

# Lesson Plan

April 12th, 2026

**This Month's Truth:** I Am Set Apart

**Bible Story:** Living for Jesus (1 Peter 1:13-25)

**Theme Verse:** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38)

**Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive:** Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

**Share:** Peter encouraged believers that their thoughts matter because thoughts impact actions. (Read 1 Peter 1:13.) Kids will learn today that living the way God made us to live starts with thoughts that honor and trust Him.

**Pray:** Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help you keep your thoughts focused on Him in the face of everything that comes your way.

## Pre Service

**Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.**

## Service

**What To Do:**

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.** The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

**Teacher Opener:** Hey, everyone! Welcome! Turn to the person behind you, introduce yourself, and give a fist bump! (Allow kids time to respond.) Our Theme today is Live It Out! What is our

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Theme? (Live It Out!) Right! When we live it out, our actions point to what we believe. If you are ready to live it out, let me hear you say, "Let's live it out!" (Let's live it out!)

**Game:** Think, Think, Think

**Leader Prep:** Distribute one blank paper and one pencil per leader for each team.

### Game Rules:

1. Split your class into teams.
2. Assign a Small Group Leader to each team.
3. Start the video.
4. Direct kids to share items that fit the category with their Small Group Leader. Small Group Leaders mark their team's paper for each item shared.
5. Instruct Small Group Leaders to use tally marks and write the total number of items shared for the round. Direct Small Group Leaders to give their papers to a player, who will take the papers to the Teacher at the front.
6. Announce which team has the most marks and declare that team as the winner.
7. Continue playing four more rounds (five rounds total).

**What You Say:** We are going to play a game where we test our thinking skills! This game is called "Think, Think, Think!" Think, think, what? (Think!) But first I need to split you all into different teams.

Give me a thumbs-up to start the game. (Allow time for kids to respond.)

When the video starts, you will see a category. Your job is to tell your Small Group Leader different things in that category. Your Leader will make tally marks for each item listed. You have 30 seconds each round to list as many things as you can with your team. You will need to be patient, so you do not talk over anyone. You also want to be quiet, so you do not give answers to other teams! Small Group Leaders, when the timer ends, tally up the marks on your paper and write the total. Then ask a volunteer to bring your team paper to the front. I will announce the team that got the most tally marks, and your team will get a point! If you are ready, say, "Think, Think, Think!" (Think, Think, Think!)

**Round one:** Crayon colors! Go!

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(Watch the timer and announce the end of the round. Collect papers from teams and determine the winner.) The winner is \_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ marks! Great job! (Return papers to Small Group Leaders.) Ready for the next round? Say, "Think, Think, Think!" (Think, Think, Think!)

**Round two:** What kids like to drink! Go!

(Watch the timer and announce the end of the round. Collect papers from teams and determine the winner.) The winner is \_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ marks! Awesome thinking! (Return papers to Small Group Leaders.) Get ready for the next round, and say, "Think, Think, Think!" (Think, Think, Think!)

**Round three:** Ice cream flavors! Go!

(Watch the timer and announce the end of the round. Collect papers from teams and determine the winner.) The winner is \_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ marks! Way to go! (Return papers to Small Group Leaders.) Keep the good ideas coming! Say, "Think, Think, Think!" (Think, Think, Think!)

**Round four:** Animals! Go!

(Watch the timer and announce the end of the round. Collect papers from teams and determine the winner.) The winner is \_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ marks! Amazing! (Return papers to Small Group Leaders.) We have one more round, so say, "Think, Think, Think!" (Think, Think, Think!)

**Round five:** Sports and games! Go!

(Watch the timer and announce the end of the round. Collect papers from teams and determine the winner.) The final winner is \_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ marks! Let's cheer for all our teams, who all did some great thinking. (Allow time.)

**Loud and Clear:** You all were able to list so many items and to think of things so quickly! If I had given you all the categories at the same time, it may have been difficult to think of as many items because your mind would be all over the place. It was helpful that they were each set apart from each other so we could look at different things one at a time. Today we get to learn that God sets us apart. Point to yourself, and say, "Who, me?" (Who, me?) Yes, you! When you trust and follow God, He sets you apart. He says you are different and get to live in a way that is different and special. Let me hear you say, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!) When we remember we are set apart by God, our actions point to Him, and we live out what God says. Say, "Live it out!" (Live it out!)

