



# Be the Message

*Children's Curriculum for Grades K-6th*



## SESSION ONE

# *I'm Ready to be Like Jesus*

### LARGE GROUP

#### KEY CONCEPT

I need to build on a solid foundation!

#### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: MATTHEW 7:24-27

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. Every day that we experience a true and personal relationship with Christ offers us the opportunity to become more and more like Him. When our life message is led by and lived with Jesus, the truth of who He is – the truth of the gospel – can shout hope to the world without even speaking a word. To understand how God created you to live the gospel and **be the message**, simply listen to the whisper of God in your heart. As you hear what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, listen to who He is and who you are in Him. Listen, and then build wisely.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

#### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS

**Spin:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=spin>

**Big House:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=big+house>

**We Won't be Quiet:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=we+won%27t+be+quiet>

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

What's up guys and girls? I am so glad you are here because we are starting a new series called **Ready, Set, Go!** Are you ready to be like Jesus? Yeah? Well then, we need to find out how we can do that, right? One way we can do that is to listen to the stories Jesus told His disciples. These stories are called parables, and He used these parables to help His disciples understand what He wanted them to do. To help us understand how we can **be the message** of Jesus to those around us, we're going to look at some of these parables.

Today's parable is about a sandy beach, a solid rock, two builders, and a **BIG STORM!** Have any of you guys ever been to the beach? What do you do at the beach? You build sand castles, and you go swimming and bury yourself in the sand, and a bunch of other fun stuff right? Well, one of the builders in Jesus' parable found this great spot on the beach and he wanted to hurry up and have fun so he didn't even think about the best place to build his house. He just built it on the sandy ground right there next to the sea. If you guys have been to the beach, what happens to the sand when the waves roll in? It moves, right? Maybe not the best place to build a house. Then Jesus said that the other builder built his house on some rocks. Have you ever seen the waves roll into any big rocks along the shore? What happens? The waves crash and the water sprays everywhere, but do the rocks move? Nooooooooooooo! They don't.

So then Jesus said that a storm came... a BIG storm! The wind was blowing. (Make blowing sound while swaying your arms and body back and forth.) And the rain was pouring down hard. And the lightning was flashing and the thunder was crashing (Be big and dramatic). What do you think happened to those two houses? Well, have you ever seen a sand castle built? Is the sand castle soft or strong? What would happen to a sand castle if it rained and a big wind came? That's right, it would get wiped out, right? Just like a sand castle, the house built on sand came crashing down.

What do you think happened to the other house, the one built on rock? It stayed up, it didn't move, just like the rocks don't move when the waves crash into them on shore. So, a foolish man built a house on the sand, and it fell; and a wise man built his house on rock, and it stayed up.

Jesus told this parable to explain what it means to obey God and be like Him. Jesus explained that when we hear His words and do what they say, we are like a wise man who builds his house on the rock. When you obey what you learn in the Bible, God calls you wise! Pretty cool, right? But listen, being wise – knowing what to do – and doing it are two different things right? See, when we learn what God wants us to do, and then we do it, that's when we are like Jesus!

So what's an example of hearing God's words and doing what they say? What if, when you're at school, like at recess, and one of the kids in your class is getting picked on? Do you think Jesus would laugh and join in on picking on that person, or would Jesus tell everyone to stop and make sure that person was okay? Yeah, Jesus would make sure that person was okay. See, the Bible says we need to love our neighbor like we love ourselves; and you don't like getting picked on, right? By not picking on the kid in your class and making sure they are okay, you're being like Jesus!

So our big question is: Are you ready to be like Jesus? (Lead kids to respond enthusiastically.) YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEES!!!!

Great job, guys! Let's all stand and close in a word of prayer.

## PRAYER

Lord, we love you; and we thank you for giving us your word to teach us how we should live our lives and how we can be more like your Son, Jesus. I pray that you would help us to be like Jesus in everything we say and do so people will see your light shining through us. In your name we pray, amen.

Notes



# LEADER PREP

## KEY CONCEPT

I need to build on a solid foundation!

## BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: MATTHEW 7:24-27

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. Every day that we experience a true and personal relationship with Christ offers us the opportunity to become more and more like Him. When our life message is led by and lived with Jesus, the truth of who He is – the truth of the gospel – can shout hope to the world without even speaking a word. To understand how God created you to live the gospel and **be the message**, simply listen to the whisper of God in your heart. As you hear what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, listen to who He is and who you are in Him. Listen, and then build wisely.

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

## CONNECTION TIME

**Welcome:** Have the children sit in a circle. Introduce yourself. Find out if anyone can recite the Bible verse.

### Ask:

1. Have you ever built a sand castle? If so, talk about the steps needed to build a solid foundation.
2. What happens when the sand castle foundation isn't solid?
3. Have you ever admired or looked up to someone? Why did you look up to them?

Notes

**Large Group Preview:** Today we're going to learn how we can build a solid foundation for our lives by listening to what God tells us through His word. By having a solid foundation in Jesus, we can be prepared when bad things happen in our lives.

## SMALL GROUP & ACTIVITY (AFTER LARGE GROUP)

### Review:

1. In the Bible story, what does it mean when it talks about "our rock"? (Hint: Solid foundation is built on whom?)
2. What are some "storms" or hard things you are dealing with right now? (Maybe your school work is really tricky or you are worried about a sick family member.)
3. How can you overcome some of the "storms" or hard times in your life?

### Activity: Wise Builder

- What you need: Supplies to build a tower, i.e., wooden blocks, dominoes, 2" three-ring binder.
- Instructions: Instruct kids to work as a team to build a tower on a hard, flat surface. When they are finished, instruct them to build the same tower with a 2" three-ring binder as their surface. Explain to them how building it on a solid, flat surface was easy and things went smoothly, but when we tried to build it on an uneven surface, it crumbled.

**Wrap it Up:** This week remember that we need to not only learn what God tells us in His word, but we need to do it.

**Prayer:** Take prayer requests, and pray with kids.

Notes



## SESSION TWO

# I'm Set When I Know God Loves Me

### LARGE GROUP

#### KEY CONCEPT

I need to know God's love!

#### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 15:11-24

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. Unfortunately, we can all lose sight of His perfect example in our lives at some point or another. Choices, circumstances, and just the mess of our own messy imperfection can cloud our view of who we really are in Him. But today, as you experience with whole-hearted focus the parable Jesus told about the Prodigal Son, be reminded that God wants to turn your messy life into your life's message. His mercies truly are made new in you each morning and so is His message of love and hope to the world.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

#### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS

**Lean on Me:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=lean+on+me>

**Happy Day:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=happy+day>

**We Shine:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=we+shine>

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

What's up, guys? I hope you're set to find out just how much God loves you. Last week, we learned how we can be wise and use what God tells us in the Bible to have a solid foundation, and today we're going to hear an example of a father's love. Are you ready? Are you set? Then, let's GOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

Today's parable is about the Prodigal Son. Do you guys remember what a parable is? That's right, it's a story Jesus told in the Bible. And prodigal is just a fancy word for wasteful. So today's parable is about a son that was very wasteful.

So Jesus said there was a farmer, and he had two sons. Both of his sons lived and worked with their dad on his farm. The two sons knew that someday they would each own half of the farm and by farm I mean 1,500 acre ranch with multiple barns, swimming pool, guest houses, tennis courts (Did they play tennis in the days of the Bible?), camel arena. You name it, this farmer had it. He was loooooooooooooooooo-deeeeeeeeeeeeeed!!! Then they would share all the money that their dad had. But soon, the younger son told his dad he wanted to have his half of the money, and he wanted to have it riiiiii-ght now. Like, this second ...! Give me the bankcard. I'm going shopping! And even though the farmer didn't really want to, he wanted his son to be happy so he gave half his money to his youngest son.

So the younger son got all excited because he had all of this money now. So he was like, "Peace out, bro. I'm going to go live it up and party and not follow any of your dumb rules." And he left. Well, the farmer didn't want his son to leave. But, he wanted his son to be happy so he let him go.

