

3-6 | August 3

Bible Story: Creation and the Fall • *Genesis 1–2:3; 3 (supporting Romans 5:8)*

Key Question: How do you know you can trust God?

Bottom Line: You can trust God no matter what.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)*

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering Container
- ☐ Yarn Pieces
- ☐ Masking Tape
- ☐ Permanent Marker

Inclusive Pro-Tip

- Consider using various colors of tape to make the kids' selected yarn pieces easier to see.
- If a kid feels overwhelmed, allow them to observe a round of the game before participating.

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind every kid that God is with them, even when they don't feel ready. Pray that the kids would find the courage to try new things. Ask God to help the kids remember that even when it feels big or scary, God's plan is perfect!

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Before you begin, place the pieces of yarn in a pile on the floor. Ensure the ends of each piece of yarn are visible around the edges of the pile.
- Encourage the kids to get into pairs.
- Invite the pairs to sit down around the pile of yarn.
- Explain the goal.
 - Each pair of kids is to find the ends of the same piece of yarn without touching or moving the pile.
 - Once they think they've found it, the pair is to pick up the ends to reveal if they identified the same piece of yarn.
- Show a visual example of how the game works as you explain the goal.
- Encourage the pairs of kids to communicate and agree on which two ends belong to the same strand.
- Emphasize that once the pair decides, they can't change their minds.
- Tape the pair's chosen ends to the floor, and write their initials on the tape with a permanent marker.
- Invite the next pair to make their choice, then mark the ends with tape and initial.
- *NOTE: It's okay if multiple teams choose the same piece. If another team picks the same ends, mark them with another piece of tape.*
- Continue until all of the pairs have selected a piece of yarn.
- Once everyone is ready, invite the pairs to pull their ends to see if they're correct.

- Gather the entire group to discuss.
 - How did you and your partner decide which ends to pick?
 - Was it easy or difficult to agree? Why?
- If time allows, rearrange the yarn, direct the kids to partner up with another kid, and play again.

What You Say:

“Wow! You all had some great guesses about which tangled piece of yarn would match. This game reminds me of how God’s good plan for us got all tangled up after what happened in the Garden of Eden. But there’s more to the story! **[Transition]** Because even from the beginning, our good God had a rescue plan to ‘untangle’ it all. Let’s go find out more!”

Lead your group to watch today’s video lesson.

2. **Verses to Take with You**

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Plastic Cups
- ☐ index Cards
- ☐ Pens

Before you begin, consider watching a demonstration of the activity here: <https://bit.ly/4im8gg0>

What You Do:

- Invite kids to get into pairs.
- Give each pair a Bible and direct them to look up this month’s Memory Verse, Hebrews 11:1.
- Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they’re looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it’s in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they’re looking for. If it’s in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they’re looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they’re looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they’ve already found.

- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Ask:
 - What do you think it means to be “sure of” what you do not see? (Or, to have “confidence in” what you do not see—for the NIV.)
 - What things do you know exist even though you’ve never seen them? (*Kids might say air or wind, love, Wi-Fi, germs, etc.*)
 - What do you know is true about God even though you’ve never seen Him?
- Pause after asking kids each question to give them time to process and respond.
- Give each group four index cards, five cups, and a pen for each kid.
- Direct the kids to divide Hebrews 11:1 into four parts and write one part of the verse on each index card.

- For example, if using NIV:
 - *Faith is being sure of*
 - *what we hope for.*
 - *It is being sure of*
 - *what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*
- For example, if using NIV:
 - *Now faith is confidence in*
 - *what we hope for*
 - *and assurance about*
 - *what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*
- Create a model cup tower for the kids to reference as they build their own.
- Walk the kids through the following steps to create the cup tower:
 - Set one cup upside down on the floor, and place the first index card (with the first part of Hebrews 11:1 face up) on top of the cup.
 - Place another cup on top of that card, then add the second index card on top of that cup.
 - Continue stacking cups, alternating with index cards in verse order.
- As the kids successfully stack the cups, they must recite the portion of the verse on the index card they pulled out.
- Check the kid's towers to ensure the cups are being stacked upside down.
- Once each cup tower is complete, challenge the groups to take turns pulling an index card from the cups as fast as possible so that the cup drops onto the one underneath it.
- Encourage the kids to re-build their tower if the cups fall off.
- Play a few rounds before inviting the kids to place their verse cards in order and recite the verse together again.

Inclusive Pro-Tips

- Write the Memory Verse on the whiteboard. Some kids process information better when they see it rather than just hearing it.
- Kids may need extra time to process the verse and respond to discussion questions. Be patient and give them space to think and speak without pressure.
- If necessary, consider adapting the game's structure. For example, you can modify the speed or process of taking turns to help kids with physical or processing challenges succeed.

3. **Where Faith Begins**

What You Need:

- ☐ "Comic Book" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring Supplies
- ☐ Prepared Comic Book Sample

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Comic Book" Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Direct the kids to write their name on the page.
- Say: "Today's Bottom Line is this: **[Bottom Line] You can trust God no matter what! Let's say that together.**" (Invite kids to repeat it with you.)

- Show your sample comic book, and tell the kids they will create their very own today!
- Guide the kids to fold the page in half along the dotted line to create a book.
- Look at the scene on page 1 together and ask:
 - “What do you think is happening here?” (*A kid is trying to play with a friend on the playground who takes their soccer ball.*)
 - “What are some ways you can remember God’s love when you’re feeling hurt or rejected?” (*You can look at the wonderful things that God made and think about the wonderful things He has done, because He is wonderful! You can remind yourself that God loves you so much that Jesus gave His life so you can be in a relationship with God!*)
 - “How do you think God could bring something good out of this situation?” (*Maybe you realize that kid wasn’t being nice, so you go play with other kids and make new friends.*)
- Challenge the kids to fill in the missing scenes of the comic by adding words, and drawings to finish the story.
- Give the kids time to use the coloring supplies to complete the page.
- Repeat the same steps for the second page:
 - “Have you ever felt like you did something so bad that you really messed up a relationship? How do you think God sees you, even when you’ve made a bad choice?” (*God doesn’t love us any less when we make a bad choice. We can trust God no matter what we face!*)
 - “What do you think God wants you to remember when you’ve made a bad choice?” (*Remember that God loves you, and He wants you to do what you can to fix the situation and love the person like He would.*)
 - “How can you show love to this person since Jesus always shows love?” (*You can say you are really sorry. You can help your sibling rebuild their block tower.*)
- Let the kids decorate the cover of their comic book.
- Invite the kids to share their comic stories once they’re finished.

What You Say:

"I loved seeing all your comic books! It's cool how they all started the same way, but you each made them your own. In life sometimes people hurt us or we hurt other people, like in our comics. But that doesn't mean God doesn't still love us. He always, always loves us."

"God has never given up on us, He has never stopped loving us, and we can trust that nothing will ever change God's love for us. The point is this: **[Bottom Line] you can trust God no matter what.** Because even when you make a bad choice, you can *always* trust God!"

Inclusive Pro Tips

- If any kids need extra time, allow them to work at their own pace.
- Some kids may need help brainstorming what to draw. Suggest simple illustrations like hearts, stars, a cross, etc.
- If any kids don't feel comfortable sharing, offer them the option to share with a friend or invite them to simply show the group their drawings instead of vocalizing them aloud.

4. Pray

What You Say:

“God, we love You. Thank You for the wonderful world You made and for creating each one of us in Your image. Thank You for loving us so much! When we make a bad choice, help us to remember that Your love for us is always bigger and we can trust You no matter what! Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin so we could be close to You. Teach us to be Your friends so we are close with You our entire lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”