

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:

MERLENE STEIB - Manager

mobile: 949-478-1052 | email: msteib@cccm.com

HANNAH COTTAGE - Team Coordinator (red team K/1st grade)

mobile: 760-525-9124 | email: hcottage@cccm.com

ANGIE EMMA - Team Coordinator (green team 2nd/3rd grade)

mobile: 858-414-1070 | email: aemma@cccm.com

HANNAH COLT - Team Coordinator (blue team 4th/5th grade)

mobile: 714-900-0059 | email: hcolt@cccm.com

JANICE KASER - Check-in Coordinator

mobile: 714-264-7931 | email: jkaser@cccm.com

LASZLO KULCSAR - Games Coordinator

mobile: 714-450-0256 | email: laszlok777@gmail.com

DEANNA PEREA - Nurse

mobile: 714-501-6521 | email: dperea@cccm.com

KEILAH GAVIRIA - Worship Rally Coordinator

mobile: 714-364-7702 | email: kgaviria@cccm.com

GRETA FOLSOM - Snack Questions

mobile: 714-287-6251 | email: gfolson@cccm.com

KIDS CHURCH OFFICE

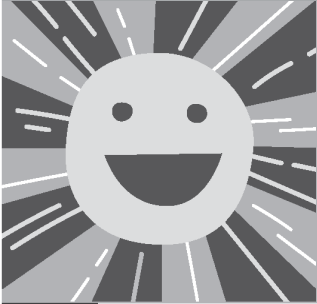
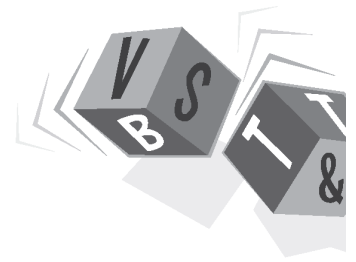
ext 2206 from any class phone



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
	2nd/3rd Grade	2nd/3rd Grade	2nd/3rd Grade	4th/5th Grade	Kids Church Office
Girls	4th/5th Grade	4th/5th Grade	4th/5th Grade	4th/5th Grade	
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	Nursing Moms	Family Room
N-3			

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.

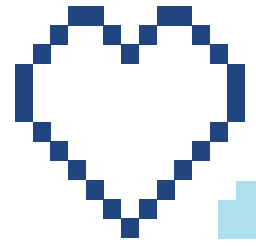
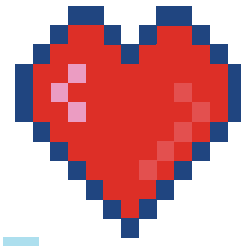
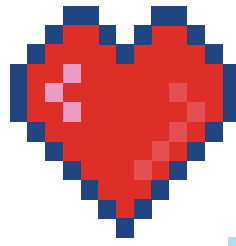
BE READY TO ZIG INSTEAD OF ZAG!

- 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 4th–5th GRADE PRETEENS

Understand how Preteens Develop!




Preteens can appear to be constantly on the go and are experiencing growth spurts. They can memorize easily, think quickly, and solve problems for themselves. Many preteens enjoy sports, competition, and active games, yet they are worried about fitting in and rejection.




Preteens need you to remember that they develop at different rates. They do not all have the same skills and abilities. Plan activities that use gross motor skills (such as games) and fine motor skills (such as crafts). Give preteens choices whenever possible.

Understand How Preteens Think!




Preteens seem slow to respond but are creative, imaginative, and curious. They are critical of themselves and others. They are beginning to question authority and expect perfection. Preteens experience emotional highs and lows and may exhibit oppositional behaviors at times.




Preteens need you to listen to and respect their ideas. They want to feel needed, accepted, and loved at church. Try to capitalize on the fact that preteens have a good sense of humor to de-escalate any conflicts that may arise.

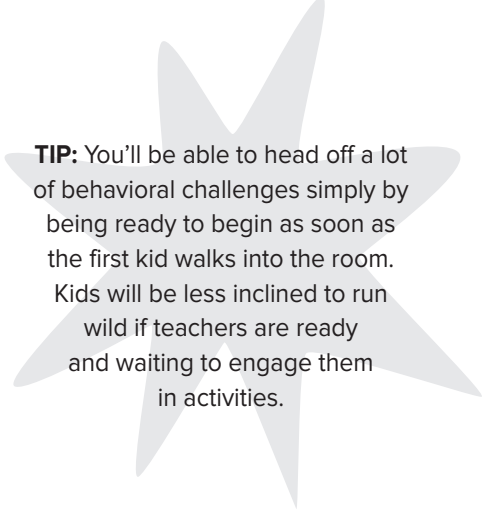
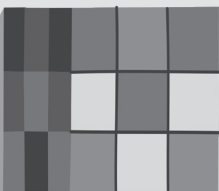
Understand Preteens' Spiritual Growth!



