



CONFIDENCE | WEEK 1 | MAY 7, 2023

4th-5th Lesson

All Around the World

Monthly Virtue: Confidence—Living like you believe God is with you

Bible Story: All Around the World (The Great Commission and Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11*

Key Question: How can you share God's love?

Bottom Line: Share God's love with others.

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

Memory Verse: So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."
Hebrews 13:6a (NIV)

**KID CONNECT:
5 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
25 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP
25 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

We might try to base our confidence on what we do well, or what someone might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something different. We think it's found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, but also close enough to be right here with us. We know that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much! Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when we trust Jesus with our life, the Holy Spirit is there to help us face whatever comes our way. We can respond to God's love and care with confidence!

Key Question: **How can you share God's love?** To kick off the month of May, we want our preteens to discover how they can put Jesus' Great Commission into practice. Kids might not always have the right words to talk about their faith in Jesus, but they can share His love with the way they interact with family, help classmates, or encourage their friends. We hope the conversations they have with their small group will inspire them with all sorts of ways that they can share God's love.

We start off the month in **Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 1:1-11.** Before Jesus went back to His Father, He gave His disciples a huge mission: to tell the world about Him. The message

of Jesus is for everyone, and it was the disciples' job to get the word out. Jesus promised that God would give them the confidence they needed to get the job done.

Bottom Line: **Share God's love with others.** Kids sometimes have a hard time understanding what it means to live out their faith in Jesus and share God's love. This week, we hope they'll understand Jesus' mission, and also how they can put that mission into practice. We hope they realize that sharing God's love isn't as difficult as it might sound. We'll help them discover all sorts of opportunities

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)

During this time, concentrate on getting to know your group and building a relationship among you all. Create a place where they feel like someone knows them and that they belong. A great way to do that is to pull them into an activity (coloring, LEGOs, etc.) and ask them questions. Here are some suggestions:

- What are some highs/lows from your week?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- If you could ride on any animal, what would be the most fun/most difficult?
- Do you have any siblings/pets? What are their names?

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 (9:35/11:20). While the countdown is happening, you are encouraging kids to clean up and engaging with the ones that are ready for large group.

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.

"Before we play a game, just a few announcements..."



(SLIDE: MSM TOURS) If you are in 5th grade going into 6th, you have a couple of opportunities to go over and check out the Middle School service before you move up. The first tour is NEXT WEEK! You don't have to do anything other than check into KidCity like normal, and we will walk you over. So if you're curious about what goes on in middle school - you don't want to miss it! We will also do it again at the end of the month.

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* "Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It's a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!"

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) "Now, 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
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME

WOBBLE TOWER

(10 Cups, 20 Ping Pong Balls, Bucket to Hold Ping Pong Balls)

"This month, we're talking about something really important: **confidence!**

"Usually, we talk about being confident when we're really good at something. Maybe you were confident about a test because you studied hard. Or maybe you and your teammates were confident about your soccer game because you know you can work well together. Or maybe you were confident that you could beat a level on your video game because you've played it SO much that you really know what you're doing!

"It's good to feel that kind of confidence. But TRUE confidence comes from an even bigger reason than that. True confidence is this.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) It's living like you believe God is with you!

(SLIDE: THEME)

When you have THAT kind of confidence, you can 'raise your game' in a big way!

Speaking of games, let's play one! This game is called "Wobble Tower" because...well...you'll see.

(SLIDE: WOBBLE TOWER)

Ok, I'm going to need 4 contestants, two boys and two girls. Now, I need people who are good and throwing and catching!

