

LESSON

The Last Supper
John 13-17

BIG QUESTION

How can we stay close to Jesus?

We can confess, serve, pray and abide like Jesus taught the disciples to do at the Last Supper.

LARGE GROUP

- Host will introduce the big question of the day and allow kids to respond.
- **WORSHIP**
- **BIBLE STORY-** The Last Supper
- Kids will then be split into two groups with their leaders. One group will go to rotation 1 in 324 and the other group will go to rotation 2 in 323. After 20 minutes the groups will switch.

ROTATION 1

Worship Stations

324

Gather your group with you. You will go from station to station together.

You will have about 5 minutes at each station.

1. Serve or Be Served?

• WHAT YOU SAY:

- Jesus set an example for the disciples of what it meant to be a leader- serve others.
- "When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." **John 13:12-17**
- Jesus showed us an example of serving others, even when it is uncomfortable or messy or gross! When we become more like Jesus, we become more focused on others and less on us.

• WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids circle up. You will read them an action from this list and they will give a thumbs up if it is a way they can serve others like Jesus and a thumbs down if it is not.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Play what you want to with a friend (no) | 4. Letting someone else go first (yes) | 8. Including someone you don't know that well when you are playing with your friends (yes) |
| 2. Do your sibling's chore (yes) | 5. Making someone else clean up your mess (no) | 9. Making sure you are first in line (no) |
| 3. Helping a classmate pick up pencils (yes) | 6. Holding the door for someone (yes) | 10. Sitting with someone who is alone (yes) |
| | 7. Complaining when you are asked to do something (no) | |

2. Vine and Branches

- **WHAT YOU SAY:**

- Jesus told the disciples they needed to abide in him to be like him. To abide means to stay, remain, or live in one place every day.
- He said they needed to be like a branch attached to a vine.
- "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

John 15:5-6

- Unless we are connected to Jesus, we can't do anything!

- **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Have kids gather around the vine poster. Give each kid a leaf and have them write their name on it and attach it to the vine.

3. Confessing Sin at the Cross

- **WHAT YOU SAY:**

- After the last supper, Jesus died on the cross. The Bible tells us he died for us, to take on the punishment of our sin. All of us have sinned!
- The Bible tells us that we cannot save ourselves from our sin, and that is why Jesus died and took the punishment for our sin. The Bible also tells us that God will forgive us for our sins!
- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9**

- **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give kids a card. Tell them that they do not have to write their name on it, but they can write a time where they did what they thought was best instead of what God said was best (sinned).
- They can confess that sin to God and tape it up at the cross.

4. Pray Like Jesus

- **WHAT YOU SAY:**

- Jesus showed the disciples an example of what it looked like to pray to God- just talk to him!
- He prayed about what was happening in his life, and he prayed for his friends and other believers too, including us today!
- "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." **John 17:20-21**
- There are lots of ways that we can pray- we can write it down, talk out loud, pray in our heads, or even sing! We are going to practice praying for each other today.

- **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Have kids get into pairs (same gender). Tell kids that they will each share something that the other person can pray for for them. Then they will take a few moments to pray for each other

ROTATION 2
Discussion and Snack
323

Each small group will be grouped around low tables. Let kids enjoy snacks while you discuss these questions. Encourage kids to think beyond the typical "church" answer.

- 1. Why do you think Jesus chose to wash his disciples feet at the Last Supper? Why is his example important for us?**
- 2. When have you served others? When is it hard to serve other people?**
- 3. What do you think it means to abide?**
- 4. What things keep us from being connected to Jesus?**
- 5. Why do we need Jesus to die on the cross for us?**
- 6. How does confessing that we have sinned help us to stay close to Jesus?**

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Luke 23:44–24:12

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

Luke 24:5-6a

Reflect - How can you celebrate that Jesus is alive this week?

- A. I can invite a friend to come to church with me.
- B. I can share with someone the difference that Jesus makes in my life.
- C. I can confess sin and commit to following Him more closely.

Pray - Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to take the punishment I deserve for sin. Thank you that Jesus came back to life, defeated sin and death, and made the way for me to have a relationship with You now and forever. Help me to celebrate the truth of who You are and how much You love me every day. Amen..

