



Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

March 12, 2025

Bible Story: Vows- Matthew 5:33-37

Big Idea: God wants us to do what we say.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 5:33-37. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes the complexity out of making vows or promises. Often we add qualifiers to our promises, such as "I swear by heaven!" or "I really mean it." But Jesus makes promises much simpler: If you always do what you say, then yes or no is all you need to say. Pray together as family. Ask God to show your kids his own faithfulness so they can model it as they learn to do what they said they would do.

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/03/05/mar-12>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to show your kids his own faithfulness so they can model it as they learn to do what they said they would do.

Quick Tip:

This word from Jesus goes for you, too. In the hustle and bustle of a class, it can be hard to keep track of the fact that you told Aliyah, "I'll ask you about that later" in order to cut her story short, or that you promised Mateo you would fix his toy car during snack break. Ask God to help you remember what you promise kids you'll do, and be intentional about following through. Also, create a culture where kids know they can ask you again if you do happen to forget a promise because they know you really want to do what you say.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies

- timer or stopwatch

Try to Make People Smile

Say: In our Bible story, Joseph told his brothers about dreams he was having. They got jealous and hated him.

Ask: • What faces do you think they made? Pause for kids to make faces.

Say: Joseph's brothers probably made mad faces. Let's play a game where we'll make up silly dreams in order to get our friends to react with smiles.

- Have kids stand in a circle so they're facing each other. If you have a large group, consider forming smaller circles of four to six kids.
- Choose one child to be the "Dreamer," while everyone else is a "Brother." The Dreamer's goal is to make a Brother smile or laugh by describing silly, made-up dreams. The Brothers will try to keep frowning as they listen.
- After 30 seconds, if no Brothers have smiled, let another person try being the Dreamer.
- If a Brother smiles or laughs, that Brother becomes the Dreamer for the next round.
- The game ends when time runs out or everyone has had a turn to be the Dreamer.

Talk About It

Ask: • Let's vote. Who do you think told the funniest dream?

• How did you feel hearing people do a great job telling about dreams?

• How did you feel if you couldn't make someone laugh but another person could?

Say: Maybe you thought this game was really funny. Maybe you started to compare your dream-telling skills with other people's. When we compare ourselves with others, it leads to jealousy. But we're not jealous. Even when we think people are funnier or have things better than we do, we can celebrate and appreciate the good things about them rather than comparing them to ourselves.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch "Gift's Story"

Say: Today we're learning that we're not jealous. Jealousy is when we're more focused on what others have than what we have. When Joseph's brothers were jealous, it hurt their own hearts, and it hurt Joseph.

Ask: • Tell about a time you wanted something you didn't have. Share your own example first.

Say: It's okay to want things, but when we're focused on wanting what other people have, that's jealousy. Let's watch a boy named Gift who doesn't have very much but isn't jealous.

Watch "Gift's Story."

Ask: • What do you have that Gift doesn't?

• What did Gift have to be jealous about?

• Why do you think Gift wasn't jealous, even though he didn't have what the other kids had?

Say: We're not jealous. Whether we have a lot or a little, we can be thankful for what we have instead of comparing ourselves to others. We'll be much happier!

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- crayons or markers
- sticky notes

Set It Up

Say: For the past couple of months, we've been learning about God's Commandments. Most of them are about things we would do that would be wrong, like disobeying our parents, killing, or disrespecting God's name. But jealousy is a little different. Jealousy is more of a feeling. Does it really hurt anybody if we're jealous? Let's dig in to that.

Color and Cover

Say: As we've started thinking about jealousy, we've also talked about being thankful instead. So draw something you're thankful for.

Set out paper and crayons or markers, and allow time for kids to draw. As kids draw, have them share about who gave them what they're drawing. It might be God, or it might be a person.

Say: Now let's think about stuff we don't have but we want.

Set out sticky notes. Have kids each write on a sticky note one thing they want and stick it on top of their pictures. Allow a couple of minutes, and encourage kids to fill out as many sticky notes as they can, using one sticky note for each thing.

Ask: • What happened to your picture as you thought of more and more stuff you wanted?

• How does this look in real life? Think about times you were happy but then jealousy made you ungrateful.

• If you lost sight of being thankful for something someone gave you, how could that hurt the person who gave it to you?

Say: Jealousy is all about focusing on what other people have. And gratitude is about focusing on what God has already given us! When we focus on what other people have, we lose the focus on what we have. Eventually, we don't see anything to be thankful for...only things to be jealous of.

And when that happens, it hurts us. Jealousy hurts our hearts because it makes us unhappy. Plus, it can lead to more sins. Listen to this.

Deeper Bible: cont.

Dig Deeper

Read James 4:1-2.

Ask: • Tell about a time jealousy led to a fight for you. Share your own story first.

• What else can jealousy lead to?

Say: Let's check out some other verses about how jealousy can grow into other sins.

Read James 3:15-16.

Say: Yikes! These verses say that where there is jealousy there's evil of every kind! Jealousy does some serious damage to our hearts and our relationships.

Read Proverbs 27:4.

Ask: • Why do you think God says jealousy is more dangerous than anger? As kids answer, continue asking "why" to keep drilling down and get to the heart of jealousy.

Say: It's clear why God has a command against jealousy. Jealousy destroys our hearts and leads us to more and more sin. Just listen to where it led Joseph's brothers! In today's story, they were jealous. But the next thing that happened was they decided to kill him! That's against another one of God's Commandments. In the end, they didn't kill him, but they sold him into slavery and then lied about it to their dad. Not lying is another one of God's commandments. Plus, they weren't putting God first; they were putting their own interests first. Their jealousy did just what the verses we read said would happen—it led to evil of every kind.

When we're not jealous, it can look like this!

Tell kids to tear the sticky notes off their papers and throw them away as they listen to you read. Then

read 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Life Application:

Supplies

- paper
- pencils

Thank God

Say: We've been learning that we're not jealous and that we can be thankful instead. Let's try an exercise in thankfulness.

- Give each child a pencil and a piece of paper, and have kids each write 5 to 10 things they're thankful for.
- Have kids form pairs and trade lists.
- Kids will then pray with their partners, thanking God for what he's given the other person.

Wrap Up

Say: When we see people with something we want, we're not jealous.

Instead, we can be thankful that God loves and cares for those people and takes care of them. Let's ask for his help to do that.

Pray: God, help us focus on thanking you for what we have and for what others have so we're not jealous. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God wants us to do what we say. He said our "yes" should always mean "yes"! Let's color some thumbs-up for "yes"!

Allow time for kids to color.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God wants us to do what we say. Let's decode a message about that.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will attempt to decode the message, but the key is incorrect. Allow a minute or two for kids to start to notice and feel frustrated, then pause for discussion.

Ask: • What have you noticed about this puzzle?

• Why is it frustrating that the key isn't doing what it's supposed to do?

Say: Let's try this again. The key is off by one letter. So if you see an A in the puzzle, you'd change it to a Z, because that's one to the right of what the key says to do. Help kids as needed by guiding them through the first few letters. J changes to I, not H. G changes to F, not E.

Ask: • This key didn't do what it was supposed to do, and that was frustrating. What does that show you about the impact it might have on people when you don't do what you say you'll do?

Say: God wants us to do what we say. When we don't, we cause problems and frustrations for others!

ANSWER KEY: IF YOU MAKE A PROMISE, DO WHAT YOU SAID.