

K-2 Large Group Mid-Week Lessons

**Year 2 – Quarter 2
Winter 2024-25**

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Topical Lesson – December 3, 2024

New Testament Flyover

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus is real, alive, and powerful.
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I can have a personal relationship with Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident that Jesus is real and alive.

Supplies:

- Big ice cream sundae (needs to look amazing)
- Fake ice cream cone toy (from a toy kitchen set)
- Pet animal (alive) – bunny, dog, guinea pig
- Stuffed animal (tape X’s over the eyes, to make it look dead)
- Bible

Intro

If you were here on Sunday, you played a super fun game! Do you remember? It was kind of like “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” It’s called “Real, Alive, and Powerful!” Let’s play!

To introduce the topic of the lesson, play 1-2 rounds of the game (instructions provided below).

Game instructions:

1. Similar to the game “Rock, Paper, Scissors,” we will play “Real, Alive, Powerful” to reinforce who Jesus is in the New Testament. He is real (hands over heart), alive (hands up), and powerful (make muscles).
2. Practice the action for each word several times so students will remember them.
3. Play “Real, Alive, Powerful” with students as a competition. Start each round by having the students turn to face the back of the room. Then say with confidence, “Jesus is real, alive, and powerful. GO!” Students will then quickly choose a pose. (You will choose a pose at the same time). After striking a pose, students should turn around (while still posing). If their pose matches your pose, they are out and should move to the sidelines.
4. As each new round begins, have the students on the sidelines join in with you by saying, “Jesus is real, alive, and powerful,” before the remaining students do the next pose.
5. The last student standing wins!

Lesson

Jesus is real, alive, and powerful! Do you remember learning about this on Sunday? Let's try to remember what we learned. I'm going to ask you a few questions, and I want you to tell me everything you remember.

1. How do we know Jesus is real? (He was born as a baby, grew up just like you, ate food, slept, etc.)
2. How do we know Jesus is alive? (He really died on the cross... but then He rose again from the dead. He's alive!)
3. How do we know Jesus is powerful? (He healed people and did miracles, He rose again from the dead – He beat Satan, He is able to save us!)

That sounds like a lot of really important things to know! But why does it matter? Let's think about that together. Hmmm....

While thinking, have someone run up with a huge ice cream sundae and a fake toy ice cream cone. They should instruct the speaker to pick one of the ice cream options.

Ooh! Ice cream! Yum!

Address students. If you got to pick one of these two options, which one would you pick? Point at it! *All students should be pointing to the real ice cream sundae.*

Me, too! I totally want the real ice cream, not the fake ice cream! The real ice cream is tasty, cold, colorful, and just plain delicious. The fake ice cream, on the other hand, is just... plastic. I wouldn't want to eat that – gross!

Remember how we learned that Jesus was born as a baby, He grew up just like us, He ate real food, and He slept at night? That shows us that He is really real! Jesus isn't fake, like this plastic ice cream. Because He's real, that means He understands what it's like to live and grow, like me and you. When I talk to Him, He hears me and understands me! I WANT to know Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him because He's real, not fake.

Ok, but what about Jesus being alive? Why does that matter? Let's think about that together. Hmmm....

While thinking, have someone run up with the pet animal and the "dead" stuffed animal.

Oh, look! It's my pet _____!

Stuffed animals are nice. But what if this stuffed animal was actually a dead animal? Eww. I bet it would be stinky. It definitely wouldn't be able to snuggle, and I know it wouldn't hear me.

When I feel sad, sometimes I read books aloud to my pet _____. He can't talk back to me, but since he's alive, I know he can hear me. He's good company.

Jesus is alive, too! And He's so much more than just a good listener and good company. He doesn't just hear me, He speaks to me through His Word, the Bible! The Bible tells me a lot of things about Jesus.

One thing it tells me is that Jesus really needed to die. (Hebrews 9:22b)

How did Jesus die? *Allow students to answer.*

Why did Jesus need to die? *Allow students to answer.*

How long did Jesus stay dead? *Allow students to answer.*
What happened after three days? *Allow students to answer.*

When Jesus rose again, He was really, truly alive! People saw Him eating, drinking, and talking – they knew that He didn't stay dead. He was alive!

It takes a lot of power to come back to life, doesn't it? That must mean that Jesus is powerful, too, right?
Pull out Bible.

God's Word, the Bible, makes a lot of promises about Jesus. It promises that Jesus would be the Savior of the world, and He is!

Jesus died to save us from our sins. He took the punishment for us, so we could be saved and spend forever with Him. When He came back to life, He beat sin! Once we're saved, we're always saved. Jesus took care of it all when He died and rose again.

Only someone super powerful can promise to save us forever. Only Jesus has that power.

I can be confident in what the Bible promises about Jesus because I know He is powerful. Nothing can beat Him!

Conclusion

Are you confident in Jesus? He is real, alive, and powerful, and He wants to have a relationship with you! He loves you so much! If you've never prayed to ask Jesus to save you from your sin and to be the leader of your life, you can do that tonight. You can talk to your leader and they'd love to pray with you.

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus.

Lesson 1 – December 10, 2024

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	God has a plan for Mary and Joseph.
Think Right:	“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11
Do Right:	I will wait patiently for God’s plan for my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel hopeful knowing God has a plan for my life.

Supplies:

- Four large manila envelopes. Write the following words in large, thick letters to make mini posters to put inside each envelope:
 - Envelope 1: “Mary”
 - Envelope 2: “Joseph”
 - Envelope 3: “Jesus”
 - Envelope 4: “You!” (Write out Jeremiah 29:11 on the back of this poster)
- “Secret Agent” outfit for speaker (think trench coat, fedora, sunglasses, magnifying glass, etc.)
- Two actors to play Mary and Joseph (provide simple costumes for them to wear)
- A baby doll to represent Jesus
- Wordless Book

Lesson

Enter stage playing up the “secret agent” role, holding (and hiding) the envelopes.

Say quietly: Agents, we have a very important mission this evening. Will you join me in the mission?

Four envelopes were delivered to me this evening, and inside each one is a clue to God’s very important plan. Will you help me put together the clues, so we can understand God’s plan?

