

PARENT GUIDE

Hello Kindergarten and First Grade Parents!

Here are some At Home Activities *suggestions* for you to do with your child(ren). Everyone is different, so feel free to pick any or all of these ideas to fit the needs and desires of your family.

1. Watch YouTube Worship Song and Bible Story Video
 - SEE PAGE 3
 - Scroll down on link box to see suggested YouTube worship song
2. Discuss Bible Story
3. Memory Verse Activity
4. Pray Together
5. "God Time" pages to reinforce the lesson throughout the week
6. FOR PARENTS ONLY: Parent Cue Weekly Blog - LAST PAGE

YOUR CHILD WILL EARN 3 POINTS TO SPEND AT THE STORE FOR EACH COMPLETED ACTIVITY AND 10 POINTS FOR A COMPLETED "GOD TIME"
~ PLEASE EMAIL ME POINTS EARNED EACH WEEK ~

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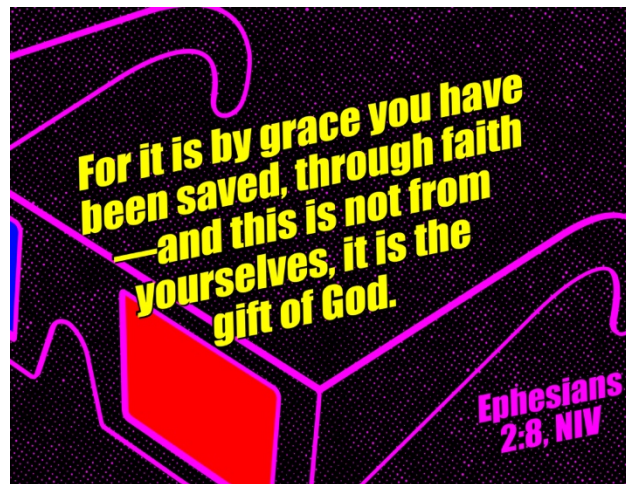
Also, don't forget to fill out the HCKids online connection card to say "hi" or to let us know your prayer requests or questions:

<https://hillcrestcov.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/284/responses/new>

Praying you all are well, safe, growing in faith, and having fun during our time apart!
Please reach out if you need anything at all.

Lisa Osborne
HCKids Elementary Coordinator

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, WE WILL BE STUDYING:



THIS WEEK WE FOCUS ON:

BIBLE STORY

Acts 27-28



BOTTOM LINE



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. **WATCH** *YouTube worship song (scroll down on link box to find YouTube link) and Bible VIDEO HERE:* <https://at-home.playlister.app/3e01533f-d769-41b3-9cff-91ac5761fbc5/4e290d9b-c92d-4e9e-9f34-2c7a8689fd7c>

2. TALK ABOUT:

Don't Sink the Ship!

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bible, tub of water, foam bowl, towel, cups containing small objects

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Acts 27 and ask a few questions to help the kids recall the story.
 - What were some of the problems Paul had? (*a bad storm, a shipwreck, being bitten by a snake, people who were sick*)
 - What were some good things God brought from those problems? (*people saw God's power, God sent an angel to tell Paul everything would be okay, God healed people, people believed in Jesus*)
- Set the tub of water on a towel and place the "boat" (foam bowl) in the water as you invite kids to gather around.
- Give each of the kids a cup containing the "cargo" items (small objects) to add to the "boat."
- Explain that you will read a statement.
 - If they think the statement accurately describes something in the Bible story, they can gently add one of their objects to the foam bowl being careful not to tip it.
 - If the statement is just a random comment and not about the story, they shouldn't add anything.
- Before you begin, let kids guess how many items they think it will take to shipwreck or sink the "boat" then see who comes the closest.
- Use the statements below or add others. If the bowl tips and sinks, retrieve the "cargo" then continue. Each time, challenge kids to guess how many "cargo" items it will take to sink the boat.
- Story Statements
 - God can help good come out of difficult problems.
 - Pizza tastes great!
 - An angel came to encourage Paul and help him understand God's plan.
 - Snakes are creepy.
 - The people on the island of Malta were kind to Paul and his companions.
 - Paul was a good swimmer.
 - When the storm hit, the sailors on the ship thought they were going to die.
 - Paul was bitten by a snake.
 - God gave Paul amazing power to heal sick people who lived on the island of Malta.
 - The best thing about summer is ice cream.
 - Paul spent a lot of his life in prison for telling others about Jesus.
 - Paul is a good example of a follower of Jesus.
 - We can learn from Paul that God can use our problems for good.
 - Water is always wet.
 - Today's Bottom Line reminds us that **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.**

What You Say:

“Let’s talk about Paul for a minute. He had some wild adventures, didn’t he? He was a prisoner, shipwrecked in a dangerous storm, hungry, cold, snake-bitten, hated, and alone. Those were some very big problems. But as we learned today, **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems**, and that was certainly true of Paul. He believed that God would bring something good from even his most difficult situation. He could have become discouraged but instead he chose to have faith that God was with him. He knew that God’s plan, even when it was hard, was the best plan for his life. Through it all, God used Paul’s life to help bring other people to Jesus.”

