
- Then instruct kids to draw a picture of Jesus (or something that reminds them of today's story) on the Jesus is holy card. (Encourage kids to share what they drew and why.)
- Lastly, read the memory verse card out loud to the kids and ask them what they think it means to be "saved". Allow the kids to draw pictures or write their thoughts on the memory verse card. Make sure the kids understand that Jesus has the power to save us from being separated from God. It is something only He can do!
- Pray, thanking Jesus for showing that He is holy.



BOBBER GOSPEL BACKPACK TAG



CRAFT PACK

CRAFT CONNECTION:

Ask kids what Jesus told Peter he would do instead of catching fish. (fish for people)

Show the bobber and allow someone who knows about fishing to explain what it does. (floats on the water to suspend the bait and goes under when there is a fish on the line)

Point out the “Gospel Poster” and lead a short discussion about what each icon represents.

Show the sample tag you made. Tell kids that today they will have an opportunity to make a Bobber Gospel Backpack Tag that they can use to share the gospel with their friends.

DAY 1

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Bobber
- Shower Curtain Hook
- 5 Key Tags
- Gospel Prompt Stickers
- Gospel Icon Stickers

Matching Gospel Stickers:

God Rules - Crown

We Sinned - “X”

God Provided - Cross

Jesus Gives - Gift

We Respond - Hands

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Hand out packets with all the supplies.
- Have kids put the “prompt” sticker on one side of a key tag, and the matching “icon” sticker on the other side. Use the Gospel Poster to help the kids match the two stickers.
- Push the nob on the bobber to reveal the hook, and hook the bobber to the ring on the “crown” “God Rules” tag.
- Open the Shower Curtain Hook and thread the Key Tag Rings onto the hook.

Kids can attach the hook to their backpack to remind them of the Gospel message.

FISHING GEAR

SNACK
DAY 1

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Pretzel rods
- Goldfish crackers
- Swedish Fish
- Twizzlers Pull 'N' Peel
- Paper Plates

SERVING SIZE:

- 1 Container of goldfish
- 1 Pretzel rod
- 1 Strand from the Twizzler Pull 'N' Peel
- 2 Swedish Fish



STEPS:

- Give each kid a paper plate, container of goldfish, two Swedish Fish, one pretzel rod and one strand from the Twizzler Pull 'N' Peel.
- Wrap the Twizzler strand around the top of the pretzel rod.
- Attach the two Swedish Fish at the end of the strand by sandwiching the fish between the strand.

KID CONNECTION

Jesus called the disciples to help Him tell others about God. While kids create their fishing gear, remind them that Jesus wants us to be fishers of men too.

DAY 2

JESUS IS TRUSTWORTHY

BIBLE STORY

Peter Walked to Jesus on the Water
Matthew 14:22-33

BIBLE VERSE

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is trustworthy even when I doubt.

LEADER DEVOTION

Immediately. A word I've passed over time and time again in this passage, yet one that stuck out to me as I read it this time. And then, I couldn't stop seeing it!

In fact, the Day 2 passage begins with it. "Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds." Intrigued, I decided to find out what Jesus had been doing prior to this. It seems like this was a busy day for Jesus and the disciples. They had just fed five thousand men plus their families with only five loaves and two fish! So, when Jesus told them to get in the boat while He dismissed the crowds, I'm thinking they were exhausted and happy to oblige.

What I'm pondering, though, is why immediately? I know God's timing is perfect—but why in such a hurry? Was it because Jesus wanted to be alone to talk with the Father? Maybe. Or could it be that He knew just when that storm was going to hit and exactly when the disciples needed to leave so they could see and experience this miracle? Maybe both!

The next time we see our word for the day it is more dramatic. The wind was blowing furiously, and the waves were crashing against the boat. A boat—not a ship! The disciples were terrified because in addition to the wind and the waves, they thought they saw a ghost! But here it is again: "Immediately Jesus spoke to them. 'Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'" (Matthew 14:27) Jesus was quick to comfort. I love that. He knew exactly what they needed to hear to alleviate at least part of their fear. I picture a child crying out in fear of a monster under her bed. Dad hears her cry, steps into the darkened room, and the fear subsides. Sometimes just knowing someone bigger and stronger is with you makes you feel better—even though the "supposed danger" is still there.

Peter, being "blown away" by what he was seeing, asked to join in! Jesus said, "Come," so Peter climbed out of the boat. (By the way, it looks as if this happened immediately as well.

We don't read that Peter asked again. I think we need to credit Peter, who didn't hesitate when he was called.) Peter began walking toward Jesus. Unfortunately, that's when Peter took his focus off Jesus and focused on the storm surrounding him instead. Just as we often do, Peter began to sink, but Jesus immediately reached out His hand and rescued Peter.

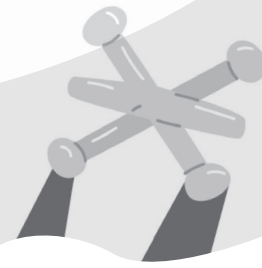
Jesus could have calmed the storm while He was walking on the sea or when Peter got out of the boat. He could have calmed the storm as His hand caught Peter's. But He didn't. Instead, He walked through the storm with Peter. You might think that was enough. But still, there was more the disciples had to learn.

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind ceased. This is when the disciples finally said, "Truly you are the Son of God." It was neither when He walked on the water nor when He rescued Peter, but it was when He quieted the storm they were going through. The disciples seemed to miss everything else that had just happened right in front of their eyes before they declared it!

I don't know about you, but when I'm waiting for the miracle I want to see, I often fail to notice all the miracles in the background. My prayer for you and for me is that we'll take notice of all that God is doing around us and know that truly, Jesus is the Son of God and that He changes everything!

REFLECT

- Peter did not wait for the storm to stop before getting out of the boat. What are you hesitant about doing that God has called you to do?
- When Peter focused on the storm instead of Jesus, he was scared. Who or what are you focusing on?
- Jesus didn't stop the storm immediately. He walked through it with Peter. What are storms you see kids facing now? How can you help them know that they are not alone, that Jesus is walking with them?



