

Faithfulness

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FAITHFULNESS - UNIT OVERVIEW

MEMORY VERSE: "My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me." Psalm 101:6

The above verse states that God's eyes are upon the faithful in the land. We need to strive to live a faithful life. True faithfulness first begins with our call. It is only through our relationship with Jesus that we can truly be faithful. He is the one who equips us with the strength needed. We must also understand that God will never stop loving us during those times of unfaithfulness. Jeremiah's life shows us that there is a price to pay for faithfulness, although he remained faithful to God, he was almost overcome with circumstances. We need to learn to be faithful in spite of the circumstances around us, and faithfully continue the work God has given us regardless of any visible fruit.

This unit also introduces the children to **Hispanic Heritage** month. We will take a look at some Hispanic leaders and see how they were faithful to the Lord and what the outcome was.

In this unit on faithfulness and in the celebration of **Hispanic Heritage** month you will find...

BIBLE CLUB'S that show what true faithfulness is, we will take a look at the prophet Jeremiah and find some insight into his faithfulness.

PRACTICAL LIVING will teach the children to show hospitality to one another. They will learn measuring skills by making "salsa" together. We will study about immigrants and what our role is in welcoming them and lastly we will give the children evangelism tools so they can be faithful in fulfilling the Great Commission.

READ ALOUDS, CRAFTS, and RECREATION will give the students a chance to see true faithfulness in action all with a Latin flavoring.

We pray this unit on faithfulness will lay a foundation for the children to accept the call, accept God's love when we fail, accept the price that comes with faithfulness, and to accept the work that needs to be done for the Lord.

FAITHFULNESS: WEEK 1

WEEK 1 - BIBLE CLUB

- LESSON AIM:** To help the child understand that true faithfulness begins with my relationship with Jesus.
- SCRIPTURE:** Jeremiah 1:1-19 (begins with our call)
- MEMORY VERSE:** “My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.” Psalm 101:6

In Jeremiah 1:1-19, we read about Jeremiah’s call into the ministry. God formed Jeremiah in his mother’s womb and God knew him from the beginning. Psalm 139:13-16. God had a purpose for Jeremiah from the start. He had a plan for his life. God sanctified Jeremiah. He was set apart to do something sacred. He ordained Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah made excuses as to why he could not speak. It was not until God touched his mouth and filled it with His words that Jeremiah began to feel courageous. Jeremiah had a life of mostly failures but he never gave up. It was this touch upon his life that caused him to be a man of courage.

We need to raise children today who sense their call and purpose in life and pursue it. Jeremiah decided early on in his life if God formed him, if God knew him, and if God sanctified him, then he could persevere through whatever came his way.



This week take some time to let a child know that God has a special plan for their life. Share about Jeremiah’s call. Encourage the child the plan God has for them is to prosper them and not to harm them. It’s a plan to give them hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

 **Hook**

- Divide children into four small groups. Each group has an adult leader.
- The group may leave the room or find a quiet corner of the same room.
- Have children try saying these phrases 3x's very fast:

Big Bad Blue Bug

Three free throws

Unique New York

Toy Boat

Miss Smith's Fish Sauce Shop

Cheap Sheets Shrink

- If it becomes too easy have child hold tongue
- After practicing together, come back as one group
- Have several children from each group say the phrases as fast as they can in front of the group.
- Laugh and have fun

DEBRIEF

1. **Did you ever question out loud or silently, why the teacher wanted you to do this?**
2. **Did you obey your teacher and practice the phrases?**
3. **If you had difficulty in saying the phrases, how did that make you feel?**
4. **Did anyone make fun of you or laugh at you while you were practicing?**

Today we are going to learn about a man who was willing to obey God even though he felt inadequate to speak. God took his inabilities and made him into a man of courage.

Bible Story

- This skit should be read by teachers
- You may use older children to play parts (pantomime)
- Please practice several times before performing

“The Calling of a Prophet”

Background Narrator:

During the days of Jeremiah, the world was full of wars as new empires conquered the old ones. The tiny Kingdom of Judah was caught in the middle. During Jeremiah’s lifetime Babylonia conquered Judah and ended its freedom as a nation. Jeremiah began bringing the Lord’s message to the people of Judah when he was a young man. This is Jeremiah’s story.

Voice of God: *(Jeremiah walks on stage)*

Jeremiah, Jeremiah Yo Jere! *(Jeremiah looks up and around)* This is God. You know, your creator. Hey listen, I have a job for you. I had this job picked for you before you were even born.

Jeremiah: *(dumbfounded, confused, looking up)*

Huh?? What?? Are you sure you have the right Jeremiah? You know that is a common name in these parts.

Voice of God:

Yes! Jeremiah I have the right one. I chose you, to speak for me to the nations.

Jeremiah: *(questioning God)*

You want me? But Lord, I’m not a good speaker. Don’t you remember I’m the one that gets tongue-tied when I have to speak in public? Besides Lord, I’m way too young. You need someone more experienced.

Narrator:

God listened to Jeremiah’s excuses but would not let him back down.

Voice of God: *(sympathetic but full of encouragement)*

You’re not too young. In fact, you’re perfect for the job. All you have to do is what I tell you to. Just speak every word I give you, and don’t leave out anything. Don’t be afraid. I promise to be with you and I will always keep you safe.

Narrator: *(God enters room and touches Jeremiah's mouth)*

Just then, the Lord reached out his hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth.

Voice of God:

I am giving you the words to say. I'm sending you out and am giving you authority. You are now my representative to the nations. You will tell them many things, some they may not want to hear.

(Both look up at sky as if they are watching a movie together)

Jeremiah:

I am seeing a vision. I see a branch of almonds that have ripened early.

(God turns to Jeremiah to answer)

Voice of God:

That is to remind you I will always rise early to keep my promises.

Jeremiah:

I also see a pot of boiling water in the north that is about to spill out.

Voice of God:

I will pour out destruction overall the land. I will punish my people because they are guilty of turning away from me to worship idols. Get ready Jeremiah, Go and Tell the people. Be Brave and Courageous. My power will make you strong. I give you my word, you will not be harmed.

Jeremiah: *(empowered and excited)*

I trust you God, and I believe you will keep your promises.

Narrator:

God had Jeremiah speak some pretty harsh words to the people of Israel. I'm sure there were times Jeremiah didn't feel like preaching doom, gloom and judgment but he was faithful to God. God took Jeremiah from a shy hesitant teenager to a bold on fire man of God. He will do the same for you if you remain faithful to him

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. When did God pick Jeremiah for his special job?** *Before Jeremiah was born*
- 2. What was the job?** *He would speak for God to all the nations.*
- 3. What were some of the excuses Jeremiah used, for not wanting to take this job?** *He was not a good speaker, he was too young.*
- 4. What was God's reaction to all of Jeremiah's excuses?** *He wouldn't take "No" for an answer. He assured him he would be kept safe and no harm would come to him.*
- 5. How was Jeremiah going to know what to preach about?** *God touched his mouth and said He would give him his words.*
- 6. What was it that Jeremiah saw in his first vision? What did God say it meant?** *He saw a branch of almonds that ripened early. God said He would always rise early to keep a promise.*
- 7. What did he see in the second vision? What did it signify?** *He saw a pot of boiling water about to spill. It signified that God would pour out destruction over all the land because his people were turning away from him to worship idols.*
- 8. What was Jeremiah's response to his calling and visions?** *Jeremiah obeyed and was faithful to God.*
- 9. If God had come to you instead of Jeremiah, would you have any excuses as to why you couldn't accept the job? If so, what would they be?** *school, too young, don't know much about God etc...*
- 10. Can you think of some jobs God has given us?** *obey parents Exodus 20:12, preach good news Matthew 28:19*

Spend some time in prayer. Emphasize that true faithfulness begins with our relationship with God. It's only through our relationship that we can be obedient to God's call.

WEEK 1 - SKIT

CHARACTERS: Latasha and Maria

THE SCENE: Carrying books and backpacks while walking home from school

Maria: Hey Latasha, Guess what? My family and I are going to the movies tonight. My mom says I can invite a friend, want to come?

LaTasha: I'd like to, but I can't.

Maria: You look bummed, what's wrong?

LaTasha: I got into trouble with my grandmother again?

Maria: What did you do this time?

LaTasha: Well, It wasn't really a big thing...Last night I told my grandmother I had finished my homework, when I hadn't. I meant to do it after I watched TV, but I forgot. Anyways, Mr. Cooper called Grandma at work to come have a conference with him. Now she says I can't do anything or go anywhere all weekend.

Maria: Well you know you shouldn't lie. You should do your homework and respect your grandma.

LaTasha: Well I know that, but I'm not like you Maria. I mess up all the time. I can't seem to follow all the rules. I try but I always end up breaking them.

Maria: That's because you're trying to do it on your own. It's hard to follow each rule if you don't have Jesus on your side. I would never be able too, but Jesus helps me. He gives me strength. He helps me to be faithful to him.

LaTasha: Well, you're doing something right because girl, you never get in trouble.

Maria: Think about what I said about Jesus will you?

LaTasha: Ya, I'll think about it. I'll think about it the whole time you are at the movies.

(girls both laugh, and keep walking home)

DISCUSSION

- 1. Why can't LaTasha go to the movies?** *She lied to her grandmother about her homework. Now her teacher scheduled a conference about it.*
- 2. How does Maria's relationship with Jesus help her to follow rules?** *Jesus gives her strength and the Holy Spirit enables her to make right choices.*
- 3. Why is it harder for non-Christians?** *Because they are relying on their own strength and trying to do it all by themselves.*

WEEK 1 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: “My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.” Psalm 101:6

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

The Lord is looking to bless people who are faithful to Him by having them serve in His Kingdom. Those who serve with integrity will in turn bless the Lord.

Singing The Verse

Verse is sung to the tune of “La Raspa.”

- Listen to music tape.
- You may incorporate clapping and dance steps.
- Make sure you listen closely to the tape for correct phrasing of the song.

TEACHING THE VERSE

- Read the scripture to the children.
- Teach two of the actions from below at a time
- Each time you teach two new actions, start at the beginning again. This is so that the children do not forget the previous actions.
- Do this until you have completed the verse.
- Do it two more times as a group.
- If you have time, separate the children into two groups and see who does the best job reciting the verse.

HAND MOTIONS

My:	Point to heaven
eyes:	point at eye
will:	clap
be:	put your pointer finger and thumb together and pretend it is a bee flying around
on:	put one hand on top of the other
the :	stomp
faithful:	kneel and fold hands as if to pray
in:	cup hand and point into it
the:	stomp
land,:	draw a large circle in the air with your arm
that:	clap
they:	point to several other people
may:	wave hand as if telling them to come with you
dwel:	throw arms wide open
with:	link arms with a partner
me;:	point to heaven
he:	point to another person
whose:	point to their feet
walk:	walk in place
is:	clap
blameless:	shake your finger and head “no” at the same time
will:	clap
minister:	put your hands together and open them as if it were a book
to:	hold up two fingers
me:	point to heaven
Psalm 101:	shout
6:	hold up six fingers and shout six

WEEK 1 - PRACTICAL LIVING

Hospitality

MATERIALS: copy of the story “Abuelita”, Bibles, things needed in showing hospitality.

OBJECT: Latinos are a very gracious and hospitable people. They enjoy celebrating life with one another. Americans would be wise to follow in their footsteps.

