



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to share in this adventure with others.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God's adventure is to be lived with friends and family.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 20:17-37, Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians

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:

As the day at the Amusement Park comes to a close, look up at the night sky and watch the fireworks show with the ones you love. The light and sound from the rockets can be seen from miles away. The adventure of life with Jesus is meant to be shared with others. At the end of his life, Paul was able to look back and rejoice over all the friends he was able to share the adventure with.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us family, friends, and a church to share our adventure as we live for you.

*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:

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

SMALL GROUP:

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.



SKIT

WHAT A DAY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Couch
Blanket
Cellphone

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/3F

CHARACTERS:

Bert - A dad
Denise - Bert's wife
Krista - Bert's daughter
Erin - A nurse

The couch is at center. Krista sits on the couch while Denise paces, holding her phone to her ear.

DENISE: Hello, Doris? This is Denise... Hi, listen, I was wondering if you could get the hide-a-key and check on the dogs for us?... Yes, we're still at the amusement park... No, I think we're staying the night... Bert had a little incident... You know the food challenge they have up here, eat your own height in cotton candy?... Yes he did... Yes, he did... The nurse is with him now, and we're hoping we can spend the night in the hotel instead of the emergency room... Here he comes now... Thanks, Doris, we'll see you tomorrow.

Denise hangs up as Erin walks in with Bert, a blanket draped around his shoulders. His hair is spiked, and he has a crazed look in his eye.

DENISE: Bert, are you okay?

BERT: FINE! NEVER BETTER!

SKIT

ERIN: Take it easy, Mr. Conway. Let's have a seat here by your daughter.

BERT: I NEED TO RUN!

ERIN: You're not doing anything until we get your blood sugar down.

DENISE: Oh, Burt, why did you eat all that cotton candy?

BERT: I WON A FREE NIGHT IN THE HOTEL!

DENISE: Yes, but Bert, look at you!

BERT: I'M FINE!

ERIN: He really is fine, Mrs. Conway. Just the fact he's conscious says he's doing better than most people who eat their weight in cotton candy.

DENISE: Well this has been a day. Krista throws up on the Tilt-A-Whirl.

KRISTA: You won that teddy bear on the frog-a-pult game and then lost it on the raging rapids ride.

DENISE: We all got sunburned.

BERT: I SEE PLUTO!

ERIN: That's just a cotton candy-fueled hallucination, Mr. Conway.

KRISTA: But you know something? We survived, and we did it together.

DENISE: You're right, Krista. It's just a shame we're going to miss the fireworks.

ERIN: No you're not. Keep watching out the window. I have the best seat in the house.

They all sit down to watch the fireworks through the imaginary window downstage center.

KRISTA: Oh, look at that!

DENISE: It's so beautiful.

BERT: WOO HOO! THEY BLEW UP THE DEATH STAR!

SKIT

DENISE: Are you sure he's going to be okay?

ERIN: He'll be fine, Mrs. Conway. Ready to survive another day with his family.

End.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Steak sauces: A-1, Heinz 57, Worcestershire, and hot sauce
Tortilla chips

How many of you like a little sauce with your steak? Anyone?

Let a few kids sample the sauces by pouring a few drops on some tortilla chips.

Most restaurants have a few things on the table for their guests already set, like ketchup and mustard, or salt and pepper. When you go into a steak restaurant, it's steak sauces waiting for you at the table. Most places will offer you at least these four: A-1, Heinz 57, Worcestershire sauce, and some sort of hot sauce.

No one uses them all, of course, except a few brave kids. Most people prefer to just add one to their steak. They take it out and drop some on their plate, then they put it back. Each steak has adventures on its own, but at the end of the day, they are all together.

That's what today's message is all about. God wants us to enjoy life's adventure with our families and close friends. We don't all share the same exact adventures, but we're there for each other, every day, morning, noon, and night.

God is with us on life's journey, but he's not the only one. Let's thank God for the families he gave us and ask him to make our families strong!