So the young son was walking down the road counting all his cash, and he got to the next town and he realized how tired he was. So he rented a hotel room, and I don't mean Motel 6. I mean the Hilton, and he ordered room service and all kinds of expensive things. At night, he

would go out on the town, and he met some people, and he wanted them to like him so he started buying them stuff. So these people thought he was awesome. He had big parties, and he kept buying lots and lots of things he didn't even need. So what do you think happened to all his money? That's right! Pretty soon, it was aaaall gone. He opened that wallet, and all that was left was some pocket lint. Uh-Oh.

Okay, so now the son started thinking, "Oh man, how am I going to pay for this hotel?" Well, he couldn't, so he went to one of his "friends," but since he didn't have any money, his "friend" wouldn't talk to him anymore. And then, he realized that he was hungry so he asked one of his other "friends" for something to eat; but the Bible says there was a famine – which means there wasn't enough food – so that "friend" wouldn't help him either. So now this young son is homeless and hungry, and he didn't know what to do.

The only thing this kid could think of was to go get a job, pretty smart, right? Well, the problem was that he didn't know how to do anything. So the only job he could find was a job feeding pigs. P-hew (holding nose)! It was a dirty, smelly, stinky job! Do you think that was hard? (Pause for kids to respond.) Yep, it was really hard. You know what the worst part was? He didn't even get paid money for the work he did. His pay was a helping of pig slop. But, you know what? He was so hungry that he ended up eating it! (Start gagging.) Man, that's nasty, right?

So as this boy is sitting in the pigpen, he started thinking about his dad and how his dad made sure his servants always had plenty to eat. So the boy decided to go home to his father. The son knew he had done the wrong thing, and so he worried that his dad might be mad that he wasted all his money. But he started walking home anyway. And what do think happened when his dad saw him coming? That's right, his dad was so happy to see him, he ran to his son and gave him a great big hug and said, "Welcome home." Then, the father threw a big

party because he was soooooo excited his son had come back. The father told the son how very much he loved him.

So what do you think Jesus was trying to get His disciples to understand with this parable? See, the father in this story is like God. Even when God sees us make bad choices, He STILL loves us! Always, no matter what!!! Jesus told this story because He wants us to know that God loves us no matter what! It doesn't matter how bad we mess up. God loves us so much He sent His Son to die for us on the cross.

So our big question is: **Are you set to know how much God loves us?** God loves us so much He gave His Son to take our place. Once we understand how much God loves us, we are ready to go tell other people about it. We'll start talking about how we can go be the message next week.

You guys did great! Let's all stand and dismiss with prayer.

## PRAYER

God, we love you; and we thank you for loving us no matter what and no matter how bad we mess up. I pray that you would help us to never forget that and give us the desire to tell everyone we know just how much you love us.

Notes

# LEADER PREP

## KEY CONCEPT

I need to build on a solid foundation!

## BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 15:11-24

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. Unfortunately, we can all lose sight of His perfect example in our lives at some point or another. Choices, circumstances, and just the mess of our own messy imperfection can cloud our view of who we really are in Him. But today, as you experience with whole-hearted focus the parable Jesus told about the Prodigal Son, be reminded that God wants to turn your messy life into your life's message. His mercies truly are made new in you each morning and so is His message of love and hope to the world.

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

## CONNECTION TIME

**Welcome:** Have the children sit in a circle. Introduce yourself. Find out if anyone can recite the Bible verse.

### Ask:

1. Talk about a time when you really loved something or someone. How'd you show your love?
2. How does it feel when you know that you are loved?

**Large Group Preview:** Today we're going to see just how much Jesus loves us. Once we know that, we can share that love with those around us.

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## SMALL GROUP & ACTIVITY (AFTER LARGE GROUP)

### Review:

1. Why did the boy's father in the story forgive the son without hesitation?
2. We know that God forgives us whenever we ask, so what are some ways we can show God's love to our friends or family?
3. Can you remember a time you were forgiven and were able to see God's love?

### Activity: W.R.O.N.G

- What You Need: One empty wastepaper basket/bucket; paper wads or other objects you can throw; a dry erase board and marker.
- Instructions: Place kids in a circle around the wastepaper basket, and give each of them a few paper wads. Write the word WRONG in large letters on the picture frame at least three times. As each kid takes a turn throwing a wad at the basket, explain that they're trying to make baskets so you can wipe out a letter of the word WRONG. Explain that when all the WRONGs are wiped out, they'll win the game. As each kid throws, wipe out a letter regardless if he makes a basket or not. (You can vary this by having kids take a step back for each round of throws, or do trick throws from behind their backs, eyes closed, etc., to keep interest.) When the game is over and they've all "won," gather them in a circle.