2 EXCITE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 2 “Do Not Fear” song (from VBS music)
- 10 Orange Paper Cones (to serve as obstacles)

Welcome kids! Call attention to the “Twists and Turns Banner” and the Day one banner add-on. Then attach the Day two add-on to the banner (or select one of the kids to do so). Ask kids “What does it mean to be trustworthy?” After kids answer, emphasize that being trustworthy means deserving another person’s trust.

TRAVELERS GAME

- Invite kids to play a game to help them understand more about what trustworthy means.
- Form pairs of kids. Place an orange paper cone two or three feet in front of each pair.
- Appoint one person in each pair to be the “Guide” and the other person to be the “Traveler.”
- Tell the Travelers to close their eyes and to cover them with their hands.
- Ask the Guides to quietly move the cone in front of their pairs a small amount left, right, or straight ahead.
- Guides then stand next to their assigned Travelers and give verbal directions to the Travelers to help the Travelers move safely past the obstacle, plus ten more steps.
- Play “Do Not Fear” song as kids conduct the game.
- Let kids switch roles and replay as time allows.
- NOTE: You may want to play outside if the classroom is too small.

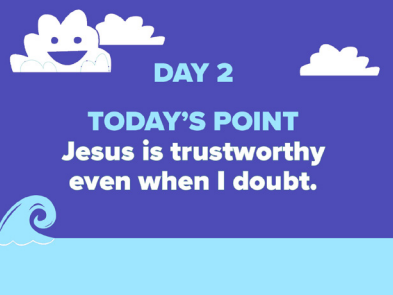
DEBRIEF

Explain that trust was important in the game. The Travelers needed to trust the Guides.

Ask kids whether it was easy to rely on someone giving them directions or whether it was tempting to peek between their fingers to see where to go.

Say “Sometimes a guide can be trustworthy and sometimes a guide is not trustworthy. A trustworthy person can be depended on to do what is promised.”

Ask: “Would a trustworthy person warn you of danger ahead? Would a trustworthy person lie to you? Would a trustworthy person tell your secrets?” Emphasize that a trustworthy person does what he says he will do. Point out that Jesus would never refuse to help. He would never lie or tell your secrets. He can be trusted to always do what is right. Explain that He deserves to be trusted. Trust is always important and it is much easier when we know the person directing us is worthy of our trust—trust-worthy.



BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

- Remind kids that on Day 1 they learned that Peter discovered Jesus is holy.
- Explain that today's Bible story tells about a time Peter found out Jesus is also trustworthy and could be depended on to do what He promised.
- Challenge the kids to listen and to discover how Jesus proved He is trustworthy.
- Invite kids to join you in making up hand motions for **waves, wind, the act of hanging on to a rocking boat, the word "Come," and the emotion of "fear."**
- Explain that kids will make these motions with you during the story. They must also stop when you do.
- Open your Bible to Matthew 14 and read the Bible story script below, pausing as directed to make motions.

PETER WALKED TO JESUS ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-33

People followed Jesus everywhere He went. They wanted to hear Him teach about God. After a long day of teaching near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus said goodbye to the crowds and told His disciples to go ahead of Him in a boat. Then Jesus went up on a mountain to pray.

Late at night, the disciples' boat was far from shore. The wind began to blow **(do the wind motion)** and the water grew rough and choppy **(do the waves motion)**. The waves beat against their boat while the winds pushed harder and harder against them **(do the hanging onto a rocking boat motion)**.

Very early in the morning, the disciples saw something coming toward them. It was Jesus walking on top of the water as if it were solid ground. The disciples cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" **(do the fear motion)**



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None



2 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None

PETER WALKED TO JESUS ON THE WATER

(cont.)

But Jesus called out to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am Jesus!”

Peter said, “If it is really You, Jesus, tell me to walk on top of the water to You.”

So Jesus said, “Come.” **(do the come motion)**

Peter climbed out of the boat and began walking on the water toward Jesus. How amazing! But then Peter began to notice how strong the wind was and got scared **(do the fear motion)**. He began to sink into the dark, stormy water. Peter cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately, Jesus reached out, grabbed Peter, and pulled him back up on top of the water. Jesus asked Peter, “Why did you doubt Me? Is your faith really so small?”

As soon as Jesus and Peter got back into the boat, the wind **(do the wind motion)** stopped! Everything was calm. Not only could Jesus walk on water, He could also control the wind and the waves! The disciples worshiped Jesus and said, “It’s true. You really are the Son of God!”

DEBRIEF

We can trust Jesus in every situation. We can trust Jesus when we are sick; when we are lonely; when we are happy; when we are frightened; when we don’t know what to do. We can trust Jesus fully because He is trustworthy!

1. How might you feel in a dangerous situation?
2. What are some good things we can do when we are frightened?
3. Who can we trust to help when we are frightened?

SLAP AND CLAP GAME

Tape the four phrases from Isaiah 41:10a in the front of the room where all the kids can see. Lead the kids to read the verse together once or twice. Ask what reason the Bible gives for not being afraid. (God is with them.)

Guide kids to line up side by side. (For larger groups, form more than one line.) Point out that team players sometimes line up, side by side, and slap hands with a player who runs along the line.

Walk the kids through these steps:

- The first player moves down the line, slapping the hand of each player he passes.
- He then joins the end of the line.
- The next player at the front of the line moves through the line slapping hands.
- Add the next step by having the first player in the line say the first part of Isaiah 41:10 as they slap the hands of the players in the line.
- Both the runner and kids in line repeat the first part of the verse.
- The next player in line does the same thing while repeating the second part of the verse.
- Kids continue until they have completed all parts of the verse including the reference.

Replay as time allows. This time, instruct kids to repeat the first two sections of the verse as they play. Then, challenge the group to face you and repeat the entire verse and its reference.

DEBRIEF

Many places in the Bible help us see that God is trustworthy and wants what is best for us. Isaiah 41:10 is one of these places! When we are afraid, we can remember that God is with us and that He can be trusted.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Isaiah 41:10a Verse
- Tape
- Four phrases of
 - “Do not fear;”
 - “for I am with you;”
 - “do not be afraid;”
 - “for I am your God.”

**Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am
your God. I will strengthen
you; I will help you;
I will hold on to you with my
righteous right hand.**

Isaiah 41:10



2 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 2 Memory Maker Cards
- Wave Daily Point Button
- Pencil

MEMORY MAKER CARDS/DAILY POINT BUTTONS

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Direct the kids' attention to the button and ask "how does the wave remind you of what Peter asked Jesus to let him do?"
- Then instruct the kids to draw a picture of what happened when Peter trusted Jesus on the Memory Maker Card that says "Jesus is Trustworthy."
- Lastly, read the memory verse card out loud to the kids and ask them to draw a picture of something they are afraid of on the memory verse card. Allow kids to share and assure them that God is with them and wants to help them when they are afraid.
- Pray, thanking Jesus for being trustworthy even when people sometimes are not.

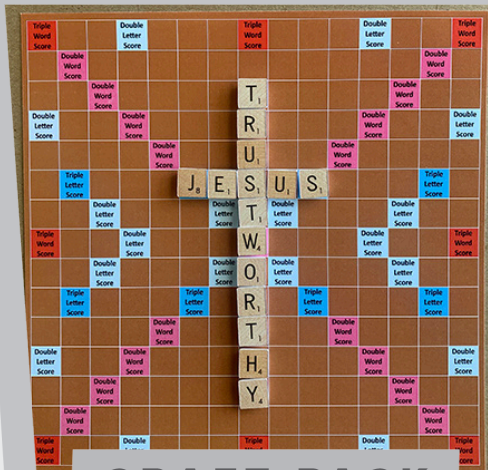


TRUSTWORTHY SCRABBLE

CRAFT CONNECTION:

Every day brings new twists and turns. We can experience fun celebrations, surprises, and even some challenges, questions, or doubts. In today's Bible story Peter had some doubts when he saw how big the waves were and the strong wind from the storm. We can have doubts, too. It is easy to doubt when we don't see the big picture of everything. When we feel scared, we can believe that Jesus is trustworthy. Even when we can only see a small piece of the puzzle, Jesus sees the big picture. We can trust Jesus because He is trustworthy.

DAY 2



CRAFT PACK

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Packet of Scrabble Tiles
- Scrabble Board

Note: Younger kids have scrabble tiles that are together in sections to make it easier to spell out the words.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Hand out the Scrabble Tile packets
- Have kids peel off the paper on the foam tape
- Have kids attach the tiles to the Scrabble Board

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Since the word "TRUSTWORTHY" is so long, it will be important to encourage the kids to put the first "T" no lower than the 3rd square from the top.
- Show them an example of where to start their letters.
- Same with the little ones and their sections of letters. Help them find the first part "TRU" and put it no more than 3 squares down.
- Next add "JESUS" with the middle "S" under the "U"
- Finally add the "TORTHY" Under the "S"

Once you do your sample it will be easy to guide the kids so their letters all fit.

WALKING ON WATER

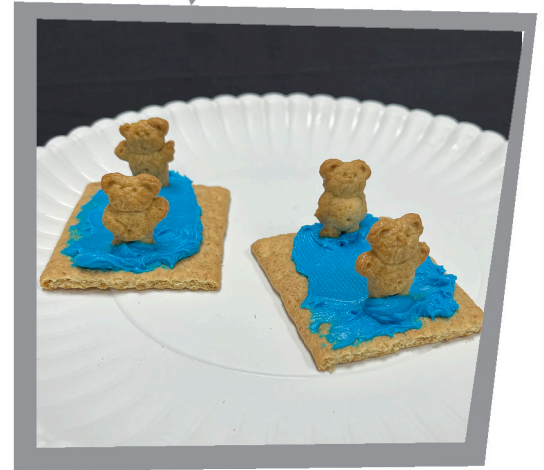
**SNACK
DAY 2**

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Teddy Grahams
- Blue icing
- Graham crackers
- Paper plates
- Plastic knives
- (For kinder-1st grade, they will be given popsicle sticks in lieu of plastic knives to spread icing.)

SERVING SIZE:

- 4 Teddy Grahams
- 2 Graham crackers



STEPS:

- Put a scoop of icing on each plate and pass them out to the kids along with four Teddy Grahams, two graham crackers, a plastic knife (or popsicle stick for kinder-1st graders).
- Instruct the kids to break one of the graham crackers in half. (The other graham cracker is just an extra one to snack on.)
- Spread the icing on the two halves.
- Place the two Teddy Grahams on each of the graham cracker halves. This is intended to illustrate Peter walking to Jesus.

KID CONNECTION

We can trust Jesus to help us when we are scared. Jesus helped Peter when he felt scared walking on water. As kids recreate the scene from the Bible, remind them that God hears their prayers and wants to help them when they are scared.

DAY 3

JESUS IS FORGIVING

BIBLE STORY

Peter Denied Jesus and Was Restored Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 18:15-18; 21:1-19

BIBLE VERSE

"In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:14

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is forgiving even when I sin

LEADER DEVOTION

God knows everything that is happening all the time. We know that. However, during the excruciating hours between Jesus' arrest and final breath on the cross, my mind wants to think everything else stopped. However, even as Jesus was stepping in to be our Redeemer, He was fully aware of the falling away of Peter. Even then, Jesus had plans to redeem and restore this soon-to-be church leader.

Jesus prayed for Peter and told Peter so. Peter declared that he would follow Jesus to prison or even to death. Jesus said Peter would deny he knew Jesus that very night before the rooster crowed.

As Jesus stood before the high priest, Peter tentatively followed and stood near a fire in the high priest's courtyard. Three times Peter was asked if he was one of the men who traveled with Jesus. Each time Peter's "no" was issued with increasing vehemence. The rooster crowed. Peter looked up and met Jesus' eyes. Peter left, weeping bitterly.

Based on Scripture, it appears Peter was not around as Jesus was led away to be crucified or when Jesus breathed His last breath. He didn't follow to see where Jesus' body was placed, though he raced to the tomb when Mary told the disciples that Jesus' body was missing.

Peter was one of the people to whom Jesus appeared the day of His resurrection. Twice more, Peter was in a locked room with the disciples when Jesus appeared. Still the memory of his emphatic, "No, I don't know Him!" must have rung in his ears.

