

Memory Verses

Connect Theme Verse

Focus verse: Colossians 1:17

"and Jesus is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." NIV

Are You Connected to Jesus? - Tuesday Bible Study

Focus verse: John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." NIV

Are You Connected to Other Christians? - Wednesday Bible Study

Focus verse: Romans 12:4 & 5

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." NIV

Are You Connected to sharing Jesus? - Thursday Bible Study

Focus verse: Acts 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." NIV

Friday

Focus verse: John 14:6

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." NIV

Tuesday Bible Study

Are You Connected to Jesus? -

Focus verse: John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." NIV

Supplies: A blanket or ground sheet (optional), pencils, Bibles

The Hook: The TREE

Find a place outdoors where your group can lay down under a tree(s) looking up.

Ask Kids the following questions –

1. Is this tree a healthy tree? *(Just allow yes or no answers)*
2. Are there differences in some of the branches on the tree? Do some look healthy, some look dead? *(allow kids to give details they observe)*
3. How can they tell if a tree is Healthy? *(It should have green leaves, flowers or fruit)*
4. What would happen to the limbs if they aren't connected to the trunk? *(they will die)*

The Meat:

Have kids open their bibles and find John 15:5 in God's word.

Say: "Imagine the tree you were sitting under represents Christ and his followers". Ask:

1. Which part of the tree you are looking at would represent Christ? Explain.
2. Which part of the tree would represent his followers? Explain.
3. Can the branches survive without the trunk or roots? Explain.

Explain that only when we have a relationship with Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord are we truly connected to Him.

The Payoff: Bearing Fruit

Supplies: Fruit or fruit snacks

Lead kids to act out the parable of the “Sower and the Seed” from Luke 8, Mark 4.

Say: “Jesus tells a story where he compares the branches to soil.”

Cast:

Seeds: 4 or more (depends on the size of your group)

Sower: 1 (could be the leader)

Birds: 1 or 2 (more if you have more seeds)

Soils: Along the path, Rocky soil, Thorny soil & Good soil. (If you have enough kids assign them in groups to each soil.)

(Have actors act out and repeat lines as the narrator reads the story)

Story:

Once a sower, that is a farmer, planted their seeds. They watched hopefully as the seeds scattered and skipped through the land, as they made seed noises and looked for places to settle. Wiping the sweat from their brow, the sower watched hopefully, waiting for the seeds to bear fruit. With a loud sigh, the sower sat down and cheered for the four seeds.

Seed 1 was a healthy, hopeful seed, who danced happily, stretched out it’s little arms and prepared to dive in while looking for some dirt. Seed 1 looked for a place to land. Finally falling in the soil along the path. Seed 1 began complaining; “Ouch, this here soil is hard as a concrete prairie.” And it lay uncomfortably on top of the soil, twisting and turning and trying to get comfortable. When suddenly birds flapped down toward the seed, made some bird calls, then snatched the seed and carried it away.

The Sower was disappointed and angry and said, “Oh boy, that soil was for the birds.”

Seed 2 blew all the way to the opposite side of the room where it fell on The Rocky places where there wasn't much soil. The rocky soil looked at Seed 2, and cried in their best Rocky Balboa voice, "Yo, Seed, you are looking pretty good today". Seed 2 did look promising. It sprung up and began to dance around, pounding its chest and waving its hands in the air like a champion.

The soil cried, "Rocky, Rocky, Rocky." But alas, the Rocky soil grew quiet, and Seed 2 got discouraged because there was no one to root for it. (*Get it? Root for it?*). So Seed 2 cried, "Oh, this soil is too shallow." And it withered under the heat of the sun and Died!

The Sower cried out, "Curses soiled again."

The Thorny soil was willing to welcome Seed 3 into it. Yet as soon as Seed 3 got settled down into the thorny soil, things got ugly fast. The thorns reached over and choked the life out of the little seed. And as Seed 3 took its last breath it said, "This soil has too many thorns and weeds!" With that it coughed, gagged, then coughed again, tried to stand up then gagged again, and finally fell down dead.

