



COMMITMENT | WEEK 4 | MAY 22-23, 2021

K-1 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:

(No Supplies)

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a spaced-out circle.
- Tell the kids that you will play a version of the telephone game.
- Kids will close their eyes and plug their ears until it's their turn to talk or listen. Tell them they'll be tapped on the shoulder when it's their turn.
- Once they're tapped on the shoulder, they should listen to the sentence quietly spoken to them, tap the next kid, then speak the sentence quietly.
- Instruct the kids to close their eyes and ears.
- Choose one kid to start the "telephone" conversation by tapping them on the shoulder.
- Quietly speak one of the sentences below to the kid.
- Continue the game until it reaches where it began.
- Direct the last kid to say what they heard.
- Instruct the kid who went first to share what was actually said.
- Try to prevent kids from getting too close to one another and encourage them to speak in a low, almost whispering voice.
- Sentences:
 - o Practice talking about God.
 - o Who do you say I am?
 - o Training the body has some value.
 - o But being godly has value in every way.
 - o It promises help for the life you are now living.
 - o Jesus is the Messiah.

What You Say:

"It can be hard to say something when you aren't sure what you heard. We have to practice listening in order to say the right thing. *[Transition]* **Jesus once asked His disciples a very important question. And one of the disciples gave an answer that showed that he had really listened. Let's go to Large Group to find out more!**"

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS, BAPTISM SLIDE)

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...

Let's kick off today by playing 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 are 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.

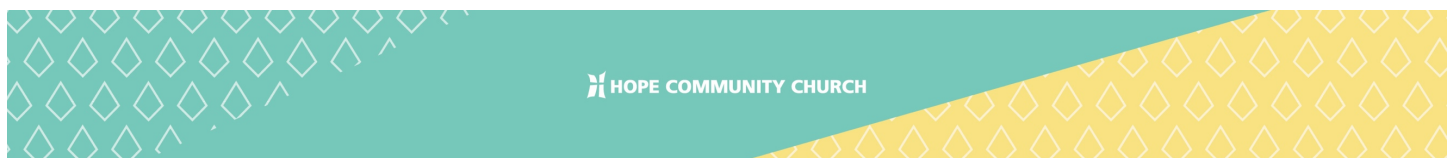
PRAYER

“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 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.

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

(Blindfold)

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to stand in a spaced-out circle. (Instruct them to put their arms out to the side to make sure they leave enough space between themselves.)
- Choose one kid to be blindfolded. Guide them to step out of the circle.
- Silently choose another kid to be “Peter.”
- Tell “Peter” that when the kid wearing the blindfold returns to the circle and asks, “Who do you say I am?” they should respond by saying, “Jesus is the Messiah.”
- Have everyone practice saying, “Jesus is the Messiah” all together a few times. (This will help “Peter” learn what to say and also make it more difficult to figure out who “Peter” is.)
- Instruct the rest of the circle to think of something silly to say in response to “Who do you say I am?” (They can say something like “I am Santa Claus,” “I am a lunch lady,” “I am my dog,” etc.)
- Instruct the kids to answer at the same time when the kid wearing the blindfold asks, “Who do you say I am?”
- Direct them to say their silly answer—or for “Peter,” the correct answer—whenever the blindfolded kid asks, “Who do you say I am?”
- Bring the blindfolded kid back to the middle of the circle and let them remove their blindfold.
- Instruct the kid in the middle to keep asking the question until they discover who “Peter” is.
- The goal is for the rest of the circle to make extra noise and say extra words so the kid in the middle can’t figure out who “Peter” is unless they hear them say, “Jesus is the Messiah.”
- Once the kid figures out who “Peter” is, “Peter” becomes the new blindfolded kid.
- Choose another “Peter” and continue the game for as long as time or interest allow.

What You Say:

“That was a lot of fun but was also a little tricky. Sometimes it was hard to figure out who Peter was and sometimes it was easy. Was it easier or harder when Peter spoke loudly? (*Wait for response.*) Easier! You’re right. In the same way, it’s easier for people to know that we follow Jesus

when we talk about it, even when it's scary or feels a bit awkward. But if we *[Bottom Line]* practice talking about God, we'll get better and better at it."

ROLL THE DICE

(Prepared "Roll the Dice" Activity Page - 1 Per Group)

What You Do:

- Guide the kids to take turns "rolling" the die and answering the question that it lands on. (Assist with reading, as necessary.)
 - Be ready to help the kids answer if they get stuck.
 - Try to ask prompting questions instead of just telling the kids something to say.
- Continue until all the kids have rolled. Depending on the size of your group, let the kids roll again.
- While the kids roll the die, remind them that it isn't always easy to talk about God. Sometimes we can get scared of what other people will think. But we can practice it here in Small Group, and that will help us get better and better at it.
- At some point in the game, tell the kids about how Peter denied that he knew Jesus right before Jesus was killed.
 - A lot of people heard what he said, and it was a big deal because Peter had been Jesus' friend for a long time.
 - Out of anybody, Peter should have been someone who could talk about Jesus!
 - Share how Peter got scared but Jesus forgave him.
 - Peter became really brave about telling people about Jesus and spent the rest of his life telling people about Jesus.

What You Say:

"You guys did a great job talking about God. Talking about God in front of other people can be hard! It's okay if we are scared. God understands and will help us overcome our fears. And the more we practice talking about God, the better we will get at it.

"I loved hearing all of your answers. There are a lot of things you guys love about God. I hope you all go home and *[Bottom Line]* practice talking about God."

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time when you talked to someone about God, and it was a little scary, but you did it anyway. Tell the kids how you overcame your fears and what you gained from talking about 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

(K/1st GodTime Card, Crayons or Markers)

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 card to each kid. If there’s spare time, the kids can start coloring their GodTime Card.