Prepare - What difference does Jesus dying for sin, defeating death, and coming back to life make in your life and the lives of people around you?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is Alive

Matthew 26–28; Mark 15:33–16:8; Luke 23:44–24:12; John 19

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

John 6:38

BIG TRUTH

I AM SET APART.

God cares about me.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Pass the Stone

WHAT YOU NEED: small stone (1 per group)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids circle up with leaders in groups of about 10–12.
- Give each leader a small stone. Tell them from stage that you will play music. While the music is playing, kids will pass the stone around the circle to the person next to them.
- When the music stops, the kid holding the stone is out. Have them scoot right outside the circle.
- Continue playing until each group has one winner.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- That was so fun! I loved seeing all of you playing together.
- We played this game with these stones to remind us of what we are learning about today- when they rolled away the stone at Jesus' tomb, he wasn't there! He is alive!

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: Today we get to learn why we celebrate Easter! God has an invitation for all of us. We do not have to earn His invitation or even deserve it. We do not even have to be God's friend first or do a bunch of "good" things. God gives everyone in this room, in our community, and in the world an invitation to have a relationship with Him.

This is good news! Say, "Good news!" (Good news!) We do not have to be super smart, super strong, super good, or follow a list of rules to have a relationship with God. He invites us because He cares about us. When we accept God's invitation, we are set apart! God welcomes us into His family as His sons and daughters, and He helps us live in a way that shows others how much He loves us. God's invitation is the best invitation.

(Open the Bible.) The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. The Bible is made up of different books. There are four books about the life of Jesus that are called the Gospels. Turn to a friend and say, "Gospels!" (Gospels) Our Bible story today will help us see how God cares about us. Let's learn it together!

AFTER THE LESSON: What an amazing story! Jesus took the punishment for sin by dying on a cross. Not only did Jesus give up His life, He rose again on the third day. Jesus showed that He is stronger than death and sin. The whole reason we celebrate Easter is because Jesus is alive! Say, "Jesus is alive!" (Jesus is alive!) Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today, working in our lives and in the world. He did all of this because we matter to Him, and He cares about us. Say, "God cares about me!" (God cares about me!) God cares about us so much, He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him now and forever through Jesus.

PRESENT THE GOSPEL:

- **Circle 1-** God has cared about people since the beginning of time. God made the world and the people in it. His creation was good. God's perfect design for the world was for people to know and enjoy a relationship where we love and follow Him.
- **Circle 2-** However, the world is not perfect. When we look around, we can tell our world is broken. Things are not the way God designed. People experience suffering, sadness, sickness, and all sorts of "hurt." Our world is broken because of sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. The very first people God created sinned, and all people have sinned ever since then. Sin separates us from God and deserves to be punished. Even when we try and be good, we cannot be good enough to fix our sin problem. God knew we would need Someone to rescue us from sin and separation from Him.
- **Circle 3-** God cares about us so much; He sent Jesus, His only Son, to be our Rescuer. Jesus died on a cross, taking the punishment we deserved for sin. On the third day, Jesus came back to life, showing that He is the true King and more powerful than sin and death. Jesus promised that one day He would return and make everything new and perfect, like it was in the beginning. Everyone who trusts and follows Him will get to live with God forever!

Jesus did all of this because He cares about you. Say, "Who, me?" (Who, me?) Yes, you! God loves you so much; He made the way for you to have a relationship with Him. God wants a relationship with you, not because of anything you have done or because you follow instructions and do everything right. God invites you to a relationship with Him because you matter to Him. He cares about you.

We can accept God's invitation when we trust and believe the truth about Jesus. We believe that Jesus is God's Son, He died on a cross for our sins, and He rose again. We admit that we need Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins. We turn away from our sin so we can trust and follow Jesus. If you have never accepted God's invitation or want to know more about following Jesus, talk with me or your Leader. We would love to talk with you!

Everyone, say, "But wait, there is more!" (But wait, there is more!) When we trust and follow Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. We are set apart from the world, and our lives look different than they did before. They also look different than other people around us. God works in and through our lives so we can love Him and point others to Him. God loves and cares about us so much; He sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Now we can live our lives with Him and for Him. We can live set apart! Say, "I am set apart!"

