

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants everyone to receive Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God wants everyone to know the good news of Jesus, no matter how many mistakes they've made or how unkind they may be.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 10:1-23, Peter's Vision

MEMORY VERSE:

"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Explorers often venture into the jungle because they are looking to discover something that has been hidden or something new that no one has ever seen. One day, Peter had a vision where a feast was set before him filled with foods that, as a Jew, he had never eaten. God used the vision to show Peter something new, that he wanted everyone – Jew and Gentile – to know the good news about Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of Jesus.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NIV)

"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest - the boys or the girls.

SMALL GROUP:

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SKIT

AUSTIN FINDS TREASURE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two jungle explorer outfits
An old, worn out briefcase

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Gibert - An experienced explorer
Austin - A reluctant explorer

Gilbert and Austin enter. Austin carries an old briefcase.

AUSTIN: I can't believe it. I can't believe this happened!

GILBERT: Congratulations, Austin, that is an amazing find.

AUSTIN: What did you say this was again?

GILBERT: The lost briefcase of J.J. Manners, a man who robbed an airplane, parachuted into the jungle, and was never seen again over 40 years ago.

AUSTIN: People have been searching for this for forty years?

GILBERT: They searched for five and gave up. It's been thirty-five years since anyone dared to come into this part of the jungle. Too many big snakes.

AUSTIN: But we found it. All because we were brave enough to search for new discoveries.

GILBERT: You found it, you eagle-eyed explorer you.

AUSTIN: In all fairness, I tripped over it. But I still found treasure, right here in the jungle! How much is it worth?

SKIT

GILBERT: Are you kidding me? It's worth a fortune!

AUSTIN: But it's just some old cash, a few wallets, a couple watches, and an old issue of Mad Magazine.

GILBERT: Austin, this is your ticket to fortune and glory. Museums will want to put it on display. You'll be on the cover of every news website in the world! You might even get your own documentary on Netflix!

AUSTIN: No way!

GILBERT: Yes way!

AUSTIN: Me? On Netflix? It's a dream come true!

GILBERT: You know what this reminds me of?

AUSTIN: No, but I was waiting for it to remind you of something.

GILBERT: Becoming a Christian.

AUSTIN: How is that?

GILBERT: The Christian life is all about new discovery. Every day, I learn something new about the Lord. It's been an adventure from day one, just like being in the jungle.

AUSTIN: I know what you mean, Gilbert. And knowing Jesus is knowing the greatest treasure on Earth. He died for my sins, and He gave me eternal life!

GILBERT: Kind of makes that briefcase seem like... you know, like an old briefcase.

AUSTIN: Yes, it does. But I can use this treasure to tell the world what a treasure I found in Jesus!

GILBERT: That's the spirit!

AUSTIN: Can we go home now?

GILBERT: Sure thing, Austin. We gotta get that treasure, and us, back to safety. But let's never forget the things we learned out here.

AUSTIN: Never! And let's never stop exploring the life we have with Jesus!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Chocolate Lucky Charms

New discoveries happen everywhere, and not just in the jungle. Take the grocery store. Who remembers the first time you saw this wondrous treasure? Someone took a wonderful cereal, Lucky Charms, and made it Chocolate!! Kids have been after Lucky's cereal for years, but now chocolate lovers have an even bigger reason to follow the rainbow and get some of that wacky leprechaun's cereal.

Every day with Jesus is a new discovery, and it all begins when we accept Him as our Savior. God told Peter that everyone is welcome to receive Jesus, and we want all of you to begin that life of new discoveries today. When you confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and when you receive Him as your Savior, He will send His Holy Spirit to live in your heart. You will find yourself on a journey that will last until eternity as you get to know the Lord and serve Him.

Being a Christian is an exciting adventure. It may be hard at times, but there's treasure awaiting you in Heaven. Are you ready to begin your journey?