LARGE GROUP GAME

FUNNEL CAKE FRENZY

ITEMS NEEDED:

2 Funnel cakes

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose 8 hungry kids and divide them into teams of 4. The two teams will race to see who can work together and devour a funnel cake first. First team to completely demolish their funnel cake wins.

VARIATION:

If funnel cakes are not available, another amusement park treat will do: nachos, cotton candy, etc.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Our life's adventure is meant to be shared with our family and close friends.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to share in this adventure with others.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God's adventure is to be lived with friends and family.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 20:17-37, Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians

INTRO

Over the last eight weeks, we've talked a lot about amusement parks. Amusement parks are some of the most fun you can have as a kid. They're full of cool rides like roller coasters, bumper cars, and carousels. They sometimes have water rides or even water parks. They have spectacular shows, games you just can't win, and greasy, sugary, tasty food.

Many amusement parks end their day with one more little treat: fireworks! As the park closes, visitors gather together with their families to make one last memory as the sky lights up with bright colors.

That's the one real unifying feature of any amusement park - not the fireworks, not the rides, not the games or the shows. It's families. It's moms and dads and grandparents and kids and sometimes friends having a great time and making some amazing memories together. Amusement parks cater to families, offering family packages and discounts to encourage people to come together and make some memories.

As we gather one last time to learn about God's adventure, we're going to see that God's adventure is also meant to be shared. It's an adventure we take with our families, our friends, and our church family. Paul makes that very clear in today's scripture, when he bids farewell to a very special family, the Christians he taught in the city of Ephesus.

READ Acts 20:17-37

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT

It's always a little sad when a fun day at the amusement park ends. It was certainly a sad day for Paul and the Ephesians when he gave this speech. Paul's work was done, and he was moving on to serve the Lord elsewhere. He knew he would be thrown in prison, and he knew he would face persecution. He also knew that the people he left behind in Ephesus would face their own challenges.

That's why Paul encouraged the Ephesians to stick together. He wanted them to look out for each other, just as he and they had done for one another. He encouraged them to stay close to Jesus so they would not be led astray from the path God had chosen for them. He prayed that his friends would be strong in the face of persecution and give each other courage to face whatever trials may come.

God has given us all families, friends, and church friends to share our journey. Just like the Ephesians, we were meant to live this adventure together.

DRIVE IT HOME

Having family and friends to share our journey is a great comfort, especially when the journey gets hard. We always have Jesus with us, but when we have people who love us by our side, we can draw even greater strength from those loved ones. Having that family means having someone to listen, to give advice, or just to give hugs when they are needed.

We can also return the favor for our loved ones. When someone we know is down, we can pray for them. We can be the good listener, the wise counselor, or the friend who offers a much needed hug.

Sharing our journey doesn't just mean sharing all the hard stuff. It also means sharing the joy! When something good happens, we can rejoice together. When God answers a prayer, we can share that good news with those who have prayed for us. We can sit back, put our arms around one another, and we can enjoy the fireworks.

God never meant for anyone to walk this life alone. Not even Jesus was completely alone. He had his followers, his twelve disciples, and his three closest friends. He was there for them, as he is for us. We need to be there for the friends, the family, and the fellow believers in our lives.

Life is an adventure. Like an amusement park, it's full of strange sights, wild rides, and ups and downs. Like an amusement park, life is an adventure best experienced with the ones you love. Let's thank God for the adventure he has planned for us, and let's thank him for the people who will be there with us.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us family, friends, and a church to share our adventure as we live for you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

Where is your favorite amusement park in the world?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have everyone stand in a circle. Turn to your left and give that person a pat on the back. Turn to your right and give that person a pat on the back. Now turn left and right again and share hugs with those around you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Read Acts 20:17-37

Why was Paul saying farewell to the Ephesians?

What did Paul tell the Ephesians to do?

Why do you think Paul wanted the Ephesians to stick together?

