



COMMITMENT | WEEK 1 | MAY 5, 2024

Elementary Lesson

Light My Way

Monthly Virtue: Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice.

Bible Story: Light My Way (God’s Word Is a Light) • Psalm 119:105

Key Question: Why does learning to listen to God matter?

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

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)

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Growing in faith is not something that happens by simply 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 them experience how that knowledge can transform their heart. To experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith, and that takes commitment. Commitment is part of God’s nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God’s commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. Because God’s promises and plans came true in Jesus, we can be with God forever. We reflect God’s character when we 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. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God’s Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday moments of their life.

Key Question: Why does learning to listen to God matter? When kids are taught that they should learn to hear from God, they might have some big questions. As concrete thinkers, they still process what they learn about the world quite literally. And while they might not audibly hear God speak, they might wonder if hearing from God is even possible. Thankfully, we can point them to the Bible—or other people who can read and understand the Bible to help them discern how God might be speaking to them. We hope this question gives kids a chance to wrestle with what it means to hear from God and discover that hearing from God might not be as difficult as they might have thought.

We start the month with Psalm 119:105, where David wrote, “Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.” When we read what the authors of the Bible wrote, we can find out

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

- Doors Open 9:15/11:00
- Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20
- Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50

how God wants us to live. It's like we're listening to God. God offers us wisdom throughout the pages of the Bible that can guide us to not only discover more about ourselves, but also how to love God, trust Jesus, and treat others well.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

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, but before we do let's go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(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 (6 Min)

BEAN BAG TIC-TAC-TOE

(Plastic Hoops - 9, Bean bags - 2, 18 Pieces of Paper of 2 Different Colors (9 of Each Color))

Welcome to a brand-new month here at KidCity! A new month means that we have a new Monthly Virtue. This month is all about Commitment.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice

We need commitment for lots of different things in life. If you take piano lessons, then that means you're putting your plan to be a musician into practice. Or you might play on a soccer team. You can't just show up for the game, right? You've got to put in the work. You've got to practice hard so you can be strong and ready to play.

"We also need commitment in our relationship with God. We need to make a plan to grow in our faith in God, and then put that plan into practice! Check out our monthly verse..

(SLIDE: 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)

We will talk more about that later, but for now, let's play a game!

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE)

(SLIDES: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **EXPLAIN THE GAME:** Play tic-tac-toe with plastic hoops and bean bags. Split into two teams (choose one person from each team to mark the spot that their team lands in and to return the bean bag). Teams will take turns tossing their bean bags.
- **PLAY:** One at a time, teams will toss their beanbags and try to land them in the hoops to get 3 in a row. If they miss or land in a hoop that has already been claimed, then the turn passes to the other team. Once a bean bag lands, mark that spot with a colored piece of paper (i.e., blue team vs red team). If time allows (no more than 4 minutes), then play again.
- **MAKE IT MORE CHALLENGING:** If a bean bag lands on a spot that the other team has already claimed, then switch it to the tossing team! (It was red, but now it's blue!)
- **CAMPUS ADAPTION SUGGESTIONS:**
 - If you have a lot of kids, consider splitting into 4 teams and having 2 games running at once.
 - If you have a lot of kids, choose 5-10 kids per team to compete instead of making it an all-in game

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: GOD IS ON THE MOVE, EVERY BEAT)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

Hey, everyone! Welcome to a brand-new month, and I can't wait to spend some quality time together learning, digging into questions, and figuring out how to make a plan, work that plan, and grow in Christ. It's going to be a good time!

"Before we get started, I'd like to try a quick challenge. I brought along a few pictures to show you . . . and I have some questions.

(SLIDES: PHOTO OF A FLASHLIGHT)

"This contraption. What is it? (Allow for responses.) Yes! It's a flashlight. What is it primarily used for?

"Shining a light on things, finding your way in the dark, surviving a horror movie, all good things. (pause) What about this?"

(SLIDES: PHOTO OF THE SUN)

“Yep . . . that is the sun. Center of our solar system. Super hot. Don’t look at it for too long. And what is its purpose? What does it do?”

“Getting a tan, waking you up too early on a Saturday, Vitamin D. Perfect. Nailed it again. And . . . this one?”

(SLIDES: PHOTO OF A LIGHTHOUSE)

“Boom. A lighthouse. What does this do? What’s its purpose? (Allow for responses.) Saving ships from crashing into rocks, signaling that the shore is nearby, being an amazing photo opportunity. Outstanding.

A flashlight, the sun, a lighthouse . . . what did all these have in common? (Allow for responses.) Yes! Pretty simple, right? They are all lights. (pause) What about this?”

(SLIDES: PHOTO OF A BIBLE)

“Don’t answer this out loud, just think about it. (Point to the picture) What is this . . . and what do you use it for?”

What exactly is the Bible? Just a book? More than a book? It’s not like it has a plug on it or a battery pack . . . but is it a light? A different kind of light, maybe? And even if it IS a light, how do we even use it AS a light?”

Great questions! But guess what!? We’re not the first people to talk about the Bible, God’s Word, as a light. In fact, the writers of the Bible themselves had a lot to say about this. So, let’s head to the Bible and discover what they said about that.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 7 MIN)

Since God’s Word is a light that guides us, we should probably make it a part of our lives. Part of that is coming here together each week where we learn together. But let me also challenge you to read it, memorize it, talk about it! The more you let God’s Word into your heart, the more it will shine through you to those around you.

