

The Journey

Bible Story: The Journey (Peter experiences Jesus' love) • *John 18-21* (Supporting: *John 13; Matthew 14:13-21, 16:13-20, 26:26*)

Bottom Line: God is doing something in me so I will love the people around me.

Memory Verse: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden." *Matthew 5:14, NIV*

Life App: 3 Basics: Wisdom • Faith • Friendship

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

While passing the offering container around, ask kids: If you were given a sheep, what would you have to do to take good care of it? What would you name it? Where would you keep it? What do you think the hardest part of taking care of a sheep would be?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Sheep Trivia

What You Need: No materials needed

What You Do:

Explain that you will ask five sheep trivia questions and give three possible answers. Kids will say, "Baa!" when they hear the correct answer. They will shake their heads quietly from side to side when they think it's the wrong answer. (TIP: Every answer is "C") Read the question and all the answers through one time. Then repeat the question and say each answer slowly so the kids have time to respond.

1. The person who takes care of the sheep is called ... A) a sheep guy; B) the sheep dude; C) a shepherd
2. What is a sheep's favorite food? A) pizza; B) cookies; C) grass
3. Sometimes people tell you to count sheep to help you ... A) not be bored; B) practice your alphabet; C) fall asleep
4. Sheep grow beautiful ... A) feathers; B) antlers; C) wool
5. (Challenge question: Prep the kids that this one is harder.) When does a sheep get a haircut? A) Whenever her mom says it's time; B) When she wants a new look and hairstyle; C) In the summer

What You Say:

"I can't pull the wool over your eyes. You guys know a lot about sheep. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about a guy who was asked to take care of a different type of sheep."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

Let's Hear You Cheer! (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: No materials needed

What You Do:

Explain that today's Bible story had three different parts. The first part was all about some of the incredible miracles that Jesus did. Tell kids you'll ask them some questions and the first person to say, "Baa!" gets to answer.

- What did Jesus do with the two fish and five loaves of bread after spending the day with a huge crowd? (He performed a miracle and used that tiny bit of food to feed the crowd of 5,000 people.)

- A bunch of guys carried their friend who couldn't walk to see Jesus. It was so crowded that they had to climb on the roof with their friend, make a hole in it, and lower their friend into the house so he could meet Jesus. What did Jesus do next? (*Jesus healed their friend.*)
- When Jesus' close friend, Lazarus, died and was buried in a tomb for four days, how did Jesus respond? (*He cried. Then Jesus called Lazarus to come out and brought him back to life.*)

Next, lead kids in this cheer. Say each line and have kids repeat:

He did it! He did it!

I'm His biggest fan!

Miracles are part of His plan!

Explain that the second part of today's story was all about the message. Jesus has a message for everyone and it's not a secret message. This message is for everybody. Tell kids you have another question for them.

- What did Peter answer when Jesus asked him who he thought Jesus was? A) A great teacher; B) A great prophet; C) the Son of God (*Answer is C*)

Next, lead kids in this cheer:

J-E-S-U-S

is the S-O-N

of G-O-D!

Explain that the third part of today's story is all about Jesus' mission. Jesus' mission was to die for our sins so we could be together forever. Tell kids that when they know the answer to this question, they should jump up and say the answer in their best sheep voice.

- What happened three days after Jesus died? (*Jesus rose from the dead! He was alive!*)

Next, lead kids in this cheer:

Jesus died for me!

Jesus died for you!

Three days later

His mission was complete.

He rose for me!

He rose for you!

It's true! It's true!

Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!

What You Say:

"I wonder how many miracles Peter saw Jesus do? He believed Jesus was the Son of God. And once Jesus died and rose from the dead, just like He said He would, Peter realized just how great God's love really was. It changed Peter forever. **[Apply] It can change us too when we're reminded of all the amazing things Jesus did while He was on earth. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to live and die for us.** Knowing this can help us believe that **[Impress] God is doing something in me so I will love the people around me.**" **[Personalize] (Share briefly about a time when you were reminded of God's love and how it made you want to love and help someone else.)**

Catch On #2

I Can Help! (*application activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: 1 set of dice (total of 2)

What You Do:

Choose two kids to come up front and give each of them a die. Instruct one kid to roll his die. Look at the key below and whisper to that kid the person that corresponds to the number he rolled. He then acts like the second kid is that person. The first kid's goal is to treat the second kid like he would want to be treated if he were that person. Kids can use words or actions. The rest of the kids in your Small Group will try to guess who the second kid is. You can whisper ideas of what they can do if they seem stuck. Once someone guesses who the second kid is, have those two kids switch roles.

