



The Great
ADVENTURE

05

I CAN GROW TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS!

The Great Adventure Series

POWER PHRASE

I can grow to be more like Jesus!

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 25:5a, “Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.”

SUPPORTING DOCTRINES

For supporting doctrines, see our Statement of Faith at novoministries.org/statement-of-faith.

GOALS

The child will...

- Understand that she can grow to be more like Jesus!
- Choose to read her Bible, pray, go to Bible Club and places with others who love Jesus, so she can grow to be more like Jesus!
- Realize that God wants her to tell others about Jesus so they too can become followers of Jesus!

REMINDERS

In this series we will walk through each of the Foundational Gospel Truths. In this lesson we will focus on “What To Do Now?” This series has a strong emphasis on the Gospel, wrapped in an adventure theme. Each lesson will focus on a different survival pack item and how it should be used. Many children don’t have an opportunity to go camping or travel. Utilize this theme to bring home the truths we want the children to learn! The focus in this lesson is on a compass which keeps you on track and shows you which direction to go, just like the Bible is a compass for how to live for Jesus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The stories and photos shared in the Gospel Presentation activities are used by permission of the individuals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

All Large Group or Small Group activity visuals or supply items followed by an asterisk (*) may be downloaded for printing at www.novoministries.org/resource.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN (BIBLE STORY - LUKE 10:25-37)

Visuals

- Bible Story Visuals*, Campfire sample*

Supplies

- Bible; Bible Insert for Large Group*; four paper towel rolls or small logs; red, orange, and yellow cellophane; battery-powered tealight candles; mini flashlights (one per child); regular flashlight; Bible character costumes

Captivate #1 - Campfire Story Time!

- Create a faux campfire following the Campfire Sample instructions. Give each of the children a mini flashlight and have them all sit around the campfire. Explain to the children that you are going to tell them a campfire story, and the mini flashlights are going to be the stars in the sky. Turn off some of the lights so the flashlights can be seen on the ceiling. Use the regular flashlight to shine on the Bible Story Visuals as you tell the story.

Captivate #2 - Act It Out!

- Have the children dress up or pretend to be characters in the Bible Story. Choose four boys to dress up as the Good Samaritan, the wounded man, the priest, and the Levite. Have them act out the story as you tell it. You also can have them repeat key sentences after you. Emphasize emotions or actions they can do throughout the story.

Introduction

- Jesus often told stories, called parables, so people could better understand what He was trying to teach them. His followers could learn from these parables and apply them to their lives so they could grow to be more like Jesus.

Story

- Retell the story from Luke 10:25-37.
- See Bible Story Script.

Conclusion

- Jesus used this parable to teach the man that God wanted him to genuinely love Him and love others and not just appear to do so. The parable showed that the man who actually helped the person in need was the one who was obeying God's law to love his neighbor as himself. We need to be quick to love and serve others before ourselves, too. This is how we can grow to be more like Jesus!

TESTIMONY

- Share what you were like when you first asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life.
- Share what you did then and do now to help you grow to be more like Jesus.

CHALLENGE

Visuals

- Key Point Visuals*, Power Phrase Visual*, Memory Verse Visual*

Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group*

Introduction

- In our Bible Story, we learned how the Good Samaritan put the wounded man before himself. He dropped everything so he could help him. He gave up his time and money to care for a complete stranger. This is an incredible example of how God wants us to treat others. This is what Jesus would have done. If we have asked Jesus to forgive our sins and be the Lord of our lives, our desire should be to know Him better and become as much like Him as we can.

Key Points

God has promises for His children!

- We become a child of God by asking Him to forgive our sins and be the Lord of our lives. He adopts us into His family.
- God loves His children! He is faithful, loving, and always there for us.
- Hebrews 13:5b-6, “For He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”

God wants Christians to GROW!

- If we have become a believer, we are made new. 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
- We are given a fresh start and an opportunity to grow in our knowledge of God, in our relationship with Him, and in our service for Him. We can GROW to be like Jesus in several ways:
 - G - Go to church and Bible Club with other believers (Hebrews 10:25).
 - R - Read your Bible and pray (1 Peter 2:2, Matthew 21:22).
 - O - Obey God (James 1:22).
 - W - Witness to others (Mark 16:15).