**Transition Script to go into the Intro Video:** Now we get to “travel” somewhere wild, wonderful, and kind of weird. We are going to watch a video from Weirdlin National Park, where things are not always what they seem. Get our video started by saying, “That is weird!” in 3-2-1! (That is weird!)

## Play Intro Video

**What You Say:** Hiker Rob had a crazy and kind of weird adventure. But he learned something important that we can all remember. We have thoughts that can take us all over the place. We may get distracted or confused. But the truth is that God cares about our thoughts. When we trust and follow Him, He helps us have thoughts that focus on Him. Say, “God cares about my thoughts!” (God cares about my thoughts!) Thoughts focused on God help us live set apart! Say, “Live it out!” (Live it out!)

## Worship

**What You Say:** I’m so excited to worship with you all this morning! Let’s stand together and worship!

### What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

### What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

**Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video:** (Open the Bible to 1 Peter 1:13-25) We are going to check out a story from the Bible. The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself. What is God’s true message to us about Himself? (The Bible.) A man named Peter wrote a letter

to encourage followers of Jesus to live out their faith, even when it was tough. This letter is found in a book of the Bible called 1 Peter. Say, “Let’s check it out!” (Let’s check it out!)

## Play Bible Story Video

### Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
  - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

**Making The Connection Script:** Have you ever wondered if you can think about whatever you want as long as you do not say or do wrong things? Peter encouraged Christians that our thoughts matter because our thoughts affect our actions. When we have a relationship with God, He sets us apart to have actions which honor Him and point others to Him. God calls us to work hard to set our minds on things that please and honor Him. When we believe in God, we are set apart to think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. Repeat after me: “God cares about my thoughts!” (God cares about my thoughts!)

### Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

Why do we struggle with our thoughts in the first place? Ask, “Why?” (Why?)

(Circle 2) We struggle with our thoughts because our world is broken. We experience all kinds of things that are hard, confusing, and distracting. Maybe you have had crippling thoughts of fear and anxiety. Peter wrote about not being shaped by the desires we had before we started following Jesus. That is because, before we follow Jesus, we are stuck in sin. Sin is when we do what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. All people sin, and sin is what has broken our world. Sin even affects our thoughts. Sin separates us from God, and even when we try to be good or think good thoughts on our own, we can never be good enough to fix this sin problem. Our sin deserves to be punished, and we need help.

(Circle 3) But God does not leave us stuck in our brokenness. Peter said that these broken thoughts were part of life before Jesus. God sent Jesus, His only Son, to be our Rescuer. Jesus died on a cross, taking the punishment for sin. On the third day, Jesus came back to life, showing that He is the true King and more powerful than sin and death. When we turn from sin and ask

Jesus for forgiveness, He makes the way for us to have a forever relationship with God. When we trust in Jesus, He changes our lives, and His love can transform and change our thoughts.

(Circle 1) Peter wrote that it was always God's plan to send Jesus. When we follow Jesus and obey God with our thoughts and actions, we live set apart. That is the way God designed us to live from the very beginning. One day when Jesus returns, He will make all things new, and we will never struggle with sin and our thoughts again!

Peter reminded Christians that both our thoughts and our actions should point others to God, even when life is difficult. Repeat after me, "God cares about my thoughts." (God cares about my thoughts.) What we think impacts how we live. If we are constantly thinking terrible things about people, we will not want to treat others well. If we keep replaying events in our minds of how someone upset us, it is going to be difficult to forgive that person. But when we have respectful thoughts like Peter wrote about, and when we think about Jesus returning, we will have respectful actions. Kind thoughts lead to kind actions. Forgiving thoughts lead to forgiving actions. What we fix our minds on affects how we function as people.

Our thoughts are not always good. That is why we need to set our minds on God. When we focus our minds and thoughts on Him, He helps us live our lives in the way He made us to live. When we trust and follow Jesus, we can live set apart. We are different than we were before we followed Jesus, and we are different from other people who do not follow Jesus. Repeat after me, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!)

If you want to know more about following Jesus, talk with me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to tell you more!

## Theme Verse Review:

**Theme Verse Motions:** For I have come down from heaven, (Start with your arms up to the sky and palms facing inward. Bring your hands to your waist with palms up.)  
not to do my own will, (Lower your left hand and bring your right hand to your chest, hand over your heart.)  
but the will of him who sent me. (Bring your right hand up to the sky with your palm facing inward.)  
John 6:38 (Hold both hands out like a book.)