**Wrap it Up:** This week, let's look for ways to show others how much Jesus loves them.

**Prayer:** Take prayer requests, and pray with kids.

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## SESSION THREE

# Let's Go and Look for the Lost

### LARGE GROUP

#### KEY CONCEPT

I need to look for the lost!

#### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 15:1-7

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. Sadly, though, there are countless people in this world who don't yet know this truth in their own lives. They don't realize how important they are. They are far away from their Creator, their Savior, and their Shepherd, far away from the One they need most. But, God is not far from them. Not ever. He loves them and longs to bring His lost sheep back into the fold of the flock. The flock... the church... us! Yes, God wants to use YOU to get this all-important, saving message to the lost. And by His perfect design, our own relationship with the Shepherd is deepened as we show the others how to follow Him by loving example. EVERY one of God's people is important to Him. Go tell them; go show them; go **be the message** to them.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

#### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS

**Time to Dance:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=time+to+dance>

**Get Down:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=get+down>

**Feelin' So Fly:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/search.php?searchTerms=feelin%27+so+fly>

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

Hey, Guys! Welcome to [class you're in]! We're so glad you are with us as we continue to get ready, get set, and go to **be the message**. In the last couple weeks, we've looked at how we can get ready to be like Jesus by building our lives on a solid foundation through the Bible. And then we learned how much God loves us, by always accepting us with open arms, just like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son.

Jesus was telling this story ... this parable ... to explain how important everyone is to Him. Jesus said that we are like sheep and He is like the Shepherd who takes care of the sheep. What's a big bunch of sheep called? It's called a flock. If a sheep is missing from the flock, what does the shepherd do? When someone is missing from Jesus' flock, what do you suppose Jesus does? That's right, Jesus goes to find His lost sheep!

So in our story, the Pharisees, some of leaders of the temple, were asking Jesus a bunch of questions about people who sin. They weren't being very kind about the sinners. So Jesus told them this parable. Jesus told them to imagine what would happen if a shepherd had a big flock of like a hundred sheep, and then he lost one of them. I mean it's just one sheep, right? What's the big deal? No one's going to notice one sheep. But, what do you think Jesus said? He said He would go look for that one lost sheep until He found it. Jesus said the shepherd would joyfully bring the lost sheep back to the flock, and he would celebrate with his neighbors and friends. That's right. Jesus said the shepherd would throw a party for ONE lost sheep. This story really confused the Pharisees, so Jesus explained that all of heaven rejoices when a sinner accepts Christ as his or her Savior. Just like we learned last week, God always loves the lost person and wants to bring him/her back to Him. And just like our memory verse says, He wants us to help spread His message of love.

Can we all admit that we've made bad choices? When we make bad choices, God still shows us love. So when others make bad choices, God

expects us to show them love also. So, our big question is: **How can we go and show them?** (Listen for responses.) Yes, we show them when we are kind to them, when we forgive them, when we give to people that don't have as much as we do, and by helping people that can't help themselves. We're going to learn about some more of those things in the next few weeks, so I hope you guys all come back and learn about that with us.

Great job, today, guys and girls. Let's all stand and close in prayer.

## PRAYER

God, we love you; and we thank you for finding us when we were lost. Please help us have the words to say to those around us that don't know you. Help us show them your love in everything that we do, not just in the words we say. Thank you for everything you've done for us. In your name we pray, amen.



# LEADER PREP

## KEY CONCEPT

I need to look for the lost!

## BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 15:11-24

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. Sadly, though, there are countless people in this world who don't yet know this truth in their own lives. They don't realize how important they are. They are far away from their Creator, their Savior, and their Shepherd, far away from the One they need most. But, God is not far from them. Not ever. He loves them and longs to bring His lost sheep back into the fold of the flock. The flock ... the church ... us! Yes, God wants to use YOU to get this all-important, saving message to the lost. And by His perfect design, our own relationship with the Shepherd is deepened as we show the others how to follow Him by loving example. EVERY one of God's people is important to Him. Go tell them; go show them; go be the message to them.

