

2nd-3rd

Small Group

Day 1

Small Group Leader Guide Day 1

Today's Bible Story

Jesus calls His disciples
Luke 5:1-11

Bottom Line

Jesus is the way.

Memory Verse

**"Jesus spoke to the people again.
He said, 'I am the light of the world.
Anyone who follows me will never
walk in darkness. They will have
that light. They will have life'"**
(John 8:12 NIV).

FOR TODAY



Groups

Creating a safe place to connect

1. Jesus is the Way
2. Because You Say So!
3. Fishin' for God's Word
4. Pray

Home

Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card
- [Parent Cue App](#)



EveryChild Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

GROUPS 1/4

Jesus is the Way



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- White cardstock
- Large white crayon
- Plastic tablecloth
- Watercolor paint or diluted food coloring
- Large paint brush or sponge
- Cups of water
- Paper towels

① What You Do

1. Before group time, write the Bottom Line on four pieces of white cardstock with white crayon: Jesus is the way! Create one set of four for each small group.
2. Lay out the plastic tablecloth and gather the kids around it.
3. Set the white cardstock with secret messages on top.
4. Say, “These posters might look blank, but there’s something here we can’t see yet... kind of like how Peter didn’t see any fish at first. Let’s see what it is!”
5. Let kids take turns brushing water/paint over the pieces of cardstock to reveal the hidden message.
6. As the letters are revealed, invite the kids to share what they think they see.
7. Say, “Peter trusted Jesus. Even though he had been fishing all night and caught nothing! He trusted Jesus and everything changed!”

Ask

1. What was Peter doing when Jesus found him? (Answer: Peter was fishing—he had fished all night and caught nothing.)
2. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? (Answer: Jesus told him to throw his nets back into the water, even though it didn’t make sense to Peter because he had already tried all night.)
3. Why do you think Peter trusted Jesus, even when he was tired? (Answer: Peter trusted Jesus, so even though he didn’t feel like trying again, he obeyed!)
4. How did Peter respond after the big catch? (Answer: He was amazed! He realized Jesus was the Son of God and chose to follow Him.)
5. What would you do if Jesus asked you to follow Him today? (Let kids answer.)

Continued on the next page. →

EveryChild Tips



Perform this experiment around a table instead of on the floor to make it more accessible.

GROUPS 1/4

Jesus is the Way



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- White cardstock
- Large white crayon
- Plastic tablecloth
- Watercolor paint or diluted food coloring
- Large paint brush or sponge
- Cups of water
- Paper towels

② What You Say

“Peter probably felt super tired and maybe even a little grumpy. He had worked hard and caught nothing. But when Jesus said to try again, Peter didn’t argue. He listened and trusted Jesus anyway—just because Jesus said so. And BOOM! Jesus gave him more than he ever expected! He caught SO MANY FISH! It was so many that it filled two boats, and the boats were so full they started to sink! But the best part is that Jesus gave Peter a brand-new mission.

Right then and there, Simon Peter left everything behind and chose to follow Jesus completely. That’s what the Kingdom of God is all about—it’s good news! And when we follow Jesus, we get to be part of it too. That’s why we say Jesus is the way. He doesn’t just help us when we’re stuck—He gives us a new path, a better one!”

EveryChild Tips



Perform this experiment around a table instead of on the floor to make it more accessible.

GROUPS 2/4

Because You Say So!



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Luke 5:5
- "Action Cards" Activity Page
- Bean bags
- Cones
- Floor tape
- Optional: Glow sticks or glow tape

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, mark a start line and finish line in your group area.
 - Optional: Use glow sticks or glow tape to mark the lines!
2. Gather the kids together.
3. Invite a kid to read Luke 5:5 aloud.
4. Say, "In today's story, Peter had fished all night...and caught nothing! But when Jesus told him to try again, Peter listened. He didn't argue. He didn't ask for proof. He said, 'Because You say so.' That's called TRUST!"
5. Explain how to play:
 - You will show kids a card from the "Action Card" Activity Pages, and the kids must perform the action without asking 'why?'
 - You will occasionally throw in scenarios where kids can share how they might respond.
6. Call out one action or scenario at a time.
7. Celebrate each attempt and keep the game playful.
8. After a few rounds, gather the group to discuss.
9. Ask:
 - Was it hard to follow directions without knowing why?
 - Why do you think Peter listened to Jesus, even when it didn't make sense?

Make it Personal: Share an age-appropriate "Because You say so!" Jesus moment with your group. Maybe you share about the moment you put your trust in Jesus! Or maybe you share about a time God told you to do something that felt uncomfortable.

Continued on the next page. →

EveryChild Tips



Offer action alternatives for a version with less movement
(For example, instead of "frog hop", try, "raise your arms."
Instead of crawling, "clap three times.")

GROUPS 2/4

Because You Say So!



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Luke 5:5
- “Action Cards” Activity Page
- Bean bags
- Cones
- Floor tape
- Optional: Glow sticks or glow tape

② What You Say

“Way to go, friends! That was so fun. And kind of silly, right? But let’s be real: sometimes doing what you’re told, especially when it doesn’t make sense, can feel... hard. Has that ever happened to you? (*Invite responses.*)

Peter had been fishing all night with zero fish. Then Jesus said, ‘Try again.’ And guess what? Peter didn’t roll his eyes. He didn’t say, ‘Nah, I’m good.’ He just said, ‘Because You say so.’ That’s trust.

Peter trusted Jesus, and it changed everything. He saw a miracle. He left his boat and nets. He followed Jesus—and his whole life was different after that! Here’s the best part: Jesus wants to have that same kind of relationship with YOU. He loves you so much and wants you on His team forever. But He won’t make you. You have to choose.