3. SMALL GROUPS

- 1. The Bible tells us that God cares about us and sets us apart. Let's open our Bibles to Luke 24:5-6a and read about it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.
- 2. The women were startled when two men, who were angels, appeared to them. How did the women respond when they discovered Jesus was alive? How can we respond to the truth that Jesus is alive?**
 - o The women were terrified and confused, but then they believed and told others. We can have hope that Jesus is powerful, even over death. We can believe that Jesus is God's Son. We can live our lives by trusting and following Him.
- 3. God sent Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life to make the way for us to have a forever relationship with Him. How can God's love for us change the way we live?**
 - o We can live with thankfulness that God rescues us. We can live with purpose, knowing we are loved. We can trust and follow what God says. Allow kids to share additional responses.

PRAY TOGETHER: God, thank You for loving and caring for us. Thank You that we can celebrate Easter because You sent Jesus to make the way for us to have a relationship with You. Help us believe the truth of who You are and what You have done. Help us to live our lives by pointing others toward You. Amen.

4. GOSPEL CONNECTION

WHAT YOU NEED: 3 Circles/ABC Sheet, Extra sticky notes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids the 3 circles side of the paper. It will be prepped with sticky notes covering the circles. Starting at the circle representing God's plan, work your way around the circle and take the sticky notes off, having the kids help you to explain the gospel as you go.
- Then flip the page over and show them the ABCs.
- **SAY:** This is how we can respond to the good news about Jesus! When you get an invitation to a party, you have to respond to tell the host if you are coming or not! We don't want you to just hear the good news about Jesus, but to respond to it too. We can do this by admitting we are sinners, believing that only Jesus can save us from our sin, and choosing to follow him with our life!
- Tell kids if they are ready to respond to that good news today, they can share that with their parents at checkout!

ACTIVITY

Jesus is Alive Cross

WHAT YOU NEED: Clear contact paper sheets, black cross cutouts, tissue paper circles, bowls for tissue paper, black permanent markers, scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a half sheet of clear contact paper. Have them peel off the backing and lay it, sticky side up, on the ground or table in front of them.
- Have kids attach the black cross outline to the contact paper.
- Then have kids cover the inside of the cross area with tissue paper circles.
- Once the cross area is filled in, have them use another half-sheet of contact paper to seal in the paper cross and tissue paper pieces.
- They will write JESUS IS ALIVE on their cross. If time allows, have kids cut out their cross shape

WHAT YOU SAY:

- You made excellent crosses. Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment for our sin, making the way for us to have a relationship with God. When Jesus rose again on the third day, He defeated sin and death. God shows His care by inviting us to turn from sin and follow Jesus.

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - 1 Peter 1:13-25

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

1 Peter 1:13

Reflect - In what area of your life do you need to prepare your mind and center your thoughts on God and His Word?

- A. My thoughts and attitudes at work
- B. My thoughts and attitudes at home
- C. My thoughts and attitudes in my community

Pray - God, help me with my thoughts this week. Help my mind to stay on You so I can obey You and turn away from anything that could distract me. Thank You for helping transform me from the inside out. Amen.

Prepare - What does it mean to live in a way that is holy (set apart and different), and what part do our thoughts play in living that way?

BIBLE STORY

Living for Jesus
1 Peter 1:13-25

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

John 6:38

BIG TRUTH

I AM SET APART.

God cares about my thoughts.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Think, Think, Think!

WHAT YOU NEED: Think, Think, Think! slides, scrap paper for leaders, pens or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids circle up with leaders in groups of about 10-12.
- Give each leader a piece of scrap paper.
- Tell groups that there will be a category on the screen. The group will be working together to name as many unique things as they can in that category.
 - Example- For the category "candy bars", kids might name Twix, Snickers, Hersheys, etc.
- The leaders will be writing tally marks on their scrap paper for every unique thing the kids name.
- Give teams one minute to think of items. Then have leaders total up their tally marks and report them to you. The team with the most tally marks wins that round.
- There will be 5 rounds to play total!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- You all were able to list so many items and to think of things so quickly! If I had given you all the categories at the same time, it may have been difficult to think of as many items because your mind would be all over the place. It was helpful that they were each set apart from each other so we could look at different things one at a time.
- Today we get to learn that God sets us apart. When you trust and follow God, He sets you apart. He says you are different and get to live in a way that is different and special. When we remember we are set apart by God, our actions point to Him, and we live out what God says.

