

DAY 1: SMALL GROUP TIME

Divide into small groups of 4–6, with a guide or exploration leader in each group. (Adjust depending on how many leaders and kids you have.) Discuss some or all of the following questions from the discussion sheet, helping them look up the Bible passage, if time, when it comes to question 3, and reading it together. Otherwise, just have it bookmarked and read it to them.

Note: If small groups aren't feasible in your setting, just incorporate some or all of these questions into large group time.

- 1. Besides the Bible, what's a favorite book of yours? What do you like about it?**
- 2. Other books are fine, but the Bible is in a class all its own. What do you think is cool about the Bible? It may be something you heard today!**
- 3. Let's see if we can find the very first verse in the Bible!** Either do together with one Bible or pass out Bibles and have them find Genesis 1:1 with partners. Explain how you look up the book, then the chapter, then the verse. (This will be dealt with more later in the week.)
- 4. The Bible has an amazing message of how we can be saved from our sins and have eternal life with God when we die. Do you know if you have received the gift of eternal life?**

DAY 2: SMALL GROUP TIME

Divide into small groups of 4–6, with a leader or guide in each group. Adjust depending on how many leaders and kids you have. Discuss some or all of the following questions.

- 1. What is something “cool” you learned today that you didn’t know before?**
- 2. How do you personally feel about God’s Word? Can you think of any way it’s impacted you?** For example, in the Bible, God gives us commands to obey with the help of the Holy Spirit. Have them look up these verses if time: tell the truth (John 4:24), be kind (Ephesians 4:32), obey your parents (Ephesians 6:1). If we are a child of God, how should our lives change to reflect these teachings?
- 3. Let’s look up Isaiah 40:8 and share what it means.**

DAY 3: SMALL GROUP TIME

Divide into small groups. Each group will work together to read and demonstrate the passage in Matthew 7:24–27 about the wise man and the foolish man.

First, have someone read Matthew 7:24–25 from the Bible. While doing so or when you're done reading, someone can slowly pour water on a small block house that's attached to a base in a plastic bin. Only use half the pitcher. (Or have another pitcher ready for the next part.) After you are done, take the house off the base and move it to the bin with the mound of sand. Put it on top.

Next, continue reading with Matthew 7:26–27. While doing so, someone can pour water on the sand pile that the small block house is now sitting on in a plastic bin. (Practice both of these first to make sure the wise man's house stays intact and the foolish man's house doesn't!)

An alternate way to do this is to use Jenga® blocks (or other blocks). Build the house up in an empty bin while reading the wise man part, and then try to build a house up on a pile of sand in the other bin during the foolish man part. Again, practice this first to make sure it's working. This version doesn't use water.

You can also do this as a large group demonstration instead of in small groups, choosing volunteers to come up front.

Discuss the following in small groups (or discuss the questions throughout the demonstration).

- 1. What happened to the house on the rock?**
- 2. What happened to the house on the sand?**
- 3. How is that like our own lives?**
- 4. According to these verses, when we hear God's words and do them, we're like a wise man whose house is on a rock, but when we hear God's words and don't do them, we're like a foolish man whose house is on the sand. It's not enough to recognize that the Bible can be 100% trusted. God wants us to be wise and obey His Word, too. Can you think of any commands the Bible tells us to live by?** You may want to read or have the students read Colossians 3:8–17.
- 5. Can you think of any commands you have trouble obeying?** For examples, see the passage in Colossians.
- 6. Let's pray and ask God to help us love and obey His Word. We can't do it on our own. God must give us the power to do so through His Holy Spirit who lives in His children!**

You may want to review the gospel with your kids briefly. You become a child of God if you repent of your sins (turn from them) and believe in Jesus. Each one of us has sinned before God. We have disobeyed God's commands. And even one sin is enough to separate us from God. Review the Colossians passage for a list of sins they may have done. The punishment for sin is death and eternal separation from God's goodness forever. We need to repent of our sins and believe that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, and paid the penalty for sin on our behalf by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead. When we do that, we can become a child of God. And God gives His children the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us love Him and obey Him.

DAY 4: SMALL GROUP TIME

Divide into small groups of 4–6, with a leader in each group. Adjust as necessary depending on how many leaders and kids you have. Discuss some or all of the following questions.

1. **Have you ever gotten a letter or a package in the mail that you were really excited about? Tell us about it!**
2. **The Bible is a *letter* of love written for you from a *God* of love who wants you to know *you* are loved. Let's look up Romans 5:8, 5:12–17.**
3. **Have you ever asked God if you can be His child? Tell us about it!**

DAY 5: SMALL GROUP TIME

Divide into small groups of 4–6, with a leader in each group. Adjust as necessary depending on how many leaders and kids you have. Discuss some or all of the following questions.

- 1. If you had to describe the Bible in a word or two, what would you say?**
- 2. What is your favorite animal pal and why?**
- 3. If you had to pick one thing you want to do as a result of this week, what would it be?**
- 4. Read some of the following passages together: Psalm 119:9–16; Proverbs 2:1–9; 2 Timothy 3:14–17.**