TO DO:

- Read the story “Abuelita”
- Look up scriptures and answer questions
 - Hebrews 13:1-2
 - 1 Peter 4:9
 - Romans 12:13

QUESTIONS

1. **What does God’s Word tell us about being hospitable?** *We should be hospitable.*
2. **Why does God put such an emphasis on hospitality?** *Involves sharing, shows love, it causes you to get to know people.*

ACTIVITY:

- Split into age/level classes
- Invite another class within your center to come and visit your classroom
- Brainstorm at least three things you can do to offer hospitality to them before they come. (serve food, offer best seats, hang up coats, greet with hello or hug, give a small token or gift to visitors I.E. a paper flower or card)
- Every class take a turn visiting a classroom and having a class visit you

DISCUSSION

1. **What are some of the special occasions that Latinos celebrate?** *Weddings, birthdays, Posadas (Christmas Celebrations), baby showers, baptisms and Fiestas.*
2. **According to the story “Abuelita”, what were the words of wisdom Abuela had on hospitality?** *The meals don’t need to be fancy just made with love. Treat your guests as a member of your family. Be faithful to God by doing those things that he wants us to do.*

“Abuelita”

(An affectionate term for Grandma)

My name is Sharon. I am a teacher at S.A.Y. Yes!® I have a very special Grandmother. I'd like to tell you her story. Her name is Adelina Alvarez she was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico on Oct. 16, 1919. Her parents migrated to California from Mexico.

I have very fond memories of Abuela. I lived right next door to her. On her days off from work we would spend every moment together. I would go over early in the morning and as soon as I would walk in the door I would smell the familiar aroma of the frijoles (*beans*) cooking on the stove. Abuela loved to cook and although she lived alone she would always make enough food to feed an army. Everything she made tasted so good. She could make a delicious meal out of just a few ingredients.

Our visit would begin with Abuela drinking her café con leche (*coffee with milk*) and I would eat delicious Pan-dulce (*Mexican sweetbread*). We would talk for hours and laugh. She would try to teach me Spanish and we would laugh some more.

After eating our breakfast, we would begin our cooking. As the frijoles cooked, we would make homemade flour tortillas. They were fun to make. Abuela could make them so round, my tortillas came out egg-shaped. When we were finished, we would make fresh salsa. I liked chopping the tomatoes and cilantro. Abuela cooked the chilies and cut the onions. For dessert, we would make Mexican bread pudding, it was my favorite dessert of all.

Abuela's house was always full of people. Family and friends would drop by and visit. She would always say, “Mi Casa es su Casa” (*“My house, is your house”*). We would gather at her house for holidays and special occasions. One thing I learned from her was that when you invite someone to your home your meals do not need to be fancy or expensive they just need to be made with love. Friends and neighbors called her Adelina Abuela, too. She made everyone a part of her family.

As time went on, I married and had a family of my own. I invited Abuela to come and live with me in my home. Together we extended hospitality to our friends and church family. As Abuela grew older, her health began to fail. Just a few years ago she was diagnosed with cancer and died. She is now in Heaven because she knew Jesus as her Savior. She had a lot of people at her funeral service. Many at one time or another had been touched by her hospitality.

Even though she is not with me anymore, I still remember what she taught me in her kitchen so many years ago. Now I have a chance to teach my daughters and they will teach theirs. This is exactly the same way many Latino families learn about hospitality. It is passed on from generation to generation.

The End

WEEK 1 - READ-ALOUD

“God Will Provide”

The Moral Compass, pgs 265-266

Summary: This Mexican folktale is an adaptation of Aesop’s “Hercules and the Wagoner” it teaches the age old moral that God helps those who help themselves. Please make the children aware that this is not a Christian story, but a fable. We need to develop our relationship with Jesus so we can be faithful to him at all times, not just when we are in need.

- Two teachers are needed to tell this story. One teacher will read while the other teacher illustrates the story.
- You will need a large poster board or butcher paper and colored markers.
- Make sure both teachers have read the story and are working in sync. Reader will need to pause occasionally as artist draws.
- Artist must be careful not to block child's view.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. **What does *provide* mean?** *To equip or supply what is needed*
2. **Has there ever been a time in your life when you needed God to provide for you? What was it that you needed?**
3. **Have any of you ever worked at a job and been paid for it?** *Lemonade stand, babysitting, lawn mowing etc...*
4. **Were you faithful to the task?**

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. **Which of the farmers were helped by God?** *The second farmer who tried pushing his cart up the hill.*
2. **Why didn't God help the farmer who prayed?** *He didn't have the right attitude. He was only asking God because he was in need. He wasn't willing to work. He didn't have a true relationship with Jesus.*
3. **What are some things we can do to develop a true relationship with Jesus?** *Be sincere, read our Bibles, pray, go to church*
4. **What are some similarities between the second farmer and Jeremiah?** *Jeremiah and the second farmer both had inadequacies that God was willing to overlook. Jeremiah and the second farmer were not lazy, but were hard workers.*

Work at strengthening your relationship with Jesus so that you can be faithful in every area of your life.

WEEK 1 - CRAFTS

✂ Jesus Puzzle

MATERIALS: One Jesus coloring sheet per child, glue or rubber cement, poster board or lightweight cardboard (*same size as Jesus coloring sheet*), clear adhesive paper or contact paper(optional), one envelope or ziplock baggie per child, crayons, colored markers or paints and brushes, and scissors.

BEFORE CRAFT

- Glue the coloring sheet onto the poster board.
- Glue picture on as straight as possible
- Make sure that this is done enough ahead of time so that it has time to dry.
- If desired when dried, cover front of picture with contact paper

DURING CRAFT

- Have a sample for children to see
- Have children color Jesus coloring sheet and background scenery
- Have the children draw a puzzle pattern on the backside.
- Cut the puzzle apart on the lines
- Store puzzle pieces in envelope or baggie

GUIDED CONVERSATION

- As the children work on their “Jesus Puzzles”, talk about how Jesus is the key to faithfulness.

In order for our lives to fit together, we must put Jesus in the center. It's Jesus in our lives that allow us to be faithful to God, our family and to others.

WEEK 1 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Missing Person

MATERIALS: 1 blanket

TO PLAY:

- Have children sit on floor in a circle (may also be played outside quietly)
- Have children close their eyes as you call one person to the front and cover them with the blanket.
- Tell children to open their eyes and look around to see who is missing
- Children continue to guess until someone is correct
- The missing person then picks the next child to be covered while rest of kids close their eyes again.
- This game works well when you have a lot of players. If you are short ask your volunteers and teachers to play.

OBSERVE

- Are the children faithful to keep their eyes shut?

DEBRIEF

1. **How did you come up with the right person?** *Process of elimination, seating arrangements, body shape under blanket, etc.*
2. **What did you do to remember who was in the room?**
3. **Who was easiest to know when they were missing?** *A good friend, the person sitting next to you, etc.*

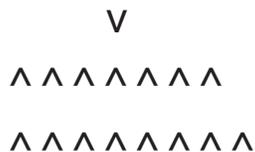
It's impossible to be faithful if Jesus is missing from your life. The way you can tell if Jesus is missing is if it becomes really hard to be faithful.

DAY TWO: Jesus Says (Same as Simon Says)

MATERIALS: None

SET UP:

- Can be played outdoors or indoors
- Have players line up in rows facing front. Whoever is Jesus (Simon) stands in front facing players



TO PLAY:

- The leader says...“Jesus says, Put your hands on your head”
- Each player must then put his hands on his head
- The leader says...“Jesus says, Wiggle your hands”, players obey and wiggle hands
- If leader says...“Stand on one foot” and does not say Jesus says...player is out if he/she obeyed
- Players must obey only those orders that are preceded by “Jesus says”
- Leader thinks of many commands some with the orders Jesus says and some without
- Leader may try to fool the players by doing something entirely different. Moving legs when he says arms over head etc...
- Object is to get all but one player out. The last player left is the winner.

OBSERVE

- The attention span of those who get out as opposed to those who stay in.
- Are the children faithful in following the decision of the leader as to if they are in or out?

DEBRIEF

Was it easy to understand the commands? Why? *Noise distractions, confusing, fooling around, not paying attention or easy, all you had to do was listen and obey.*

How did some of the commands make you feel? *Silly, proud that I could obey without getting out, embarrassed*

What did you have to do to not get out of the game? *Listen intently, focus, obey immediately*

In order to be faithful to Jesus, you need to listen to what He’s calling you to do.

DAY THREE: **Blind Sardines**

MATERIALS: Blindfolds for every player

SET UP: Outdoors or indoors

OBJECT: Becoming a part of the sardine chain

TO PLAY:

- One person is appointed to be the sardine
- All players except sardine wears a blindfold
- The players objective is to come into contact with the sardine
- As the players mill around they touch and bump into one another
- Every time there is contact they will want to ask this question, “Are you the sardine?”
- The sardine answers, “Yes” if he/she is indeed the sardine
- The sardine can make no noise but to answer that question.
- Once a player finds the sardine he must hang onto the sardine for the rest of the game and becomes a sardine.
- Eventually more and more players are bumping into the line of sardines and adding themselves to the chain.
- The game is over when everyone has become part of the sardine chain.

OBSERVE

- Does the sardine act like Jesus and go to where the children can find “Him”?
- As the sardine “grows”, does it keep reaching out towards those still blinded? How does the lead sardine help direct those still blinded?

DEBRIEF

1. **Did you have a difficult time finding the sardine? How long did it take you?**
2. **Did anyone try to lead you astray or lie and say they were a sardine when really they weren't?**
3. **What was it like with the blindfold on?** *Confusing, scary, dark*
4. **How did you feel when you found the sardine?** *Happy, relieved, safe*
5. **Who do you think represents the sardine in our life?** *Jesus*

Without Jesus we sometimes are scared and confused groping in the dark without direction. When Jesus comes into our hearts we feel happy, relieved and safe.

DAY FOUR: Human Bingo

MATERIALS: Bingo cards, pencils or pens

OBJECT: To get the children talking to each other and learning new things about each other.

SET UP:

- Make up Bingo cards in advance.
- Each square will have a statement written on it.
- The square will say something like...”Has ear pierced” or “Is wearing white socks, chewing gum, has 3 sisters etc...”
- Teacher writing card will customize statements for their center.

I hate snakes	I live with my aunt	I love math	I have 3 sisters
I love to read	I am chewing gum	I have a goldfish	I love liver
I know the Gettysburg Address	I’m wearing blue socks	I love being outside	I live in apartments
I’ve been to Disney-world	I like vegetables	I like football	I have pierced ears

TO PLAY:

- At the sound of “GO,” players mingle around the room asking others if they fall into one of the categories if someone does they initial your box.
- The winner is the first one to have all your boxes initialized.

OBSERVE

- How do the children interact? Can you actually see what they were feeling?
- Make sure that the children don’t try to cheat by writing in false initials.

DEBRIEF

1. **What did you need to do to find out information about someone?** *Ask questions, communicate.*
2. **What were some of the new things you found out?**
3. **Did you make a new friend? Did you feel like you rekindled a relationship?**

Jesus wants us to have a relationship with him. We need to spend time getting to know him by talking to him through prayer. Having him talk to us through Bible reading and telling other people about our friendship together.

GOD IS FAITHFUL: WEEK 2

WEEK 2 – BIBLE CLUB

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that God never stops loving us, even when we are unfaithful.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 25:1-14

MEMORY VERSE: “My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.” Psalm 101:6

Jeremiah 25:1-14 says, for twenty-three years Jeremiah had been telling the people of Judah to repent from their idol worship and evil ways. The people would not respond to Jeremiah.

God still loved the people but because they would not respond to God, he allowed them to suffer the consequences of their sin. Jeremiah was able to remain faithful to God's high calling and continued to witness to them. The children need to know that no matter how people respond to them, they need to walk in obedience and continue to share the good news.

They also may suffer the consequences of sin when they are unfaithful this shows us more than anything God's love for us.