- **CHOOSE CONTESTANTS.** *You will need two teams of two contestants per team. Have them come forward and give one teammate 5 cups and have the other stand by the bucket of ping pong balls. It would be worth having additional kids be ball retrievers to put missed ping pong balls back in the bucket.*
- **TOSS AND STACK.** *Play the 2-minute timer and on "Go" teams will try to build the largest tower before time runs out (or first to 5 - whichever happens first). One teammate will hold the cups in one hand and a single cup in the other. Every time they catch a ping pong ball in the single cup hand, they add a new cup on top without removing the ping pong ball that they just caught. The pattern in their hand should be cup, ball, cup, ball, cup, etc. The other teammate tosses ping pong balls across the six-foot gap trying to land them in their tower! The tallest tower at the end of time wins!*

(SLIDE: 2 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)

That was wild, and so much fun! Let's give our volunteers a hand as they head back to their seats. AND let's all jump up on our feet and get ready to sing and worship God together."

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: LET IT BE KNOWN, GOD IS FOR US)

BIBLE STORY

(No Supplies)

Quick question...what comes to mind when you think about the word love? Anyone want to volunteer a thought or three?"

"One of the main themes throughout the whole Bible is love—ideas like God is love, love your neighbor, love God, love life, love never fails. And that's just getting started. But I wonder—do you *have* to love everyone? Like, *everyone*? Sometimes I really wonder, is that what God is really asking us to do? Because if so, I've got some legit questions.

"What about the people who cut you off in traffic? The people who rudely bump into you like they don't care about your personal space? The people who put their feet up on the back of your chair in school? Or the people who are just hard to get along with sometimes?"

"Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of people on this planet who I'm sure are fine, but aren't there some who you would just rather avoid? Do we *really* have to love everyone? Here's the thing. I know that most of us would answer, of course, God wants us to love everyone! But the truth is, we don't always live like that, do we?"

“That’s why questions like this are so important. They allow us to push at a part of life we tend to take for granted. When we start asking questions like this, one of the first places we should check out is the Bible. In the Bible, there are all sorts of wisdom from people who experienced God in their lives and were inspired to write down what they learned. And now, thousands of years later, we can have a relationship with God and discover the best way to live just by checking out what they wrote down. Let’s head to a story that deals with sharing God’s love and, more importantly . . . with whom.

Over the past few months, we’ve been following God’s Big Story—all the way through the entire Bible! (*Hold up Bible.*)

(SLIDE: TIMELINE)

“We’ve talked about how God sent Jesus to be our Savior, and Jesus died on the cross for our sins. As you can imagine, this was a very sad and difficult time for Jesus’ friends. Jesus had done amazing things, and the disciples really believed that He was the Son of God. But then . . . Jesus died. They thought it was all over.

“Of course, that wasn’t the end of the story! Jesus came back to life, and over the next 40 days, He appeared to more than 500 of His friends and followers. Let’s hear the final things that Jesus had to say to them...

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY - 5 MIN)

Jesus told His followers—which includes US—to make disciples wherever we go. That just means we tell people about Jesus AND try to live like He lived . . . loving God and loving others in everything we do. Live with confidence the way Jesus taught us to live. Others will see the way you act and might want to know more about Jesus. And of course, you can always just share what you love and what you are learning about God!

“And here’s the great thing, everyone. Even with those who are hard to love . . . the best way to share God’s love with those people is to take time to love them with how you interact with them, speak to them, and help them. When you do that, you can always invite them to church or talk about Jesus with them, too.”

Remember this...

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

Note: This would a great opportunity to share a quick personal story of a time when someone shared God’s love with you or told you about Jesus.

The Creator of the Universe made YOU with such intentionality and purpose. And He didn’t just make you, He made everyone around you! Not only that, for those of us who have a relationship with God and have asked Him to be our Lord and Savior – we have the same job that the disciples did...to go and tell! Think on this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) How can you share God's love?

What are some ways, even small ones, you can show God off to others? Think about situations where you could show a bit of patience, or kindness, or love, or maybe times when you could choose goodness instead of adding to the problem. How can you act, what things could you say, or what things could you do to show God's love? You'll talk about this more with your Small Groups, but before you do, let's go over our monthly verse.