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: What is on the inside—like our thoughts—impact what we say and do on the outside. When you have happy thoughts, you tend to be happy on the outside. When you have selfish thoughts, you tend to have selfish actions. God cares about our thoughts, even if no one

else knows what we are thinking. God knows that our thoughts make a difference in our actions. He made us to have thoughts that focus on Him. When we do, it helps us live out actions that set us apart and show others that we love and follow Him. Say, "God cares about my thoughts!" (God cares about my thoughts!) Like a baseball filled with the right materials can fly really far, we live set apart when our thoughts are focused on God.

We are going to check out a story from the Bible. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. What is God's true message to us about Himself? (The Bible.) A man named Peter wrote a letter to encourage followers of Jesus to live out their faith, even when it was tough. This letter is found in a book of the Bible called 1 Peter.

AFTER THE LESSON: Have you ever wondered if you can think about whatever you want as long as you do not say or do wrong things? Peter encouraged Christians that our thoughts matter because our thoughts affect our actions. When we have a relationship with God, He set us apart to have actions which honor Him and point others to Him. God calls us to work hard to set our minds on things that please and honor Him. When we believe in God, we are set apart to think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. Repeat after me: "God cares about my thoughts!"

3. SMALL GROUPS

- 1. I am going to list two options, but for a full day, you can only fill your thoughts with one of them. Which one would you choose? Candy or sports? Homework or chores? Friends or pets? Birthdays or vacations?**
 - o Allow kids to respond with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.
- 2. The Bible tells us that what we think is important. God made us to think about things that please Him and show Him respect. We are set apart to think in ways that love, follow, and honor God. Let's open our Bibles to 1 Peter 1:13 and read about it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.
- 3. Peter wrote a letter to Christians encouraging them to live out their faith and keep their minds focused on Jesus and His return. How can our thoughts make a difference in what we do?**
 - o Our thoughts lead to our actions. What we think impacts what we do and say.
- 4. Jesus died on the cross for our sin, even for our thoughts that disobey God. What can we do when we have thoughts that do not honor God?**
 - o We can ask God to help change our thoughts. We can also learn Bible verses to think about throughout the day.

PRAY TOGETHER: God thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Please help us all to honor You with our thoughts. Help us focus our thoughts on You so we can live in a way that shows we are set apart and follow You. Amen.

ACTIVITY

God Knows My Thoughts

WHAT YOU NEED: Head silhouette page, yarn in multiple colors, glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a head silhouette page.
- Set out the yarn and glue sticks in the center of the group. Tell kids to pick 2 different colors of yarn. They will be gluing the yarn in the brain area of the head to represent thoughts.
- One of their colors will represent thoughts that honor God, and the other will represent thoughts that do not honor God.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Today we learned that our thoughts impact our actions! Even when other people might not know what we are thinking, God always knows.
- Like you put on your project today, some of our thoughts honor God and some of our thoughts do not honor God. God cares what we think about! When we have thoughts that do not honor God, we can bring those to him by praying and ask him to help us change our thoughts!

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - James 3

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:13

Reflect - Where can you grow in showing wisdom with your words?

- A. I can speak words that encourage, uplift, and build up others.
- B. I can avoid speaking words that hurt, harm, and discourage others.
- C. I can speak the truth in love and kindness.

Pray - God, You have given me the power to point others to You and help them grow with my words. Help me to honor you with what I say. Thank You for working through me to love and encourage others with what I say. Amen.

Prepare - In your everyday conversations, what helps you honor God and lift others up rather than tear them down?

BIBLE STORY

Controlling My Words
James 3

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

John 6:38

BIG TRUTH

I AM SET APART.

God cares about my words.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Connect and Chat

WHAT YOU NEED: None

WHAT YOU DO:

- Circle up with kids and ask them one of these questions:
 - What is the nicest thing anyone has ever said to you?
 - What is your favorite animal?
 - What is something you have never done that you have always wanted to try?
 - What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: The words we say stay with us. People remember what we said and why we said it. This can be a good thing when we use good words, and a not-so-good thing when our words are not so good.

God cares about our words because words show what is in our hearts. Say, "God cares about my words." (God cares about my words.) When we love and follow God, He helps fill our minds and hearts with good things, which helps us speak words that are good for others and point them to God. When we struggle with the words we choose to use, we can ask God to help our hearts and minds be filled with His love and truth. We can use words that stick with people for a long time and help point them to God.

When we follow God, our words can point people to Him. We can use words that help and build up, rather than words that hurt, distract, or tear down. Our words are one way we can live out the truth that we love God.

We are going to hear a story from the Bible, which is God's true message to us about Himself. Our story is found in the New Testament. Everyone, say, "New Testament!" (New Testament) The Bible is split up into two parts, the Old and the New Testament. The book of James, which is where we will be hanging out, is found in the New Testament. James encouraged people to live out their faith. Let's dig into the Bible together.

AFTER THE LESSON: James wrote these Bible verses a long time ago, but it is something we all need to hear today! James wrote that we all struggle in different ways, and one of those ways is with our words. Like a rudder can control a big ship or a bit in a horse's mouth can control the big horse, our words may seem small, but they control a lot. We can live in a way that we honor God in everything we do and say. Let me hear you say, "God cares about my words!" (God cares about my words!)

You may be thinking to yourself, Do my words really matter? I am just a kid who says silly things at times! They aren't that big of a deal, right? The truth is that you matter and your words matter. Say, "God cares about my words!" (God cares about my words!) Jesus came to make the way for you to have a relationship with God forever. God sees you as valuable and significant. When you believe in Jesus, it changes everything! You become a new person—one who follows God and lives set apart for Him.

God works through Your words to help others and tell the world about Him. You can use your words to tell people about the best news ever—the hope of Jesus!

You are not meant to blend in but to stand out. God sets you apart to shine brightly in a dark world. One way you do that is through your words. Say, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!)

3. SMALL GROUPS

- 1. I am going to give you a word, and then you tell me something that rhymes with that word. Ready?** (Share simple words one at a time, such as sat, had, pin, and cap. Allow kids to respond.)
Isn't it cool that we can use our words in such a fun way?
- 2. Why do you think we remember words people said to us, even after time has passed?**
 - Words have power. We can remember negative words and positive words that people say to us.
- 3. The Bible tells us that our words make a difference. Let's open our Bibles to James 3:13 and read about it together.**
 - Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.
- 4. James wrote to Christians, encouraging them to use their words wisely. He said that our conduct, which means the things we say and do and how we live our lives, should show gentleness that comes from wisdom. How can wise and gentle words help others and help us?**
 - Wise and gentle words build others up. These words can point others to God. These words encourage us and remind us of what is true and good.

PRAY TOGETHER: God, You are so kind to us. Thank You for inviting us to follow You and use our words to tell the world about You! Help us turn to You and ask for help so we can use words that honor You. We love You! Amen.

ACTIVITY

Words Megaphone

WHAT YOU NEED: paper megaphone printable, markers, stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a paper megaphone printable.
- Have them write "God Cares About My Words" on their megaphone.
- They can use any other craft supplies available to decorate the megaphone.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- With our words, we can build up (meaning encourage) or tear people down. Our words carry power and can make a difference. We may struggle to use our words wisely, but God can work through us.
- James wanted people to know that we do not just have to control our words on our own. We can ask God for help. We live out our faith when we control our words and honor God.

PREPARE: LEADER DEVO

Read - Philippians 2:1-18

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

Reflect - How can you live with humility and look out for the interests of others?

- A. Ask someone for a specific need that I can help fulfill.
- B. Say yes to an opportunity that will mean a lot to someone else.
- C. Reach out to someone who is lonely and struggling and offer my time.

Pray - Thank You, God, for giving me an incredible example of humility in Jesus. Help me to live like Him, caring for and loving others with kind and humble actions. Amen.

Prepare - What does it mean to "consider others as more important than yourselves"? What kind of actions demonstrate that type of humility?

BIBLE STORY

Humble Actions
Philippians 2:1-18

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

John 6:38

BIG TRUTH

I AM SET APART.

