



COMMITMENT | WEEK 4 | MAY 22-23, 2021

4th-5th 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*

Key Question: Who can you talk to about God?

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, NIV

**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.

Key Question: Who can you talk to about God? Talking about what God is doing in your life is a significant part of growing in faith. This can feel overwhelming to kids who've never really chatted about their faith with anyone before. This week, we help kids figure out the trusted people who can be a sounding board to help them process their questions and listen to their faith stories.

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:

(Index Cards, Pens)

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Ask kids to write a noun (place, object, person, thing) on their card without letting anyone else see what they wrote.
- Include a few additional cards with words from the list below or others you come up with.
 - o winter
 - o chicken noodle soup
 - o pillow
 - o McDonalds
 - o giraffe
 - o basketball
 - o swimming pool
 - o flat tire
- Collect the cards.
- Invite one of the kids to choose a card.
- Instruct them to give the group 10 clues about what their card is NOT.
 - o For example, "I'm NOT green . . . I'm NOT an animal . . . I'm NOT edible . . ." and so forth.
 - o After giving the 10 "I am NOT" clues, kids can each ask one question to help them know what the actual answer is.
- Ask the kid with the card to say, "What would you say I am?" then give each kid an opportunity to take their best guess.
- Repeat as time allows to give each kid at least one chance to choose a card.

What You Say:

“Knowing what something IS can be as important as knowing what it IS NOT. *[Transition]* In today’s lesson, Jesus’ followers were asked a question—not just *any* question—one of the MOST IMPORTANT questions they would ever be asked. Let’s go find out what it was and whether they got the answer right.”

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.*

HOST: 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...

Let’s kick off today by playing a game!

LARGE GROUP GAME

AROUND THE MAD, MAD, MAD GAB WORLD

(No Supplies Needed)

LGL: “Welcome, everyone! If you’re itching for a fantastic time with good friends, great music, and some high-energy fun, you’re in the right place! It’s KidCity!”

“Has anyone ever played Around the World in math class? With actual flashcards? Back in the day, we played that game all the time, and I *loved* it.”

“If you don’t know what I’m talking about, you would stand up at your chair in class, and the person in front of you would stand next to you. Then the teacher would hold up a flashcard with a math problem on it, like 5×6 , or $10/2$, something like that, and the first person who answered got to move on to the next kid in the row. The furthest to travel around the room would be the winner! Good times, my friends, good times.”

“Hey! We can totally do that in here! Of course, since this is KidCity, we don’t do things very typically around here. I thought it might be fun to combine Around the World with another game: Mad Gab. You know, the one where you pick a card with a phrase looks like gibberish, but the more you say it, the more it sounds like something normal? Here, I’ll show you what I mean.”

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 1)

“Go ahead and read it! Keep reading it until you think that you’ve got it!”

Allow kids to try and figure it out and then call on someone who thinks they have it. The answer is “Sit Back and Enjoy It.”

“Sit back and enjoy it! That’s it! Ok, let’s get two Small Groups, head-to-head, and start playing Around the Mad, Mad, Mad Gab World!”

(SLIDE: AROUND THE MAD, MAD, MAD GAB WORLD)

Have the two Small Groups sit in the grid of chairs set up beforehand.

“Here’s how this will work. One player from Small Group 1 will move to challenge the first person in the row in Small Group 2. If the Small Group 1 player wins, the Small Group 2 player sits back down and the Small Group Player 1 moves on to the next person in the row and that counts as ‘1 Chair.’ That winner keeps going until he or she is beat by a person from Small Group 2. When that happens, the Small Group 1 player sits in that chair and the Small Group 2 player moves over to challenge the first person in the Small Group 1 row. After playing for a set amount of time, we’ll tally up the total number of ‘Chairs’ won, and the most ‘Chairs’ wins! Make sense? Let’s go!”

Play the game using the slides provided. After about 5 minutes of play (or until everyone has had a chance to go, finish the game, count the “Chairs,” and declare a winner.

