MYSTERY MANOR

Week 5

Welcome to Week 5 of our Mystery Manor Devo! This week we are learning about how God is in control of everything. He not only created the entire universe but also is in control of every little detail of our lives because He cares for us & loves us. He is all-powerful and all-knowing. He knows our thoughts before we even think them! He loves us so very much.

Day 1: You Can't Run From God

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:1-6

Devotional:

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and deliver a message. Jonah didn't want to go, so he ran the opposite direction and got on a ship. But God sent a powerful storm. Jonah learned that no matter how far he traveled, he couldn't escape God. Sometimes we act like Jonah. Maybe God wants us to tell the truth, be kind to someone, forgive a friend, or obey our parents. But we don't feel like it. So we "run" in little ways — pretending not to hear, making excuses, or hoping God won't notice. Here's the truth: God isn't chasing us to punish us. He follows us because He loves us too much to let us go the wrong way.

When God asks us to obey, it's always for our good. Running only makes life harder. Trusting makes life better. Even though it can be tempting to act like Jonah did and run from God and what He is asking us to do we have to remember that God is in control. He loves us and wants the best for us. Instead of running against God...we should run TO God. He knows us better than we even know ourselves.

Discussion:

1. What is something you know God wants you to do this week?
2. Why is it hard to obey sometimes?

Prayer:

God, help me obey You right away instead of running away. Thank You for loving me wherever I go. Amen.

Day 2: God is Bigger Than the Storm

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:7-16

Devotional:

The storm grew worse and worse. The sailors were terrified. They finally decided that it was Jonah's fault that the storm was so bad. They decided to throw Jonah overboard in hopes that it would calm down the storm. When Jonah was thrown into the sea, the storm instantly stopped. God controlled both the wind and the waves.

Storms don't only happen in the ocean.

We have storms in our lives too...fights with friends, scary doctor visits, school struggles, family problems, or worries at bedtime.

These storms can make our hearts feel shaky, just like the boat. But remember: the same God who controls the ocean controls your life. Nothing surprises Him. Nothing is too big for Him. Nothing is out of His hands. Even when you feel afraid, you are safe with God. You may not always control what happens — but you can trust the One who does. He has good plans for all of His children and He is looking out for you.

Discussion:

1. What feels like a storm in your life right now? If you don't have something current, what have felt like storms in the past?
2. How can you give that worry to God?

Prayer:

God, when I feel scared or worried, remind me that You are bigger than any problem. Help me trust You. I know that You are trustworthy & true. Thank You for keeping me safe. Amen.

Day 3: God Hears You Anywhere

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:17-2:10

Devotional:

God sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Can you imagine how scary that would be? Living in a fish's belly for three days doesn't sound fun. During those three days inside the fish, Jonah prayed. God heard him and rescued him by having the fish spit him onto dry land. Jonah prayed in the strangest place ever — inside a fish! That shows us something amazing...there is nowhere you can be where God can't hear you. He hears you at school, under your covers at night, in the car, at practice, when you feel lonely, and when you mess up. You don't need fancy words. You don't need a special place. Just talk to God. He listens every time. Sometimes God changes our situation. Sometimes He changes our heart first. But He always hears.

Jonah knew that even after he had messed up and tried to run away from God that He would still hear Jonah's prayer...and He did! He hears our prayers too because He loves us.

Discussion:

1. When is a good time for you to pray?
2. What is something you can talk to God about today?

Prayer:

God, thank You that You always hear me. Help me remember to talk to You about everything. Help me to also be willing and ready to listen to you and read Your Word. Amen.

Day 4: God Gives Second Chances

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

Devotional:

God gave Jonah another chance to obey. This time Jonah went to Nineveh. The people listened, said sorry, and turned to God. God forgave them and spared the city. Isn't it amazing that God didn't give up on Jonah? He could have chosen someone else. But instead, He said, "Let's try again." That's what God does for us too. We mess up. We disobey. We make mistakes.

And God says, "Come back. Try again. I still love you." God doesn't look for perfect kids. He looks for willing hearts. And just like He cared about Nineveh, He cares about everyone — even people who seem different from us or far from Him. Because God is in control, we can trust His love and obey Him the first time.

Activity:

Second Chance Hearts:

Supplies:

- Paper hearts
- Crayons/markers

What to Do:

- On one side, write or draw a mistake you've made. On the other side, write: "God gives second chances!"

Talk about how God forgives and helps us start fresh.

Prayer:

God, thank You for never giving up on me. Help me obey You and show mercy to others too. We love You! Amen.

Memory Verse

"But without faith no one can please God. We must believe that God is real and rewards everyone who searches for him." Hebrews 11:6 (CEV)