Discipleship
Tip

Share with a child a time when you were unfaithful to God and the circumstances you needed to go through because of it. Remember to emphasize that God did not stop loving you during that time.

Hook

- Sit in a circle
- Explain to children that you are going to give them 4 commands
- You may repeat the commands as often as necessary
- They then need to carry out the commands and come back to the circle
- These are the commands: (You may change commands to suit your center)
- Pick up 10 pieces of trash and deposit them in trash can
- Walk around playground twice
- Shake the hands of 5 people
- Wash hands 2 times
- Please Note: Do Not supervise to make sure children are carrying out commands.

DEBRIEF

1. **How many followed the commands precisely?** (A lot of hands may go up at first, keep probing) **How many really didn't pick up 10 pieces of trash? You really picked up 8 and you didn't shake 5 people's hand you only shook 3 etc. (Let me see your show of hands)**
2. **What do you think I should do to you, for not following every command?** *Take away dollars, time out, no snack etc.*

This is what I'm going to do (go and hug those that said they were unfaithful). Make sure you tell children I still love you even though you were unfaithful.

Today, you are going to learn about a group of people that heard God's commands but never obeyed. God never stopped loving them even when they were unfaithful

Bible Story

During today’s story the children will be providing sound effects. The narrator will read or tell the story from memory. Each time the narrator says an underlined key word the children will make a corresponding sound effect. The key words are:

JEREMIAH children say, “wa wa”, a crying sound (Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet)

BABYLON children say, “Baabylon” (like a sheep)

TOLD or TELLING children scream, “Hey!”

LISTEN children say, “shhh!” As one finger goes over their mouth

REPENT act as if they are praying

SERVE or SERVING children say, “Can I help you?”

Note: Narrator will need to allow time for children to respond.

Jeremiah 25: 1-14

One day the prophet **Jeremiah** was thinking about what the Lord had said to him concerning the people of Judah. So, **Jeremiah told** the people this...

For twenty three years since Josiah was King in Judah. I have been **telling** all of you what the Lord has **told** me, but you have refused to **listen**. You not only refused to **listen** to me, but you refused to **listen** to the prophets as well.

We have **told** you to **repent** from your evil ways and turn back to the Lord. You have made the Lord angry by worshipping idols and you have brought harm to yourselves because of it.

Jeremiah said, “You need to **repent**, and when you do you will be able to stay here in the land that God gave you for ever and ever. Stop **servicing** other gods so that God won’t be angry with you.”

Jeremiah told the people all these things but they did not **listen**. Instead they went ahead and **served** other gods and now they can only blame themselves for anything bad that may happen to them.

God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of **Babylon** to come in and destroy Judah and take the people to be slaves in **Babylon**. This happened for seventy years. God’s people were under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar from **Babylon**.

God did promise that at the end of the seventy years **Babylon** would have the same thing done to them as they did to other nations. The Bible says, “Great Kings from many other nations will conquer the **Babylonians** and force them to be slaves.”

Boys and girls, this story shows us that even when we are disobedient God never stops loving us for being unfaithful. However, we must suffer the consequences of our sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How many years had Jeremiah been warning the people?** *23 years* **Note:** Jeremiah continued preaching another 17 years the same message before God's wrath brought total destruction on an unrepentant people.
- 2. Who besides Jeremiah warned the people?** *The prophets*
- 3. How do you think Jeremiah felt preaching the same message for 23 years and not having anyone listen?** *Sad, confused. He may have felt like he wasted 23 years of his life.*
- 4. What were some of the things he preached?** *Turn back to the Lord. Turn from evil ways like worshipping idols. He also preached that if they stopped doing evil God would let them stay in the land.*
- 5. Because the people would not listen to Jeremiah, what were the results of their sin?** *God would allow King Nebuchadnezzar to destroy their land and take the people as slaves for 70 years.*
- 6. What would happen after the 70 years?** *Babylon would have the same thing happen to them as they did to Judah.*
- 7. Who are some people in your life that represent Jeremiah and the prophets? (Remember, Jeremiah was bringing the people a message from God.)** *Pastors, Parents, Teachers at S.A.Y. Yes!®*
- 8. What are they telling you?** *Obey God, Obey parents, Trust God, Do right, Do well in school.*
- 9. Although God still loves you when you are disobedient. What are some consequences that may arise from not doing the things mentioned in Question 8?** *Your life can become messed up. You worry and fret about circumstances. You have difficulty in school, may not graduate etc....*
- 10. The people of Judah didn't want to listen to God's messenger. Are you ready to listen?** _____

Spend some time in prayer with the students, asking God to reveal any areas in their life that needs repentance. Perhaps they haven't been listening to God's messenger. Encourage them to open their ears and listen today. Rejoice in the fact that God never stops loving us and always offers us grace.

WEEK 2 - SKIT

- CHARACTERS:** Reuben, Maria, Papa Kiko (Grandfather)
- SCENE:** Reuben and Maria greet their grandfather who is sitting in a chair on his front porch.
- PROPS:** Rocking chair and sombrero for grandfather.
-
- Reuben & Maria:** Hi! Papa Kiko (hugs and kisses)
- Papa Kiko:** Hola!, mijitos
- Maria:** We're so glad we could come and visit you today.
- Papa Kiko:** I'm glad you came too.
- Reuben:** What were you doing, sitting here all alone?
- Papa Kiko:** Oh, I was just sitting here thinking about things.
- Reuben:** Like what?
- Papa Kiko:** About what it was like coming from Guatemala to the United States?
- Maria:** We love hearing stories, please tell us about it Papa.
- Papa Kiko:** When I lived in Guatemala my only dream in life was to come to the United States. I was told it was a land of prosperity. If I lived there I would never need anyone to help me again. I was told that there was so much money to be made in America. All the money you could ever need or want. I figured all my worries would be over.
- Reuben:** Wow! The United States is a great place to live. I'm glad I live
(*Maria interrupts*).
- Maria:** Ssh!, Reuben let Grandpa finish.
- Papa Kiko:** The very first day I arrived in the United States I found a dollar on the ground. I said to myself, "It is true, there is money thrown in the streets. I won't bother picking up one dollar." So, I just left it there thinking there would be more to come.
- Reuben:** (laughing) Did you find anymore?
- Papa Kiko:** No mijo, I never did find another dollar. What I did find out was that making money in America was hard work. At one point I even worked three jobs to pay the bills. That is when your grandmother and I realized, that since we had come to America we were trying to manage on our own, instead of relying on God.

- Maria:** So what happened?
- Papa Kiko:** We prayed and asked God to forgive us for not trusting in him in every area of our lives.
- Reuben:** I guess you learned a lesson, huh Grandpa?
- Papa Kiko:** I sure did.

DEBRIEF

- 1. How was Papa Kiko unfaithful to God?** *He was unfaithful when he began relying on himself instead of the Lord.*
- 2. Do you think God still loved him even though he wasn't following after God?** *Yes, God loves us even when we are unfaithful.*
- 3. What lesson did Grandpa learn?** *We need to trust God. Seek after him with all of our hearts.*

WEEK 2 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: “My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.” **Psalm 101:6**

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE:

The Lord is looking to bless people who are faithful to him by having them serve in his Kingdom. Those who serve with integrity will in turn bless the Lord.

Memory Verse Toss

MATERIALS: 1 large ball

TO PLAY:

- Begin by reviewing memory verse song.
- Then have children form a large circle.
- The first child will say the first word of the memory verse and pass the ball to the person next to him.
- The second child will say the second word and pass the ball on to the next person.
- Continue going around the circle and complete the memory verse.
- The first few times the child may be helped with the verse.
- Continue with the game, each time going a little faster.

Advanced version

- Have children make a large circle
- Toss ball to any child and they will start with the 1st word
- That child then tosses the ball to any other child who needs to say next word.
- Try to increase speed and accuracy of verse.
- You say the word as you catch the ball

WEEK 2 - PRACTICAL LIVING



"Immigration"

MATERIALS: world map, 2 large poster boards, glue sticks, scissors, magazine to cut out pictures, photo or drawing of Statue of Liberty, and highlighter marker.

OBJECT: To figure out what part we play in welcoming immigrants and teaching what they need to know.

DURING PRACTICAL LIVING:

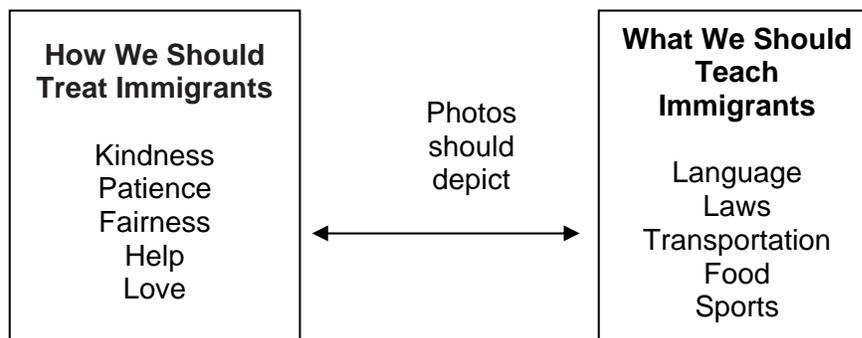
- Hold up world map.
- Ask if any family members have come from a different country.
- Trace with finger or highlight their journey from their country to the United States.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why immigrants come?** *Most come for economical reasons. Some for political freedom.*
2. **How should we treat immigrants when they arrive?** *Respect, kindness, patience, fairness, love, help.*
3. **What should we teach them?** *Language, how to get a job, the food we eat, how we prepare it, our laws, etc.*

ACTIVITY:

- Have children look through magazines and cut out pictures showing how we should treat immigrants and what we should teach immigrants.
- Glue pictures to appropriate poster board.
- Display these 2 poster boards throughout Hispanic Heritage Month.



DISCUSSION

Look at the finished poster boards. Briefly discuss how pictures depict what our jobs are in helping immigrants.

1. Show picture of Statue of Liberty. **What does the Statue of Liberty represent?** *Freedom, a welcome to immigrants.*

On the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty appears a poem by Emma Lazarus entitled "The New Colossus." The last stanza says:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

2. **What is this poem talking about?** *That America welcomes the poor, the tired, the people others may not want at their doorstep. We welcome them no matter what condition they are in.*
3. **How is this poem similar to the way God accepts us?** *God accepts us the way we are. Come just as you are. God never stops loving us even when we are unfaithful. He accepts the tired, the poor, the wretched refuse, the homeless, the sinner.*

WEEK 2 - READ-ALoud

"Dave And Nicky"

SUMMARY: This true story took place in the 1950's. David Wilkerson, a preacher from Philipsburg, Pennsylvania, felt God's call to minister to seven boys on trial for a horrible gang murder. He packed his bags and left for New York. Little did he know God had something bigger planned for this country preacher. This is the story about one special young man whose life was changed on the streets of New York.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. **How does God view people in gangs?** *He still loves them. He isn't always pleased by their behavior but continues to love them. He sees their fear and hurt and loneliness*
2. **What are some of the reasons why people join gangs?** *They think they are tough, looking for love, lonely, scared, need protection.*
3. **Has anyone ever heard of the organization called Teen Challenge? What is it? What do they do?** *Helps drug addicts come off drugs. Helps them with a fresh start..*

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. **What do you think made Nicky Cruz so full of hate?**

Although the book "Run Baby Run" goes into more detail, Nicky's childhood background with evil things caused much of the hate in his heart. He also felt unloved.

