



PENGUINS



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and not be distracted by the world.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they need to put Jesus first.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 17:1-8, The Transfiguration.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
- Matthew 4:19 (NIV)*

SUMMARY:

Rockhopper penguins love hopping their way to rocky peaks. God wants us to rise above our world and focus on Jesus so we can live a higher calling.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and all you have done for us. Please help us to keep our hearts and minds focused on you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
- Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

"Come. Follow me," Jesus said. "I will make you fishers of people."
- Matthew 4:19 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

SMALL GROUP:

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.



SKIT

THOSE PENGUINS

ITEMS NEEDED:

A TV stand with a TV

A chair

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

CHARACTERS:

Bernie and Lars- Zoo keepers

Lars is sitting in the chair, his feet on the TV stand, watching TV. Bernie enters.

BERNIE: Lars?

LARS: Oh, hey, Bernie. Look what's on TV! Gilligan's Island. Boy what a funny show.

BERNIE: Lars, I'm scared.

LARS: Of what? Did the komodo dragon get loose again?

BERNIE: No, no, Rosie's in her lair sleeping already.

LARS: That's a relief.

BERNIE: It's not any of the carnivores tonight, Lars. It's the penguins.

LARS: You're scared of the penguins again?

BERNIE: I'm telling you, Lars, they're up to something.

LARS: They're penguins, man. Little, flightless birds.

SKIT

BERNIE: I know that, Lars, but something tells me they're up to something. Every night, they all go hopping up to the top of their play area, way up where we can't see them.

LARS: They hop to the top of the rocks?

BERNIE: Yes!

LARS: You do know they're called rockhopper penguins, right?

BERNIE: I know, Lars, I know. But I can't shake the feeling that we oughta be keeping a closer eye on them.

LARS: Bernie, you're getting all worked up over nothing. They're just doing what God made them to do.

BERNIE: I guess so.

LARS: I envy those penguins in a way. They don't get distracted by the little things in life. We should all aspire to reach the highest height, you know?

BERNIE: What are you talking about?

LARS: I'm talking about keeping our eyes on Jesus. Not being content to waddle around down here in the dirt, but always looking higher, looking to the God who made us.

BERNIE: You think that's what the penguins are doing?

LARS: I don't know, Bernie, but I do know it's what we should be doing. Instead of worrying what happens to Gilligan and his friends or what's going to happen tomorrow, we should be focusing on the Lord.

BERNIE: Makes sense, Lars. But as zoo keepers, I think we at least need to keep one eye on the penguins. You know, in case they're doing something, like, building a rocket ship.

LARS: Penguins? Rocket ship? Yeah, right. And I'm SpongeBob Squarepants.

Sound effect of a spaceship blasting off. Lars jumps out of his seat. Both men look up and over the audience, as if looking out a window?

LARS: Look at that! That's a rocket ship, coming out of the penguin house!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A TV antenna

Does anyone know what one of these things does?

This is a TV antenna. For people who do not have cable, this is the tool they use to pick up over the air television stations. Local TV stations use giant antennas to send out their signals, and smaller antennas like this one are able to receive those signals and send them to your TV.

Picking up those TV signals can be tricky. If you want the best signal, you may have to place your antenna someplace high, either in the house or outside the house. The higher you go, the better your reception - and the more TV stations you can get. Some people are even able to get signals from other cities depending on how high their antenna goes.

Reaching higher should be the goal of every believer. We need to remember that our destiny is not here, but in another world beyond this one. We need to keep our eyes looking up to Heaven, to Jesus, so we can know him better and do his will.

Don't be distracted by the things of this world. Keep your eyes on Jesus so that you can do the work he has planned for you.



LARGE GROUP GAME

HOP TO IT

ITEMS NEEDED:

A few small step stools or boxes

INSTRUCTIONS:

Set up a racecourse made with a few boxes or step stools.

Choose a few racers to run the course, only instead of running, they need to hop with both feet, weaving in and out of each obstacle, until they cross the finish line. First person to the end is the winner.

VARIATION:

For younger kids, skip the obstacles and just have the kids hop from start to finish.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Rockhoppers hop everywhere, and yes, they hop to the top of rocks. God wants us to go higher and keep our eyes on Jesus.