Preteens can be sensitive to conviction from the Holy Spirit and are developing a value system based on their own understanding of biblical principles. They are beginning to apply the biblical truths they are learning in Bible study to their lives.



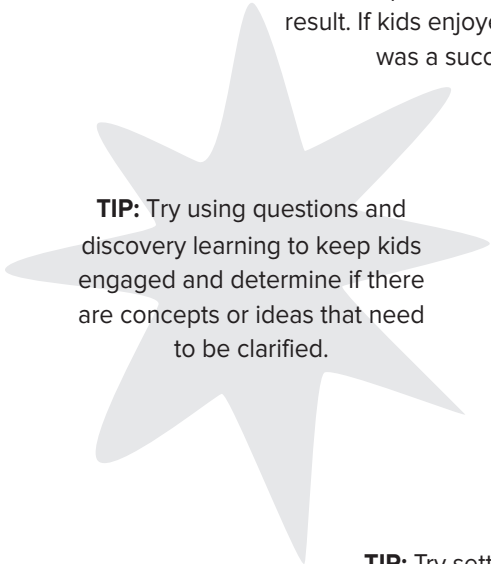
Preteens need you to openly answer spiritual questions using the Bible as your guide. They need you to model Christian attitudes and actions and be a Christian mentor.



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.

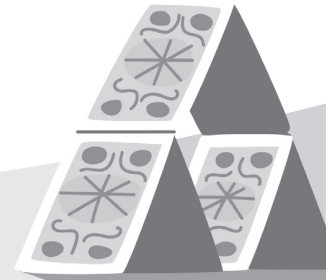
This week, you will introduce kids to Jesus, perhaps for the very first time. Some of the kids you encounter will be new and curious about who this Jesus is, like the crowds

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

- Twist & Turns song
- Day 1 Picture Cards
- Pencil

Play “Twists & Turns” song as preteens arrive.
Welcome preteens to VBS.

MATCH UP!

- Give each preteen a Picture Card.
- Instruct preteens to find the person who has the matching picture on his card.
- Guide preteens with matching cards to share their names and three things about themselves.
- Allow preteens time to share, and time to make connections with other kids.

DEBRIEF

- Today we are going to study and learn about someone who was introduced to who Jesus really is.
- Think about a time when you were introduced to a new friend. Maybe it was today! How did you feel?
- When Peter met Jesus, he realized that Jesus is holy and that changes everything!



EXPLORE!

1

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

- Distribute a Game Piece, a “Peter,” or a “Fish” card and a game board sheet to each preteen.
- Instruct each preteen to listen closely for the word on their card (Peter or Fish), and advance their game piece along the game-board as directed each time they hear their word.
- Pause and emphasize when you say FISH or PETER to give the kids time to make their move.

PETER FOLLOWED JESUS

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

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

After teaching the people, Jesus turned to **Peter** (pause). “Take the boat out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch **fish** (pause).” **Peter** (pause) answered Jesus. “Master, we worked hard all night to catch **fish** (pause), and we did not catch anything. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.” **Peter** (pause) and the other **fishermen** (pause) obeyed Jesus. They took their boat into the deep water and let down their nets to catch **fish** (pause). When they did, they caught so many **fish** (pause) that their nets began to tear and break. The **fishermen** (pause) were amazed! They signaled for the other **fishermen** (pause) along the shore to come help them. The men filled both boats with so much **fish** (pause) that the boats started to sink. When **Peter** (pause) saw this miracle, he recognized that Jesus is holy.

Peter (pause) fell down at Jesus’ feet. “Go away from me,” he told Jesus, “because I am a sinful man, Lord!” **Peter** (pause) knew how sinful he was next to Jesus’ holiness.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

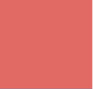
- PETER and FISH cards
- Game Board
- Game Piece

LEADER TIP

If you feel that the board game activity will be too distracting for your group of preteens to listen to the story, wait and use the activity as a review after you have already told the story once in your own way.

HELPFUL DEFINITION

Holy—to be separate; holy describes God’s character as totally unique and separate from what He created. Sin separates us from God.





1

EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- PETER and FISH cards
- Game Board
- Game Piece

LEADER TIP

Break up into small groups. Assign an adult helper to be the leader for each small group. Encourage leaders to build relationships with the preteens in their groups. They can keep in touch with the preteens after VBS, send postcards, recognize birthdays of the preteens in their group, and so forth.

