

A LETTER FROM PRISON

THE BIG IDEA - GOD DOESN'T PROMISE AN EASY LIFE BUT HE'S ALWAYS WITH US SO WE CAN REJOICE AND NOT BE ANXIOUS



Philippians 3: 3-9

FAITH AND NOT RELIGION

1. WELCOME (3 mins): Introductions & Rules

- Welcome all the kids
- Introduce the leaders
- Take the register. As each name is called out ask them to sit down
 - or if they come in and sit automatically ask them to stand.
 - Alternatively to help burn off some energy ask them to jump 10 times.
- Set the rules and expectations.

At Centrepont Kids:

we are kind

we listen

we have fun

2. MEMORY VERSE SONG (3 Mins)



Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

– Philippians 4:6-7

3. RECAP opportunity for testimonies of answered prayers (3 mins)

Share any testimonies or recap last week's lesson or key themes that will help new kids.

4. GAME (6 mins)

Kids Jr.

"Treasure Trade-Up!"

Theme: Trading what we *think* is valuable for the *true treasure*—knowing Jesus.

🧩 Materials:

- Paper "trophies" or medals (representing achievements)
- Toy coins or paper money (representing worldly riches)
- Cards or pictures with "Jesus" or "Knowing Christ" written on them (representing true treasure)
- A treasure box or chest
- Baskets or bags



👤 How to Play:

1. **Setup:**
 - Spread the "trophies" and "coins" around a play area.
 - Place the "Jesus treasure" cards inside a special treasure box at the front of the room.
2. **Goal:**
 - Kids will collect as many trophies and coins as they can in 1–2 minutes.
 - Then, they come to the treasure box and can *trade in* everything they've collected for a single "Jesus" treasure card.
3. **Twist:**
 - At the end, only those who chose to trade everything for the Jesus card win the game.
 - Kids who hold onto their trophies or coins don't get the true treasure.

🧠 Debrief / Lesson:

- Read **Philippians 3:3–9**, simplified for their age.
- Explain: "Paul said all the great things he did were like garbage compared to knowing Jesus."
- Ask: "What would you rather have—things that don't last or something that's the greatest treasure forever?"
- Reinforce: *Knowing Jesus is the best thing ever!*

Kids Church.

"Faith vs. Checklists!"

Theme: Trusting in Jesus (faith) is what matters most—not just doing religious activities (rules or checklists).

✚ Materials:

- “Checklist Cards” (with things like: prayed, read Bible, went to church, gave money, etc.)
- “Faith Cards” (say: “Trust in Jesus”, “Jesus is enough”, “My worth is in Christ”)
- Two large buckets or baskets labeled:
 - “Checklist Life”
 - “Faith in Jesus”

🧑 How to Play:

1. **Setup:**

- Spread the cards (checklist and faith cards mixed) around the room or field.
- Divide the kids into teams or play individually.

2. **Objective:**

- Players race to collect cards one at a time and drop them into one of the two baskets based on what they think it belongs to:
 - “Checklist Life” = good things we *do*.
 - “Faith in Jesus” = trusting who Jesus *is*.

3. **Game Twist:**

- After all cards are collected, go through each basket and see what’s inside.
- Only the “Faith in Jesus” basket leads to the real prize (e.g. sticker, snack, next level game). The other is just a “checklist”—not the real goal.

🧠 Debrief / Discussion:

- Read Philippians 3:3–9 (simplified for kids).
- Explain:
- “Paul had a long list of religious achievements, but he said none of that made him right with God. Only Jesus did.”
- Ask:
 - “Are those checklist things bad?”
 - “Why isn’t doing them enough?”
- Reinforce:
- “We follow Jesus and do good things because we love Him—not to earn His love.”



5. The Letter(s) (10 minutes)

PROPS



- Cloak
- Envelope with letter
- Slides

Week 3

A messenger wearing a cloak bursts into the room with enthusiasm, holding a large envelope. They pull out this week's letter, revealing a chapter from Philippians.



Title: “The Messenger from Paul”

Setting: The Philippian church gathered in a home. Elder Lydia, Chloe, and Timon are seated.

Characters:

- **Leader - Introduces scenes and provides transitions**
- **Messenger** – Delivers Paul’s letter
- **Lydia** – A wise leader of the Philippian church
- **Timon** – A young believer, eager but confused
- **Others** – Optional: crowd of believers



Script:

Narrator:

The church in Philippi eagerly awaited news from Paul, their beloved teacher, now imprisoned in Rome.