PENGUINS



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and not be distracted by the world.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they need to put Jesus first.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 17:1-8. The Transfiguration.

INTRO

We have come to the last week of our series on penguins, and while our series is almost over, we've barely scratched the surface of the penguin world. We've met three kinds of penguins in the past couple of weeks, and there are so many more that we won't get to discuss, like the Macaroni Penguins, the King Penguins, and the tiny Blue Fairy Penguins. This week we want to challenge you to focus on Jesus, to look to Heaven, and to always be climbing higher. That's why we're ending this series with the Rockhopper Penguin.

Rockhoppers have a similar look to the Macaroni. They have orange beaks and bright yellow spiky feathers on their heads, giving them the appearance of having bushy yellow eyebrows. Rockhoppers are some of the smallest penguins, only growing about twenty inches tall.

Rockhoppers are unable to slide on their bellies like many penguin species. They live in rockier terrain than their cousins, so they don't need to slide. They are named for the unique way they move from place to place, hopping with both of their pink feet up and down the rocks.

Rockhoppers can climb some big rocks, up up up, one hop at a time. That upward momentum is a good reminder for us of how we should live. As Christians we know this world is not our home. This Earth is not where we will spend eternity. One day we will go to a higher place, to Heaven, where we will all live with Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

That's where we need to focus our minds, not on this world, but on the things of Heaven.

Today's scripture takes place where else? On top of a rock, a mountain rather, where Peter, James, and John got a glimpse of what Heaven would be like.

READ MATTHEW 17:1-8

MAIN POINT

This story is called the Transfiguration because when Peter, James, and John went to the top of the mountain, Jesus was transformed from his earthly appearance to his heavenly appearance. Jesus appeared side by side with Moses, the leader of the Israelites who saved them from slavery in Egypt; and Elijah, one of the greatest prophets in Israel's history. Matthew doesn't tell us what was said. He only tells us that Jesus appeared with arguably the two most important leaders in the Old Testament. Then, as if that's not enough to convince them of who Jesus is, God speaks from Heaven and tells the disciples: "Listen to Him!"

After the Lord speaks, the disciples all fell to the ground in worship. When they looked back up, all they saw was Jesus. The message of this story is very clear for us: we need to focus on God so that all we see is Jesus. We need to block out the rest of the world and look only on him.

DRIVE IT HOME

Focusing on Jesus is not easy. We are surrounded by distractions. We have the Internet that offers to show us anything and everything in the world we want. We have peer pressure trying to get us to conform by wearing the cool clothes and acting like everyone else. We have pressure at school and sometimes at home to do well in school, to do well in sports, and to be the best we can be.

I'm not saying all of these things are bad. Doing well in school and being the best we can be can be a way to honor God with the gifts and abilities he has given us. What's important is why we do these things. Are we doing them for us, or are we doing them for God?

At the end of our lives the things we achieved in this world will no longer matter. It won't matter how much money you made, how many trophies you won, or how famous you were. Only one thing will matter: whether or not we lived for Jesus. Did we stay focused on Christ? Did we use the gifts he gave us to share Jesus with others? Or did we only do the things we do to make ourselves feel important?

Jesus told us not to focus on things of this world. This world is only temporary. We need to climb higher and keep our eyes on Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The more we know him, the more we will become like him. And the more we become like him, the more he can use us to draw others higher and closer to him.

Don't let the world distract you from the world that is to come. Keep your hearts and minds focused on Jesus, and prepare yourself for the amazing new world that is to come.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and all you have done for us. Please help us to keep our hearts and minds focused on you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



PENGUINS



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite kind of penguin?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 4:19

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids play some hopscotch and practice moving around like a Rockhopper.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 17:1-8

Who went up on the mountain with Jesus?

Who did they see talking with Jesus?

Who were Moses and Elijah?

What did God tell the disciples to do when they saw the Transfiguration?

Why do we need to focus on Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to keep our eyes on you. Help us grow closer to Jesus, and prepare us for the things you have planned for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



PENGUINS



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite kind of penguin?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 4:19

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids play some hopscotch and practice moving around like a Rockhopper.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 17:1-8

Who did the disciples see talking with Jesus on the mountain?

What did they hear when they were on the mountain?

Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to see what happened on the mountain?

What are some things that distract us from our relationship with God?

What happens when we stay focused on Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to keep our eyes on you. Help us grow closer to Jesus, and prepare us for the things you have planned for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



PENGUINS



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Fill in the blank.

The three disciples who went up on the mountain were Peter, James, and _____.
JOHN

Who did the disciples see talking with Jesus?
MOSES AND ELIJAH

When Jesus spoke to Moses and Elijah, his clothes turned _____.
WHITE

The Lord said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him. _____ to him!"
LISTEN

When the disciples looked up, all they could see was _____.
JESUS

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we talked about Rockhopper penguins, one of the smallest breeds of penguin.

Rockhopper penguins love hopping their way to rocky peaks. God wants us to rise above our world and focus on Jesus so we can live a higher calling.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Challenge your kids to look for things that can distract them from their relationship with God. Why do people choose these things instead of God? Why do we need to choose God and not the things of this world?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did the disciples see on top of the mountain?
- What did God tell the disciples they needed to do?
- Why do we need to focus our minds on Jesus?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

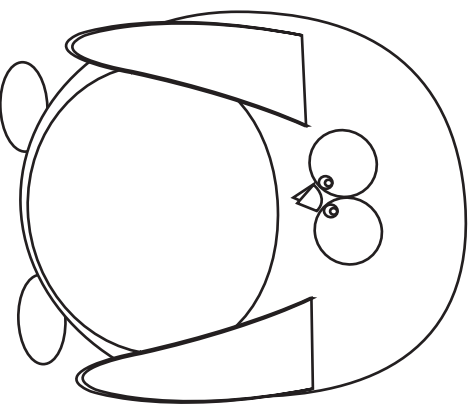
- Matthew 4:19 (NIV)



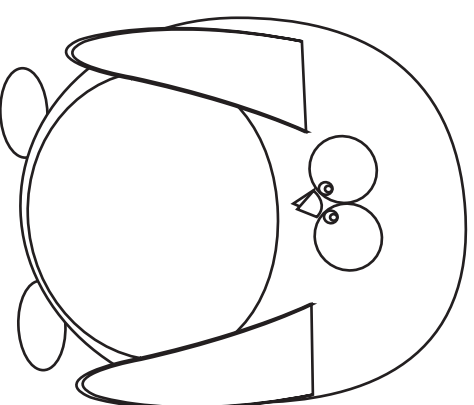
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

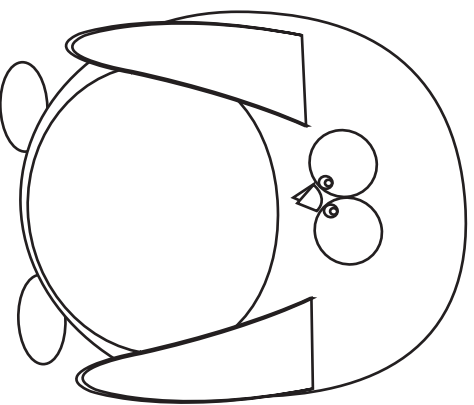
The things of this world are temporary. Only Jesus is eternal. Pray for your kids to see that they need to focus on what's eternal and not be distracted by things that are only temporary.



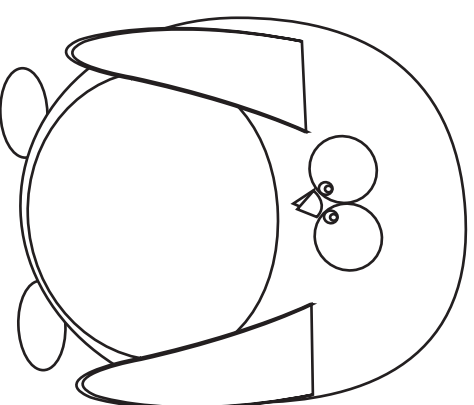
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw a picture of today's story, with Jesus being transfigured along side Moses and Elijah.