2. **Why did Nicky hate Pastor Wilkerson so much?** *He represented everything good. It convicted Nicky of the bad he was doing. He hated him because he was showing him love. Nicky didn't feel he deserved love.*
3. **What made Pastor Wilkerson go after Nicky with so much boldness?** *The Holy Spirit at work within him.*
4. **What results came about after Nicky's salvation?** *He was a changed man, other gang members and people were helped by his testimony. Pastor Wilkerson was able to open the center and let Nicky run it while he earned and raised more money to open more centers. Nicky was full of love. Children were helped by the "Outreach for Youth" center.*

"David And Nicky"

Nicky Cruz was born and raised in Puerto Rico. His parents were both Spiritualist. His home was the headquarters for all sorts of voodoo, séances and sorcery. Since childhood Nicky had a rebellious and bitter spirit. He had a deep hatred in his heart for his parents, family and anyone in authority over him. This rebellious nature caused him to run away from home many times.

At age fifteen, Nicky was sent on a plane to live with his brother Frank in New York. His parents were angry and frustrated with Nicky, they figured he needed a fresh start somewhere else. As soon as the plane landed Nicky ran out of the airport. He didn't want to be under his brother Frank's authority. He arrived in New York with ten dollars in his pocket. Later that night when he found himself lost, cold, hungry and broke he decided to call Frank.

Although Nicky moved in with Frank he knew he would not be staying very long. Nicky tried to adapt to his new lifestyle but soon his anger and old ways came back.

When he got kicked out of school he decided that was enough. He moved out of Frank's apartment determined to find an apartment of his own so he could live alone. He quickly found that without money the only way to survive was to steal and rob people. He did this in order to pay rent and buy food.

Nicky was very lonely so in order to fill the void in his life he joined a street gang called the Mau Mau's. The gang lifestyle got him involved with crime, drugs and violence. Because of the hatred in his heart, Nicky's favorite thing to do was to rumble with rival gangs. Nicky's heart would beat fast with excitement every time he would fight. He liked to see blood and to cause people pain. He soon had a reputation on the streets as being the meanest blood thirsty hoodlum. That reputation gave him the title of President of the Mau Mau's.

Nicky was searching and running, his heart was full of hate. He was looking for love. He thought the answer was in his gang, but it wasn't. He was surrounded by so many people who respected him as their leader but this wasn't love. Nicky remained lonely and in despair.

Pastor Dave Wilkerson was in New York. He had sensed God calling him to minister to seven boys on trial for a gang murder. He drove all the way from Pennsylvania. He never did get a chance to meet with them, but in the process of trying had his first encounter with Nicky and the Mau Mau's.

Pastor Wilkerson stood on a street corner that hot Friday in July. He tried drawing a crowd by playing a hymn on a trumpet. It worked a crowd gathered of about one hundred young kids. The Pastor began reading out of his little black Bible. He read the words from John 3:16 "For god so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Nicky was in the crowd that day and instantly hated the preacher. How could he talk about love, all Nicky ever felt in his heart was hate. Before he knew it the Pastor was asking for all the gang presidents to go forward and talk to him. Two guys representing "The Chaplains" went forward. Nicky couldn't believe what happened next. Before long those two violent hoods were on their knees in the street crying and praying with the preacher for salvation. Nicky freaked out, he was really threatened by this. He was frightened by this preacher. He felt like his stomach was in his throat. He knew he couldn't let anyone think he was chicken so he would have to go up there next. No one knew he was scared to death.

Nicky's first words to Dave were curse words. The preacher replied by saying, "I love you and Jesus does too!" Nicky responded in anger no one loved him, not even his own mother. How could this preacher that had just met him tell him he loved him. Nicky didn't know how to deal with love, he threatened to kill the preacher if he ever came near him again. Pastor Dave wouldn't leave him alone, every chance he got he told Nicky of his love for him and God's love. Nicky slapped the preacher and spit on him.

On one occasion Nicky told him he would kill him. The preacher looked him straight in the eye and said, "Nicky, you could cut me in a thousand pieces and lay them out in the street, but every piece would cry out, Jesus loves you. You'll never be able to run from that."

Nicky couldn't sleep and couldn't stop thinking about this preacher. Israel Nicky's best friend and vice president of the Mau Mau's invited Nicky to a youth rally the preacher was holding. Israel kind of liked the skinny preacher, he wasn't afraid the way Nicky was. Nicky felt he had no choice but to go!

The day arrived and many rival gangs filled the St. Nicholas arena. Nicky's heart was beating fast, fear was flooding his body. He was afraid of what might happen especially as he remembered what happened on the street corner. Several times throughout the rally a rumble almost took place between rival gangs.

As Dave Wilkerson began preaching, Nicky began feeling different. His fear was leaving. A new warm sensation began sweeping over him. A feeling of goodness and righteousness. Nicky had never experienced this before. He thought about his life, his childhood, the hatred, the violence, drugs and crime. He knew he wanted more. He hated the life he had. Pastor Dave gave an invitation to come forward and accept the Lord. Nicky and his friend Israel and more than twenty-five other Mau Mau's responded that night. They asked Jesus to come in and forgive their sins. Nicky cried for the first time since he was eight years old. His heart was no longer hard but was softened by the Lord. There was a dramatic change in Nicky. II Cor. 5:17 says, "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new." That night Nicky took off his Mau Mau jacket for good. The next day he and the other gang members turned in guns and other weapons to the police station.

Dave Wilkerson went on to open a center for runaways, drug addicts and gang members called Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge is still around today. After graduating from Bible College, Nicky married and for two and one-half years became Director of that first Teen Challenge center. He later went on to speak at rallies, conferences, churches, high schools and colleges. He opened a center for children called "Outreach for Youth" in Fresno, California. He was determined to open a center where he could take children off the street and win them to Christ. Everywhere he went he spoke to people in need of love and told them Jesus loves you. Nicky is still living for God and serving the Lord. His life will forever be an example to all of us that God loves us even when we are unfaithful to Him.

If you would like to read more about the life of Nicky Cruz you will want to read "Run Baby Run" by Nicky Cruz with Jamie Buckingham/Bridge Publishing and "The Cross and the Switchblade" by Dave Wilkerson with John and Elizabeth Sherrill/Jove Books, New York.

WEEK 2 - CRAFTS

✂ Torches

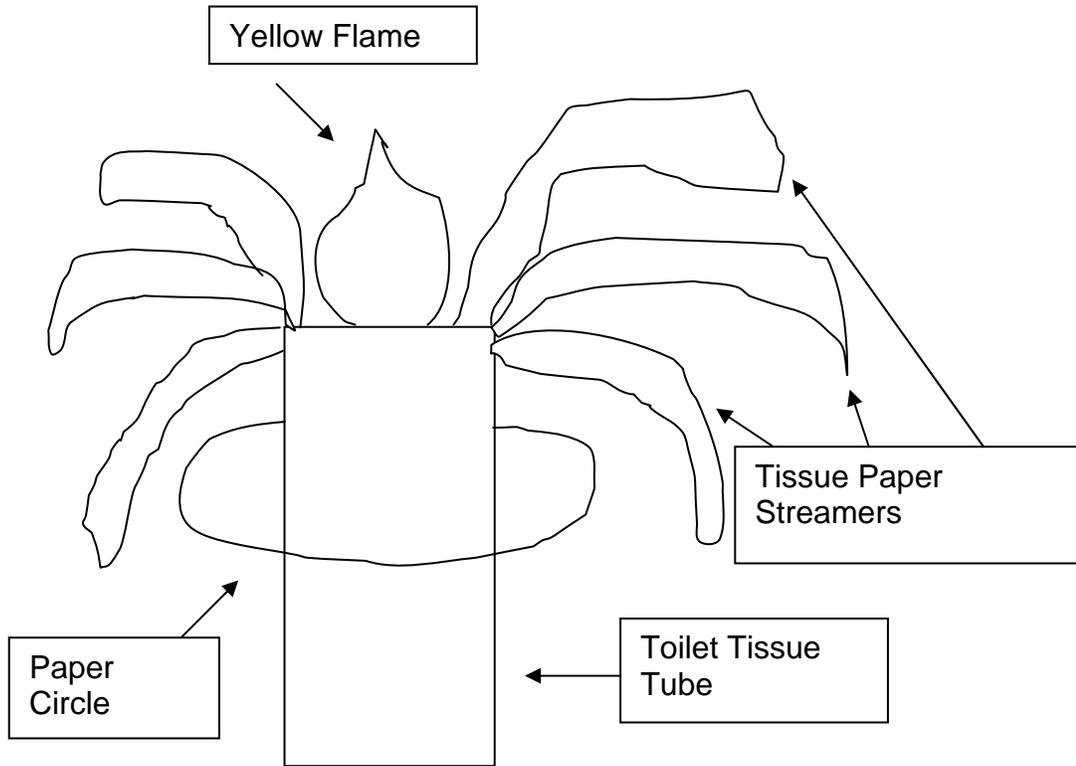
MATERIALS: Toilet tissue tubes or paper towel tubes, red, orange, and yellow tissue paper, white and yellow construction paper, plastic coffee can lid, glue, and scissors.

- Cut and glue white paper to cover tube.
- Cut a large circle from the white paper (use plastic coffee can lid for pattern) cut two "X" shapes in the center to create slits.
- Insert tube through slits.
- Push paper circle down about one inch from top of tube. Fold back slits and glue into place.
- Cut out a flame shape from yellow paper. Glue the flame to top end of tube.
- Cut strips of the colored tissue paper about 12" long and 1/4" wide.
- Glue strips to the tube next to flame shape.
- Hold high in the air. Wind will make colored tissue wave and appear to be flames.

GUIDED CONVERSATION

- As the children work on making their torches remind them of the Statue of Liberty. The Statue's torch leads the way for immigrants to find America.
- The torches we make today will remind us that Jesus is the light. Jesus leads the way for us when we have been unfaithful. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life." John 14:6

God says come to me, whatever condition you are in. I never stop loving you. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12



WEEK 2 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Back to Back

MATERIALS: Cassette player and music tape

OBJECT: This game is similar to musical chairs. Instead of finding a chair, players find another person and stand back to back.

TO PLAY:

- When music is played children walk around room.
- When music stops children quickly find a person and stand back to back.
- When there are an odd number of people on the floor, someone will not have a partner and will be out.
- When there is an even number of people playing a chair is placed on the floor and anyone can sit in it and be safe.
- Every other time the chair will need to be removed.
- Everyone needs to keep moving while the music is played.
- Children cannot pair off with the same person twice in a row.
- The last person standing wins.

OBSERVE

- Are the players faithful in not partnering with the same person more than once?
- What do the children do when they are out of the game?

DEBRIEF

1. **Even when we are unfaithful he sticks closer than a brother. Prov. 18:24**
2. **What did you think of when you walked around the room?**
3. **What did you do when the music stopped?**
4. **How was faithfulness shown in the playing of this game?** *By playing by the rules, not always thinking of self*
5. **How was unfaithfulness shown in the playing of this game?** *Trying to cheat by partnering with the same person more than once, thinking only of self, pushing others out of the way*

Think of what you did. Tell Jesus if you were faithful or unfaithful.

DAY TWO: Clockwise Shuffle

MATERIALS: none

SET UP:

- Divide group into two even teams.
- One team becomes outer circle.
- Other team becomes inner circle.

TO PLAY:

- The outer circle begins walking in one direction clockwise.
- The inner circle walks opposite counter clockwise.
- The leader of the game will blow a whistle everyone will stop and make sure they are standing in front of a partner.
- The leader will shout something like finger, head. The first body part called is always the inner groups. The second body part called is the outer group.
- For example, the inner group takes his finger and touches his partner's head.
- If the leader called out foot, knee the inner group would touch his or her foot to partner's knee.
- The last couple to get into the proper position is out.
- The leader calls all sorts of combinations such as these....

