



WEEK 3

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah

Bible Story: Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Bottom Line: You can TALK with others about what you believe.

Memory Verse: “Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.” *Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)*

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

ACTIVITY 1. Focus!

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

What You Need: “Focus Cards” (Activity Pages)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of five or six. IF YOUR CHILD IS ALONE, PLAY WITH THEM.
- Do the following for each group:
 - Shuffle two sets of “Focus Cards” together.
 - Lay cards face down on the floor in a grid pattern.
- Tell kids they are going to play a matching game and it is important to be focused to win.
- Explain that each card is a picture from the Bible story. The pictures could answer Jesus’ question, “Who do people say I am?”
- Guide kids to play a game:
 - Kids take turns flipping over two cards and trying to find a match.
 - To keep things moving quickly, kids get only one turn, even if they find a match.
 - The kid with the most matches wins.
- After each group’s winner has been declared, gather all the kids together and lay out one of each of the “Focus Cards” face up.
- Challenge the group to identify who people say Jesus is from each of the pictures. Listed below are examples with potential discussion questions:
 - Stethoscope = Jesus is a healer
 - Person serving a tray of food = Jesus feeds the poor
 - Heart = Jesus is love
 - Candle or light bulb = Jesus is light
 - Sheep = Jesus is a shepherd (Why is Jesus referred to as a shepherd? *Just like a shepherd takes care of sheep, Jesus takes care of us*)
 - Open Bible = Jesus is a teacher or preacher of the Good News (What is the Good News? *That Jesus made a way we can be with God now and forever*)
 - Megaphone = Jesus is a prophet (What is a prophet? *A messenger who speaks directly for God*)
 - Elijah = Jesus is the prophet Elijah returning to earth
 - John the Baptist = Jesus is John the Baptist returning to earth (Who is John the Baptist? *John baptized Jesus and spent his life preparing people for Jesus’ teachings*)

What You Say:

“Great job focusing on the cards to find all the matches. In our story, people thought Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, or a prophet. Often, when people talk about Jesus today, they say He is a healer, He feeds the poor, He is our Shepherd, or He’s a teacher. But we are missing a card for Peter’s response to Jesus. When Jesus asked Peter, *Who do you say I am?* Peter said, *You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:15-16 NIV)*. Peter recognized Jesus as God’s Son. Peter recognized Jesus as the One sent by God to rescue all of us. And when Jesus asked Peter what he believed, Peter answered Him. You can be like Peter, too, and **[Bottom Line] you can TALK with others about what you believe.** The more you TALK about what you believe, the more you can learn from others and the more others can learn from you.”

ACTIVITY 2. Talk with Others

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

What You Need: “All About God” (Activity Page) cards with the “our Savior” card set aside, prepared speech bubble, construction paper numbered one through four, die, tape

What You Do:

- Post the speech bubble on a focal wall or in a spot where the kids can see it from different parts of the environment.
- Point to the speech bubble, and ask kids what the shape is called (a speech bubble).
- Ask kids if they know what a speech bubble does (it tells you what someone says).
- Tell kids they’re going to play a game where they’ll learn some things they can say about God.
- Lead the group in a variation of the game “Four Corners.”
 - To begin, place a COLORED SHEET OF PAPER WITH A NUMBER ON IT in each “corner” of your environment.
 - Place four “All About God” fact strips face down in near each.
 - Reserve the “our Savior” card for conversation. (See below.)
 - Play music and guide kids to mingle around the room.
 - When you stop the music, kids quickly move to the corners of their choice.
 - Roll the die.
 - If the die lands on one, two, three, or four, lead a child in that corner to choose a fact strip and “read” it (or choose a friend to read it).
 - If you roll a five or six, guide a child from EACH group to choose and read a fact strip.
 - Post the strip(s) on the speech bubble.
 - Play until each strip is posted or as time allows.

What You Say:

“Wow! God is (*point to and read each fact strip aloud, encouraging kids to read with you*). And this same amazing God sent His Son to be your Savior. He sent Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life so that your sins can be forgiven and so that you can live forever with Him. So not only is God loving and good and faithful and perfect and kind, He is also our Savior! (*Post the ‘our Savior’ card.*) Wow!

“You may not understand all of this now. And that’s okay. But you if you have questions, **[Bottom Line] you can TALK (cup hands around mouth) with others about what you believe.** It’s especially good to talk with people you know who love Jesus—like your parents, grandparents, or your leaders here at church. Because the more **[Bottom Line] you can TALK (cup hands around mouth) with others about what you believe,** the more you can learn from them and they can learn from you. So remember: **[Bottom Line] you can TALK (cup hands around mouth) with others about what you believe!**”

ACTIVITY 3. Staying Focused

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN YOUR BOX

What You Need: “Verse Sheet” (Activity Page), box of 24 color crayons

What You Do:

- Follow the color code to color all 22 different letters and 2 different numbers.

What You Say:

“As you work on keeping your focus to color the verse, talk about ways you can share with others what you believe. When we talk to each other about what we believe, it also helps us to know Jesus better. Our memory verse starts with: *Let us keep looking to Jesus (Hebrews 12:2 NIV)*. In our Bible story today, when we take a closer look at Jesus, we see that Jesus encouraged Peter to share what he believed. So keep looking to Jesus and remember **[Bottom Line]** you can TALK with others about what you believe.”

AMAZING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS

If you have 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Which word or phrase do you feel is key to the meaning of Hebrews 12:2? Explain why.
- What are some reasons why Jesus should be the focus of our faith?
- What can we do to keep our eyes or our focus on Jesus?

ACTIVITY 4. WRAP UP w Focus Notebooks and 3D glasses

What You Need: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook or index card.
- Show kids how to use the 3D glasses to focus on the pages in the book.
- Encourage kids to use the glasses and look on Page 10 to read the Bottom Line for today.
- Ask kids to write on the top of page 11, “I believe . . .” *Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.*
- Encourage kids to finish the sentence with what they believe about Jesus.
 - Prompt them by asking what adjectives would you use to describe Jesus or what stories they know about Jesus.
 - Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.
- Challenge kids to write (in their Focus Notebook) questions they may have about Jesus.

What You Say:

“Maybe you have questions about what you believe or maybe, like Peter, you believe Jesus is your Messiah and you have asked Him to be your rescuer, and you know you are connected with God now and forever. It is important to remember as you learn more that **[Bottom Line]** you can TALK with others about what you believe. Let’s pray.

“God, thank You so much for this story about Jesus. Jesus encouraged Peter to talk about what he believed, and You want us to talk about You, too. We know when we talk with others, we can get a closer look and discover who You are and all that Jesus did for us. We know, like Peter, we are not perfect. There are times we don’t do what You want and we don’t listen to You. We are so thankful You sent us Jesus to be our rescuer. And when we believe in Jesus, we can be with You now and forever! Thank You for loving us so much You want to be with us. Amen!”

(Put Focus Notebooks back in the box for next week)