



CONFIDENCE | WEEK 2 | MAY 14, 2023

4th-5th Lesson

Level Up

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

Bible Story: Level Up (The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost) • *Acts 2:1-41*

Key Question: When have you needed help?

Bottom Line: God sent the Holy Spirit to help you.

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: When have you needed help? When we face a moment where we need help, we might lose our confidence for similar situations in the future. That's why we hope to remind kids that needing help is a normal part of life. Asking for help doesn't make us weak. In fact, often it takes strength to ask someone for a helping hand. We pray that kids will realize that, as followers of Jesus, they have access to the very best help ever. The Holy Spirit can give them the confidence they need to keep going.

In week 2, head to **Acts 2:1-41** and find out how the disciples found the confidence to tell the world about Jesus. The disciples had a huge mission: to share the message of Jesus with the world. Thankfully, Jesus also promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to help them. As the disciples were gathered together, the Holy Spirit came and empowered them to preach with

boldness. Peter preached to the crowd of people that gathered to see the commotion, and that day, over 3,000 people trusted Jesus with their life.

Bottom Line: **God sent the Holy Spirit to help you.** As we spend the month talking about what it means to live with confidence, we want kids to know that this isn't something they need to figure out on their own. God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us. We'll help kids start to understand how they can rely on the Holy Spirit to give them the strength, courage, and confidence they need for whatever they face in life.

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 TODAY! You and your small group leaders can head on over.

(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

RESCUE REVIVER

(No Supplies)

“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!

“I’m excited for today because we’re kicking things off by doing something that happens in video games all the time—but we’re trying it out in real life.

“Everyone knows that when you lose in a video game it’s not always the end of the game. Maybe you get revived or there’s a medic who heals you.

“With that in mind, let’s play a game! I call it Rescue Reviver!

(SLIDE: RESCUE REVIVER)

“So today, let’s have one chaser and one reviver. Oh, and this is a game for everyone in the room! Who wants to volunteer?

Choose two volunteers and assign one to be the Chaser and one to be the Reviver.

If you have a lot of kids in your large group space, consider choosing 2-3 Chasers and Revivers.

“The rules are simple! Everyone is going to spread out around the room—pick a spot and stay there. The Chaser will start on one end of the room, and the Reviver on the other. Those of you on the Reviver side will sit, and those of you on the Chaser’s side will stand. We’ll put 60 seconds on the clock, and on my ‘go,’ the Chaser and the Reviver will start tapping people on the shoulder. If you’re sitting, and you’re tapped by the Reviver, you stand up. If you’re standing, and the Chaser taps your shoulder, you sit.

“The Chaser and the Reviver can move ANYWHERE in the room—even to each other’s side! At the end of 60 seconds, if there are more standing than sitting, the Reviver wins. If there are more sitting than standing, the Chaser wins! Get it? Ready? Here we go!

(VIDEO: 1 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)

Great job! That was a ton of fun. Ok let’s all stand up and get ready to worship God!

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: GOD IS FOR US, RIVER)

BIBLE STORY

(No Supplies)

We are continuing to learn about God’s Big Story

(SLIDE: TIMELINE)

We talked about how Jesus died on the cross, then He came back to life! Jesus appeared to many of His friends and followers, then He returned to heaven to be with God. But before Jesus left, He told His friends to spread the word about Him throughout the whole world! He told them to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, a Helper Who would always be with them.

“Today, we get to look at what happened next...

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY - 4 MIN)

At the start of this story, the disciples weren't quite sure how they would share the message of Jesus with the whole world. They didn't know how God would send the Holy Spirit. They might have even been a bit anxious about how all of this would happen. But in a moment, everything changed! And there was Peter, sharing the truth of Jesus to thousands of people. But remember, this wasn't just him. Peter was doing this through the power of the Holy Spirit - who is God. If Peter tried to do this on his own, he might have been too scared to speak or fumbled his words. But he relied on the Holy Spirit to help him, and all sorts of people heard about Jesus!

"It's the same way for us, too. When we choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to be with us, just like the Spirit was with the disciples. The Spirit comes to live inside of us! The Spirit nudges us in the right direction, gives us that 'hold up, think about this before you do it' feeling. And since the Spirit is always with you, you can know deep down that you'll have the right things to say at the right time to help someone, show love to someone, and even change their life.

"With the help of the Holy Spirit, you can love God and love others. You can live with confidence, knowing that the Holy Spirit is with you. That's a big thing! Whenever we talk about big things in KidCity, we always remind ourselves of this truth...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) 'I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.'

Before we go, let's think on this question...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) When have you needed help?

And I'm not talking about math homework . . . I'm talking about knowing how to be there for a hurting brother or sister, finding the right things to say to your parents when things are tense, or finding the courage to be open and honest when standing up to your friends when they're not making the best decisions.

"Those times are when you might feel the most inadequate and stumble, but those times are also the times when the Holy Spirit is at his best. Let's say our verse together...

(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 take some time and pray that we'll remember how the Holy Spirit is with us, not just in the times of our greatest need but all the time.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Your Spirit helped the believers in Jerusalem as they shared the good news about Jesus. Your Spirit is with us, too, when we believe and put our trust in you. Thank you for reminding us that we don't ever have to be alone, because your Holy Spirit is with us. 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.