Let’s open the first envelope. *Invite a student to help open Envelope 1 and hold the poster.*

This first poster says “Mary.” If you were here on Sunday, you might remember that we learned about a woman named Mary.

Mary should enter. Why, hello, Mary! You came at just the right time. How are you part of God’s plan?

Mary: An angel came to me and told me that God would do a miracle and use me to bring His Son into the world!

Mary should exit.

Wow! That’s amazing! Let’s see if we can unpack the next part of God’s plan.

Invite a student to help open Envelope 2 and hold the poster.
The second poster says “Joseph.”

Joseph should enter.

Joseph: Hello, my name is Joseph! I am Mary’s husband. When we were not yet married, an angel came to me and told me that the baby Mary was expecting would be named Jesus because He would save His people from their sin.

Joseph should exit.

What does that mean? What is sin? *Invite students to answer.* Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. The angel told Joseph that this baby, named Jesus, would be the one to save us from our sins. Since the Old Testament times, people had been waiting for many, many years for a Savior to come to save them. It was finally happening! Let’s look at the next part of God’s plan.

Invite a student to help open Envelope 3 and hold the poster.
This one says “Jesus!” *Pull out the baby doll and hold the doll as you speak.*

God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to us! At this time of year, we start to think about how Jesus came. What does the Bible tell us about when Jesus came to live with people here on earth? *Allow students to answer and describe the nativity: Jesus came as a baby, Mary and Joseph were His parents, He was born in a stable, in Bethlehem, etc.*

Remember what Joseph said? Jesus came so we could be saved from our sins. Why do we need to be saved from our sins? *Explain the Gospel message using the Wordless Book.*

This is an amazing plan! God had promised to send a Savior, and He used Mary and Joseph, and many other people, to make that plan happen. But wait! I have one more envelope. Let’s open it!

Invite a student to help open Envelope 4 and hold the poster.
You?! Did you know that you are part of God’s plan? Just like God had a plan for Mary and Joseph, God has a plan for each of us.

God has very, very good plans for us. Let me read a verse where God tells us about His plans. *Read Jeremiah 29:11.*

God’s plan is for Jesus to be our Savior. He wants us to love and trust Jesus to save us. Once Jesus has saved us, there is still a plan! God’s plan is for us to share this Good News about Jesus with other people.

Conclusion

God has always had a very good plan, and we can trust that He still has a plan for our lives. When I think about how God has a good plan for my life, I feel hopeful and loved. I am so thankful that God sent Jesus to save us, aren’t you?! Let’s pray and thank God for His good plan: Jesus!

Lesson 2 – December 17, 2024

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus is born.
Think Right:	“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

Supplies:

- Party supplies:
 - Decorate stage with Christmas-themed balloons and streamers
 - Have large confetti poppers set to the side (hidden)
- Four large beautifully wrapped gift boxes at the front of the stage in the following colors: gold, dark, red, white (these boxes should be very large to fill the space and add intrigue)
- Inside the gifts:
 - Gold: gold, sparkly crown
 - Dark: dark colored blindfold or mask
 - Red: crown of thorns
 - White: large white towel

Intro

Speaker should enter very animatedly, welcoming “guests” (students) to the party. Utilize some of the party props (streamers, balloons, hat, etc.), but save the extra special things like the confetti poppers for the end.

What do you think we’re celebrating tonight? *Allow students to answer.* You’re right, we celebrate Christmas in December! It’s coming pretty soon, and I just couldn’t wait to celebrate with you! So, we’re going to have a party tonight!

When we celebrate Christmas, it’s all about the Christmas cookies and candy canes and presents, right? *Allow students to answer and, hopefully, correct you.* Oh, you mean Christmas isn’t about those things? Well, you’re kind of right. Christmas *is* actually about a gift – one very important gift. A gift for each of us... Jesus!

I have a few things to show you to help us understand this gift.

Optional: Invite four students to help hold props as you pull them out of the boxes.

Lesson

Gold box

Pull out gold crown. Did you know that God absolutely LOVES you? He knows everything about you – all of the good things and all of the bad things. And He still totally, 100% loves you! Did you know that God is also the King of the whole world? He made it all and is in charge of it all. So, the King of the whole wide world loves YOU! Let's say together, "The King of the world loves ME!" *Have kids say it together and point to themselves. Then encourage them to turn and say it to the person sitting next to them, "The King of the world loves you."* Isn't that amazing?

Because He loves you so much, God made a place called heaven. It's a beautiful place we can read about in the Bible. Heaven is where we can go someday to spend forever with God. It's very happy there – better than we can even imagine – and God wants us to be there with Him!

Dark box

Pull out blindfold/mask. Unfortunately, you can't go to heaven. I can't go there either. Why? Because God is 100% perfect and heaven is a 100% perfect place. And we (every person – including you and me) have a problem. That problem is sin. What is sin? *Allow students to answer, as you guide them to the definition of sin – "anything we think, say, or do that is against God."* Sin hurts others and it keeps us apart from God.

We all sin – even an itty bitty, tiny, little lie is a sin. And since we all sin, and there can be no sin in heaven, none of us can get to heaven. Isn't that sad? Sin stops me from being near God, just like this blindfold stops me from seeing. *Put on the blindfold.*

Red box

Wait to pull out the crown of thorns. Continue talking with the blindfold on. But guess what. God didn't leave us blind and stuck far away from Him. Remember how He loves you? He gave us a way to be saved from our sin! *Pull off the blindfold.*

That way is Jesus!

When we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating how God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, down to earth. He came as a tiny little baby and grew up just like you and me. He knew what it was like to be hungry and to be tired. He knew what it was like to laugh and also to cry. He knew what it was like to love His mom and dad and to also be made fun of by other people. He sounds a lot like you and me, except for one thing – He never ever sinned. Not even once. He was and is perfect.

When Jesus grew up, He taught about God and helped sick people. But eventually, He chose to die for us. *Pull out crown of thorns.* This crown of thorns is just like what He wore when He died. It hurt Him – but He died because He loves each of us. Why did He need to die? Because someone needed to pay the punishment for all of our sin, and that someone needed to be perfect. Doing something wrong means you need a punishment – if you whine before dinner, you might not get dessert. That's a punishment.

Jesus took the punishment for ALL of our sins, which means...

