



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.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

What You Need: “All About Me” activity sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- As kids arrive, hand out the “All About Me” activity sheet and crayons and help them work on it.

What You Say: “When you meet someone it’s good to let them know your name, isn’t it? What are some other things you want people to know about you? Where you’re from? What you like to do? Let’s work on the “All About Me” activity sheet about some of those important things.”



•• WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT WHO

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

What You Need: “What You Know About Who” cards

What You Do:

- Invite a child to pick a card and show it to the group.
- Work together as a group to call out as many things as possible that you know about the person depicted.
- You can call out general things you know about people in those categories, or if you know someone specific, you can talk about that person as well.
- Continue as time remains.

What You Say: “You guys certainly know a lot about doctors and firefighters and football players and astronauts and superheroes! You told me a lot about them! **[Transition]** In our Bible story today we’ll hear/we heard about someone else you can tell others about, too.

[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.

•• WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bible, “Who Do You Say That I Am?” activity pages, scissors, glue sticks, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Who Do You Say I That Am?” activity page.
- Help kids cut out the speech bubbles at the bottom of the page.
- Read today’s Bible story to your group (*Matthew 16:13-20*) or simply review the Bible story told during worship.
- Guide kids to point to the first panel of the comic strip.
- Read for them the first question Jesus asked his disciples.
- Help them to glue the appropriate speech bubble in the correct panel.
- Continue with the other panels. Provide as much help as necessary.
- When everyone finishes, retell the story together.
- Kids can color the comic strip as time allows.

What You Say: “Jesus asked his disciples the most important question anyone could ever ask. He asked them, ‘Who do YOU say that I am?’ What did Peter answer? (*Pause.*) Yes! Peter said, ‘You are the Messiah. You are God’s Son!’

“Some of you may know and believe that Jesus is the Savior and God’s Son, and some of you may have questions about who he is. That’s okay. The important thing to remember is to practice talking about God. **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about a time you talked with someone about God. Tell how it helped you know God more.)*

“So this week, find someone you trust, and talk to them about what you believe. Ask questions and talk about things you don’t



understand. Because the more you practice talking about God, the more it helps you understand who God is and how much God loves you. So remember: **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**"

●● **GOD IS...** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Dice, "God is..." activity sheet

What You Do:

- Place the "God is..." activity sheet in the center of your table.
- Divide your group into four teams, one team for each word on the sheet. Make sure everyone knows their team number.
- Roll the die.

—If the die lands on one through four, lead the kids on the team number that was rolled to call out the word and do one of the activities listed in their corner while they do.

—If you roll a five or six, guide each kiddo to call out any of the four words they want and do any of the activities while they do.

- Add variety by directing the kids to answer in different voices (*whisper, robot, baby, squeaky mouse, or pirate*) or while doing different moves (*jumping jacks, hopping on one foot, or pretending to be an animal*).

What You Say: "Wow! God is love. God is patient, kind, and good. And this same amazing God sent Jesus to be our Savior. God sent Jesus to show us how much God loves us and to teach us how to love others. Wow!"

"An important thing to remember is to practice talking about God. Find someone you trust, and talk to them about what you believe. Ask them questions and talk about things you don't understand. Because the more you practice talking about God, the more it helps you understand who God is and how much God loves you. So remember: **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**"

●● **PRACTICE TELLING OTHERS** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: "Verse Bubble Maze" activity pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a "Verse Bubble Maze" activity page.
- Guide the kids to use their fingers to trace the path through the maze. Then distribute the crayons and invite the kids to draw the path.
- When they finish, lead them to again follow the path with their fingers, this time saying the words of the verse aloud as they go. (*If you have early or pre-readers, hold up the maze so everyone can see it as you trace the path and say the words. Then invite kids to do the same themselves.*)

What You Say: "One way we can practice being godly is by talking about God. Because when we talk about God, it not only helps others know more about God, but it also helps us know more about God, too."

"Who is someone you can talk to about God this week? (*Pause for responses.*) What can you ask them or tell them about God? (*Pause.*) Remember: **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**"



PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Ball-pit ball

What You Do:

- Guide the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one child the ball-pit ball.
—Guide him to toss the ball to another child, say hello, and say something true about God: “Hello, Simone. God loves you.”
—That child replies, “Thank you, Jordan, for telling me God loves me.”
—She then tosses the ball-pit ball to another child, says hello, and tells another truth about God.
- **HINT:** Don’t hesitate to whisper hints or answers to kids who are shy or stuck. Remind them of the “God is...” activity for some ideas.

What You Say: “Great job! You just practiced talking about God! These are all quick sentences that we can use throughout the day to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids someone you will talk to about God and what you might tell them.)**

“Let’s pray. Dear Lord, thank you for loving us. Thank you for coming to show us how to live. Thank you for forgiving us. Help us to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God** so that others would know about you, too. Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, pass out **Parent Cue** cards to any adult who hasn’t received one yet this month. Encourage kids to tell their parents one thing about God.