After both kids have had a turn to roll and act out the scenario, they sit back down and another pair of kids come up. It should get easier as there will be some repeats—tell the kids to try and not do the same thing as other kids that rolled the same number. What's another way they could show that person love and treat them the way they want to be treated? Help as needed and encourage often. Don't let the kids see this whole list so it's harder.

1 = Teacher

- 2 = Grandparent
- 3 = Sick person
- 4 = Neighbor
- 5 = New kid at school
- 6 = Brother, sister, or cousin

What You Say:

"It's really easy for us to get upset when we don't think people are treating us right or fairly, isn't it? That's why Jesus encouraged us to treat others the way we want to be treated. That's what we did during the activity we practiced. **[Apply]** So, if you like to get hugs when you're feeling bad, others might like a hug too. Maybe you like to get cards in the mail or to choose the movie you watch. Think about who in your life would feel loved by the same things. I'm so glad **[Impress]** God is doing something in me so I will love the people around me, and I'm glad He's doing something in you, too!"

Catch On #3

Shining Bright (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles; "Shining Bright Memory Verse Pages" (Activity Page); fluorescent crayons, markers, or paints

What You Do:

Look up the verse with the kids, using these tips.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Matthew* at the top of the page as you say "Matthew" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 5 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 5 for the little 14; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Matthew starts with the letters M–A. When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 5. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

After you've said the verse several times, talk about what it looks like for a city to shine at night on a dark hill.

Next, guide kids to brainstorm other things that shine bright and what it means for a person to shine bright.

Finally, give each kid an Activity Page. Instruct them to color it with the fluorescent crayons.

What You Say:

"Our verse says: 'You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden.' It would be impossible to hide a city up on a hill if it was all lit up like our pictures (*hold one up*). It would just be too bright. It would stand out for miles around. What other things can you think of that are bright and shiny? (*Glow stick, flashlight, spotlight, gold, etc.*) **[Apply]** How can we be more like this? (*Take responses.*) **Loving Jesus and learning about Him helps to change us on the inside, and that makes us shine so bright others will need shades! But we don't have to try and do this alone. [Impress] God is doing something in me so I will love the people around me.**"

Go the Extra Mile

Bible Story: Go the Extra Mile • *Matthew 5:41-42***Bottom Line:** God is doing something in me so I will love people who are hard to love.**Memory Verse:** "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden." *Matthew 5:14, NIV***Life App:** 3 Basics: Wisdom • Faith • Friendship**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**Early Arriver Activity** (8:45 or 10:30)**Early Arriver Idea****What You Need:** An offering container**What You Do:**

While passing the offering container around the circle, ask: How long do you think it takes to walk a mile? Why do you think so? (*Note: It takes the average adult 20 minutes to walk a mile.*) How long do you think it would take to walk two miles? Do you think you could even walk two whole miles? Would it be easy or hard?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)**Mile of Fun****What You Need:** No materials needed**What You Do:**

Ask the kids to line up and follow you as you start walking around the room. Tell kids it might get boring to walk a mile or two. Ask them to come up with other ways to travel a mile that would be fun. (Hopping, skipping, jumping, cartwheels, crab walk, etc.) Take a few minutes and practice each suggestion. Then string them together in different combinations. When you are done, have the kids sit down to rest.

What You Say:

"Well, that was fun! What was your favorite way to walk a mile? (*Take responses.*) I'd walk a mile with you guys anytime. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear a story about a guy who walked two miles because Jesus said it was the right thing to do.**" Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1**Going the Extra Mile (application activity / review the Bible story / good for active learners)****What You Need:** Bible marked at Matthew 5:41**What You Do:**

Read and discuss Matthew 5:41: "Suppose someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with them." (*NIV*) Discuss what it means to go the extra mile. (*Go beyond what is expected of you.*) Explain to the kids that they will take turns deciding whether a person did just what they were asked and went a mile, or if they went way beyond what was expected of them and went the extra mile or two. If the person in the situation only did what was expected, ask the group how they could have gone the extra mile in that situation. When it's a kid's turn, they stand and jog in place while they listen and answer the question.