SOAK UP THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Sponges - 2-4 per group, Shallow Pan or Bin, Water, Tablecloth)

What You Do:

- Once you've laid out your tablecloth, pass out the dry sponges to a couple of kids. Encourage the rest to watch
- Pour just enough water in the dish to cover the bottom.
- Tell the kids to put their sponge in the water and watch what happens to the water and the sponge. It should completely soak up the water.
- Say, "What You Say" below.
- If time allows, let kids squeeze their sponges out and then refill their pan with another shallow layer of water and put their sponges in to soak up water again.

What You Say:

"Did you see what happened? The sponges soaked up the water! The sponge is like each of us, and the water is like the Holy Spirit. When we choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to be with us. He (the Holy Spirit) comes and starts to change us from the inside out - just like the water made the dry sponge soft. The Holy Spirit is always with us! **[Bottom Line]** God sent the Holy Spirit to help you. What can the Holy Spirit help us do?" (*Be patient with each other, be kind when we don't feel like it, be confident to share God's love, etc.*)

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time in your life when you knew the Holy Spirit was there to help you. This can be difficult to put into words, but kids love to hear stories of how God has worked in your life. Think of times when the Holy Spirit prompted you to do something, say something, or share something. It's a great time to let the kids hear a real-life story of how [Bottom Line] God sent the Holy Spirit to help you.)

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- When have you needed help?
- When you need help, from whom do you typically seek help first?
- How do you know when the Holy Spirit is guiding you?
- Do you ever hesitate to rely on God for help? Why or why not?
- How can believing the Holy Spirit is here to help you, build your confidence?

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

(Red or Orange Bean Bags, Bucket, Whiteboard, Dry Erase Marker, Two Fake Mustaches - optional, Two White Baseball Hats - optional)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into 2 teams and ask kids to gather with their teams on one end of your group space.
- Place a bucket at the other end of your group space.
- Give teams a few minutes to discuss and decide on a team name.
- Encourage them to be creative and use video game lingo. (*i.e.: Koopa Troopas, Crazy Creepers, etc.*)
- Write each of the team names on the whiteboard. You will be using this to keep score.
- Also, ask each team to designate one person from their team to become “Fire Mario” and one person to be the “Controller.”
- Once each team has selected their “Fire Mario,” give each of them a white baseball hat and a fake mustache (if available) to wear.
- The “Controller” will act as the team spokesperson and will be the one to state the team’s answer for each question.
- Explain that you will be playing a game that tests their knowledge of today’s Bible story. You will take turns asking teams various questions. If their team answers the question correctly, their designated “Fire Mario” will get three tries to toss a bean bag into the bucket.
- Teams will only be awarded points for getting bean bags in the bucket, not simply for answering questions correctly.
- Teams will receive one point for every bean bag that makes it in the bucket.
- If a team answers a question incorrectly, the other team has a chance to answer the question. If they answer the question correctly, their “Fire Mario” can throw two bean bags into the bucket.
- The game ends once all questions have been asked. Tally up each team’s points and declare the winner!
- Questions to ask (sample answers provided include as much detail as possible, to account for all possibilities of correct answers):

1. Once Jesus ascended to heaven, where did His friends go, and what were they doing? *(They returned to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit.)*
 2. What happened while the believers had gotten together to pray? *(They heard a rising sound like wind. Glowing flames appeared, hovering in the air. The fire separated into tongues of flame, which rested over their heads. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.)*
 3. Why did God give Peter and His other followers the ability to speak in different languages? *(There were people gathering in Jerusalem from all different countries for Pentecost. They all spoke different languages. Not all of them were believers in Jesus, so this enabled them to hear about Jesus in their own language so they could understand and believe in who He was.)*
 4. What was Pentecost? *(It was called the Feast of Weeks, and it was a time of celebration at the beginning of the wheat harvest.)*
 5. What was the crowd's initial reaction to the sudden ability of Jesus' followers speaking in different languages? *(Many of them were skeptical at first, thinking they were crazy.)*
 6. Who got up to speak to the whole crowd, to explain the story of Jesus? *(Peter)*
 7. What happened once Peter explained everything? *(About 3,000 people began to believe and ask to be baptized.)*
 8. What is our Bottom Line from today's story? *(God sent the Holy Spirit to help you.)*
 9. What is this month's virtue, and what does it mean? *(Confidence: Living like you believe God is with you.)*
 10. What is our Memory Verse this month? *(So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." -Hebrews 13:6a)*
- After the game, ask the following questions for discussion:
 - What parts of this story stood out to you as odd or unique?
 - What does this story tell us about the Holy Spirit in our lives today?
 - How can we rely on the Holy Spirit when we need confidence or when we're going through a tough time?
 - Remind kids that God is big enough for anything we are going through. We can have confidence in knowing that the same God who sent tongues of fire and made people miraculously begin speaking in different languages, is also here for us and all that we are facing.

PRAY AND DISMISS

(Preteen Devotionals - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

"Thank you, Lord, for sending the Holy Spirit to be with each of us. Please help us all be confident, even when we're afraid, frightened, or just nervous. Through your Spirit, we know that you are with us, and you will help us confidently face whatever challenge is ahead of us. In Jesus' name we pray, 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.