

3-6 | August 17

Today's Bible Story: God Chooses Abram • *Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6*

Today's Key Question: What does it look like to trust God?

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust that God has a plan.

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
- ☐ Water Bottle

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Express gratitude for God's Son, Jesus, who showed us what it looks like to look out for others, no matter what people may think. Ask God to give the kids in your group hearts that notice and care for others in need. Pray they will have the courage to be kind and stand up for what is right, even when it's hard.

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.
- Instruct two kids to stand and face each other a few feet apart.
- Place the water bottle on the floor between them.
- Explain that when you say a command, they are to make the action you say.
- Demonstrate each action.
 - "STARS!" —raise your hands above your head.
 - "BYE!" —wave your hand.
 - "OFF WE GO!" —turn around in a circle.
 - "BOTTLE" —reach down and grab the water bottle.
- Say, *"I will say the words in random order. When I say 'BOTTLE!,' be the first to grab the water bottle to win the round."*
- The winner stays for the next round, and a new kid steps in.
- Play until each kid has had at least one turn.

What You Say:

"Whew, that game was fast, but FUN! The actions in our game may have seemed random, but a lot of them actually show up in today's true story from the Bible. **[Transition]** Can you guess what the story is? (*Invite responses.*) Let's go find out how God did something EPIC for all of us through a guy named Abraham!"

Inclusive Pro Tips

- Start the game off slowly and gradually speed things up. This can help the kids process words before reacting.
- You can modify the "grab" action by letting both the kids point at the bottle instead.
- Consider providing alternative motions, like stepping side to side if turning in circles is difficult for the kids.

Lead your group to watch today's video lesson.

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible x1
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ “Proverbs 3:5” Activity Page
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-Erase Marker

What You Do:

- Look up Proverbs 3:5 and read aloud. Have the children repeat after you.
- Write the verse on the white board.
- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Invite kids to share their thoughts about the meaning of Proverbs 3:5. Ask:
 - What does this verse say about trusting God?
 - The word “heart,” in this verse means more than feelings. What do you think it means to *“trust in the LORD with all your heart”*?
- Divide kids into teams of 2-3.
- Direct the teams to spread out.
- Give each team a clipboard with 10 sheets of paper, and markers.
- Explain the game:
 - You will ask a question about the verse from the “Proverbs 3:5” Activity Page.
 - One kid from each team will write the answer on the paper on the clipboard, then run it to you—all within 10-20 seconds.
 - The kids are not to run until they finish writing.
 - You will check each team’s answer.
 - Teams that answer correctly within the time get 10 points.
 - The team with the most points at the end wins!
- Set the timer for each round.
- Use the whiteboard and dry-erase marker to keep score.
- Before each question, instruct the teams to move their top paper to the back so the next kid has a fresh piece of paper for each round.
- Share with kids that spelling isn’t the focus; just do your best to choose an answer quickly!
- Celebrate the kids’ effort and calculate the scores!

Inclusive Pro Tips

- Think about your group’s needs. If any kids need more time to process, consider changing the time or playing without a timer.
- If running isn’t an option, let kids answer the questions and pass the clipboard to a teammate to run.
- If kids in your group process best visually, consider writing the fill-in-the-blank questions on the whiteboard and keeping score on the side portion of the whiteboard.
- High-energy games can be overwhelming for some kids. Offer an alternative role, like keeping score or writing questions on the whiteboard.

3. Trust Walk

What You Need:

- ☐ Floor Tape

Optional:

- ☐ Blindfold

What You Do:

- Direct kids to form groups of two (a group of three is okay).
- Designate a starting line and a finish line in your group space with floor tape.
- Invite the kids to form a line with their partner behind it.
- Tell the kids to identify who will be the “walker,” and who will be the “guide.”
- Blindfold the walker (if comfortable) or ask them to close their eyes.
- Explain how to play.
 - The “Guide” is to help the “Walker” move safely to the finish line using only their voice (no touching!)
 - They can say things like, “Take one step forward,” “Turn right,” or “Stop!”
- When the “walker” finishes, switch roles so both kids get a turn.
- Continue until every group gets a turn to walk.

What You Say:

“Awesome job, friends! It can feel a little scary to walk without seeing, right? I mean, you really had to trust your partner to guide you to safety!”

“In life, we don't always know what's coming next. Even though we can see, there are a lot of things we don't understand, like why it's taking us so long to understand math or if you're ever going to find friends again after your big move. Friends, we CAN trust God's plan for us because we can trust God. He is good and is always working for good! Nothing can stop God's plan to bring good out of hard things and to make everything right in the end. God loves us and knows what's best for us, and **[Bottom Line] you can trust that God has a plan** and it's a good one.”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- For any kids who need extra processing time, encourage the “Guide” to speak slowly and repeat directions if necessary. Encourage them to be patient.
- Some kids might prefer predictable steps, especially with a blindfold. Walk them through the course before starting.

4. **Pray and Dismiss**

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Instruct the kids to close their eyes.
- Explain that you will read several statements slowly, say a statement, and if the statement applies to the kids, the kids are to raise their hand (no need to speak).
- One at a time, share the statements below, pausing to allow the kids to raise their hands if the statement applies to them:
 - "I've had a bad day this week."
 - "It's hard to stay positive when things are difficult."
 - "I trust God has a plan, even on my bad days."
 - "I believe that God will make everything right in the end."
- Encourage the kids by letting them know they're not alone! Tell them everyone has tough days, but they can trust God together.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, thank You for being with us in every minute of our lives! Sometimes, we don't understand why some things happen. When we're worried or unsure, please remind us that You are good and that nothing can stop Your good plan to make everything right in the end. Please help us trust in You and in Your promise to make everything right in the end because You have never, ever broken a promise. Help us to have faith and trust in You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Some kids might not feel comfortable raising their hands. Offer alternatives, such as placing a finger or fist on their lap.
- Pause for 5-10 seconds between each statement to give the kids time to process.