White box

Pull out white towel and cover a student. He washes away all our sin, making us clean! When Jesus came, He offered each of us a gift. That gift is to be saved from all our sin. Here is a tricky question: Do you have to take Jesus' gift? No – you can choose to hold onto your sin. But I promise that it's so much better if you accept His gift. Then you get to look forward to being with God forever!

Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus coming as a little baby. He came as a gift!
Why did He come? (To save us!)

I think that is the perfect reason to have a party! Let's celebrate!

Conclusion

As a group, celebrate the gift of Jesus! Pop some confetti, blow some party horns, and emphasize "celebrate" and "gift"!

Optional: Play a joyful worship song or sing a festive Christmas song to celebrate. Serve cake or a special party snack.

Let's pray and thank God for sending us such an amazing gift!

Lesson 4 – January 7, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Satan tempts Jesus.
Think Right:	"I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11
Do Right:	I will use God's Word to resist temptation.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I use God's Word to resist temptation.

Supplies:

- Bible
- Leader 1 – dressed as an athlete
- Three "hurdles" set up across the stage (these are the temptation spots) – each hurdle should be something to jump over (a large bucket, a bench, etc.)
- Three leaders – each frozen next to a hurdle, holding their temptation prop:
 - Leader 2 – video game controller
 - Leader 3 – tray of warm cookies
 - Leader 4 – arms crossed, looking very grouchy

Lesson

Hey, guys! We have an awesome challenge for _____ (*insert name of Leader 1*)! The challenge is going to be conquering these hurdles... but it's more challenging than just jumping. We need your help! Let me explain.

Can anyone tell me what temptation is? *Allow students to provide answers.* "Temptation" is when someone or something tries to draw us into doing something that goes against God.

Is it a sin to be tempted? (No!) Jesus was actually tempted. We learned about that on Sunday. It's a sin when you don't *resist* or say "NO!" to the temptation. If you don't resist the temptation, you're sinning.

God has given us a very important tool to help us say 'no' to temptation. It's His Word, the Bible.

As _____ (*Leader 1*) goes through these hurdles, they will be tempted to sin. Here's how you can help. When they are tempted, I will ask you: "What should _____ (*Leader 1*) do?!" I need you to yell, "RESIST!", as loud as you can!

Let's practice. *Ask students:* "What should _____ (*Leader 1*) do?!" *Prompt them to yell, "RESIST!"*

Nice work! Now, let's watch _____ (*Leader 1*) go over the first hurdle.

When Leader 1 approaches the first hurdle, Leader 2 should walk toward Leader 1 and hold out the video game controller.

Leader 2: I know you're not supposed to play video games without checking with your mom first, but nobody will know if you do it. Just for a few minutes. Come on, it doesn't really matter. Nobody will know!

Ok, guys, you're up! What does _____ (Leader 1) need to do to resist the temptation to disobey his/her parents? *Prompt students to yell, "RESIST!"*

Can you think of a Bible verse that can help him/her resist? *Allow students to give answers. Ephesians 6:1-3 is a good answer here.*

Leader 1: I am not going to sin. I love my parents and want to obey them. Ephesians 6:1-3 teaches me to honor my parents!

Read Ephesians 6:1-3, then lead students to cheer as Leader 1 jumps over the first hurdle.

Yay! Now it's time for the second hurdle. What do you think is coming? Let's see!

When Leader 1 approaches the second hurdle, Leader 3 should walk toward Leader 1 and hold out the tray of cookies.

Leader 3: Look at these incredible cookies! They smell so good, and I know you're hungry. They're for your sister's party tomorrow, but if you just take one cookie nobody will notice. And they smell so good! Come on, it doesn't really matter. Just take one cookie. Nobody will know!

Ok, guys, you're up! What does _____ (Leader 1) need to do? *Prompt students to yell, "RESIST!"*

Can you think of a Bible verse that can help resist the temptation to steal? *Allow students to give answers. Exodus 20:15 is a good answer here.*

Leader 1: I am not going to sin. Those cookies are not mine, so taking one would be stealing! God does not want me to steal. I know that because Exodus 20:15 says so. I am not going to steal!

Read Exodus 20:15, then lead students to cheer as Leader 1 jumps over the second hurdle.

Way to go! Now it's time for the last hurdle. What do you think is coming?! Let's see!

When Leader 1 approaches the third hurdle, Leader 4 should stomp feet and sigh loudly, with arms crossed.

Leader 4: All I do is clean and work and do boring stuff. This is so lame. Mom told me to make my bed AGAIN. I have to make my bed every day. And take the garbage out. And clean the toothpaste out of the sink. This is all so lame. I don't think it's fair. I don't want to do it. And I know you don't either. Chores are the worst! Right?! I mean, I'll do them, but you can't make me be happy about it.

Ok, guys, you're up! What does _____ (Leader 1) need to do? Prompt students to yell, "RESIST!"

Can you think of a Bible verse that can help resist the temptation to be whiney and disrespectful? Allow students to give answers. *Philippians 2:14 is a good answer here.*

Leader 1: I am not going to sin. Chores are sometimes boring or frustrating, but I know that God doesn't want me to whine or argue when I help my family. He tells me that in Philippians 2:14. I am thankful to have a bed to sleep in and toothpaste to keep my teeth clean! I want to help out, and I know that the chores will go by faster if I don't complain while doing them!

Read Philippians 2:14, then lead students to cheer as Leader 1 jumps over the final hurdle.

That's awesome! _____ (Leader 1) made it! Thanks so much for helping him/her through the hurdles.

At this time, actors can leave the stage.

Review

Remember what I said about Jesus being tempted? On Sunday, we learned that Jesus was tempted, but He never sinned. Remember, it's not a sin to be tempted. We sin when we don't resist temptation. But God has given us the best tool to resist temptation – the Bible!

Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You." This verse teaches us that God's Word is super powerful and can help us resist temptation. Jesus used the Bible when He resisted temptation!

Conclusion:

This week, when you feel tempted to sin, I want you to stop and think: "What Bible verse can I use to resist temptation?" God will use the verses you've memorized to help you resist.

Let's pray and thank God for the Bible and for how it helps us resist temptation.

Lesson 5 – January 14, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about worry.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will not worry, but instead I will trust God.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I trust God.