“There are so many cool ways to experience God’s Word: a book, an app, a podcast. You can read it, take notes, discuss it, hear others do the same—and God has an amazing way of bringing the truth found in the Bible back to us at times when we most need it, to help guide us.

“You can also hear God speak through wise people in your lives who love Jesus and can share the wisdom they’ve learned from walking the path of life.

“And honestly, sometimes we just need to quiet all the noise . . . turn off the power buttons, close the door for a little bit, and take time to be still with God’s Word

Think on this Basic Truth:

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) ‘I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.’

God guides us through the Bible. Having a healthy and growing relationship with God is dependent on reading His Word.

“Let’s wrap up today by asking our Key Question.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘Why does learning to listen to God matter?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...”

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

God, thank you so much for giving us the Bible. Your Word lights the way for us and helps us to make the wise choice! Please help us to get in the habit of hearing from you. Give us the commitment we need to read the Bible and learn to live your way every day. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

KEY QUESTION (K-5th)

(No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren’t any right or wrong answers but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: Why does learning to listen to God matter?

(Answers will vary: There will be many times when we are sad/lost/confused/hurt/angry, and we will need wisdom that can only come from God; We need to learn how God wants us to live rather than how the people around us want to live; etc.)

HIGHLIGHTING GOD’S WORD (K-5th)

(“Highlighting God’s Word” Activity Page – 1 per kid [K-3rd], “HEAR” Activity Pages – 1 per kid [4th-5th], Bibles, Pens/Pencils/Markers)

What You Do:

- Give each kid an activity page. The verses for both activity pages are the same.
 - For K-3rd: Give them the one with the fill-in-the-blanks.
 - For 4th/5th: Give them the “HEAR” activity page.
- **SAY:** “The Bible says that God’s Word is ‘living and active’ (Hebrews 4:12). That means that it’s not just a good story or wise words – it’s actually God speaking to us and teaching us about Him and about how we can live well in His kingdom. Sometimes, words just seem to leap off of the page because they speak directly to our hearts. It’s a good idea to highlight the parts that are meaningful to you so you can remember them and find them easily later. We are going to practice looking up Bible verses and emphasizing key words.”
- Work together or in smaller groups to look up the verses.
- After each verse, ask: “What words or phrases in this passage of Scripture stuck out to you?”
 - For K-3rd: Help kids identify what words are missing and fill in the blanks. Take a minute to talk about what the verse means.

- For 4th/5th: Help them understand that they need to paraphrase the verse. Encourage them to circle words that stand out to them.

What You Say:

“I loved hearing what words from all of those verses stood out to each of you. The beautiful thing is that sometimes we had different things highlighted—and that’s great! God speaks to each of us in different ways through the Bible. Reading God’s Word is one way that we can practice hearing from God.

“We can ask God for help to light up certain words for us when we read or listen to the Bible. This is one way we can hear from God! And as you continue to read the Bible, you can see how Jesus lived His life, then follow His example. The more we practice this, the better we can learn to hear God’s voice in our lives!”

- If you know that someone is difficult for you to be around without losing your patience, what can you do to prepare yourself ahead of time so you don’t react by saying or doing something you know you shouldn’t?

PRAY

“Dear God, thank you for the many, many ways we can hear from you. Next time we’re in nature and hear a sound of your creation, remind us to be still and quiet and to notice and remember that you are with us. We love you and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FINAL ACTIVITY

(Blank Paper – 1 per kid, Markers/Crayons, “Psalm 119” Activity Page – 1 per group)

What You Do:

- Say: “I am going to give you instructions for drawing two different pictures. Everyone is going to be drawing the same pictures, but they’ll all turn out differently, and that’s okay!”
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil or crayon.
- Instruct the kids to listen carefully to your instructions.
- One at a time, whisper the following set of instructions, pausing after each one to allow time for kids to draw.
- Try not to repeat instructions unless you’re sensing frustration.
 - On the left side of the paper, draw a tree with a trunk and leaves.
 - On the right side of the paper, draw a house. Make sure to leave room between the tree and house.
 - In the middle of the paper, between the tree and house, draw a small hill.
 - Draw three flowers on the hill.
 - In the sky, draw a smiling sunshine above the house.
 - Draw five apples on the tree.
 - Draw two birds flying above the tree.
- Once kids have finished their drawing, invite them to share their first drawings with the group.
- Instruct them to turn their paper over.
- Say: “I’m going to show you a picture for 30 seconds and then put it away. Then, I’d like you to draw what you saw.”

- Set the timer for 30 seconds.
- Start the timer and show the kids the "Psalm 119" picture for 30 seconds.
- Once the timer has ended, turn the paper over with the prepared drawing.
- Allow the kids some time to draw.
- Once kids have finished, invite them to share their second drawings with the group.
- Read Psalm 119:105 from the marked Bible to the group.

What You Say:

"It was fun to see how your different pictures turned out. Some of you had an easier time following the directions you could hear, and some of you had an easier time being able to see the picture. There are different ways we can learn, and God knows that about us because God made us!

"God might speak to us through songs we sing at church or through a beautiful moment in nature. We can also always hear from God through God's Word, the Bible. When we practice hearing from God, we can grow in our faith. This takes practice! All of our lives, we need to practice hearing from God!"