PETER FOLLOWED JESUS

(cont.)

“Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told **Peter** (pause). “Follow Me, and I will make you **fish** (pause) for people.” **Peter** (pause) and the other **fishermen** (pause) brought the boats to shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Jesus’ miracle demonstrated that He is Lord of everything, including the sea and everything in it. **Peter** (pause) saw the **fish** (pause) 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** (pause) was just beginning to understand who Jesus really is.

DEBRIEF

- Celebrate preteens who reached the end of the path. Ask if there were any times when they went backward or felt discouraged about reaching the end because they got confused and it seemed really hard to follow the path.
- Say: “Just like Peter, when we come to times in life when we feel ready to give up, we can listen to Jesus and recognize that He has the power to change everything! Peter had not been successful fishing that day, but Jesus caused Peter to have an amazing catch of fish and He gave Peter a new command—to follow Him and fish for people.
- This changed Peter’s life. Because Peter knew that Jesus is holy, he followed Jesus.”
- Ask preteens if they know how to follow the paths God has planned for their lives. Point out the “Theme Verse Poster” (Psalm 25:4) and read it together. Explain that the best way to start following His path is to ask Him to show us the way!

STORY SETUP

- Guide preteens to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Place “Story Setup” cards in the center of the circle.
- Play “Our God Is Holy” song.
- Guide preteens to pass the ball until the music stops.
- Pause the music.
- Instruct the preteen with the ball to select a card.
- Direct the preteen to take their picture and tape it to the wall where they believe it belongs in the storyline of today’s lesson.
- Assist as needed until all of the pictures are in order on the wall.
 1. Two boats on the water
 2. Empty nets
 3. Crowds of people
 4. Two boats by the shore
 5. Jesus sitting in a boat
 6. A boat in deep water
 7. Casting the net
 8. A net full of fish
 9. Peter at Jesus’ feet
- Briefly review the story with pictures.

DEBRIEF

- Remind preteens that Jesus is holy and that changes everything!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Ball
- “Story Setup” Cards
- Blue Tape
- Music “Our God is Holy”



1 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Day 1 Memory Maker Cards
 - Fish Daily Point Button
 - Pencil
- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
 - Talk about what the fish on the button has to do with today's Bible study.
 - Tell preteens that anytime we encounter Jesus, His holiness reminds us we are not holy. Like Peter, we are sinners. We need Him to save us. The good news is that Jesus came to take the punishment for our sins. When we receive His forgiveness, that changes everything!
 - Have the preteens write or illustrate on the Memory Maker Cards for day 1 something they know about Jesus is holy, and what Acts 2:21 means to them.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What made Peter recognize that Jesus is holy?
2. How do you think you would have felt if you were in the boat when this miracle took place?
3. Jesus told Peter, "Follow Me, and I will make you fish for people." What does it mean to follow Jesus? What did Jesus mean when He said, "I will make you fish for people?"
4. Peter and the fishermen were obedient to Jesus' command to take the boat back out. How can you be obedient to Jesus' commands?



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

- “Riddle Image” Sheet
- Isaiah 41:10 “Word Cards”
- Pencil

SPOT IT!

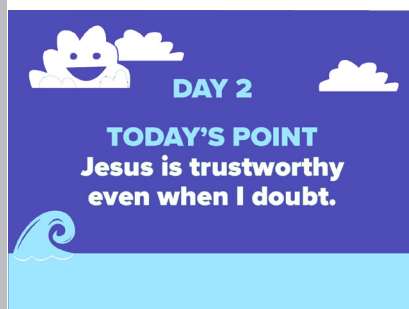
- Display the “Day 2 Bonus Verse Poster: Isaiah 41:10” on the focal wall.
- Give each preteen a “Riddle Image” sheet.
- Divide preteens into groups of 2 or 3 kids.
- Have each group work together to solve these riddles that you read to locate nine objects on the activity page.
- Have sets of Isaiah 41:10 “Word Cards” available and instruct preteens to ask a leader for a “word card” every time they find an object.
- Ask preteens to put the cards in the correct order after they have found all nine objects on the activity pages.

RIDDLES:

1. I fit your feet but can't be worn. I love a beach, but not a storm. (footprints)
2. I sing a concert for no pay. I'll sing until the end of day. (bird)
3. Who, what, when, where? I ask because I need to know. (question mark)
4. Hi, hello, how do you do? It's awfully nice to meet you! (handshake)
5. Take me to school, but not recess. My words disappear if you erase. (pencil)
6. I'll help you get in through the door. I twist and turn and click! (key)
7. Take me to recess, but not into school. I can't walk, but can move so fast! (ball)
8. I will keep a thief away, but don't forget the code for me! (combination lock)
9. Put me together, take me apart. Hang me up, now I am art! (puzzle pieces)

DEBRIEF

- Sometimes it's hard to figure out riddles and puzzles. When we work together we can help each other to solve the problem.
- In Isaiah 41:10, God tells us that He will help and be with us so we do not have to be afraid.



BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

- Give each preteen “Bible Story Order” sheet
- Direct preteens to listen closely to the Bible story and number the pictures in order as they happen.
- Read Matthew 14:22-33

PETER WALKED TO JESUS ON THE WATER

Matthew 14:22-3

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 and the water grew rough and choppy. The waves beat against their boat while the winds pushed harder and harder against them.

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.”

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.”

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.

He began to sink into the dark, stormy water. Peter cried out, “Lord, save me!”



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- “Bible Story Order” sheet
- Pencil



2 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- “Bible Story Order” sheet
- Pencil

LEADER TIP

To encourage Bible skills, guide preteens to find Isaiah 41:10 in their own Bibles or a group Bible.

PETER WALKED TO JESUS ON THE WATER

(cont.)

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 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

- Review the “Story Layout” activity, asking preteens in which order they put the pictures.
- Provide correct answers as you review the story.
 1. Jesus went up on a mountain to pray.
 2. The disciples’ boat was far from shore when the wind began to blow.
 3. The disciples saw Jesus walking on top of the water.
 4. Peter asked to walk to Jesus on the water, and Jesus said, “Come.”
 5. Peter noticed how strong the wind was and began to sink. He cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus saved him.
- Direct preteens to read aloud the “Day 2 Bonus Verse Poster: Isaiah 41:10” together.
- Remind preteens that just as Peter and the other disciples learned they could trust Jesus during the storm, we can learn to trust God because He is trustworthy, as described in the verse.

SCARY SCENARIOS

- Form small teams of preteens and provide each team two cards—one from each stack.
- If any card pairings have a matching background, instruct preteens to put one back and trade for a different one.
- Ask preteens if they ever played a matching game. Explain that you are going to play a variation of that game, but with a few challenges.
- Explain that when you begin playing the music, one person from each team will take the team’s verse card and walk around the room with it. When you pause the music, players may ask others near them to trade cards, then return to their teams.
- Play “Do Not Fear,” for a short time, then pause.
- Instruct teams to look at the verse and see if their new verse would be helpful in their scenario. If so, the team may remain seated. If not, the team should choose a new volunteer to walk around the room and make another trade.
- Play until all teams remain seated. Then ask for volunteers to read the scenarios and matching Bible verses.
- Tell preteens that there could be more than one match for many of the cards.
- Some matches are listed below, but allow preteens to develop confidence reading Scripture by choosing different matches if desired.

SCARY SCENARIOS SUGGESTED MATCHES

- People won’t let you sit with them in the cafeteria. Psalm 27:4
- You have a test today and you don’t feel ready. Matthew 6:27
- The things you hear on the news or that you hear adults talking about make you feel worried. Psalm 94:19
- You have to get up and talk in front of a big group of people. Isaiah 41:10
- Your kids choir is singing at a big event. 2 Timothy 1:7
- Your parents have been fighting a lot. John 14:27
- Someone has been sending mean messages to your phone. 2 Timothy 3:13-15
- A bully is always being mean to you where adults can’t see. Psalm 27:1-3
- You did something wrong and a lot of people are angry with you. Psalm 51:2,10
- You’ve been sick a lot lately. Psalm 91:1-4
- Someone you love is sick. John 16:33
- You have been feeling sad a lot lately and you don’t know why. Psalm 43:3-5

CARE OPPORTUNITIES

- Watch for signs if preteens are experiencing one of these situations.
- Seek opportunities to talk and pray with them, as well as to talk with parents or your VBS director when you sense that a situation may be serious. Remember: do not be alone with a preteen. Always have another adult within eyesight.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Scary Scenarios Cards
- VBS Music “Do Not Fear”



2 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

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

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Talk about what the wave on the button has to do with today's Bible study.
- Spend some time praying with preteens, asking God to help them know and trust Jesus with the scary things that may happen that happen in their lives.
- Have the preteens write or illustrate on the Memory Maker Cards for day 2 something they know about Jesus is trustworthy, and what Isaiah 41:10 means to them.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you think of a time when you were afraid of something? How did Jesus comfort you in that situation?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God?
3. What are some ways that we can trust Jesus in our everyday lives?

