

WEEK OF MAY 25, 2019



GRADES 1-5



SERIES OVERVIEW

Throughout history, God has offered strength to help people persevere through difficult situations. Jesus persevered through death itself to make it possible for us to have a forever relationship with God. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can trust Him to help us find the strength to persevere through whatever we face.

VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

REFUSING TO GIVE UP WHEN LIFE GETS HARD.

WEEKLY MAIN POINTS

Week 1: Keep going because God is with you. Week 2: You can choose joy when life gets hard.

Week 3: God can help you let go of what is holding you back.

WEEK 4: KEEP GOING BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU.

WEEKLY BIBLE STORIES

Week 1: Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel • Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1-2

Week 2: Paul and Silas in Prison ● Acts 16:16-40

Week 3: Cloud of Witnesses • Hebrews 12:1

WEEK 4: FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS • HEBREWS 12:2-3

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31, NIV

KID CONNECT

KID CONNECT is a time to welcome kids to eGroup with a fun activity to help them feel comfortable and guide them in connecting with the eGroup Leader and each other.

KID CONNECT ENDS WHEN THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE BEGINS.

VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

MAIN POINT

Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

BIBLE STORY

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:2-3

MEMORY VERSE

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MEMORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Motion check-in sheet (1), playing cards (1 deck)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Start by introducing yourself and welcoming kids to your eGroup.
 As kids come in, write their names and tag numbers on the Motion check-in sheet.
- Ask them about their week and interests. Use the following questions to generate discussion:
 - What's something cool that happened this week?
 - Have you _____ (seen/eaten/listened to/read) any good _____ (movies/TV shows/food/music/books) lately?
 - · What are you looking forward to next week?

Once you have five to six kids begin playing Memory.

- Seat kids in a wide circle.
- Shuffle the deck.
- Place the cards face-down on the floor in a thirteen-by-four card grid.
- Explain kids will take turns turning over two cards.
 - If the two cards match, the kid keeps the match.
 - If the two cards do not match, the kid should return them face-down to the same spots where they were found.
- The kid with the most matches at the end wins!
- NOTE: This Memory game has progressed in difficulty throughout the month. Each week, additional matches have been added.
 Encourage kids to show perseverance even though the game has become increasingly difficult!

GROUP CONNECT

In the **GROUP CONNECT** activity, kids will get to know each other and review the Motion rules. **After this activity, GO TO LARGE GROUP.**

VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

MAIN POINT

Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

BIBLE STORY

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:2-3

MEMORY VERSE

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31, NIV

ULTIMATE WOULD YOU RATHER

WHAT YOU NEED: playing cards (1 deck)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Welcome to eGroup! My name is _____ and I'm your eGroup leader! As an eGroup we will hang out together during Motion, hear stories from the Bible, learn what it means to live for Jesus, and play games! Before we go any farther, let's get to know each other a little better."

WHAT YOU DO:

- Shuffle the cards and let each kid take one random card from the deck.
- Tell kids to find and stand by another kid with a card that has the same suit (clubs, hearts, diamonds, or spades) as theirs.
- Ask the first question below. Encourage kids to introduce themselves to the kid they're standing by and then answer the question.
- Tell kids to find another kid with a card that has the same suit.
- Ask the second question below. Encourage kids to introduce themselves to the kid they're standing by and then answer the question.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- "Would you rather walk across a balance beam over a pit of fire or a pit of snakes?"
- "Would you rather walk across a balance beam over a deep river or zipline over an active volcano?"

WHAT YOU DO:

Encourage kids to sit in a circle.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Before we head to Large Group, let's review our three Motion rules:

- 1. **Jump in!** What can you do to help yourself stay engaged in the Motion experience? (participate in discussions, games, and activities; worship enthusiastically; have a great attitude)
- 2. **Listen up!** How can you show respect to others? (*listen to and follow leaders' directions, stay quiet when others are talking*)
- 3. ACT out! ACT stands for Accept others, Choose kindness, and Take responsibility. How can your actions help others have a great experience?" (intentionally include everyone, use kind words, keeping my hands to myself, owning my actions)

YOU CONNECT

In the **APPLICATION** activity, kids will apply the main point to their personal lives.

VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

MAIN POINT

Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

BIBLE STORY

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:2-3

MEMORY VERSE

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31. NIV

PERSEVERE FOR THE PRIZE

WHAT YOU NEED: activity sheets (10), pens (10), leader key (1), Clif Kid protein bars (1 per kid)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The activity you're about to do today is going to be challenging. You're going to look up four different passages in your Bible with only a partner to help you. You'll have to match a list of emotions to the correct Bible story and use the story to explain what Jesus did when He felt that emotion. It won't be easy, but everyone who finishes the activity will get a yummy chocolate chip protein bar at the end for persevering!"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an activity sheet and a pen. Divide kids into pairs.
- Point out the four emotions on the left side of the sheet. Explain these are four of the emotions Jesus felt that we often feel, too.
- Point out the four Bible story references on the right. Tell kids that each of these Bible stories shows what Jesus did when He felt one of those four emotions.
- Explain kids will work with their partner to look up each of the Bible stories. Then they will match the emotion on the left to the correct Bible story on the right by drawing a line between them.
- After they've matched the emotion to the Bible story, they should describe what Jesus did in response to that situation.
- eGroup Leader Note: For younger groups, it might be better to complete the activity as a group instead of in pairs. Look up the Bible stories together one at a time and discuss the emotion Jesus felt. Help kids identify which Bible story goes with which emotion, then lead them in drawing a line from the emotion to the correct Bible story. Help them describe Jesus' response.
- After 10 minutes, use the leader key to go over their answers.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We all face tough situations, and in the middle of the situation it's easy to feel alone and defeated. But when you feel like you can't keep going and you think no one else knows what you're going through, it can help to remember that Jesus experienced the same feelings and emotions we do. He pushed through exhaustion, sadness, frustration, and dread to do what He had to because He loves us so much!

When you keep your focus on Jesus in a tough situation, you'll remember that getting to have a personal relationship with Him and spending forever with Him in Heaven is our ultimate prize. So no matter what you face, you can keep going because of what Jesus did for you."

WHAT YOU DO:

Give each kid a protein bar to eat during the discussion activity.

YOU CONNECT

DISCUSS how the main point applies to kids' personal lives and spend time in **PRAYER** with your eGroup.

VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

MAIN POINT

Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

BIBLE STORY

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:2-3

MEMORY VERSE

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31, NIV

DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: no supplies

WHAT YOU SAY:

- "What made today's activity challenging for you and your partner?"
- "Did it help to remember there was a prize at the end for finishing the activity? Why/why not?"
- "What is a discouraging situation you've been in recently? What motivated you to keep persevering in that situation?"
- "There won't always be a delicious treat or a fun prize waiting for us when we've persevered through a tough situation. What else can motivate you to keep going when things are hard?"
- "Even if there isn't a prize we can hold, wear, or eat at the end of a difficult situation, life and relationship with Jesus can be our prize when we choose to persevere. Can you think of a time when you pushed through a tough situation and felt closer to Jesus at the end?"
- "Jesus felt the same emotions we feel, but He continued to persevere and pushed through many tough situations, even dying for sins that He didn't commit. How can that inspire you to persevere?"

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be the perfect example of perseverance. Help us look to Him for strength and encouragement when we feel like we want to give up. Knowing we can have a forever relationship with You is the best prize we can ever run toward! We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

BIBLE CONNECT

In the **BIBLE STORY** activity, kids will interact with the Bible story they heard in Large Group. **After this activity, GO TO LARGE GROUP.**

VIRTUE: PERSEVERANCE

Refusing to give up when life gets hard.

MAIN POINT

Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

BIBLE STORY

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:2-3

MEMORY VERSE

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31, NIV

COLOR RACE

WHAT YOU NEED: playing cards (1 deck)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct half the kids to turn to Hebrews 12 in their Bibles. (NOTE: This may take time, but it helps kids learn skills for reading the Bible on their own. If needed, encourage kids to use the table of contents in their Bible, and then decide if the book is in the Old or New Testament.)
- Review Hebrews 12:2-3.
- Give each kid one blue playing card (clubs or spades) and one orange playing card (hearts or diamonds).
- Explain kids will race to answer each multiple-choice question by putting the correct card (either orange or blue) on the floor in front of them.
- Read one of the questions below and encourage kids to play their answer card as soon as they know the answer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- 1. "Today's Bible passage was found in the book of James. Play your orange card for true. Play your blue card for false." (blue)
- 2. "Hebrews 12:2 tells us to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. Play your orange card for true. Play your blue card for false." (orange)
- 3. "Jesus had to endure a difficult relay race for us. Play your orange card for true. Play your blue card for false." (blue)
- 4. "Jesus sits at the left hand of the throne of God. Play your orange card for true. Play your blue card for false." (blue)
- 5. "Hebrews 12:3 says that remembering what Jesus endured will make us grow weary and lose heart. Play your orange card for true. Play your blue card for false." (blue)