

WEEK 5: ALL

MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS! THE BEST WAY TO BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS IS THROUGH CONVERSATION. AS KIDS ARRIVE, BRING THEM INTO THE CHAT USING THE CONVERSATION STARTERS BELOW. BEING HEARD HELPS KIDS FEEL CONNECTED AND CONVERSATION WILL HELP BREAK THE ICE! MAKE SURE YOU GET IN ON THE FUN AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS TOO!

Conversation Starters

1. What was the best part of your week?
2. What was your least favorite part of your week?
3. What is the furthest state you've traveled to?
4. How many countries have you traveled to?
5. Where is one place you really want to visit in the future?
6. Do you know any languages other than English?

ONCE THE MAJORITY OF THE KIDS ARRIVE, INVITE THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE GROUP GAME/GROUP ACTIVITY SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.

Opening Group Activity

Supplies: coloring sheet maps of the US and enough colors or markers for the group. Make sure states are labelled on the sheets you use.

1. Give each child a blank map and colors.
2. Instruct children to color all the states they've lived in with one color, all the states they've visited with a different color, and the states they want to visit with a third color.
3. Let them share the maps with each other when they are done.

Remind them that its okay if they haven't traveled as much as others.



WEEK 5: LARGE GROUP TEACHING

Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to week five of The Great Invitation! Whether you know it or not, we have ALL been invited to take part in something great - the Great Commission. Last week we saw Ben, the green contestant, win AGAIN! Who do you think will win this week? Do you think it will be Orange again? Pink? Green? Blue? Well let's see.

Video

Play "The Great Invitation: Episode 5"

Game

"Keepy Uppy"

Supplies: One balloon for every player.

We now have our last winner before the finals - CAROL AGAIN! I don't think any of us saw that coming! Let's see if Orange can win our in-person challenge today too! I need two volunteers from each team, one boy and one girl. Make sure you haven't already had a chance to come up and play.

The concept is simple - each team is working to keep BOTH of their balloons in the air the longest. You and your teammate must work together to keep your balloons from touching the ground. Once your balloons have both fallen, you are out. Be careful - because the other teams are allowed to try and sabotage your balloons.

Play until you have a winner.

Let's hear it for the winning team!

WEEK 5: TEACHING (CONTINUED)

Object Lesson

Supplies: A small bag of M&M's and a blindfold.

Say: I need a leader to come up and help me today! Let's have the green leader since your contestant won this week's challenges on the Great Invitation! I am going to blindfold you and hand you M&M's. I want to see if you can correctly guess which color of M&M's you eat. Ready?

Blindfold your volunteer and give them one M&M at a time - making sure to show the kids which color it is before they eat it.

Say: Let's hear it for our volunteer! As you can see - it is hard to guess which color M&M you are eating. Even though each M&M looks different, they're all the same on the inside. We see each other as we see M&M's - everyone is different. Some of us are tall, some of us are short, some of us have blonde hair, some of us have brown hair, some of us are from this state, some of us are from different states, and some of us are even from different countries. But God doesn't see us that way. To Him, it doesn't matter what we look like or where we are from. We are all God's children!

Bible Lesson

Today's Bible story is from the New Testament book of Acts. The book of Acts comes after Jesus gave the Great Commission. But, to understand this story, we need to look at the Old Testament first.

The first thing you need to know is that in Leviticus, God talks about what the Jewish people are not supposed to eat because they are considered unclean and would make God's people unholy. Some food that was considered unclean were ham/bacon, rabbits, web-footed birds, shell fish, eels, snails, and snakes. So no matter how hungry God's people were, they were not supposed to eat anything unclean.

The second thing you need to know is that Jewish people considered anyone who was not Jewish to be unclean because they ate unclean things and did not follow the Bible. This means that God's people did not spend time with others, and they would've likely thought that God sent Jesus to only save themselves.

