

Opening activity at TABLES ---make Preaching Puppets out of paper bags . **Linda** will get the paper bags and the materials to decorate them.

Hand out paper bags and crayons.

Set out other decoration materials like stickers and stick-on googly eyes.

Help as needed to make a puppet from the paper bag, with the bottom fold of the bag as the mouth.

Table Leaders: Ask them to TALK.

Fanny will give you papers in a basket for kids to close their eyes and pick a paper and then read the topic and talk about it, for example, favorite TV show, video game, food, or sport.

Fanny will give you papers in a basket to pick a second topic for them to talk about something they're less likely to know about, for example, the South Pole, tortoises, tax codes.

If they can't think of anything to say, reassure them that it's fine not to know something about everything.

Ask: Why is it easy to talk about some things and difficult to talk about others?

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: Whatcha Say (Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Today's Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises to help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

Monthly Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

1

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader jogs in, decked out in running attire.

2

Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

3

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme

FANNY - OPENER *will stress the importance of training our bodies*

LEADER: "Good [morning/afternoon/evening], runners! I hope everyone is ready to get your race on today. We've made great progress in our training this month. ALL of you are showing real commitment!"

4

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

5

Optional Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"It takes a lot of commitment to train for a race. You have to prepare and practice! And the same thing is true about our relationship with God. We need to make a plan to GROW in our relationship with God—by reading the Bible and spending time with Him in prayer. Today, we'll add another really cool part of the plan that actually has to do with (look around the room) . . . each other!"

6

AUDIO: Fun music **FANNY leads Relay Race**

WORSHIP

LEADER: "Before we sing and worship God together, watch this."

7 **Optional Video (Media Package): Live Loud Video from Get Reel**

FANNY "Sometimes it's tough for us to finish what we've started. But God is always faithful! He's always there to help us. He sent Jesus to be our Savior and our Friend. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIRV), 'God is faithful. He has chosen you to share life with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.' Let's praise God now as we sing.

8 **Optional Video (Media Package): "You Are Faithful" Dance Moves Music Video**

"That's right! God started a good work in us. And we know that He'll help us grow as we follow Him every day. Let's thank Him for loving us so well!

9 **Video: "Thankful"**

"It feels great to tell God how thankful we are. You can all have a seat."

10 **SLIDE: Theme Background**

BIBLE STORY

LINDA will reinforce the learning points of the last 3 weeks and combine them with Sunday's lesson on how to build our spiritual lives like we do our physical lives....

11 **Video: Bible Story**

12 **SLIDE: Theme Background**

Leader Notes: Watch Bible Story Video, then determine what content you might want to use below to drive home the points made in the video.

SETTING UP THE STORY

Fanny and Linda hold a clothes line and have the children put the cards on the clothes line.

LINDA LEADER: "When Jesus was here on Earth, people often asked Him questions. But sometimes HE was the one who asked the questions.

Hang card #1 (question mark) on the clothesline.

"In fact, there was one time when Jesus and His disciples had traveled from Galilee to Caesarea Philippi, and Jesus asked them a very important question. Check it out."

JESUS' FIRST QUESTION

Open the Bible to Matthew 16:13 (NIRV) and read.

LEADER: "Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

Hang card #2 (question mark) on the clothesline.

"Who knows who Jesus was speaking about when He said 'the Son of Man'? (Pause to let them answer.) Yes, Jesus was talking about Himself! He was asking the disciples who people thought HE was.

"The disciples had some different answers. One of them said, 'John the Baptist.'

Hang card #3 (John the Baptist) on the clothesline.

"Another spoke up and said, 'Elijah.'

Hang card #4 (Elijah) on the clothesline.

"Someone else said that people thought He was Jeremiah . . .

Hang card #5 (Jeremiah) on the clothesline.

". . . or one of the prophets.

Hang card #6 (prophets) on the clothesline.

"I know that might seem a little confusing. Why would people say that Jesus was someone else? Well, really, the people were comparing Jesus to these important figures from Jewish history—people who worked miracles and spoke God's words. But Jesus was so much more!"

JESUS' SECOND QUESTION

LEADER: "Jesus had another question for His closest friends.

Hang card #7 (question mark) on the clothesline. Then open the Bible to Matthew 16:15 (NIRV) and read.

"But what about you?" he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

"I wonder what the disciples thought in that moment. I mean, they had seen Jesus feed thousands of people with one boy's lunch. They'd seen Him heal countless sick people. They'd seen Him walk on water. They knew He was special.

"Peter spoke up. He said . . .

Open your Bible to Matthew 16:16 (NIRV) and read.

"You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God."

Hang card #8 (Messiah/Son of God) on the clothesline.

