



Series Overview: This month we will look at what the Gospels say about connection and belonging. The ability to “subscribe now” and “follow” with a single click on social media gives people the impression that connection is that easy, but in reality it takes a bit more effort than that– it takes time of being in relationship with, following and learning from those we want to know. Kids look for places of belonging, places where forgiveness exists, places where they can experience a genuine connection. In this month’s Bible stories, kids will learn that we can know God through Jesus, we can know forgiveness because of Jesus, that Jesus knows us and wants us to follow Him, and that the message of Jesus is powerful...and most certainly worth subscribing to!

Bible Story: Jesus is Baptized: Mark 1:4-11; (Acts 19:1-7)

Big Idea: We know forgiveness because of Jesus.

Series Memory Verse: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. –John 14:6

Lesson Guide:

1. Have everyone share something they heard from Pastor Brent’s message or a question they have from his message.
2. Get a few Bibles, open them to Mark 1:4-11, and review the Bible story something like this...

- John the Baptist was a very popular prophet who was baptizing people with water and teaching about forgiveness. But the people kept coming back to him over and over again because they continued to make poor choices and hurt each other.
 - **Have you ever tried your best to do something, but for some reason, you just could not make a good choice? Have you ever hurt someone even though you didn't mean to?**
- John the Baptist knew that humans could not live a perfect life. There had to be a true Savior who could baptize us humans with the Holy Spirit, and who will forgive us of all our sins. And that person is Jesus!
 - **How would you act if you met Jesus?**
- When John the Baptist met and baptized Jesus, the sky opened up and God spoke and said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
 - **If the sky opened up and God was speaking about you, what do you think God would say?**
- In that moment, everyone knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was the true Savior of the world, who came to forgive all of our sins!
- **We can know forgiveness because of Jesus.**

3. BIBLE STORY REVIEW GAME:

Supplies = What's Wrong Page (at the very end of this document)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Go through each statement on the page with your family and have them show two thumbs up if they think a statement is true, one thumb up and one thumb down if they are not sure, and two thumbs down if they think a statement is wrong or false. After each phrase that is wrong, have everyone "confess" out loud that the phrase is in fact wrong, and then leave it behind...move on to the next.*
- The Bible tells us that we have all sinned. The punishment for our sins is separation from God. But because God loves us, he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. 1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess that our sins are wrong to God, that He will forgive us of our sins and He will cleanse us of our sins through Jesus...He will cover our sins with forgiveness similarly to how we covered the wrong phrases, so that they couldn't be read any longer.
- Also, the Bible teaches us that when we truly understand what God has done for us, that will enable us to have compassion for others and to extend the same grace towards them. God does not want us to keep a record of others' sins against us. He wants us to forgive them as He forgives us. When we don't forgive others, God knows we end up carrying the weight of their sins in our own hearts, and that weighs us down. God wants us to live forgiven and forgiving others so that our hearts are free to love and know joy.

4. MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE:

Supplies: a bag, and 5-10 heavy items to put in the bag

- Practice the memory verse with the motions in the following video:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rb5pwnx3vq9ven7/JanMemVerseMotions.MOV?dl=0>
- Next try this activity...
 - *Fill a bag with your kids with heavy items...talk about how each item could be a sin or unforgiveness that we carry...say things like "I watch a video on YouTube that my dad said I couldn't watch, but instead of telling my dad and telling God I am sorry, I am*

*keeping it a secret,” or my brother called me “Toot Head” and I am not going to forgive him because he did not say he was sorry – not forgiving my brother just gives me yet another weight to carry because it keeps me thinking about the wrong he did to me or it gives room for bitterness or hatred to grow in my heart... **(You do not have to say something for every item you put in the bag. Just give a few examples and add all the heavy items to the bag)***

- *Next have your family line up. Give the first family member in line the bag. Tell them that they will drag or carry the bag to you, hold it while doing 5 jumps as high as they can, say the memory verse (you can help them), and then carry it back to the next person in line. Time how long it takes your family to do this.*
- *Then talk about how when we confess our sins to God, He takes the weight of them away, and how when we forgive others, we are actually freeing our hearts from carry the weight of what they did to us.*
- *Finally, have them repeat the same relay, but without the bag. Time them, so they will be able to see that they do it faster without the bag.*
- Talk about the difference in the two times the kids did the relay.
- Ask: How does sin make us feel heavy? How does unforgiveness make us feel heavy? What can we do to get rid of the heaviness? How does receiving forgiveness feel?
- Connect the verse: Only through Jesus can we be forgiven and only through Jesus can we forgive others...He is the only way!