Seeing Things Differently

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

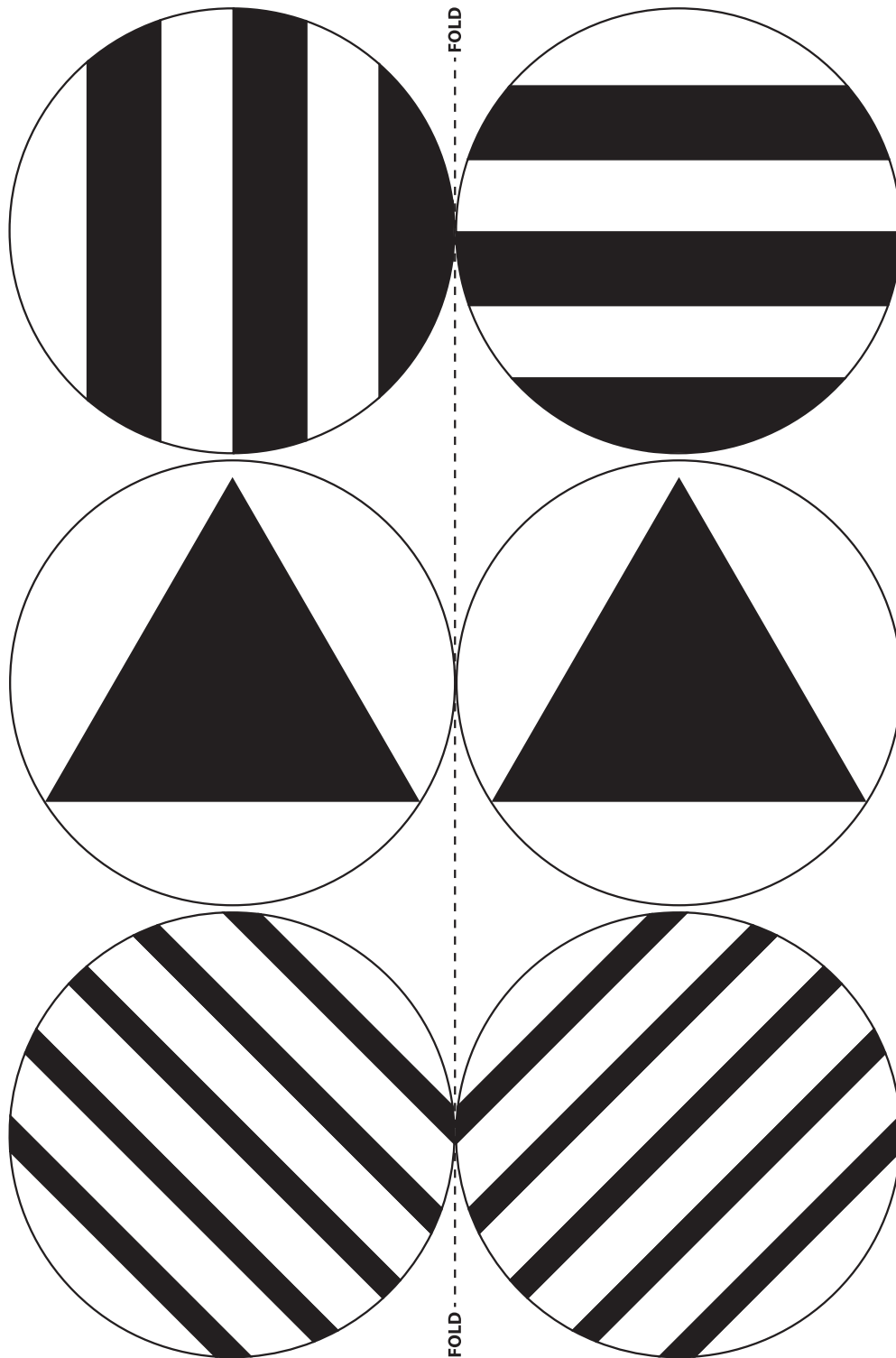
What You Need: “Decotrope” cut-outs (Next Page), wooden skewers, glue sticks, markers, tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a skewer and one decotrope circle.
- Set out markers and let kids color the white areas of the circles using bright colors.
- Fold along the center dotted line.
- Tape skewer along inside at centerline.
- Glue the insides of the circles together.
- When glue is dry, help kids spin the skewer between their palms to create interesting visual effects.
- **[Make It Personal] (As kids work, briefly tell a kid-appropriate story about a time when God helped you or someone you know see a problem differently. How did a not-so-great situation turn out okay?)**