When we do things our way instead of God’s way, that’s called sin. Sin keeps us far from God. But Jesus came to fix that. He died on the cross to take care of our sin, and then...He came back to life! Jesus made a way for us to be close to God again, forever. That’s why we say: Jesus is the way.

So, when Jesus asks us to do something kind or brave or new (***even if we don’t totally understand***), we can say, ‘Okay, Jesus... because You say so.’ We can pray and ask for help. We can talk to leaders or adults who follow Jesus. We don’t have to figure it out on our own. Because when we follow Jesus, we don’t walk in darkness; we walk in His light! Every single time. Jesus is trustworthy. Jesus is the way.”



EveryChild Tips

Offer action alternatives for a version with less movement (*For example, instead of “frog hop”, try, “raise your arms.” Instead of crawling, “clap three times.”*)

GROUPS 3/4

Fishin' for God's Word

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Large blue sheet or posterboard ("water")
- Prepared "John 8:12 Fish" Activity Pages
- Prepared dowel or rod with a magnet end
- Floor tape
- Optional: Glow sticks or glow tape
- Optional: "John 8:12 Dive" Activity Page



EveryChild Tips

Display a completed version of the verse so kids can follow and match the words to create the verse.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin:
 - Lay out the blue sheet or kraft paper (the 'sea') and scatter two sets of "John 8:12 Fish" Activity Page cards on top.
 - Mark a start line for each group a few feet away from the 'sea' with floor tape (optional: mark the start lines with glow sticks or glow tape!)
2. Divide the kids into two teams and give each team:
 - A prepared dowel ('fishing rod')
 - A Bible
3. Invite the teams to look up John 8:12 together using the Bible Navigation tips.
4. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
- ③ When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
- ⑤ Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

Play Together

1. Say, "Today, your team will go searching for parts of our memory verse, John 8:12. One at a time, you will travel to the 'sea,' pick up a fish with your rod, and bring it back to your group! Let's see how quickly your team can put the words of John 8:12 in order!"
2. Point out the numbers on the cards to help kids as they play.
3. Once both teams have the verse pieces in order, repeat the verse together.
4. Optional: Dive deeper into John 8:12 with your group using the "John 8:12 Dive" Activity Page.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 3/4

Fishin' for God's Word

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Large blue sheet or posterboard (“water”)
- Prepared “John 8:12 Fish” Activity Pages
- Prepared dowel or rod with a magnet end
- Floor tape
- Optional: Glow sticks or glow tape
- Optional: “John 8:12 Dive” Activity Page



② What You Say

“Whoa—look at those verses you just reeled in! You were like fishing pros out there. These weren’t ordinary fish, though. These had something **WAY** more powerful on them—God’s Word! And God’s Word is always **TRUE** and full of power! Let’s read our verse together one more time. (**Repeat the verse together.**)

That’s Jesus talking. And when Jesus says something... we can trust it! He’s not just telling us what to do. Jesus is inviting us into something amazing. He’s showing us the way to live! The truth is that sometimes the world can feel dark. Like when we’re scared, confused, or things just don’t feel fair. But Jesus doesn’t leave us in that darkness. He lights the way! He helps us see what’s good and right and full of life. That’s why we say: Jesus is the way! Let’s all say that together: **JESUS IS THE WAY! (Let kids shout it or say it in silly voices—have fun with it!)** And when you’re not sure what to do at home, at school, or even with friends—remember this verse. Remember the light Jesus gives you when you choose to follow Him. You don’t have to figure things out alone. You’ve got a verse full of truth, a Savior full of love, and a team (**that’s US!**) all on this Kingdom Quest together.”



EveryChild Tips

Display a completed version of the verse so kids can follow and match the words to create the verse.

2nd–3rd

Small Group

Day 1

GROUPS 4/4

Pray

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- Scissors
- “Quest Log” with “Quest Stickers”
- Optional: “Kingdom Quest Log” Activity Page, “Quest Log Steps” Activity Page, scissors, and a prepared Kingdom Quest Log example

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase board
- Dry-erase marker



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Ask: “What do you think it means to pray?”
3. Explain that praying is talking to God. We don’t have to use special words. We can tell God anything, any time!
4. Set out the coloring supplies and pencils.
5. Give every kid a “Quest Log” (if not purchasing the product, use the “Kingdom Quest Log” Activity Page instructions below from here).
6. Explain that this guide can help them talk to God as they continue an epic journey to discover God’s kingdom.
7. Set out the coloring supplies and pencils.
8. Direct the kids to write their names on the front of their log.
9. Walk with the kids through the Day 1-page prompts.
10. Give them several minutes to quietly write a prayer.
11. Close in prayer together.

Continued on the next page. →

EveryChild Tips



Write prayer starters (*found on the next page*) on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- “Quest Log” with “Quest Stickers”
- Optional: prepared “Kingdom Quest Log” books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase board
- Dry-erase marker



② What You Say

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and sending Jesus to show us the way! Sometimes it’s hard to know what to do or where to go. But we know that when we follow Jesus, we’re on the right path. God, we want to be like Peter. Even when we feel unsure, tired, or nervous, help us trust You and say, ‘Yes! I’ll follow You!’ Thank You for calling us to be part of Your Kingdom. We know You have good plans for us, and we want to walk in Your light every day. We love You, and we’re thankful that we don’t have to figure things out alone. We pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen!”

Travel Time → As you travel to the next track, use the camp chant to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

Jesus is the way—I follow His light! **(Kids repeat)**
 Called on a quest to do what’s right! **(Kids repeat)**
 Step by step, I trust and obey! **(Kids repeat)**
 His Kingdom grows in me each day! **(Kids repeat)**



EveryChild Tips

Write the following prayer starters on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

Dear God, sometimes it’s hard to know which way to go. Help me follow You when _____.