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

## CONNECTION TIME

**Welcome:** Have the children sit in a circle. Introduce yourself. Find out if anyone can recite the Bible verse.

### Ask:

1. Share about a time you lost something important to you.
2. Explain how perseverance is important when trying to find something that is lost.

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**Large Group Preview:** Today we will learn how important everyone is to Jesus. You will hear how a shepherd will leave his flock to find one lost sheep.

## SMALL GROUP & ACTIVITY (AFTER LARGE GROUP)

### Review:

1. In the Bible story, who is the lost sheep, and what does that mean?
2. Who needs to know about Jesus?
3. How can we tell our friends about Jesus?

### Activity: Lost Sheep Relay

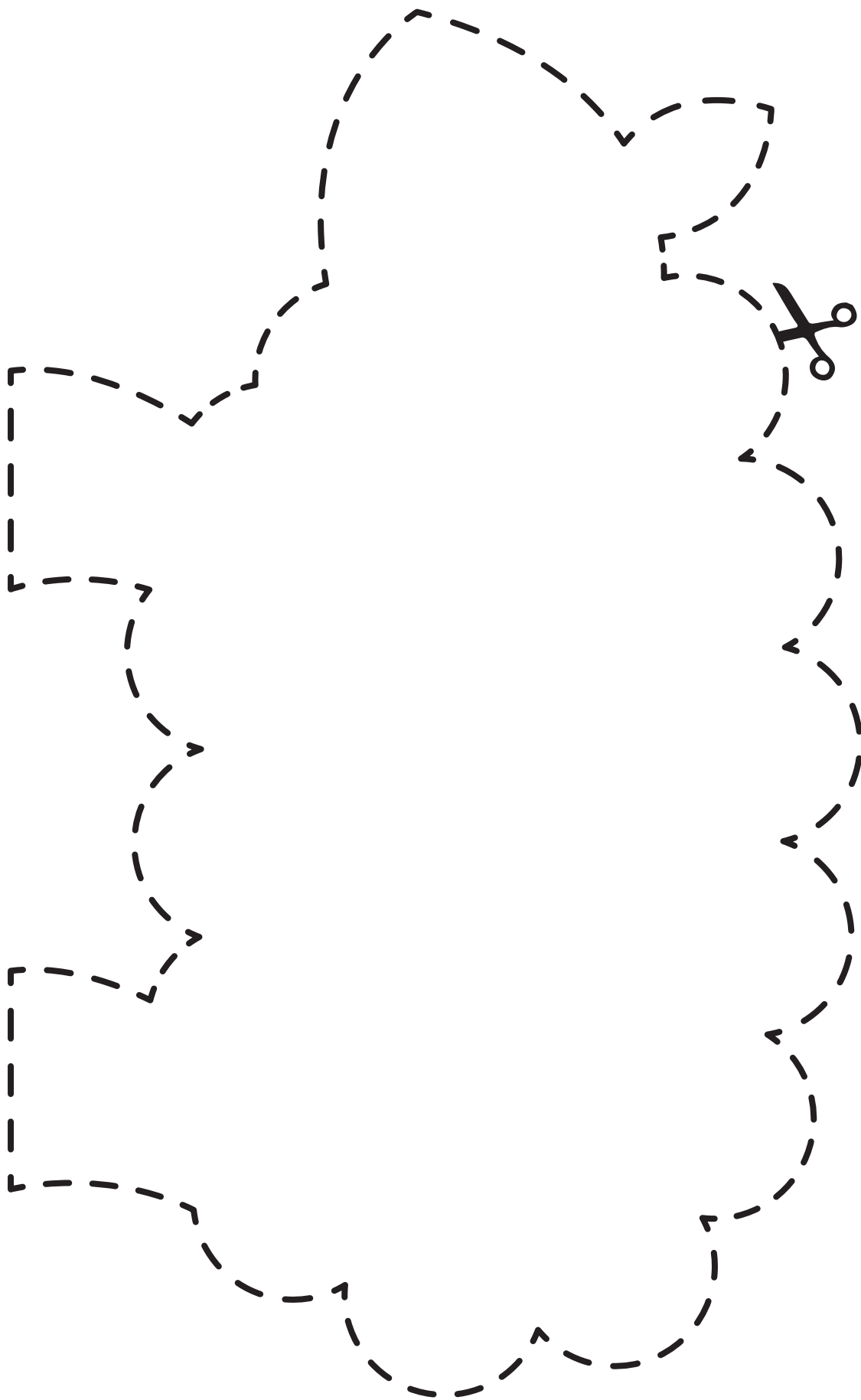
- What you need: black construction paper, sticky-back craft foam, cotton balls.
- Instructions: Trace a sheep outline onto black construction paper, and cut out the sheep shape from the center of the paper. Remove the center of the sheep from the black construction paper. Make two or more of these, one for each relay team. Then you will need for each relay team's sheep a sheet of sticky-back craft foam. Just before the race, peel off the paper and keep the sticky side of the foam face up. Lay your sheep cutout over the sticky surface. The sheep is now sticky and ready for the race. Hang up a sticky sheep for each relay team across the room on a wall. Then provide each team with cotton balls. Line up the players. When the relay race starts, the first runner from each team grabs two cotton balls, runs across the room, and places the cotton balls on the sheep. Then the player runs back, and the next person takes a turn, and so on while the sheep is being filled up with cotton balls. The first team to finish their sheep is the winner.

(See diagram on next page)

**Wrap it Up:** This week, let's remember that everyone is so important to Jesus that there is a party in heaven whenever one person accepts Christ.

**Prayer:** Take prayer requests, and pray with kids.

Notes





## SESSION FOUR

# Let's Go and Be Generous

### LARGE GROUP

#### KEY CONCEPT

I need to be generous!

#### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 12:13-21

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. He made us like Him to be with Him, and He delights in drawing us to Himself. God loves to bless us and give us the desires of our heart – a heart connected to His. And our God knows that when our hearts are fully connected to Him, the overflow is love, kindness, self-control and all the fruits of the Spirit. He also knows that the overflow is not selfishness. We were made to love God and love others (rather than the temporary things of this world). And why is this the great commandment? Because it's exactly how we become more like Jesus.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

#### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS

**Inside Out:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/albumView.php?album=1&track=14>

**Joy:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/albumView.php?album=6&track=318>

**Live it Out:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/albumView.php?album=7&track=147>

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

Alright, alright. How is everyone today? So we're ready to **be the message** because we've learned how we can build our lives on the solid foundation of Jesus. We're set to **be the message** because we know how much God loves us. Last week we learned that we can go and **be the message** by helping lead the lost to Jesus. Today we will learn that we can go and **be the message** by being generous.

Jesus told this story... this parable... about a farmer. He was a very rich farmer, and he had lots of land. One summer all his crops grew so well that he didn't have room to store them all. That sounds like a pretty good problem to have, right? Like, "Oh no, I've got so much stuff I don't have places to put it all." See, if this guy would have acted like Jesus wants us to, he would have had an easy solution to his problem. What do you think this farmer could have done to solve his problem? Exactly, he could have been generous and given some of his crops to his friends and neighbors that didn't have enough food to eat.

The farmer was selfish with his things, and he was actually going to tear down his small barn and build a much bigger, like super-huge five-story barn, with a basketball court and a swimming pool on the bottom floor so he could keep everything all for himself. The farmer only cared about himself and how much he had for himself. What do you think Jesus said about that farmer? He called him foolish and said he would lose everything on earth he thought was important.

Well, Jesus told this parable because He wanted us to know that being selfish, thinking of only ourselves, is never, ever good. Jesus told this parable because He wanted us to know that we should always love people more than our stuff! After this parable, Jesus told everyone that knowing God and loving Him is better than being rich or having lots of things. God's love lasts forever - even in heaven! And we know that God's love is better than **ANYTHING**, right?

