

“EPIC” - LESSON 3

“In God We Trust”

Main Focus:

We must trust God with all our heart,
and He will guide our paths.



Power Verse:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

– Proverbs 3:5-6



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Can Always Trust My God!”

LEADER'S INFO

God wants us to trust Him completely. He is always with us, ready to guide and help us, but sometimes we struggle to rely on Him. Instead, we try to handle things on our own, only to find ourselves overwhelmed and afraid.

When life gets difficult, it's easy to doubt and let fear take over. But true faith means keeping our eyes on God, even when things feel uncertain. We can trust Him in every situation—big or small—because He is faithful and never fails us.

In today's lesson, the children will learn from the story of Peter walking on water and the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5-6. Through this, they'll discover what it means to trust God with all their heart, no matter what challenges come their way.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“You Can Trust Me”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Big Ray teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Will It Float?”



Bible Story

“Peter Walks On Water”



Power Verse Video

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

– Proverbs 3:5-6



Call To Action

“In God We Trust”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must trust God with all our heart,
and He will guide our paths.

**Power Verse:**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to
take.”

– Proverbs 3:5-6

**Whatchagaddaknow:**

“I Can Always Trust My God!”

“The Spark” Intro Video

“You Can Trust Me”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Big Ray teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”

Offering Time**Game Time!**

“Will It Float?”

Bible Story

“Peter Walks On Water”

Power Verse Video

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not
depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in
all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

– Proverbs 3:5-6

Call To Action

“In God We Trust”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience**Lesson 3 Materials Needed:****“The Spark” Intro Video**

- “Lesson 3 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Wacky Wally” Theme Graphic/Music
- Prank Hand Buzzer
- Snakes-In-A-Can Prank Can
- Bucket Of Confetti

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Will It Float?” Graphic
- Five Paper Sacks
- Five Objects (*some that float/some that do not*)
- A Bucket Of Water

Bible Story

- “Peter Walks On Water” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 3 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “In God We Trust” Graphics
- A \$1 Bill (*or any denomination you choose*)
- One Chair
- One Adult Volunteer
- One Small Child Volunteer
- A White Board
- Two Small Bags Of Cookies

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible
- Masking Or Painter’s Tape
- Blindfold



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are continuing our series called “EPIC!” We are learning from some of the most EPIC Bible Stories that will blow your mind!

Have you ever had someone tell you something that was a little hard to believe? Maybe they told you something but then followed it up with two words: “Trust me!” Those two words only have meaning IF the person who is saying them is actually someone you can trust.

Trust is something that is built over time. You learn to trust someone when they prove themselves trustworthy time and time again. Right? Well, we are going to learn some important things about trust, today.

Before we do, let’s check out this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 3”)

Leader: Trust is not an easy thing. Sometimes, we can find it hard to trust others. But we can always trust God. He will always come through for us and lead us onto the right path. We are going to learn all about that in our lesson, today.

But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Wacky Wally” *(a mega-nerd who dreams of one day becoming a superhero! He usually wears a cape.)*

Wally: *(Enters laughing)* Hellooooo, everyone! *(Tries to contain his laughter but bursts out laughing and snorting)*

Leader: Hello, Wacky Wally. You are certainly more wacky than Wally today. What’s so funny?

Wally: Oh, nothing! *(Tries not to laugh but fails again)*

Leader: Oh, really? Nothing? Hmmmm, I don’t know about that. I think you’re up to something! Right, kids?
(Allow kids to respond)

Wally: Seriously! I’m sorry for laughing so much. Nothing is going on. Here, shake on it. *(Reaches out to shake hands with a hand buzzers that shocks the leader)*

Leader: *(Screams in fear)* WALLY! My hand! What was that?

Wally: *(Laughing)* Oh, it’s just a toy. No reason to be alarmed!

Leader: I am super alarmed! You scared me! My heart is beating way too fast! I need to sit down. *(Sits down)*

Wally: It was just a joke. Here, I brought you a gift to say sorry. *(Hands the leader the can)*

Leader: You didn’t have to do that.

Wally: Oh, it’s just a little something.

Leader: *(Takes the can)* Oh, look, everyone. It’s... a can? Better find out what’s inside! *(Opens the can and freaks out as snakes jump out)* WALLY! *(Lies down on the floor)* That’s it! Call 911!

Wally: For an ambulance? Did I scare you that bad?

Leader: No, for the POLICE! You need to be arrested and locked up forever and ever! Your sentence will be 100 million years with no phone calls and no visitors!

Wally: Oh, come on! It’s just a couple of jokes. Hold on, I know what you need. *(Grabs the bucket of confetti)* I have some water here. Maybe some water on your face will help refresh your attitude!