1. Your neighbors asked you to water their plants when they were on vacation. You followed their directions perfectly. Did you go the extra mile? (*No*)
2. Your grandma asked you to bring her the book she left on the counter. You bring her the book and you bring her reading glasses. Did you go the extra mile? (*Yes*)
3. Your mom asks you to pick up all the toys in your room. You pick up all the toys in the entire house. Did you go the extra mile? (*Yes*)
4. Your teacher asks you to play with the new kid at recess today. You play with the new kid at all of the recesses that week. Did you go the extra mile? (*Yes*)
5. Your dad asks you to take the garbage out. You wait until the last minute and take it out. Did you go the extra mile? (*No*)

6. You go to the grocery store with your mom and see a person in a wheelchair coming. You wait before going in to the store so you can hold the door open for that person. Did you go the extra mile? (Yes)
7. Your friend at school is sad because he misses his dad who is in the army and away for a few months. You want to play soccer. Your friend just wants to go hunting for bugs. You decide to stay with your friend and go bug hunting. Did you go the extra mile? (Yes)
8. Your friend wants to ride your brand new bike. You let her ride your old bike. Did you go the extra mile? (No)
9. Your mom asks you to clear the table and put the dinner dishes in the sink. You put them right where she told you to. Did you go the extra mile? (No)
10. Your soccer coach asks your team to run a lap around the field at the end of practice. You run the lap and then help pick up equipment. Did you go the extra mile? (Yes)

What You Say:

"You guys did great with that! **[Apply]** We have chances like this every day, don't we? We have a choice to do just what was asked or to go the extra mile and do more than what is asked of us. Surprise others and yourself by shining and acting more like Jesus. **[Personalize]** (Share about a time when you went the extra mile and helped someone that was hard to love and how it felt afterward. What made it hard to love that person? Did anything change after that? Make sure your example is age-appropriate.) **[Impress]** God is doing something in me so I will love people who are hard to love."

Catch On #2

1 Mile, 1 Mile, 2 Miles (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: No materials needed (Note: A little extra space is helpful for the game.)

What You Do:

Ask kids to sit down in a circle, so their knees are touching. Explain that you will be playing a game similar to "Duck, Duck, Goose." Instead of saying, "duck," they'll say "one mile," and instead of saying "goose," they'll say, "two miles." Then they will run an EXTRA lap around before they can sit down in the empty space. If the first child makes it all the way around twice without getting tagged, then the person left standing shares one time or way that someone went above and beyond in helping them. If the first kid does get tagged, he tells one way he can go the extra mile by helping or sharing with others.

What You Say:

"That game never gets old. I loved hearing all the different times and ways that people went the extra mile for you guys. **[Apply]** This week, we will all have chances to do just what we have to do—go just one mile (hold up a finger) OR we can blow people away when we go the extra mile (hold up two fingers)—like going the extra lap in our game. We can do this even when we are mad or sad because **[Impress]** God is doing something in me so I will love people who are hard to love."

Catch On #3

Flashing a Light on Scripture (memory verse activity)

What You Need: "Flashing a Light Memory Verse Page" (Activity Page), scissors, fluorescent crayons or markers

What You Do:

Hand each child an Activity Page. Kids will review and practice the verse. You might need to say it out loud and help them figure out some of the words if reading is still difficult. Instruct them to color in the flashlight on the page with the fluorescent crayons or markers. Lead them to cut out the flashlight to take home.

What You Say:

"Being the light of the world is an important job. People depend on the light to show them the way. **[Apply]** Shine bright and show others the way to Jesus by being kind and sharing and helping them, even when it's hard and it takes an extra amount of effort. **[Impress]** God is doing something in me so I will love people who are hard to love."

Trailblazers

Bible Story: Trailblazers (Great Commission and spread of the gospel) • *Matthew 28:16-20 (Supporting: Matthew 9:35 – 11:1; Acts 1-2, 8-10; The Epistles)*

Bottom Line: God is doing something in me to show the world who He is.