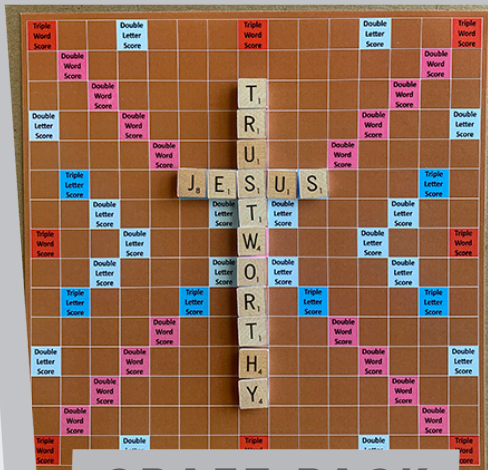


TRUSTWORTHY SCRABBLE

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 "TWORKTHY" Under the "S"

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

WALKING ON WATER

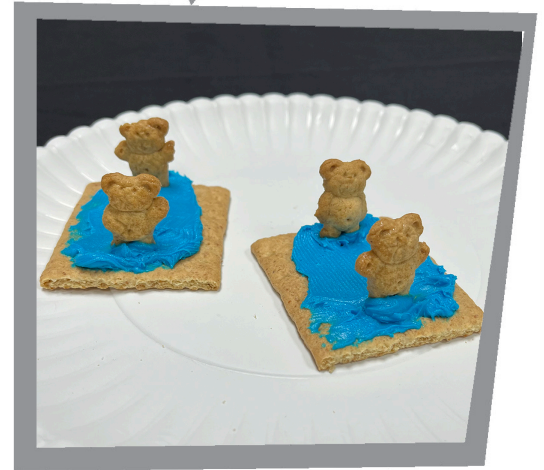
SNACK
DAY 2

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

- Bible Verse cards
- Colossians 1:14 Poster

DAY 3
TODAY'S POINT
Jesus is forgiving
even when I sin.

HIDE AND FOLLOW

- Form two groups of preteens.
- Instruct one team to sit down facing a wall and close their eyes.
- Distribute the prepared Bible Verse Cards to preteens in the other group and tell them to hide the cards somewhere in the room. Guide preteens to remember where they hid their cards.
- Invite the group who was sitting down to open their eyes, stand up, and search for hidden cards.
- Instruct the preteens who hid the cards to help guide the other team to their hiding spots by using directions such as forward, backward, right, left, and so forth.
- Guide preteens to gather all the cards and then put them in correct verse order.
- Use the “Day 3 Bonus Verse Poster: Colossians 1:14” if needed as a reference.
- Read the completed verse aloud together.
- Guide teams to reverse roles and play again as time allows.

DEBRIEF

- Say: “Just like we discover in Colossians 1:14, Jesus came to die to take the punishment for our sins so we can receive forgiveness for our sins and be restored just like Peter was. That forgiveness can only come from Jesus because Jesus is God’s Son. Only He has the power to save us. We’ll hear more about what happened between Jesus and Peter as we go on.”

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

Say: “In our last two Bible stories, we’ve gotten to see Peter in his element: out on a boat. Today we’ll see him on a boat again, but this time things have changed. Peter did something wrong and felt deeply sad about it. But Jesus had a plan to restore him. The Bible tells us that like Peter, everyone has sinned. But God has a plan to restore us too.”

LEVEL UP STORYLINE STRIPS

Provide a “Level Up Storyline Strip” to each preteen. Instruct preteens to listen very closely for when the event or events on their strips are mentioned in the story. Use the story text 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.” Then someone else saw Peter, “You are one of them too.” Peter again declared, “I am not!” 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!” 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. 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.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Level Up Storyline Strips



3 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Level Up Story Strips
- Level Up Story Poster
- Glue Stick for each team

PETER DENIED JESUS AND WAS RESTORED

(cont.)

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?” Peter replied, “Yes, Lord, You know I love You.” Jesus asked a second and a third time. Each time Peter answered yes. Each time Jesus told Peter 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.

LEVEL UP STORY LINE

- Form groups of five preteens. Instruct preteens to compare “Level Up Storyline Strips” make sure there are no duplicates on their team.
- Adjust teams so that each group has a complete set of strips.
- Give each team a “Level Up Storyline Poster.” If you have more than two teams, ask teams to share a poster, each using one side.
- Ask who in the group plays video games or other games that involve multiple levels. Call on volunteers to share differences between the early and later levels (easier/harder; beginner/advanced; small prizes/ bigger prizes; storyline has a problem/solution has been found, and so forth).
- Instruct preteens to recall the Bible story and arrange their strips in order, placing the first event on Level 1, and then progressing up the levels.
- Review the correct order with preteens.
 - Level 1—Jesus told Peter that He knew Peter would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.
 - Level 2—Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane. Peter denied knowing Jesus.
 - Level 3—Jesus was crucified and died on a cross but rose on the third day and is alive!
 - Level 4—Jesus cooked breakfast for the disciples on the shore.
 - Level 5—Jesus told Peter, “Feed My sheep.”

