

Netflix

Bible Story: Netflix (calling of Peter) • *Luke 5:1-11*

Bottom Line: When I see how God provides today, it helps me trust Him with tomorrow.

Memory Verse: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1, NIV

Life App: Faith—believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container, and then ask: “What were your favorite meals this past week? What is a food that you wish you *never* had to eat again? Why? What food do you wish you could eat every day for the rest of your life? Why?”

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

No See Ums

What You Need: pillowcase or cloth bag filled with a variety of items

What You Do:

Lead the kids in a brain challenging feel and find game. Guide the kids to gather around you. Name an item hidden in the bag and then choose a volunteer to reach into the bag (no peeking!), feel for the item named, pull it out for the group to see, and then return it to the bag. Reserve the fish for the final item found.

What You Say:

“You have smart brains! You did a great job finding the items I told you to find even though you couldn’t see them. **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about a man who found something he couldn’t see, either. Let’s go to Large Group to learn more.” 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

God Provides (application activity)

What You Need: “God Provides” (Activity Page); markers, crayons, or pencils

What You Do:

Give each child an Activity Page. Guide the kids to identify the items God provides, and then lead them to draw lines to match each item to its silhouette. If time allows, kids can color the silhouettes.

What You Say:

“The Bible tells us that God will provide for all our needs. What does it mean to say that God will provide? (Pause.) Yes, when we say that God provides for us, we are saying that He gives us what we need. What are some things God gives us that we need? (*Food, clothes, parents, friends, etc.*)

“God is happy to give us food, clothing, family, and friends because He *loves* us and cares for us. He gives us what we need today, and He will give us what we need tomorrow, too. Our Bottom Line says it this way:

[Impress] When I see how God provides today, it helps me trust Him with tomorrow.”

Catch On #2

Go Fish (review the Bible story / great for active learners)

What You Need: “Go Fish” (Activity Page), prepared “fishing poles”

What You Do:

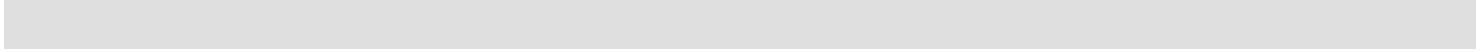
Set the fish cards face down on the floor or a table and then lead the kids in a game to enhance their Bible story memory. To play, guide the kids to take turns “fishing” for the fish. The “catch:” in order for a fish to remain “caught,” it must be “hooked” in sequential order. For example, if a child catches fish number two before fish number one is caught, fish number two must be “thrown back” (placed face down again). Each time a fish is

caught, ask prompting questions to review the portion of the Bible story depicted. Continue play until all the fish are caught.

What You Say:

“Peter and his friends had been fishing all night and hadn’t caught a single fish! It took faith for Peter to trust Jesus and throw his nets back in the water. It also took faith for him to stop being a fisherman and follow Jesus. He didn’t exactly know how he would make money to buy food and pay for other things, but Peter knew that he could trust Jesus no matter what. **[Apply] We can trust Jesus no matter what, too. Just like Peter, we can trust that what Jesus says is true even when we don’t see how it will happen.**

“One thing we can trust is that **[Apply] Jesus will provide for all our needs, because the Bible tells us that He will. Has Jesus provided for your needs in the past? Has He given you food and clothes? Has He given you family and friends who love you? Because Jesus has provided for us in the past, we can trust that He will provide for us in the future, too. Our Bottom Line says it this way: [Impress] when I see how God provides today, it helps me trust Him with tomorrow.**”



Without a Paddle

Bible Story: Without a Paddle (Peter walks on water) • *Matthew 14:22-33* (Supporting: *Matthew 14:13-21*)

Bottom Line: When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.

Memory Verse: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1, NIV

Life App: Faith—believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container, and then ask: “What are some times when people might be afraid? What are some times when people might be brave?”

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

May I?

What You Need: No supplies necessary

What You Do:

Play a variation of “Mother, May I?” Before the game begins, guide the kids to pantomime how they might look if they felt scared and how they might look if they felt brave. Guide the kids to line up at one end of your room/area while you stand at the other. Begin the game, cueing the kids to take either “scared” or “brave” steps forwards or backwards. Keep interest high by asking the kids to take baby steps, giant steps, tiptoe steps, sideways steps, or even crabwalk steps.

What You Say:

[Transition] “In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about someone who took some very brave steps but then became scared. Let’s go to Large Group to learn more.” 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

You Can Be Sure (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Give each child a Bible. Guide the kids to look up Hebrews 11:1 using the navigation tips from Week 1. “Read” the verse aloud together. Unpack, or define, the word “Faith,” emphasizing that faith is trusting that something is true or real even if we have never seen it or experienced it before. Briefly highlight that Peter had faith to walk to Jesus on the water: He trusted that Jesus could help him do it, even though it seemed impossible!