Leader: Wally, no! Stop! Don’t you dare! *(Wally flings the bucket on the leader)*

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT *(Continued)*

Wally: There! Don't you feel so much better?

Leader: Wally!

Wally: That's my name!

Leader: Do you ever get tired?

Wally: I'm tired right now! *(Yawns and lies down)* I can't hold my eyes open. I need to... to... *(Begins snoring)*

Leader: *(To the kids)* Shhhhh. Everyone, Wally is asleep. Maybe now we can teach the lesson!

Wally: *(Jumps up)* That was a great nap! How long was I out? 2 hours? 3 days? Did I miss the lesson today?

Leader: You were only asleep for like 10 seconds!

Wally: That long? Awesome! I feel so refreshed! What are the kids learning today?

Leader: Well, we are talking about trust.

Wally: Good subject! It's so important to be trusted.

Leader: I don't trust you very much right now, Wally. Your pranks today make it very hard for me to trust you. You have to earn someone's trust, you know.

Wally: I will earn that trust! Will you give me another chance?

Leader: Of course. While people must earn our trust, it's important to know that we can always trust God - no matter what!

Wally: Absolutely! He has already proven Himself to be trustworthy.

Leader: Yep! We can trust Him with our whole hearts! When we do, He will show us what to do!

Wally: Speaking of trust, I need to meet a friend who needs me to hold a ladder while he climbs on his roof. I hope he can trust me! I'll see you later, citizens! Until then, it's up, up, and A WACKY WALLY
AWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAYYY!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Will It Float?”

Items Needed For Game:

Five paper bags; five objects (*some that float/some that do not*); a bucket of water

.....

Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to play. Place the items in separate bags, and place the bucket of water in the middle of the area of play so it is visible to everyone.

.....

How To Play:

The game consists of 5 rounds. In each round, the leader will randomly select one of the paper bags and reveals the mystery object inside. Once the object is revealed, both teams will have a few seconds to discuss with their team and decide if the object will float or sink. Players will stand on the right side if they believe the object will float or stand on the left side if they believe it will sink. After players have taken their positions, the leader will place the mystery object into the bucket of water. If a team's prediction is correct, that team earns a point for the round. After all 5 rounds, the team with the most points wins!



Bible Story

“Peter Walks On Water”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Matthew 14:22-33; have your open Bible as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in Matthew 14. Jesus had just finished teaching a large group of people and wanted to go be alone for awhile and pray. So He sent the disciples out in a boat to cross the sea. All of a sudden, while they were out there in the middle of the night, a HUGE storm came.

The disciples started freaking out! (*show pic*) They all thought they were going to die! Then, just when they thought it couldn’t get any worse, they looked up and saw the figure of a person coming toward them. (*show pic*)

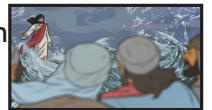
The disciples thought it was a ghost. They all began to get very scared. First, there was a big storm, and now a ghost was coming after them. Well, it definitely was NOT a ghost—do you know who it was? (*allow kids to respond*) That’s right! It was Jesus! He was walking on the water and coming out to be with them in the storm.

Suddenly, Peter yelled out to Jesus, “Lord, if it is really You, let me come out and walk on the water to you.” Jesus said, “Come on.” So Peter did something that most of us would think was CRAZY. He stepped out of the boat in the middle of the storm and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. (*show pic*)

Can you imagine walking on water—in the middle of a storm? That had to be an incredible experience. Peter kept walking on the water toward Jesus, focusing on his Lord just a few feet away. Then, suddenly, Peter did something that really messed him up. He began to look around at all of the waves, the storm, and the rain. He began to get scared.

Suddenly, after Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and started focusing on the storm, he began to sink. Peter thought he was going to drown. He cried out to Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out His hand to Peter (*show pic*) and pulled him out of the water, setting him into the boat. Peter was saved. Jesus looked at Peter and said, “You have such little faith. Why did you doubt?” Peter felt ashamed because he had stopped focusing on Jesus and having faith in Him and had instead started focusing on the storm around him.

Today, you are going to learn how important it is to trust God, focus on Him, and not lean on your own understanding. Pay attention! This could be a lesson that changes your life!





Call To Action

“In God We Trust”

Materials Needed:

The “In God We Trust” graphics; A \$1 bill (or any denomination of money you choose); One chair; One adult volunteer; One small child volunteer; One white board; Two small bag of cookies (one you will have out in the open, the other you will hide somewhere accessible on the stage)

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “In God We Trust”; choose your volunteers ahead of time and prepare them for what they will do.