DEBRIEF

- Say: “Life isn’t a straight progression like going up the levels of a video game or down the path on a board-game. Even when we become Christians, we will continue to sin. But thankfully, God doesn’t stop loving us because we sin.
- Jesus’ forgiveness covers everything!
- This doesn’t mean we have permission to sin whenever we want, but it does mean that when we mess up, He will forgive us.”

SPIN & SOLVE

- Show preteens the “Spin and Solve Game-board.” Explain that they will solve the missing message.
- Group the preteens into two teams. Show preteens the “Spin and Solve Spinner Wheel,” pointing out that there are letters given on the spinner.
- Guide teams to take turns using the spinner to start earning letters for you to fill in the board. (Depending on time, you can fill in all the same letter, or just fill in one of the letters as they spin. Example: If a kid spins and “E” you can fill in all the “E” or just one, and then fill in more “E” as kids spin that letter.)
- Explain that when teammates believe they can solve the message on the board they should yell, “Twists & Turns!”
- Congratulate the first team to correctly solve the puzzle.

ANSWER: JESUS IS FORGIVING EVEN WHEN I SIN

DEBRIEF

- Peter was only able to return to following Jesus because Jesus died to take the punishment for all of our sins—even the sin that Peter committed while Jesus was on trial!
- Distribute “Response Cards” and request that preteens fill them out honestly and return them to you.
- Explain that there is no right answer and promise that you will not share their answers with other preteens.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Spin & Solve Game-board
- Spin & Solve Spinner
- Letter Cards
- Glue Stick
- Response Cards (debrief)



3 ENGAGE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

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



- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Talk about what the heart on the button has to do with today's Bible study. Remind preteens that Jesus is forgiving, even when we sin.
- Ask if knowing Jesus is forgiving changes anything about the way that preteens live. Read Romans 6:1-2 aloud. Emphasize that Jesus' forgiveness does not mean we have permission to keep sinning whenever we feel like it. But because we're human, we will still sin. And when we do, Jesus will forgive us. Sin doesn't have to control our lives. We can live in a relationship with Jesus, completely free from sin.
- Ask if preteens have any questions about the good news or "gospel" message they've heard today. Answer questions as time allows. Follow up with preteens who have further questions.
- Have the preteens write or illustrate on the Memory Maker Cards for day 3 something they know about Jesus is forgiving, and what Colossians 1:14 means to them.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

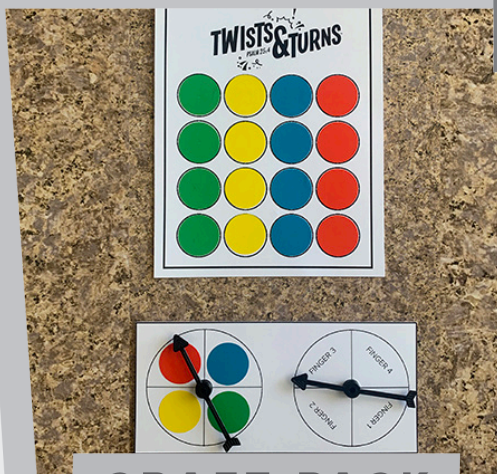
1. Jesus knew that Peter would deny knowing Him, but He still showed love to Peter. How do you think He was able to do that? Can you think of any other examples where Jesus loved someone who didn't deserve it?
2. Why do you think catching the fish made the disciples recognize Jesus from the boat?
3. Why did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love Me?"
4. What did Jesus mean when He told Peter to feed His sheep? How did Peter obey Jesus?

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!

DAY 3



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:

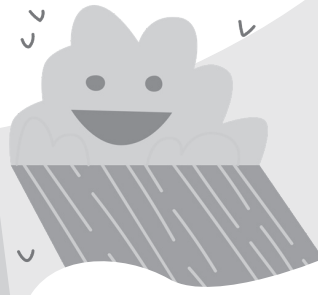
- Give each child a paper plate, container of goldfish, two strands from Twizzlers Pull 'N' Peel, and pretzel sticks.
- Encourage kids to build a make-believe fire with the pretzel sticks and then tear apart the Twizzlers strands to pile on top of their pretzels. (This is to represent the flames.)
-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

- Twists & Turns cube

TWISTS & TURNS GAME

Invite a kid to toss the cube. Guide kids to follow the commands stated on the cube

- twist right
- twist left
- hop on one leg
- turn around
- touch your toes
- stretch hands up to the sky

Allow several kids to take turns tossing the cube. End with everyone standing in silly ways.

