



Remember & Celebrate - Jesus is Our Firm Foundation

Matthew 7:13-28

God Statement: Jesus is Our Example

KEY VERSE: "I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you."
(John 13:15, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Firm Foundation

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Firm Foundation!

SAY:

It's Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you know what that means? **Let kids respond.** We are taking time today to reflect on all God has done and praise Him for it!

Today, we're learning about how Jesus is our Firm Foundation. What is a firm foundation? Well, everyone stand up for me! Now jump up and down two times. What is underneath you? **Let kids answer – the floor.** The floor is the foundation you are

standing on and when you jump it doesn't move. It's firm! Remember how Jesus is our example? Well, when we believe in and follow Jesus, we are "standing" on His firm foundation. That means even when crazy things or hard things happen that shake us **(have kids stand up and wiggle around)**, the foundation of Jesus will not move! We're going to learn more about this later, but first let's make a craft.

MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Cross Craft!

Supplies: one scratch cross craft per child

Directions: pass out one wooden scratcher and one cross scratch craft per child. Have them design their crosses by scratching away the covering on the cross.

Say: *Jesus is our firm foundation. He will always be there for us and will help us. When we build our lives on what He says, He takes care of us. We can only go to Heaven by accepting Jesus. He is the way! We get to talk more about this in our lesson today, but first let's make this cross craft to remind us of Jesus and what He has done for us and how we can live for Him!*

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Host

Briefly introduce the topic reminding kids that this weekend is Remember & Celebrate. Use this time to reference the "Feasts & Festivals" table on stage, talking about what it represents.

Say: It's Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you notice anything different on the stage today? That's right! This table – we call it the Feasts & Festivals table! Let's name some of the items we see on the table. **Use the laminated guide in the F&F Bin to discuss what some of the items represent.** Why do we have this special table out? In the Old Testament, God put into place a religious calendar of special events for the people of Israel to follow. Each year, there were seven unique and special feasts. There were four in the Spring and three in the Fall. The purpose of these feasts was for the Jewish people to celebrate their people's history, their faith, and the blessings God had given them. So why are these feasts that started so many hundreds and hundreds of years ago still important today? Through each of the feasts, God reveals a special story and shows the work of Jesus that is so important for each of our lives. Each feast can help us understand and appreciate that Jesus died for us, rose from the grave, and will come

again one day! No matter how much time passes, the miracles of Jesus and the work He did for all of us are something to remember and celebrate.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you."
(John 13:15, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Nobody
- The Lord is My Salvation
- Closing: Firm Foundation

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Our Firm Foundation – Remember & Celebrate

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: *worship song in PowerPoint, river rocks, markers*

Jesus is our firm foundation! What does that mean? ***Let kids respond.*** When we put our trust and faith in Jesus, nothing can shake us. Even when storms come (maybe not real storms, but when hard things happen), we know we will be okay because we have Jesus!

FIRM FOUNDATION ACTIVITY:

What good news that is! Let's take some time to think about what it means to put our trust in Jesus.

Have teachers pass out a rock and marker to each kid. Then say: We're going to sing one final song, and as we do, hold your rock in your hands. Think about how Jesus is our firm foundation – He is like a rock that cannot be moved. When you're ready, during the song, write your name on your rock.

As you write your name on the rock, remember that Jesus loves you and He is your firm foundation! Then, stand and sing this song of praise to God!

Play last worship song "Firm Foundation" in the PowerPoint

Close time in prayer after song is over.

****After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.****

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – COSILoveYou Backpack Bash!

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Wow! Is it almost that time again? The 2023-2024 school year is fast approaching. Do you know what that means? It's time for back-to-school shopping!

We have an amazing opportunity to help families in our community prepare for the school year ahead. We are excited to partner with @cos_iloveryou for this year's Backpack Bash! What is the most important item you need for school? **Let kids share ideas.** One of the most important items kids in our city need to start the school year off right is backpacks! And you can help with that! Here are two BIG ways you can help:

1. Talk to your parents about purchasing a brand-NEW backpack to donate on June 24 & 25 or July 1 & 2 at our Kids check-in area.
2. Pray for the kids, just like you, preparing to go back to school who will get one of these backpacks!

Who's excited to shop for backpacks?

Invite a couple kids to come up and pray for the kids who will receive a backpack.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May Jesus be your firm foundation! May you build your life on Jesus, trusting that He will protect you and guide you because He loves you.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Pass out snacks during this time and break into a few small groups to chat together. Use the questions below as a guide to lead the conversation, but feel free to insert your own questions as the conversation develops.

****check for allergies before giving kids snacks****

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Scratch your head and think about what you learned about God from our story today. Put your thumb up if you can think of something! If you'd like to share, please raise your hand!** (Call on three friends.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Matthew 7: 24-27**
3. **In this story, what does the house represent? Shout it out!** (Our life)
4. **Act like you're holding a bunch of sand. Hmm, I bet some of it is falling through your fingers! Okay, now imagine you're holding a bunch of rocks. Whoa! Are they heavy? They are solid and so strong. If we build our life around God's teachings and put his Word into practice, we can be like the wise man. What did the wise man build his house on?** (The rock)
5. **Can you think of a time where something was hard, or you felt like you were having a really hard time? If you can put your hands on your head. Does anyone want to share? (Call on 2-3 friends.) How can Jesus help you to get through that?** (We can know that if we follow His teachings, we will always be able to get through whatever hard things come our way.)

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Scratch your head and think about what you learned about God from our story today. Put your thumb up if you can think of something! If you'd like to share, please raise your hand!** (Call on three friends.)

2. Read scripture: Matthew 7: 24-27

- a. **In this story, what does the house represent? Shout it out!** (Our life)
- b. **Act like you're holding a bunch of sand. Hmm, I bet some of it is falling through your fingers! Okay, now imagine you're holding a bunch of rocks. Whoa! Are they heavy? They are solid and so strong. If we build our life around God's teachings and put his Word into practice, we can be like the wise man. What did the wise man build his house on?** (The rock)
- c. **What did the foolish man build his house on? What happened?** (Sand; The house crashes! If we want to be able to weather the storms of life and overcome challenges, we must build our life around God's teachings!)

3. Read scripture: John 8:12

- a. **We learned in a previous lesson that Jesus is the light of the world. Who else does he call to be a light in the world? Point to that person or those people if you know the answer. What is the answer?** (Us!)
- 4. Tell the kids to first think silently about these questions. Next, they can turn and talk to a neighbor about their answers. Finally, ask them to shift their body back towards you and raise their hand if they would like to share. Call on one or two students to answer each question.**
- a. **Can you think of a time that you've gone through something really hard or is there anything coming up that you know will be challenging for you? How can you find peace from what we learned about Jesus today?** (If we put God's teachings into practice and build our life on his Word, we will be able to get through any challenges. It may not be easy, but we will make it through because of Jesus.)

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Old Testament Books of the Bible Cube Race

Supplies: 2 bags of Old Testament books of the Bible cubes

Directions: Have children get into groups of 4-5. Each group will get a chance to race against another group. Give two groups, block bags. Set a timer and see how quickly each team can finish stacking the blocks in order from beginning to end (the books of the Old Testament need to be in order). Have children help their teams to remember what order the books of the Old Testament go in.

Say: *Jesus is our firm foundation! If we follow Him and ask Him to help us in our lives, He will provide for us. Do you know one of the tools we have to help us grow closer to God? That's right! The Bible! Let's see if we can remember the books of the Old Testament!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.