Once again the Sower had to watch their seed die, never to produce the grain it hoped for. The Sower's head began to pound with pain, as they exclaimed, "Oh, my grain." It was the bible's first "my grain" headache.

Seed 4, however, fell upon the good soil and I mean good. It rubbed the seeds shoulders giving it a 15 second massage. Boy, was Seed 4 grateful it had fallen here instead of with those other clods. In its most satisfied voice, it said, "This soil is juuusst right!"

It grew up big and strong and it began to bear fruit, multiplying many times over. What's 2 x 2, 5 x 1, 6 x 3.

God of course is the Sower, the seed is the Word of God and our heart is the soil. What kind of soil is yours? God wants to be a part of your life like a tree limb is part of a tree, a branch is part of a vine.

To do that you need to accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, to be the good soil. If you already have accepted Jesus, you should be bearing fruit, that is it should be obvious to people who know you that Christ lives in you.

Just like the tree limb and branch cannot survive or bear fruit on their own, we cannot bear fruit without being connected to God through our savior Jesus Christ.

Provide everyone with fruit/snacks of a reminder of God's goodness.

- Be sensitive to kids who have questions.
- Be sure to set time after group sessions for kids who need more time or have more questions.
- DO NOT, pressure kids into making a decision. It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict them, not ours.
- Be prepared to lead kids into a prayer of salvation.

This is a simple salvation prayer for those who might need it.

If you would like to invite Jesus into your life, repeat this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I understand that I am a sinner and I ask You for forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins so that I could receive Your forgiveness and have eternal life. I ask You to come into my life right now and become my personal Savior and Lord. From this day forward, Lord, I give you control of my life. Make me a new person and help me to live for You.

Amen

Dismiss in Prayer

The Rocky Soil

The Thorny Soil

**The
Good
Soil**

**Soil
By
The
Road**

Wednesday Bible Study

Are You Connected to Other Christians?

Focus verse: Romans 12:4 & 5

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” NIV

Supplies: pencils, Bibles

The Hook: The Connection Game

Find the common connection between the pictures.

1. Water and Waterfalls
2. Green and Tea
3. Puzzles
4. Presidents & All on U.S. coins
5. Birds & Mascots for baseball teams
6. States & original 13 colonies
7. Body parts & All organs (yes, skin is an organ)

Explain that some of the common themes were easy to spot, where others required you to look or think deeper/differently. Say; “People and the body of Christ are similarly easy and complicated. Today we are going to look at what the word of God says about the Body of Christ.”

The Meat:

Have kids open their bibles and find Romans ,12:3 - 8 in God’s word.

Read the passage and ask the following questions? Allow kids time to answer.

1. Why does Paul stress the need for right thinking before he lists the ways we should act (Romans 12:3)?

A: Because as humans we tend to be prideful, to think that we had something to do with the gifts God gives us.

2. What is the point of the verbal illustration of the human body (Romans 12:4-5)?

A: To point out that as followers of Christ we are all connected even though we serve in different ways.

3. What is the difference (if any) between a spiritual gift and a natural ability?

A: This is a great question. Natural ability is something that God has put in your DNA. To sing, run fast, do math well, etc. Spiritual gifts are something that the Holy Spirit gives you when you become a follower of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:4 & 11. In both cases God expects us to use them for His glory.

4. Which of the 7 gifts Paul mentions here, are the most useful in the church today?

A: This of course is a trick question, because they are all equal! We as people want to make some better than others.

Say: In 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27, Paul reminds us that we are all part of the body of Christ and that each of us are important. That there is no part of the body more or least important than the others.

(Feel free to expound on these passages as time allows.)

The Payoff: A Perfect Fit

Supplies: Poster board, markers, (foam board is optional)

This activity gives participants an opportunity to share information with other participants that they deem important about themselves while creating a visual reminder that illustrates how all the group members bring individual talents and qualities, yet all stand together as one group or body.