Dear God, thank You for calling me to follow You. Remind me that You are _____ when I struggle to say yes to Your way.

God, I know You have a plan for me! Show me the way when I feel _____.

Getting Ready

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for Small Group Rotation for today.

Home

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: Parent Cue App

Groups

1. Jesus is the Way

- Prepared white cardstock with 'secret messages'
- White cardstock, four pieces for each Small Group
- Large white crayon, one for each Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- Watercolor paint or diluted food coloring, four for each Small Group
- Large paint brush or sponge, eight for each Small Group
- Cup of water, four for each Small Group
- Paper towels, one for every kid

2. Because You Say So!

- Bible marked at Luke 5:5, one for each Small Group
- Print "Action Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Bean bags, five for each Small Group
- Cones, five for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Optional: Glow sticks or glow tape to mark the start and finish lines

3. Fishin' for God's Word

- Large blue sheet or posterboard ("water"), one for each Small Group
- Print "John 8:12 Fish" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Dowel sticks, two for each Small Group
- Magnet stickers (like this: bit.ly/3ENOEMJ), 12 for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Assemble two fishing rods using the dowel stick, string, and magnet stickers.
 - Secure a magnet sticker on the back of each "John 8:12 Fish" card with a hot glue device or a piece of tape
- Yarn or string, one roll for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Optional: Glow sticks or glow tape
- Optional: Print "John 8:12 Dive" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader

4. Pray

- Coloring Supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Pencils, one for every kid
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"; one for every kid
- Optional: Print "Kingdom Quest Log" Activity Page on 11×17-inch paper, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
 - Before group time, assemble a Kingdom Quest Log using the Quest Log Steps
- Optional: Print "Quest Log Steps" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- Optional: Scissors, one pair for every kid
- EveryChild Supplies: dry erase board and dry erase marker

2nd–3rd

Small Group

Day 2

Small Group Leader Guide Day 2

Today's Bible Story

Jesus walks on water
Matthew 14:22–33

Bottom Line

Jesus is with me.

Memory Verse

**"Jesus spoke to the people again.
He said, 'I am the light of the world.
Anyone who follows me will never
walk in darkness. They will have
that light. They will have life'"**
(John 8:12 NIRV).

FOR TODAY



Groups

Creating a safe place to connect

1. Storyboard
2. Step by Step
3. Verse Quest
4. Pray

Home

Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card
- [Parent Cue App](#)



EveryChild Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional EveryChild tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each VBS segment.

GROUPS 1/4

Storyboard

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Matthew 14:22-33
- Butcher paper or posterboard
- Coloring supplies



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids around a large piece of poster board or butcher paper.
2. Explain that the group will work together to draw today's true story from the Bible, like a storyboard!
3. Read or paraphrase the story from Matthew 14:22–33.
4. As you read, pause to let kids draw each of the following scenes on the poster.
 - Jesus sends the disciples in the boat (Matthew 14:22)
 - The storm begins (Matthew 14:24)
 - Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14:25-26)
 - Peter steps out of the boat (Matthew 14:28–29)
 - Peter sinks (Matthew 14:30)
 - Jesus rescues Peter (Matthew 14:31)
 - They return to the boat (Matthew 14:32–33)
5. Call on various kids to assist with each part.
6. Once the group is finished, you should have one big story board masterpiece!
7. Talk together about how this true story shows them who Jesus is and what it means to trust Him.

② What You Say

“Wow! What a wild story! Waves, wind, walking on water?! Let's look at each picture we drew and think about what it shows us about Jesus and how we can trust Him. ***(Briefly walk through the pictures together.)*** Jesus didn't need perfect faith from Peter ... He just wanted Peter to trust Him. That's true for us too. Jesus sees us, even in the storm. We can be reminded that Jesus is more powerful than any storm we might face. And, we can trust that Jesus is always with us! Remember this: Jesus is with me. Say it with me: Jesus is with me!”



EveryChild Tips

Consider using guided questions to assist the kids as they draw. Examples:

- “How do you think Peter felt stepping out on the water? Use your answer to draw his facial expression.”
- “What do you think the disciples saw when Jesus walked out into the storm?”

GROUPS 2/4

Step by Step

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Colored construction paper
- Pencils or pens
- Markers
- Optional: Stickers or Stamps

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Pre-cut footprints



① What You Do

1. Give every kid a piece of construction paper, a pencil, and a pair of scissors.
2. Demonstrate how to trace the outline of your foot or shoe onto the paper and cut it out.
3. Once every kid has cut out their footprint, explain:
 - Say, “Peter and Jesus walked on water—that’s pretty wild! But we won’t be doing that. (That’s not safe!) Still, there are times we need to step into something new or uncertain... like a new school, a big test, or doing something we know God wants us to do. That’s when we can remember that Jesus is with us!”
4. Invite the kids to:
 - Think of one fear, challenge, or big step they need to trust Jesus with.
 - Write it on their footprint.
 - (Examples: “moving,” “apologizing to a friend,” “stage fright,” “trying something new,” “choosing to follow Jesus.”)
5. Set out the markers (and optional: stickers) for the kids to decorate.
6. Encourage them to add words like “Jesus is with me,” or “I’m never alone!” on the foot print.

② What You Say

“Peter stepped out onto real water—that took faith! He kept his eyes on Jesus, and for a moment, he walked on the waves! But when he started focusing on the storm around him, he got scared and began to sink. We won’t be stepping onto a lake like Peter did, but we all face things that feel just as big. A new school, a tough conversation, a challenge we didn’t expect ... those things can feel like storms, too!