What do you think the farmer in our story should have done with all those crops? Exactly! He should have shared with his friends, and family, and neighbors! The farmer should have loved people more than all those things in his big ole, fancy shmancy barn! So our big question today is this: **How can we go and be generous with what God has given us?** The Bible says that we should build up treasures in heaven instead of treasures on earth. We can do that by being generous with the time, talents, and treasures God has given us.

You guys did a great job today. Let's all stand and dismiss in prayer.

## PRAYER

God, we love you; and we thank you for letting us come into your house and hear your word. I pray that you would help us be generous with the gifts that you have given us so we can help them see your love.

## Notes



# LEADER PREP

## KEY CONCEPT

I need to be generous!

## BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 12:13-21

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. He made us like Him to be with Him, and He delights in drawing us to Himself. God loves to bless us and give us the desires of our heart – a heart connected to His. And our God knows that when our hearts are fully connected to Him, the overflow is love, kindness, self-control and all the fruits of the Spirit. He also knows that the overflow is not selfishness. We were made to love God and love others (rather than the temporary things of this world). And why is this the great commandment? Because it's exactly how we become more like Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSE

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## CONNECTION TIME

**Welcome:** Have the children sit in a circle. Introduce yourself. Find out if anyone can recite the Bible verse.

### Ask:

1. Discuss times in your life when you have seen examples of selfishness and generosity.
2. Why do you think being generous is better than being selfish?

**Large Group Preview:** Today we're going to see how Jesus wants us to share the gifts and talents that He has given us. When we share what God

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has given us, we help shine God's light through our actions.

## SMALL GROUP & ACTIVITY (AFTER LARGE GROUP)

### Review:

1. What does it mean to be generous?
2. Was the farmer being generous with the riches God had given him? Why or why not?
3. How can we be generous with what God has given us? (Hint: How can we give of our time, talent or treasure?)

### Activity: Selfish Farmer Coupon Book

- What you need: white construction paper, decorative foam stickers, drawing utensils i.e.: markers, crayons, hole punch, ribbon.
- Instructions: Cut white construction paper in half, lengthwise. Divide each piece of paper into equal thirds and cut the thirds out. On the first piece of paper write the title "Coupons" and decorate it with cut out flowers, butterflies or some other favorite drawing. Make a different coupon on each page such as "Free Hugs," "Free Dish Duty" or "Free Raking Leaves." Draw a picture on each page that pertains to the activity. Two-hole punch each page of the book. Tie a ribbon through the holes to complete the book.

**Wrap it Up:** This week, let's remember that the things we have on earth will not last and that giving of our time, talents, and treasures to those in need will help us store up treasures in heaven.

**Prayer:** Take prayer requests, and pray with kids.

Notes



## SESSION FIVE

# Let's Go and Help the Helpless

### LARGE GROUP

#### KEY CONCEPT

I need to help the helpless!

#### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 10:25-37

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. And as He did, He lovingly gave us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to respond. By His design, we are Jesus to the world today. We are HIS message! How could we possibly ignore that? How could we possibly just pass right on by to the other side of the road when someone lies in need of help? How could we possibly respond as if we are not the hands and feet of Christ Himself? We couldn't! Jesus reminds us that because we are His, we were made to be the Good Samaritan, the Good American, the Good African, the Good wherever we are from. But what really matters is that we were made to be the Good Christian – following Christ and reaching out to help others because we can see Him in them, too. We can, and we will! Then one day we'll hear Jesus answer, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me."

#### MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

#### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS

**Shake It Up:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/albumView.php?album=29&track=413>

**Shout:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/albumView.php?album=2&track=229>

**Tell the World:** <https://amberskyrecords.com/albumView.php?album=16&track=72>

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

Guys and girls, I am so glad you could join us as we conclude our series **Ready! Set! Go!** So far we've learned how we can have a solid foundation in Jesus, how much Jesus loves us, how we can share God's love with those around us that don't know Him, and how we should be generous with the things God has given us.

Well, today's parable is about helping people. Jesus said that's called being a good neighbor! This story is called The Good Samaritan. When Jesus was on earth, He traveled everywhere trying to teach people about how much God loves them. One day a man told Jesus that he knew God wanted him to love his neighbor. Then the man asked, "But who is my neighbor?" So, I'll ask you. Who do you think your neighbor is? Is it the person that lives next door and the person that lives across the street from you? To answer the man's question, Jesus told this story... this parable:

One day a man was walking down a road minding his own business. Then all of a sudden some guys jumped out and hit the man on the head! The bad guys took all the man's stuff and left him on the side of the road to die. Not! Cool!

