



COMMITMENT | WEEK 4 | MAY 22-23, 2021

## 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson

# Whatcha Say

**Life App:** Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

**Bible Story:** Whatcha Say (Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

**Bottom Line:** Practice talking about God.

**Basic Truth:** I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

**Memory Verse:** “Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8, NIRV

**KID CONNECT:  
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:  
20 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely cramming more information about the Bible into a child's brain. All of that knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their hearts. To fully experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith. And that takes commitment.*

*God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has followed through on those plans, we get the chance to be with God forever. We reflect God's commitment to us when we can make a plan and stick to it. This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out that faith every day.*

For week four, we head to **Matthew 16:13-20**. Jesus asked his disciples about who people thought He is. Then Jesus turned the question on them: after everything they'd seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say, who did they think He was? This gave Peter the perfect moment to declare what he believed about Jesus—that He truly is the Son of God.

**Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.** We can know God better by talking about Him with others. As kids process their growing faith, they will have questions and doubts. We want kids to

practice the faith skill, TALK, and learn how to talk through their questions about God with others who believe in Jesus.

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

**(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)**

*Play* intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

### OPENING ACTIVITY:

**(“People Cards” Activity Page)**

#### What You Do:

- Place the “People Cards” face down in a stack.
- Choose a kid to stand up and select a card from the pile without showing it to anyone else in the group.
- Instruct the kid to describe the occupation or job on the card without using any part of the title (the part that is circled and crossed through).
- All cards are labeled so kids know what the correct title is and what they are not allowed to say.
- The first kid to guess correctly gets to select a card and give clues for the next round.
- Continue until all cards have been identified or time runs out.

#### What You Say:

“In this game, you figured out the name or title by the description you were given. *[Transition]* In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a time when Jesus asked His friends what His title or position was. You’ll never guess what they said!”

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

**(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)**

*Show* the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins. *The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening. Baptisms are the fourth Sunday of the month. Take a minute on that Sunday to ask if anyone is getting baptized and celebrate with them if they are.*

**LGL:** Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind - We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using.
2. Be Safe - Make wise choices with your actions and words.
3. Have Fun - Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

Now that we know our expectations, let's kick off our day with a game!

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### TELEPHONE RELAY

**(Tape, Cue Card)**

**LGL:** "Hey, everyone! It's so good to see you again! Turn to the person next to you and give them a round of applause for making it this far this month. *(Pause.)* And don't forget your friend on the other side, too! *(Pause.)* If you're just joining us, don't worry—we'll catch you up in no time. "We've all worked really hard this month. All of YOU have been helping me train for my 5K. *(Run in place.)* And our training is still going strong! I know we can keep training hard if we keep up with our commitment.

**(SLIDE: LIFE APP)**

"Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

**(SLIDE: THEME)**

"Of course, we haven't ONLY been committed to training for my 5K. We've also learned how we can practice our training plan and grow stronger in our relationship with God. If we stay committed, we'll get better and better at what Jesus said is most important: loving God and loving other people!

"When it comes to running, one thing I've learned that's really important is communication. You see, I have to communicate with all sorts of people—my trainers, my racing coach, the race officials, the other people I train with . . . so many people! You have to communicate your plan very clearly with each of them. If you don't, it can lead to all sorts of miscommunications. Like when I ordered a smoothie. It was supposed to be my favorite, strawberry banana. But I don't think I was very clear when I ordered it. It was green and looked more like broccoli kale to me.

"Today, I want to see how well I can communicate with all of YOU . . . with a giant game of telephone. I need two small groups to compete in our Telephone Relay Race.

*Choose two small groups that have roughly the same number of kids.*

*(to the two groups)* “All right—we have the [color] team and the [color] team. First, each of you choose an ‘X’ to stand on. *(Point to the ‘X’ marks on the floor.)* Make sure it’s in your team’s color!

“I’ll tell a secret phrase to one person from each team. When I say, ‘Go,’ they’ll race to the NEXT person on their team and tell THEM what I said. It doesn’t matter who you pick—just find someone from your small group standing on an X with your team’s color. Then THAT person will race to the next person and so on . . . until the last kid races to tell their Small Group Leader, who will shout the phrase out loud. The first small group to finish the relay, wins!

“Teammates, you raise your hand until you’ve had a turn so everyone can tell who is left. Leaders, make sure everyone in your group has had a chance before you shout out your answer, okay?

“First, let me get both teams started with your secret phrase.

*Whisper the phrase on the cue card to a kid from each team.*

“Okay! I think we’re ready to race and communicate. [Kid’s name] and [kid’s name], remember, you can tell the phrase to anyone else in your group. On your mark, get set, GO!

### **(AUDIO: GAME MUSIC)**

*Encourage the teams while they compete. Make sure no kids get skipped before the leaders shout out their final answer.*

*Give both teams a chance to finish. Then stop the music and have each leader say their final phrase. Say the original phrase on your cue card. Make sure to say the phrases very slowly and clearly so the kids don’t miss them.*

“Wow! I guess we’ve all seen how important clear communication really is! Why don’t we all get on our feet and tell God how much we love Him as we sing?”

## **WORSHIP**

**(VIDEO: O TASTE AND SEE, RISE AND SING)**

## **BIBLE STORY**

**(SLIDES: LIFE APP, BOTTOM LINE, MEMORY VERSE, BASIC TRUTH, FAITH SKILLS; VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)**

**(Bible)**

**LGL:** Hey all! So, all this month we’ve been talking about Commitment. Let’s read the definition together on the count of 3. Ready, 1, 2, 3...

**(SLIDE: LIFE APP)** “Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

Just a reminder, when we are talking about showing commitment when it comes to growing our relationship with Jesus, we need 4 different faith skills.

**(SLIDE: FAITH SKILLS)**

“HEAR, PRAY, TALK, and LIVE.

“We can HEAR from God when we take time to read the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) We can PRAY to God about anything and He always hears us. Today, we are going to be discovering the faith skill “TALK”. Specifically, talking *about* God to other people.

Let’s see what one of Jesus’ disciples, Peter, learned about today’s faith skill.

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)**

“You know what I think is one of the greatest gifts God has ever given us? I’ll give you a hint. Look around the room. Look at all these friends you have here at church. Look at your small group!

“God has given us the gift of other people—people who love Him and want to talk about Him. And there are also people in our lives who DON’T yet know how much God loves them. God has given us the chance to talk about what we believe, so we can encourage each other and help each other grow closer to God every day. That’s actually one of our Basic Truths!

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** “I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

“That includes people who already know God and people who don’t yet know Him. It’s a skill for sure...and it’s one that can sometimes be scary, but God is with us when we tell others about Him and will give us the words to say if we ask. It also becomes easier the more we practice doing it. That’s our Bottom Line today:

**(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE)** “Practice talking about God.”

“For example, I come up here every week to talk to you all about God, but can I be honest? The first few times I did so, I was nervous! But I remembered that because I trusted Jesus to be my friend and Savior, that it’s too good of news for me to keep to myself! I have to be like Peter at the end of our story and tell everyone about what God has done for me.

“When we broke our perfect friendship with God by sinning- which is the bad things that we think, say, or do - there was nothing we could do to earn forgiveness from God. However, God loved us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to come to Earth, live a perfect life, die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin, and to come back to life three days later, defeating sin and death once and for all! When we accept the free gift that God gives us through Jesus and we promise to follow Him with all of our hearts and lives, there is nothing in this world that can separate us from God again! That’s great news that everyone should hear!

“If you would like to pray and ask Jesus to be your friend and Savior...which is the free gift I was talking about...I’ll lead us in a prayer that you can pray silently to yourself.

## PRAYER

“Let’s pray together.

“God, thank you for loving me so much that you wanted to create a way for me to have a perfect friendship with you. I know that I mess up all the time, and that my sin keeps me from you. I know that I can’t do enough good things to outweigh the bad. I need a savior. I believe that you sent Jesus to be my friend and savior. Please forgive me of my sins. I promise to try to love you and follow you with my whole life. Thank you for saving me. Amen.”

*Direct kids who made the decision to follow Jesus to tell their parents and small group leader.*

## DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

### SMALL GROUP

**Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice.**

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*If you have a kid in your group who decided to follow Jesus, awesome! Be sure to loop their parents and your coach/coordinator into the conversation. Also, baptisms are this week. Take a minute to go over the Baptism Conversation Guide with your group.*

## LET’S TALK ABOUT GOD

**(Prepared “Discussion Generator Cube” Activity Page)**

### What You Do:

- Let the kids take turns rolling the cube and asking the question it lands on.
- Give several kids time to share their answers to each question.
- If a kid rolls the cube and it lands on a question you’ve already discussed, let them roll again.
- Continue until all questions have been discussed.

### What You Say:

“Wow, what an awesome discussion! I LOVE to talk to you guys about God. It’s one of my favorite things about our Small Group time. I think sometimes I learn just as much as you do!

“Just like you discuss things in class at school to help you grow in your understanding, we can talk about God as we learn to follow Him. It’s one big way to grow our faith. We can also talk about God to the people around us who don’t know much about Him! You can share what you know. You can invite them to church. Telling others about God helps you grow to know Him more, too.

“Let’s make a commitment to grow in our faith and *[Bottom Line]* practice talking about God.”

*[Make it Personal]* (Tell the kids how you first learned about Jesus. Share a little of your personal story of life with Jesus. Spend a minute or two talking about the people who helped you learn about God. Share some of the questions you remember asking and what you learned as you talked about God.)

## JUMPING IN AND OUT VERSE

(Hula Hoops or Floor Tape, Bible)

### What You Do:

- Review 1 Timothy 4:18 together by inviting a kid to read it to the group.
- Lay out the hula hoops around your Small Group area. *OR assign pairs of kids to the tape circles.*
- Make sure to space the hula hoops out so the kids can easily jump in and out of the hoops without bumping into a neighbor. Set up one circle for every two kids.
- Send two kids to each circle.
- Instruct one kid to stand outside of the circle and one to stand inside the circle.
- Tell the kids to repeat the verse and that you will randomly call out “Jump!” as they do.
- Instruct the kids to jump in or out of the circle (depending on where they started) when they hear you say, “Jump!”
- Make sure the kid jumping out of the circle jumps AWAY from the other kid at their hoop each time. So, one kid should be jumping in as one kid jumps out each time.
- Direct the kids to continue repeating the verse as they jump.
- For the first couple of rounds, only say, “Jump!” once or twice.
- Each time the kids recite the verse, increase the number of times you call, “Jump!”

### What You Say:

“Whew, jumping is hard work. And I’m just standing here watching you! Have you ever jumped rope for exercise? It’s great for your heart for sure. It gets your blood pumping and helps build coordination! Training the body is definitely beneficial or GOOD for us. But as our verse reminds us, being godly, growing in faith, has even greater benefits! One way we grow in faith is by making a commitment to *[Bottom Line]* practice talking about God. The good news is, you can talk about God when you jump OR when you stand still!”

## DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- Who is someone you trust and can talk to when you have questions about God or your faith?
- If you could tell someone anything you want to about God, what would it be? Who would you tell?

- What is something God is doing in your life right now? Who can you share that with?
- How can we know that what we're telling others about Jesus is true?

## PRAY AND DISMISS

(2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

### What You Say:

“God, we know that Jesus did EVERYTHING for us on the cross when He died. Help us be brave enough to talk about You. We know that You are always with us, encouraging us to speak up and make sure everyone knows who You are. Please help us have courage to keep talking about You to other people. We love You, and we pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there's spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today's lesson.