- *Pre-cut puzzle pieces out of poster board for the number of people in your group. The foam board would be for mounting the puzzle when completed.*

The area should allow for individuals to work on creating puzzle pieces. The facilitator should give each participant a puzzle piece and explain that they are to design the puzzle piece to be a representation of them. They can draw facts about themselves, favorite scripture or even a self-portrait, that represents who they are. Be sure that everyone draws/marks on the same side of the puzzle pieces.

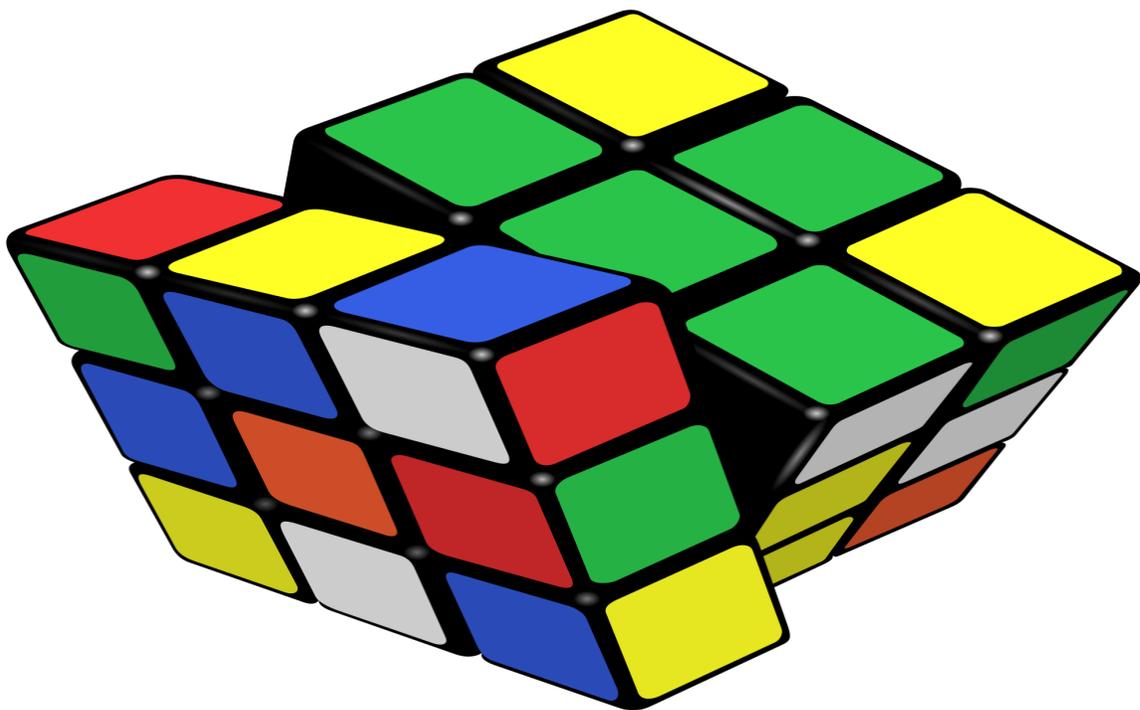
Have group members present their puzzle pieces to the whole group and explain the significance of the items used. After everyone has presented, or as people present, have the group assemble the puzzle. Display if desired.

Remind kids that God sees us like the puzzle. We are all unique, but we were made to be connected to one another as believers in Christ. No piece better than another and when together God creates a beautiful picture of the church i.e. the Body of Christ.