Next, invite a volunteer to stand by you and cross her arms over her chest. Position yourself about two feet behind her. Guide her to stiffen and fall backwards for you to catch her. Invite her to take a second turn. Continue until every child has a chance to have two turns.

What You Say:

“How did it feel to think about falling backwards? Did you think I would catch you? How did it feel when you were falling? How did it feel when I caught you? Was it easier to let yourself fall backward the second time? Why?”

“It can be scary to fall backward even when you know someone you trust will catch you. But once you experience falling, being caught, and feeling safe, it helps you trust again and again. The same thing is true with our relationship with God. **[Apply]** The more we know Him and the more we experience His love for us and what He can do, the more it helps us face our fears. It’s like our Bottom Line says: **[Impress]** When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.”

[Personalize] (Share a time when you were better able to face something scary or difficult because of how God had helped you in the past.)

“So this week, remember: **[Impress]** When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.”

Catch On #2

No Matter What (*application activity / great for active learners / can be classroom-wide*)

What You Need: “Fear Not” (Activity Page), bell or buzzer, a large die

What You Do:

Tape the pictures on the wall by your group and guide the kids to mingle around the room. At random times, ring the bell and lead the kids to quickly run to a picture and stand under it. Roll the die. Help the kids standing under the corresponding picture shout: “I can trust God when I’m afraid of [name of fear].” Remove this picture from the wall and continue the game. (*Note: On successive rounds, simply roll the die again if you roll a number that has already been eliminated.*)

Keep interest high by guiding the kids to move in different ways (tiptoe, squat walk, hop on one foot, crab walk, etc.) and choosing volunteers to roll the die.

What You Say:

[Personalize] Share an age-appropriate story about a time when you trusted God when you were afraid.

[Apply] “Have you ever experienced God’s power to be brave when you were scared? (*Pause.*) We can trust God when we’re afraid because He loves us and promises us that He will NEVER leave us. Even more, He is stronger and bigger than anything we are afraid of. He was stronger than the storm that made Peter afraid, and He is stronger than anything that scares us, too. **[Apply]** When we know God’s power and what He can do, it can help us not be afraid. Our Bottom Line says it this way: **[Impress]** When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.”

A Series of Fortunate Events

Bible Story: A Series of Fortunate Events (John the Baptist in jail) • *Luke 7:18-22 (Supporting: Matthew 11; Mark 6:17-20; Luke 3:1-21; 6; 7:1-16)*

Bottom Line: When I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is.

Memory Verse: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1, NIV

Life App: Faith—believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container, and then ask: “Do you have a favorite superhero? Who is it? What is your superhero known for?”

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

Do You Hear What I Hear?

What You Need: no supplies

What You Do:

Guide the kids to gather around you. Choose a volunteer and whisper the name of an animal or object in his ear. Some suggested animals/objects are below. Lead the child to make the sound while the group guesses what the sound is.

Dog
Cat
Baby
Train
Siren
Horse
Cow
Duck
Bear

What You Say:

“You’re great listeners! *[Transition]* In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about someone who needed to hear something very important. Let’s go to Large Group to learn more.” 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

Hear It! (review the Bible story / great for active learners)

What You Need: “Hear It!” (Activity Page), beanbag, Bible

What You Do:

Set the pictures face down on the floor in a grid pattern. Be sure the pictures are sequential from top to bottom and from left to right. Guide the kids to line up shoulder to shoulder about five feet from the grid. Give a child the beanbag and challenge her to toss it onto a picture. If it lands on a picture, turn that picture face up. When every picture is face up, “read” the story with the kids. If time allows, read the story directly from Luke 7.

What You Say:

“John was in jail and wondering if Jesus really was who He said He was. But John couldn’t go out and see for himself. So John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ‘Are you the one who was supposed to come? Or should we look for someone else?’ Jesus didn’t answer right away, but instead He continued to heal people. He showed John’s disciples His power so that they would KNOW He was God’s Son. And then Jesus said, ‘Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard.’ John listened to what his friends had seen and heard Jesus do—and that helped him believe that Jesus was really the Promised One.”

“The same is true for us: **[Apply]** when we listen to other people tell their stories of how Jesus has changed their lives, it can help us have faith in Him, too. Because **[Impress]** when I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is.

“Are there any stories you have heard of how Jesus has changed people’s lives? **[Personalize]** (Share a story you have heard of how Jesus has changed someone’s life. Also tell the kids how hearing this story has helped your faith in Jesus.)”

Catch On #2

I Heard It Through the Grapevine (memory verse activity / great for active learners / can be classroom-wide)

What You Need: Memory Verse Strips, buckets

What You Do:

Place the bucket of memory strips at one end of the room. Guide the kids to line up in teams of four. At your signal, the first child on each team will run to his team’s bucket, grab a strip, place it between his knees, and hop back to tag the next child in line. When a team has all its strips, guide the kids to work together to put the verse in order. When all the teams finish, read the verse aloud with the kids.