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 2)

Answer: A thermometer

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 3)



Answer: Alfredo Sauce

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 4)

Answer: I have to throw up

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 5)

Answer: A practical joke

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 6)

Answer: Ride out the storm

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 7)

Answer: Chicken nuggets

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 8)

Answer: No shoes, no shirt, no service

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 9)

Answer: My tooth is throbbing

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 10)

Answer: Have a nice day

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 11)

Answer: Deuteronomy

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 12)

Answer: The Lord will guide you always

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 13)

Answer: Go fly a kite

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 14)

Answer: Four score and twenty years ago

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 15)

Answer: Don't drink and drive

LGL: "Fantastic job, everyone! Let's hear it for our contestants! Boy, some of those were hard, weren't they? Before [Communicator] comes out, let's stand and worship together!"

WORSHIP

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

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP, FAITH SKILLS)

(No Supplies)

LGL: Before we jump in today, let's remind ourselves of the definition of our Life App, Commitment.

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

"We're four weeks into May if you can believe it, and if you've noticed, we've been building on one key point this whole time—we're training to win the prize. Not in a running race, but in this race called life.

(SLIDE: FAITH SKILLS)

"We've looked at practicing our faith, we've practiced hearing from God, we practiced praying *to* God, and now we've come to the week where we talk about . . . well, talking. Now, as I look around this room, I'm guessing that we've got some talkers in here. Has anyone ever gotten in trouble at school for talking to much? (*Pause for response.*) Yep. Could've guessed whose hands were going to go up on that one.

"It may not have occurred to you before that *talking* can be a faith skill for us to master! Of course, it makes a difference WHAT we talk about. Let's watch the So & So Show today and see what that's all about...

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH)

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

"Look, I get it—talking about God, about Jesus, and about spiritual things can feel weird, maybe even a bit embarrassing, especially if you're around friends who don't believe the same things as you. And I get that. Anytime we do something or say something that sets us apart from others can draw attention that we'd rather not get. But talking about what God has done for you and is doing in your life can be really helpful and encouraging for others to hear. Our Basic Truth today says...

(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 a little intimidating, 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. Our Key Question is...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) "Who can you talk to about God?"

“For me, one of those groups of people is you guys! 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 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 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

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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.

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

(Bible, Prepared Deck of Cards)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Invite kids to share what they remember most from the Bible story in Large Group.
 - Who were the main characters in the story?
 - Where did the story take place?
 - What were some of the emotions the people in the story may have been feeling?
 - What stuck out most to you from today’s story?
- Set out the deck of cards you have prepared by removing all number cards, leaving just the aces, kings, queens, jacks, and jokers.
- Choose one of the kids to take a card from the pile then, based on what they draw, share their response to the corresponding question:
 - Ace – What questions do you (or someone you know) have about Jesus or God?
 - King – Who can you talk to about Jesus?
 - Queen – What is your favorite thing about God?
 - Jack – Share a character quality that God has.
 - Joker – What is something people might believe about God or Jesus that isn’t true?
- Read Matthew 16:15. Prompt kids to share how they would respond if Jesus asked them the same question He asked His disciples. (Be careful to not put anyone on the spot, while at the same time expressing the importance and weight of this question.)
 - Why do you think Jesus wants people to know who He is?
 - Who needs to hear about God for the first time? What can you do or say to that person to help them get to know who Jesus is?
 - When YOU have questions about God, who can you talk to?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

(Bibles, Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Have kids look up 1 Timothy 4:8 and read it together.
- Ask:
 - What does “godly” mean? (“*Godly*” means *‘the quality or practice of conforming your life to the laws and wishes of God’*)
 - Why does living a godly life have value?
- Say: “Let’s practice “training” ourselves to live a godly life! One of the ways we can do that is by memorizing God’s Word.”
- Have kids stand up. Place the Memory Verse Poster so everyone can see it. Have kids do a squat for every word of the first sentence. Kids do jumping jacks for the second sentence and shadow box (safely) for the final sentence. Repeat as desired or have the kids come up with different motions.

What You Say:

“Growing in our faith takes practice! Talking to God is one BIG way we can grow in our relationship with Him. And our verse today reminds us that being godly—becoming more like Jesus—has value in EVERY way. So, this week, let’s make a plan to **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God.**”

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

(Preteen GodaTime 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.