



APRIL THEME

GOOOOOAL!

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 28:16-20 (Acts 1:6-11)
The Great Commission | Ascension
Spark Story Bible |
The Great Commission pg. 496-497
The Ascension pg. 498-499

BOTTOM LINE

I can put others first by doing what Jesus said

MEMORY VERSE

“Don’t do anything only to get ahead.
Don’t do it because you are proud.
Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.”
Philippians 2:3, NirV

LIFE APP

Humility | Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated, and with God’s help... I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **HUMILITY** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

This WEEK: Next, we head to **Matthew 28:16-20**. Now that Jesus was alive, the disciples would have thought that now it was time for Jesus to become king, but that wasn’t God’s plan. Jesus gave them a new job: go and tell everyone about Jesus and be like Jesus was to the rest of the world.

Bottom Line: I can put others first by doing what Jesus said. We get to continue the mission that Jesus gave his disciples all those years ago. When we choose to share Jesus’ love with others, we’re putting them first. We pray that kids will realize that they have an important role in God’s One Big Story.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that kids would be inspired by today’s message to take on the challenge of telling others about Jesus. Ask God to put friends in their path who need to hear God’s story, and that God would give your few the courage and humility to tell it!

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk with the kids about things that their parents have trusted them to do. Do they:
 - take care of younger siblings?
 - wash clothes?
 - paint something?
 - clean something?
 - mow the yard?

•• **CELEBRATION DANCE COMPETITION**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have kids stand up in preparation to do their best celebration dance.
- Pull one kid out to be the judge.

- Instruct kids to imagine a huge team win in a real or an imaginary sport, and then tell them to dance.
- Tell the judge to choose his favorite dance.
- Whoever was chosen as the best dancer gets to be the next judge.
- Play multiple times with different kids judging the contest and imagining different sports.

What You Say: “In most situations where you win a massive victory, it’s time to break out the victory dances. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship we’ll learn/we learned that Jesus had a different idea of how to celebrate his big win.”**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● **PRIZE GIVEAWAY!** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: M&Ms

What You Do:

- Tell the kids you are going to play a game and you will give away a prize at the end to the winning team.
- Let kids pick a partner and play three rounds of rock/paper/scissors.
- Have the winner member of each team stand up.
- Give the winners two packages of M&Ms.
- Then instruct the winners to share their prizes with their partner.

What You Say: “Congratulations to the winners of our game, and congratulations on sharing the prize of your victory. That is a big part of what Jesus asks of us—to share what Jesus won for us with the world! In our story, Jesus had just won a great victory. He had defeated death! The disciples thought it was time to rub the victory in the Romans’ faces! They wanted Jesus to take over and put them in charge. But that’s not what Jesus told the disciples to do. He told them to spread the word and, if it came to it, to let themselves be killed for it. The disciples set out to give away the prize that Jesus had won for them—salvation! They spent their lives giving away that message to everyone they could and that’s how we know about Jesus today! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about how you heard about Jesus for the first time. Who shared about him with you? Did you grow up going to church or did you come to faith as a teenager or adult?)** Whatever else we share with those around us, we know one thing that we always should share: the message of Jesus. When we do that, we are putting others first by telling them about Jesus. **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by doing what Jesus said.”**

●● **SIMON SAYS** *(application activity)*

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Play a game of “Simon Says.”
- After playing a few rounds, start throwing in something that Jesus said and a way for kids to act it out. When you do this, instead of saying “Simon says,” say, “Jesus says,” and then explain how to act it out. For example:
 - Jesus says love your neighbor. *(give someone a high five or a hug)*
 - Jesus says do unto others as you would have done to you. *(scratch someone’s back)*
 - Jesus says tell others about my love. *(tell someone about Jesus’ love)*



- Jesus says share what you have. (*act out giving something to someone*)
- Jesus says help those in trouble. (*one person lie down and act hurt, someone else help them up*)
- Jesus says feed the hungry. (*act out giving someone some soup*)

What You Say: “Many of the direct commands that Jesus gave were about putting others first. So it’s natural to think, ‘Well, that’s easy. I’ll just do what Jesus says all the time.’ But there’s a problem with that. The first problem is that none of us are perfect and we can’t do what Jesus says all the time. If we could, we wouldn’t have needed Jesus to die on the cross for us. The second problem is: What if we run into a situation where we don’t have a specific command from Jesus? Do we do nothing? Do we think that Jesus doesn’t care about that situation? Of course not. We need to ask Jesus to continually renew our hearts with His love. Only when we have the love of God inside us, through Jesus, can we be motivated by that love for others to put them first. If we rely on our own ‘goodness’ we will always turn back to selfishness. **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by doing what Jesus said.**”

●● **FROM A WHISPER TO A SHOUT** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Review the memory verse (*found on the front page of this leader guide*) with the group.
- Once everybody has memorized the verse, say it all together.
- Then, repeat the verse as a group, but this time, instruct kids to shout the words “don’t,” “proud,” “humble,” and “others.”
- The third time you say it together, ask kids to whisper the words “don’t,” “proud,” “humble,” and “others.”
- The fourth time, instruct kids to clap instead of saying “don’t,” “proud,” “humble,” and “others.”
- The fifth time, lead them in stomping their feet instead of saying “don’t,” “proud,” “humble,” and “others.”
- If time and interest allow, let kids think up their own actions to do in place of the key words.

What You Say: “You guys have done a great job learning the memory verse this month! When we think about this verse, we should think about these important ideas—don’t be proud; be humble. Being humble means we **[Bottom Line] put others first by doing what Jesus said**. What are some ways you have put others first this month? (*Pause for answers*) Those are some really great examples of putting others first. Let’s remember to keep up the good work and keep putting others first like Jesus said and did!”

Discussion Questions

- When was the last time you saw or heard about someone putting others first? Can you tell us more about that? Who was there? What was happening? How did the actions of that person change the situation?
- What is something that Jesus said to do that you can do to put others first?
- What are some ways you can begin to make doing what Jesus said something that comes more naturally or automatically to you?
- Are you typically aware of what’s happening when you don’t put others first? What about when you do put others first? How do you feel when you’ve put someone else first in a big way?

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray with the kids, asking Jesus to help them act out of his love and not their own desires in order to put others first...

What You Say: “Dear Lord, we are so very thankful for your love. Sometimes we forget how to live like you did by putting others first.”