Supplies:

- A huge red heart (make out of poster board or something large)
- Soccer ball
- Backpack
- Video game controller

Prep instructions:

1. This lesson focuses on memorizing Proverbs 3:5-6 as a group and understanding what it means.
2. Students should be divided into six groups. Each group will recite part of the verse, like a wave at a baseball game. Assign one leader to oversee each group (this would be a great way to get youth leaders involved).
3. Assign each group one segment of the verse. For each segment, there is an action to be shown up on stage and actions for the audience to do. These will all be first demonstrated and explained slowly.
4. After the demonstration/explanation, the verse will be recited as an audience “wave”.

Group	Verse segment	Stage action	Audience actions
1	Trust in the Lord	a student “trust falls” into a strong, adult leader’s arms or into several leaders’ arms	two fists in front of you, then point up
2	with all your heart	hold up a <i>huge</i> red heart	both arms out, then bring hands to heart
3	and lean not on your own understanding.	adult leader tries to lean onto a youth leader and “falls”	lean to the right with right elbow out
4	In all your ways acknowledge Him,	three volunteers hold up a soccer ball, backpack, and video game controller and then point up	point to an object on stage and then up
5	and He will make your paths straight.	five students bunch up together and then quickly make a straight line	hold arms up and then out in front of you to make a straight path

Lesson

Can anyone recite Proverbs 3:5-6 for me? *Allow 2-3 students to recite the verse.*

Great job! I'm glad that some of you know this verse! But some of you don't know it yet. Tonight, we're going to all work together to memorize this verse and better understand what it means! I have some fun ways for us to practice. Let's get started!

The first part of the verse says, "Trust in the Lord..."
Can I have a volunteer help me? *Pick a student.*

Demonstrate a "trust fall" with a student and a strong leader or several leaders.
Trust fall instructions can be found here: <http://www.howcast.com/videos/218058-how-to-set-up-a-trust-fall/>.
Use the variation that works best with your space and leaders.

After the trust fall, ask the student: Why did you fall into the leader's/leaders' hands? That seemed pretty scary to me! Allow student to answer.

_____ *(insert name of student)* trusted the leader(s)! That's why he/she was able to fall so easily.
He/she knew the leader(s) would catch him/her!

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to, "Trust in the Lord." We can trust that Jesus loves us, that He's our Savior, and that He knows what's best for us. Jesus is trustworthy. We don't need to worry because He is always with us.

Address Group 1: You are going to do the action for "Trust in the Lord." *Demonstrate the action and have them do it a few times.*

Great! Let's move onto the next part of the verse.

Hold up the huge red heart.

What do I have here? A heart! A *huge* heart! Now notice it's not a piece of a heart or half of a heart. It's a *whole* heart. The Bible tells us to trust in the Lord with *all* our heart – with everything we have!

Address Group 2: You are going to do the action for "with all your heart." *Demonstrate the action and have them do it a few times.*

Ask for another student volunteer.

The next part of the verse says, "Lean not on your own understanding." That means that what we think and know on our own isn't the best. What God thinks, knows, and says is what is best. Leaning on our own understanding is kind of like this:

With elbow out, try to lean onto the student, but "fall" because the student can't hold you up.

If we lean on our own understanding, we're going to fall and fail. Instead, we can "lean on God."
To lean on God, we need to know what God says in His Word and then do it.

Address Group 3: You are going to do the action for, “lean not on your own understanding.” *Demonstrate leaning to the right with right elbow out. Have students practice it a few times.*

Call up three more student volunteers. Hand the soccer ball to one, a backpack to the other, and a video game controller to the last. Have students hold items up above their heads.

The next part of the verse says, “In all your ways acknowledge Him...”

What do you think “acknowledge” means? *Allow students to answer.*

When we acknowledge God, it means we’re thinking about God and who He is and what He wants us to do. Let me explain.

Whatever we’re doing – playing sports (*point to the soccer ball*), learning in school (*point to the backpack*), or doing something fun (*point to the video game controller*), we need to think about God and what He (*point up*) would want us to do. God should get the glory for our athletic abilities, we should honor and obey authority at school, and we should make good choices that honor God about the things we do for fun.

Address Group 4: You are going to do the action for, “in all your ways acknowledge Him...” *Demonstrate pointing to the items on stage and then pointing up. Have them do it a few times.*

Call up five more student volunteers. Have them stand bunched up in a group.

The very last part of the verse says, “and He will make your paths straight.” On the count of three, our friends are going to make a nice straight, tight line with their hands at their sides. One, two three!

Volunteers should make a nice, straight line.

God says, if you trust and acknowledge Him in everything you do, He will make your paths straight. Think about driving on the road. If you stay in-between the lines, that’s a safe place, right? But if you go past the lines and off the road or path, what’s going to happen? You’ll probably have an accident! God loves us and wants what’s best for us, on the straight path. We can have God’s best for us by trusting in the Lord and remembering Him in all we do.

Address Group 5: You are going to do the action for, “and He will make your paths straight.” *Demonstrate bringing your arms up and then out in front of you to make a straight path. Have them do it a few times.*

Okay! Now we are going to put it all together, like we’re doing the wave. When I point to your group, say your part of the verse and do the actions!

Do this several times, getting faster each time. Rely on the leader of each group to lead the motions. Be enthusiastic and fun!

Wow! You got it! I’m so glad that God loves us and wants to make straight paths for us.

Conclusion

This week, if you start to feel worried or anxious, I want you to pause and remember the verse we learned tonight, Proverbs 3:5-6. It reminds us that, no matter what, we can trust God. He is ready for you to lean on Him. Knowing that I can always trust God makes me feel peaceful.

Let’s pray and thank God for being with us and ask Him to help us trust Him this week.

Lesson 6 – January 21, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about the wise and foolish builders.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will build my life on God’s Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel secure when I build my life on God’s Word.

Supplies:

- LEGO bricks
- Green LEGO board
- Plate of Jell-o
- Popular children’s books, movies, and video games
- Bible (bookmark the verses you will use for the lesson)

Intro

We are going to begin with a LEGO construction challenge.

Instructions:

1. *Invite a few students on stage and divide them into two teams.*
2. *Give teams the following supplies:*
 - a. *Team 1: a few LEGO bricks and a plate of Jell-o*
 - b. *Team 2: many LEGO bricks and a green LEGO board*
3. *Challenge teams to construct a house on top of their foundation.*
4. *After 30 seconds, stop the teams.*
5. *Test the houses to see which one stands best by gently shaking the plate or LEGO board.*

Team 1, your tower toppled over right away! Team 2, your tower stood strong!

Why? *Allow students to answer; if needed, lead them to the correct answer “the foundation”.*

Lesson

This past weekend in our Bible lesson, we learned about two men who built houses, just like we built houses tonight with LEGO bricks. What did the men build their houses on? (One built on sand and one built on a rock) Which house stood strong? (The one on the rock)

When you build a house on the right foundation (like a rock or LEGO base), is the house safe? (Yes! It’s secure and strong) Just like a real house – and even a LEGO house – need a strong foundation, your life also needs a strong foundation! Why? (Because a strong foundation will keep you safe and help you stand firm against sin)

What can you use as a secure foundation? *Allow students to guess. Hold up children's books, movies, and video games – each time ask: "Is this a safe foundation?" If they say "yes," ask them why, then explain that if you are following Jesus, your only foundation can be the Bible because it is God's Word that teaches us about Jesus!*

The Bible is the only foundation we can trust. *Hold up your Bible.*

In order to build our lives on God's Word, we have to:

1. Read it. (Action: Open Bible with your hands)
2. Do it. (Action: Point forward)

Repeat "Read it" and "Do it" with the actions several times. Use the actions each time you say, "Read it" or "Do it" throughout the rest of the lesson.

Let's play a game! Every time I say, "Read it and do it!", you do the actions. This is how people who love and believe in Jesus get to live! Read it and do it!

I'm going to open my Bible right now, so we can look at some verses and think about how we can read it and do it! *Read each verse from your Bible.*

Examples:

Ephesians 6:1 – "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

- We've just READ what the Bible says. It says that children should obey their parents. Now we get to DO IT.
 - So, when your mom tells you to put away your toys, you should put away your toys. When your dad asks you to clear your plate after dinner, you should do it. When your mom asks you to finish the app or video game you're playing, you should do it. Read it and do it!

Psalms 19:14 – "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

- We've just READ what the Bible says. This verse tells us that the things that we say and think about should be things that make God happy. Now we get to DO IT.
 - We should share kind words with others. We should not call people names or say mean things. We should use our words to praise God. Read it and do it!

Proverbs 3:5-6 – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight."

- We've just READ what the Bible says. This verse tells us to trust God with everything. Now we get to DO IT.
 - We need to build our life on a strong foundation – God's Word! As we do this, we will feel safe and secure because we trust God! He promises in His Word to take care of us when we trust Him. Read it and do it!

Conclusion

It's very important to build our lives on a strong foundation, so they don't fall over like the house on the Jell-o! We can build our lives on God's Word because we can trust God to keep us secure and help us stand firm. Let's pray and thank God for giving us the Bible as a strong foundation!

Lesson 7 – January 28, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	The centurion believes in Jesus.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will put my total faith in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I put my faith in Jesus.

Supplies:

- Mouse traps
- Path taped onto the stage (mouse traps surrounding the path)
- Signs along the path that say:
 - Proof #1 (have a picture of a Bible on the back of the sign)
 - Proof #2 (have a picture of praying hands on the back of the sign)
 - Proof #3 (have a picture of the world on the back of the sign)
- Blindfold
- Volunteer leader (will need to navigate the path blindfolded)

Lesson

I have a very difficult and scary challenge for someone to try tonight. The challenge is to get through this maze of mouse traps... blindfolded! *Show how the mouse traps work; emphasize that this is a scary challenge. The pre-selected volunteer should enthusiastically raise their hand and say, “I will try it!”*

Are you sure? I will guide you through the maze, but you must totally trust me, even though you won't be able to see me. Do you believe I will get you safely through the maze? Do you really trust me?
Volunteer should remain confident.

Slowly guide the volunteer through the maze with your voice; emphasize repeatedly that they need to TOTALLY trust you.

As you guide the volunteer, ask kids:

What's another word for “trust”? (Faith, believe) Just like _____ (*insert name of volunteer*) needs to totally trust me to guide them through the maze, you need to totally trust Jesus to guide you through life!

Stop at the Proof #1 sign.

How can you be confident when you put your faith in Jesus? You can't see Him, just like _____ (*insert name of volunteer*) can't see me or the maze with their blindfold on!!

Flip the sign over to show the picture of a Bible.

I know Jesus is real because the Bible tells us so. Is the Bible always true? (Yes!) The Bible is God's Word, and it tells me that I can put my faith in Jesus! (Acts 16:31)

Move to the Proof #2 sign.

There's another way you can know that you can totally trust Jesus – because Jesus hears and answers our prayers!

Flip the sign over to show the picture of praying hands.

God has three ways He answers prayers: yes, no, and wait. Let's say that together!

Move to the Proof #3 sign.

And one other way we can know that we can totally put our faith in Jesus is because we can see everything He made!

Flip the sign over to show the picture of the world.

Allow kids to share God's creation such as big mountains, wide rivers, sunny beaches, amazing planets and stars, etc.

Finish guiding the volunteer through the maze. When they reach the end, take off the blindfold, and congratulate them: "Well done!!!" and give them a high five.

Conclusion

Do you think it even matters if we have faith in Jesus or not? Yes! It matters so much! In fact, it's the most important choice you will ever make!

When you put your total faith in Jesus and trust Him to guide you through life, you can feel confident that He will take care of you. If you have never decided to put your total faith in Jesus, I want you to come talk to me or another leader after we're done. We want to help you figure this out, so you can feel confident in Jesus, too!

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus and ask Him to help us put our total faith in Jesus.

Lesson 8 – February 4, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him.
Think Right:	“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will tell people about Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I tell people about Jesus.

Supplies:

- Five tall glasses filled with different levels of water (cover with a cloth)
- Optional: volunteer to make sounds with the glasses by rubbing their finger around the rim of the glass. If unsure how to do this, search the internet for “How to play water glasses.”
- Wordless Book-colored food dye
- Wordless Book-colored props:
 - Banana
 - Black licorice
 - Red lunch bag or strawberries
 - Cleaning supplies or notebook
 - Plant

Intro

Uncover glasses and show students how to make sounds with the glasses. Optional: invite a few students or volunteers to try.

Isn't it fun to make cool sounds?! Isn't it cool that your ears can hear all those different sounds?

Lesson

Our ears hear incredible things all day! *List some: birds singing, laughter, music, voices, etc.*
Guess what. Everyone needs to hear something else. It's something very, very important.
Can you guess what it is? (They need to hear about Jesus!) Have YOU heard about Jesus?
What do you know about Jesus? *Allow students to share.*

If you've already heard about Jesus, and if you love and follow Him, you have an important job: you need to tell other people about Jesus!

Let's practice this together:

- Turn to your neighbor and say, “Did you know that Jesus loves you?”
- Turn to your other neighbor and give them a high-five!
- Now ask that neighbor, “Do you want to come to church with me?”
- Stand up really tall, stick your arms up high and yell, “I love Jesus!”
- Crouch really low and whisper, “I can tell people about Jesus”
- Jump up and yell, “Jesus!”

That was pretty fun! Why do people need to hear about Jesus? (Because they need to be saved)

Drop the yellow dye into one water glass.

What does this color remind you of? (God’s love and heaven!)

Did you know that you can use yellow and gold things to tell people about Jesus?

You can even use a banana (*show the banana*) or the sun or your yellow shirt!

Let’s practice telling people about God’s love:

- Turn to your neighbor and tell them, “God loves you so much! Did you know that?”
- Turn to your other neighbor and say, “God made a really awesome place where we can be with Him forever. It’s called heaven!”

Drop the black dye into one water glass.

What does this color remind you of? (Sin!)

What is sin? (Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God)

Did you know that you can use dark objects to tell people about Jesus?

You could even use candy or the bottom of your shoes!

Pull out black licorice and point to the bottom of your shoe.

Let’s practice telling people about sin:

- Turn to your neighbor and tell them, “Sometimes I sin. Do you know what sin is? It’s kind of like the bottom of my shoe, really junked up and yucky.”
- Turn to your other neighbor and say, “Do you know why people do bad things like lying or cheating?”

Drop red dye into one water glass.

What does this color remind you of? (Jesus!)

What did Jesus do for us? (He took the punishment for our sins)

Did you know that you can use red things to tell people about Jesus?

You could even use strawberries (or your red lunch bag)!

Pull out strawberries or red lunch bag.

Let’s practice telling people about Jesus:

- Turn to your neighbor and tell them, “Do you know who Jesus is?”
- Turn to your other neighbor and say, “Did you know that Jesus loves you so much that He took the punishment for all the bad things you’ve done?”

Point to the clear water glass.

What does this color remind you of? (Being clean!)

How do you become clean? (Following Jesus – He saves you!)

Did you know that you can use a bunch of different things to tell people about how to be saved?

You could even use cleaning supplies (or the white paper in your notebook)!

Pull out cleaning supplies or notebook.

Let's practice telling people about being saved:

- Turn to your neighbor and tell them, "I know the best superhero! Can I tell you about Him?"
- Turn to your other neighbor and say, "Isn't it nice when your house is clean? Jesus can make us clean!"

Drop green dye into one water glass.

What does this color remind you of? (Growing!)

What does "growing" mean? (When you are saved by Jesus, you learn more about Him and GROW in your understanding!)

Did you know that you can use green things to tell people about Jesus?

You could even use the plants around your school playground!

Pull out green plant.

Let's practice telling people about growing:

- Turn to your neighbor and tell them, "Do you like growing taller? Guess what, there are other ways you can grow, too! Can I tell you about them?"
- Turn to your other neighbor and say, "I love learning about Jesus at church each week – do you want to come with me?"

Conclusion

This week let's go home and tell EVERYONE about Jesus! Then, you should bring them back with you next week, so they can learn even more about Jesus, too! Can you do that?

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus!

Lesson 10 – February 11, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	Jesus feeds the 5,000.
Think Right:	"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7
Do Right:	I will depend on Jesus for all of my needs.
Feel Right:	I can feel satisfied when I depend on Jesus for all of my needs.

Supplies:

- A guest or a guest and their child (from your church) OR a leader/youth leader to share a testimony of how God showed His goodness and faithfulness during a hard time in their life. Examples: parent with a special needs child, youth not making the team/experiencing loneliness at school, etc. These leaders should meet with the program coordinator prior to speaking, so they can be coached on their testimony to ensure it is shared appropriately and at a child level. Guests should bring props or pictures to help illustrate their story and keep students engaged.

Alternate option:

If you can't find a guest to share their story, highlight a news story or person and explain how God showed His faithfulness. Examples: natural disasters, Sydney McLaughlin's story*, Allyson Felix's story**, missionaries from your church, churches being planted in dangerous countries, etc.

***Sydney McLaughlin**, 2x Olympian, World Record holder, posted in 2021: "Let me start off by saying, what an honor it is to be able to represent not only my country but also the kingdom of God. What I have in Christ is far greater than what I have or don't have in life. I pray my journey may be a clear depiction of submission and obedience to God. Even when it doesn't make sense, even when it doesn't seem possible. He will make a way out of no way. Not for my own gratification, but for His glory. I have never seen God fail in my life. In anyone's life for that matter. Just because I may not win every race, or receive every one of my heart's desires, does not mean God had failed. His will is perfect. And He has prepared me for a moment such as this. That I may use the gifts He has given me to point all the attention back to Him."

More on Sydney McLaughlin: <https://sportspectrum.com/sport/olympics/2021/08/06/gold-medalist-sydney-mclaughlin-christ-greater/>

****Allyson Felix**, 5x Olympian, Allyson is an advocate for motherhood and life. It is rare for professional female athletes to choose to juggle motherhood and competition. Her story can be shared as an example of how we can depend on Jesus in every season. Felix posted in 2021: "It might sound cliché but getting to that starting line is an incredible victory for me. I've experienced the hardest years of my life in this journey and by God's grace I'm here. With a heart full of gratitude, I'm taking space to remember all it took to get here."

