

WEEK 1

4-5 LESSON



Need to Know: *I Can Believe God*

Bible Story: *Zechariah's Unbelief (Luke 1:5-25, 1:57-80)*

Circle Up



1. WELCOME kids to our new series, "Holly Jolly Kitchen," and TELL them your name. Then SAY: *I'm so glad you're here! Over the next few weeks, we're going to celebrate all things Christmas and have fun baking some sweet treats. I have a treat for all of you, but you have to guess what it is! When the gift bag comes to you, tell us your name and guess what's inside the bag.*
2. PASS the gift bag around the group until all kids have introduced themselves and guessed.
3. REVEAL what is in the gift bag.
4. **SANITIZE** kids' hands and GIVE them each a piece of **candy** from the gift bag. Then SAY: *You can go ahead and eat your sweet treat. You believed me when I told you I was going to give you a treat, and there's one person you can always believe—God! Say this with me: I Can Believe God*

Read the Bible



1. SAY: *In the Bible, there's a true story about a man who had a hard time believing God. Let's read his story and see what he learned.*
2. READ the **Bible Story Cards** aloud to the group. After the story, ASK:
 - *In this story, what good news did God send the angel to give Zechariah?* (He was going to have a baby) *Did Zechariah believe God at first?* (No)
 - *Why should Zechariah have believed God?* (Because God still did what He said He would do. He always does!)
3. SAY: *When we're having a hard time believing God, we can remember the story of Zechariah and know that we can believe God, because He always does what He says He will do!*

Let's Practice



LEADER



TEAM 1

TEAM 2

Option 1: Muffin Tin Toss

1. SAY: *To practice what we've learned today, we're going to play a game!*
2. DIVIDE kids into two teams, having each team sit side-by-side in a line. CHOOSE one kid from each team to be the team captain, and HAVE the two compete for who goes first by playing "Rock, Paper, Scissors."
3. SET the **jumbo muffin tin** a few feet across from the teams. (SEE diagram on the left.) HAVE teams face the tin, and ALLOW the first player from each team to take a turn tossing the **snowball** into the tin. If the snowball lands in the furthest row, the team gets three points. If it lands on the second row, the team gets two points, and if the snowball lands in the first row, the team gets one point. KEEP score by using a piece of **paper** and a **pen**. After a player has had a turn, he/she will move to the back of the line and sit down. PLAY one round, allowing kids to keep their eyes open. Then PLAY another round, allowing kids to choose to either close their eyes or turn around backward. CONTINUE playing as time allows.
4. Once every child has had at least two turns, COUNT points and CONGRATULATE the winning team. Then SAY: *Great game!*
5. ASK the following questions:
 - *Was it hard for you to believe that you could get the snowball into the muffin tin on the first round?* (No) *Why not?* (Because you could see the muffin tin)
 - *Sometimes it's hard to believe that things can happen, especially when we can't see! What are some things we can believe about God?* (He loves us, hears us, is always with us, will do what He says in the Bible, will forgive us and let us live in Heaven if we believe in Jesus and follow Him)
6. SAY: *Even when we can't see everything that God is doing, we can believe that God loves us and wants what's best for us!*
7. REVIEW the Need to Know together again: *I Can Believe God*

Option 2: On Back

Option 2: Group Discussion

1. GENERATE a group discussion by asking the following questions:
 - *Have you ever had a hard time believing that God loves you and has good things for you? Why?*
 - *What can help you to know that you can believe God?*
 - *What are some things we can believe about God?*
 2. SAY: *Even when we can't see everything that God is doing, we can believe God loves us and wants what's best for us!*
 3. Then REVIEW the Need to Know together again: *I Can Believe God*
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Memorize It

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1. SAY: *When God said He would send someone to save us from all the wrong things we do, He did it! God sent His own Son, Jesus, and He was a gift too wonderful for words. There's a verse that helps us tell God thank you for this gift. Let's work on remembering it together. Just repeat after me:*
*"Thanks be to God
for His gift
that is too wonderful
for words."
2 Corinthians 9:15*
 2. PRACTICE saying the verse with the group two times, having them repeat each line after you.
 3. PLAY "Cookie Order." DIVIDE kids into two teams and GIVE each team a set of **Cookie Verse Cards**. When you say, "Go," teams will race to put the Memory Verse in the correct order. The first team to correctly order the **Cookie Verse Cards** will be the winner.
 4. CONTINUE playing as time allows.
 5. TELL kids that they have until after Christmas to learn this verse, and if they do, they will win a prize.
 6. GIVE kids a **Memory Verse Flyer**, and TELL them that they can use it to practice the verse at home.
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Let's Pray

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- ASK your group for any prayer requests. Then PRAY the following for your group:
- That they would believe God loves them and has good plans for their lives
 - That they would believe God will do anything He says He will do
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Stay Together

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KEEP kids engaged in Small Group until they are checked out by doing the following activities:

- PLAY "Would You Rather" by asking the following questions:
 - Would you rather be an elf in Santa's workshop OR a reindeer for Santa's sleigh?
 - Would you rather be a snowman OR a polar bear?
 - Would you rather only eat candy canes OR only eat Christmas cookies?
 - Would you rather have colored Christmas tree lights OR white Christmas tree lights?
 - Would you rather build a gingerbread house OR decorate a Christmas tree?
 - Would you rather celebrate Christmas with the Grinch OR Frosty the Snowman?
 - Would you rather have cookies and milk OR hot chocolate?
- PLAY a version of "What Time is it, Snowman?":
 - HAVE kids stand up in a circle.
 - HAVE the group ask you, "What time is it, Snowman?"
 - RESPOND with a number time. (Ex: Three o'clock)
 - They will walk in a circle that number of steps.
 - REPEAT these steps a few times until you decide to answer with "Melting time!"
 - When you say that, the child who is the last to fall on the ground and melt is out.
 - CONTINUE playing as time allows.