"Elbow, Nose"

"Finger, Nose"

"Finger, Foot"

"Head, Shoulder"

"Thigh, Thigh"

"Nose, Armpit"

OBSERVE

Do the children try to cheat or are they faithful to the rules?

How do the children respond when they make a mistake or their partner makes a mistake?

DEBRIEF

1. **Why was it hard to connect with a partner?**
2. **What causes us to walk away from God?** *Sin, following after the world.*
3. **What caused the people of Judah to not listen to Jeremiah?** *Sin, they were busy worshipping idols and serving other gods. Even though we may be walking in a different direction than God wants us to, He can still get a hold of us and love us.*

DAY THREE: Motion Game

MATERIALS: none

OBJECT: To remember everyone's motions and be the last person left in the circle.

SETUP:

- Have everyone sit or stand in a circle.

TO PLAY:

- One person starts by thinking up a motion.
- The next person performs the original motion plus adds one of his own.
- The third person does the first two motions in order, then adds his own.
- Players continue adding new motions.
- A player is out if he gets motions out of order or forgets any motions.
- Continue playing until one player is left.

OBSERVE

- What do the children do to remember?
- Is there a connection between being faithful to the task (concentration) and remembering all the movements?

DEBRIEF

1. **What was difficult about this game?** *There were too many things to remember. It required too much thought.*
2. **What could you do to make this game easier on you?** *Pay closer attention, focus, and concentrate.*
3. **What are some things you find difficult in your Christian walk? What makes those things so difficult?** *Prayer, Bible reading, telling the truth, being kind, showing love. It's a lot to remember. It's not always a natural reaction.*

It's almost impossible to play this game without any mistakes. God knows that it is hard for us to remain faithful in our daily lives. This is why he still loves us even when we are unfaithful.

DAY FOUR: Lap Sit

MATERIALS: none

OBJECT: To work together as a team to sit down on the laps behind you.

SET UP:

- Have group form a large circle.
- Everyone needs to face the same way either clockwise or counterclockwise.
- Make sure the spacing between each player is about the same (about 12 inches).

TO PLAY:

- When reader blows whistle each player holds arms straight out to sides and sits down in the lap of the person right behind him.
- It may take several tries for it to work.
- When you get the hang of it, have the group walk in the seated position.

OBSERVE

- Do the children work together as a team?
- Who is faithful to help and who is unfaithful doing his/her own thing?

DEBRIEF

1. **What were your feelings when people didn't play the game correctly?**
2. **Did you want that person out of the game? Why?**
3. **What should our response be to people who don't play as well as others?** *Love, understanding, patience.*
4. **What is God's response to us when we aren't living right? God still loves us even when we are not doing as well as He would like.**

BEING FAITHFUL IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES: WEEK 3

WEEK 3 – BIBLE CLUB

- LESSON AIM:** To help the child understand that there is a price to faithfulness.
- SCRIPTURE:** Jeremiah Chapters 11-43
- MEMORY VERSE:** "My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me." Psalm 101:6

The hook for this week illustrates perfectly that what we think should happen when we are faithful to God doesn't always happen. Like in the case of Jeremiah, you would think he would be blessed for all of his diligent work. After all he warned the people year after year and was very faithful to God's calling.

Instead he had to endure difficult circumstances. He was thrown into the bottom of a muddy well. He was beaten and thrown into prison numerous times. He was hated and rejected by neighbors, family, and friends.

We may find that in our own lives something similar is happening. God uses circumstances to mold and make us into the person he wants us to be.

Discipleship
Tip

Take some time to get one on one with the children you are discipling. Ask them to share some of the circumstances they are going through in their lives. Pray and ask God to have his way with them and mold and make them after his will.

Week 3 – Being Faithful in Spite of Circumstances

Hook

MATERIALS: Pencils or crayons, drawing worksheets (three per child); pictures or diagrams that represent the examples below.

- Hand out drawing worksheets.
- Complete worksheet together.
- Have children look at row 1
 - Example 1
 - Frame 1 - a picture of boy and girl playing baseball in house
 - Frame 2 - a picture of a lamp in the house
 - Have children draw what they think will happen next.

Answer: The ball breaks the lamp because children should not play baseball indoors.

- Example 2
 - Frame 1 - boy studying for spelling test
 - Frame 2 - boy taking spelling test
 - Have children draw what they think will happen next.

Answer: Boy receiving an "A" on test. When you study hard you usually get good grades.

- Example 3
 - Frame 1 - man praying and reading Bible
 - Frame 2 - man preaching to a crowd
 - Have children draw what they think will happen next

Answer: Man being beaten, thrown in a well, and sent to prison in handcuffs. This man's name is Jeremiah. **Any answer the children come up with will be wrong because we are talking about Jeremiah.**

DEBRIEF

Sometimes there is a price to pay for faithfulness. What you may think is going to happen may not, like in the case of Jeremiah. Instead of Jeremiah being blessed for preaching he had to endure difficult circumstances.

Drawing Worksheet

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You predict the outcome

Bible Story

CHARACTERS: Reporter, four onlookers

(Four onlookers behind reporter acting like a typical crowd caught on TV, waving at camera, holding up #1 sign, mouthing “Hi mom”. Make sure they don’t make noise.)

Reporter: (standing in front of the other four) I am here at Malchiah's cistern, the sight of an incident that happened early today. The prophet Jeremiah was thrown into this well by four men, but he is alive at this time. Jeremiah's trouble began earlier when four men went to the King and told him that Jeremiah was discouraging the army by saying that he had a word from the Lord which was, "If you stay in Jerusalem you will die in battle or from disease or hunger." This is the typical gloom and doom Jeremiah is known for. King Zedekiah said to do whatever they wanted with him and so they let him down into a well with ropes. We have been told there is no water in the well, but Jeremiah did sink down into the mud.

A crowd has gathered around here and the people have a lot to say on the subject. *(puts microphone in the face of one onlooker)* Please tell me why you came down here tonight?

Onlooker #1: I was curious, I wanted to see what was happening. Jeremiah is a crazy man. Just last week he was accused of joining the Babylonian army. *(pause)* Later we found out it wasn't true, but I don't know who to believe anymore.

Reporter: *(turning to another onlooker)* What do you have to say about all of this?

Onlooker #2: This poor man should learn to keep his mouth shut. Every time I turn on the news he is being beaten and carried off to prison. Even his neighbors tried to kill him, you know.

Reporter: And what would you like to say?

Onlooker #3: No one listens to Jeremiah, you would think he would have quit his preaching by now. He is always being rejected. His friends insult him and accuse him. Pashur the priest hit Jeremiah and arrested him. The King even had his messages burned.

(Onlooker #4 continues where onlooker #3 left off)

Onlooker #4: I feel sorry for Jeremiah. He is obeying God and is being faithful to him. He has received nothing but trouble for all his good work.

Week 3 – Being Faithful in Spite of Circumstances

Reporter: They are now pulling Jeremiah out of the well at this very moment. Sources say that an official palace guard spoke with the King and urged him to rescue Jeremiah before he starves to death down in the well. The King has sent thirty men to pull Jeremiah out before he dies. Only time will tell if Jeremiah will continue his preaching. If someone threw me down a well I would probably stop.

(crowd starts shouting "He's out", reporter looks around as if to verify news.)

It looks as if Jeremiah is now out of the well. He seems to be in good condition. He is, however, covered in mud. One begins to wonder just how much persecution one man can take. I have a feeling we haven't heard the last of Jeremiah.

That is all from me and this late breaking story.

The End

Week 3 – Being Faithful in Spite of Circumstances

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why was Jeremiah thrown into the well?** *He was accused of discouraging the army.*
- 2. Who threw Jeremiah into the well?** *Four men who overheard him talking to the people of Judah about the army dying if it stayed in Jerusalem.*
- 3. What were some of the other things that happened to Jeremiah while he was delivering God's messages?** *He was beaten, thrown into prison several times, rejected by his neighbors who plotted to kill him, rejected by the priest who hit him and had him arrested, rejected by family and friends who accused and insulted him and he was rejected by the King who had his messages burned.*
- 4. Jeremiah was doing the right thing by obeying God. Why did God allow these circumstances who Jeremiah's life?** *God allows circumstances into our lives to bring us closer to him. When we are going through hard times that is when we usually seek after the Lord in a deeper way. God is molding and making us into the person he wants us to be. Trials and circumstances help mold us.*
- 5. Many times in our lives there is a price to faithfulness. Can you think of any scenarios that show someone doing good, but having a bad thing happen because of it?**

Good Smuggling Bibles into foreign countries.

Bad You may get arrested.

Good Blocking the entrance of an abortion clinic.

Bad You may get arrested and have to pay a fine.

Good Telling a counselor about a friend who is being physically abused at home.

Bad Friend gets sent to a foster home and you never see the friend again.

- 6. What are some things you can do to be faithful to God in spite of our circumstances?** *Listen to God. Pray and read Bible. Trust God. Ask God to strengthen you.*

Before prayer time, teach children old hymn "have thine own way". Sing song together. Pray that God the potter will use our circumstances to mold us and make us into the person God wants us to be.

WEEK 3 - SKITS

CHARACTERS: Bobby, Reuben, Mr. Perez (teacher)

SCENE: Bobby and Reuben are sitting next to each other in Mr. Perez' classroom. They are studying for a huge exam.

Mr. Perez: Class, please take out your history books. The final exam will cover chapter 29. Please review on your own. There is absolutely NO TALKING!

(silence)

Bobby: *(leaning over to Reuben)* What chapter did he say?

Reuben: Chapter ten.

Bobby: Oh, thanks. Sorry to bother you... Did he say history book or science book?

Reuben: *(a little annoyed)* History; quiet Bobby!

(silence)

Bobby: I'm hungry! Reuben, are you hungry?

Reuben: *(shakes his head no)*

Bobby: I'm so hungry my stomach is growling. Can you hear my stomach Reuben?

Reuben: *(whispering)* No, Bobby please stop talking.

Mr. Perez: BOYS!!

Bobby: A pizza sounds good just about now...

Mr. Perez: I'm giving you boys one last warning. No talking.

(silence)

Week 3 – Being Faithful in Spite of Circumstances

Bobby: Do you like pepperoni or sausage on your pizza?

Reuben: *(doesn't even look up from book, tries to ignore his friend)*

Bobby: I bet you like Hawaiian style. Do you like Hawaiian style?

Reuben: *(really frustrated...a little louder)* Stop talking! You're going to get us into tro--.....

(interrupted by Mr. Perez' shouts)

Mr. Perez: That's it! Reuben come to my desk young man. You are going to see the Principal.

Reuben: But, sir it wasn't me.

Mr. Perez: No excuses. Now out you go!

Bobby: *(slides down in his chair)* Oops!

DEBRIEF

Who was to blame for the talking? *Bobby*

What was Reuben trying to do? *He was trying to get Bobby to stop talking so neither would get in to trouble.*

Was it fair that Reuben got blamed for it? *No, not really.*

Reuben did the right thing in trying to get Bobby to stop talking. Even though he got sent to the Principal's office he was still being faithful to God in trying to obey the rules.

WEEK 3 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: "My eyes will be on the faithful in the land that they may dwell with me, he whose walk is blameless will minister to me." Psalm 101:6

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

The Lord is looking to bless people who are faithful to Him, by having them serve in His Kingdom. Those who serve with integrity will in turn bless the Lord.