Memory Verse: “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can’t be hidden.” *Matthew 5:14, NIV*

Life App: 3 Basics: Wisdom • Faith • Friendship

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

While passing the offering container around, ask the kids if they are super excited to tell other people when they get really good news or do they prefer to keep it to themselves? What is the best news they can think of that they ever got? Who did they most want to tell? Why?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Good News Charades

What You Need: No materials needed

What You Do:

Guide kids to play charades of different ways they can tell somebody good news. Call one child up at a time and whisper one of the ways in their ear (examples: text, write a letter, call on the phone, yell, whisper, talk in person, draw, email, etc.). Make sure to encourage them and help them if they aren’t sure what to do. Whichever kid guesses the right answer first is the next to come up and act something out. Model cheering for kids when they are done.

What You Say:

“When you hear really good news, usually you want to tell others, because the news is so good. You’re just so excited that it’s hard to keep it to yourself. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we will hear how the best news ever was spread around the world.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

It’s a Small World (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: “It’s a Small World” Activity Pages, crayons

What You Do:

Kids will choose one crayon and color a simple world map on the Activity Page. You will color along with the kids in case they want to copy you. A star will already be on Jerusalem showing where Jesus started His ministry; color it something bright so it stands out.

Instruct kids to pick another crayon to color a small area around Jerusalem. Do this yourself, to show kids where the disciples took their ministry next. Choose another crayon, encouraging the kids to do the same, to color the Mediterranean area (Turkey, Greece, Italy) where Paul took his ministry. Get another light-colored crayon to draw arrows to other places all over the map, showing how Christians for the last 2,000 years have told people about Jesus all over the world.

Finally, choose one last crayon and see if any kids know where your city is on the map. Have kids make a big dot where they live. Explain that this is where they have the most chances to tell others about Jesus.

What You Say:

“We just colored a very special map which shows how people shared the good news of Jesus one person at a time until people all around the world have heard the good news. Even lots of years later, somebody told you, and somebody else told the person who told you, and somebody told that person, and so on and so on.

[Personalize] (Briefly share about the first time someone told you about Jesus.) “I love the good news of Jesus so much. That’s why I’m here today telling you the good news. **[Apply] You can tell others what you**

know about God too. When we hear the good news and realize just how big of a deal it is—how it changed everything—then it’s easier to want to share with others. **[Impress]** God is doing something in me to show the world who He is.”

Catch On #2

I’ve Got Good News For You! (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: No materials needed

What You Do:

Instruct kids to line up on one end of the room and then say, “I’ve got good news for you!” That’s the kids’ signal to then run to the other side of the room. Tag kids as they try to run by. Explain that if they are tagged, they stay in the middle of the room with you. Tell the kids that were just tagged, “Jesus wants to be your friend forever! Now you guys get to help spread the good news.” They will help you try and tag the rest of the kids as they run back to the other wall.

Signal for the remaining kids to try and run back to the first wall by saying again, “I have good news for you!” Repeat this until all the kids have been tagged. After each time the kids try and race to the other side, make sure the kids in the middle tell the kids who just got tagged, “Jesus wants to be your friend forever.” The last kid to get tagged is the leader and starts off the next game if you have time. (If there is not enough room to run, kids can crawl, crab walk, or hop. If you share your room with other groups, move from one side of your designated space to the other or make it a classroom-wide game.)

What You Say:

“Telling others about Jesus can be a lot of fun. **[Apply]** You can tell other people about Jesus as you are going about your regular day. You can tell them how glad you are that He loves you and them. I’m so glad Jesus wants to be our friend forever. **[Impress]** God is doing something in me to show the world who He is.”

Catch On #3

Telephone (memory verse activity)

What You Need: No materials needed

What You Do:

Kids will play the classic game of “telephone” to practice the memory verse. In round one, whisper the first sentence of the verse into one kid’s ear. That kid whispers it to the next kid and so on. The last person to hear tells the group what they heard. You will then start round two. Give only the second sentence of the verse and make sure it gets passed all the way around. Before the third round, practice saying the whole verse all together. If interest starts to dwindle, have kids talk like a baby, growl it like a bear or whisper it like you’re a spy on a secret mission.

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| Round 1 | “You are the light of the world.” |
| Round 2 | “A city on a hill can’t be hidden,” Matthew 5:14. |
| Round 3 | “You are the light in the world. A city on a hill can’t be hidden,” Matthew 5:14. |

What You Say:

“It’s true that we are the light of the world and that we can’t be hidden. **[Impress]** God is doing something in me to show the world who He is, and He’s doing something in you, too! **[Apply]** That’s why we can shine brightly and tell everyone about Jesus and what He’s done for us. He wants to be our friend forever!”

Reaching the Summit

Bible Story: Reaching the Summit (Great Commandment) • *Matthew 22:34-40*

Bottom Line: God is doing something in you to change the world around you.

Memory Verse: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden." *Matthew 5:14, NIV*

Life App: 3 Basics: Wisdom • Faith • Friendship

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45 or 10:30)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

While passing the offering container around, ask the kids: Do you think it would be fun to work in a candy factory? What about it would make it fun? What kind of candy would you want to make? What would you want your job to be?

Plug In (9:00 or 10:45)

Factory Fun

What You Need: whiteboards, markers

What You Do:

Hand out paper and instruct kids to draw a picture of themselves working in a candy factory. Give suggestions, such as mixing all the ingredients together in a giant pot, wrapping the candy in wrappers, packing candy into boxes to send to the stores, or taste-testing the candy. Give kids time to each share their pictures.

What You Say:

"All that talk about candy is making me hungry for a s'more! **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we are going to hear a story about the two most important rules, no matter who you are or what your job is."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on "The Bottom Line."

Catch On #1

Sweet Words (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Bible marked at Matthew 22:37-40, 1 bag of mini marshmallows, 1 bag of pretzel sticks

What You Do:

Read Matthew 22:37-40. Discuss how these verses can be summed up in just four little words: "Love God. Love others." Then ask the kids to tell you a bunch of different ways they can show they love God and others.

After brainstorming for a few minutes, kids will use pretzel sticks and mini-marshmallows to create each letter to spell out: "Love God. Love others." Do this activity along with them so they have a model for each letter if they need it.

What You Say:

[Apply] "Out of all the laws and rules, Jesus said there were just two that were the most important to remember and do. Love God and love others. When we do this, we are doing what God made us in the beginning to do. Let's think of different ways we can love God (*pray, obey, learn more about Him, be kind to others, etc.*), and how we show others love (*be kind, respectful, helpful, etc.*) **[Personalize]** (*Briefly share about a time when you felt blessed because you knew you were loving and following God while loving and helping others at the same time.*) **[Impress]** God is doing something in me to show the world who He is."

Catch On #2

First Things First (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: 1 big plastic bowl, 1 bag of mini marshmallows, 1 paper plate per child

What You Do:

Kids will take turns hopping on one foot to a designated spot in the room to get a paper plate. Then they will hop on the other foot to another designated spot to a bowl full of marshmallows. Kids then count 10 mini marshmallows and put them on their plate and carefully walk back to the starting line without dropping the

marshmallows. When everybody has had a turn, kids can eat their marshmallows. Leaders will then talk about how we need to do first things first.

What You Say:

"Nice hopping and balancing. **[Apply]** Just like I gave you two instructions for this game—hopping to get your plate and then counting out ten marshmallows—Jesus gave us two commandments. What was Jesus' first commandment? *(To love God.)* And what was His second commandment? *(To love others.)* Right, and when we do both of these things, we also grow in wisdom, faith, and friendship. This is how I know **[Impress]** God is doing something in me to show the world who He is."

Catch On #3

Matthew 5:14 in Motion (memory verse activity)

What You Need: No materials needed

What You Do:

Kids will say the verse together a few times and then practice the motions that go with it.

You *(pointer finger straight out)*

are the light *(with fingers spread apart, lift arms above your head and slowly bring them to your sides)*

of the world. *(hold your pointer finger up and draw a big circle in front of you)*

A city *(form a rooftop with your hands by having your fingertips touch at an angle)*

on a hill *(take your pointer finger and draw a hill in the air)*

can't *(shake your head "no" and wave your pointer finger in a "no" motion)*

be hidden. *(cross your hands in front of your face like you're hiding, and then pop your face out)*

Matthew 5:14 *(use your pointer finger to draw an "M" in the air; quickly flash five fingers and then your pointer finger on your right hand and all fingers on your left hand with your thumb down to make "14.")*

This is backwards so kids will see it correctly.)

If you have extra time, have the kids partner up and show each other all the motions. If they get stuck, the other person can help them remember the move so they can keep going. Then have them switch.

What You Say:

"Great job! **[Apply]** When you go home today, shine your light by teaching somebody else our memory verse with all the motions. **[Impress]** God is doing something in me to show the world who He is."