But here’s the truth: Jesus is with you! Just like He reached out to Peter, He reaches for you too, friends. When you remember Jesus is close, you can take that next step even if it’s scary. Your footprint reminds you that you’re walking with Jesus. And He won’t let you go. Say it with me: Jesus is with me!”

EveryChild Tips



To support kids with their fine-motor skills, pre-cut several footprints.

If writing is difficult for your group, let kids draw their fears, challenges, or ‘big steps’ or use sticky notes to write with a leader’s help.

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Quest

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- “Verse Dice” Activity Page on cardstock, cut apart, and assemble; three for each Small Group
- “Verse Cards” Activity Page on paper and cut apart, three sets for each Small Group

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Laminator (consider laminating the cards for durability and easy handling.)



EveryChild Tips

Based on the needs of your group, play this game at a table or on the floor.

Consider laminating the cards before group time to make them more durable and easier for the kids to handle.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into three teams.
2. Invite each team to form a circle.
3. Give each team a “Verse Dice” and a set of cards from the “Verse Cards” Activity Page.
4. Explain how to play:
 - One at a time, kids will roll the dice.
 - If they roll the next piece of the verse in correct order (Card 1, then 2, etc.), they collect that card and place it in front of their team.
 - If they already have that piece or roll out of order, they pass the dice to the next teammate.
 - First team to collect all 10 cards in the correct order wins.
5. Once a team finishes the verse, have them say it together using one of these fun options:
 - Whisper it like a secret agent.
 - Clap between each word.
 - Say it together loud!
6. Celebrate the teams!
7. Gather the group together to discuss.

② What You Say

“Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, ‘I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.’” (**John 8:12 NIV**).

Let’s think about what that means, friends: In our Bible story (**Matthew 14:22–33**), Peter walked on the water with Jesus. But when he saw the storm, he got scared and sank. But Jesus didn’t leave him! He was right there to help! That’s what this verse is all about. Even when things around us feel confusing, uncertain, or scary... Jesus is our light. He helps us see the way. He never leaves us, just like He didn’t leave Peter. Find a friend or two to high-five, and let’s say our Bottom Line together again: Jesus is with me!

2nd-3rd

Small Group

Day 2

GROUPS 4/4

Pray

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"
- Optional: Prepared "Kingdom Quest Log" Books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase board
- Dry-erase marker



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Ask: Have you prayed before? If so, what do you pray about?
3. Share that prayer means talking to God. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything! He loves to hear from us.
4. Pass out the "Quest Log" to returning kids and hand out new ones to first timers.
5. Explain that this log can help them talk to God as they continue on an epic journey to discover God's kingdom.
6. Encourage kids to write their names on their book. (Assist as needed.)
7. Show the kids the Day 2 page.
8. Give them several minutes to draw their self-portrait.
9. In the blank space, write or draw a prayer to God.
10. After a few minutes, talk about the places the kids in your group go, where Jesus is with them. Remind kids that Jesus is with you wherever you go.
11. If using the "Quest Log," add your sticker that says, "Jesus is with me."
12. Collect every kid's log and put aside for the next day.
13. Close in prayer.

Continued on the next page. →



EveryChild Tips

Write prayer starters (**found on the next page**) on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- “Quest Log” with “Quest Stickers”
- Optional: Prepared “Kingdom Quest Log” Books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase board
- Dry-erase marker



② Prayer

“Dear God, thank You for always being close to us! Even when things feel stormy or confusing, You never leave us. You came to help Peter when he was afraid, and You help us too. Please remind us that You are with us at school, at home, and everywhere we go. I pray for any friends today who choose to follow You. Remind them that they are never alone! Help us keep our eyes on You and trust You. We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus’ name, Amen!”

Travel Time → As you travel to the next track, use the camp chant to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

Jesus is the way—I follow His light! **(Kids repeat)**
 Called on a quest to do what’s right! **(Kids repeat)**
 Step by step, I trust and obey! **(Kids repeat)**
 His Kingdom grows in me each day! **(Kids repeat)**



EveryChild Tips

Write the following prayer starters on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

Dear God, I feel scared when _____. Thank You for being with me.

Jesus, help me trust You when _____.

Jesus, remind me You are with me at _____.

Getting Ready

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for Small Group Rotation for today.

Home

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: Parent Cue App

Groups

1. Storyboard

- Bible marked at Matthew 14:22–33; one for each Small Group
- Large piece of butcher paper or posterboard, one for each Small Group
- Coloring supplies, enough for the Small Group to share

2. Step by Step

- Colored construction paper, one for every kid
- Pencils or pens, one for every kid
- Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- Optional: stickers or stamps
- EveryChild Supplies: Pre-cut several footprints to support kids

3. Verse Quest

- Print "Verse Dice" Activity Page on cardstock, cut apart, and assemble; three for each Small Group
- Print "Verse Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, three sets for each Small Group
- EveryChild Supplies: Laminator (consider laminating the cards for durability and easy handling.)

4. Pray

- Coloring Supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Pencils, one for every kid
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"; one for every kid
- Optional: Print "Kingdom Quest Log" Activity Page on 11×17-inch paper, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
 - Before group time, assemble a Kingdom Quest Log using the Quest Log Steps
- Optional: Print "Quest Log Steps" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- EveryChild Supplies: dry-erase marker and dry-erase board

2nd-3rd

Small Group

Day 3

Small Group Leader Guide Day 3

Today's Bible Story

**Jesus' crucifixion and
resurrection**

Luke 23:32-45, 55-56; Luke 24:1-6

Bottom Line

Jesus is Alive.