What You Say:

“When you spin a decotrope, you see the design differently. The circles don’t look the same anymore, do they? Take your decotrope with you as you leave and show it to someone today. Spin it and say, **[Bottom Line] ‘Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.’** When you’re sad, mad, or scared, talk to God about it. Tell Him how you feel then ask Him to help you do what’s right even if you don’t feel like it at the time. Having faith means believing God is with you and watching you all the time even though you can’t see Him. When problems don’t go away, trust that God has a good plan and He will help you see things differently.”



What to Do:

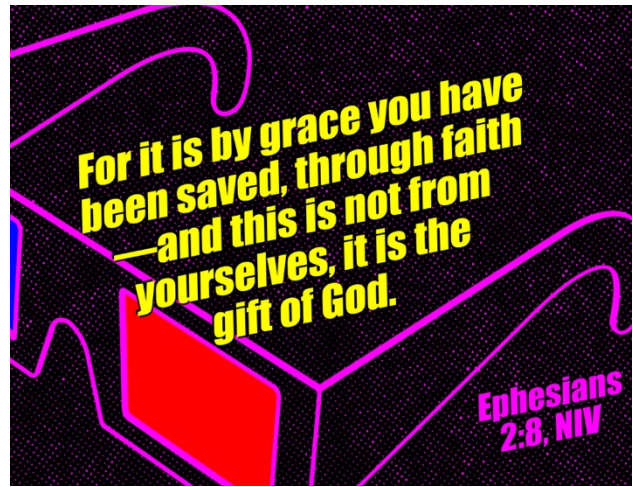
Print on heavy paper or cardstock and cut apart. Leave matching circles connected at the fold lines. Each kid needs one circle set.

Decotrope

July 2020, Week 3, Small Group K-1
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3. MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY –

What You Need: Bibles



What You Do:

- Find and follow along in their Bibles as you read Ephesians 2:8 aloud.
- This week focus on learning the second part of the verse by helping kids understand that our salvation doesn't come from anything we do.
- Talk about a couple of IMPOSSIBLE challenges.
- Jokingly tell them you will give them \$100 if they can . . .
 - Balance all of the couch cushions on the tip of their nose while jumping up and down.
 - Turn one of their stuffed animals into a live elephant then make it pink.
 - Hold a spoon 20 feet in the air as you say, **[Bottom Line] “Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems,”** in a different language—backward.

What You Say:

“Those were some crazy, impossible challenges, weren't they? Could ANYONE do those things? (No!) Just like my silly challenges were totally impossible to do, it's even MORE impossible for you to do ANYTHING to EARN God's forgiveness and salvation. Nothing good you do will ever make Him love you more, and nothing bad you do will make Him stop loving you or love you less.

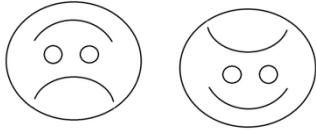
“That's because salvation isn't something you DO. It's something you BELIEVE. By faith, you believe that Jesus loves you SO much that He died on the cross so that we could be forgiven for our sins without paying the consequences of them. When you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive you for the wrong things you do, He will. How great is that? Let's jump for joy as we say Ephesians 2:8 together, one more time.” (Point to the gift boxes if kids need help remembering the verse.)

4. PRAY TOGETHER

What You Need: Index card, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a marker.
- Show kids how to draw a reversible smiley face as shown below.



- Lead kids in the following conversation.
- Guide them in prayer to close out your group time.