(Begin by reviewing memory verse song)

Tic, Tac, Toe

MATERIALS: anything you can draw Tic Tac Toe grid on

TO PLAY:

- Draw a Tic Tac Toe grid on board.
- Same rules apply as in regular game, the only difference will be you are playing in teams.
- Divide children into two even teams.
- Teacher will ask first team to raise hands if they know the verse.
- Teacher will call on a child, if the child can recite the verse correctly he will place his team's mark on grid.
- If child is incorrect their team forfeits turn and opposing team is given a chance.
- Game continues back and forth.
- Remember to let players know they need to strategically place their marks in order to block opposing team.
- Team that gets 3 of their marks in a row wins. Diagonal, horizontal or vertical.
- Give winning team small prize.

WEEK 3 - PRACTICAL LIVING



Pico de Gallo (fresh salsa)

MATERIALS: Mixing bowl, knives, measuring cup, measuring spoons, plastic wrap, 6-8 medium ripened tomatoes, 2 small onions, 2 garlic cloves, 2 Jalapenos, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cilantro, salt, pepper, lime, spoon for a group of three or four kids.

OBJECT: To teach children how to measure. Children will make a popular Hispanic relish served with many Hispanic meals.

BEFORE PRACTICAL LIVING:

You want the students to practice measuring out the ingredients, so have each ingredient cut up and in large containers. During the activity have the students come up to the large containers and measure out their amount and take back to their group.

Chop 6-8 medium size ripened tomatoes

Finely chop 2 small onions

Crush 2 garlic cloves

Chop 2 Jalapenos (seeded and minced)

Since Jalapenos can burn your eyes be careful and don't rub your eyes. This recipe is mild, but you can add heat by increasing the number of Jalapenos.

Chop $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cilantro

1 teaspoon salt

Pepper to taste

Juice of 1 lime

DURING PRACTICAL LIVING:

- Each child should be given an ingredient to measure out and pour into the mixing bowl.
- Combine all ingredients in mixing bowl
- Cover bowl with plastic wrap
- Refrigerate at least one hour to allow the flavors to mix
- Serve fresh or keep up to 3 days covered and refrigerated
- Makes approximately 5 cups

DISCUSSION

Why is it important to measure ingredients?

WEEK 3 - READ-ALOUD

"Four Daughters"

The Moral Compass, pgs. 53-55

Summary: This story is about four daughters. Their mother tries to teach them how to work, so they can learn to take care of themselves. Only one daughter listens and benefits from working hard.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. From the title what do you suppose this story is about?
2. Do you have any chores to do at home?
3. What happens if you don't complete your chores?
4. What happens if you do?

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. **What were the things that were keeping the daughters from doing their chores?**
Sleepiness, not knowing how to perform the task, having better things to do.
2. **Who was the only daughter who was faithful and stayed?** *Maria*
3. **Was Maria rewarded for being faithful?** *Yes*
4. **After the mother died, and her prophecy came true, what did Maria become and why?**
Maria became a hummingbird. Hummingbirds are hard workers. They are also a welcomed and beloved bird.

Maria was the only faithful one who stayed with her mother. Maria worked harder once her sisters left. She worked very hard performing all of their chores plus planting a flower garden of her own and selling them at the market. Her immediate reward for all that hard work was more work. She was the only daughter left to care for her ill mother. In the end she was the one blessed more than any other all because she remained faithful.

WEEK 3 - CRAFTS

✂ Clay Figurines

MATERIALS: Clay (a fist size lump for each child) paint, brushes, wax paper or paper towels

- Give each child a lump of clay
- Child can create whatever he/she wants
- Set finished product on paper towel or wax paper
- Write name on paper towel or wax paper
- Dry thoroughly
- Paint if desired

GUIDED CONVERSATION

Isaiah 64:8 says God is the potter and we are the clay, God allows both trouble and blessing into our lives to shape us according to God's will.

What were some of the difficult circumstances God allowed in Jeremiah's life? *He was thrown into prison, thrown into a cistern (deep well), taken to Egypt against his will, rejected by neighbors, family, prophets, friends, his audience, and kings.*

WEEK 3 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Keeping a Balloon in Flight

MATERIALS: A blown balloon for every player

OBJECT: To be the last player to keep their balloon in the air.

SETUP:

- Blow up a balloon for each player.
- Have some extra ones blown up also.

TO PLAY:

- Leader will blow whistle or yell go.
- Player will hit balloon up in the air.
- Player must then blow balloon to keep it floating in the air.
- When balloon hits the ground player is out.
- Player to keep balloon afloat the longest is the winner.

OBSERVE

- Do some children give up without trying?
- Is there a difference in the heart condition of the children who persevere? On are the winners merely the most physically fit?

DEBRIEF

1. **What was needed to keep your balloon in the air?** *Air, perseverance, endurance, determination.*
2. **Why do you think Jeremiah continued preaching his message, in spite of all his circumstances?** *He remained faithful because it was the right thing to do and he wanted to be obedient to God because he loved God with all his heart, soul, and mind.*
3. **What does this game and Jeremiah's story encourage us to do?** *To continue to be faithful even though things may get hard along the way.*

Being faithful often requires perseverance and endurance.

DAY TWO: Let It Blow

MATERIALS: A different colored deflated balloon for every player.

Object: To be the first to get your balloon across the finish line.

SET UP:

- Set a starting line and finish line approximately fifteen feet away from each other.

TO PLAY:

- Have players line up on starting line.
- At the sound of go, each player will blow up their balloon.
- Player will not tie balloon but will instead let it go to fly through the air.
- Teacher's note: This game is especially fun if played outside, because the slightest breeze will blow balloon in different directions.
- When balloon has landed player will find it and blow it up again and let it go.
- The player who gets the balloon across the finish line first wins.

OBSERVE

- Who are the players that quickly become frustrated?
- Do any players encourage others, or are they all focused on themselves?

DEBRIEF

- 1. What were some factors that made this game difficult?** *It was a long and tedious process. The wind was an unexpected factor. It made the balloon travel in weird directions.*
- 2. While playing this game did you ever feel frustrated or angry?**

Faithfulness is a long process. Things happen along the way that you may not expect, but if you remain faithful to the Lord he'll bring you through. Jeremiah at times felt frustrated and angry.

DAY THREE: Human Target

MATERIALS: Two sock balls or two small Nerf-type balls (sock balls can be made by rolling two or three socks together to form a ball.)

OBJECT: Players shoot sock balls at moving target. Player who hits target takes his/her place as target.

SET UP:

- Have children form a circle and face outwards.
- Select one person and place in center. He/she will become the moving target.

TO PLAY:

- Players bend over and shoot sock balls between legs trying to hit moving target in the center of the circle.
- Moving target tries not to be hit.
- Person who hits moving target becomes the next moving target.

OBSERVE

- The “Targets,” how did they respond being the center of attention?
- The players making up the circle, did they become frustrated if they couldn't hit the target? How did they display their frustration?

DEBRIEF

1. **If you were one of the players that was a moving target, how did you feel being the target everyone was trying to hit?** *Afraid, nervous, challenged.*
2. **Sometimes when you are doing the right things and are being faithful it feels as if you are getting hit from all sides. Jeremiah did all the right things but many things happened to him on account of this. What price did Jeremiah have to pay on account of his faithfulness?** *His family rejected him, he lost his friends, no one listened to him, thrown into a deep well, thrown into prison on several occasions, and beaten.*

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have.

OBJECT: To give the children free time to do what they want.

SET UP:

- Have all the play equipment out for the children to play with.

TO PLAY:

- This is a time to let the students make up their own rules to games and enforce them.
- Give them the freedom to choose the games and enforce the rules as they think that they should.
- Feel free to play with them, but do not take control of organizing the game. Let them do this and follow their rules.
- Don't allow them to look to you to solve all their problems with rules and players obeying them. Try to let them make decisions and find out the consequences of them.

OBSERVE

- Watch to see which children are the ones who want to play their own game and which ones want to include other as a team.
- Do you observe outward signs that children's hearts have been touched by Jesus, making them faithful in showing love toward one another?

DEBRIEF

1. **Did anyone play a game today that required a team?**
2. **Do you think that sometimes it is hard to get a team organized? Why?**
3. **Why do you think people are always wanting to do their own thing?**
4. **How do you think God feels when we don't work together?**

FAITHFULNESS IS GOD'S MEASURE FOR SUCCESS: WEEK 4

WEEK 4 – BIBLE CLUB

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that true success is faithfully doing the work God gives you regardless of visible fruit.

SCRIPTURE: Whole book of Jeremiah

MEMORY VERSE: "My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me." Psalm 101:6

Jeremiah did what God called him to do. He knew what his mission was. Jeremiah preached the same message of repentance for forty years. Jeremiah never saw the results, but knew God was in control.

This week we have two extreme examples of preachers. Dr. Luis Palau is a famous Hispanic evangelist. He has preached to millions and has had an overwhelming response. Jeremiah doesn't have anything to show for his hard work, yet each man has been faithful to God. So in the eyes of the Lord they are both just as successful.

We want to teach the children how important it is to share Jesus with other people regardless of the results.

Discipleship
Tip

Talk to the children about evangelism. *Share* with them how you personally share Jesus with others. When and to whom? *Practice* going through the wordless evangelism tool, so they will be ready to share as the opportunity arises.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

Hook

MATERIALS: A deck of playing cards for each group

TO PLAY:

- Divide children into groups of 3-4 children
- Give each group deck of cards
- Provide a flat, even surface for each group i.e. table or wooden board on rug
- If possible, provide a place free from wind or drafts
- Children begin stacking cards on top of each other, level by level to make card houses

DEBRIEF

1. **How long did it take before you began to see results?**
2. **If your group had difficulty making the house, did it mean you weren't working hard at building it?** *No, you were still working at it, you were still being faithful to do your part.*
3. **What happens when we work hard at something, but don't see results?** *We become discouraged, we want to give up, we become easily angered.*

 **Bible Story**

CHARACTERS: Jeremiah

MATERIALS: costume

This is a prayer monologue, a conversation with God. You may want to kneel, walk around, and look up toward heaven.

Jeremiah’s Prayer/Monologue

Well, God, I never thought I'd end up in Egypt. I told your people not to come here. I told them you wanted them to stay at home to build and plant, but instead they chose famine and death in Egypt. They not only did their own thing, but they brought me here as well.

I remember my calling so many years ago, I was so young. (laughing a bit) Thank you God for giving me the words to speak. I didn't think I could do it. You are faithful to me. Now I'm old. (laughing again) My hair is gray. I've spent my life preaching this same message.

There have been many tears, you know how many times I've come to you crying for the people. I've wanted them to receive your message. I've also cried for myself, it hasn't been easy going through so much.

Year after year I have warned them, year after year they have rejected. I sometimes feel my life has been wasted. I have felt like giving up. I even wanted to run away from this awesome mission you have given me.

But I could not live without it. I know this was my purpose in life. This is what you had planned for me before I was even born. I don't think I'll ever see the results of my labor, but one thing I know is I was faithful to the work. In the process of walking in obedience you have been with me. How I praise you God for loving me and trusting me with this special work. Thank you for comforting me. I love you God. Amen

Narrator: Jeremiah indeed spent his life preaching God's message of doom and destruction. He led a life of loneliness and rejection. He was deprived the comfort of marriage. He was physically beaten and ridiculed, but he never gave up preaching.

