



HOPE | WEEK 4 | APRIL 27, 2025

Elementary Lesson

All I Ask

Monthly Virtue: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad.

Bible Story: All I Ask (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • *John 20:19-29*

Key Question: What questions do you have for God?

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

Memory Verse: In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” *John 16:33b (NIV)*

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Life can be complicated. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33b). Sometimes, we may not understand why something happens the way it does. Yet, in spite of the things that go wrong or the things we don't understand, we can have hope that God knows what's best and is working for our good. Because of that, we can trust God no matter what as we begin to explore why the story of Jesus is good news for everyone.

Key Question: What questions do you have for God? From random silly questions to deeper questions, kids ask a LOT of questions. The questions may seem easy to answer or may even seem daunting, but questions help us grow. We hope this question helps preteens know that no question is too big or too small for God.

For week 4 we head to John 20:19-29 after Jesus' resurrection. When Thomas heard Jesus was alive, he couldn't believe it. Jesus showed up for Thomas, showing Thomas that there was no question He couldn't handle.

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 (5 Min)

THE GREAT TRIVIA CHALLENGE

(buzzer)

Let’s remind ourselves of the monthly virtue...

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

The month of April is exciting because we celebrated Easter! Easter is more than just a day; it’s a season of celebration where we get to focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus! Easter reminds us that no matter how difficult it gets, new life is available for all of us—that’s hope!

Check out what Jesus says in our verse for the month...

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” *John 16:33b (NirV)*

Take a minute to explain that ‘John’ is a book in the New Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.

You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!

(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE)

(SLIDE: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY

- Choose 2 contestants at a time and change them out each round (optional). Have them face each other with the buzzer in the middle of them. After you read the trivia question, the first person to buzz gets to answer first. If they get it wrong, the other person gets to try.
- QUESTIONS:
 1. What's our monthly virtue? *Hope*
 2. What's my middle name?
 3. What did Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal get on? *An Ark*
 4. What do cows drink? *Water*
 5. What has four wheels and flies? *A garbage truck*
 6. Who in the Bible killed a giant with stones and a sling? *David*
 7. Why did the chicken cross the road? *To get to the other side!*
 8. What is today's date? *April 27*
 9. What is the center of our solar system? *The Sun*
 10. How many legs does a spider have? *Eight*
 11. What color is Lightning McQueen from *Cars*? *Red*
 12. Who lives in the Hundred Acre Wood? *Winnie the Pooh*
 13. Is the book of Psalms in the Old Testament or New Testament? *Old*

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

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS, THAT'S WHO I PRAISE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

"Often, we find ourselves with all sorts of questions, and not just ones like, 'What book should I read?' or 'What do I have for homework tonight?' But often our questions seem massive! Questions about why something bad might be happening in the world, how do you know God is real, or why you can't ever seem to understand your math homework.

"Questions like these seem way too big for an answer or at least an easy answer. Maybe you're not sure if they're questions you should even be asking. And if you do ask them, who should you ask, and how should you ask them? This is especially true when it comes to our questions about God or Jesus.

"So, what should we do when we have really hard questions about God or what God is doing in the world around us? You might be wondering if it's even okay to ask God questions. Like, do we hide them away and hope we find out an answer someday? Or do we risk asking the question,

even if we're not sure how someone will respond to us? These sorts of questions are good questions.

“What is so amazing is that God is bigger than any questions we could possibly ask. And it's important to remember that we're not the first people to ask God questions or wonder about what God is doing. Even people who knew Jesus personally didn't always understand what He was teaching and what He was doing . . . especially when it came to His death and resurrection. Thankfully, we have one of these moments recorded for us in the Bible. Let's check it out.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

You know, there is one more thing that Jesus said to Thomas that is really interesting to read as followers of Jesus here today.

Open the Bible to John 20:29 (NirV) and read.

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

“You know what? Jesus was talking about people like us! None of us have ever physically SEEN Jesus. We haven't touched the wounds in His wrists or side like Thomas got to do. We haven't sat across the table from Him and enjoyed a meal like His disciples did on a number of occasions. And yet . . . many of you believe. You truly believe that Jesus is your 'Lord and Savior.' Jesus said those kinds of people are blessed. That is the kind of faith Jesus is looking for.

“There will be times that you just have questions, just like Thomas did. Or maybe you just find something hard to believe. You might go through a really tough time that leaves you with more questions. You know what's really cool? Like we said, God is not scared of those questions—not one bit. God is big enough for them. Let your questions lead you TO Jesus.

Check out our Basic Truth for this week...

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

“We may not know how things will go or will end, but we can always trust that God has plans for our good and His glory. We can trust in His guidance and have hope!

As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) 'What questions do you have for 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.

Dear God, I pray that these kids come to have a growing, right relationship with you and learn to fix their eyes on you always! Amen.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

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TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.

Key Question: What questions do you have for God?

(Answers will vary: emphasize that there is no question too big for God and highlight some of the places that we can go to find answers)

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.

Look Up: **John 20:19-29**

Say: “The book of John is found in the New Testament. It is one of the four ‘Gospels’ - which tell the story of Jesus.”

PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

(Construction paper - 5-6, Scissors, markers, glue sticks - 5-6, Posterboard with ‘God’ written in the middle, “Big Picture Questions” - 1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each group of kids one piece of construction paper, a pair of safety scissors, markers, and a glue stick.
- Explain to the kids that you will give them a few minutes to work together to think of as many questions for God as they can.

- Don't stress about spelling!
- After a few minutes, instruct the groups to write down their questions on the construction paper.
 - Instruct kids to leave some space between each of their questions on the construction paper.
- Offer prompts such as:
 - "Why does God let bad things happen?"
 - "What does Heaven look like?"
 - "Why is it hard for me to make friends?"
- Share with kids that there are no right or wrong questions. God really loves hearing all of our questions, no matter how big or small.
- Instruct the kids to use the safety scissors to cut out each of their questions.
- Encourage kids to fold each strip of paper with the questions in half.
- Display the poster board for the kids to see.
- Then, explain to the kids that they will glue each of their folded questions onto the poster board by placing glue on the back.
 - Show kids how to place the glue on the blank side of their question strips so that once attached, kids can easily unfold the construction paper to reveal the question inside.
- Send home the "Big Picture Questions" handout to each kid. If time allows, read over some of the questions and answers.

What You Say:

"Wow! You've all shared some truly meaningful questions today. Thank you for being open and sharing your thoughts. Here's the amazing truth, friends: God is big enough for all of our questions. We can always ask God anything because God loves us SO much! God wants us to ask and discover more about Him. When you meet a new friend, what do you do? *(Invite responses.)* You ask them their name, maybe a few questions about what they like—because that's how you get to know them better! We can ask God questions too.

"When we read the Bible or talk to other grown-ups or leaders who follow Jesus, we also get to learn more about God. But even they won't have all of the answers! It sometimes feels uncomfortable not to have the answers. But remember that whether you're asking something hard or wondering why God hasn't answered a prayer—whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions."

[Make It Personal] (Share about an age-appropriate time you had a big question for God and how you were able to cling to God's truth.)

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

(Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Review the memory verse. Repeat the verse together two or three times.
- Place the Memory Verse Poster where everyone can see it.
- Work together to come up with motions to the verse.



- Practice together.

PRAYER

“Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for not making us feel bad when we have big questions. I pray that these kids, when they do have questions, learn to turn to you and those who have known you for a while for answers and guidance. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, kids should stay in their small groups!