Who are some of the special people sharing your adventures in life?

How can friends and family help you on life's adventure?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us people to share our journey. Please use us as a blessing to others as they are a blessing to us on our adventure.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

Where is your favorite amusement park in the world?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Philippians 4:12-13

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have everyone stand in a circle. Turn to your left and give that person a pat on the back. Turn to your right and give that person a pat on the back. Now turn left and right again and share hugs with those around you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Read Acts 20:17-37

Why did Paul say he would never see the Ephesians again?

Why do you think Paul wanted the Ephesians to stick together?

Who are some of the special people sharing your adventures in life?

How can friends and family help you on life's adventure?

Do you recall a time you shared someone's adventure, or they shared with you in yours?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us people to share our journey. Please use us as a blessing to others as they are a blessing to us on our adventure.

In Jesus' name, Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

True or False.

Paul promised the Ephesians he would return to them.

FALSE

Paul knew the Ephesians needed to stick together.

TRUE

God wants us to walk in life's adventure alone.

FALSE

We can share our journey with our family, friends, and church.

TRUE

We can share the good times and the bad times with others on our adventure.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: FIREWORKS



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we wrapped up our series on amusement parks by talking about the fireworks that families enjoy together at the end of the day. God wants us to share our faith journey with friends and family, in good times and bad. Acts 20:17-37, Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Spend some time together this week, praying or praising God for the good things he has done.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did Paul say to the Ephesians before he left them?
- Why does God want us to share our journeys with our families?
- Who else can be our family besides our parents and siblings?



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."

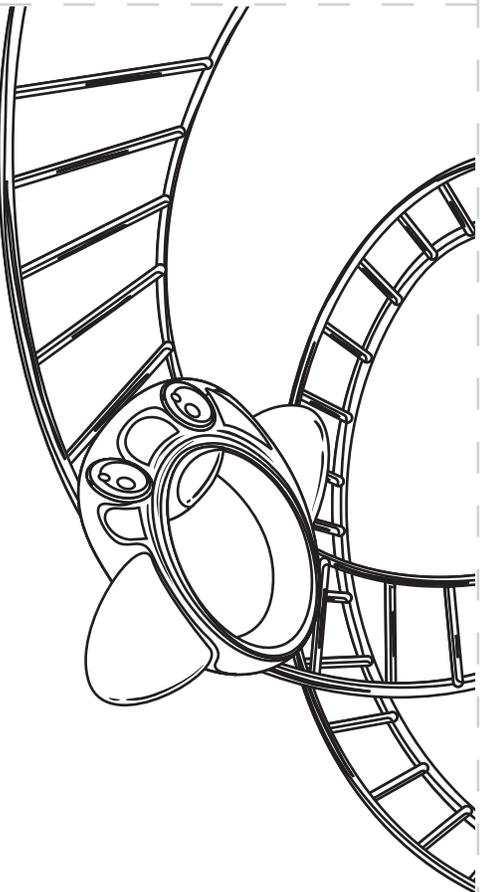
- *Philippians 4:12-13*



PARENT TIME:

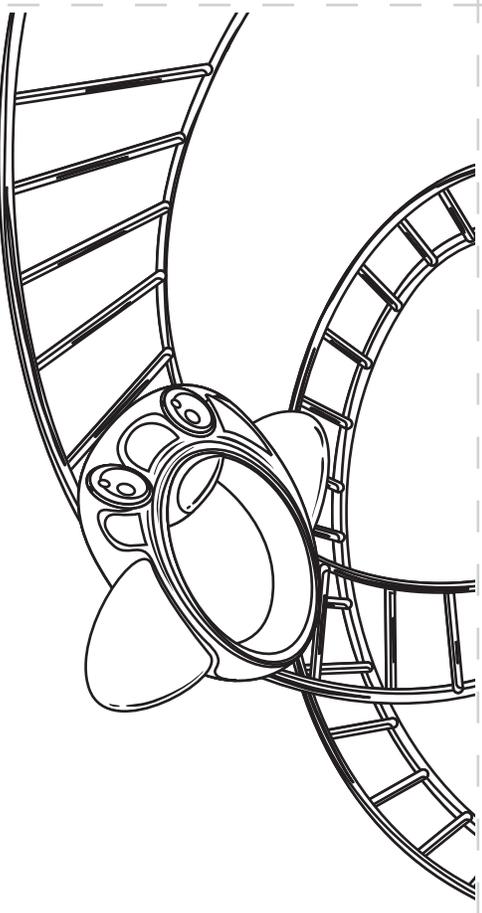
What you need to know:

As a parent, it's your job to prepare your children for the journey they will continue long after they have grown up. Share your faith journey with your kids now so they will share theirs with their children.



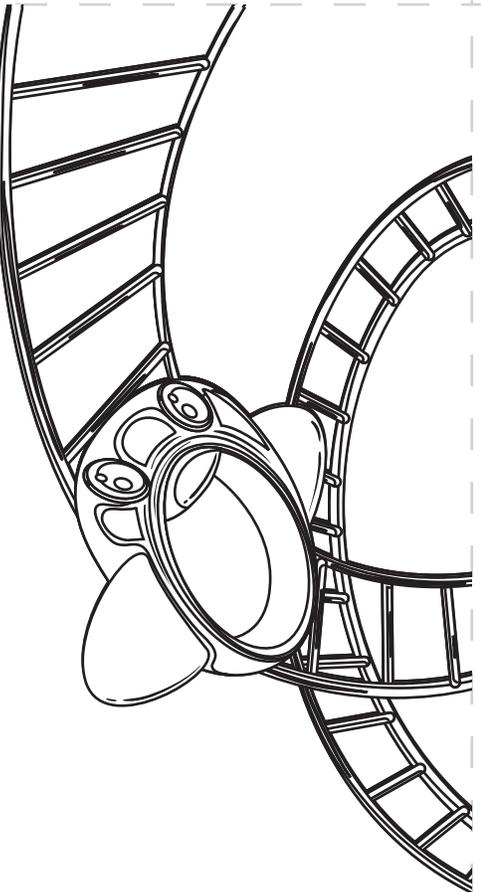
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- Philippians 4:12-13



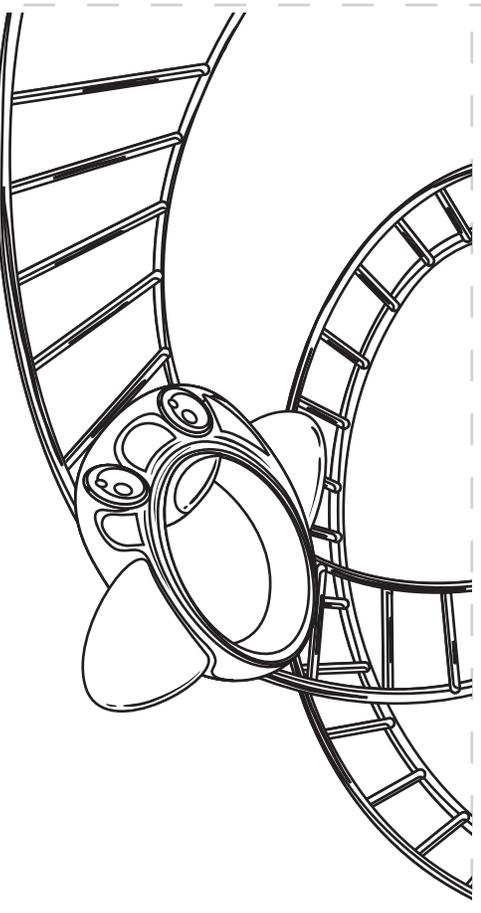
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- Philippians 4:12-13



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids write a letter to a family member or friend, thanking them for their love and encouraging them in their journey with Christ.