More on Allyson Felix: <https://sportspectrum.com/sport/olympics/2021/08/07/allyson-felix-female-olympian-gods-grace/>

Lesson

Can anyone tell me what special holiday happens around this time of year? (Valentine's Day!) What do you think Valentine's Day is about? (Love!)

The Bible doesn't talk about Valentine's Day, but it does talk a lot about love. Some of you have even memorized verses about God's love and how He is so good to us. Let's listen and see if you remember these. *Read each of the verses from your Bible.*

1 John 4:19 "We love Him because He first loved us."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Psalms 118:1 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

Optional: Allow students to share additional "love" verses for heart candy.

These verses tell us that God really, really loves us. He is good to us in so many ways! Isn't that a wonderful thing to think about? The great, big God who created the whole world knows, loves, and provides for us. Our God is a good God, and we can depend on Him!

What about when something bad happens? Maybe you don't get what you want, or you are going through hard times in your life. I know that some of you have some struggles at school. And some of you have some really hard things going on at home. Have you ever wondered if God still loves you when hard things happen?

Even when life is hard, you can be sure that God loves you. He will never leave you or forget about you.

Let's hear from a leader who loves God but has gone through a hard time and knows God loves them very much.

Call the guest/leader up to share their testimony.

Conclusion

God will not always take your problems away. But He will always walk through the problems with you and help you. No matter what, God still loves you and cares for you. You can always talk to Him, and He will always be with you. You can depend on God for everything.

Let's pray and thank God for being dependable.

Lesson 11 – February 18, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will remember God's Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

Supplies:

- Two youth leaders (a boy and a girl) sitting in chairs on stage
- Two canisters of whipped cream out on a table (covered up)
- Tarp or old sheet to put underneath the leaders
- Optional: shower caps for the youth leaders to wear

Review Activity

Have you ever learned something exciting and thought, "I will never, ever forget that!" But then you do forget? That happens to me, too!

That's why sometimes we go back and remember what we've already learned before. Tonight, we've got a super special way to review some of the things we've learned. It's going to be a contest between the boys and the girls.

You can see I've got two leaders up at the front – one boy and one girl. And I've got something really amazing under here. *Motion to the covered whipped cream canisters.* Do you want to see what it is? *Slowly reveal the whipped cream.* It's whipped cream! Yum!

When you answer a question correctly, whipped cream will go on the head of that team's leader (*2 seconds of cream for each correctly answered question*). If the girls get a question right, whipped cream is going on the girl leader's head. If the boys get the question right, whipped cream is going on the boy leader's head. Whoever has the highest pile of whipped cream on their head wins!

Note: You may need to repeat with several different leaders, or you can play a second round with cheese puff balls (for each correct answer, toss a cheese puff ball onto the whipped cream – the team with the most cheese puff balls at the end of the round wins!).

Here are the rules: (*Adjust the rules for your group and situation*)

1. The first person to stand up will be called on.
2. If that person gets it wrong or takes more than 10 seconds to answer, the other team will get a chance to answer.

Tip: Have students listen carefully to the questions and answers, since you may occasionally repeat a question after it is answered correctly to allow a visitor to answer it.

Sample Questions:

Top 12 verses:

Use this format below to ask verse-related questions:

- For all have sinned and fall _____ of the glory of God. (short)
 - Where is this verse found in our Bible? (Romans 3:23)
 - OT or NT? (NT)
- For God so loved the _____. (world)
 - Where is this verse found in our Bible? (John 3:16)
 - OT or NT? (NT)
- Be strong and _____. (courageous)
 - Where is this verse found in our Bible? (Joshua 1:9)
 - OT or NT? (OT)
- Other verses: 1 Corinthians 15:58, Mark 12:30-31, John 14:2, John 14:6, Hebrews 9:22b, 2 Peter 3:18a, Acts 16:31, Proverbs 3:5-6, Ephesians 2:8-9

Review from the past quarter:

- Who is the best gift? (Jesus)
- Can you pray to God anywhere? (Yes!)
- What do you need to build your life on? (God's Word – the Bible)
- How can you grow with Jesus?
- Can you always depend on God? (Yes!)
- How can you tell people about Jesus?

Other question sources: Wordless Book, books of the Bible (OT or NT), lesson review questions from the Discovery Land curriculum, etc.

Conclusion

That was so much fun! I'm glad to see how much you remember! Let's pray and thank God for all that He has taught us.

Lesson 12 – February 25, 2025

Mid-week Large Group

Know Right:	We are changed by the Spirit when we trust in Jesus.
Think Right:	"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23a
Do Right:	I will show the fruit of the Spirit after trusting in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited when I show the fruit of the Spirit.

Supplies:

- A copy of a DL written review (test)
- Song "Fruit of the Spirit" by Kid Jamz (Crazy Praise album)
- Props or actions for each fruit (have hidden out of sight, to increase anticipation):
 - Love: American Sign Language sign for "I love you" (<https://www.babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/i-love-you/>)
 - Joy: bucket of confetti
 - Peace: lavender candles or bubble bath
 - Patience: hourglass sand timers
 - Kindness: cards with kind messages inside ("I like being your friend," "you have a fun personality," etc.)
 - Goodness: "thumbs up" sign
 - Faithfulness: white yarn bracelets in a basket or baskets (one per student)
 - Gentleness: soft blankets
 - Self-control: bucket filled with bright (individually wrapped) candy

Note: You might not have enough time to cover all nine fruit of the Spirit. You can choose to cover as many as you have time for.

Intro

If you were in Discovery Land this past weekend, you took a written review. *Hold up a copy of the written review.* It's fun to look back and see how much you have learned and how God has helped you grow and change and become more like Him.

But it's important to understand that doing well on a test in Discovery Land or at school or karate or anywhere doesn't change how much God loves you. He doesn't love you less if you struggle on the test. And He doesn't love you more if you do really well. He wants you to know more about Him and become more like Jesus, but His love doesn't change. Isn't that amazing?

We often talk about growing in Jesus, right? We talk about how and where we can grow... but what does it actually look like when we are growing? How do we change?

We actually change a lot when we are following Jesus. The Bible, God's Word, talks about the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is kind of like a bunch of clues that show that you're growing in Jesus.

