



Kids Club

Leader Guide

July

Week 4

July 28, 2024

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

(Optional) 1 Blindfold
Pens/Paper/Coloring utensils
Coloring Page and Word Search

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break
20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up
30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer
10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

TODAY'S FOCUS:

Because Jesus loves me, He saves me when I have faith, makes me more like Him, and adopts me into His family.

WEEKLY VERSE:

Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done. -Romans 8:39

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 23:32-43, Trust in Jesus

ROCK BRIDGE MISSION:

We desire for everyone to know that they were made by God, loved by God and wanted by God. Once we have grasped this message for ourselves and chosen to follow Jesus, we are committed to spreading this Good News!

INTRODUCTION:

ASK THIS AS KIDS ARRIVE: Discuss different ways you can learn about the gospel message. (Through a friend or family member, a church sermon, a stranger, through reading the Bible etc. God uses all kinds of people, His Word, and even dreams to reach us with the good news about Jesus.)

SAY THIS: Can you think of a family member or friend who is not yet a Christian? [Allow responses.] All of us probably know at least one person in our lives who isn't a believer. However, just because they don't believe right now, doesn't mean they won't come to know Jesus someday. What do you think are some reasons that people don't accept the gospel message right away? [Allow responses.] Yes! Some people might have doubts or might believe their sin can make them happy. Some might not understand the gospel or think they are good enough without Jesus. And others might think they have sinned too much for God to forgive them. Let's hear a story about two people who met Jesus at the same time, but made very different choices about how they responded to Him.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, there were two thieves also being crucified with him...

READ: Luke 23:32-34

SAY: Did you hear what Jesus said even as He and the two other men were dying on the cross? [Allow responses.] Yes! Jesus asked God the Father to forgive the very people who were crucifying Him. Why do you think Jesus prayed for God to forgive them? [Allow responses.] Good answers! Jesus loves everyone, even those who hated Him, and wanted them to repent and have their sins forgiven. Even while dying on the cross, God showed His love for all people through His son Jesus' simple prayer.

READ: Luke 23:35-38

SAY: The people all around Jesus were insulting Him and making fun of Him. They were mean and cruel. Remember, God gave up His son Jesus to be

crucified for their sins, so that in Him their sins could be forgiven. This wonderful act of forgiveness shows how much love God has for each one of us.

READ: Luke 23:39-42

SAY: The two men on each side of Jesus were also being crucified. Jesus was sinless and innocent, but the two criminals on the cross were thieves. Despite whatever sinful choices had brought them to their crosses, Jesus still loved them. However, only one of the thieves understood Jesus' love. The first criminal mocked Jesus and suggested Jesus wasn't really the Messiah. But the second criminal admitted to his wrong-doing and turned to Jesus in his final moments.

READ: Luke 23:43

SAY: Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would join Him in paradise. Can you guess what Jesus meant by that? [Allow responses.] Yes! It meant that he would be joining Jesus in heaven! God's love for us is overwhelming. No matter how much sin is in someone's life, no matter what they do or how long it takes, God is ready to forgive until their last breath.

If you have yet not asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, is there anything still standing in your way? If so, what? [Allow responses.] How about family or friends that you know? Can you think of anything you can do to help them understand this truth? [Allow responses.] Absolutely! You can share what you have learned with them. And if you know someone who is not yet saved, don't worry. Keep sharing and praying for them! God hears our prayers, and He is patient with us. His desire is for all people to repent and be saved.

[Additional Optional Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9. This is also a great opportunity to mention Serve The City and find out how kids have already served this month or how they still can serve as we share the Gospel and God's love through actions in our communities.]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ASK THIS: Choose the questions that are most appropriate for your kids' age and attention level. Let the kids share what's on their minds as they think about how today's lesson shows up in their lives!

- Can we do anything to make God love us more or less?
- Why does God love everyone perfectly?
- How is Jesus like a bridge?
- Who did Jesus die for?
- How can we be sure we will live forever with Jesus?
- What happened with the two criminals on crosses with Jesus?
- What can we do if we know a family member or friend does not know Jesus?

PRAY: Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer.

You may also read the following prayer:

Dear God, Thank you for loving us just as we are! Help us to remember this truth when we feel like we are not good enough. And help us to trust that Jesus Forgives us and makes us new. Above all, help us to share this message with others. In Jesus name, Amen!

ACTIVITY:

DO THIS: Direct the kids to sit in a circle. Come up with a secret rule about what foods kids can bring on an imaginary picnic. For example, foods that begin with G.

- Start the game by saying "I'm going on a picnic, and I'm going to bring..." ending with a food that fits your secret rule. Then, allow the kid to your left to take a turn saying the same thing, filling in their own idea next.
- Respond to the suggested food by saying either "Yum, sounds good!" or "No, we can't bring [kid's suggestion] on this picnic!"
- As you play, kids should begin to guess the secret rule as they notice what foods do and do not get approved.
- Play again as time allows, selecting kids to make up a new secret rule each round.




SAY THIS: In this game, it might have felt frustrating to offer a suggestion, only to have it shot down because you didn't know the rules about what you could and could not bring on the picnic. In life, some people think God is like the picnic planner in our game. They assume that God has rules about who He will and won't let into heaven and they have to spend their lives trying to figure out what they can and cannot do to be. But God doesn't keep the path to Heaven a

secret from us! He gives us the Bible and He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us! He makes it clear that He made us and He loves us. Jesus did not come to save just some people, but to save every person who has faith in Him.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done. -Romans 8:39

DO THIS: Write out the memory verse on a white board or piece of paper where everyone can see it. Challenge the kids to create a rebus puzzle by coming up with pictures to replace words in the verse.

- (Ex: Not= , highest=, lowest= etc.)
- Erase and replace words in the key passage according to the key developed.
- Work with the kids to recite the memory verse using the pictures drawn.

WHY WE MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE - SAY THIS: Imagine talking to someone - even if it is yourself - and trying to share God's love with them! How powerful would it be if you had this verse memorized and could say, "Not even the highest places or the lowest - no matter where you've been or what you've done - can separate you from God. NOTHING at all can ever separate you from God's love! And it's because of what Jesus did on the cross - He died to take the punishment for you and me!"

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

DO THIS: Divide the kids into teams of two. Choose two teams to start, and have one member from each team stand at opposite ends of the room. Have one child close their eyes (or blindfold them) from each starting team. The other teams should sit quietly next to their teammates, acting as obstacles ("barriers") in different areas of the room. The non-blindfolded teammates must use their voices to guide the blindfolded teammate across the room, avoiding obstacles like tables and chairs. They can say things like "This way!", "Stop!", "Turn left!" or "Barrier!" Once both teams have successfully guided their blindfolded teammate across, record their time. Rotate new teams for the next round,

ensuring "barriers" stay in place until the round is complete. The team with the fastest time wins!

WHAT'S THE POINT - SAY THIS: In that game, it might have felt nerve-racking for the blindfolded person to place trust in their teammate to help them get to the other side of the room safely. It can feel scary to walk by faith. Thankfully, we can completely trust in Jesus when we place our faith in Him. He will always keep us on the right path!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY 2:

DO THIS: Allow the kids to color the Jesus sheet or complete the Word Search.