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) *"So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.' (Hebrews 13:6a, NIV)*

"I love that! And it's so true—God IS our Helper. God is with us, always.

"Let's pray.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for showing us your love by sending Jesus. Thank you for the way Jesus showed US how to love. We want to do what Jesus told the disciples to do: share your love with others. Help us share the good news of Jesus everywhere we go. Thank you for letting us be part of your Big Story! We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Monthly Virtue: Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

Bible Story: Washed by the Water (Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet) • John 12:9-16; 13:1-17 (Matthew 21:1-11)

Key Question: When has someone put you first?

Bottom Line: Jesus put others first.

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

Memory Verse: Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. *Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)*

In Middle School Ministry (MSM), small group time shifts from being more activity based (in KidCity) to being majority discussion based. In order to ease the transition for your rising 6th graders, take the time to lean more into the discussion questions during small group.

HANDPRINT PRAYER

("Handprint Prayer" Activity Page – cut in half, one half per kid, Crayons/Markers)

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to put their hands in front of them on the table.
- Explain to them that their fingers can help them remember people to pray for.
- Jesus told us to [*Bottom Line*] **share God's love with others**, and that means anyone and everyone. We can pray for people and look for ways we can share God's love with them.
- Pass out the "Handprint Prayer" activity page. Have the kids color the finger that you are explaining.
 - Your THUMB is closest to your heart, so pray to those closest to you - your **family and friends**
 - The POINTER finger is used to give directions. Pray for **teachers, coaches, doctors, and first responders**.
 - The MIDDLE finger is the tallest. Pray for **leaders** in government, business, and the church.
 - The RING finger is the weakest. Pray for the sick and for **those most in need**.
 - The PINKY finger is the smallest. Pray for **yourself** and your own needs.
- Have kids flip over their sheet and trace their hand.
- In each finger, have kids write in who they will pray for in each category.
- Explain that you are going to lead them in a prayer. You will begin by praying out loud, but then you will include some quiet time where kids can pray silently for the people they wrote down on their page. Encourage them to ask God to help them find ways to share His love with those people this week.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank you for the amazing thing you did when Jesus came back to life! Today's story reminds us that you want us to share your love with everyone! Sometimes it feels scary or risky. We've all missed an opportunity to show love to someone because we were nervous. Help us to have confidence as we remember that you are with us. We pray specifically for the people that

you have brought to each of our minds today. *(Pause for a moment.)* Thank you, God, for placing these people in our lives. Help us to trust you. Amen.”

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- Are there times when you don't feel confident? If so, when?
- What keeps you from feeling confident?
- When was a time where you felt afraid to share God's love?
- How can you share God's love? *(Be sure to encourage kids to think of outside-the-box ways they can share God's love. Remind them that this does not always have to be big or awkward or even risky. Sometimes the simplest ways speak the loudest!)*
- How does the way you live affect the way others see Jesus?

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

(“World Records” Activity Page – cut apart, 1 per group, Blank Paper – 1 per 2 kids, Markers/Crayons)

What You Do:

- Choose different volunteers to take turns selecting and reading each of the Guinness World Records,
- After reading these records aloud, ask kids the following questions, in regard to today's Bible story:
 - In the story we heard today, what incredible, record-breaking event took place? *(Jesus defeated death!)*
 - What happened after Jesus came back to life? *(Jesus gave people the challenge of telling the entire world about Him.)*
 - Did Jesus leave us to take on this challenge all on our own? *(No! He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us!)*
- Explain that God wants us to share love with others, and that is a far greater task than achieving any of the world records we read! But God doesn't expect us to do this on our own. God is always with us to help us live like Jesus did and show others God's love.
- Pair kids up and give each pair a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Instruct them to work together to create and write their own record-breaking announcement that highlights Jesus defeating death.
- Have groups come back together and share what they wrote if they want to.

PRAY AND DISMISS

(Preteen Devotionals - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit. Help us have confidence to trust in you always. In Jesus' name, amen.”

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