LARGE GROUP GAME

DIG FOR TREASURE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Cheerios

Mini Marshmallows

INSTRUCTIONS:

Give each child a small bowl of Cheerios and 15-20 Marshmallows. The kids will race to see who can be first to remove ALL the marshmallows from their bowl of cereal. First player to collect all the marshmallows wins.

VARIATION:

This can also be a one-person challenge, with the player trying to dig out all the marshmallows in 60 seconds.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

When we walk with Jesus, we will make new discoveries every day!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God wants everyone to know the good news of Jesus, no matter how many mistakes they've made or how unkind they may be.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 10:1-23, Peter's Vision

INTRO:

The jungle is a beautiful place. It is a land largely undisturbed by man, and it is an environment that must be preserved just as it is. It's vital that the world protect and conserve the rainforests because they are an important part of our planet's overall climate. There are plants and animals only found in the jungle that need protection. It is a place that should be allowed to grow and thrive without our trying to tame it.

So why search the jungles at all? Why should we allow brave men and women to explore these vital rainforests? Because they have much to tell us about our planet and our own history. Every year we make new discoveries in the jungle. We find new species that we never knew existed. We find species that we thought had gone extinct are still around. We even find evidence of our own history. The jungle has grown over and covered some amazing human civilizations, including the long lost Mayans of South America.

Scientists, zoologists, botanists, and archaeologists all want to explore the jungle for the same core reason: new discoveries. They want to find evidence of cultures and people long gone. They want to discover new animals, insects, birds, and plants. They want to know more about our world and the important role the rainforest plays in our climate. And yes, some of them want to search for buried treasure and legends – like the city of gold known as El Dorado.

We may never find a fabled city of gold in the rainforest, but we can find new discoveries every day when we follow Jesus. God wants us all to have a relationship with His Son so that we might not only have the treasure of eternal life, but a new life here on Earth. As followers of Christ, we will discover new things every day about God, ourselves, and what God is doing in our world.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Our final scripture for this series is a story about a new discovery. Peter was one of the first disciples of Jesus. He walked with Jesus throughout His ministry, and He eagerly became a leader in the Christian church. Yet even a mature believer like Peter had new discoveries to find, as we will see in this story.

READ ACTS 10:1-23

MAIN POINT:

Jesus was the Messiah. He was the Savior God promised to send to his chosen people Israel. Peter began his ministry sharing the good news about Jesus to his fellow Israelites because that's who God promised to save through the Messiah. It didn't occur to Peter that Jesus had come to die for everyone! God gave him a vision to show him that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. After seeing this vision, and seeing the Holy Spirit come down on a group of non-Jews, Peter knew he had to take the good news of Jesus to the whole world, not just the Jews.

Because of Peter's discovery, we are here today, inviting you to start your own journey of discovery. We want all of you to receive Jesus as your Savior so you can receive the Holy Spirit and the treasure of eternal life.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The journey of discovery with Jesus begins with confessing who Jesus is and asking Him to forgive our sins. Jesus is the Son of God. He was fully God and fully human, and He is the only man who never sinned. Jesus died to pay the price for our sins, and when we accept Him as our Savior, He wipes our slate clean. He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our hearts, and we begin a new life with Jesus.

Through the Holy Spirit, we can pray for God's direction and get to know our Savior personally. The more time we spend in prayer, the more God will open our eyes to the opportunities we have to serve Him. We may not receive a vision from Heaven like Peter, but God will give us a nudge in the right direction so we can discover new places to serve and share God's love.

We can also get to know God better through the Bible. The Bible is God's Word, and it teaches us who we are, who God is, and how to live as followers of Jesus. We can discover new things every time we read the Bible. We can discover who Jesus was, how He made Himself a servant to the world, and how we can follow His example. The Bible can teach us to be better sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors. It can comfort us in hard times, and it can remind us to praise God and thank Him for His blessings.

As followers of Jesus, we are constantly amazed by the opportunities He gives us to serve others. We discover new things about God every day, and those new discoveries make us better people.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

I hope all of you will come away from this series with a thirst for that same adventure. We want you to journey with Jesus, to explore the unexplored, and to find new discoveries every day with the One who died to give you eternal life.