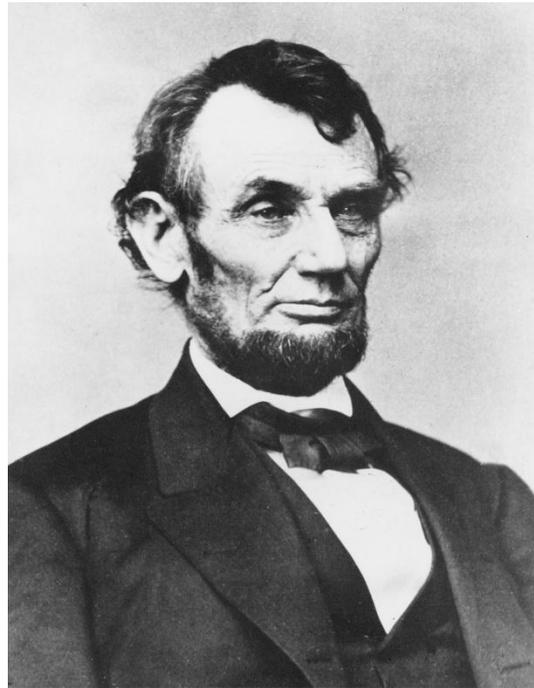
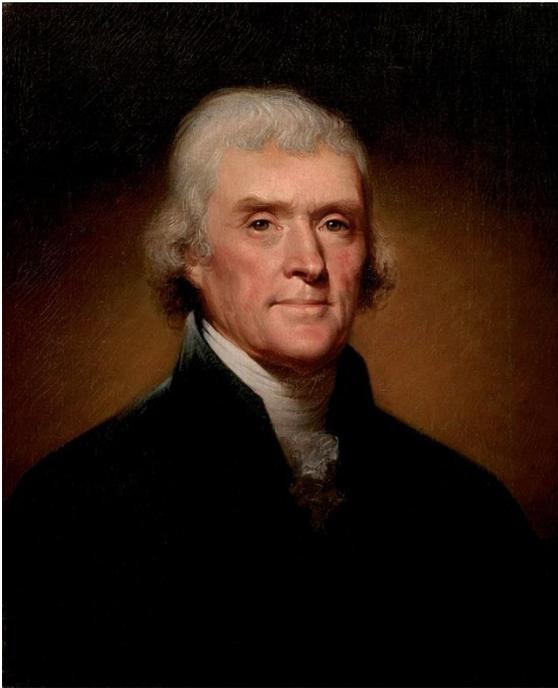
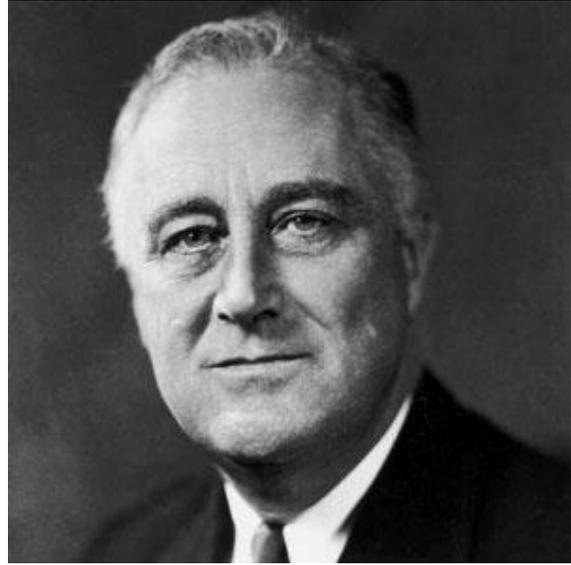
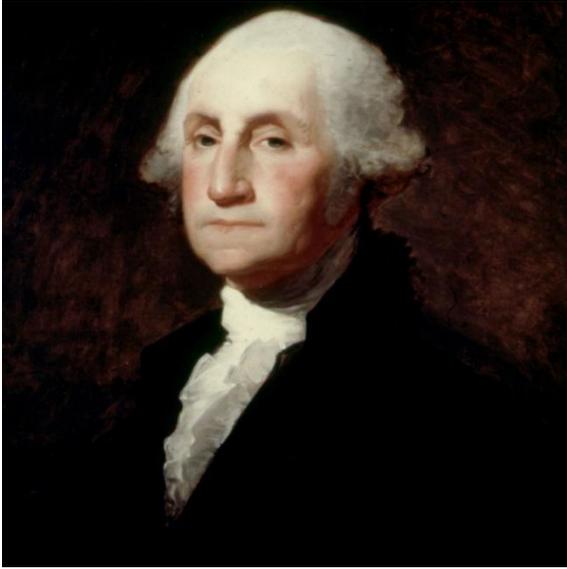
Close in Prayer