What You Say:

(Ask kids to turn their cards to the sad face.) “Do problems happen to us? Yes, we all face problems. What are some problems we might have? *(Pause as kids give examples.)* Our feelings can get hurt; we or someone we love gets sick; something happens that makes us sad, mad, or confused. Sometimes we feel upset and we’re not sure WHY. We can always talk to God and He will understand. Let’s do that now. *(Pray about the problems they named earlier.)*

(Ask kids to turn their cards around so the smile faces them.) “Always remember that God loves you and will help you. He has good plans and will work them out through even your toughest problems. So, don’t forget, **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.**” *(Pray, thanking God for helping us through our problems and always being with us.)*

5. GOD-TIME THROUGHOUT THE WEEK TO REINFORCE BIBLE STUDY (NEXT 2 PAGES)

~ WORTH 10 POINTS FOR THE “STORE” ~

FAITH

TRUSTING IN WHAT
YOU CAN'T SEE

BECAUSE OF WHAT
YOU CAN SEE

WEEK **3**
K-1st

BOTTOM LINE: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.

Read Philippians 4:6-7a

DAY 1

You Got a Problem?

Do you know what the word "problem" means?
A problem is a question seeking an answer.
In the space below, write down a problem you aren't sure how to solve.

Some problems are small. But some are big. Some seem to have no answer at all. But there is some good news. God has all the answers. And when something happens that we don't understand, we can always trust that He is in control. When we put our trust in Jesus, He is always with us. Because knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.

DAY 2

Fill in the Blank

Ask an adult to help you look up and read
Philippians 4:6-7a.

In your Bible, circle all the things this verse tells you to do.
Then, write them down on a piece of paper or index card
to keep by your bed.

When you have a problem, remember:

1. **Don't worry.**
2. **Tell God about everything.**
3. **Give thanks.**
4. **Have peace.**

Paul, who wrote these words, faced so many problems as he followed Jesus. But Paul learned that knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems. Just like Paul, you can have peace even in the middle of a big problem because Jesus is with you.

DAY 3

My Trust Muscle

Can you plank? Grab an adult or friend. See who can hold a plank for the longest and write your times below.

_____	:	_____	:	_____	:	_____
YOUR NAME		TIME		ADULT/FRIEND'S NAME		TIME

Do you think you could improve your time if you practiced planking every day? Of course! The more your practice, the stronger your muscles become.

Guess what? The same is true when it comes to problems. Every problem you face becomes an opportunity to trust God. And every time you practice trusting God, even when you face a problem you don't understand, your trust muscle grows.

Ask God to help you trust in Him, no matter what problems come your way this week. Thank Him for sending Jesus so that you can have a relationship with Him forever.

DAY 4

Four Steps

Remember the four steps from our verse this week?

When you face a problem . . .

1. **Don't worry.**
2. **Tell God about everything.**
3. **Give thanks.**
4. **Have peace.**

When a problem comes, first—don't worry. Worrying about something doesn't change anything, it just makes you feel more nervous.

Tell God. Ask Him to help you face that problem and trust Him.

Give thanks. Saying "thank you" is a great way to remember how God has helped you before and how He will help you again.

What happens next? You have peace! Because knowing Jesus changes how you see your problems.

BE OKAY WITH SAYING “I DON’T KNOW”

By Dan Scott

As parents, we all know how much kids love to ask questions, many of which start with the word, “Why.” These questions may start out simple: “Why is the sky blue?” or “Why can’t I have another piece of cake?”

But when it comes to developing a child’s faith, soon enough, these questions will progress to something more challenging. Questions like “Why do bad things happen?” or “Why does it feel like God doesn’t care?”

We can’t avoid questions. They are part of the human experience. Like it or not, that means questions will also be part of a growing personal faith. We can’t ignore them or sweep them under a rug, hoping they’ll disappear. At the same time, we can’t string pithy phrases together and assume we’re helping someone answer their deepest faith questions.

After all, . . .

Not all questions have simple answers. Not all questions HAVE answers.

No single human knows all there is to know about God and how God works.

While there is much we can discover about God, often the best answer for some questions is, “I don’t know.” This can be difficult parents, because we have this idea that leading kids means having all the answers to be able to help them with their questions or doubts.

When a hard question comes up, what if we were honest and said, “I don’t know”? I read recently about the power of that phrase. Throughout history, saying “I don’t know” and admitting ignorance has been the catalyst for discovery. Because people asked questions, humans learned, explored, and made progress that propelled history and faith forward—a process that continues still.

What if we could turn our shared ignorance into shared discovery? What if we said, “I don’t know, but let’s try and find out together.” Or “People have all sorts of opinions about this, let’s see which seem most wise to follow.”

Taking the time to help our kids explore their faith is one of the most important things we can do for them. And while in the process of discovery, we may not find the answers we wanted or we may find that a question can’t be answered yet, but we may also discover bigger ideas about God that help us trust Him even more.

So, when your kids start asking tough questions about faith, be ready with answers, but also be okay with saying, “I don’t know.”

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