



COMMITMENT | WEEK 3 | MAY 17, 2024

Elementary Lesson

Speak Now

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

Bible Story: Speak Now (Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah) • Matthew 16:13-20

Key Question: Who do you talk to 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)

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: Who do you talk to about God? If you want to grow in your faith, it’s important to talk about what God is doing in your life. However, for kids, this can feel overwhelming, especially if they’ve never really chatted about their faith with anyone before. This week, let’s help kids understand that talking about God with others can be helpful as they grow in their relationship with Jesus. We hope they’ll figure out some of the trusted people in their lives who can be a sounding board to help them process their questions and listen to their faith stories.

For week 3, we head to Matthew 16:13-20, where Jesus asked his disciples: “Who do you say I am?” After everything they’d seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say, what did they really think about Jesus? This gave Peter the perfect moment to declare what he believed: that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

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

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)

WHAT’S BEHIND ME?

(No Supplies)

“Let’s remind ourselves of what we are talking about all month.

(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: WHAT’S BEHIND ME)

(SLIDES: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY:

- CHOOSE CONTESTANTS. Choose two contestants to play the game (suggested either a 4th/5th grader or a SGL). Split your audience down the middle. Each side will work with a contestant.
 - **K/1st Adaption:** Switch gameplay so the kids are guessing and a SGL is saying the words. To do this, simply have the kids face away from the screens so the SGL can see the words but the kids cannot.
- WHAT'S BEHIND ME? Tell the contestants to stand with their backs to the screen. Show the first slide to the crowd. The crowd will then try to get the contestants to say what is behind them. The crowd can say anything other than the words on the screen. The contestants must say the words that are underlined to get the answer correct. The contestant with the most points at the end wins!
 - Use the first slide to explain how to play the game.
 - After the example slide, there are 5 more slides. Have contestants go one at a time, taking turns. On the last one, have them go at the same time.
 - Consider setting a time limit for each slide (about 30 seconds) so the game moves quickly.

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: WAVEWALKER, THIS IS LIVING NOW)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

“If I asked you who the GOAT was in basketball, who would you say? No, not an actual goat . . . the Greatest Of All Time, GOAT. Who do you think? (Allow responses.)

“Hmm. It’s a tough debate. I think your answer would depend on how old you are. Let’s take a look at some other GOATs and see who you pick!

Show the following slides, and have kids vote and debate on who they think is the GOAT in each particular area.

(SLIDE: LEBRON JAMES/MICHAEL JORDAN)

(SLIDE: RENOLDO/MESSI)

(SLIDE: CAPTAIN AMERICA/IRON MAN)

“Have you ever wondered what makes someone the GOAT? I guess there are a lot of things we could judge that by. Most of these are because of some great accomplishments. Others for being cooler than the other one. Others because it’s just the right choice, like Captain America.

“Crazy enough, but debates like these raged in biblical times as well. Not about superheroes or ballplayers—but about God.

“People argued all the time. What rules should we follow? Which commandment is the greatest of all time? Whose god was stronger than other people’s gods? Or who really was in charge around here?”

“When it comes to the GOAT of all GOATs, you may think it’s Jesus. But how do you know that? He said He is the Son of God . . . but what does that really mean? You weren’t there, and all you have is this book (hold up the Bible), and this person (point to yourself) telling you things.

“How do you know? And if you do know, how do you talk about Jesus to someone who believes exactly the opposite? How do you talk to others about God and what God is doing in your life? Yeah. It’s a big one today. Thankfully, what we read in the Bible can offer us some direction. Let’s go there now!”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

“Remember how Jesus asked his disciples to keep what they had talked about a secret for awhile? Jesus did this because He was getting ready to show everyone who He really is, but it wasn’t the right time yet. The people weren’t ready yet. The disciples were, in this moment, but the majority of people weren’t. Jesus knew this, and He chose to talk about these things with those He trusted the most.

“In time, Jesus would let everyone know who He is through His miracles, teaching, preaching, correcting church leaders, overturning tables, loving His enemies, and lighting the way.

“And now we’re in a position to do the same. We can talk to others about Jesus. About God. About the things we’ve experienced and the things we’ve seen and heard. It’s like our Basic Truth says...

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

“But how do you do that, especially now when the world is so divided? It seems like conversations are out the window if someone disagrees with you.

“Simple. Practice. Everyone’s terrible at something the first time. But the more you do it, the easier it will get.

“You can practice by telling people what Jesus means to you. You can practice talking about God as part of everyday conversation with your family and friends. When you choose to talk about God, it reminds you to keep your eyes open and see what God is doing . . . and helps other people see who God is and how God is working, too.

“God wants us to grow and continue to learn about who God is—and at the same time, God wants that for everyone else as well. God wants a relationship with everyone, and one way that others will know God is by hearing us—you and me—talk about God!

“But for some of us . . . actually all of us . . . that will take practice. We can even practice doing that here in our groups, with one another

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

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘Who do you talk to about God?’

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 for this story about Jesus and His disciples and the things they talked about that day. Their conversation shows us how helpful it can be when we take time to talk about You . . . and talk about what we believe. Thank You for putting people around us, like our family and friends and our leaders at church, who can help us learn new things about You and grow in our faith each 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: "Who do you talk to about God? What would help you to talk more about God in every day situations?"

(Answers will vary: my family, my friends, someone who is going through a hard time, my small group, etc.)

BEACH BALL BOUNCE (K-5th) (Beach Ball or Balloon - 1 per group)

What You Do:

- Direct kids to spread out in a circle.
- Give one kid the beach ball or balloon.
- Encourage kids to gently toss the beach ball to each other.
- After a few moments of the kids gently tossing the ball, say: "Freeze!"
- Read one of the scenarios below. (There are only two, so use the same scenario to ask a couple different questions. Half way through doing the activity change the scenario.)
- Instruct the kid who is holding a ball to answer the question of your choice using the list below.
- Have them toss it to a different kid and then you ask the new kid to answer the question in a different way.
- Continue the game until all kids have a chance to answer.
 - Since questions are open-ended, it's okay if questions are repeated!
- Use this as an opportunity for kids to practice talking about their life and experiences with God!
- SCENARIOS:

- You finally got the courage to audition for the school play. You were hoping for the lead role, but instead, you got understudy. Even though you're disappointed, you know you still have to give it your all.
- Your little sister is asking a lot of questions about faith and Jesus and heaven these days. Even though she annoys you frequently, you remember what it was like when you had big questions at her age. Honestly, you still have big questions even now.
- QUESTIONS:
 - What is something true about God?
 - What is something you can thank God for?
 - What is something you can ask God for?
 - Who can you talk to about Jesus in this situation?
 - When can you talk about God?
 - How can you help others see who God is?

What You Say:

“That was so much fun! I loved hearing about your thoughts, feelings, and experiences—especially about God. It felt like the more we played our game, the more comfortable we all were talking! In fact, the more we practice talking about God, the more we can keep our eyes open and be aware of all that God is doing. We can notice God doing amazing things all around us if we keep paying attention! When we practice talking about God, we can help people see who God is and how God is working too!”

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for our time in groups where we can practice talking with others about You. Help us to slow down, keep our eyes open, pay attention, and be ready to notice what You are doing all around us. Give us the courage to share what You are doing with others. Thank You that we can grow in our faith as we practice talking about You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5th) (Supplies Vary)

What You Do:

- Follow the instructions of the “Books of the Bible” activity that is in your bin.