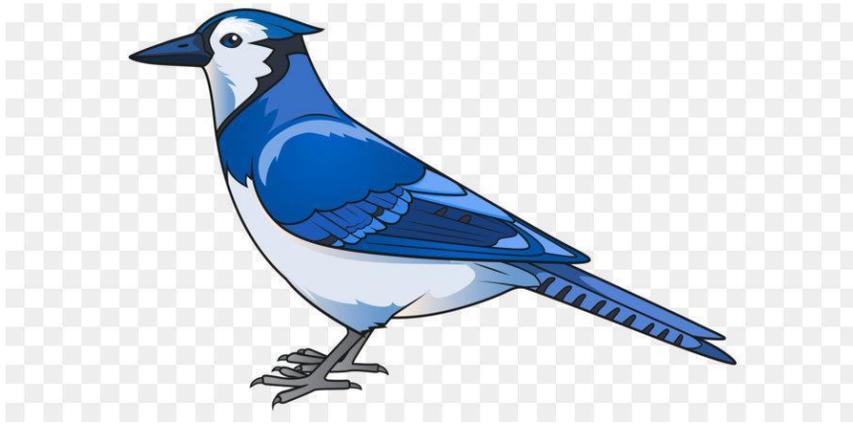


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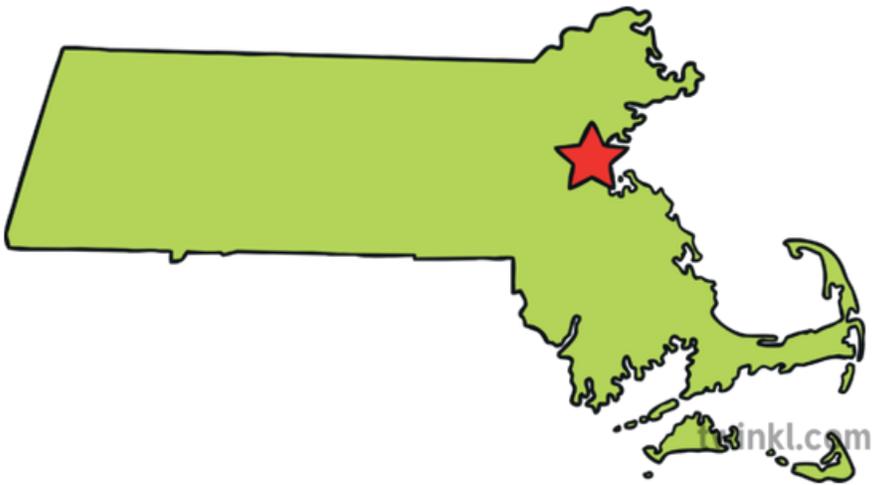
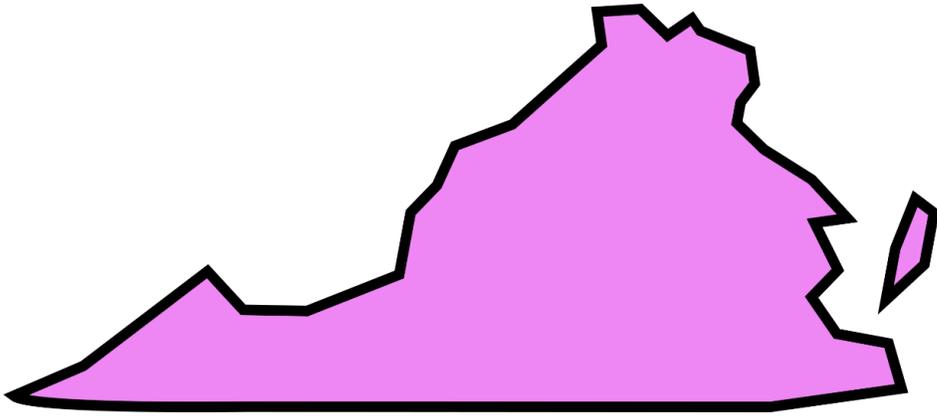
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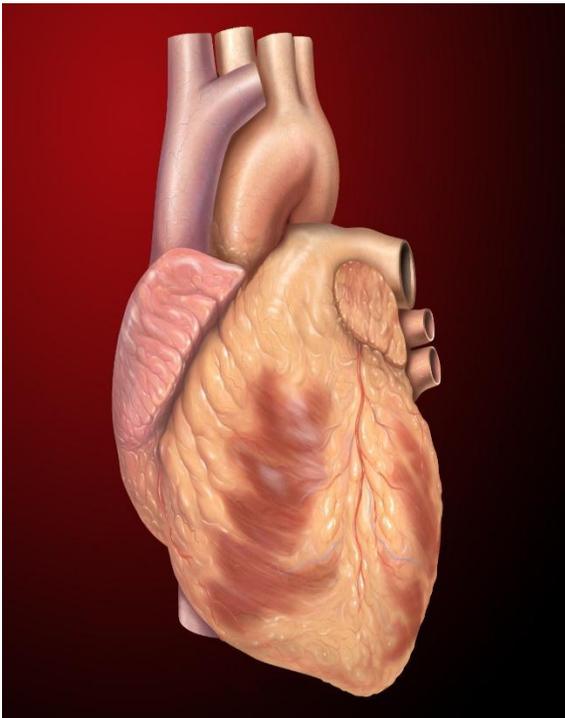