Sometime later, Peter and six of the other disciples decided to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. Early the next morning, a man on the shore called out the question most fishermen who have caught nothing hate to hear, "Got any fish?" Then the man said, "Toss your net on the right side of the boat." Suddenly the net was so full that seven grown men, many of whom had experience with this type of fishing, could not pull the net in. That's when John recognized the man. It was Jesus!

All the disciples in the boat shared this experience, but let's focus on things that may have been impactful for Peter. First, the miraculous catch of fish had to create immediate flashbacks to the first catch of fish when Jesus called Peter to be His disciple. Peter may have remembered his overwhelming sense of unworthiness and Jesus' promise that Peter would become a fisher of men.

Then, this same Peter who boldly stepped out on stormy seas to walk to Jesus but sank due to fear now plunged into the water in his rush to get to Jesus on the shore.

John's gospel explains that when the disciples got to shore, they saw a charcoal fire there with bread and fish. Interestingly, when John described the fire in the high priest's courtyard the night Jesus was arrested, he called it a "charcoal fire." (John 18:18) Sights and smells are often memory triggers. Could the sight of the charcoal fire and the smell of the smoke have triggered guilt in Peter as he remembered the times when he denied knowing Jesus?

Possibly the most significant parallel happened after breakfast when Jesus spoke directly to Peter. Peter had denied Jesus three times. Now Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" Peter affirmed his love for Jesus all three times. The grief Peter felt may have been evidence of his repentant heart. After each affirmation, Jesus commanded Peter to take care of "My" sheep. Jesus recommissioned Peter as group leader and under shepherd.

Jesus is just as interested in the details of the lives of the kids you teach. What a privilege to have this opportunity to help kids know Jesus wants a personal relationship with each of them, and He has unique plans for each of them,

REFLECT

- Even when you're failing, Jesus has already written the story of your restoration. What things hover in your thoughts that make you feel unworthy of Jesus?
- What moments cause you to rush to Jesus?

3 EXCITE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- “Twists & Turns” song (from VBS music)
- Feelings handout
- Pencils



Welcome kids! Call attention to the “Twists and Turns Banner” and review that last two days. Attach the Day three add-on to the banner (or select one of the kids to do so). Then ask kids, “What does it mean to forgive?” Explain that forgiving is letting go of anger and choosing not to punish someone who has hurt you.

FEELINGS GAME

Distribute paper and pencil. Play the “Twists & Turns” song (or other music) and ask the kids to draw how the music made them feel in the first square. Kids may hold up their papers to show their feelings to others. Then have the kids listen to a few different situations you describe. After each description, ask the kids to draw how the situation made them feel in a new square.

(Sample descriptions: hearing a huge storm outside; hearing a parent talk about needing to move to a new town; a kid intentionally knocking over your drink at lunch; winning first prize in a contest; waking up to see snow outside; knowing your best friend is sick; finding out your family can’t go on vacation; knowing you did something you shouldn’t do.)

Allow the kids to share about their drawings.

DEBRIEF

Point out that when people do things they shouldn’t do, they often feel sad, disappointed in themselves, or ashamed. The good news is that God is able and willing to forgive us if we turn to him and ask for forgiveness.

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

- Encourage kids to listen for reasons Peter needed to ask for someone’s forgiveness in today’s Bible story.”
- As you tell the story, hold up one, two, or three fingers to highlight the three times Peter denied Jesus and again to point out the three times Jesus affirmed Peter.
- Encourage kids to hold up their fingers as well.
- Open your Bible to Luke 22 and then read the Bible story script below.

PETER DENIED JESUS AND WAS RESTORED

Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 18:15-18; 21:1-19

Jesus knew He would soon be arrested, crucified, and buried in a tomb. And, He knew He would be resurrected on the third day. Jesus even knew His disciples would be afraid and abandon Him for a while. Jesus told Peter that difficult times were coming and Jesus had prayed for Peter. Peter declared that he would follow Jesus to prison or even to death. Jesus replied that Peter would deny he knew Jesus three times that very night before the rooster crowed.

Later that night, in the garden of Gethsemane, soldiers came and arrested Jesus. They took Him to the high priest’s house and made up charges against Jesus. Peter followed at a distance. Several people were sitting around a charcoal fire. Peter joined them. A woman in the group recognized Peter and said, “This man was with Him.” Peter declared, **“I don’t know Him.” (Hold up one finger.)** Then someone else saw Peter, “You are one of them too.’ Peter again declared, **‘I am not!’ (Hold up a second finger.)**

About an hour later another person said, “I am certain this man was with Him.” Peter replied, **“I don’t know what you are talking about!” (Hold up a third finger.)** Just then a rooster crowed.

Jesus turned and looked right at Peter. Peter remembered what Jesus had said. Peter left, filled with shame and crying with regret.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None



3 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None

PETER DENIED JESUS AND WAS RESTORED

(cont.)

The next day, Jesus was crucified and died on a cross. His body was buried in a tomb. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus then appeared to Peter and the rest of the disciples that day and again a week later.

Some time later Peter decided to go fishing. Six of the other disciples went with him. They fished all night but caught nothing. The next morning a man on the shore called out, "Friends, you don't have any fish, do you?" The disciples answered no. The man said, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat." They did and the net filled with so many fish they could not haul it in. Suddenly John, one of the disciples, realized the man was Jesus! He told Peter, "It is the Lord!"

Peter plunged into the water and swam to shore. Jesus had a charcoal fire ready and asked them to bring some of the fish. There were 153 fish in the net! Jesus took the bread and fish that He had cooked and shared it with them.

After they had eaten, Jesus asked Peter, "**Do you love Me?**" (Hold up one finger.)

Peter replied, "**Yes, Lord, You know I love You.**" Jesus asked a second and a third time. (Hold up two fingers and then three.)

DEBRIEF

Each time Peter answered yes. Each time Jesus told Peter to take care of His sheep (that meant the other followers of Jesus). Peter had denied Jesus, but Jesus knew Peter was ready to return to following Him.

1. How do you think Peter might have felt when the disciples caught so many fish?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him?
3. How does being forgiven make you feel?