Timon (pacing):

Do you think Paul is okay? I heard the prison is cold and harsh.

Lydia (comforting):

He writes even from chains. His heart is always with us.

Let us pray—and wait with hope.

[Knock at the door. Messenger enters, travel-worn but joyful.]

Messenger (excitedly):

Peace to you! A letter—from Paul!

All (gasp and gather around):

From Paul! Read it to us!

[Messenger unrolls the scroll and reads passionately. Other characters listen with emotion.]

The Leader should instruct the kids to find a spot to lie down. Explain that the letter will be read to them so close their eyes and imagine Paul in prison writing these letters to them. Play the video with the candle and the chapter for this week and try and keep the room as peaceful as possible. As they’re listening be praying silently that God’s word would impact them deeply.



[Play the Video]

Messenger:

(Reading Philippians 3:1–9, in simplified, dramatized form)

“Rejoice in the Lord! Watch out for those who say you must earn God’s favor. I had every reason to boast—my birth, my training, my zeal... but I count it all as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Timon (whispers):

He gave up everything?

Messenger (continues):

“I consider it all garbage compared to knowing Christ. I want to be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but the one that comes through faith.”

Lydia (tearfully):

Such wisdom. He still teaches us... even now.

Messenger:

“I press on, forgetting what is behind, straining toward what is ahead—the prize of the upward call in Christ Jesus.”

Chloe:

He presses on... and so shall we.

Lydia:

We have heard Paul’s heart. Let us not cling to what we’ve done, but to whom we know—Jesus Christ.

Timon (earnestly):

I used to think obeying every rule was what mattered... but now I want to truly know Him.

Messenger (closing the scroll):

Paul is in prison—but he is more free than ever.

Chloe:

Then we shall live in that freedom too.

Narrator (stepping forward):

And so the church in Philippi rejoiced—not in their works, but in their Savior. Like Paul, they pressed on toward the goal—the prize that is found in Christ alone.

Once the passage is finished, encourage the kids for listening so well and ask them to sit in a circle to discuss what they heard.

6. Discussion and Q&A (6 minutes)

With this curriculum especially for Kids Church you should allow adequate time to facilitate questions and discussion. During this session as Leaders you should hear more kids voices than leaders.

I would suggest sitting on the floor in a large circle or, with a large group, splitting into smaller sizes each with a leader to allow kids to all ask questions. This will create a better dynamic for honest questions and discussion rather than the classroom style with teacher standing at the front.

Ask the kids what stood out to them most about the passage. It is very likely that different portions of the passage will have stood out to different kids. This may be confusing to some kids as they may think they have answered incorrectly. Reassure them and explain that because the Bible is God's living and active we can all read the same passage and God will speak to us all differently. If this comes up you can ask them to think why that is.

If you are ever in doubt about how to answer a question the best answer to give is:

Wow, that's a great question.

I'm not sure but I'll try and find out for you.

Bring the conversation around to the focus for this week and apply it to day to day life. Lead the discussion around to the fact we can pray when things are difficult. God will always be with us.

7. Craft (10 minutes)

Supplies



- ☐ Plant pots
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Soil disks
- ☐ Seeds

Craft: “Gospel Seeds”

1. Each child gets a plant pot and can decorate it how they like.
2. Add the memory verse to the side of it with glue.
3. Take a soil disk and place into the pot
4. Add a seed to the soil disk
5. Instruct the kids to take care of it and have faith that God will make it grow.



Talking Points While Crafting:

- The seed has to die before it can grow. Just as we need to die to self. We can put our faith in Jesus.
- Just as God makes the seed grow there's nothing that we can do by ourselves to earn God's favour. It's not our works. It's everything that Jesus has done for us.
- The seed will produce a flower, which in turn will produce more seeds. We can take the Gospel we receive and spread it with others.
- Who can you share with? Why not invite a friend to kids church or holiday club.



Prayer

Pray that we would grow in our personal relationship with Jesus and understand it's not about religion


8. Worship/Songs (4 minutes)

Here are some suggestions for songs you can use this term. All songs are in the folder.

 I Thank God - KidzRock Worship.mp4

 Lifted LifePoint Kids Worship with Motions.mp4

 That's Who I Praise Motions Video (chooselife YOUTH).m...

 Praise - Elevation Worship.mp4