



PRETEEN

MAY 2023

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

CONFIDENCE IS LIVING LIKE YOU BELIEVE GOD IS WITH YOU.

We might try to base our confidence on what we do well, or what someone might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something different. We think it's found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, but also close enough to be right here with us. We know that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much! Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when we trust Jesus with our life, the Holy Spirit is there to help us face whatever comes our way. We can respond to God's love and care with confidence!

WEEK 1

Key Question: **How can you share God's love?** To kick off the month of May, we want our preteens to discover how they can put Jesus' Great Commission into practice. Kids might not always have the right words to talk about their faith in Jesus, but they can share His love with the way they interact with family, help classmates, or encourage their friends. We hope the conversations they have with their small group will inspire them with all sorts of ways that they can share God's love.

We start off the month in **Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 1:1-11**. Before Jesus went back to His Father, He gave His disciples a huge mission: to tell the world about Him. The message of Jesus is for everyone, and it was the disciples' job to get the word out. Jesus promised that God would give them the confidence they needed to get the job done.

Bottom Line: **Share God's love with others.** Kids sometimes have a hard time understanding what it means to live out their faith in Jesus and share God's love. This week, we hope they'll understand Jesus' mission, and also how they can put that mission into practice. We hope they realize that sharing God's love isn't as difficult as it might sound. We'll help

them discover all sorts of opportunities to help others throughout their week.

WEEK 2

Key Question: **When have you needed help?** When we face a moment where we need help, we might lose our confidence for similar situations in the future. That's why we hope to remind kids that needing help is a normal part of life. Asking for help doesn't make us weak. In fact, often it takes strength to ask someone for a helping hand. We pray that kids will realize that, as followers of Jesus, they have access to the very best help ever. The Holy Spirit can give them the confidence they need to keep going.

In week 2, head to **Acts 2:1-41** and find out how the disciples found the confidence to tell the world about Jesus. The disciples had a huge mission: to share the message of Jesus with the world. Thankfully, Jesus also promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to help them. As the disciples were gathered together, the Holy Spirit came and empowered them to preach with boldness. Peter preached to the crowd of people that gathered to see the commotion, and that day, over 3,000 people trusted Jesus with their life.

Bottom Line: **God sent the Holy Spirit to help you.**

As we spend the month talking about what it means to live with confidence, we want kids to know that this isn't something they need to figure out on their own. God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us. We'll help kids start to understand how they can rely on the Holy Spirit to give them the strength, courage, and confidence they need for whatever they face in life.

WEEK 3

Key Question: **When have you felt under pressure?** When we remember how we've gotten through difficult times in the past, it can help us face those moments in



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the future. We pray that as kids discover what it feels like to be under pressure, they'll discover how they can make a plan to trust God in those moments and find the confidence to keep going. God can give them the confidence they need when the pressure is on.

In **Acts 3:1 4:21**, we see that Jesus' mission wasn't going to be easy for the disciples. Luke tells us that Peter healed someone in the name of Jesus and ended up causing quite a stir. As people gathered, Peter and John used this moment to share the message of Jesus. Soon though, the religious leaders arrested them and had them stand trial. Peter and John showed confidence in Jesus. They made it clear that no matter what happened to them, they would continue sharing Jesus' love with others.

Bottom Line: **God is with you no matter what.** At some point, kids will learn that even when we follow Jesus, life won't always be easy. However, we want them to learn as soon as possible that we are promised that God will always be with us. Just because a situation we face is difficult, that doesn't mean it's time to give up. We pray that kids will learn to lean into the power of God and have the confidence they need to keep going.

WEEK 4

Key Question: **What questions do you have?** We hope that preteens can experience how church can be one of the safest places for them to ask hard questions about their faith. That's why, in Small Group, we'll get right to the heart of the matter. We pray that this question will allow kids in your church to be open about what confuses them about God, Jesus, and the Bible. We also hope it offers some comfort. After all, when you realize that everyone has questions about faith, you feel safer to ask your own. This could be a powerful week for your preteens.

We end the month in **Acts 8:26-40** and discover a Jesus-follower named Philip. An angel told Philip to travel toward the desert. On the way, Philip met an Ethiopian official who was reading the Jewish Scriptures. This man had questions, and he asked Philip to help him understand. Philip answered the man's questions and pointed him to Jesus. The man put his faith in Jesus and was baptized.

Bottom Line: **God is with you even when you have questions.** We'll never know everything there is to know, especially when it comes to our faith in God. In order to have confidence, sometimes we have to ask questions about what we don't know. We pray that kids will discover people in their life who they can trust with their hard questions about life and faith.