5. DISCUSS SOME OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS:

Supplies: Bible(s)

- Why did John baptize people with water?
- What happened when Jesus got baptized?
- What did God say about Jesus?
- Read Mark 1:8. John says that he baptizes with water, but how will Jesus baptize people?
- Now read Acts 19:1-7
- Is getting baptized by water enough to receive forgiveness?
- Being baptized with water, which was the kind of baptism John gave, is about asking God for forgiveness. It's a way to show that you are truly sorry for any wrong you have done, and you want to start a clean, new life. Jesus didn't need to be baptized because he had no sin, but he allowed John to baptize him anyway to show us that all humans need forgiveness.
- But Paul reminds us here that baptism by water is more of a symbol. It doesn't really wash away your sin. What we need is the true baptism of the Spirit, which is a kind of change that happens in your heart.
- The only one who can change our hearts and truly forgive sins is God, and God makes forgiveness available to us when we believe in Jesus, God's Son. And that's not all. Because we have been forgiven, we can learn to forgive others, as well.
- We can know true forgiveness only through Jesus.
- Describe a time when you needed to forgive someone. What about a time when you needed forgiveness?
- What does it mean to be forgiven?

6. PRAY WITH YOUR FAMILY.

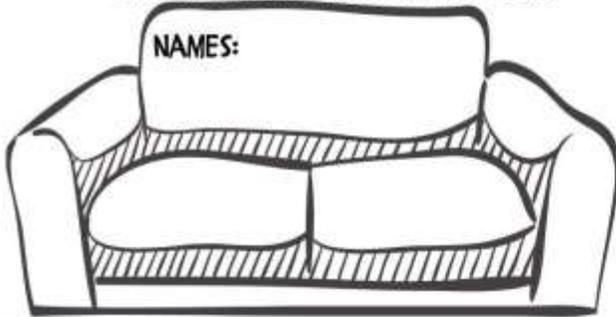
**** If you have a printer, the next page is for your kids to take notes while watching the online service****

• MONTH _____
 • DAY _____
 • YEAR _____

Sermon Notes From Home



WHO DID YOU SIT WITH ON THE COUCH?



HOW DID YOU WATCH THE SERMON FROM HOME?



WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT CHURCH AT CHURCH?

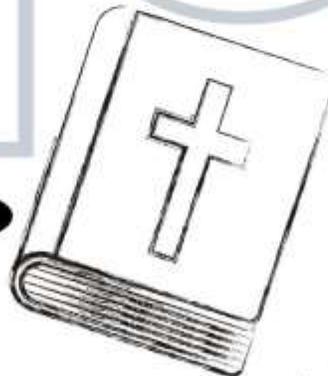
IF YOU DIDN'T SIT ON THE COUCH, DRAW A PICTURE OF HOW YOU VIEWED TODAY'S SERMON OR DRAW A PICTURE OF WHO YOU WATCHED THE SERMON WITH:

ARE YOU IN YOUR JAMMIES OR CLOTHES?? DRAW A PICTURE:

A WORSHIP SONG THAT WAS SUNG:



TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE:



3 BIG THINKS FROM TODAY'S SERMON YOU CAN ASK GOD TO USE TO GROW YOU CLOSER TO HIM:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

SOMETHING SPECIFIC THAT WAS PRAYED FOR:

SOMETHING SPECIFIC YOU ARE PRAYING FOR:

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT CHURCH AT HOME?

WHAT'S WRONG? PHRASES: Best for K-1st Graders

- 1) $1 + 1 = 5$
- 2) Sugar is sweet.
- 3) 'B' is the first letter of the alphabet.
- 4) There are 7 days in a week.
- 5) You see with your eyes.
- 6) Socks are worn on your hands.
- 7) Flowers can sing.
- 8) Yellow is a color.
- 9) Up is the opposite of down.
- 10) Dogs have 10 legs.

WHAT'S WRONG? PHRASES: Best for 2nd-5th Graders

- 1) Your ears are important when it comes to staying balanced.
- 2) Chameleons can move their eyes in different directions at the same time.
- 3) Acorns come from Maple trees.
- 4) The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean on earth.
- 5) $18 \times 18 = 342$
- 6) There are 31 days in the month of July.
- 7) The following letters are classed as consonants: A, E, I, O, U.
- 8) The name of the toy cowboy in Toy Story is Buzz.
- 9) Cinderella's carriage turns into a parsnip at the stroke of midnight.
- 10) Three of Santa's reindeer have names beginning with the letter D.