Lesson

Before we actually start learning about the fruit of the Spirit, we need to talk about something that might be a little confusing. The fruit of the Spirit isn't actually fruit. Not like an apple or orange. I have a song that will help us understand it a little more... let's sing it together!

Play song: "Fruit of the Spirit" by Kid Jamz (Crazy Praize album)

So, if the fruit of the Spirit's not a coconut... what is it? Let's read it in my Bible!

Read Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit shows up in our actions and our attitudes, and each part of the fruit act like clues that show that we are following and growing in Jesus! Let's learn about each of them.

For each fruit, you will explain and define, then pass around a prop (or teach a sign/motion) for students to interact with.

Love (ASL "love" sign)

The first fruit of the Spirit is love. Love is "a decision to care for another person without expecting something in return." (*Discovery Land definition*)

Sometimes movies or stories teach us that love is only a feeling, and that it comes and goes. But, actually, the Bible teaches us that we can choose to love, even when it's hard! It is loving when we care for people around us, and when we don't expect them to pay us back or do something nice for us.

How did Jesus show love? He made the decision to die on the cross for us, to save us from our sin, and we can't pay Him back for it! *Remind students of Ephesians 2:8-9.*

Do you know what the Sign Language sign for love is? *Demonstrate sign.* Let's all do it together! This sign can remind us to grow in love!

Joy (bucket of confetti)

The next fruit of the Spirit is joy. Joy is that wonderful feeling we have when we celebrate something awesome or when we think of something happy and good. Knowing that Jesus loves me and has made me part of God's family makes me feel joyful! Even if my life is hard or sad, I know that God's love never changes, and that He never leaves me... so even when I don't feel smiley and happy, I can have joy because of God's good promises.

Let's practice joy by celebrating! *Pass around the bucket of confetti, have students take a handful.*

On the count of three, we're all going to cheer "Jesus loves me!" and toss our confetti! Ready? 1... 2... 3!!
Cheer and celebrate!

Peace (lavender candle or bubble bath)

The next fruit of the Spirit is peace. Sometimes our world feels chaotic. Sometimes we hear about things happening that are bad, like when the news is scary or when people are unkind. Peace is the ability to remain calm and trusting because you know that God is in charge of everything. It is comforting to feel peaceful. The flower lavender is often thought to be a relaxing, calming smell – it reminds me of peace. I'm going to pass around a few lavender candles for you to smell, and as you smell them, think about the comfort God gives us, and how it can make us feel peaceful.

Pass around (unlit!) lavender candles, allow for some quiet reflection. Consider playing soft music as students pass around the candles.

Patience (hourglass sand timer)

Next up is patience. This one can be really challenging because patience isn't just waiting... it's waiting without getting angry or upset while waiting! Think about when you need to use the bathroom in the morning, and your sister is taking forever. You have to wait no matter what, right? But someone who is patient will choose to wait without getting grumpy or mean. Or think about when you are super excited to leave for the park or somewhere fun. If your mom is taking a long time to get everything ready and into the car, instead of bothering her with questions, we can choose to wait patiently and be helpful.

Sometimes we use sand timers when we play games to show how much time we have left. I'm going to pass it around and you can flip it to make the sand move. As you hold it, think about where you can practice being patient this week.

Pass around hourglass sand timer(s).

Kindness (cards)

The next fruit of the Spirit is kindness. What does it look like when someone is kind? *Allow students to answer. Guide them toward words like "friendly," "generous," and "considerate".*

Someone who is kind thinks of others, says nice things, and is a good friend. I'm going to pass around some cards with kind messages inside. As you read them, pick one to tell your friend tomorrow at school!

Pass around cards with encouraging messages written inside.

Did you pick which message you're going to say to your friend at school tomorrow?

Goodness ("thumbs up" sign)

Next up is goodness! We show goodness when we choose to obey what God says in His Word, the Bible. Can you think of any ways that we can obey and show goodness? *Allow students to share, discuss as time allows.*

To remember the fruit "goodness", let's all give each other a "thumbs up"! *Have students give a thumbs up.*

Faithfulness (white yarn bracelets)

We're getting close to the end of the fruit. Up next is faithfulness. Let's start by thinking about faith.

Do you know a verse that talks about faith? (Ephesians 2:8-9) What do you think faith means? (Total belief and trust in Jesus)

We can trust in Jesus because He does what He says He will do. When He makes promises, He follows through. Can you think of an example of that? *Allow students to answer.*

When we do what we say we will do, we are being faithful. Jesus is faithful because He ALWAYS does what He says He will do.

What does the clean page of the Wordless Book remind you of? (When Jesus saved us)

Jesus promised that He would save us, and then He did it! He was being faithful.

As I pass around these bracelets, you can take one to tie onto your wrist or ankle. Every time you see it, you can remember how faithful Jesus is!

Pass around basket(s) with white yarn bracelets.

Gentleness (soft blankets)

The second-to-last fruit of the Spirit is gentleness! What are some ways that you see people being gentle? (Soft voices, kind words, soft pat on the shoulder, etc.)

Soft blankets and pillows remind me of gentleness because that's what it feels like when someone is gentle – it's comforting and makes me feel like smiling!

As you pass around this super soft blanket, can you think of one way you can be gentle tonight when you are getting ready for bed?

Pass around blanket and allow students to answer.

Self-control (bucket of candy)

Time for our last fruit of the Spirit...self-control! This one can be really challenging for me sometimes. Self-control is the ability to say "no" to yourself, to hold yourself back from something. It could be holding yourself back from saying something mean when you're frustrated, or it could be choosing to walk to the car instead of running to beat your brother.

I have something to help us practice self-control. This bucket is filled with tasty, colorful candy. It even smells good! As I pass this bucket around, you may take one piece of candy. You may WANT more than one, but you get to practice self-control and choose just one piece of candy. Are you ready? Let's do it!

Pass around bucket of candy, remind students to choose just one.

Conclusion

There are a lot of ways that we can see God changing us as we grow and follow Him! The fruit of the Spirit are like clues that show how we are growing. This week, keep your eyes open and pay attention. Are you showing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Each time you see yourself doing one of these things, stop and thank God for helping you grow!

Let's pray and ask God to help us grow in Him this week.