

Grade 3-4: Small Group Leader Guide

April 21st 2024

Today's Bible Story: I Keep Forgettin' (Golden Calf) • *Exodus 32:1-35*

Today's Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember what's true.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14 (NirV)*

Monthly Virtue: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.



Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."
5. **Activity**

Opening Activity

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Ask the kid: "Would you like a cookout-themed truth or a cookout-themed dare?"
- Depending on the kid's answer, read the kid a truth or dare prompt. (The list is below.)
- Continue until all kids have had a turn choosing a truth or dare.
 - Repeat prompts, as needed.

Truth questions:

1. Tell us every topping you would like on a burger.
2. If you could invite any celebrity to your cookout, who would it be?
3. If you could design the menu at a cookout, what kind of food would you serve?
4. What is your least favorite cookout food?

Dares:

1. Imagine you are a cookout food by acting it out with no words. Let the group guess what you are.
2. Make up a song about ketchup and sing it for us.
3. If your name had to be a cookout food, what would you choose your name to be? (Instruct the rest of the kids to call you this name for the rest of your time together.)
4. Pretend you're a hot dog in a bun by putting your arms down to your side and hopping everywhere with your feet together.

What You Say:

"Well, that was certainly a fun way to get to know you all better! How did you decide if you would choose a truth or a dare? (*Invite responses.*) **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we're going to hear about why it's so important to choose the truth when it comes to waiting.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

Remember What's True

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, "Memory Verse Challenge" Activity Page, and prepared plastic cups

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Guide kids to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: 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.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.

- Review the Memory Verse together a few times as a group.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to gather with their teammates on one side of your group space.
- Place a plastic cup full of the strips from the "Memory Verse Challenge" Activity Page across from each group on the other side of the small group space.
- Direct each team to one by one run to the cup, grab a strip of paper, and complete the challenge that's written.
- Once a kid completes their action, direct them to bring the strip of paper with the word/phrase from the Memory Verse back to their group.
- Once they return, instruct the team to send a new kid from their team to do the same.
- Direct the kids who are waiting to begin forming their Memory Verse in order as the team retrieves more and more words.
 - Point out the numbers on the verse slips if they need a hint.
- After each team has retrieved a few words, tell the teams that they can continue getting more words, or if they know the Memory Verse by heart, they can choose to say it to you without retrieving the rest of the words.
- The first team to say the Memory Verse to you (whether memorized or by reading it from their game words), wins!

What You Say:

"It may have been hard to wait and find out the next Memory Verse word or phrase your team was going to bring back. But some of you remembered the words without even needing help. This is the power of knowing God's truth. We won't always have our Bibles around us when we're growing impatient, so knowing God's Word can help us anywhere and anytime.

"Let's say our verse together one more time. (*Say the Memory Verse out loud together as a group.*) This week: **[Bottom Line] When you have to wait, remember what's true** by thinking about how this verse encourages us to stay strong and have hope as we wait for the Lord."

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.



Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

Today's Bottom Line: when you have to wait, remember what's true.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NirV)

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Small ball

What You Do:

- Invite the group to sit together in a circle.
- Join the circle yourself while holding the ball.
- Pass the ball to the kid on your right, and say something that is true about God.
- Instruct that kid to continue the action: to pass the ball to the kid on their right and say something true about God.
 - If the kids are stumped, offer suggestions of things they can share.
 - They can share things like God loves you, God will always be with you, God is always working for good, etc.
- Continue until the ball has traveled all the way around the circle, back to you.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for the gift of patience. We know that as believers in Jesus, You have given us the Holy Spirit to help us when we wait. We know that the Holy Spirit can help us remember Your truths when we find it hard to be patient. You don't leave us alone in finding strength and joy, but have made a way for patience to be possible. No matter what we find ourselves facing this week, help us be confident in knowing that **[Bottom Line] when you have to wait, remember what's true.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



Check Out & Parent Pick-up

Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up..

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line: when you have to wait, remember what's true.**

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