He was so faithful to the work God had given him. Jeremiah never did see any results of his message. The people would rather die than change. As a result of this, God passed judgment upon them. Judah was taken captive and was no more and that is how it ended.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Where was Jeremiah in the story?** *Egypt*
- 2. What did Jeremiah tell the people about moving to Egypt?** *They should not go. They should stay and build and plant.*
- 3. Did Jeremiah ever want to quit preaching?** *Yes. He thought of running away from his call. He felt as if he wasted his life.*
- 4. What are some things that happened to Jeremiah?** *He was beaten, thrown in jail, taken to Egypt, thrown into a well, rejected and made fun of.*
- 5. What did Jeremiah thank God for?** *For being faithful to him. For putting the words into his mouth.*
- 6. Have you ever shared Jesus with someone and they rejected you?** Students share their experiences. Share some of your own.
- 7. So you think you could have been as faithful as Jeremiah? Why or why not?** Students share their feelings. *(No it would be too hard to be so rejected, I would have given up, Yes, it would be easy with God on your side.)*
- 8. Was Jeremiah a successful preacher? In what way?** *Yes, He was obedient to God. Success is bring faithful to God regardless of visible fruit.*
- 9. What has God called each of us to do?** *Matthew 28:19 – share the good news of Jesus Christ.*
- 10. What are you doing to be faithful to that work?** Students share what they are doing *(bring friends to church or the center, pray for their friends and family, etc.)*

Spend some time in prayer asking God to use all of us in fulfilling the Great Commission.

WEEK 4 - SKIT

CHARACTERS: Reuben, Maria, Mom and Dad

SCENE: Sitting down at the dinner table.

Maria: I'll pray! *(Everyone bows head)* Thank you Lord for this food, bless Mama for making it. Amen!

(Family starts to pass food and begins to eat)

Mom: Guess what? We received a letter from the Martinez family today.

Maria: Who is the Martinez family?

Dad: Don't tell me you forgot about them already.

Maria: I did, I guess.

Reuben: Who are they Dad?

Dad: They were our neighbors about five years ago. Reuben, you would have been five or six and Maria, you were about 3 or 4 years old.

Mom: Remember Pedro was the oldest son, then there was Marcos and little Monica is the same age as you Maria.

Reuben: Oh yeah! I remember.

Maria: Me too!

Dad: You two were always inviting them to go to church with us.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

Mom: You kids would tell Pedro and Marcos that they should get out of the gangs they were in. You have always been good witnesses for the Lord. *(Mom almost starts to cry)*

Maria: Well, what did the letter say anyways?

Mom: It was good news, actually it was more of a thank you note. Mr. and Mrs. Martinez wanted to thank us for introducing them to Jesus. They said our family set a very good example of what Christians should be like.

Dad: They said the reason they moved was to help Pedro and Marcos get away from gangs. Mrs. Martinez said the boys never forgot the things you two shared with them.

Mom: I guess for awhile right after the move things got worse. Pedro got arrested several times. When he was in jail he accepted Jesus into his heart. When he came home he shared with his whole family and now they are all going to church every Sunday.

Dad: And Monica invites all the children on her block to Vacation Bible School, just the way you invited her.

Reuben: Wow! That is good news.

Dad: It goes to show you sometimes we don't see the results of our witnessing until later on.

Reuben: We would have never known how our family had an impact on them if it hadn't been for that letter.

Mom: You two need to be good witnesses to those that are around you now, like Bobby and LaTasha.

Maria: Maybe one day we will receive a letter from one of them.

Mom: Maybe

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

DEBRIEF

1. **Why couldn't Reuben and Maria remember who the Martinez family was?** *It had been a long time since they had seen or had even mentioned the Martinez family. They had completely forgotten.*
2. **What was a result of the gang influence on Pedro?** *He got arrested and went to jail.*
3. **What was one good thing that came out of the fact that Pedro was arrested?** *While in there, he accepted Jesus into his heart and then was able to share with his whole family.*
4. **Who is Reuben and Maria hoping one day they'll receive a letter from?** *Bobby and LaTasha*

“Boys and girls, regardless of the visible fruit, you need to understand that true success is faithfully doing the work God gives you.”

WEEK 4 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: "My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me." Psalm 101:6

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

- The Lord is looking to bless people who are faithful to him, by having them serve in his Kingdom. Those who serve with integrity will in turn bless the Lord.
- (Begin by reviewing memory verse song)

Rock, Rock

MATERIALS: One small rock, small enough to fit into palm of child's hand.

- Everyone sits in a circle with legs crossed like a pretzel.
- "It" sits in the middle alone (he/she does not participate in chant or passing the rock)
- Knees must be touching the person on your left and right
- Everyone opens palm of left hand and places hand palm up on the knee of the person to your left
- With right hand everyone at the same time pretends to grab the rock from their left palm and then places it in the left hand of the person on your right
- Practice in order to get the rhythm down
- Have "it" close eyes while teacher places rock into one child's hand. Children will try to conceal rock while passing it.
- Children begin singing this chant

<u>Rock</u>	<u>Rock</u>	<u>How I</u>	<u>Wander</u>
Left Hand	Right Hand	Left Hand	Right Hand

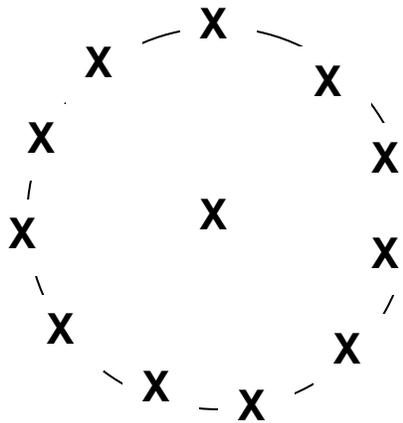
<u>From One</u>	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Into The</u>	<u>Other</u>
Left	Right	Left	Right

<u>Is It</u>	<u>Fair?</u>	<u>Is It</u>	<u>Fair?</u>
Left	Right	Left	Right

<u>To Keep</u>	<u>Poor ("It's" Name)</u>	<u>Sitting</u>	<u>There</u>
Left	Right	Left	Right

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

- After chant is sung a couple of times, have “it” guess who has the rock.
- If “it” is correct, the person chosen recites the memory verse.
- The game is repeated with “it” still in the middle.
- If “it” incorrectly chooses a person, “it” needs to recite memory verse and person chosen now sits in the middle.
- No one gets out in this game. It is a chance to practice the verse.



WEEK 4 - PRACTICAL LIVING



Luis Palau & Evangelism

MATERIALS: Yellow, blue, red and white construction paper (one of each color, per child), copy of Luis Palau's story, hole punch, paper fasteners

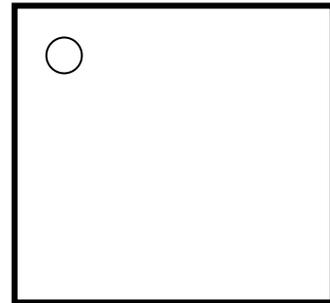
Object: To teach the child how to share their faith with others. Children will be able to use the wordless color book to help share the gospel.

TO DO:

- Read through Luis Palau's story
- Read The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20
- Share how Luis Palau has taken this verse to heart and has literally preached to millions of people throughout the world

ACTIVITY:

- Have children cut out one square of each color
- Put in order yellow on top, blue second, red third, white last
- Punch hole at top corner
- Use paper fastener to attach together
- Teach children what each color represents. (Older kids can learn scripture reference)
- Have the children point to a color and say:
 - Yellow - represents the streets of gold
- Point: Heaven is absolutely a free gift Romans 6:23
 - Blue - represents sin
- Point: Man is sinful and cannot go to Heaven Romans 3:23
 - Red - represents the blood of Christ
- Point: Christ, God's son, made a way for man to go to heaven Ephesians 1-7
 - White - represents Christ cleansing our hearts and making them white as snow
- Point: So now, when man puts his faith in Christ, his sins are forgiven and he can go to heaven John 3:16 and Romans 10: 9, 10
- Have children share the good news with one another to practice



Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

DEBRIEF

What does the Great Commission tell us to do? *Make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded.*

How many people has Luis Palau spoken to? How many nations? *Hundreds of millions of people, 95 nations*

If Luis Palau had just a few people accept the Lord, and just a few people attend his crusades, would he still be a successful preacher? *Yes, because God does not measure your success by visible fruit. He measures your success by your faithfulness to him.*

Luis Palau

Luis Palau is a Hispanic evangelist. An evangelist is a preacher whose sole purpose is to preach a message of salvation to as many people as will hear. Luis Palau has spoken to hundreds of millions of people in ninety-five nations through radio and television broadcasts. He has preached to twelve million people in sixty-six nations face to face.

Palau was born in the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He accepted the Lord into his heart at the age of twelve years old. He began preaching at age eighteen. During the 1970's Dr. Palau and his team began conducting evangelistic crusades and rallies throughout Latin America. His ministry has since spread throughout the whole world.

Palau has authored forty-two books and booklets in both English and Spanish. Dr. Palau, unlike Jeremiah, has seen so much visible fruit come from his ministry.

WEEK 4 - READ-ALOUD

"A Late Bloomer"

The Moral Compass, pgs 718-719

SUMMARY: A lone cactus lacks self worth because of his outward appearance. He seems to wander aimlessly in life with no future. Suddenly, his life and outlook is changed when he blooms a beautiful flower. He feels useful after all.

- Bring in two cacti, one bloomed, one prickly and sick looking. (Included are directions on how to make these props if you can't purchase real cacti).
- **Option** - Bring in two photos of cacti as described above.
- Have children hold appropriate cactus while reading story.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. What do you think this story is about by the title "A Late Bloomer"?
2. Do you ever wonder what your purpose is in life? Why am I here? What am I doing? Where am I going?

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. What are some words you can use to describe the cactus' feeling in the first part of the story? *Low, sad, anxious, lonely, useless*
2. Who were the other characters in this story? *Hawks, moon and the lizard*
3. When the cactus prayed, what was it fearful of? *That it was too late, it failed*
4. What was the final outcome? *A glorious flower bloomed*
5. Would the cactus life still be worthwhile even if the flower didn't bloom? *Yes, true success in life is faithfully doing the work God gives you regardless of visible fruit.*

Salt Dough Cactus

Materials: 1 cup flour, 1 tablespoon salad oil, 1 cup water, 1/2 cup salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, green and yellow food coloring, 2 small paper plates for cacti to sit on, fork, aluminum foil (tear one 10" piece for each cactus) uncooked spaghetti noodles

- Combine all ingredients in a large saucepan.
- Use a wooden spoon to stir over medium heat.
- Stir constantly to prevent sticking.
- The mixture will be soupy for several minutes and then suddenly it will stick together and can be stirred into a ball.
- When it thickens, remove from heat and continue stirring.
- Turn the hot ball out onto a floured surface and begin kneading as it cools.
- Mix in bright yellow and green food coloring.
- Crumple the foil into a model of a cactus to support the soft dough.
- Add one or two arms to the base by wrapping another crumpled foil piece onto the base piece.
- Don't crush the foil too much, just enough to give it a cactus shape.
- Make the model about 4" tall.
- Flatten some foil to create a base.
- Press a fist sized piece of dough in place to cover foil. Smooth the edges of dough pieces with your finger tips so it is smooth. Cover all the foil; don't let any show through.
- The dough will shrink a little so be sure you have a thickness of at least 1/4" of dough over the foil.
- Use the fork to indent vertical lines in the dough to look like the ribs on a saguaro cactus.
- Break the spaghetti into pieces about 3/4" long. Stick the pieces into the soft dough so it looks like spines.
- Let dry for 24-36 hours.
- You will need to make two cacti's one bloomed with a beautiful blossom on top and the other sickly looking with long spines, lumpy and lopsided.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success



Crush foil to create base.



Cover with dough and press in ribs with a fork. Make a blossom



Stick broken spaghetti in cactus to create spines.

WEEK 4 - CRAFTS

✂ Piñata (*older classes)

MATERIALS: 1 balloon per child, newspaper strips 3 X 4 inches, 3 cardboard toilet paper rolls per child, 1 paper clip per child, masking tape, tempera paint and paintbrushes or strips of colored crepe paper, colored tissue paper, liquid laundry starch

Teacher note: You may need to do a few steps each day and spread craft out over a week's time.