3 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 3 Memory Maker Cards
- Heart Daily Point Button
- Pencil

MEMORY MAKER CARDS/DAILY POINT BUTTONS

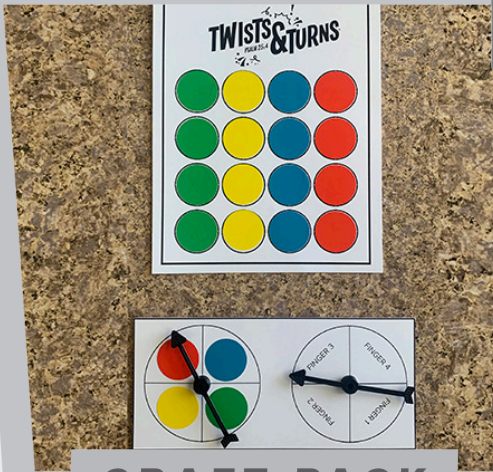
- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Direct the kids' attention to the heart on their buttons and ask how it reminds them of Jesus in today's story.
- Then instruct kids to draw a picture of something that reminds them of today's story on the Jesus is forgiving card. (Encourage kids to share what they drew and why.)
- Lastly, read the memory verse card out loud to the kids and ask them to draw a picture of how they feel about Jesus' forgiveness. (Allow kids to share and answer any questions they may have.)
- Pray, thanking Jesus for being so forgiving and willing to pay for our sins.



FINGER TWISTER

CRAFT CONNECTION:

In today's Bible story, we learned a lot about the twists and turns in Peter's life. Peter was a close friend and follower of Jesus, but during Jesus' arrest and trial, Peter denied ever knowing Jesus. Peter felt very sad that he had done this. After Jesus died and rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to Peter and the other disciples. He ate breakfast with them. He told Peter that He would work through Peter to help others know and follow Jesus. Peter's story teaches us that no matter what we do, we are never too far away for Jesus to forgive us. Jesus loves us and wants to work through our lives to help others know about Him. Today we'll make a game with lots of twists and turns to remind us of Jesus' love and forgiveness!



CRAFT PACK

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Twister Card
- Spinner Card
- 2 Spinners
- Circle Sticker Sheets

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Hand out the packets of supplies to the kids.
- Have them put the stickers on the Twister Card. They should put the same color sticker in a line like the picture so it looks like a Twister Pad.
- Have them put one of each color sticker on the spinner wheel
- Assemble the spinner by sticking the round bottom post under the card so the post sticks out the hole on the right side
- Push the pointer spinner into the post and the spinner will easily spin.

HOW TO PLAY

- Kids take turns spinning the spinners.
- The spinner indicating which finger is the finger they will put on the color from the color spinner.
- Keep your finger on that circle and spin again.
- Continue spinning until fingers are tangled and you can't move them to the next circle.

SEA OF GALILEE BREAKFAST

SNACK
DAY 3

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Pretzel sticks
- Goldfish crackers
- Twizzlers Pull 'N' Peel
- Paper plates

SERVING SIZE:

- 10 Pretzel sticks
- 2 Strands from Twizzlers Pull 'N' Peel
- Container of goldfish crackers



STEPS:

- Give each child a paper plate, container of goldfish, two strands from Twizzlers Pull 'N' Peel, and pretzel sticks.
- Encourage kids to build a make-believe fire with the pretzel sticks and then tear apart the Twizzlers strands to pile on top of their pretzels. (This is to represent the flames.)
- Then have the kids scatter the gold fish on to their plate. (This is intended to remind them of the fish Jesus cooked on the fire.)

KID CONNECTION

Emphasize that Jesus made breakfast for His disciples. Remind kids that Jesus forgave Peter when he denied Him three times. Jesus is forgiving when we sin too.

DAY 4

JESUS IS WORTH FOLLOWING



BIBLE STORY

Peter Spoke Boldly about Jesus
Acts 3:1-4:24

BIBLE VERSE

"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."
Acts 4:12

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is worth following even when it gets tough.

LEADER DEVOTION

What's your usual response when God doesn't seem to make sense? Maybe, like the man in today's story, your child was born with a disability you know will affect her for life. Maybe you are living with a health concern that has altered your life. Maybe your family has fallen on tough financial times. Maybe you're dealing with depression or anxiety or a broken relationship. Maybe, like Peter and John, you're facing persecution for your faith.

In this broken world, there's something you've asked God to change, and He hasn't seemed to act.

My theory is everyone has a go-to reaction in these situations. Some people jump straight to anger. Some resort to a curled-in-a-ball-can't-get-up-in-the-morning grief and sadness. Some people topple in anxiety: "Is God still in control?" Some people try to take over. "God won't do this for me? OK, I'll jump in and do it myself." Some people (ask me how I know) do all four and more.

We don't always leave room for this kind of talk. We're afraid we'll sound like "bad Christians," like we don't have enough faith. We hear that the early church members in Acts prayed for boldness and rejoiced to be persecuted. We think that means they didn't feel afraid or sad or angry. I think the fact that they had to pray for boldness means they didn't have anything close to boldness going into these situations. Just look at all the twists and turns Peter's faith journey has taken already this week in VBS. I think these early Christians were probably more like David.

"How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long will I store up anxious concerns within me, agony in my mind every day? How long will my enemy dominate me?" Psalm 13:1-2

God can handle these kinds of questions. The Bible shows us that. He doesn't turn away from hard moments. And, He proves again and again that He's worth following, even when it gets tough. That's why the man in our Acts 3 passage could immediately praise God when he was healed instead of crediting Peter and John with the miracle. That's why Peter and John could stand boldly before the Jewish leaders and speak the words God gave them.

Jesus is worth following because He has the power to heal.

Jesus is worth following because He gives us the words we need when we need them.

Jesus is worth following because He died to save us.

Even if Jesus had never done anything for us, He is still worth following because of who He is. A relationship with Him is a treasure greater than any silver or gold. Even when He doesn't seem to act, we can rest safely in that relationship like David did, knowing the truth of His character means that we can know that He is always working to make all things new.

"But I have trusted in your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in your deliverance. I will sing to the LORD because he has treated me generously." Psalm 13:5-6

REFLECT

- How has Jesus proven Himself worthy through His work in your life?
- Do you have any questions about tough situations in your life you've been avoiding asking Jesus? Make a list and take some time to walk through those with Jesus.
- Spend some time thanking Jesus for who He is and for the relationship you have with Him.

4 EXCITE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Twist & Turns Cube



Welcome kids! Call attention to the “Twists and Turns Banner” and review that last three days. Attach the Day four add-on to the banner (or select one of the kids to do so). Then tell the kids Jesus is worth following and ask them why they think He is worth following?

TWISTS AND TURNS GAME

Invite a kid to toss the cube. Guide kids to follow the commands stated on the cube (Options include: twist right, twist left, hop on one leg, turn around, touch your toes, and stretch hands up to the sky.) Allow several kids to take turns tossing the cube.

DEBRIEF

Wow! That was a lot of twisting and turning. Similar to or game, life is filled with twists and turns. As we have seen earlier this week, Peter had many twists and turns as well. Peter and the other disciples thought Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom, but they watched Him get arrested, killed, and put in a grave. Then there was a big twist, Jesus came back to life! Jesus spent a few more days on earth teaching His followers to tell others about Him. Then came another twist. Jesus went back to heaven.

How do you think Peter may have felt about this last turn? (Allow kids to respond)

In today’s Bible story we will learn about more twists and turns Peter experienced as he kept following Jesus.

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

As we listen to the story, let's pay close attention to the twists and turns in the story. After each twist in the story, I will say 'twist' and then you will say 'turn'. (Practice this call and response with the kids before beginning the story.)

PETER SPOKE BOLDLY ABOUT JESUS

Acts 3:1-4:24

Peter and another disciple, John, were walking to the temple when they saw a man who couldn't walk, which meant he couldn't earn money to buy food. He begged Peter and John to give him money.

"I don't have silver or gold," Peter told the man, "but what I do have, I give you: in the name of Jesus, get up and walk!"

Through Jesus' power, the man was healed.

HERE IS OUR FIRST 'TWIST.' NOW YOU SAY...

'TURN!' He was so excited. He entered the temple with them walking and leaping and praising God. The people in the temple knew the man and rushed over to ask what had happened.

Peter told the people that Jesus gave John and him the ability to heal the man. He reminded the crowd about everything that had happened: how the crowd had handed Jesus over to the Roman authorities and asked for Him to be crucified.

He said that just as the prophets predicted, Jesus suffered and died to take the punishment for our sins. Peter told them God had raised Jesus from the dead! Peter asked the people to repent, which means to turn away from sin and to turn toward God, asking Him for forgiveness. He said God would forgive their sins.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None



4 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- None

PETER SPOKE BOLDLY ABOUT JESUS

(cont.)

The religious leaders heard what was happening and were angry that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus. They arrested Peter and John and put them in prison.

HERE IS ANOTHER TWIST. NOW YOU SAY... 'TURN!'

The next day, Peter and John stood before all the most important religious leaders. The leaders asked them where they got the power to heal the man. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke boldly. He told them the man was healed by Jesus' power.

HERE IS OUR LAST TWIST. NOW YOU SAY... 'TURN!'

Peter told the leaders that trusting in Jesus and His power is the only way to be saved from the punishment for sin. The leaders knew Peter and John did not have much education and were amazed at their confidence. They recognized that Peter and John could speak this way because they had been with Jesus. The leaders ordered Peter and John not to teach about Jesus and threatened them with worse punishments.

Peter and John said, "We are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

DEBRIEF

Peter and John knew it would be wrong to stop telling people about Jesus. They believed Jesus is worth following even when things get tough.

In today's story, we learned Peter and John experienced three twists and turns. Do you remember what they were? (First, a man was healed by the power of Jesus. Second, Peter and John were thrown into prison. Third, Peter was able to share about Jesus to the leaders.)

How do you think the man who couldn't walk felt when Peter didn't have money to give him? How do you think he felt when Peter made him well?

Why did Peter and John keep preaching about Jesus when the temple leaders told them to quit?

FEET HERE, FEET THERE

- Mix up the cards and place them face-down on the floor.
- Remind the kids that Jesus is worth following even when life gets tough. Explain that even when people are sad, lonely, scared, or worried, following Jesus is still important. They can know that Jesus will help them with any problem when they ask. He may not always fix the problem, but He will always be with them.
- Remark that both the man who couldn't walk and Peter learned about following Jesus when life was tough.
- Point out the cards on the floor. Mention that some of the cards tell about today's Bible story and others tell more information about Jesus.
- Explain that in this memory game, kids will match a sentence beginning with the correct sentence ending.
- Invite one kid to turn over two different game cards. Read the cards aloud for the group. If the cards have a matching beginning and ending (and matching feet), the kid keeps the two cards and gets a chance to pick two more cards.
- If the cards do not have a matching beginning and ending, both are turned back over in their original places and the next kid takes a turn.
- The player with the most sets of cards after all pieces have been matched is the winner.
- Play the game again as time allows.

DEBRIEF

Be sure kids realize that following Jesus may involve some tough times but that following Jesus is always the right choice.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- "Feet Here, Feet There" cards

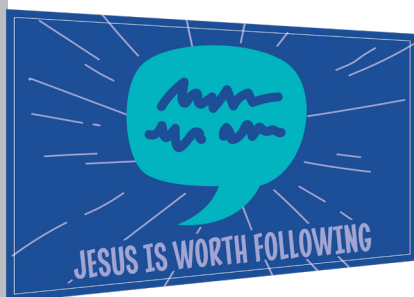


4 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 4 Memory Maker Cards
- Speech Bubble Daily Point Button
- Pencil

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Direct the kids' attention to the speech bubble on their buttons and ask if they remember what Peter and John said in today's story.
- Then instruct kids to draw a picture of something that reminds them of today's story on the Jesus is worth following card. (Encourage kids to share what they drew and why.)
- On the memory verse card, ask the kids to think of someone they would like to share today's story with and draw a picture of that person.
- In closing, lead kids to clap their hands with each word in the phrase, "Jesus is worth following". Alternate with a down low clap, middle clap, and above their heads clap as they say each of the words. Then close in prayer. (Remember to pray for the people the kids plan on sharing the story with today.)



TIC-TAC-TOE



CRAFT PACK

CRAFT CONNECTION:

This week we learned about who Jesus is and how following Jesus changes everything. Jesus is holy, trustworthy, forgiving, and worth following. He is for everyone, including us!

While playing Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend, share the Good News that Jesus loves them.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Tic-Tac-Toe Bag
- 5 Wooden Squares
- 5 Wooden Circles
- Permanent Markers

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have kids color and decorate the wooden pieces with permanent markers.
- Kids can be creative and decorate them however they want.
- The bag is not only a storage for the pieces, but also the tic-tac-toe squares for hours of fun.

LEAPING TREATS

**SNACK
DAY 4**

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Rice Krispies Treats
- Sour Patch Kids
- Paper plates

SERVING SIZE:

- 1 Rice Krispies Treat
- 3 Sour Patch Kids



STEPS:

- Give each kid one Rice Krispies Treat and three Sour Patch Kids.
- Inform the kids that the three Sour Patch Kids are intended to represent Peter, John, and the man who was healed.

KID CONNECTION

The Leaping Treats remind us that the lame beggar went walking and leaping and praising God after he was healed. Ask the kids to share one thing they can praise God for.

DAY 5

JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE



BIBLE STORY

Peter Told Cornelius about Jesus
Acts 10

BIBLE VERSE

"All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins."
Acts 10:43

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is for everyone, including me.

LEADER DEVOTION

As we've followed Peter's journey with Jesus, we have seen him move from fishing for fish to fishing for people. His life changed when he recognized the holiness of Jesus. He had faith to walk on water—at least for a little while—and even though he feared for his life in the midst of unimaginable trials, twists, and turns, he loved Jesus deeply. Peter took Jesus' challenge to "feed my sheep" (John 21:17) very seriously. On Day 5 we get to walk beside Peter while he not only learned that Jesus is for everyone but also while he confidently shared what he had learned.

Until recently I had always skipped over the fact that Simon, who Peter was staying with at the time of today's story, was a tanner. It just seemed like a normal thing to say about someone when you're introducing him, "Hey, this is Simon. He's a leather-maker." However, this introduction would certainly translate differently to a Jewish person in the 1st century than it did to me—a Gentile in the 21st century. Being a tanner, working with animal hides, was an unclean profession. So then why was Peter even staying at Simon's house? Could God have been working in Peter's heart to help him understand "What God has made clean, do not call impure?" (Acts 10:15)

After all, God had already been working on Cornelius' heart. He was already interested in God and did a lot of "good" things. God heard his prayers and made a lot of things happen to make sure Cornelius and his family clearly heard the message of salvation.

- Cornelius had to recognize his vision was from God.
- He had to obey the message and send men to Joppa.
- The men had to go and find Peter.
- Peter had to go up to the roof to pray.
- God had to give Peter a vision for him to understand why he should go with the men.
- Peter had to understand and believe the vision.

- Peter had to go with the men to Caesarea when it was forbidden by the Jewish custom to associate with foreigners.
- Cornelius had to gather his friends and family.
- The friends and family had to accept the invitation and listen to Peter's message.
- Peter had to be bold and share a message that went against popular Jewish belief. At this point, many Jews believed that salvation was only for them. (See Romans 3:29.)
- Everyone gathered had to listen, allow their hearts to be open, and make decisions to place their faith in Jesus alone for salvation.

In God's perfect goodness, He arranged for all these things to happen so Cornelius could do more than just pray to God and give to charity. He did these things so he could understand how to have a personal relationship with God. If God made so many things happen for Cornelius to have a personal relationship with Him, God can do the same for you. He can do the same for your family, for your kids at VBS, and even for the people society wants to tell us aren't good enough. Jesus is for everyone.

Can you imagine what a privilege it must have been to share, for the very first time, that freedom from sin and the gift of eternal salvation are freely available to ALL people? Believers in Jesus still have the very same privilege that Peter had that day in Caesarea. For the person you share with today, it could be the very first time that he's ever heard the message of salvation too. What are you waiting for? Go tell someone!

REFLECT

- Take a few minutes to praise God for the miracle of your salvation. Write down some key things that took place for you to understand the gift of salvation.
- Thank God that the forgiveness of sins is available to anyone and everyone. Ask God to reveal at least one person you can share this amazing truth with this week.

5 EXCITE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day Five add-on card (Double-sided tape is on the back of the add-on card.)
- Day 5 “Everyone” song (From VBS music)
- Bag
- Letters L, R, and C
- “Jesus is for Everyone” paper
- Tape



- Welcome kids! Call attention to the “Twists and Turns Banner” and review that last four days. Attach the Day five add-on to the banner (or select one of the kids to do so).
- Then tell the kids, “Jesus is for everyone, including me and you!”
- Ask the kids, “what does ‘everyone’ mean?” (Make sure they understand that Jesus wants all people to be part of His family. Every single person in this world is important to Jesus.)

MUSICAL MYSTERY GAME

- Guide the kids to sit on the floor in the form of a circle. (It may be helpful to mark where the kids are to sit with a piece of blue tape)
- Place the paper that says “Jesus is for everyone” in the center of the circle.
- Today we’re going to start with a game called Musical Mystery.
- Explain that kids will pass the bag around the circle while the “Everyone” song plays.
- When it stops, the kid holding the bag will pull a paper square from inside.
- If the square is marked with an L, the kid to the left goes in the center of the circle.
- If the square is marked with an R, the kid to the right goes in the center of the circle.
- If it’s marked C, the kid holding the bag goes to the center of the circle and bag is given to the kid to the right. (Make sure kids place the square back into the bag)
- Keep playing until all kids are in the center.

DEBRIEF

- In our game we saw that everyone got to be with Jesus. That is because Jesus loves everyone in the whole world and wants all people to be part of His family. He does not want to exclude anyone.

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

Say, "In today's Bible story, two different men had visions. One is a man named Cornelius and the other is Peter. These visions from God helped both Cornelius and Peter understand that God doesn't love just one certain kind of person. He loves all people."

Explain that Peter was a Jew, but Cornelius wasn't. That means Peter was from a long line of people who worshiped God. Some people thought Jews were the only ones Jesus came to save, but God made it clear that Jesus came for all sorts of people from all sorts of places, including you and me!

- Give each kid a "Bible Story Bingo" card and a pencil.
- During the story, listen carefully to hear some of the words on your bingo card. If you hear a word from your card, mark it out. Once you get four in a row, quietly turn your card over and put your pencil down. (If Kids cannot read, call out the color of the square as well.)
- Kids may also continue marking words after they get four in a row to help them listen.
- Open your Bible to Acts 10. Guide kids to mark their respective free spaces.

PETER TOLD CORNELIUS ABOUT JESUS

Acts 10

Cornelius was a Roman army officer who lived in Caesarea (sess uh REE uh). He and everyone in his house worshiped **God**. He always prayed to God, and he generously gave to people who needed help. One afternoon he saw an **angel** of God in a **vision**.

The angel told him, "God has heard your **prayers**, and He has seen how you help others." Then the angel told Cornelius to send men to the city of Joppa and find a man named **Peter**. The angel told Cornelius where Peter was staying. Cornelius did what the angel said.

The next day, while the men were getting close to the city, Peter went to pray on the roof of the house where he was staying. He was **hungry** and wanted something to eat, but while lunch was being prepared, he had a vision. Peter saw something that looked like a large sheet coming down from **heaven**. There were all kinds of **animals**, reptiles, and birds in the sheet. A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."

These were animals that were forbidden by God's laws to be eaten, so Peter said, "No, Lord. I have never eaten anything that is unclean." The voice said to him again, "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean." This happened three times.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bingo cards
- Pencils



5 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bingo cards
- Pencils

PETER TOLD CORNELIUS ABOUT JESUS

(cont.)

Peter was confused. While he was trying to understand what the vision meant, the men looking for him arrived at the gate. The **Holy Spirit** told Peter, “Three men are here looking for you. Get up, go downstairs, and go with them because I have sent them.” The men told Peter about Cornelius and about how an angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter.

The next day Peter went with the men to Caesarea. Cornelius had gathered his **family** and friends to hear Peter’s message. Peter said, “You know it is against our laws for a Jewish person and a non-Jewish person to visit together in a home. But God has shown me not to think of people in this way.”

Peter spoke, “God does not show favoritism. Every person can be seen as right or acceptable to God through faith in Him. **Jesus** is Lord of all.” He reminded them that they knew Jesus had performed **miracles**. The people who had been with Jesus saw Him be put to death on a **cross**. But God raised Him to life on the third day. Jesus told His followers to tell more people about Him. Peter explained that everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on everyone who heard the message, not just the Jews. Peter commanded them to be **baptized** in the name of Jesus, and they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

DEBRIEF

Congratulate the kids who found four in a row. Call on kids to name something they marked off, and then ask volunteers to share what they remember about how it fit into the story.

Say: “I’m so glad that Jesus included all kinds of people when He came to rescue us from our sin. He included you too, you know! If you want to learn more about how to become a follower of Christ, let’s talk about it today!”

Allow a few minutes to answer any questions. Invite kids to talk to a leader if they’d prefer to talk one-on-one.

ROLL-A-MEEPLE ACTIVITY

- Group the kids into pairs and give each pair two sheets of paper, a die, and a copy of the “Roll-a-Meeple” handout.
- Say: “Does anyone know what a ‘meeple’ is? It’s a small, person-shaped game piece that people use to move across a game-board. We’re going to create our own meeples, but we don’t get to make the choices! We’re going to roll the dice to see which shapes we get to use to create our meeples.”
- Guide kids to take turns rolling the dice and drawing the facial feature that corresponds with the turn they’re on and the number they rolled. After six turns each, both kids should have completed faces for their meeples.
- Guide kids to share the faces they drew with the group.

DEBRIEF

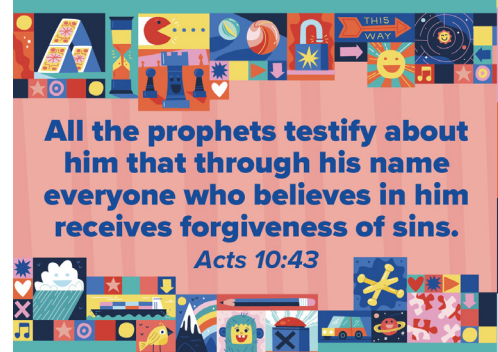
- Remind kids that just like they didn’t get to choose the facial features of their meeples, we don’t get to choose who is worthy of receiving Jesus’ love.
- God showed Peter in his vision that Jesus is for everyone!
- We need to be prepared to tell the people we meet that Jesus loves them and can offer them forgiveness and a relationship with Him.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- “Roll-a-Meeple” handouts
- Dice
- Paper (two sheets for each pair of kids)
- Pencils

All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:43



5 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 5 Memory Maker Cards
- People Daily Point Button
- Pencil

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Direct the kids' attention to the people on their buttons and ask them who Jesus cares about and who did Jesus die for? (everyone)
- Then instruct kids to draw a picture of something they remember from today's story on the "Jesus is for Everyone" card. (Encourage kids to share what they drew and why.)
- Lastly, on the memory verse card, have the kids draw a picture of someone they know who has yet to accepted Jesus and encourage them to pray for that person. (It could be a friend, family member, a neighbor, themselves, etc.)
- Close in prayer and thank Jesus for dying for each of them. (Be sure to say each kid's name. Ex: Thank you for dying for Johnny, Sarah, Tommy, etc.).



JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE

ADVENTURE MIX

**SNACK
DAY 5**

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Rice Chex cereal
- Mini pretzels
- Goldfish crackers
- Popcorn
- Plastic bowls
- Large mixing bowl
- Plastic cup

SERVING SIZE:

- 1 plastic bowl full of mix



STEPS:

- Mix Rice Chex cereal, mini pretzels, Goldfish crackers and popcorn in large mixing bowl.
- Use plastic cup to pour mix into each bowl and distribute to kids.

KID CONNECTION

The story of Peter and Cornelius teaches us that Jesus is for everyone. God sent His one and only Son to save people from their sins.