Christians should confess sin and make things right!

- We are not perfect; we are human. As hard as we try, we are going to make mistakes. When we do, we need to confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. If we have wronged someone else, we should go to that person and ask for her forgiveness, too.
- 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

Conclusion

We can grow to be more like Jesus! We can learn what Jesus is like through the Bible and through the stories that Jesus told. We can be compassionate and giving to others just like the Good Samaritan. The first step is asking Him to forgive our sins and be the Lord of our lives. Spending time in church, Bible Club, praying, and reading the Bible all help us know Him better and become more like Him.

Invitation

For the unsaved child:

- Have you made the choice to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life? God sent His Son to die on the cross so that you can receive forgiveness for your sins. We have all sinned, and sin separates us from God (Romans 6:23a). Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's Law. Jesus paid the price for our sin; He became our Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Because of Jesus, we can admit we have sinned and ask Jesus to be the Lord of our lives (Romans 10:9).
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

For the saved child:

- Who do you know that doesn't know Jesus and hasn't received forgiveness for sins by accepting Him as the Lord of her life? Take the time to tell that person about Jesus!
- Encourage children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions.



GUIDE (ARRIVING ACTIVITY)

Visuals

- Picture of a compass*

Supplies

- Compass (optional)

Instruction and Application

- As the children arrive, show them the picture of the compass. Ask them what they think the object in the picture is used for and where they might find one. Explain how a compass works and how it allows you to always know which direction is north. How important would it be for someone on a wilderness adventure to have a compass? What would happen if you had a compass but you didn't know how to use it?
- Today we will learn how we can grow to be more like Jesus! Jesus is like our Guide who teaches us how to use our compass so we won't get lost and know which way to go. When we listen to our Guide and learn from Him, we become like Him!
- Review the Memory Verse with the children. Psalm 25:5a, "Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation."

FOLLOW THE LEADER (MEMORY VERSE)

Visuals

- Memory Verse Visual*, Picture of children playing Follow the Leader*

Supplies

- Bible, bubbles

A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

A — Attention Grabber (Grab their attention with an interesting introduction and don't let go!)

Ask the children if they have ever played Follow the Leader. The object of the game is to choose a leader and everyone has to follow her and do everything she does. What would happen if everyone refused to follow the leader? The game would be impossible to play. Have you ever played a game and everyone fought over being the leader and no one was willing to follow? Again, this makes the game impossible to play. God wants to be our Leader! He wants to lead us in His truth and to teach us. He loves us very much, so much He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. He wants what is best for us. All we have to do is allow Him to take the lead in our lives.

G — God's Word (Show them that the concept you are teaching them comes from the Bible.)

Psalm 25:5a, "Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation."

A — Awareness (Make them "aware" of the words and concepts.)

Lead — to take the lead, to guide

Your truth — true teachings, divine instruction

Salvation — deliverance, rescue

I — In Their Lives (Teach them to apply the lesson "in their lives.")

Unsaved child (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Who do you follow? Why do you follow them? Do you want to follow Jesus and ask Him to be the God of your salvation?

Saved child (questions to ask a saved child)

Do you submit yourself to God? Do you allow Him to lead and teach you His truth? Why or why not?

N — Number of Times (Repeat the content again and again until the children understand it.)

Read from Scripture. Repeat after me. Play the Memory Game three or four times.

Memory Game

Play Bubble Pop. Select a child to blow bubbles. As the bubbles float to the ground, have the team try to say the Memory Verse together (not racing) before the last bubble pops. The children should keep saying the verse until the last bubble pops. Start out saying the verse slowly; then speed up each time you say it. This makes the game more exciting and challenging.