DEBRIEF

- Say: “Wow! That was a lot of twisting and turning. Similar to our 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

- Ask preteens if any of them like to solve codes.
- Provide each one a copy of the “Story Decoder Index” and say they must listen carefully to the Bible story for items to help them decode the hidden message.
- State that preteens should circle images/symbols if they hear them represented in the story.

PETER SPOKE BOLDLY ABOUT JESUS

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. 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.

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**.

The next day, Peter and John stood before all the 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. 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**. 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. Peter and John said, “We are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Peter and John believed Jesus is worth following even when things get tough.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Story Decode Index
- Pencil

HELPFUL DEFINITION

Holy Spirit—the Spirit of God, God's promised Helper

Repent—to turn away from sin and to turn toward God, asking Him for forgiveness



4 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Story Decoder
- Pencil

STORY DECODER KEY

- temple—or
- walk—ow
- money—in
- excited—ll
- leaping—Je
- Peter told the people—su
- Roman authorities—gh
- crucified—fo
- raised Jesus from the dead!—he
- angry—ou
- prison—sw
- education—th

DEBRIEF

- Mention that there were twelve items from the story represented on the “Story Decoder Index.” Ask preteens if anyone circled all twelve items and what they were (see key in margin). Retell parts of the story, correcting wrong answers as needed.
- Show preteens your poster with Today’s Point, missing a few words. Guide preteens to write the letters they circled on the decoder index on a separate piece of paper. Guide them to unscramble the letters to form the missing words from the point. Write the unscrambled words in the blanks. For an extra hint, guide them to look for the only capital letter to help start the first word.
- Lead preteens to discuss how they would have felt to be in Peter and John’s place, in prison for talking about Jesus.
- Ask: “Would you have been able to speak boldly about Jesus if you were in their position?”
- Point out that once we have invited Jesus to be our Savior and Lord, He sends the Holy Spirit as our helper. The Holy Spirit gives understanding of God’s Word and boldness to speak about Jesus.
- Congratulate preteens on finding the correct solution.
- Say: “The answer is Today’s Point! Jesus is worth following even when it gets tough. We saw that things got tough for Peter and John. They were arrested, went to prison, and had to stand up and speak in front of a group of angry religious leaders. But they said they couldn’t stop speaking about what they had seen and heard. That’s because what they saw and heard was so amazing! Jesus did miracles, taught God’s Word, died for our sins, then rose from the dead! Something that amazing is hard to keep quiet about.”
- Say: “Everything Jesus did proves that He is worth following. And what’s even better is that when we repent and follow Him, He forgives us of our sins and will someday bring us to heaven to live with Him. We can have a relationship with Him. That is the best gift ever!”
- Ask preteens if they have any questions about the good news about Jesus. Spend some time answering questions.

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!

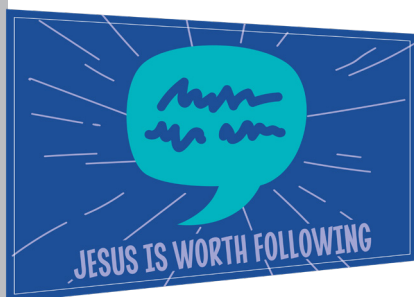
SUPPLIES NEEDED

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

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Talk about what the Speech Bubble on the button has to do with today's Bible study.
- Peter and John spoke boldly about Jesus. Even the religious leaders, who didn't believe in Jesus, knew that Peter and John couldn't have spoken this way if they hadn't been with Jesus. Jesus gave them the words and the courage to speak through His power. Jesus is worth following even when it gets tough. Jesus will give us what we need to keep following Him even when it gets tough." Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for His gift of salvation and His power to help us follow Him.
- Have the preteens write or illustrate on the Memory Maker Cards for day 4 something they know about Jesus is worth following, and what Acts 4:12 means to them.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the religious leaders wanted Peter and John to stop preaching about Jesus?
2. Imagine you are in Peter and John's place in front of the religious leaders. How would you feel? How would you respond?
3. Have you ever been in a situation when it has been hard to speak boldly about Jesus? If so, how did you respond?
4. How can we follow Jesus even when it gets hard?



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

- What's That? Game Cards
- Tape

WHAT'S THAT?

- Provide each preteen with a "What's That? Game Card."
- Instruct preteens not to look at their cards.
- Direct preteens to tape their cards to their foreheads without peeking at their own cards.
- Pair preteens into groups of two.
- Instruct preteens to ask yes or no questions in order to determine what item is displayed on their cards.
- Once a preteen has correctly guessed his card, he must move to the "Winner's Circle" and his partner must find a new partner to help him continue guessing.
- Continue playing by gathering, shuffling, and redistributing cards to preteens as time allows.