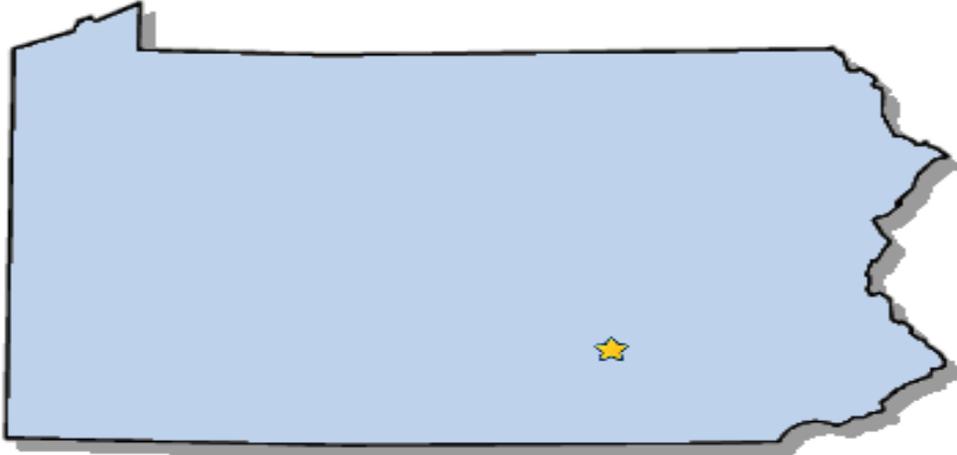
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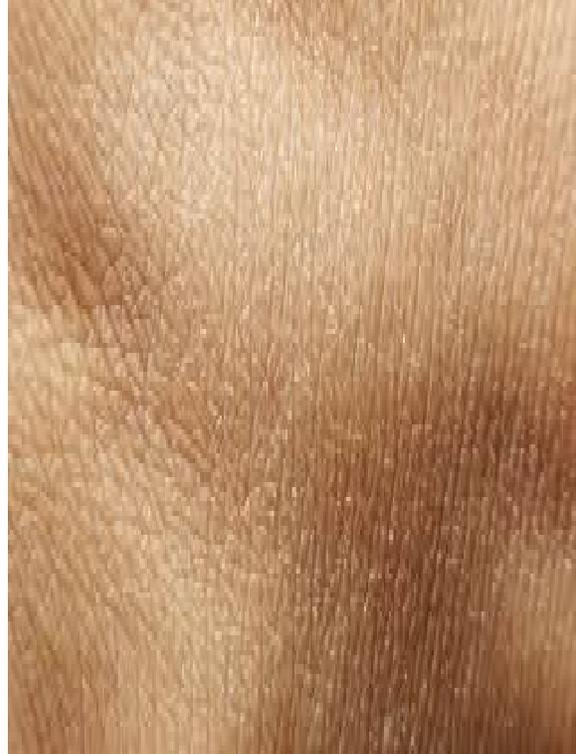




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Thursday Bible Study

Are You Connected to sharing Jesus?

Focus verse: Acts 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." NIV

Supplies: pencils, Bibles

The Hook: What's in a Name Game

1. Ask everyone to tally the number of letters in their first name. Joe = 3
2. Instruct your group to form one straight line from lowest to the highest number of letters. May have to divide into two or more groups for space.

3. Individuals may choose to adopt an abbreviated version of their name, provided they are ordinarily known by that name.
4. Next, add the number of letters comprising their first and middle names, and re-arrange themselves from highest to lowest number of letters accordingly.
5. Finally, calculate the total number of letters in their full names – first, middle and last names – and re-arrange themselves from highest to lowest number of letters.
6. Offer celebratory applause for each round of performance.

Talk with the kids about the uniqueness of their names. Were they named after a family member? Someone from the bible? Was theirs a random name their parents picked out?

Allow 5 – 8 minutes for discussion.

Transition with: “Today we will look at the one name that is different than any other name in history.”

The Meat:

- Tell in story form the healing described in Acts 3:1 – 10.
- Have kids open their bibles and find Acts 4 in God’s word.

1

- Read aloud Acts 4:1 – 7; Emphasize what the apostles, (*you may have to explain who the apostles were*), were preaching in verse 2. Then move to verse 7 and the religious leader’s question to Peter and John.
- Ask the kids: “*What was the power that healed the lame man?*” “*Where did the power come from?*” “*Why did Peter have this power?*” Allow time for responses, but don’t give answers yet.
- Have a different leader read Acts 4:8 – 12. Best if it is read in front of your kids as if the reader is Peter addressing the religious leaders.
- Ask the following questions: “Did Peter take the credit for healing the lame man?” “What did Peter emphasize in his speech?”
A - Point out that Peter did not take credit for the miracle and that he emphasized Jesus name!

- Ask: “Why is Jesus’ name the only name by which people can be saved?”
A - Teach that Jesus is the only person to have lived a sinless life, and that He was “God in flesh”. No other person in history can honestly make these claims.

Close this section by reminding the kids that this is as true today as it was when the apostles first began to share the Gospel “Good News” of Jesus.

The Payoff: Fear Factor

Supplies: Stopwatch, or phone with timer.

Give the kids two minutes to try to come up with Americans top 10 fears in 2019, (according to Fearof.net)

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Top 10 Fears list of 2019

1. Arachnophobia – The fear of spiders
2. Ophidiophobia – The fear of snakes
3. Acrophobia – The fear of heights
4. Agoraphobia – The fear of open or crowded spaces
5. Cynophobia – The fear of dogs
6. Astraphobia – The fear of thunder and lightning
7. Claustrophobia – The fear of small spaces
8. Mysophobia – The fear of germs
9. Aerophobia – The fear of flying
10. Trypophobia – The fear of holes

Chances are they will get no more 5. If we had limited the questions to Christians, sharing Jesus would be in many peoples top 10.

Why is it that many of us are afraid to share the “Good News.” Some of the most common fears about evangelism are: *fear of rejection, fear of losing a friendship, and feelings of inadequacy. Some people worry they won’t be prepared to answer someone’s questions about God or salvation. Others fear offending the person they’re talking to.*

- Ask – Is sharing the Gospel a choice?
A – The answer of course is NO and YES. As followers of Christ we are commanded to share, (Matthew 28:18-20), but Jesus does not force us to share.
- Remind kids that we are a witness by our actions.

List these tools to help kids talk to others about faith.

1. Always be respectful of what others believe, even when it’s crazy.
2. Sharing your faith is a conversation, not a speech.
3. Share the positive ways your relationship with Jesus has affected your life.

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4. It is not your job to convince someone they need Jesus, that job belongs to the Holy Spirit. Our job is just to share.
5. Remember that if the person you are sharing with rejects the Gospel. It is Jesus they are rejecting not you.
6. Pray for the person and for yourself that God would give you the words that person needs to hear.