God cares about my actions.

1. WELCOME & CONNECTION

Shine Bright Stars

WHAT YOU NEED: None

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids spread out in the room.
- Pick one kid to start as the "star". The rest of the kids will be statues.
- When you say "go", kids will pick a statue pose and hold it.
- The star will then come around and stand in front of a statue and do a star jump (jump while extending arms up and legs out).
- When the star jumps in front of a statue, the statue becomes a star too. Now they can go around and turn other statues into stars.
- Kids continue to play until everyone is a star.
- You can play again, having a different kid start as the first star.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Way to shine, everyone! Our Bible story today will help us remember that following and living like Jesus helps us shine bright like stars in a dark sky. It is amazing that shining bright can encourage others to shine bright too because we point them to God. Shining stars are set apart from darkness. Say, "I am set apart!" (I am set apart!) If we trust and follow Jesus, we can live like Him and point others to Him.

2. WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: When we love and follow God, we can follow His example by living with humility. Ask, "What is humility?" (What is humility?) I am glad you asked! When we talk about living with humility, that means thinking of others first and serving their needs. Humility looks like caring for people in ways that show we love them. We live this way even when it is not easy for us. When we live with humility, we are able to point others to God and show that we live for Him. God cares about our actions, and He made us to live with humility. Like the person holding the bottom of a ladder helps someone else climb up high, our actions can help others by showing them God's love.

We are going to hear a story from the Bible. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Today's Bible story comes from a man named Paul who wrote a letter to people living in a place called Philippi (FIH lih pigh). Paul encouraged people to live with humility. If you are ready to hear what Paul has to say about living it out, say, "Live it out!" (Live it out!)

AFTER THE LESSON: Paul wrote that if we love and follow Jesus, the way we live changes. Other people may look out for themselves first and only want to take care of themselves. Sometimes, we may even feel that way. But this Bible story teaches that we can be different when we live with humility by putting other people first. Paul did not say we have to figure this out for ourselves! He wrote that we live this way by having the same attitude as Jesus. Paul wrote that Jesus obeyed God in everything He did—and we can too!

Paul taught that our actions matter. Say, "God cares about my actions!" (God cares about my actions!) When we follow Jesus, we get to shine like stars! If we love Jesus, it shows. Our actions affect other people because our actions can help point people to God. We live like Jesus when we obey God and help others. We even show that we are set apart when we do not complain and do not argue. Jesus shines through us!

When we struggle with our actions, we can ask God to help us. We can read the Bible and follow the example of Jesus and other amazing people who loved God. We can even learn from and follow the examples of other amazing Christians in our lives.

3. SMALL GROUPS

- 1. What are the different ways your friends and family help you? What are the different ways you help your friends and family?**
- 2. The Bible tells us that God cares about our actions. Our actions show that we love and follow Him. Let's open our Bibles to Philippians 2:3-4 and read about it together.**
 - o Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.
- 3. Paul wrote that, when people follow Jesus, they are called to have an attitude like Jesus. What specific actions did Paul encourage us to practice?**
 - o Do not be selfish or proud. Consider others as more important than ourselves. Look out not just for our own needs but the needs of others.
- 4. Jesus put the needs of others before His own as He obeyed God and died to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus rose again, showing that He is more powerful than sin and death. Jesus did this because He obeyed God and loved us. How can we treat and help others with humility like Jesus did?**
 - o Focusing on people instead of ourselves helps us live humbly like Jesus.

PRAY TOGETHER: God thank You for the chance to open the Bible and learn about You. Help us to live set apart and live out the truth that we love and follow You. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and give us the best example of how to live. Help us live our lives with actions that help others and honor You. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Shine in the Darkness

WHAT YOU NEED: black construction paper, skewers, white chalk

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of black construction paper. They should place their paper directly on the carpet.
- Have them write "Value others above yourselves" on their paper using the white chalk.
- Then, they can use the skewer to poke holes in the paper to look like stars in the night sky.
- When they hold their paper up to the light, it should look like a dark sky full of stars!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Today we learned that when we act differently because of who God calls us to be, we shine like stars in the dark sky!
- One of the ways we act differently is by showing humility, or valuing others above ourselves.