DEBRIEF

- Discuss the preteens' experiences with the games. Ask: "Was it difficult to figure out what item was on your card? What made the tasks easier?"
- Say: "In 'What's That?' you did not know what item you had until someone started sharing information about it with you. In the same way, we have the responsibility to share the good news of the gospel with others so that they can understand why Jesus is for everyone!"
- Say: "Did anyone have a card with a cross on it? In today's Bible story, we will see how Peter shared with Cornelius, a Roman soldier, the truth of how Jesus died on a cross and rose again." Ask if anyone had a card that connected to Cornelius' job and draw attention to the Roman soldier helmet.



DAY 5

TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is for everyone,
including me.

BIBLE STORY ACTIVITY

Explain that preteens must listen carefully to the story for help solving a puzzle they'll see after the story is finished. Use the Bible story provided.

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.

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.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Word Mix Up! Activity Page
- Pencil

HELPFUL DEFINITION

Vision—one way God communicates with people. It is like experiencing a dream except the person is awake.

Unclean—describes something that Jewish law said people could not use or do

Favoritism—treating one person or group of people as more special or important than another



5 EXPLORE!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Word Mix Up! Activity Page
- Pencil

PETER TOLD CORNELIUS ABOUT JESUS

(Cont.)

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.

WORD MIX UP!

- Complete the activity by unscrambling the mixed-up letters found and finding where each one fits in the crossword.
- Review each of the answers, relating the answers back to the Bible story as you go.
- Invite preteens to read Acts 10:43 Daily Verse.
- This verse was part of what Peter taught Cornelius’ friends and family.
- We are all accepted into the family of Jesus when we put our trust in Him for our salvation.
- Ask preteens if they have any questions about the gospel message they have heard this week. Spend time answering questions and clarifying any misunderstandings.
- Use the “Gospel Poster” as a guide and make a plan to follow up where you feel the Holy Spirit guiding you.

DEBRIEF

Say: “Without the gift of salvation, we would be separated from God for eternity. But because Jesus came to save us, we can have a relationship with Him! God has provided us with the tools to share His Word with everyone. The gospel is for everyone! Jesus is for everyone!”

ROLL 'N GO

- Form four to six teams and assign each a game piece.
- Explain that preteens will take turns rolling the “Combo Quest Action Cube” before moving their game piece that number of spaces.
- Whatever color the player ends their turn on is the color of card to be drawn.
- Direct preteens to begin the game by selecting who will roll the cube first.
- Draw a card from the correct color stack and ask the question to the preteen who rolled the cube. If they answers incorrectly, go to the next player in their group and ask the question.
- If that player doesn't know the answer to the question, that move should be disregarded and the team should move back to their previous space on the board.
- Continue playing until one team reaches the end of the board.

DEBRIEF

- Discuss with preteens how much they are loved by God and the free gift of salvation Jesus gives them.
- Just as Peter shared this “Good News,” they too can tell others about Jesus.
- Jesus is for Everyone!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Roll 'N Go
- Game board
- Game Pieces
- Combo Quest Action Cube
- Twist & Turns Review Cards

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

- Distribute the Memory Maker Cards and today's Daily Point Button.
- Talk about what the people on the button has to do with today's Bible study.
- Say: "Peter would probably have been reluctant to go and talk to people who were not Jewish, but God told him that Jesus is for everyone."
- Read 2 Peter 3:9. Say: "Peter wrote here that God doesn't want anyone to die without receiving God's gift of salvation and having a relationship with Jesus. We can tell others the good news about Jesus because Jesus is for everyone!"
- Thank preteens for being a part of VBS and express how much you've loved getting to know them. Close in prayer, thanking God for the plan He has for each preteen in your group, and for His gift of salvation.
- Have the preteens write or illustrate on the Memory Maker Cards for day 5 something they know about how Jesus is for everyone, and what Acts 10:43 means to them.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are things that make you unique? In what ways are you similar to others in your group? How might this affect the way you relate to one another?
2. Why do you think God used something ordinary like animals to teach Peter that Jesus is for everyone?
3. What does it mean to be "right or acceptable to God?"
4. Think of someone you know who might not know Jesus. How can you share the good news with him or her?
5. Review the "Gospel Poster" (pack item 17) with the group. Lead preteens to consider ways they can have conversations about the gospel with others who haven't trusted in Jesus yet. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading during this conversation.

Allow opportunities for any preteen who has questions about salvation to talk with a leader.



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.