Jesus is waiting to lead you on an amazing journey. He took the first step. The next step is yours.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of Jesus.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever made an incredible discovery?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 25:5

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Go around the group and let each person lead a round of the game “I Spy.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Acts 10:1-23

Who was Cornelius?

What vision did Peter have?

What was the new thing Peter discovered about God in his vision?

Who can save us from sin and give us a life of new discoveries?

How can we accept Jesus as our Savior?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us a new life, and help us to make new discoveries through your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever made an incredible discovery?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 25:5

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Go around the group and let each person lead a round of the game “I Spy.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Acts 10:1-23

What was the meaning of Peter’s vision?

How did God use the vision and Cornelius to help Peter make a new discovery?

Why does God want everyone to know Jesus?

How can we accept Jesus as our Savior?

Is anyone ready to make Jesus their Savior today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us a new life, and help us to make new discoveries through your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

WHO WAS IT?

Who was the Roman who sent for the apostle?
CORNELIUS

What apostle did Cornelius send for?
PETER

Who gave Peter a vision of unclean animals and told him to eat?
GOD

Who told Peter there were men waiting to see him?
THE HOLY SPIRIT

Whom does Jesus want to give new life and new discoveries?
EVERYONE!



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Unexplored Bible Stories Lesson 8

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: NEW DISCOVERIES



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Explorers often venture into the jungle because they are looking to discover something that has been hidden or something new that no one has ever seen. One day, Peter had a vision where a feast was set before him filled with foods that, as a Jew, he had never eaten. God used the vision to show Peter something new, that he wanted everyone – Jew and Gentile – to know the good news about Jesus. Acts 10:1-23, Peter's Vision



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Go some place new this week with your kids. It can be a store you've never visited, a park you've never visited, a restaurant, anything. Ask your kids what new things they experienced in that new place. Ask them how Jesus can help us make new discoveries when we become believers.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What new discovery did Peter make through the vision of the unclean animals?
- What did Peter do because of that new discovery?
- How can God help us to make new discoveries about Him?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)



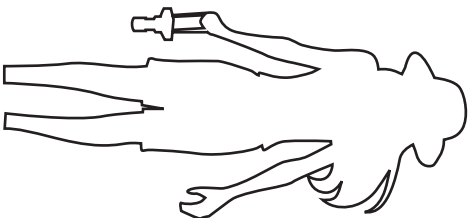
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

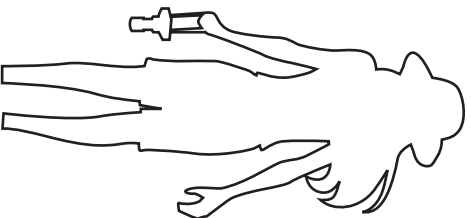
Kids were given the opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior this week. Pray for our children to make that decision and accept Christ, and pray that God will fill their hearts with a passion to follow Jesus all their lives.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

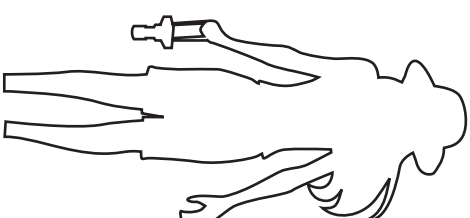
Have the kids cut out some construction paper in the shape of a treasure chest - the chest and the lid - separately. Glue these onto another paper. Then cut some small yellow circles and glue them on top of the chest to represent treasure. Help the kids write, "Jesus is the greatest treasure we can discover" on the paper.



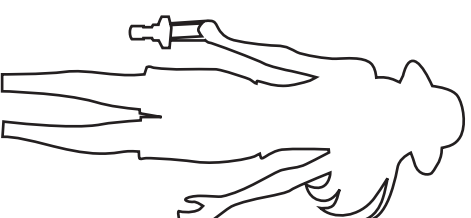
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