PREDATORS (GOSPEL PRESENTATION)

Visuals

- “What to Do Now?” Foundational Gospel Truths Visual*, Picture of Dave Coleburn*

Supplies

- Bible, paper, writing tools

Instruction and Application

- Dave Coleburn’s father was a pastor. He grew up going to church and asked Jesus to forgive his sin and be the Lord of his life at a young age. He later went to Bible college and got married.
- Dave loved God, but he also loved animals. He wanted to start a ministry that would use animals to communicate to young people their need for Jesus. In 1998 Dave started Predators of the Heart. All the animals in his program were predators. A predator is an animal that naturally preys on others. Dave has rattlesnakes, alligators, cougars, wolves, snapping turtles, and bobcats. He travels to schools, churches, and camps. He explains that sin is our predator, that we are trapped, and the only One Who can rescue us is Jesus. He also warns the youth about not being lured by drugs, alcohol, murder, and suicide. These things can rob, victimize, and ruthlessly exploit people. We need to see them for the enemy they are and take a stand against them.
- Dave grew in his faith and knowledge of God. He went to church, read his Bible, and prayed to prepare for the ministry God had for him. God has blessed Dave with an incredible ministry that is reaching many young people every year. Dave has embraced his calling to share the Gospel with others.
- Just like Dave, we can grow to be more like Jesus and share our faith with those around us (Mark 16:15). What talents, interests, and abilities do you have that God can use to witness to others? Use the “What to Do Now?” Visual to review.

Discussion

- Older Team: Have the children discuss what predators they face and how they can take a stand against them.
- Younger Team: Have the children pick one of the animals talked about and act like it. Have them discuss how they can say no to things that are wrong.
- Quiet Team: Have the children draw a picture of one of the predators talked about. Then have them write how they can take a stand against sin.
- Active Team: Have the children play Go, Go, Stop. If a child gets caught moving, have her say a talent or interest she has and how God could use that to share the Gospel.

FLASHBACK (REVIEW QUESTIONS)

Supplies

- Review Questions*

Large Group Story Review Questions

- What did the authority on the Law ask Jesus? (What must I do to receive eternal life?)
- What Scripture did the man quote? (Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and all your mind, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.)
- What is a parable? (A story with a spiritual meaning)
- Why did Jesus tell parables? (To help people understand what He was teaching them in a deeper way)
- What happened to the man on the way to Jerusalem? (He was attacked by robbers.)
- Who walked by first? (A priest)
- What did the priest do? (He looked but didn't help the man and continued on his way.)
- Who walked by second? (A Levite)
- What did the Levite do? (He looked at the man but didn't help.)
- Who walked by last? (A Samaritan)
- What did the Samaritan do? (He helped the man.)
- Who was a neighbor to the injured man? (The Samaritan)
- What did Jesus tell the authority on the Law to do? (To do as the Samaritan did)

Discussion Questions

- What can we learn from this parable that helps us be more like Jesus?
- What is the difference between knowing things in your head and knowing them in your heart?

CHALK ART (CRAFT)

Visuals

- Craft sample*

Supplies

- Compass template* (one per child), brads (one per child), small paper plate (one per child), glue, scissors, coloring tools

Instruction and Application

- Give each of the children a Compass template and have them all color it and cut it out. Then have them glue it on top of the paper plate. Finally, have them secure the arrow piece on the top with a brad where it is marked.
- Remind the children that we can grow to be more like Jesus. He is our Guide and can teach us the way, just like a compass can show us the way to go.
- Review the Memory Verse with the children. Psalm 25:5a, “Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.”



WHAT'S THE POINT? (APPLICATION ACTIVITIES)

Supplies

- “What’s the Point?”* card, writing tools

Activity #1

- Give each of the children a “What’s the Point?” card. Have the children write what they learned about how we can grow to be more like Jesus. The more we know about Him and learn from Him, the more like Him we will become. Have them fill out the “Put it to action!” portion by writing something they can do this week to apply what they learned. What compass do they have in their lives? How can they allow Jesus to guide them?

Activity #2

- Have the children take turns acting out different scenarios where Jesus can guide them to do what is right. If you have a group that is more quiet, you could choose to have them draw a picture of a compass and write down how Jesus is their Guide.

NOW WHAT? (ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY)

Supplies

- Additional Activity #1: Coloring Page*
- Additional Activity #2: Maze Activity Page*
- Additional Activity #3: Fill-In-The-Blank Activity Page*
- Additional Activity #4: The Big Take Away Key Chain*

Instruction and Application

- These activities are to be used with your team as time fillers while reinforcing the lesson concepts. The children can take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don’t have time to start another activity.



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