Finish by reading Acts 4:13

- Remind the kids that Peter and John did not have college degrees, they had not been to Seminary for training as preachers. They simply shared what they knew to be true. “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” and the “only name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

God has changed the world for 2 thousand years, by doing extraordinary things through ordinary people.

Pray to Dismiss

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Tuesday Quiet Time

Focus verse: John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." NIV

This week we will be talking about our connections. What and who are you connected to? List some people, places and things that you feel connected to.

Think about the connection between Jesus and God the Father. Do you think Jesus would have been as successful in his earthly ministry if he had not been closely connected God?

Look Up John 5:19; John 14:10 & John 4:34. What are some of the things Jesus said about their relationship?

What do these verses tell us about the importance of a close relationship with God?

Pray today that you will be connected to Jesus Christ in a deeper way. Pray that you will prioritize your life around your relationship with Christ.

Wednesday Quiet Time

Focus verse: Romans 12:4 & 5

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” NIV

Mike tells this story – “When I was about 10 years old, I made friends with two brothers in my neighborhood, Tim and Jeff. Perhaps because for some strange reason I told them I had a twin brother named Mark. We would be playing Wiffle ball, and I’d go home, change clothes, and come back as Mark. At first Mike was a better batter, but Mark steadily improved (which is how I became a decent switch hitter). After a week or so, they grew suspicious, asking me questions like why we rode the exact same bike (our parents were too poor to afford two bikes I said) or why they never saw us together (because we only had one bike!). When they came to our house, only one of us was ever around; the other had a game, choir rehearsal, or was at another friend’s house. Then one day, Jeff asked my mom where Mark was, “Who’s Mark?” my mom asked. The gig was up.

We all want to belong, to be a part of a group. It is amazing the things we will do in order to belong. Today we will be looking at the body of Christ. Just how do we fit in it.

According to the bible those who put their trust in Jesus are part of Jesus' body. What part do you think you are? An eye, ear, foot, maybe the funny bone or lungs.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 – 18. Do you see yourself as part of Christ's body?

Do you understand that as part of the body God has given you special gifts?

Pray today ask God to begin to reveal the gifts He has for you, so that you may begin to function as part of the body.

Thursday Quiet Time

Focus verse: Acts 4:12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” NIV

Names are important; certain names bring images in our head. Names like George Washington or Abraham Lincoln make of think of America, freedom, etc.

Make a quick list of the 3 most important names of people you can think of:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Don't READ this until you finished your list!

Who were the important people on your list? Family, Sports figures, Entertainers?

No matter who you had on your list they will never be able to compare with Jesus Christ. Think about it, in all human history the name of Jesus is different than any other. Even today people know the name, whether they like him, believe in him or not.

Read Acts 4:1 – 12 and answer this question:

Is there any other name in the past or present that has the power that the name Jesus has? If so who?

Be prepared to discuss your answer in today group Bible Study.

Spend time in prayer

Friday Quiet Time

Focus verse: John 14:6

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” NIV

Since recorded time people have been trying to get to heaven. The Egyptians, Mayans, Babylonians, Incas all had their own idea how to get to heaven. Even today people think of different ways.

Some say prayer, meditation, being a good person, yoga and other ideas lead people to chase down heaven.

Read John 14:1 – 6. Jesus’ time was no different. The Jews believed obeying the law would get them into heaven. The problem is no one can obey all of God’s laws. We are sinners.

When Jesus said He was preparing a place for those who believe in Him, even His disciples were not sure what He was talking about. So, Jesus told them plainly in verse 6.

There is no other way to connect to God except through Jesus Christ.

As you leave camp today and go into the world pray that God will give you the words and the boldness to share the Gospel of Jesus with people you know.

God desires to use ordinary people in extraordinary ways.

Will you be filled with God's spirit to do His will or will you choose selfishness and the world over Him.

You CANNOT live a life pleasing to Christ if you don't stay connected to Him DAILY.

BE the Vines, Branches, Hands and Feet of Christ in your world!