JESUS' REPLY

LEADER: "Peter really nailed it with his answer. He was exactly right! Jesus IS the Messiah. He is the Son of God. Check out what Jesus had to say in response.

Open the Bible to Matthew 16:17-18 (NIRV) and read.

"Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere human showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you. Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church.'

"Jesus was happy that His disciples truly knew who He was . . . but He also knew there were things that would take His friends and followers a while to understand. So He told the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah—not yet, anyway."

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "For now, it was great that Peter had the courage to speak what he knew to be true among his friends. And when the time was right, he would go on to share the truth about Jesus with everyone he met.

"You and I can talk about what we believe, just like Peter did. We can share the truth of who Jesus is. We can talk with each other about God and ask questions when there's something we don't understand.

"Talking about God is an important part of our training plan! Here it is.

"That's what we get to do every week here at [your environment's name]. We get to practice talking about God with each other! How cool is that? Let's ask God to help us practice talking about Him."

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: *"Dear God, thank You for letting us hear about this important conversation between Jesus and His friends. It's really cool how Peter had the courage to speak the truth that Jesus is Your Son and our Savior. Please help us be courageous like Peter. Help us speak up and talk about You with our family and friends. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."*

STAY IN LARGE GROUP - SET CHAIRS IN CIRCLE

ACTIVITY 1 - CHARADE CARDS

Linda will make these cards and bring them in:

Cat—Dog—Baseball—Ice Skating—Washing Dishes—Praying—Making your bed—Hearing from God—Picking flowers—Playing video games—Swimming

What You Do:

Use the "Charades Cards" to play charades with the group.
Instruct one kid to choose a card and act-out what is on that card.
Direct the kid not to say any words or make any sounds.
The first kid to guess the word on the actor's card becomes the next actor.
Play as long as time allows.

What You Say:

"This game is pretty fun, but it would have been a lot easier if we could have talked about the word on our cards. None of the topics on the cards were things we didn't know about. We could have all talked for a long time about tacos! **[Transition]**
Let's go hear about the most important thing to talk about with anyone, anytime, anywhere!"

ACTIVITY 2 - USE YOUR PUPPETS

What You Say:

These puppets could say anything, but let's use them to **[Bottom Line]** practice talking about God.

"How would you use these puppets to tell someone who has never been to church before about Jesus? *(Invite kids to make the puppets "talk" and tell a person that Jesus loves everyone and came to rescue us from sin and death.)*

"How could you encourage someone who was scared or sad by talking about God with them? *(Invite kids to make the puppets "talk" and tell their friends that God is with them and He loves them; that they can trust God, no matter what.)*

"When something great happens, how could you lead people to thank God for it? *(Invite kids to talk about God caring for us and giving us good things.)*

"Talking about God might seem a little strange at first, but with practice it will get easier and easier!"

TAKEN FROM "I AM NOT"

"Sometimes, we are shy or embarrassed to **[Bottom Line]** practice talking about God, because we think that it means we have to have all the answers. Have you ever felt like that? *(Invite kids to show their hands.)*

"But that's the opposite of true! In fact, part of talking about God is asking questions and thinking about the answers. Who could you ask questions about God? *(parents, Small Group Leaders, church friends, other people who follow Jesus)* Yes! Discovering who God is takes our whole lives! God is so big that we could talk about Him forever and never run out of stuff to think about or wonder.

"What is one question you have about God? *(Invite kids to talk together.)* Let's play from our game—what is one thing that God is NOT? *(God does not lie or cheat or forget. He does not sleep or get bored. He doesn't break promises.)* What is one thing you know God IS?" *(loving, kind, wise, faithful, healing, etc.)*

[Make It Personal] *(Share about some good conversations you've had about God with friends or spiritual mentors. What were the questions you explored? What were the thoughts you talked about? You can even remind kids about times that you have all discovered something about God together as you talked through Small Group activities.)*

TAKEN FROM Just a Minute

What You Say:

"You probably aren't going to always **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God** in under a minute! But it's true that talking about God doesn't have to mean a big long sermon or using a ton of giant words you don't know.

"What could you say about God in a minute? *(Invite kids to share.)*

"If you got a chance to talk about God to someone who had never heard of Him, what would be the most important sentence you could say? *(Invite kids to share.)*

"How could hearing from God and praying to God help you **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God?**" *(Invite kids to share.)*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Gather kids in a circle and invite them to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**

Pray in a circle, letting kids finish this sentence: Dear God, I know that You are _____ and I want to tell everyone!

After the last kid has prayed, close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, You are the most important subject we could ever talk about! Please help us be brave when we have a chance to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God**, so that everyone can know how much You love us. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take home their talking puppets!

Fanny and Linda will gather the children in a circle and reinforce talking to God by saying a prayer and having them each utter something they are thankful for and or a prayer request.....

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16

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop with music