Memory Verse

**"Jesus spoke to the people again.
He said, 'I am the light of the world.
Anyone who follows me will never
walk in darkness. They will have
that light. They will have life'"
(John 8:12 NIV).**

FOR TODAY



Groups

Creating a safe place to connect

1. Witness Hunt
2. Jesus is Alive!
3. Verse Quest!
4. Pray

Home

Prompting action beyond the
experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card
- [Parent Cue App](#)



EveryChild Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional EveryChild tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each VBS segment.

GROUPS 1/4

Witness Hunt



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Luke 23:32-24:6
- Crown of thorns
- Glowsticks or flashlights
- Large stones or rocks
- Wooden crosses
- Basket or treasure-like box

① What You Do

1. Before group time, scatter the following items in various places in your group area:
 - Crown of thorns
 - Wooden crosses
 - Large stones or rocks
 - Glowsticks or flashlights
2. Divide into three groups and give each group a basket or treasure-like box.
3. Explain how to play:
 - Say, “Are you ready for a Kingdom Quest?! I will recap today’s true story from the Bible as you listen and collect items from it!”
4. Use the Bible to recap these four parts of the Bible Story:
 - Luke 23:33 (NirV): “The soldiers brought them to the place called the Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross.” (Invite the kids to find the cross.)
 - Luke 23:35-36 (NirV): “The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, ‘He saved others. Let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.’ The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him. They offered him wine vinegar.” (Invite the kids to find the crown of thorns. Share that even when people made fun of Him, Jesus wore our shame and still chose love.)
 - Luke 24:2 (NirV): “They found the stone rolled away from it.” (Invite the kids to find the stone or rock.)
 - Luke 24:6 (NirV): “Jesus is not here! He has risen!” (Invite the kids to find the glowstick or flashlight.)
5. When you call out a clue, prompt the groups to hunt for the matching symbol (“for example, Jesus died on the cross”).
6. Once each group finds all four symbols, gather them together.
7. Use the What You Say to discuss further.

Continued on the next page. →



EveryChild Tips

To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, allow the kids to retrieve the story items from a nearby table.

GROUPS 1/4

Witness Hunt

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at Luke 23:32-24:6
- Crown of thorns
- Glowsticks or flashlights
- Large stones or rocks
- Wooden crosses
- Basket or treasure-like box



② What You Say

“Wow! You found all the special items from our story. Each of these items we collected today helps us remember that BIG rescue plan! Because Jesus was both God and man, He could have stopped anything at any point. Remember, this is someone who calmed the sea and fed thousands with just a few loaves and fish.

Can you imagine what it was like for Peter to witness Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection? (**Invite responses.**) Let’s talk about them: The crown of thorns reminds us that Jesus was hurt and made fun of, but He didn’t give up—He still chose love. The cross shows us that Jesus gave His life for us. He took our place so we could be close to God forever. The stone was rolled away from the tomb. Jesus didn’t stay dead—He came back to life! The glowstick or flashlight reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. When we follow Him, we don’t have to walk in darkness. He shows us the way. Jesus did all of this because He loves YOU. He’s alive, and that means we can have new life too! Following Jesus means we get to be part of His Kingdom FOREVER! That’s the best news, ever!

Never forget, Jesus is alive! Say it with me: Jesus is alive!”



EveryChild Tips

To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, allow the kids to retrieve the story items from a nearby table.

GROUPS 2/4

Jesus is Alive!



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Clear 8-ounce water bottle
- White vinegar
- Baking soda
- Prepared balloon
- Funnel
- Plastic tablecloth
- Bible marked at Luke 24:1-6

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Plain paper and coloring supplies



EveryChild Tips

To support kids with sensory sensitivities, pre-pour vinegar or pre-fill balloons.

Let kids draw a picture of what "new life" with Jesus looks like to them if they prefer not to verbalize it.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids around the plastic tablecloth (on the floor or around a table).
2. Place the balloon securely around the funnel.
3. Invite a kid to assist you with pouring 2 ½ tablespoons of baking soda into the balloon.
4. Invite another kid to help you pour ¼ cup of white vinegar into the 8-ounce bottle.
5. Carefully stretch the balloon over the top of the jar and let it hang to the side (don't dump the baking soda in just yet!).
6. Grab the Bible and say, "In Luke 23, we read that Jesus died on the cross. It was quiet. Sad. Heavy. People thought the story was over."
7. Ask: "What do you think will happen when I flip this balloon over and the baking soda falls into the cup?"
8. When ready, lift the balloon and let the baking soda fall into the vinegar.
9. Watch and discuss as the reaction inflates the balloon!
 - Say, "Just like this balloon fills with air, something even more incredible happened when Jesus rose again... new life filled the world! He defeated sin and death. And not just for Peter, but for you, too! Jesus is alive, and because of that, when we choose to follow Him, we can be forgiven, made new, and live with Him forever!"
10. Open the Bible marked at Luke 24:1-6 and read it to the kids.

Talk Together:

1. "How does it make you feel to know Jesus is alive?"
2. "Why do you think Jesus wanted Peter (and us) to know He came back to life?"
3. "What's one way you can live like Jesus is your forever friend this week?"

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 2/4

Jesus is Alive!



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Clear 8-ounce water bottle
- White vinegar
- Baking soda
- Prepared balloon
- Funnel
- Plastic tablecloth
- Bible marked at Luke 24:1-6

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Plain paper and coloring supplies



EveryChild Tips

To support kids with sensory sensitivities, pre-pour vinegar or pre-fill balloons.

Let kids draw a picture of what “new life” with Jesus looks like to them if they prefer not to verbalize it.

② What You Say

“Peter saw Jesus do miracles. He saw Him die. And then, Peter saw something incredible... Jesus came back to life! That moment changed everything for Peter. And guess what? It changes everything for us, too!

When we say ‘Jesus is Alive!’ we’re celebrating the truth that Jesus beat sin and death, and made a way for us to be forgiven and live with Him forever. That’s called new life. And it’s available to anyone! If you’ve never told Jesus you want to follow Him, you can do that anytime. You don’t need fancy words. You can say something like, ‘Jesus, I believe You are alive. Thank You for loving me. I want to follow You and live with You forever.’ If you’ve never said that to Jesus before and you want to talk about it more, come find me or another leader. We’d love to talk with you and pray with you!”

When we choose to follow Jesus, we can be a part of the best story ever. Jesus fills us with hope, love, peace, and purpose! This risen balloon reminds us of that new life with Jesus. Remember, friend, Jesus is alive, and that’s worth celebrating!”

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Catch!

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- Glow ball
- “Verse Motions” Activity Page
- Optional: Device for playing upbeat worship music

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Soft fabric ball or beanbag



EveryChild Tips

Based on the needs of your group, play this game at a table or seated on the floor instead of tossing it.

Adjust to the sensory needs of your group by using a soft fabric ball or beanbag if a glow ball is overstimulating for some kids.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Invite them to look up John 8:12 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
- ③ When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
- ⑤ Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

3. Repeat the verse together several times.
4. Use the “Verse Motions” Activity Page to teach the kids motions to John 8:12.
5. Practice the motions until the kids know them pretty well.

Play Together:

1. Gather the kids in a standing or seated circle.
2. Explain how to play:
 - The kids will toss the glow ball around the circle until you say, “Freeze!”
 - The kid who ends up with the glow ball must perform the verse motions.
 - Encourage the kids to help each other if they get stuck!
 - Play until every kid gets a turn to perform the verse motions.
3. Optional: Play music during the game and pause it as you call “Freeze!”
4. Gather the group to discuss.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Catch!

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- Glow ball
- “Verse Motions” Activity Page
- Optional: Device for playing upbeat worship music

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Soft fabric ball or beanbag



② What You Say

“Nice work finding our verse, explorers! Let’s do the motions together one last time: ‘Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life”’ (*John 8:12 NIV*).

That’s a BIG promise from Jesus! He’s not just saying He’ll help us when life is dark... HE IS the light! That means if you’re scared, confused, or unsure what to do, you can follow Jesus and trust He’ll lead you. Keep practicing these motions so you never forget this big truth—Jesus is alive, and He brings light wherever He goes. And when we follow Him, we get to shine too! Say the bottom line with me: Jesus is alive!”



EveryChild Tips

Based on the needs of your group, play this game at a table or seated on the floor instead of tossing it.

Adjust to the sensory needs of your group by using a soft fabric ball or beanbag if a glow ball is overstimulating for some kids.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"
- Optional: prepared "Kingdom Quest Log" books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase marker
- Dry-erase board



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Ask: Before today, did you know that Jesus came to rescue us?
3. Share that prayer means talking to God. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything! He loves to hear from us.
4. Pass out the "Quest Log" to returning kids and hand out new ones to first timers.
5. Explain that this log can help them talk to God as they continue on an epic journey to discover God's kingdom.
6. Encourage kids to write their names on their book. (Assist as needed.)
7. Show the kids the Day 3 page.
8. Give them several minutes to draw an emoji to show how you feel knowing that Jesus came to rescue us and that Jesus is alive!
9. In the blank space, write or draw a prayer to God.
10. If using the "Quest Log," add your sticker that says, "Jesus is alive."
11. Collect every kid's log and put aside for the next day.
12. Close in prayer.

Continued on the next page. →



EveryChild Tips

Write prayer starters (**found on the next page**) on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- “Quest Log” with “Quest Stickers”
- Optional: prepared “Kingdom Quest Log” books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase marker
- Dry-erase board



② Prayer

“Dear God, thank You so much for this amazing day! Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus. We remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. That was really sad. But then... You did something amazing. You brought Jesus back to life! Jesus, we believe You are alive today—and that changes EVERYTHING! Because You’re alive, we can be forgiven, and we can live forever with You when we choose to follow You. I pray for any of my friends here who want to make the decision to follow You today. If that’s you, say this prayer with me:

Salvation Prayer

“Dear Jesus, **(Kids repeat)**

Thank You for loving me. **(Kids repeat)**

I believe You are God’s Son. **(Kids repeat)**

I believe You died on the cross for me and came back to life.

(Kids repeat)

I’m sorry for the wrong things I’ve done. **(Kids repeat)**

I want to follow You every day. **(Kids repeat)**

Thank You for being my Savior and my forever friend. **(Kids repeat)**

Amen.” **(Kids repeat)**

Travel Time → As you travel to the next track, use the camp chant to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

Jesus is the way—I follow His light! **(Kids repeat)**

Called on a quest to do what’s right! **(Kids repeat)**

Step by step, I trust and obey! **(Kids repeat)**

His Kingdom grows in me each day! **(Kids repeat)**



EveryChild Tips

Write the following prayer starters on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

Dear God, I feel scared when _____. Thank You for being with me.

Jesus, help me trust You when _____.

Jesus, remind me You are with me at _____.

Getting Ready

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for Small Group Rotation for today.

Home

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: Parent Cue App

Groups

1. Storyboard

- Bible marked at Luke 23:32-24:6; one for each Small Group
- Crown of thorns (like this: bit.ly/4odxsCz); three for each Small Group
- Glowstick or flashlight, three for each Small Group
- Large stone or rock, three for each Small Group
- Cross, three for each Small Group
- Basket or treasure-like chest; three for each Small Group

2. Jesus is Alive!

- Clear 8-ounce water bottle, one for each Small Group
- White vinegar, ¼ cup for each Small Group
- Baking soda, 2 ½ Tbsps for each Small Group
- Balloon, one for each Small Group
- Funnel, one for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- Bible marked at Luke 24:1-6; one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Empty the 8-ounce water bottle.
 - Pre-inflate the balloon and use the permanent marker to draw a cross on one side, and 'Jesus is alive!' on the other. Deflate the balloon and set it aside for the activity.
- EveryChild Inclusive Supplies: plain paper and coloring supplies

3. Verse Quest

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Glow ball, one for each Small Group
- Print "Verse Motions" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Optional: Device for playing upbeat worship music
- EveryChild Inclusive Supplies: soft fabric ball or beanbag

4. Pray

- Coloring Supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Pencils, one for every kid
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"; one for every kid
- Optional: Print "Quest Log Steps" Activity Page on 11×17-inch paper, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
 - Before group time, assemble a Kingdom Quest Log using the Quest Log Steps
- Optional: Print "Quest Log Steps" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- EveryChild Inclusive Supplies: dry-erase marker and dry-erase board

2nd-3rd

Small Group

Day 4

Small Group Leader Guide Day 4

Today's Bible Story

Peter's Denial & Restoration
Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75;
Mark 16:6-7; John 21:15-19

Bottom Line

Jesus makes me new.

Memory Verse

**"Jesus spoke to the people again.
He said, 'I am the light of the world.
Anyone who follows me will never
walk in darkness. They will have
that light. They will have life'"**
(John 8:12 NIV).

FOR TODAY



Groups

Creating a safe place to connect

1. Jesus Makes Us New!
2. Start Again Clay
3. Verse Puzzle
4. Pray

Home

Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card
- [Parent Cue App](#)



EveryChild Tips

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GROUPS 1/4

Jesus Makes Us New!



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- “Story Moments” Activity Page
- Basket or small container

① What You Do

1. Gather together in a circle, like a “campfire.”
2. Spread the “Story Moments” Activity Page cards face down in the middle.
3. Invite the kids to take turns picking a card.
4. As a group, decide where the moment fits in the story and lay it down in order.
5. Optional: After placing each card, act out the scenario.
6. Once all the cards are placed, retell the story together using the cards.

Correct Story Order

1. Peter followed Jesus and saw Him do amazing things.
2. Jesus was arrested, and Peter stayed close to see what would happen.
3. A girl asked Peter if he was Jesus’ friend. He said, “No!”
4. Two more people asked Peter if he knew Jesus. He said “No!” again and again.
5. The rooster crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus said. He felt so sad.
6. Jesus came back to life and met Peter on the beach.
7. Jesus made Peter breakfast and asked him, “Do you love Me?”
8. Jesus forgave Peter and gave him a new mission to help others.

Continued on the next page. →



EveryChild Tips

To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, allow the kids to retrieve the story items from a nearby table.

GROUPS 1/4

Jesus Makes Us New!



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- “Story Moments” Activity Page
- Basket or small container

② What You Say

“You all did such an awesome job remembering Peter’s story! Let’s think about it together for a minute.

Peter was one of Jesus’ closest friends. He followed Jesus, listened to His teachings, and saw Him do amazing miracles. But when things got scary, Peter messed up. He said he didn’t even know Jesus ... not once, not twice, but three times! (**Hold up three fingers.**) Can you imagine how Peter felt when he heard that rooster crow? He probably felt sad, scared, maybe even like he could never face Jesus again. But did Jesus give up on Peter? No way!

After Jesus came back to life, He met Peter again. And instead of being mad or walking away, Jesus made Peter breakfast! Then He looked Peter in the eyes and gave him a second chance. He reminded Peter how loved he was and gave him a new mission. That’s what Jesus does for us, too! When we mess up or sin, Jesus doesn’t walk away. He comes close. He forgives us. He reminds us that our story isn’t over. He gives us a fresh start. Jesus makes me new. Say that with me: Jesus makes me new!”

GROUPS 2/4

Start Again Clay



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bible marked at John 21:15-17
- Wet wipes
- Plastic tablecloth
- Small balls of clay or playdough

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Therapeutic putty



EveryChild Tips

Provide larger pieces of soft dough or use therapeutic putty for kids who need more sensory input or have limited fine motor strength.

① What You Do

1. Give each kid a ball of clay or play-dough.
2. Ask: “What’s something you could create with this?” Let them shape something simple like a heart, a person, or even a fish.
3. Then, say, “Now squish it! Sometimes we mess up, and things feel broken—like the choices we make, or other things we might do that don’t honor God.”
4. Invite them to reshape it into something new.
5. Read John 21:15–17 aloud or summarize how Jesus gave Peter a fresh start.
6. Let kids reshape the clay again while you lead the group in a short reflection.

Make it Personal: Share about an age-appropriate time you needed forgiveness for something you did wrong. Maybe you said something mean to a friend, or mistreated a sibling. Share with the kids how you asked for forgiveness, and how it makes you feel to know God always forgives you.

② What You Say

“Wow, look at all these cool creations! You know what this reminds me of? The way Jesus treats us. We all mess up sometimes. Just like Peter, we might say or do something that doesn’t honor God. But the good news? God’s love doesn’t stop when we make a mistake. God loves us so deeply, more than we could EVER imagine. And because of that love, He sent Jesus to rescue us, to forgive us, and to give us a brand-new start.

When Peter messed up, Jesus didn’t stay mad. He gave Peter a new mission and reminded him, ‘You still belong to Me.’ That’s what Jesus says to us, too! Even when our choices feel like a squished-up mess, Jesus is ready to reshape our hearts like only He can. That’s what it means to be made new! We need Jesus—not just once, but every day. And He’s always there, ready to forgive and help us start again. Jesus makes me new. Can you say that with me? Jesus makes me new!”

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Puzzle

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- Floor tape or glow tape
- “John 8:12 Puzzle” Activity Page



① What You Do

1. Before you begin, make two start and finish lines in your group area.
2. Give every two kids a Bible.
3. Invite them to look up John 8:12 together using the Bible Navigation tips.

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
- ③ When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
- ⑤ Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

4. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
5. Repeat the verse together several times!

Play Together:

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Invite them to line up behind a start line.
3. Place a set of “John 8:12 Puzzle” Activity Page cards at each team’s finish line.
4. Explain how to play:
 - Kids will run one by one to retrieve one puzzle piece from the finish line.
 - Once all of their puzzle pieces are collected, the team can start working to put the puzzle together.
 - The first team to put their puzzle together first wins!
5. Repeat the verse together one more time and gather the kids to discuss.

Continued on the next page. →

EveryChild Tips



To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, allow the teams to put the puzzle together from a seated position (**around a table or on the floor**).

2nd–3rd

Small Group

Day 4

GROUPS 3/4

Verse Puzzle

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- Floor tape or glow tape
- “John 8:12 Puzzle” Activity Page



② What You Say

“Way to go, team! You worked together and put that verse puzzle back in order. Let’s read it one more time together. **(Read John 8:12 out loud from the Bible)** This verse is a powerful promise from Jesus. When we choose to follow Him, He lights the way for us, even when we’ve made mistakes or feel stuck in the dark. Peter made a mistake when he said he didn’t know Jesus. But Jesus didn’t leave him in that dark moment. He forgave him. He reminded Peter that his story wasn’t over. Jesus gave him a brand-new start...and a mission! No matter what you’ve done or how many times you’ve messed up, Jesus is ready to forgive you and lead you. When you follow Him, His light helps you make better choices, love others, and grow closer to God. Jesus makes me new. Say it with me! Jesus makes me new! So when you see this verse, remember: You don’t have to stay in the dark. Jesus is the Light—and He’s always shining on your path.”



EveryChild Tips

To adjust to the mobility needs of your group, allow the teams to put the puzzle together from a seated position **(around a table or on the floor)**.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"
- Optional: prepared "Kingdom Quest Log" books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase marker
- Dry-erase board



EveryChild Tips

Write prayer starters (*found on the next page*) on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Ask: Have you ever messed up? (Pause for responses.) How does it feel to know that God loves us even when we mess up?
3. Share that prayer means talking to God. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything! He loves to hear from us.
4. Pass out the "Quest Log" to returning kids and hand out new ones to first timers.
5. Explain that this log can help them talk to God as they continue on an epic journey to discover God's kingdom.
6. Encourage kids to write their names on their book. (Assist as needed.)
7. Show the kids the Day 4 page.
8. Give them several minutes to draw or write about a time when you messed up, then draw a cross right on top of what you wrote or drew to show that Jesus came to rescue you, and God loves you no matter what.
9. In the blank space, write or draw a prayer to God.
10. If using the "Quest Log," add your sticker that says, "Jesus makes me new."
11. Collect every kid's log and put aside for the next day.
12. Close in prayer.

Continued on the next page. →

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Coloring Supplies
- Pencils
- “Quest Log” with “Quest Stickers”
- Optional: prepared “Kingdom Quest Log” books

EveryChild Optional Supplies

- Dry-erase marker
- Dry-erase board

② Prayer

“Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us even when we make mistakes. Thank You for forgiving us, giving us new chances, and never giving up on us. Just like Peter, we mess up sometimes. But You don’t throw us away. You shape us, like clay, into something beautiful. You give us light when we feel lost. You give us hope when we feel broken. And You remind us that our story isn’t over! Because Jesus makes us new. Help us remember that nothing can stop Your love from reaching us, not even our biggest mistakes. We love You, Jesus!”

Salvation Prayer

“Dear Jesus, **(Kids repeat)**

Thank You for loving me. **(Kids repeat)**

I believe You are God’s Son. **(Kids repeat)**

I believe You died on the cross for me and came back to life. **(Kids repeat)**

I’m sorry for the wrong things I’ve done. **(Kids repeat)**

I want to follow You every day. **(Kids repeat)**

Thank You for being my Savior and my forever friend. **(Kids repeat)**

Amen.” **(Kids repeat)**

Travel Time → As you travel to the next track, use the camp chant to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

Jesus is the way—I follow His light! **(Kids repeat)**
 Called on a quest to do what’s right! **(Kids repeat)**
 Step by step, I trust and obey! **(Kids repeat)**
 His Kingdom grows in me each day! **(Kids repeat)**



EveryChild Tips

Write the following prayer starters on the dry erase board for kids to reference, copy, and fill in.

God, today I want to ask for forgiveness for _____.

Jesus, help me trust You when _____.

Jesus, remind me You are with me at _____.

Getting Ready

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for Small Group Rotation for today.

Groups

1. Jesus Makes us New!

- Print "Story Moments" on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group

2. Start Again Clay

- Small balls of clay or play-dough, one for every kid
- Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- Wet wipes, one for every kid
- Bible marked at John 21:15-17; one for each Small Group
- EveryChild Inclusive Supplies: Therapeutic putty

3. Verse Puzzle

- "John 8:12 Puzzle" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Floor tape or glow tape, one roll for each Small Group

4. Pray

- Coloring Supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Pencils, one for every kid
- "Quest Log" with "Quest Stickers"; one for every kid
- Optional: Print "Quest Log Steps" Activity Page on 11×17-inch paper, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
 - Before group time, assemble a Kingdom Quest Log using the Quest Log Steps
- Optional: Print "Quest Log Steps" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- EveryChild Inclusive Supplies: Dry-erase marker and Dry-erase board

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Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: Parent Cue App