

JANUARY THEME
WORK IT OUT
Stick to the Plan

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 16:13-20

Who Are You? | Who do you say that I am?

BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking 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, NIV

LIFE APP

Commitment | Making a plan and
putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

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

Key Question: Who can you talk with about God? Talking about what God is doing in your life is an important part of growing in faith. But we don’t always know the best person to talk to about our faith. We hope kids and their families figure out the trusted people who can be a sounding board to listen to their faith stories.

In **Matthew 16:13-20**, Jesus asks his disciples about who people think he is. Then, Jesus turns the question on them. After everything they’d seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say, who did they think he was? This gave Peter the perfect moment for him to declare what he believed about Jesus—that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God. We can know God better by talking about God with others. But this isn’t just about talking about Jesus with people who don’t know him yet. There’s also another important element of talking about God. As kids process their growing faith, they will have questions and doubts. We want families to practice the faith skill, TALK, and learn how to talk through their questions about God with others who believe in Jesus.

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. Thank God for the opportunity you have to talk about God’s story with the kids in your group. Pray that you’ll be able to encourage the kids to talk to others about God even when it might seem scary or awkward for them.

•• JUST FOR FUN

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Tongue Twister Cards”

What You Do:

- Put the “Tongue Twister Cards” in the center of the circle.
- Challenge kids to select a card and practice saying the tongue twister.
—To increase the challenge, ask them to say the tongue twister while (*literally*) holding their tongue.
- Encourage kids, after they have practiced, to recite their tongue twister to the group.
- If kids know any additional tongue twisters, they can share them with the group.



•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Note cards, pens, timer or mobile device (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Write topics on the note cards provided.
 - Provide at least one topic idea for each kid in your group.
 - Topics could include: birthdays, dancing, football, pizza, music, clothing, pets, books, etc.
 - This activity will be more challenging and interesting if you provide a few topics the kids may not know a lot about.
 - Try to make the topics a mix of things kids are familiar with and things they're unfamiliar with.
- Hand out a note card to each kid in the group.
- Challenge kids to talk about their topic for 30 seconds without saying "um," "ah," "like," "you know," etc.
- Time kids as they take turns individually talking about their topic. (*If you don't have a timer, pick a kid to count silently while others are talking.*)
- The winner is the kid who can talk the longest about his topic without saying "um," "ah," "like," "you know," etc.
 - If there is a tie, the group can pick a topic for a "showdown!"
- Tell kids that even if they were given a topic they know nothing about, they cannot get another card. If they are unfamiliar with a topic, they simply will have a greater challenge!
- Encourage the group to listen carefully for any "ums" or "ahs" or "you know's."

What You Say: "It was easier to talk about the topics you knew something about, wasn't it? **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll hear/we heard about a topic we should all be prepared to talk about."

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry 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.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: A large piece of butcher paper, "Speech Bubble Comments" cards, pens, tape

What You Do:

- Tape a large piece of butcher paper to the wall and draw a giant stick figure person on it.
- As a group, create a list of people your group could talk to about God.
- Write the list along one side of the stick figure.
- Examples could include:
 - Family
 - Friends
 - Teammates
 - Small Group members or people at your church



- People who don't know Jesus
- You, their small group leader!
- Give kids a stack of "Speech Bubble Comments" and encourage them to write in a "Speech Bubble" something about God they could say.
- Prompts for ideas could be:
 - Something you learned at church you might want to share
 - An answered prayer or a prayer request
 - A question you have about a Bible story or a verse
- Let kids volunteer to share their "Speech Bubble" comments by taping them up near the stick figure.
- Discuss the comments in each "Speech Bubble" shared:
 - Who could you say this comment to? Why? (*Encourage kids to refer to the list of people they created as a group*)
 - Is there anyone you wouldn't be comfortable making this comment to? Why or Why not?
 - Can anyone share a real-life example when he may have said something like this to someone? What happened?

Pro Tip: This activity could provide an opportunity to discuss how you can have different conversations about God depending on whom you are talking to. There are a lot of topics about God we can discuss, but we don't necessarily discuss the same topic with everyone. For example, you wouldn't ask someone who doesn't know about God to help you understand a Bible story, but you could tell someone who doesn't know God why God is important to you.

•• **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Timer or mobile device (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Pair kids up.
- Ask kids to think of one of their friends.
- Give kids one minute each to tell their partners about their friend.
 - If kids need prompting, give them an example by telling them about a friend of yours.
 - Maybe share how long you have been friends, your friend's hobbies, what you like to do together, how often you see them, etc.
- After "introductions" are done, discuss as a group:
 - When you talked about your friend, what kind of information did you share about that friend?
 - How did you meet your friend for the first time?
 - Can you think of an adjective to describe your friend's personality? Are they funny or serious, kind or wise?
 - How does your friend treat you? Do they listen to you or do they ignore you? Do they encourage you or do they make fun of you?
 - Why do you like to be around your friend?
- Set the scene for a role-play activity with the kids.
 - Explain that you will be playing the role of someone who doesn't know God.
 - Ask the group work together to tell you about God, to introduce you to God.
 - Be prepared to ask questions to prompt them if necessary.
 - Encourage them to think about the types of things they said to introduce their friends.

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

JANUARY
21/24
2018

GRADE 4-5
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Who can you talk to about your faith? Who can you share with about what God is doing in your life?
 - Who needs to hear about God for the first time? Who can you invite to church?
 - Who is a safe person you can talk to when you have questions about God or your faith?

•• VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Bible, index cards, pens

What You Do:

- Pair kids up and give each pair an index card and a pen.
- Give each pair a verse to look up. (*Instruct them to write their verse reference on the index card before they look up the verse.*)
 - Hebrews 10:25 (*encourage one another and talk to others who believe in God*)
 - 1 Chronicles 16:12 (*talk about what God has done*)
 - Romans 1:12 (*encourage the faith of others and talk about what God is doing*)
 - 1 Peter 3:15 (*be ready to talk about why God is important to you and do it with gentle words*)
- Challenge each group to read their verse and, together in their own words, summarize what God says about what we should talk about and/or how we should talk about God with others.
- After they've done this, let pairs take turns reading their verse to the group and sharing with the group what they came up with for their paraphrase.
- Using the list of people from the "Snapshot" activity, challenge kids to create a scenario where they "live out" one of the above verses and talk about God with the person from the list.
 - Kids can continue to work in pair or in larger groups.
 - If necessary, prompt kids by saying, "Your friend just told you he has never been to church and doesn't know anything about God. Which of the verses we discussed might be helpful for you to start a conversation with your friend? What could you say to your friend?"

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to review their lists of people they could talk to about God.
 - Is there someone who needs to hear about God?
 - Or maybe they have some questions; is there someone they could ask?
 - What about a friend who goes to church but they've never had a conversation about God with this friend?
- Challenge kids to pick a person from their lists and commit to having a conversation with them about God.
- Close with prayer...

What You Say: "Dear God, you are amazing! There is no one who we can't talk to about you! Help us to see opportunities to talk with others about what you have done and what you are doing. Give us courage to boldly tell people why you matter to us and to use words that are gentle and respectful. God, you love us so much! Help us to tell others about your love for us and for the whole world! Amen!"

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, pass out **Parent Cue** cards to any adult who has not yet received one this month.