



Merge- August 17

Today's Bible Story: God Chooses Abram • *Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6*

Today's Conversation Starter: What does it look like to trust God?

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust that God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive
- Have a couple students be door greeters, a couple more help with communion in the big church and a few more to volunteer to stay and help with the littles once we finish in the elementary room.

I took out the activity time before lesson because so many students are passing out communion or door greeters.

Instead, spend this time playing games with the students or talking to them about how their week went.

This is the get to know your students time.

9:05/10:50 Leave for the Elementary Room

9:45/11:30 Leave for the Merge room



Please take time to Pray!

Communion

What You Do:

First - have one of the students pass out communion once everyone is seated.

Discuss communions and the importance of taking it and have one of the students pray.

Hands, Circle, Bottle

What You Need:

- ☐ Water Bottle

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct two kids to stand and face each other a few feet apart.
- Place the water bottle on the floor between them.
- Explain that when you say a command, they are to make the action you say.
- Demonstrate each action.
 - “STARS!” —raise your hands above your head.
 - “BYE!” —wave your hand.
 - “OFF WE GO!” —turn around in a circle.
 - “BOTTLE” —reach down and grab the water bottle.
- Say, *“I will say the words in random order. When I say ‘BOTTLE!’, be the first to grab the water bottle to win the round.”*
- The winner stays for the next round, and a new kid steps in.
- Play until each kid has had at least one turn.

What You Say:

“Whew, that game was fast, but FUN! The actions in our game may have seemed random, but a lot of them actually show up in today’s true story from the Bible.

[Transition] Can you guess what the story is? *(Invite responses.)* Let’s go find out how God did something EPIC for all of us through a guy named Abraham!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Read My Mind

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to share thoughts about today's Bible Story in a game called "Read My Mind."
- Explain how to play "Read My Mind."
 - Two kids will be given a sentence starter related to the Bible Story.
 - Instead of finishing the sentence separately, they will try to say the same thing at the same time as if they were speaking in one voice.
- Choose two kids to go first.
- Read a sentence starter aloud (see below for suggestions).
- Encourage the kids to watch each other's mouths and speak slowly to match words.
- After they finish, discuss what they said and allow others to share their own thoughts.
- Rotate the kids so every kid has at least one turn.

Suggested Starters

- Something that stood out to me in today's Bible Story was . . .
- I think the story of Abram is important because . . .
- God's plans for us . . .
- I wonder if Sarai . . .
- Abram had faith when . . .
- I think it would have been hard for Abram to . . .
- I think trusting God means . . .

Ask:

- What does it look like to trust God in your everyday life?
- Think about a person you really trust. What makes them trustworthy?
- Now, think about God. What do you believe about God that makes Him even more trustworthy than the most reliable person you know?
 - *(Examples: God always keeps His promises, God knows everything, God loves me no matter what.)*
- Why is it still possible to trust God even when things don't go as expected?
 - *(Point kids to the idea that God has a plan, and God sees things we can't see yet!)*
- Faith means trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see. What's something you can see in your life that reminds you to trust God?
- ***[Make It Personal] by sharing an age-appropriate time God helped you through something hard, God answered a prayer, or how God has provided for you in another way!***