Well, not too long after the bad guys took off, a priest came walking by. So the guy that got beat up knew that he would be okay. But this priest, this man that should know that God wants us to help people, just kept walking. He didn't even slow down. He didn't even look at the man. That doesn't seem right, does it?

Luckily, a little later, a Levite came walking by. Who can tell me what a Levite is? No, it's not the inventor of blue jeans. A Levite is actually someone who worked in the temple. So again, you'd think that someone who worked in the temple would know that God wants us to help people. Sweet, our guy that got beat up is saved! Not. So. Fast. This Levite, this guy that worked in the temple, not only did he not stop and help, he moved all the way over to the other

side of the road. He didn't even want to see the guy that had been beaten.

Man, I've got to admit, it's not looking good for our guy that got beat up. Then, when it seems like all hope is lost, a man from Samaria walked up. Here's the catch. Our guy that was beaten was a Jew, and the Jews and the Samaritans didn't like each other. So do you think the Samaritan stopped to help the hurt man? Actually, he did. AWESOME! Finally, someone stopped to help our poor hurt guy!!! The Samaritan stopped and took care of this guy that he didn't even know.

Jesus finished telling His story and asked: Which of these men was a good neighbor to the hurt man? So, what do you think? Exactly! The Samaritan that stopped and took care of the man even though he didn't know him, and even though the two men's people didn't like each other. The Samaritan is the one that followed what God wants all of us to do. He was being a good neighbor!

So our big question is: **How can we go and help those that are helpless?** How can we go and be a good neighbor?

You guys did awesome today. Let's all stand and close with a word of prayer.

### PRAYER

Dear God, we love you; and we thank you for everything you've done for us. Please help us to be a good neighbor to those we come in contact with. Help us help others that need it. In your name we pray, amen.

Notes



# LEADER PREP

## KEY CONCEPT

I need to help the helpless!

## BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: LUKE 10:25-37

We know that God made us in His own image and that He sent His Son to live among us as the ultimate example of what a righteous life truly looks like. And as He did, He lovingly gave us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to respond. By His design, we are Jesus to the world today. We are HIS message! How could we possibly ignore that? How could we possibly just pass right on by to the other side of the road when someone lies in need of help? How could we possibly respond as if we are not the hands and feet of Christ Himself? We couldn't! Jesus reminds us that because we are His, we were made to be the Good Samaritan, the Good American, the Good African, the Good wherever we are from. But what really matters is that we were made to be the Good Christian – following Christ and reaching out to help others because we can see Him in them, too. We can, and we will! Then, one day we'll hear Jesus answer, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these . . . you did for me."

## MEMORY VERSE

*"Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLV)

## CONNECTION TIME

**Welcome:** Have the children sit in a circle. Introduce yourself. Find out if anyone can recite the Bible verse.

Notes

**Ask:**

1. How does being helpless make you feel?
2. Talk about a time when you were helpless and someone offered you help.

**Large Group Preview:** Today we're going to learn what it means to be a good neighbor and how we can help those that need it.

## SMALL GROUP & ACTIVITY (AFTER LARGE GROUP)

**Review:**

1. Why do you think the priest and the Levite passed by the hurt man without helping him?
2. Who can you think of that might need help?
3. What would it look like for you to help someone who was helpless just like the Samaritan did?

**Activity:** Helping Hands Chart

- What you need: Large sheets of craft paper, hand cut outs on sticky-back foam.
- Instructions: Make a chart with two columns. The first column will be the "Good Deed" column. (Encourage a friend, help someone who was hurt, clean your room, etc.) The second column is where you stick a "helping hand" for every time you did that good deed each day.

(See diagram on next pages)

**Wrap it Up:** This week let's remember what it means to be a good neighbor. It means helping those around us that need it.

**Prayer:** Take prayer requests, and pray with kids.

Notes

Give a friend a hug when they are upset	