What You Say:

“Today, we’re learning that **[Impress]** when I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is. When John was in jail and wondering if Jesus really was who He said He was, he couldn’t go and see for himself what Jesus was doing. Instead, John listened to what his friends had seen and heard Jesus do—and that helped him believe in Jesus. The same is true for us. **[Apply]** When we listen to other people tell their stories of how Jesus has changed their life, it can help us have faith in Him, too. It can help us have faith even if we haven’t seen it ourselves. It’s like our memory verse says: ‘Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.’” (Hebrews 11:1, NIV)

In the Nic of Time

Bible Story: In the Nic of Time (Jesus teaches Nicodemus) • *John 3:1-21 (Supporting: John 7:49-51; 19:38-40)*

Bottom Line: When I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever.

Memory Verse: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1, NIV

Life App: Faith—believing in what you can't see because of what you can see.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Guide the kids to place their offering in the container, and then ask: "What is your bedtime routine? What do you do first? What do you do last? What is your favorite part about bedtime?"

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

How Long?

What You Need: No supplies

What You Do:

Guide the kids to gather around you. Ask the following questions and encourage kids to guess the answer.

Which lives longer, a fly or an elephant? (*A fly lives 10 to 25 days; an elephant lives 50 to 70 years*)

Which lives longer, a blue whale or a rhinoceros? (*A blue whale lives 40 to 80 years; a rhinoceros lives 35 to 50 years*)

Which lives longer, a crocodile or a zebra? (*A crocodile lives 50 to 70 years; a zebra lives 20 to 40 years*)

Which lives longer, a chimpanzee or a sea turtle? (*A chimpanzee lives 40 to 60 years; a sea turtle lives about 80 years*)

Which lives longer, a monarch butterfly or a hummingbird? (*A monarch butterfly lives two to five weeks; a hummingbird lives six to eight years*)

What You Say:

[Transition] "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a man who wanted to live forever. Let's go to Large Group to learn more." 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

Nic at Night (review the Bible story / great for active learners / salvation message)

What You Need: "Finger Puppets" (Activity Page), safety scissors, crayons, tape, Bible

What You Do:

Give each child a set of finger puppets and invite kids to color them. Guide kids to cut them out, providing hand-over-hand assistance as needed. When they finish, help them tape the tabs together, completing the puppets. Open your Bible to John 3 and read the paraphrase of the Bible story below, guiding the kids to make their puppets dramatize the story as you read.

One night, **Nicodemus** snuck away to see **Jesus**. **Nicodemus** had heard about the miracles **Jesus** had done, and he had questions about who Jesus was. **Jesus** told Nicodemus, "No one can see the kingdom of heaven unless they are born again." "How can this be?" **Nicodemus** asked. He didn't understand what Jesus was saying. Then **Jesus** said, "Everyone who believes in Him can live with God forever." **Jesus** went on to say to **Nicodemus**: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

What You Say:

"When Jesus said, 'Everyone who believes in Him can live with God forever,' He was talking about Himself! Jesus was saying that **[Apply]** when we believe who He is, we'll live with God forever."

"I'm not sure if Nicodemus understood everything Jesus said on the night he met with Jesus, but I do think Jesus gave him a lot to think about. I wonder if, after Jesus died, Nicodemus remembered Jesus' words: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life,' (John 3:16 NIV).

"Just like Nicodemus, **[Apply]** you may not understand everything about Jesus now, either. That's okay. The important thing is to keep learning about Jesus and to keep asking questions about who He is.

[Personalize] "There was a time when I had questions about who Jesus is. (Briefly share your own salvation story. Be sure to use words the kids can understand.)

"So remember, **[Impress]** when I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever."

Catch On #2

When You Believe (application activity)

What You Need: pencils, crayons or markers

What You Do:

Give every child a blank piece of paper and encourage them to write or draw a question that they have for Jesus. It could be a question about Who Jesus is, how to be saved, or any other question. If a child can't think of a question, encourage him to draw a picture of today's Bible story.

What You Say:

"Nicodemus went to Jesus late one night because he had questions for Him. It's okay to ask Jesus questions. It's even okay to ask Jesus questions about who He is. Jesus may not answer your question right away, but at some point He will answer your question through something you read in the Bible, through something that someone who loves Him says about Him, or through an experience you have.

"One question Nicodemus had for Jesus was how to be born again. Being born again is one way to say that we will live with God forever. Jesus told Nicodemus that 'Everyone who believes in him can live with God forever.' (John 3:15, NIV) So, **[Impress]** when I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever.

"Isn't that amazing? **[Apply]** When we choose to believe in Jesus, we will live forever with Him. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.' (John 3:16, NIV) So, remember: **[Impress]** When I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever."