



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Living the adventure God plans for us requires preparation.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will see why it is important to spend time in Bible study, prayer, and worship.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-13, 38-41 The Disciples Prepare Themselves for the Holy Spirit

MEMORY VERSE:

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

- *Philippians 4:12-13*

SUMMARY:

The adventure of a lifetime takes preparation. Before you ever set foot in the Amusement Park, you have to pack up your snacks and sunscreen, drive to the location, find a parking space, and buy your tickets at the main gate. Jesus had invited his friends on a grand adventure to "make disciples of all nations." They prepared by gathering together, praying, and inviting the Holy Spirit to move among them.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Please prepare our hearts for the adventures you have planned for us. Thank you for giving us your word to guide us and for always hearing our prayers.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

- Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)

"I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength."

- Philippians 4:12-13 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Put the verse on the big screen and read it aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP:

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.



SKIT

AT THE GATE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bench

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M/2F

CHARACTERS:

Bert- A dad

Denise- Bert's wife

Krista- Bert's daughter

Kenny- An amusement park employee

The bench is at center. Bert and Denise sit on the bench, waiting patiently, while Krista paces.

KRISTA: I'm so tired of waiting! When can we go in?

BERT: Just a few more minutes, Krista.

KRISTA: It's taking forever.

BERT: Krista, we've waiting six months for this.

KRISTA: I'm tired of waiting! I want to be in the park.

BERT: I know.

KRISTA: I want to ride the Sizzler.

BERT: I know.

SKIT

KRISTA: I want a world famous caramel apple, and then I want to ride the Terror-ble Tower.

DENISE: If you do that, you're going to throw up.

BERT: Krista, we'll do all those things. Please, have a seat.

KRISTA: This is so annoying!

BERT: We can't go in until the park opens.

KRISTA: Why doesn't it open now?

BERT: They're still getting it ready, dear. Just like we had to get ready.

KRISTA: I am ready!

BERT: I know you are, but think of all the things we had to do to prepare. We had to buy tickets.

KRISTA: We have tickets.

BERT: We had to get a hotel.

KRISTA: We have a hotel!

BERT: We had to put on sunscreen and swimsuits.

KRISTA: I have sunscreen and my swimsuit. I'm ready to ride the Sizzler, eat a world famous caramel apple, and ride the Terror-ble Tower.

DENISE: You're going to throw up.

BERT: We'll do it all, Krista. We will. But for now, let's be content to wait patiently until it's time to go in.

Kenny enters.

KENNY: Uh, excuse me, are you all waiting on anything?

BERT: Just waiting for you to open your doors, my good man.

KENNY: The park opened fifteen minutes ago.

SKIT

KRISTA: What??

BERT: No, it didn't! My watch says it's ten til.

KENNY: No, sir, it's quarter after. We're open.

BERT: Huh, well what do you know? My watch stopped.

KRISTA: Dad!!!

BERT: All right, Krista, let's go inside.

Denise and Bert stand up. They all follow Kenny off stage.

KRISTA: Come on! I'm gonna ride the Sizzler, eat a world famous caramel apple, and ride the Terror-ble Tower.

DENISE: If you do all that, you'll-

BERT: She'll throw up, honey. We know.

Kenny, Krista, Bert, and Denise exit.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Sunscreen

Ask the kids if anyone is going outside later that day. Choose one kid to come up and demonstrate how to put on some sunscreen.

Sunscreen is an important part of any summer activity. If you're going to be in the sun, you need to protect yourself. Doesn't matter if you're going to the zoo, the beach, the amusement park, or just the park down the street. Before you go, you prepare to fight the dangers of the sun.

God has a great adventure in store for all of us, just as he had for the early church. Before we can experience that adventure, we need to prepare ourselves. That means we need to pray, to spend time in God's word, and to wait for the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is our guide to adventure. Prayer and scripture are how we follow him. Ask God to prepare your heart for adventure, just as we prepare our bodies when we go out in the sun. Then get ready for the adventure of a lifetime!



LARGE GROUP GAME

RING TOSS

ITEMS NEEDED:

- A table
- A large number of glass bottles
- Plastic bracelets or hoops

INSTRUCTIONS:

Arrange the bottles on the table in tightly packed rows. Mark one or two bottles with a red marker around the top. These are the targets.

Choose three players. Each player gets a chance to toss three rings at the bottles. If they get the bracelet around one of the colored bottle tops, they win a prize.

VARIATION:

Create more targets for the younger kids to give them more of a chance to win.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

A wise player prepares and takes aim rather than tossing haphazardly. Prepare yourself for the adventure God has for you by connecting with the Holy Spirit.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Living the adventure God plans for us requires preparation.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will see why it is important to spend time in Bible study, prayer, and worship.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-13, 38-41 The Disciples Prepare Themselves for the Holy Spirit

INTRO

Summer time is finally here, and I'll bet everyone is excited. Summer means no school, no homework, and no getting up early to catch the bus. It means playing in the backyard, riding bikes, swimming in the pool, and just relaxing while being a kid. Yes, sir, there's nothing more exciting than summer. Or is there?

What about a summer trip to the amusement park? Amusement parks exist for one reason only: fun! Amusement parks are one place you can scream and act like a nut and completely fit in. It's a place you can play crazy games, win giant stuffed animals, and eat crazy food.

And let's not forget about the rides! From the tilt-a-whirl and bumper cars to giant roller coasters to water rides, amusement parks are full of adventure. Yes indeed, there's nothing more exciting than an amusement park.

Of course before you can get to that excitement, you have to prepare. You have to decide where to go. You have to buy tickets. You may have to book a hotel. You have to pack snacks and lunches and water bottles. You may have to pack a swimsuit and towel. And you definitely want to bring sunscreen!

Today we're starting a series all about amusement parks and adventures. Not just the adventure of roller coasters, but the adventure of following Jesus. Just like a trip to an amusement park, following Jesus requires preparation.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Let's take a look at how the early church, Jesus' disciples, prepared for the adventure God had planned for them.

READ Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-13, 38-41

MAIN POINT

Acts is the last history book in the Bible. It's not really an end to the story, but a new beginning. Jesus' death and resurrection was the end to the Bible's main story, how God restored us and forgave our sins. Acts is a new beginning. It's a story of adventure that began with the early church and continues with us.

These are the men and women who would take the good news of Jesus to the world. They would heal the sick, raise the dead, suffer at the hands of the Romans, and establish Christ's church in the world. But before that could happen, they had to get ready.

Jesus' followers prepared by gathering together. They prayed, they worshiped God, and they waited for the Holy Spirit. Once the Holy Spirit came, they were ready. The main gate of the amusement park opened, and the adventure began!

DRIVE IT HOME

Who is the Holy Spirit? Does anyone know?

The Holy Spirit is God with us, God's spirit that dwells in us when we accept Jesus as our Savior. The Holy Spirit is our ticket to the adventure God has planned for us.

If we want to find that adventure, we have to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit. That begins with prayer. Prayer is talking to God. It's telling him how we feel. It's asking him for help. It's asking him to guide us.

We also need to read the Bible. The Bible is God's Word, and the Holy Spirit can use that word to show us the right thing to do. Whether it's loving someone in need or doing something really daring - like standing up to a bully - the Bible has an answer for us.

We also need to worship God. From the very beginning, the church gathered to worship God through song. Worship puts us in the frame of mind to hear God's will and to do God's will. It prepares us to live a life of adventure.

God has a plan for every one of us, an adventure only we can live. The first step to living that adventure is to get ready. Pray, read the Word, and worship God. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide, and be willing to act when the Holy Spirit says go. Then let the adventure begin!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Please prepare our hearts for the adventures you have planned for us. Thank you for giving us your word to guide us and for always hearing our prayers.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

Who is going to an amusement park this summer?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have each kid introduce themselves and tell about the greatest ride they ever went on at an amusement park or elsewhere.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-13, 38-41

Where were the disciples when the Holy Spirit came?

Why were they together, waiting?

What did the Holy Spirit allow them to do?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

How can we prepare ourselves to follow the Holy Spirit?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the adventures you have planned for us. Teach us to follow you so that we will not miss a thing!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

Who is going to an amusement park this summer?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have each kid introduce themselves and tell about the greatest ride they ever went on at an amusement park or elsewhere.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-13, 38-41

What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit came?

What happened after the Holy Spirit came down?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

How did the disciples change the world with the help of the Holy Spirit?

How can we prepare ourselves to follow the Holy Spirit?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the adventures you have planned for us. Teach us to follow you so that we will not miss a thing!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Is this something you need in order to prepare for the amusement park or to follow Christ?

Sunscreen
AMUSEMENT PARK

Ticket
AMUSEMENT PARK

Prayer
CHRIST

Swimsuit
AMUSEMENT PARK

Reading the Bible
CHRIST

Hotel reservation
AMUSEMENT PARK

Worship
CHRIST

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: MAIN GATE



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we talked about the adventure of following Jesus. Living the adventure God plans for us requires preparation. Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-13, 38-41 – The Disciples Prepare for the Holy Spirit.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

What plans do you have for summer? Talk to the kids about those plans, and ask them what they need to do to prepare. Then ask them how they can prepare to follow Christ.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How did the Holy Spirit help the early church?
- How can we prepare to follow the Holy Spirit?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

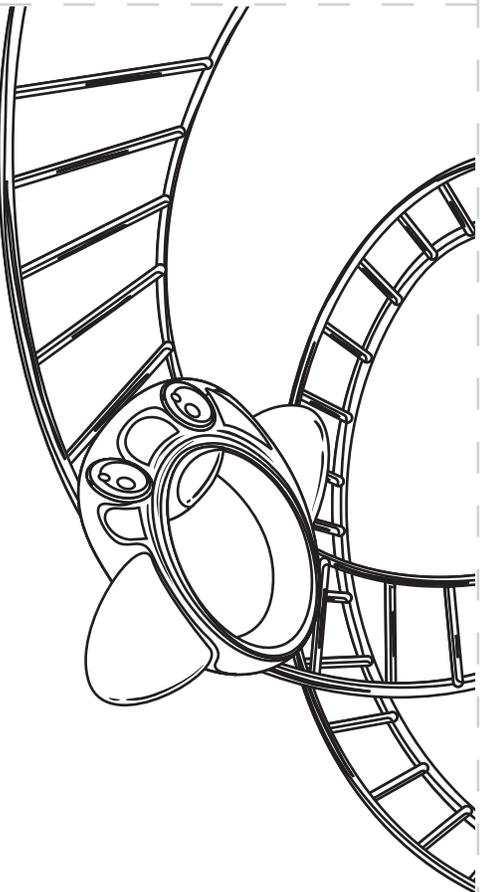
- *Philippians 4:12-13*



PARENT TIME:

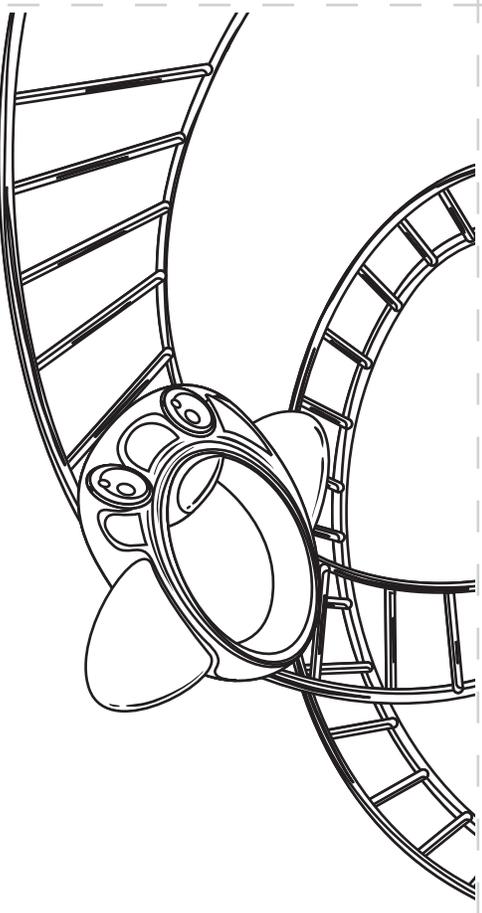
What you need to know:

Pray for your kids to develop the strong spiritual habits of prayer and Bible study, and encourage them to do so. Developing those habits while they are young will prepare them for the challenges in their future.



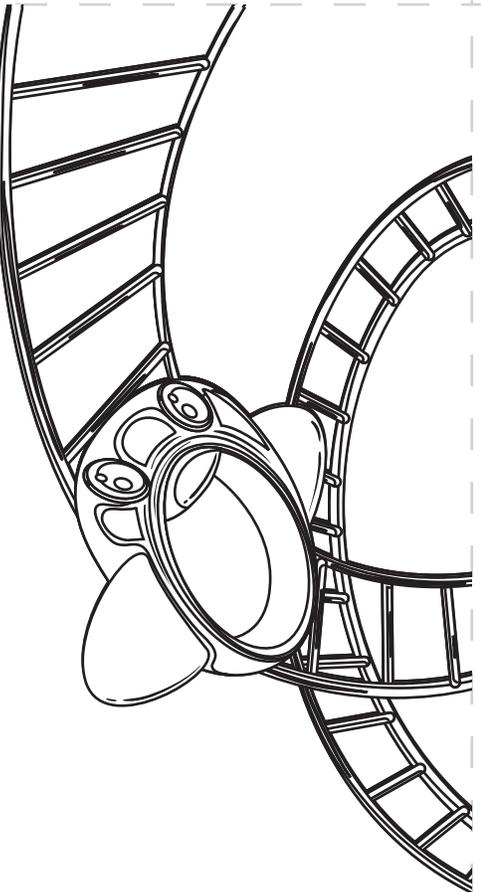
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- Philippians 4:12-13



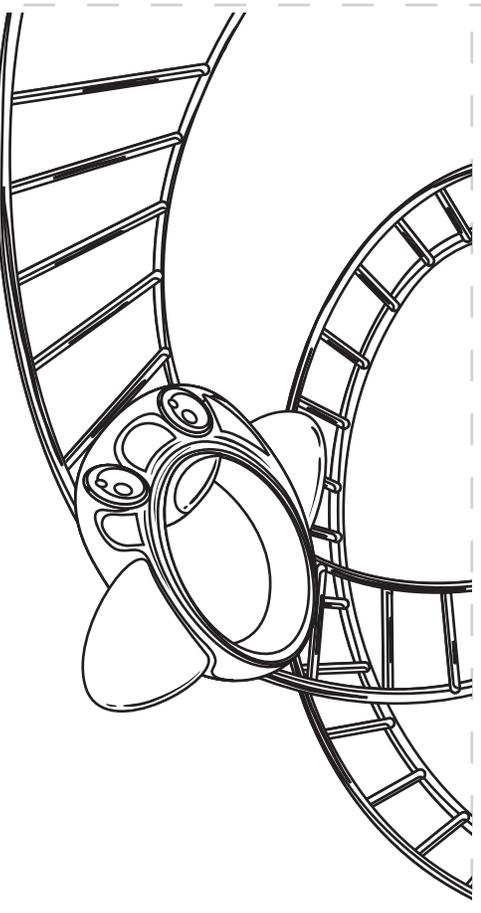
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create a “ticket” to adventure with construction paper. Have them imagine what an entry ticket to God’s amusement park of life would be like, then draw it and cut it out.