The Message: (title slide)

(hold up the money) There are FOUR words that are on every single piece of U.S. money. Can anyone tell me what they are? (allow children to respond) “IN GOD WE TRUST.” These words are not only important for our nation, but they are also important for each and every person who is a follower of Jesus.

Our Power Verse today says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” – Proverbs 3:5,6 There are several lessons we can learn from this verse.



I Can Always Trust God (slide)

Peter had a hard time trusting Jesus. He began to focus on the storm and problems around him, took his eyes off Jesus, and started to sink. I want you to know that you can definitely trust God. He created you. He knew exactly what you were going to look like, be like, and what you are going to be when you grow up—even before you were ever born. God loves you. You can trust Him to take care of you and lead you throughout your life.

What does it mean to TRUST God? Let me demonstrate. (Invite a child to come up to the stage and stand on the chair you have placed in the middle of the platform. Have the child stand with their back to the audience. Invite your adult volunteer to come up and stand in front of the chair.) Trust is a very important thing. It requires a person to believe that the other person wants to and is able to do the right thing. For instance, if _____ (child volunteer) trusts _____ (adult volunteer), then they will have no problem falling backwards and trusting that they will be caught. They have to trust that _____ (adult volunteer) both wants to and is able to catch them. If they didn’t trust, then there is no way they would fall backwards, right? (instruct the child to fall backwards into the arms of the adult volunteer to demonstrate their trust) Now, that’s trust! Give them both a hand!!!

We can certainly trust God because we know that He WANTS TO and IS ABLE TO take care of us, lead us, and
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Call To Action (Continued)

direct us, right? But, sadly, many times we don't really trust Him the way the verse teaches us. You see, I can't just halfway trust God...

I Must Trust Him With ALL My Heart (slide)



Before I teach this part, I want to bless the kids sitting on the front row. There's nothing better than cookies to celebrate something awesome! So, because I'm a giver and I love you for sitting up front, i'm going to give away ALL of these cookies. *(hand a cookie to the kids on the front row—make sure you empty the bag. What the kids don't know is that you have another bag of cookies hidden somewhere on the stage. You will be getting some cookies from that stash as you talk.)* Instead of keeping them for myself, which I really want to do, I'm giving them all to you. Enjoy.

Our PowerVerse says that we are to trust God with ALL of our heart. That means we trust Him ALL the time, in ALL situations, and in ALL areas of our lives. *(pull out the other bag of cookies and start to eat some. Most likely the kids will start to yell, “You said you gave out ALL of the cookies! You didn’t!”)* You are right. I told you I was giving out ALL of the cookies I had, but I kept the ones back that I wanted for myself.

Many times, we say “all,” but what we really mean is “most.” We say, “God I trust you.” But we hold back areas of our lives that we want to control—like the friends we choose, the music we listen to, and the things we like to do. Our verse today says we are to trust with ALL our heart and seek His will in ALL we do. That means we can't hold anything back. If we will trust God with ALL of our heart and we will seek His will in ALL we do, then what does God *promise* to do? Our PowerVerse tells us. It says, “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and...*” *(allow kids to finish the verse)* That's right! “... he will show you which path to take.”

God Will Show Me The Path I Should Take (slide)



What does it mean for God to lead us on the right path? *(walk over to the white board)* It's like this. If THIS *(draw a dot on one side of the board)* is when we are born and THIS *(draw another dot on the other side of the board)* is when we die, if we trust God with ALL of our heart and seek His will in ALL we do, then He will lead us straight down the path that He has planned for us *(draw a straight line from point A to point B)*. Without God, our path would look like this *(draw a line that curves and swirls all over the place and never reaches the other point)*. God has an AMAZING plan for us all. That's why you must “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*”

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray for the kids to submit their lives to God and trust Him with ALL of their heart. Ask them to think of anything they are holding back from God and make a decision to turn that over to Him.

**Materials Needed:**

“REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Can Always Trust My God!”

2. What was the name of the disciple who walked on the water?

Answer: Peter

3. What did the disciples think Jesus was in our Bible Story?

Answer: A Ghost

4. What happened when Peter took his eyes off of Jesus?

Answer: He Sank

5. Did Jesus save Peter from drowning?

Answer: Yes

6. What are the four words on every piece of United States money?

Answer: In God We Trust

7. According to our lesson today, “I Can _____ Trust God.”

Answer: Always

8. According to our lesson today, “I Must Trust Him With ALL My _____.”

Answer: Heart

9. According to our lesson today, “God Will Show Me The _____ I Should Take.”

Answer: Path

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Proverbs 3:5-6