WEEK 5: TEACHING (CONTINUED) & WORSHIP

Bible Lesson (continued)

With those two things in mind, let's jump into today's story! There was a gentile man named Cornelius. The Bible says that *"He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly"* (Acts 10:2). Cornelius had a vision where he saw an angel of God! The angel told him that God heard Cornelius' prayers and urged him to send for a man named Peter to come and see him. So Cornelius sent three people to get Peter.

Who knows who this Peter was? He was one of the 12 disciples. This means that Peter had walked with Jesus, seen his ministry, witnessed miracles, and been invited to take part in the Great Commission.

The next day, Peter fell into a trance and had a vision of his own. He saw what looked like a large sheet lowering down to earth containing unclean animals. Then, the Bible tells us *"Then a voice told him, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'" (Acts 10:13)*. This confused Peter. He knew that the Old Testament forbid him from eating unclean food so he said *"Surely not, Lord!...I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."* (Acts 10:14). The voice then says *"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."* (Acts 10:15). While Peter was trying to figure out what his vision meant, the three men sent by Cornelius arrived and said, *"We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say,"* (Acts 10:22). Peter invited the men into the house and then went with them to Caesarea the next day.

Peter was speaking to a large gathering of people when he realized what the vision meant. Have you guessed yet? Peter says *"You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean."* (Acts 10:28). Peter later says, *"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."* (Acts 10:34-35). Peter told the crowd all about Jesus and how he died on the cross for their sins. As he spoke, those who heard believed and received the holy spirit.

God does not care what someone looks like, what language they speak, or what country they are from. The Bible tells us that ANYONE who believes in Him can have their sins forgiven and live forever with God in heaven. We are all God's children. This means that when the Great Commission says to take the good news of Jesus to ALL, he means ALL. It isn't our job to pick and choose who we tell about God. We are supposed to tell everyone about Him!

Worship

Let's all stand and sing our worship song together. This will help us memorize Matthew 28:19-20 while we Worship God! Play "Go" by Seeds Worship.

WEEK 5: SMALL GROUP

Small Group Time

Discussion

1. What challenge do you think you could've won today?
 2. What challenge do you think you would've lost?
 3. What book of the Bible did today's lesson come from? (*Acts*)
 4. Can you remember some of the foods that God said were unclean? (*ham/bacon, rabbits, web-footed birds, shellfish, eels, snails, and snakes*)
 5. Why did the Jewish people think that others were unclean?
 6. Who were the two main people in today's story? (*Cornelius and Peter*).
 7. What vision did Cornelius have? (*An angel told him that his prayers were heard and to send for a man named Peter so he can learn more about God*).
 8. What vision did Peter have? (*He saw a sheet coming down from heaven holding unclean foods and was told to kill and eat*).
 9. Why did this vision confuse Peter? (*these were foods he had never been allowed to eat*).
 10. What did Peter's vision end up meaning? (*That God sent Jesus to die for everyone – not just the Jewish people*).
 11. Who are we supposed to talk to about God? (*everyone*)
 12. Why should we tell others about God even if they are mean to us?
 13. Why is this hard?
 14. What should we do if we find ourselves struggling to tell someone about God? (*Pray, ask for help, read Acts 10 as a reminder*).
- Have kids look up Acts 10:34-35 and read aloud as a reminder.*

Group Game

Say: The Great Commission truly is a team assignment. For our closing game, we are going to work together on teams to achieve a goal.

Team Keepy Uppy:

Supplies: 5 balloons for each team.

Split the kids into two groups and give each group 5 balloons.

When you say go, they should throw all 5 balloons in the air and work together to try and keep them ALL in the air.

Whichever group keeps their balloons up the longest wins. Play several rounds.

WEEK 5: SMALL GROUP (CONTINUED)

Bible Verse Review

Help everyone find Matthew 28:19-20 in their Bibles. Read the verse together and then give anyone who wants the chance to practice saying the verse from memory.

Pick Up Time

Play more rounds of Keepy Uppy.