- Have a sample made
- Give each child a balloon, blow up and tie, egg-shaped balloons work best.
- Using liquid starch, dip newspaper strip and wipe off excess. Place on balloon making a layer of strips all over balloon, facing same direction.
- Paste at least four layers thick, dry overnight.
- Pop balloon, place a piece of masking tape over hole to seal it. (candy insert)
- To attach four legs to the body cut the toilet paper rolls in half and make one inch cuts along bottom of rolls, attach with masking tape.
- To make a hanger for piñata, attach a bent wire paper clip to the top with tape and cover tape with laundry starch and newspaper combination.
- Use tissue paper to create tail and mane.
- Allow to dry thoroughly.
- You can then paint your piñata with bright colors or you may opt to use colored paper after second layer of newspaper, then painting is not required.
- Fill with candy and small treats.

GUIDED CONVERSATION

As you were working on your piñata during the early stages, could you tell what it was you were making? *No*

What did you need to do each time you worked on your piñata? *Be faithful to follow all directions and every step.*

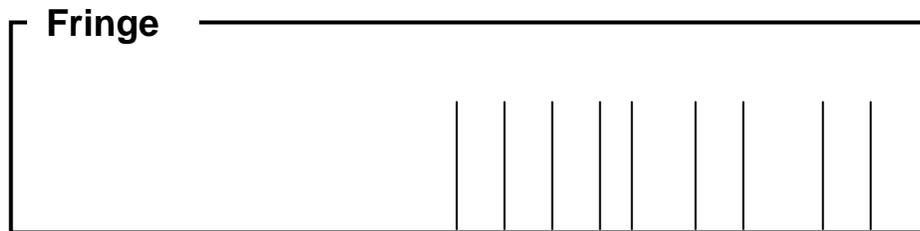
Before every birthday party or Hispanic celebration, someone begins the tedious process of making a piñata. They go through all the same steps you have just gone through to make yours. The maker usually sells you the piñata for your fiesta; however, the maker never sees the results of all his labor. He never sees the smiles or hears the laughter of the children swinging at the piñata with a stick. He doesn't get to taste the dulces (sweets) that fly out of the brightly decorated piñata. His success comes by just being faithful to the work he is given.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

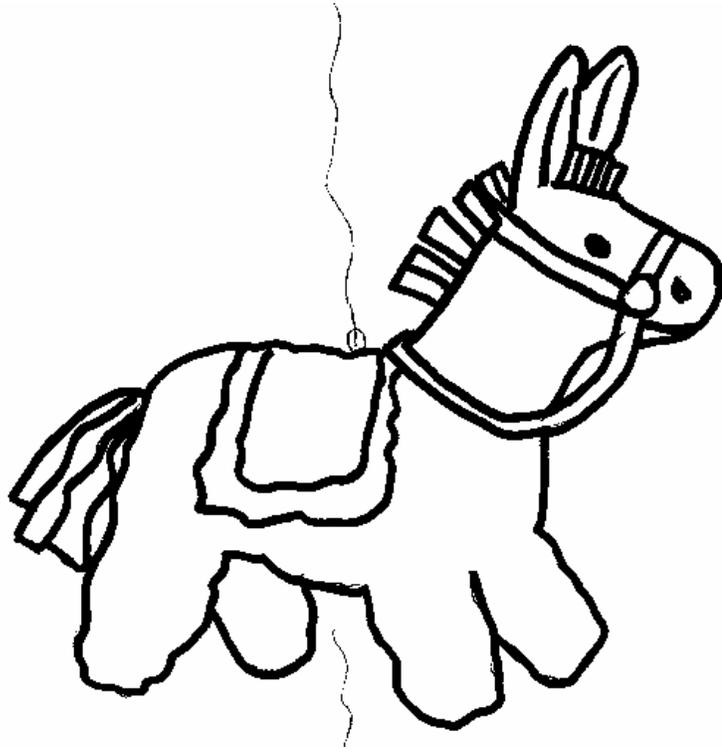
PIÑATA (*younger classes)

MATERIALS: 1 large brown paper bag per child, crepe paper or tissue paper (bright colors) colorful ribbon, glue, newspaper, scissors, and paper clip

- Cut fringe out of the tissue paper or crepe paper by making small slits in the paper. Be sure not to cut across the whole width of the paper or to close to the edge or the paper will rip. (See picture below)
- Glue fringe all around the empty paper bag. Start at bottom of bag and go up.
- Tape or glue some strips of tissue or crepe paper to the bottom of the bag.
- Fill piñata with candy, peanuts, or any small favors and newspaper.
- Tie closed with ribbon, attach paper clip ribbon. Hang from paper clip.



Piñata for older classes.



Piñata for younger classes.



WEEK 4 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Alphabet

MATERIALS: none

OBJECT: To be the first team to form the letter the leader calls out.

SET UP:

- Divide children into two teams.
- Position leader high above the kids (sitting at the top of a ladder, sitting on the roof, standing on a chair, etc.).
- The more children you have to play this game the better. Involve staff and volunteers too.

TO PLAY:

- Leader calls out a letter of the alphabet
- Children must form that letter as quickly as possible, by either laying on the ground or standing up (like a marching band does).
- The first team to form that letter wins a point. (leader is the judge)
- You can play up to 10 points. Whoever reaches 10 wins.
- Give out prizes to winning team.

OBSERVE

- How did each team work together? Did they encourage each other?
- Did the groups that submitted to the leadership of one person do better than the groups where everyone tried to lead?

DEBRIEF

1. **Who was the only one seeing the clear results?** *The leader up on the ladder or roof.*
2. **How did the formation of the letter look to the players on the ground?** *It wasn't very clear to the players. They couldn't see how it looked from above.*
3. **Was it at times discouraging not to be able to see the results of your labor?** *Sure, the person up above could see a whole lot better. He could see how everything was being formed together.*

We need to concern ourselves on being faithful and doing the work God gives us, regardless if we can't see the visible results. God is seeing the whole picture.

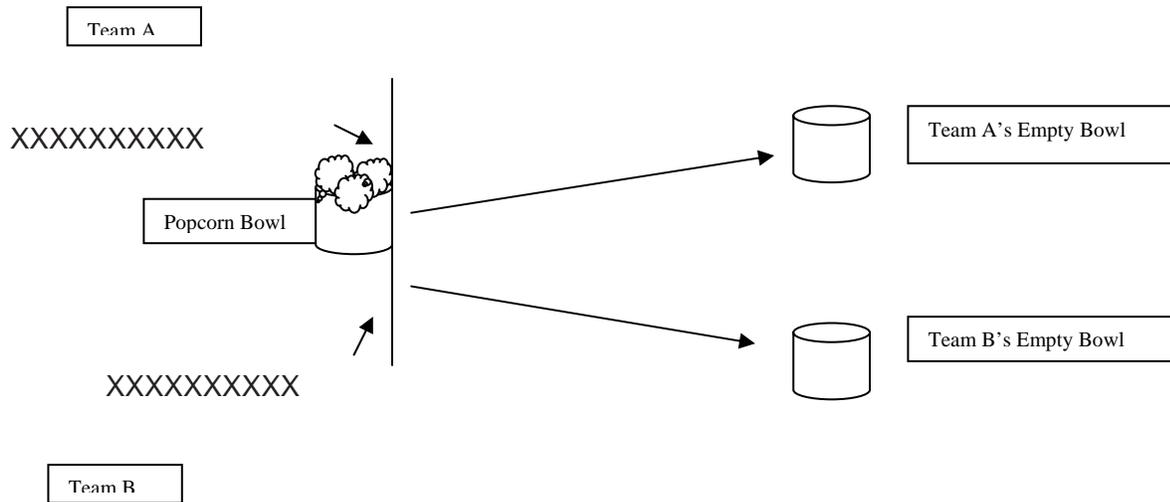
DAY TWO: Popcorn Relay

MATERIALS: popcorn, a straw for every player, 3 large bowls (2 empty and one to be filled with popcorn)

OBJECT: To have the most popcorn in your team’s bowl at the end of the game.

SET UP:

- Divide children into two teams.
- Line each team up behind the bowl filled with popcorn.
- Place the empty bowls across the room.



TO PLAY:

- When leader says “go,” first two players inhale into their straw and pick a piece of popcorn up with the straw.
- Then run or walk fast as they can across the room and drop the popcorn into their team’s bowl.
- If they drop the popcorn along the way, they need to pick it up by inhaling again into the straw and finish carrying the popcorn to the bowl.
- Then run back to their line and tag the next person.
- Teams continue until time is up.
- When time is up, leader will count how many pieces of popcorn are in each bowl and the team with the most wins.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

OBSERVE

- Look for children who are winners because they are having fun, not because they are winning the game.
- What are the different attitudes displayed? Does attitude make a difference in a player’s performance?

DEBRIEF

1. **What was difficult about this game?** *Popcorn wouldn't stick to straw, pressure, trying to go too fast.*
2. **When you were in the process of playing the game, could you tell if your team was winning or losing?** *You were probably too preoccupied with the task to count how much popcorn was in the bowl.*
3. **Did you feel happy when you got popcorn in the bowl?** *Yes, because it was difficult to put each piece in.*

God wants us to be faithful in the work he has given us, regardless if we can see our efforts paying off.

DAY THREE: Movement Tag

MATERIALS: none

OBJECT: To get to the opposite wall without being tagged.

SET UP:

- Pick a person to be "It." "It" stands in the middle of room.
- Line the rest of the children up at the opposite wall.

TO PLAY:

- "It" calls out a movement such as "skip."
- All the children must now "skip" to the opposite wall without being tagged by "It."
- "It" must also "skip" as he tries to tag those attempting to cross.
- Once children get to opposite sides they are safe.
- "It" then calls out a different movement.
- As soon as "It" successfully tags someone, that person becomes "It" and issues a new command.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

- Have several teachers watch the walls to make sure everyone is crossing to opposite wall.
- Additional movements can be... run, crawl, hop, jump, walk backwards, etc.

OBSERVE

- Are all players playing without cheating?
- What is the outcome for those who are truly faithful?

DEBRIEF

1. **What was "It's" job in this game?** *To tag players as they crossed from one wall to the other.*
2. **Was it easy or hard for "It" to tag all of you?** *Hard*
3. **Was there a time during the game when "It" wasn't able to catch anyone?**
4. **Do you think "It" got discouraged?**

Jeremiah felt discouragement too, when he was faithfully doing his part, but was not seeing any real fruit from his hard work.

DAY FOUR: Ball, Book, and Coin Relay

MATERIALS: Two quarters, two tennis balls, and two hardback books

OBJECT: To have everyone on their team complete the relay.

SET UP:

- Divide into two teams.
- Have each team line up behind each other.

TO PLAY:

- First two players balance the book on their heads while holding the quarter over their eye and keeping the ball between their knees.
- If anything falls to the floor player must replace article and continue walking.
- Player must walk to line and return back.
- Both teams need to have each member complete the race.
- No prizes will be given for winning team.

Week 4– Faithfulness is God’s Measure for Success

OBSERVE

- Look for the level of perseverance in each player. Does that play out in other areas of his life?
- Are the children displaying aspects of faithfulness that they have learned this month as they play this game?

DEBRIEF

1. **What was your motivation for trying your best at this game?** *Looking forward to prize, wanting to be the winner.*
2. **There were no prizes given to the winners of this game. If you had known this would you still have tried to do your best?**
3. **What have we learned this month about faithfulness, regarding this game?** *That we should always do our best work and be faithful in the work set before us, regardless if there are any rewards.*