**What You Say:** Let's learn our Theme verse together. Turn to a neighbor and say, "Live it out!" (Live it out!)

## Play Theme Verse Video

**What You Say:** Great job, everyone! This Bible verse teaches us that Jesus came to follow what God wanted and planned. That included having thoughts focused on God. Remembering that Jesus' thoughts and actions honored God can encourage us to have the same kind of thoughts and actions too. Say, "God cares about my thoughts!" (God cares about my thoughts!)

## Large Group Closing:

**What You Say:** Thanks for joining us today! As we get ready for Small Group Time, remember that we can ask God to help us have thoughts that honor Him. These thoughts lead to words and actions that point others to Him. Repeat after me, "God cares about my thoughts." (God cares about my thoughts.) When we think the way God made us to think, we live set apart and live the way He made us to live. Say, "Live it out!" (Live it out!) Let's turn our thoughts to God right now as we pray in 3-2-1.

**Closing Prayer:** God thank You that You set us apart. Thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with You. Thank You that You help us have thoughts that honor You. Fill our thoughts with the truth of who You are and who You made us to be. As we fix our thoughts on You, help us live in ways that point others toward You! Amen.

**Transition to Small Group Time:** Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

## Small Group Time:

**Option #1:** Connection Questions

**What To Do:** Let's open our Bibles and discover how God has set us apart!

1. I am going to list two options, but for a full day, you can only fill your thoughts with one of them. Which one would you choose? Candy or sports? Homework or chores? Friends

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or pets? Birthdays or vacations? (Allow kids to respond with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.)

2. What do you think makes a baseball go super far when it is hit with a bat? (The special rubber and yarn helps the ball travel.) Like how the inside of a baseball makes a difference with what happens on the outside, what is on the inside of us, meaning our thoughts, impacts what happens on the outside. How can your good and positive thoughts on the inside change what others see on the outside? (Others can see positive actions.)
3. The Bible tells us that what we think is important. God made us to think about things that please Him and show Him respect. We are set apart to think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. Let's open our Bibles to **1 Peter 1:13** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.) Peter wrote a letter to Christians encouraging them to live out their faith and keep their minds focused on Jesus and His return. How can our thoughts make a difference in what we do? (Our thoughts lead to our actions. What we think impacts what we do and say.)
4. Jesus died on the cross for our sin, even for our thoughts that disobey God. What can we do when we have thoughts that do not honor God? (We can ask God to help change our thoughts. We can also learn Bible verses to think about throughout the day.)
5. The Bible tells us that God cares about our thoughts, and He calls us to honor Him in everything. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

### Option #2: Theme Verse Paper Chain

**What To Do:** Today we are going to be making a craft that will help us learn and remember our Theme Verse for the month. We are going to be making paper chains that have our Theme Verse on it.

First we are going to take one strip of paper that has a part of the Theme Verse written on it and make it into a circle and staple it. Then you are going to take the next part and put it through the middle of the first circle then make a second circle and staple it. Continue until all the strips of paper are on the chain.

Decorate your Theme Verse chains however you'd like with markers, colored pencils, and stickers.

**Loud And Clear:** Great job making your paper chains. Now you can hang them up at home to remember our Theme Verse for the month. It is incredible to know that Jesus came to do God's will and to rescue us from our sin. Jesus had His mind set on following God, and we can do the same! When we trust in Jesus, He helps our thoughts focus on God and helps us to live set apart. Repeat after me, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!)

### **Option #3:** Activity Page

**What To Do:** This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

**Leader Tip:** Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that God cares about our thoughts. When we follow Jesus, He helps us have thoughts which lead to actions that honor God.

**Loud And Clear:** What we think matters! God helps us set our minds on the things that please and honor Him. We live set apart when we think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. We are set apart and called to live for Jesus! Repeat after me, "I am set apart!" (*I am set apart!*)

## Close out in prayer:

### **What To Do:**

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

**What You Say:** God thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Please help us all to honor You with our thoughts. Help us focus our thoughts on You so we can live in a way that shows we are set apart and follow You. Amen.

## Dismissal:

**Leader Tip:** Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.