

KIDS CURRICULUM

# RED LETTER

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# CHALLENGE

A 40 DAY LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

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## To Children's Ministry Director:

There are so many variations that you'll find in kid's ministry: location, space, ages, and length of time are just some of the many different ways that make a Sunday morning experience unique for each church.

We didn't want to create a kid's ministry that would fit only one style or type of kid's Sunday program. So we created the flexible model option so that you are able to pick and choose what types of activities would work for your ministry.

We encourage you to use the following format:

Warm-up, Observation, Interpretation, Application

What this will allow you to do is have a skeleton to work with. If you already have a flow you use that the kids are familiar and comfortable with, feel free to modify what we have provided to keep the model that works for you.

Please also keep in mind that this program is geared towards a large age span: from kindergarten through 5th grade. Teachers will need to consider their age group as they are choosing their activities and modify content as needed.

The first half of the program is the same every week. There will be a warm-up activity as well as a scripted lesson that can be used in a variety of ways: but the content will not change.

Warm-up (Learning readiness)

Observation (What happened? What does it say?) This is the script or teaching time every week. This is where kids will be hearing and watching the main teaching of the day. Feel free to use actors, puppets, or even an older kid volunteer to do this teaching time.

The second half of the program is where options will be provided. Every lesson will have six different activities to choose from. We would love for you to read through them and pick and choose the activities that will best suite you. These activities will be one or both of the following:

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

Application (What does it mean to me?)

A weekly handout will be provided for parents: this handout will cover what we did that week and also any announcement about the future week and challenges for them to do during the week.

One idea you may want to do is to keep a "Challenge Chart" in the front throughout the 40 days. Get some red dot stickers and every time someone completes a challenge that week they can put a red sticker up. See how many red stickers you can get, maybe try to increase it every week! This is for fun and to create a measureable and visual way for kids to see the challenge in action!



Watch for the red dot lesson! These are the recommended activity for the day.

# WEEK 1

# INTRODUCTION TO RED LETTER CHALLENGE

## *Theme*

Introducing the five principles of RLC: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, Going

## *Memory Verse*

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

## *Bible Verses*

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

## *Big Idea*

Why are the red letters of Jesus important?

## *Goals*

- ➡ Memorizing BFSGG.
- ➡ Learn what the 5 principles are.
- ➡ Describe how to use the RLC Kids workbook.
- ➡ Teach what the RED LETTERS is from.

## WARM-UP

### The Mirror Game (Mirroring Jesus, mirroring activity)

#### *What you need*

Nothing

#### *What you do*

Pair up the kids two by two and have them line up. Assign one side as A and the other as B. Tell the A that they are looking in the mirror. You can pick a scenario like you are getting ready at bedtime or you are dressing up to go out. Have them switch after a minute or so.

Start again with As but this time tell them that they are talking to themselves in the mirror as Bs follow. Again let them switch and then try it with no leader and no follower. Then tell them that neither is the leader or follower.

#### *What you say*

Remember to move VERY slowly. B is the mirror and must follow A so closely that someone watching would not be able to tell who is leading and who is following. Remember to mirror not only their arms and body but also watch their faces!

#### *Optional*

Have a pair come up to the front of the room and see if the group can guess who the leader is and who the follower is. If they follow each other well enough, it may be tough to tell!

## OBSERVATION

*In this skit Red will be introduced as well as the five themes or words of the Red Letter Challenge.*

### Prep

*Supplies: Bible*

*For the next six weeks you will need an extra volunteer or teacher who will play 'Red', our Red Letter Challenge character. He will be a part of the observation every week. There are many ways to have Red as part of your program: he can be another actor who is dressed in Red, he can be a dog or a bear with a red bandanna on or a red t-shirt on, he can be a stuffed animal or a puppet who will be Red. Make sure there is some way to distinguish the color on him: clothing, face paint, hat, or a bandanna.*

*Feel free to insert the name of whoever will be acting as Teacher for the week: so instead of always saying 'Teacher', you can say "Mr. Jim".*

### Optional

*Make 5 large letters B, F, S, G and G and use them like letters at pep rally. This will create a visual and help them memorize the words faster!*

**Teacher:** Hey guys! Welcome! We are excited to have you here!

*Red is copying everything that Teacher is saying. Finally, Teacher stops.*

**Teacher:** Um, Red? Red? Right now we are here and going to tell the kids something really awesome...wanna help?

*Red keeps copying.*

*Teacher stops and gets frustrated.*

**Teacher:** I'm a goofball.

**Red:** I'm a goofball.

**Teacher:** Ha ha! You said you were a goofball!

**Red:** Ha ha, you said you were a goofball!

*Teacher stops talking and waits. Red also pauses, then tries to get the teacher to talk. Teacher won't.*

**Red:** Well fine! You asked if I wanted to help: I was helping! You said today is all about copying! I'm copying!

**Teacher:** I didn't mean ME!!! I was talking about copying someone else! This person is incredible! He is exactly the kind of person you would want to copy.

**Red:** Oh! I know who it is!

**Teacher:** OK! Tell the kids who it is!

**Red:** It's Mr. Incredible!

**Teacher:** Nope, it's not.

**Red:** Yes it is! I want to copy him soooo bad!

**Teacher:** I would love to be Mr. Incredible for the day: but this is even better.

**Red:** Better than Mr. Incredible?!!

**Teacher:** Yep. Better. Wanna know who it is?

**Red:** WHO???

**Teacher:** That person is Jesus! When you copy someone else you have to see how they talk, how they act, what they do, and what they say to do. One way we can see how to copy Jesus would be to look at the Bible.

**Red:** Really? The Bible tells us how to copy Jesus?

**Teacher:** In the Bible the words of Jesus are written in a very special way. They are written in red ink when everything else is written in black. So there is no guessing there! Following is not always easy, like we learned in the mirror game. But Jesus calls everyone from the tiniest baby to the oldest grandparent to follow Him.

**Red:** OK! I'm all in! I want to copy Jesus and all that he does!

**Teacher:** Following Jesus is the greatest opportunity we will ever have!

*Red runs and gets his Bible and opens to Genesis 1:1.*

**Red:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Wait a minute, I can't do that! That's way too hard! I can't copy Jesus!

**Teacher:** We don't need to do everything Jesus did, we can't. But Jesus did tell us some things that we can do.

**Red:** Ok I'm ready! What are they? I'm going to do them right now! Tell me!

**Teacher:** Are you sure you are ready?

*(Build suspense.)*

**Red:** Yeah, yeah, yeah I'm ready.

**Teacher:** Ok: Here we go. It is (drum roll....) Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going.

*Red goes to take a step and stops short.*

**Red:** Wait what? I don't get it! How do I 'being'? Like a bee? Buzz around like a bee?

*Red starts acting like a bee.*

**Teacher:** No, no! Not BEE-ing. BEING. Being with Jesus.

**Red:** Oh boy this is going to be harder than I thought.

**Teacher:** It will not always be easy to follow Jesus. But it will be worth it! And when we copy Jesus we are showing others who Jesus is! How cool is that?

**Red:** That's pretty cool...but I still don't really get it. I have already forgotten what those 5 words even are!

*Red puts up his hands in despair.*

**Teacher:** Red wait! I think I can help. Boys and girls, will you help me teach Red the 5 words? Really!?! Awesome! Ok, are you ready?

The first word is BEING. Place your hands over each other in the center of your chest.

FORGIVING: Place hands out like a cross.

SERVING: Take a servant stance: Do the TEBOW stance.

GIVING: Sweep arms out with open hands.

GOING: Walk or run in place.

*Spend as much time as you need practicing these different motions. Mix them up, try to trick the kids.*

*Red is slowly catching on: but he still doesn't quite have it yet.*

**Teacher:** You guys did awesome! Red, do you think you know the 5 words now?

*Red tries but struggles and gets them mixed up.*

**Red:** I still don't really get how to do all of these.

**Teacher:** In the next 5 weeks we are going to be taking one word at a time and really learn what they mean and how we can do it! This is what Jesus' life is all about, and when we do these five words, we are copying Jesus. I have a song about how important it is to build our life on a firm foundation of Christ.

Let's sing!

The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
And the rains came tumbling down!

The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
And the house on the rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
And the rains came tumbling down!

The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
The rains came down and the floods came up,  
And the house on the sand went SPLAT!

So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the Blessings will come down.

The blessings will come down as your prayers go up,  
The blessings will come down as your prayers go up,  
The blessings will come down as your prayers go up,  
So build your house on the Lord!

**Red:** That was fun! I'm so excited to find out more about doing these red letters.

**Teacher:** Thanks for learning with us today kids! Bye!

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

### **Activity 1: Telling a Story (comic strip).**

Ages: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

#### *What you need*

Paper, markers, pencils or crayons

#### *What you do*

What you do: Invite the kids to draw three or five squares and tell a story of how they can show Jesus to others in those squares. Share with the group what they drew.

#### *What you say*

What story do our lives tell? When someone looks at your life they can see a story. We can show people who Jesus is by the stories that our lives tell.

### **Activity 2: Build on a Firm Foundation**

Ages: K - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

#### *What you need*

Building blocks, different kinds of bases to build on: a blanket, a firm surface, a pillow, something bumpy, something slanted.

*Optional: Find a kid's book that tells the story of Matthew 7:24-27: the two men who built on a rock and sand.*

#### *What you do*

Have the kids get into small groups of 3-4. Give them the blocks and the different surfaces. Have them try and build on the bumpy or soft surfaces first. See how high they can get. Then see how it compares to the hard and firm surface.

#### *What you say*

The Red Letter Challenge is important because Jesus says that if we take His words and put them into practice that we will be like a man who built his house on a rock. Let's read the story together and learn how important it is to put Jesus' words into practice.

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27*

It was easier to build on a firm surface than a soft surface. Jesus is our solid foundation, and when we build our lives on Him our hope and faith will stay strong on Him.

### **Activity 3: Aim at the Right Target**

Ages: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

#### *What you need*

*Nerf guns and five different targets.*

#### *What you do*

Have the children take turns hitting the targets taped to the wall with their Nerf guns. The catch is that they don't know what target they are supposed to be aiming at, you will switch it every time. Then tell them exactly which target to aim for. Explain how much easier it is to shoot when you know what you are aiming for.

#### *What you say*

In the 2004 Athens Olympics there was a sharpshooter named Matthew Emmons. Matthew Emmons was far and away the best shooter in the world. Some said he is the best shooter that's ever lived. That year the question was not who is going to win the gold, but who would take the silver and the bronze. Everyone knew Matt Emmons was going to take home the gold.

Rifle shooters are trained to fire between heartbeats. They try to slow their heartbeat down as much as possible and fire in between those beats per minute. Medals are literally won by millimeters. Going into his final shot, Emmons was in first place by a mile and all he needed to do to win the gold was hit the target, which for many of us in this room wouldn't be a problem, for the greatest shooter in the world, piece of cake! It's a sport where top competitors are expected to be so accurate that we have a hard time believing they could actually miss.

With one bullet left to shoot, Matt Emmons needed a score of 7.2 to win his second gold medal of the Olympic Games. On his first nine shots in the finals, Emmons' lowest score was a 9.3. He took careful aim, fired, and sure enough, bull's eye for the American. He did it. Except for one small fact. He actually shot at the wrong target, one lane over, which is known as a crossfire, and got a score of 0. This was his reaction:

Afterwards in a press conference, he said he felt great going into his last shot. He said he was more concerned with calming himself down rather than looking at his target. The last time he had cross-fired he said was 6 or 7 years ago. He went from 1st to 8th and didn't even get a medal.

Matthew Emmons was literally the greatest shooter in the world but if you don't know what you are shooting for it doesn't matter. If you shoot at or focus on the wrong thing, you'll never hit what you need to hit.

That's like us! We may try and work really hard at something, but if we are working towards the wrong thing, no matter how perfect we did we are still totally off. Jesus is the target we all need to be aiming for!

## **Activity 4: Test Yourself!**

Ages: 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### *What you need*

A printed sheet with the five words (BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, and GOING) on it and the numbers 1-10

### *What you do*

Allow each kid to get a paper with the five words on them. Now that you have explained to them what each one is: give them a chance to assess themselves to see how are doing in each category. What would they like to work on? Is there one that they think they might be better at? Is there one they are still not sure about?

*Optional: Find a kid's book that tells the story of Matthew 7:24-27: the two men who built on a rock and sand.*

### *What you say*

We are going to talk about the five principles below. After we have figured out what they mean, let's test ourselves and see how we are going in that area.

The targets that Jesus followers are called to shoot for:

- 1 **Being:** So many times Jesus talks about the importance of spending time and just being with Him. Before he invites us to do things for Him, through Him, in His name, he invites us into a relationship. Our relationship with Him will determine how effective we are at actually doing the things he asks.
- 2 **Forgiving:** Jesus is all about 'dat grace. So many of us struggle with receiving God's forgiveness, forgiving ourselves, or forgiving others. To truly represent Jesus in this world, we have a great understand of God's grace in our lives and extend that grace to others.
- 3 **Serving:** After spending time being with Him, and receiving His forgiveness, now we are so motivated. After all that He's done for me, I want to serve Him. I want to get out into the community, help those in need, love my neighbors, etc.
- 4 **Giving:** Jesus talked about the Kingdom of heaven more than anything else. A close second was money. I've found through the words of Jesus it's impossible to be a stingy Christian. Jesus followers are generous.
- 5 **Going:** It's no coincidence that many of Jesus' last words in each of the Gospels and even the last command He says in the book of Acts centers on the fact that we as Jesus followers must not just be His hands and feet in the community, but also His mouthpiece. We are to go out there and tell the Good News that this same Jesus that has died on the cross for my sins and forgiven what I've done has done the same for everyone.

What we are going to do today is see how well we think we are doing so far in each category.

## **Activity 4: Pretzel Letters**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Pretzel sticks, paper towels (provide gluten-free pretzels for any kids with allergies)

### *What you do*

Give each child a paper towel and a baggie of pretzel sticks and have them use the pretzels to try and form the shapes of the letters: BFSGG (Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going).

*Optional: For younger children print out pages of the letters BFSGG (one for each kid).*

### *What to do*

Today in snack time we are going to review the five letters of our Red Letter Challenge: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. Use your pretzel sticks to make or trace the five letters.

## **Activity 6: Extra! Extra!**

Ages: 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### *What you need*

Nothing

### *What you do*

Read the fake news article below aloud with the words: being, forgiving, serving, giving, and going. Have the kids stand up when they hear the words!

*Optional: For older kids, have them write and act out their own article using the five words. They don't have to use the words in order, and encourage outrageous and goofy!*

### *What you say*

Listen to news article I'm going to read. I want you to stand up when you hear the words BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, and GOING.

There once was a human being named Aidan. He had to forgive a girl named Lola who broke his favorite pencil. He served her snack first to show they were still friends. She showed kindness by giving him some of her fruit snacks. By the time they were going out to recess they were back to friends again!

## **PRAYER**

Dear Jesus,

We invite you into this Challenge. Be our light and show us what it means to put your words into practice. Thank you for dying on the cross so that my sins are forgiven. You are the perfect example of love in our lives. Thank you for giving us the Bible and your words so we can follow after you. We love you Jesus, Amen

# WEEK 1

# INTRODUCTION TO RED LETTER CHALLENGE

## KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

### Theme

Introducing the Five Themes of the Red Letter Challenge: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, Going

### Memory Verse

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

### Bible Verses

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

### Big Idea

Why are the red letters of Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

In the Red Letter Challenge, we are committing to putting the words of Jesus into practice for the next five weeks. Those five weeks are divided into five themes: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. Each week we will have different ideas and ways that your child(ren) can try to put Jesus' words into practice.

- 1** **Being:** So many times Jesus talks about the importance of spending time and just being with Him. Before he invites us to do things for Him, through Him, in His name, he invites us into a relationship. Our relationship with Him will determine how effective we are at actually doing the things He asks.
- 2** **Forgiving:** Jesus is all about 'dat grace. So many of us struggle with receiving God's forgiveness, forgiving ourselves, or forgiving others. To truly represent Jesus in this world, we have a great understand of God's grace in our lives and extend that grace to others.
- 3** **Serving:** After spending time being with Him, and receiving His forgiveness, now we are so motivated. After all that He's done for me, I want to serve Him. I want to get out into the community, help those in need, love my neighbors, etc.
- 4** **Giving:** Jesus talked about the Kingdom of heaven more than anything else. A close second was money. I've found through the words of Jesus it's impossible to be a stingy Christian. Jesus followers are generous.
- 5** **Going:** It's no coincidence that many of Jesus' last words in each of the Gospels and even the last command He says in the book of Acts centers on the fact that we as Jesus followers must not just be His hands and feet in the community, but also His mouthpiece. We are to go out there and tell the Good News that this same Jesus that has died on the cross for my sins and forgiven what I've done has done the same for everyone.

Keep an eye out for these weekly handouts and help your child accomplish one, some or all the challenges.

# WEEK 2

# BEING

## Theme

BEING with Jesus

## Memory Verse

*"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..." Hebrews 12:2*

## Bible Verses

*Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..."*

## Big Idea

Why is BEING with Jesus important?

## Goals

➡ Give examples of different ways of BEING with Jesus. How did Jesus model this?

## WARM-UP

### The Survivor "T" Challenge

#### *What you need*

Nothing

#### *What you do*

Have the kids stand with their arms out like a T. Have them hold something (added weight like a book) in each hand if you want this to take up less time. See who can hold their arms up the longest!

#### *What you say*

Did anyone have a hard time starting that game? It's easy to start! Your arms aren't tired and you feel like you could hold up your arms forever! But the longer it goes the harder it is to hold our arms up. I can start strong on my own strength, but I can't always finish strong on my own strength.

## OBSERVATION

*In this skit Red will want to give up on something or not want to finish something. Whatever God starts He finishes. You may start some things and not finish. But what God starts He finishes!*

#### *Prep*

*Use masking tape to make a hopscotch board on the floor of the stage.*

**Teacher:** Hey boys and girls! Welcome back! I'm so excited to see you here because we are going to talk about the very first theme of the Red Letter Challenge: but first, let's review...

*Review the different hand motions and see if the kids can remember which hand motion goes with which theme.*

**Teacher:** You did great! Now, for a bonus, who can tell me why do we call this a RED LETTER challenge? What is the importance of red letters? Great! We are in a challenge right now here at church of working together to put what Jesus said into practice!

The very first theme that we will be working on this week is just BEING with Jesus....

*Red comes into the room very frustrated and throws a piece of chalk on the floor.*

*Teacher goes over and picks up the piece of chalk.*

**Red:** It's this terrible hopscotch game. I wanted to learn how to play so that I can go over to my neighbors who are always playing it, but I'm no good. I can't hop on one foot. I QUIT!!!!

*Red stomps over to a corner and slumps down.*

**Teacher:** That's tough Red. I'm sorry buddy. Let's not give up so soon! I have an idea! Come on: I have a hopscotch right here! Let's practice.

**Red:** No. I don't like practicing. I am quitting.

**Teacher:** But Red, how can you get better if you don't practice? Let's see what we can do... come on, show me.

*Red tries to hop on one foot in place loses his balance quickly and falls over.*

**Red:** See?!? I'm not good at all. I'm terrible. I will never be able to do it. I give UP.

**Teacher:** Red, how long have you tried?

**Red:** Well, once I tried it at my neighbor's house and...how long have we been here?

**Teacher:** Red if you need to get better at something than you have to practice for more than that. And most importantly, you can't give up. You know, that reminds me of something I read about in my Bible. It was from Isaiah 40: 30-31 and it says:

*(As Teacher is reading the Bible verse below, Red is acting out the words.)*

Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

**Red:** Run and not be tired? That's incredible! I want to try that right now!

*Red starts running around the room but quickly gets tired.*

**Red:** I give up again!

**Teacher:** That's not exactly what God meant by that verse. We are human, so we will get tired. We will lose our balance and sometimes we will fall down. He was trying to tell us that when we feel like giving up we can know we are not alone and Jesus is always with us.

**Red:** So Jesus can help me get better at hopscotch?

**Teacher:** He can help us not give up. Come on! Let's just start with square 1.

**Red:** OK...Here I go!

*Red and Teacher play for a minute.*

**Red:** Wow! It helps to have someone to balance on! If I just hold onto your arm I did a lot better.

**Teacher:** Yes, being with someone helps us to do things sometimes.

*Red exits*

**Teacher:** Jesus loves us SO much that he wants to always be with us! That's why we are starting this challenge learning about being with Jesus, hanging out with him just like He's a buddy. Jesus is not only your Savior He is your friend too, and he wants to hang out with you!

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

### Activity 1: Topsy Turvy

Ages: all ages

#### *What you need*

Blanket (sheet, carpet, rug)

#### *What you do*

Get a large piece of material like a blanket that your whole group can stand on. The blanket must be turned so that the underside is on the top without the children leaving the blanket.

Then the blanket must be turned over again the same way: have them work together without having anyone step off blanket.

If a player touches the ground (off the blanket), the game must be started over from the beginning.

#### *What you say*

Jesus invites us into a relationship with Him, but we can't always see the other side of the plan in our lives. Sometimes when things aren't going our way, it can seem like we are just getting cramped, like when we were trying to flip the blanket and we were all cramped together in the corner. But God has a plan and in time we will see what is on the other side of what we are going through. And we can't do that alone! We need other Christians to walk alongside us in church, small groups, Sunday school and everywhere we go.

## Activity 2: Dig into "BEING"

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Bible

### *What you do*

Look up the verses listed below and see if the kids can identify the ways that you can be with Jesus. (Answer key provided at the end)

### *What you say*

Let's look up these verses and see if we can figure out the different ways Jesus gave His disciples to be with Him.

Now let's brainstorm together and come up with ways we can do some of these things today!

- John 8:31
- Matthew 9:38
- Luke 4:8
- Mark 6:31
- Matthew 6:17
- Luke 15:23
- Mark 2:27

## Activity 3: Freeze Dance

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Music, open space for kids to stand and dance

### *What you do*

Have kids dance until the music stops. Then they have to freeze. If they didn't stop quick enough then they have to get tagged out or sit down until there is just one winner.

### *What you say*

If you want to act like Jesus, hang with Him! Today we are going to see how well you can listen and hang with us as we play freeze dance!

## **Activity 4: GOING/BEING (Red Light Green Light)**

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Nothing

### *What you do*

Play the game Red Light Green Light but use the words GOING for 'green light' and BEING for 'red light'. Let the kids take turns being the caller in the front. Make sure they are turned around so they don't see who is close to tagging them.

### *What you say*

Whew that was fun! You guys are super fast, and really good at GOING and BEING. Right now let's all sit down and BE with Jesus while I read this Bible verse

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Jesus is a place where we can go to just hang out with him and be with Him. When we need rest he is our safe place!



## **Activity 5: Caterpillar Hopscotch**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Masking tape or chalk if you can write on your floors.

*Optional: prep beforehand and make a hopscotch course on the floor, or use the one you had for the large group time.*

### *What you do*

Have the kids stand in line. Then they need to link up by holding hands or linking elbows

*Tip: If holding hands is an issue get some bandannas or popsicle sticks and have them hold those to link.*

Have the kids begin to go through the hopscotch game, but the catch is that they cannot let go of each other until they finish the final tenth square. They have to keep their links even while hopping. Keep going until every single person has gone through the game.

### *What you say*

Red was really frustrated when he tried to play hopscotch. He needed some practice to get through. Let's play and see if we can get through without giving up! Balancing is not easy!

## **Activity 6: One Foot Racing Game**

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Bandannas for tying legs together, starting line and a finish line

### *What you do*

Have the kids do a one legged racing game against each other (hopping on one foot), then have them get a partner and try a three legged race.

### *What you say*

Before we do our activity I want to tell you a story so everyone sit down.

*While competing in the marathon in Mexico City, John Stephen Akhwari cramped up due to the high altitude of the city. He had not trained at such an altitude back in his country. At the 19 kilometer point during the 42 km race, there was jockeying for position between some runners and he was hit. He fell badly wounding his knee and dislocated that joint plus his shoulder hit hard against the pavement. He however continued running, finishing last among the 57 competitors who completed the race (75 had started). The winner of the marathon, Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia, finished in 2:20:26. Akhwari finished in 3:25:27, when there were only a few thousand people left in the stadium, and the sun had set. A television crew was sent out from the medal ceremony when word was received that there was one more runner about to finish.*

*As he finally crossed the finish line a cheer came from the small crowd. When interviewed later and asked why he continued running, he said, "My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race; they sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race."*

Our Bible verses for today are also about racing. Can we all find Hebrews in our Bibles? Let's read this together.

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..."*

Today we did some running races. You worked extra hard to run these races and you finished like the Ethiopian, John, did. Does that mean that you got first place? Not everyone did. But you finished even when you lost your balance or messed up, and that is what is most important. It's not always whether we got first place or not, but how we ran the race or played the game.

## PRAYER

Dear God, it is amazing that you are always with us no matter what! What an incredible God you are! Jesus, we don't always remember that you are with us, and we forget to be with you and can just get frustrated instead when things don't go our way. Thank you for never giving up on us. Thank you for loving us so much that you died on the cross for our sins. We ask you to help us remember that you are always with us and you never give up on us, even when we want to give up.

Amen

### Answer Key:

- Abide in my Word: John 8:31
- Pray earnestly: Matthew 9:38
- Worship the Lord Your God: Luke 4:8
- Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest: Mark 6:31
- And when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face: Matthew 6:17
- Let us eat and celebrate: Luke 15:23 (Remembrance)
- The Sabbath was made for man: Mark 2:27

# WEEK 2

# BEING

## KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

### Theme

BEING with Jesus

### Memory Verse

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..." Hebrews 12:2

### Bible Verses

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..."

### Big Idea

Why is BEING with Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

Today we learned the importance of being with Jesus. There is no time like now for kids to start to get introduced to the concept of spiritual disciplines. These disciplines will be practiced all throughout this 40 day challenge, but specifically this week we want to focus on just BEING with Jesus. Later in our Challenge there will be many opportunities for kids to do more outwardly focused challenges, but we believe that Jesus teaches and models spending time with God the Father is what fuels the rest of his ministry.

So like Jesus, we want our kids to understand from the very beginning that our doing flows out of our being, because the strength that we are using is always Christ's strength and not by our own human attempts.

Talk to your child about the ways that you personally BE with Jesus. Use some of the ideas below to start some new habits as a family this week!

Challenge: ways your child can BE this week:

- ➡ Get a Bible that is appropriate for your age level. If you have a Bible already, put it on your nightstand and try to read a page or a section every day as a family before bed or on your own.
- ➡ Listen to worship music
- ➡ Celebrate and thank God for five things He has done for you. Plan a party to celebrate!

# WEEK 3

# FORGIVING

## Theme

FORGIVING like Jesus

## Memory Verse

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

## Bible Verses

1 John 2:1-2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## Big Idea

Why is FORGIVING like Jesus important?

## Goals

- ➡ Give examples of different ways of FORGIVING like Jesus. How did Jesus model this? How much should we forgive? Who should we forgive?

## WARM-UP

### Keep them in the air!

#### *What you need*

Balloons (not helium)

#### *What you do*

Have the kids gather in a group. See how many times they can hit the balloon to keep it in the air. If they need an additional challenge, have them use two balloons

#### *What you say*

You guys did a great job! That balloon wanted to float down to the ground, and it took teamwork and quick hands and feet to keep it up in the air. Our natural human tendency when we are wronged is to sink down, get angry and get back at them. Forgiveness takes some work! Today we are going to learn more about forgiveness: what it takes to forgive and why we should forgive.

## OBSERVATION

*In this skit Red will have a conflict with the teacher by ruining a surprise*

**Teacher:** Welcome back! We are so excited about what we are going to talk about today, but I am SUPER excited because we have a special treat for everyone later this morning! Before we get into that, we are going to do our sharing time.

Sharing Time: Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

OK, now let's review our five Red Letter challenge words:

*Go through the different hand motions and themes. Try to get a rally going with half the room calling words and half the room doing actions: then switch it up!*

**Teacher:** You guys did so well; you really deserve something extra special. And it is perfect timing because I am SOOOOO excited about the end of this lesson. It is a surprise! I don't want anyone to spill the beans. I have been keeping this secret all week and I really don't want you to find out now because I have managed to keep it quiet for so long...

**Red:** CUPCAKES!

**Teacher:** What did you say Red?

**Red:** I'm sorry! I can't keep it in anymore! I'm so excited. I have to tell them that we are all getting our own cupcake! And they are red velvet, and so sweet and soft and super yummy and we even get to decorate them ourselves...

*Teacher interrupting.*

**Teacher:** Hold on! Red! Why did you just tell them the secret? This was my big surprise. And now it's ruined.

*Red begins to look sheepish and down at his feet.*

**Red:** Oh man, I'm sorry, I know it was supposed to be a secret and we weren't supposed to tell the kids... (looks out at the crowd of kids) ...sorry kids.

**Teacher:** Well, I don't know if we should even have cupcakes anymore Red. It's not going to be a surprise maybe we should forget the whole thing. Kids, should we just forget the whole thing?

*(Kids shout NO!)*

**Teacher:** I don't know. I'm pretty disappointed that this isn't a surprise anymore. It's just...a cupcake. I know he was just excited though, so I guess that leaves just one thing I can do. Does anyone know what I should do?

*(allow crowd participation for response)*

**Teacher:** Forgive him! Right. I need to forgive Red for spilling the beans like that. It sure isn't going to be easy though.

*Teacher walks over to Red.*

**Teacher:** Red, I am going to give you something.

**Red:** What is it? A cupcake?

**Teacher:** No, it's not a cupcake. It is forgiveness.

**Red:** Forgiveness?

**Teacher:** Yep. I am going to forgive you for tell the kids what the special surprise was. I am not going to stay mad and try to get back at you. I am going to still be your friend.

**Red:** Wow. Thanks! I'm sorry that I did that. I should have done a better job of keeping that secret. It must be really hard to forgive me; I could tell you were really disappointed.

**Teacher:** Well, I was disappointed. But guess what? I mess up too. I let people down all the time. Romans 3:10 says that there is no one righteous, not even one. That's why when Jesus forgave my sins on the cross: He also forgave your sins Red: and the sins of every boy and girl here! He forgave the sins of the whole world! He doesn't remember all the bad things I did and so since Jesus forgives me, I can forgive you Red.

*Red and Teacher hug.*

**Red:** Thank you. Boys and girls, do you forgive me too for telling you what the surprise was? You do? Will you also still pretend to be surprised when we tell you what the surprise is? OK, ready? Here we go. But you have to scream and act super SUPER surprised. Let me see your best surprised face...Wow, that was really good.

**Teacher:** OK here we go: boys and girls you are going to get your own CUPCAKES!!

*Kids act surprised and scream!*

*Dismiss.*

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

### Activity 1: Treasure or Trash?

Ages: K - 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### *What you need*

A couch, a chair or just a cushion or comforter, small items to hide

#### *What you do*

Place some trash and some treasure (coins, candy, little toys, etc) in your couch/chair or under your blanket and see the kids reach down and get different items! Pull each thing out and identify it as trash or treasure. Then talk about some examples of things that we may hide in our lives that we don't want others to see. Possible examples:

- ➡ We sneak candy from our pantry
- ➡ We watch more screen time than we should
- ➡ Instead of cleaning our room we just shove everything in the closet or under the bed
- ➡ We took our sister's toy and broke it and put it back without telling her
- ➡ We lied about a broken chair even though it was us who broke it

#### *What you say*

Do you ever find treasures under your couch cushions? Just like we have to forgive when people mess up our stuff or ruin our surprises: we also know sometimes we mess up too: just like a couch that looks clean on the outside but might be messy underneath! We are going to take a risk and reach under these cushions and find out if we find a treasure or trash! Are you ready?

Sometimes just like messy things can creep under our couch cushions, we can try to hide the bad things that we do. We may act like everything is fine on the outside, but deep down underneath we are messy. God helps us to be honest about our life and find trustworthy people to tell things to.

## Activity 2: Portrait Time!

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

White board or chalkboard, markers, pens

### *What you do*

Have the children think about what Jesus might do in modern day situations: brainstorm or come up with some ways Jesus might respond to some of the things we may see today. Write the following scenarios on the board or just say them out loud.

- ➡ Someone sending a mean text about someone else
- ➡ A bad word is on the TV
- ➡ Someone takes your game and loses all your lives
- ➡ Someone cheats on a test

### *What you say*

Jesus Christ is God. If we want to see a picture of God, we can look at Jesus! He sent Jesus into this world to reveal to us what God is like, what is character is like, how he would act, how he would respond in certain situations that you or I might go through.

## Activity 3: Stone Activity (Forgiving Ourselves)

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Smooth grey stones (enough for one per child), washable markers, a bucket or wading pool of water, a towel

### *What you do*

Write something that you feel bad about or did wrong on a stone. Drop it into the bucket of water or pool and let the writing dissolve away.

### *What you say*

We have to forgive people when they do things that hurt us, and we also sometimes make mistakes and have to be forgiven. Write or draw it on a rock a mistake or regret you have and then go over to the pool and wash it off. This will help us remember that through our baptism God offers us forgiveness of sins!

## **Activity 4: Cupcake Boss!**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

1 unfrosted sugar cookie or cupcake per child (make sure you have gluten-free options for those kids who have allergies), frosting, paper plate for each child, plastic knives, a variety of sprinkles.

### *What you do*

Give each child a treat to decorate.

### *What you say*

When Jesus gives us forgiveness and takes our sins away: is so sweet, just like the treat we are about to get! Because Jesus loves us so much he died for us and can offer us forgiveness of sins and take our sins far away! 1 John 2:1 says it this way: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

## **Activity 5: It's all about dat Forgiveness**

Ages: younger ages

### *What you need*

Parachute, various kinds of balls

### *What you do*

Have the parachute down on the floor with balls of various shapes and forms spread around it. Have half the children gather around the parachute and pick it up. Now tell

them to shake the parachute and try to get all the balls out. Balls will begin flying out and the other half of the children need to run around and try to keep the balls in the parachute.

Have them switch places and try it the other way.

### *What you say*

Today we learned how Red had to practice forgiveness when Fred stole his cupcake. When people do things to hurt us like take our treats or toys or use our things without asking, we can get frustrated. We can want to get them back and be angry at them. Forgiveness isn't something we do once a day, or even 10 times a week. Forgiveness is always happening! We need to be forgiven and we need to forgive as well.

Just like we had to constantly keep putting the balls back into the parachute, we keep forgiving people.

## **Activity 6: Healing our Hurts**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Butcher paper, variety of Band-Aids (enough for each child to have 2), writing utensils

### *What you do*

Draw a big outline of a human on the butcher paper. Make sure there is enough room for every kid to write or you to write words on the inside.

Go around the room and first brainstorm what God has said about them. Write down those positive things on the paper human.

Then go around and write in some things that people have said to them that were hurtful or mean or they've heard someone else say. Write those hurtful words down on your human. Have everyone take their Band-Aid and take turns coming up and covering the mean words up with a Band-Aid until all the mean words are covered.

### *What you say*

Words can hurt us and leave permanent marks. Forgiveness can cover up those mean words and help us only see the good things that God sees and calls us.

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Forgiveness seems easy until we try to do it ourselves, then we realize it is very hard. When someone treats us unfairly or hurts us, we want to get them back. But Jesus you died for us, even though that's not fair. You made it possible for us to be in your Kingdom, and we aren't even always thankful for that! Help us to remember what you did for us when we have to forgive. Give us the strength when it is just too hard and we can't do it. We love you Jesus and thank you for forgiving us.

Amen

# WEEK 3

# FORGIVING

## KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

### Theme

FORGIVING like Jesus

### Memory Verse

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

### Bible Verses

1 John 2:1-2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

### Big Idea

Why is FORGIVING like Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

Forgiveness was the theme this week! Sometimes kids find it easier to forgive than adults do! Forgiveness is something we start teaching our kids at a young age, because we can all understand what it feels like to be hurt by someone.

Forgiveness is something that is so easy to talk about, but really hard to actually do. For kids, we start with the importance of obedience before understanding. We don't always understand completely how forgiveness works, or even why we need to forgive, but actually saying the words out loud and keeping them from getting revenge is the first steps in the lifelong lesson of practicing forgiveness.

Share your own personal stories of how you've been hurt and had to forgive. Use everyday events like someone cutting you off on the road or a mistake at a restaurant or even times when you have to break a promise you made to your child to talk through forgiveness. We forgive our children, and sometimes our children have to forgive us! When offenses happen in a family, use those as starting points to talk about forgiveness and healing.

Challenge: ways your child can FORGIVE this week:

- ➡ Write some sins that you have committed on the rocks below, or write some sins that you are angry at someone else about on that rock. Instead of throwing those rocks: drop them at Jesus's feet. He will take care of it all for you. Pray about the things you wrote on your rocks.
- ➡ Forgive someone today. Don't just say, "It's OK" or "No problem!" Actually say, "I forgive you."

# WEEK 4

# SERVING

## Theme

*SERVING like Jesus*

## Memory Verse

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

## Bible Verses

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

## Big Idea

Why is *SERVING like Jesus* important?

## Goals

- ➡ Give examples of different ways of *SERVING like Jesus*. How did Jesus model this? Why do we serve? How can we serve? How can a child serve?

## WARM-UP

### Freeze Buds!

#### *What you need*

Candy (something small like jellybeans), ice cubes

#### *What you do*

Give everyone 1 piece of candy. Let them eat it. Discuss: how does it taste? Ask everyone to put an ice cube in their mouth on their tongue and hold it there for as long as they can stand it. While they are holding the ice, hand out another piece of candy. Direct them that immediately after removing the ice (have a waste basket or sink handy if they need to spit it out) to replace it with the second piece of candy. Once everyone has tried their second piece discuss how the second piece of candy tasted compared with the first (because the ice has numbed the tongue they should not taste much of the second candy).

#### *What you say*

Why did the candy taste different the second time? What caused the change? When we only think about ourselves our heart (tongue) is numbed toward others. When we are unable to taste the second candy, that is like when we are unaware when others need help. Also, we are not able to taste the sweet reward we get of giving service to others. Jesus helps us to look past ourselves so we can see the need in others and where we can help.

## OBSERVATION

*In this skit Red will do something super nice for someone else but then expect something in return.*

**Teacher:** Hey everyone! How has everyone done in their Red Letter Challenge at home so far?

Sharing Time: Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

*As people come up to share Red seems very excited and ready to share something but Teacher never calls on him.*

*As he is not called on he gets more and more discouraged and uses facial expression, body language and sounds to express his frustration.*

**Teacher:** Wow! Another great week of amazing stories about different challenges you are doing. Hey Red did you have something to share too?

**Red:** (pouting) No and I'm not too happy with you.

**Teacher:** I'm sorry Red, you are welcome to share now!

**Red:** NO!

**Teacher:** Is it something I said?

**Red:** NO.

**Teacher:** Did you have a tough week at school?

**Red:** It was a great week at school.

**Teacher:** Oh Red, you aren't still mad about the...

**Red:** ...about the what?

**Teacher:** ...about the time I made you those cookies?

**Red:** What!?!? No, I love cookies. Why would I get mad about the cookies?

**Teacher:** You got mad that time I made oatmeal raisin cookies for you and you thought they were chocolate chip.

**Red:** Oh yeah....you have to warn someone so they aren't expecting chocolate. That was cruel and unusual punishment...but it's not even that.

**Teacher:** Well then, what was it?

**Red:** I was raising my hand the whole time and you waited until the end to call on me.

**Teacher:** Sorry. I called on you now. Are you mad I didn't call on you sooner?

**Red:** I helped you do one of your challenges this week, AND I was extra helpful to you getting ready for today. I did everything you asked so that I could be called on first! And you didn't even call on me.

**Teacher:** But Red, I thought you wanted to help me because you are my friend. I didn't realize that you wanted to be called on first.

**Red:** Yes, that was the whole point. Otherwise I wouldn't have wasted my time.

**Teacher:** Red that hurts my feelings! I always thought that real friends are those who help you out no matter what they get back. I know that's how Jesus serves; the love He gives is free without any favors back. If you only help out to get something, then you're really not serving. You're earning.

**Red:** Earning? What does that mean?

**Teacher:** Earning is working for something until you get it. Serving is giving without expecting any reward or payment. It's free!

**Red:** OK, I guess I can give you that help for free. I am your friend. I do want to help you!

**Teacher:** I know you do Red, and you were a BIG help! How about you help me right now with reviewing our 5 Red Letter Challenge weekly themes:

*\*Go through the words and different hand motions. Have them say them at super speeds and then slow them WAY down.*

Great job! This week is all about SERVING, so we are going to be learning all about how Jesus was a servant and also some ways that we can also serve!

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION



### **Activity 1: Servant of All**

Ages: all ages

#### *What you need*

Bowl, towel, soap, washcloth

#### *What you do*

Have children take turns washing and having their feet washed.

#### *What you say*

Jesus washed his disciple's dusty feet to show them that we need to serve others instead of being served. Sometimes it gets messy to serve others! Today we are going to try that, washing each other's feet!

### **Activity 2: Chore Charts**

Ages: K - 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### *What you need*

Markers, crayons, colored pencils, (optional: foil star stickers), print off a free printable chore chart like the one below by blogger Sincerely Sara D. (one for each kid)

<https://www.sincerelysarad.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CHORE-CHART.pdf>

#### *What you do*

Create chore chart for them to take home. Discuss different ideas and talk about what they already do or things they could possibly do in the future to help out around the home.

See the next page for ideas:

### *What you say*

You have been made by God to serve! We have talked about serving in the world, serving in our city, and serving in our neighborhood. Another place we can start serving right away is our own home! You may already have a chore chart at home that you use, but if you don't use this one to remind you of the many different ways that you can help out around the house.

## **Activity 3: Hand Clapper Craft**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Cardstock, hot glue, big craft sticks, buttons, crayons/markers for decorating

### *What you do*

Have kids trace their hands on cardstock and decorate/color as they would like. Cut out handprints and lay them on top of each other. (Optional: to save time you can purchase cardstock paper cut-outs, or trace and cut out enough paper hands for every kid to get two.) Using hot glue (for adult helpers only) glue 3 buttons on the inside of the fingers. Put a large craft stick in the middle of the two hands and hot glue. Shake and make some noise! Once everyone has made their clapper go around the room and share one way they have served or one way they could serve. Make sure to give a clapper round of applause after each person shares!

### *What you say*

Hands play a pretty important role in serving, it would be quite a challenge to serve without hands! We made some clappers today with hands to remind us to give thanks to God for our abilities to serve. Let's go around the room and share one way we have served or one way we could serve.

Assist in making their beds	Dust	Pick up their toys
Pick up playthings with your supervision	Get dressed with minimal parental help	Wash hands
Take their dirty laundry to the laundry basket	Make their bed with minimal parental help	Set the table with supervision
Fill a pet's water and food bowls (with supervision)	Bring their things from the car to the house	Clear the table with supervision
Help a parent carry in the lighter groceries	Write thank you notes with supervision	Help a parent prepare food
Sort colors for the laundry Match socks after clothing is washed	Be responsible for a pet's food, water and exercise	Be responsible for homework
Answer the phone with parental assistance	Vacuum individual rooms	Be responsible for belongings
Be responsible for a pet's food and water bowl	Wet mop individual rooms	Write thank you notes for gifts
Dust with supervision	Dust individual rooms	Wake up using an alarm clock
Hang up towels in the bathroom	Fold laundry with supervision	Wash dishes
Clean their room with supervision	Put their laundry in their drawers and closets	Wash the family car with supervision
Clean floors with a dry mop	Put away dishes from the dishwasher	Prepare a few easy meals on their own
Make their bed every day	Help prepare food with supervision	Clean the bathroom with supervision
Brush teeth	Clean their room when asked	Rake leaves
Comb hair	Empty indoor trash cans	Learn to use the washer and dryer
Choose the day's outfit and get dressed	Answer the phone with supervision	Put all laundry away with supervision
Help a parent clean up spills and dirt	Take care of personal hygiene	Take the trash can to the curb for pick up
	Keep bedroom clean	Test smoke alarms once a month with supervision

## **Activity 4: Hand Shadow Puppets**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

A very dark room, flashlights

### *What you do*

Arrange the kids into pairs. Have them take turns holding the flashlight for the other while the other uses their hands to make different hand puppets on the wall.

### *What you say*

The Bible says <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)  
When you had a light behind you, you were able to make a picture on the wall with your hands! In the same way, when we serve people will see your good deeds, but they will only be able to see them because of our Heavenly Father’s love shining down on you.

## **Activity 5: Pancake Breakfast!**

Ages: all ages

*Make sure you get permission from parents due to allergies*

### *What you need*

Premade frozen pancakes (microwave or toaster or kept warm with a warmer), paper plates, forks, napkins/wet wipes, paper plates, syrup

### *What you do*

Have the older kids serve a pancake breakfast to the preschool or have the older grades serve the younger or preschool kids a pancake breakfast. This is a great activity to get everyone involved. Some will be the chef, some can decorate menus and placemats, some will be the wait staff, some will be the cleaner, and someone will be in charge of syrup. They will have a blast delegating and working together.

### *What you say*

It was so fun to see you all working together as you served pancakes! Everyone used different tasks to make this happen. If one person tried to do this all it would be a mess and would take forever! They wouldn't be able to get everyone pancakes in time! When we think about serving, it is important to remember how we need others when we serve. Serving as a group is the picture of what God says is the whole body of Christ. We are not all supposed to do the same things!

## **Activity 6: Digging Deeper: Serving**

Ages: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

*Make sure you get permission from parents due to allergies*

### *What you need*

### *What you do*

### *What you say*

When we serve that it going to look different for everyone. Not everyone can be a person at the spa giving pedicures, but maybe a big sister might be really good at playing dress up with her little sister. Jesus served many times in the gospels: let's look at Philippians 2:7-8:

- <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.
- <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

## **PRAYER**

Dear God, you are the ultimate servant. You even gave up your life for us. We are sorry when we forget to serve or serve for the wrong reasons. We and so thankful that you have given us friends and families to serve around us! Please help us to see where we can be helpful to others, and also to understand how much You love us!

Amen

# WEEK 4

# SERVING

## KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

### Theme

*SERVING like Jesus*

### Memory Verse

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:16*

### Bible Verses

*<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:14-16*

### Big Idea

*Why is SERVING like Jesus important?*

*Dear Parents:*

*Today we talked about the awesome opportunity we have to both understand our own gifts and talents and then using those to help and serve others. We discussed motive for serving and that we love and serve because Christ first loved and served us. Our serving ultimately comes as a response to God's redeeming love on the cross for us and His continued love and service to us: taking care of us every day.*

*Talk with your child this week about what unique gifts and talents God has given to them. Use the list below to match up and see how they can serve this week!*

*Ways you can SERVE this week:*

- ➡ *Serve someone today who can't or won't pay you back.*
- ➡ *Make some cookies and bring it to them.*
- ➡ *Offer to pull weeds for them.*
- ➡ *Bring them flowers.*
- ➡ *Make them a cheerful card.*
- ➡ *Offer to play with some younger kids in the neighborhood so their mom can work in the yard or around the house.*
- ➡ *Offer to walk their dog for them.*

### **NEXT WEEK!!**

**We are talking about giving and want to raise money for \_\_\_\_\_.** Please pray about and discuss with your child what it would look like for them to bring a special money offering next week to raise money for \_\_\_\_\_.

# WEEK 5

# GIVING

## Theme

GIVING like Jesus

## Memory Verse

<sup>3</sup> "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Luke 21:3

## Bible Verses

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

## Big Idea

Why is GIVING to Jesus important?

## Goals

- ➡ Give examples of different ways of GIVING with Jesus. How did Jesus model this? Have an opportunity for the kids to actually GIVE to Jesus. What should we give? Who should we give to?

## WARM-UP

### Treasure Hunts

#### *What you need*

Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, Butcher paper, crayons with their paper label removed

#### *What you do*

Spread the coins out on a hard surface like a table. Cover the table and coins with the butcher paper and tape it down so you cannot lift it and see under. Have the children use the crayons to rub the paper with the crayons sideways to create a crayon rubbing image and see if they can find all the coins. Have the kids tell you how much each is worth.

#### *What you say*

Discuss what it means to be rich. Can someone be rich even if they don't have money? Can someone with lots of money still be poor? Who would think \$5.00 is a lot of money? Who do you know that would think \$5.00 is a little bit of money?

## OBSERVATION

*In this skit Red will bring in his junk to donate to others instead of things that he actually likes.*

#### *Prep*

*Ideas are provided in the script to use the following props: a bubble machine, a ball and a Fitbit. Feel free to modify and change the script to match whatever beaten up, broken or clearly used toys you have.*

**Teacher:** Hi everyone! Glad you are back here with us today! We are doing a Red Letter 40 Day Challenge and each week we are working on a different theme: but before I talk about the theme for this week let's do a quick review of the 5 themes of the Red Letter Challenge: I want to hear them nice and loud!

BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, GOING

Awesome!

Sharing Time: Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

Thanks for sharing that, great job. OK everyone stand up! Can you also show me with your motions what the 5 words are? It is going to be completely silent in here: ready:

*Teacher leads the children through the 5 motions: encourage silence during this time.*

**Teacher:** You guys are doing great. Give yourselves a round of applause! So that means that this week's theme is...

*Audience: GIVING!*

**Teacher:** Yep! Giving! I think everybody already knows what that means. I mean this is too easy! Should we just skip this one?

*Red runs on the stage dropping things out of his hands. He is holding mostly junk, toys that can no longer be used or very old and stained clothing or torn destroyed books.*

**Red:** No, no don't skip this one. I want to teach this one. I'm going to show the kids all about giving.

**Teacher:** Well, ok Red what do you have there?

**Red:** No, no don't skip this one. I want to teach this one. I'm going to show the kids all about giving.

**Teacher:** Well, ok Red what do you have there?

**Red:** Oh I am so excited to show you all that I have! I went through my room because I wanted to find things I can give away to other kids that might not have as much.

**Teacher:** That's great Red! Well what did you find to give away?

**Red:** Well, let's see I have my broken Fitbit! I left it out in the rain and it stopped working, so I just thought that maybe a kid could use it as a bracelet or something, you know?

**Teacher:** (Hesitantly) Oookay...what else do you have?

**Red:** OH! OK! Well, this was a great book of mine but the outside cover fell off and we are missing the back 4 pages because of it so you can't find out the ending...but the beginning is REALLY good.

**Teacher:** Hmmmm...what else?

**Red:** I've got a really cool bubble machine!

**Teacher:** Now that's really cool Red! Someone is really going to have fun with that when all those bubbles come out!

**Red:** Actually no bubbles are going to come out.

**Teacher:** No bubbles are going to come out? But isn't that how a bubble machine works?

**Red:** Normally yes, but some of the bubbles must have gotten into the battery section and it got all rusty and now it doesn't work anymore. But that's ok! I am going to have them pretend it's a little dog. See? If you tie on a piece of string to it and then drag it around it's like a pet!

*Have Red do this and try to drag the machine around like a pet. Keep that "pet" the rest of the skit. Have the "pet" interact with the kids, ask them who wants to pet him or give him a treat: play it up throughout the morning.*

**Teacher:** Red! None of these things work! You don't have anything that kids can play with!

**Red:** But what about this basketball?

**Teacher:** It's deflated

**Red:** Yes but if you pump it up it will work great for about 20 minutes until the air comes out again!

**Teacher:** Red, I know you are trying to give. And you ARE giving something. But you gave things away that really should just be thrown away. This stuff can't be used by anyone.

**Red:** OH well, yeah I know that but when I was looking around my room I couldn't find anything I didn't like.

**Teacher:** (Gently) Have you thought about giving away something that you might actually LIKE but maybe don't use as much anymore?

**Red:** Like what?

**Teacher:** Well, like your telescope for instance. I know that's a really cool toy, but Red, you don't really like space, and you don't ever use it. I bet you could find someone who really loved looking at the night sky. Or your Lincoln Logs. They are very neat, but you don't play with them and someone else may really enjoy them.

**Red:** Yeah ok I guess I can see about giving those away.

**Teacher:** Red, I have one more thing. What if you gave away your Xbox 360 Spiderman game?

**Red:** What? Are you crazy?! That's my favorite game!

**Teacher:** I know it is Red. But I bet someone would love to have that game. You see, giving isn't just about getting rid of stuff we don't like anymore, or even getting rid of stuff we don't use anymore. Sometimes giving is hard because we should give something we do love, like the money we've been saving for a LONG time or a favorite toy.

**Red:** I don't know if I can do that.

**Teacher:** Well, what did God give us?

**Red:** I know it wasn't his Xbox 360 Superman game!

**Teacher:** OH Red. No He gave something much better than even that!

**Red:** What can possibly be better than that?

**Teacher:** When we look at what God gave to us, it is incredible. He gave us His one and only Son Jesus. And whoever believes in him will have eternal life! God loves a cheerful giver! God loves us so much that he gave himself up for us willingly and cheerfully. And now, we trust in Jesus to save us, God give us generous and cheerful hearts to give out of worship for Him!

**Red:** I get it now. That's the MOST favorite thing to give! Jesus died so we can know Jesus.

**Teacher:** That's the best gift we can ever have! Thanks for learning with us today boys and girls!

Did you get a chance to bring in your money for insert your specific ministry or event you helped raise money for? Awesome! Red is going to collect that money and we are going to count it up and let you know how much we raised!

*Exit*

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

### **Activity 1: Snack Time! (5 Loaves and 2 Fish)**

Ages: all ages

#### *What you need*

Oyster crackers (5 for each kid), Swedish fish (2 for each kid) (Can also have extra goldfish crackers), Ziploc baggie

#### *What you do*

After distributing the snack have the children eat while listening to a kid's version of the story of John 6:1-15.

#### *What you say*

God makes a lot out of our little gifts and offerings. This is an incredible miracle of Jesus and it all started with a boy's lunch. It may not seem like much that he gave and it might not seem like much you can give, but God can do miracles with what you give. There is a story in the Bible about a little boy who gave his lunch: 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to Jesus and He used it to do a miracle and feed thousands of people. We are going to put together a snack while I read the story.

*John 6:1-15*

*After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.*

*When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.*

*Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece."*

*One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."*

*Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.*

*When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.*

*The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!" Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself.*

## **Activity 2: Story Time - The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

The Giving Tree book

### *What you say*

Red helped show us that we need to give our best, not our trash. Let's read a story about how a tree gave her best to someone she loved. Have any of you ever read The Giving Tree?

### *What you do*

Read the Giving Tree: talk about what the tree gave and why she gave so much: contrasting the boy's lack of contentment.

### **Activity 3: Guess what's in My Pocket**

Ages: all ages

#### *What you need*

A mix of change to play multiple rounds

#### *What you say*

A woman in our story gave two pennies. That was all she had in the world. It wasn't a lot, but when it's all she had, that's a whole lot to God. God wants us to know that even if we only have a little to give, it's still needed for the Kingdom of God. I have some money in my pocket. Can you hear it jingling? You can't see it, but you can hear it! I am going to let you guess how much money I have in my pocket. Whoever is the closest will get to keep the change!

#### *What you do*

Play a couple rounds of game. Let kids who get the closest to the amount keep the coins.

### **Activity 4: Give, Give, Share! (Like game of Duck, Duck, Goose!)**

Ages: younger ages

#### *What you need*

A gift wrapped empty box or some other prop that have a connection with gifts

#### *What you do*

We are going to practice being givers today! I have this gift to give, so I am going to give it to one person. When that person receives a gift, then they are the one that gets to give!

#### *What you say*

Play Duck Duck Goose-type game: but the one who is it is the giver and must place the coin/item in the children's hands. Talk about how when you are given something then you become the giver. God gives us so much, and then we get to become givers to others.

## Activity 5: Overflowing

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

1 pitcher of beans/dried corn, sand, or pebbles. Something pourable, 1 casserole pan,  
1 cup of water

### *What you say*

Let's read Luke 6:38 and see what it says about giving. "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full- pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over and poured into your lap." Now I am going to demonstrate that today with my pitcher and cup. Watch what happens when I fill this cup.

The same thing happens with our gifts from God. He pours so much out that we can't even hold it all!

### *What you do*

As you re-read Luke 6:38 pour out the pitcher and try to keep everything in the cup. Shake the cup or press it down and still there should be more running over.



## Activity 6: Big Things Start Small

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Seed packets, Avery labels, markers, pictures in a book or on an iPad of giant sequoia trees.

### *What you do*

Show tiny seeds, let them hold them in their hands. Now show pictures of trees in contrasting the seeds. Give each kid a seed packet and a label on it. Write the Bible verse out on the label along with their name. Encourage them to take the seed packets home and plant them.

### *What you say*

God can make big and beautiful things out of tiny gifts. Look at these pictures of giant trees. They all came from tiny seeds. God makes big beautiful things out of tiny gifts. He takes what we give and makes beautiful things out of it.

## PRAYER

Jesus, we thank you for bringing us here today. Thank you for showing us what giving is all about, and for being the perfect example of giving. You are an amazing God, and we want to give because of everything you have given to us. Help us when we are stingy or don't want to give to others and forgive us for those times when we don't want to or won't give the way we should. We love you Jesus,

Amen

# WEEK 5

# GIVING

## KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

### Theme

GIVING like Jesus

### Memory Verse

<sup>3</sup> "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Luke 21:3

### Bible Verses

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

### Big Idea

Why is GIVING like Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

Many of the principles of the Red Letter Challenge are things that will progress as children grow into adulthood: but often kids grasp things even easier than adults do! The giving principle is often something that is often even easier for kids to do than adults! It will amaze you at their generosity, when you give them opportunities to give and share.

We talk about motive for giving, as well as who is the Ultimate Giver, Jesus. Understanding what Jesus has given to us helps us give freely to whoever needs it. We give because we have been given everything.

Not accepting and allowing them to give extravagantly like that stifles something that is so beautiful inside. If during this week they feel prompted to give something that makes you hesitate, that's normal! Let them give! And give freely!

Challenge: ways you can GIVE this week:

- ➡ Give food to the needy. Ask your parents or an adult oif you can help clear out your cupboards or go shopping and collect food for the needy. Find a church or a food pantry in your area to drop off the food to.
- ➡ Go through closets and empty out drawers of clothes/toys to give away to a neighbor or a local second hand store or women's shelter.

# WEEK 6

# GOING

## Theme

GOING like Jesus

## Memory Verse

Acts 1:8a:

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."*

## Bible Verses

*Acts 1:7-8: He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

## Big Idea

Why is GOING with Jesus important?

## Goals

- ➡ Give examples of different ways of GOING with Jesus. How did Jesus model this? Have an opportunity for the kids to actually GO with Jesus.]

## WARM-UP

### Freeze Tag

#### *What you need*

Nothing

#### *What you do*

Play freeze tag in an open space or area. After they have played for a while, regroup on a circle on the floor to talk.

#### *What you say*

Raise your hand if you got frozen? What did that feel like? Was it hard for anyone to stay frozen in one position? I saw a lot of crazy frozen positions! With Jesus, we don't have to remain frozen in fear. He wants us to go and trust that He is always with us.

## OBSERVATION

*\*In this skit Red will not want to GO and leave all the new friends he made.*

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, we have arrived at our very last week of Red Letter Challenge! It has been so fun learning all about the different things Jesus said and what He did and also how to put them into practice! Sometimes we had fun, sometimes it was hard, and sometimes we weren't able to complete the challenge: but we all tried and that's the important part! Before we get into our last week: let's review those five themes of the Red Letter Challenge: I bet you could do this with our eyes closed! Let's try it! Everyone close your eyes...OK everyone spread out so you don't hit your neighbor...are you ready?

*Review the themes of the RLC. They should know all the motions by now.*

**Teacher:** Great job! That was a lot of fun! Now everyone take a seat. Who would like to share about a challenge they did this last week...

Sharing Time: Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

**Teacher:** Wow! Those were so awesome. Thanks for sharing! Now since this is our last week: we are ending with... (Teacher is interrupted by Red upset.)

**Teacher:** Red! What's up??? You are crying! What happened?

**Red:** I don't want the Red Letter Challenge to end. I know what the last week is all about: GOING. That means me LEAVING. I will have to leave all my new friends that I've made these last 5 weeks and I don't want to gooooo... (Red trails off in sobs).

**Teacher:** Oh Red. We are leaving and that will be sad, but when God sends us to GO, He never sends us alone. He promises to go with us. He will send people to go with us too.

**Red:** So we all have to go?

**Teacher:** Yep.

**Red:** How can we go? We are kids. We can't leave our families or our cities and schools. Going is for adults. Kids can't do that.

**Teacher:** I think kids are the best at going.

**Red:** What?!?! My mom and dad can drive anywhere they want whenever they want.

**Teacher:** Well Red, it doesn't have to be far away...

**Red:** Then what does it mean?

**Teacher:** Red, GOING doesn't always mean moving from one place to another. Going is about meeting people where they are at to show them Jesus.

**Red:** But where could that be for me?

**Teacher:** Anywhere outside the walls of our church and going into shops, parks, schools and neighborhoods to share Jesus in many ways.

**Red:** I go to school every day, and I love going to the park!

**Teacher:** Exactly, Red, and those are places where you can GO and show the love of Jesus.

**Red:** But what if someone asks me a question about Jesus and I don't know what to say?

**Teacher:** You don't need to have all the answers. The best way to tell someone about Jesus is telling them who Jesus is and what He has done in your life.

*Red starts to run away.*

**Teacher:** Teacher: Red! Where are you going?

**Red:** Oh, I thought it as obvious...I'm GOING!

**Teacher:** Go get 'em Red! Tell them about Jesus!

*Red Exits. Kids dismissed.*

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

### Activity 1: To All the World

Ages: younger ages

#### *What you need*

Paper plates, glue, hole punch, ribbon, green and blue tissue paper cut into 1 inch squares, crayons and markers

#### *What you do*

Write the Bible memory verse at the top of the paper plate. Use a hole puncher to make a hole at the top of the plate. Have them draw a picture of their neighborhood on one side of the plate then turn it over and cover the back with glue. Have the kids use the green and blue tissue paper to make a picture of the earth or a globe. Tie a ribbon to the top of the plate so that the kids can take it home and hang it up like a mobile.

#### *What you say*

Jesus has commanded us to share the good news with everyone in the world. Our craft today reminds us that we can tell the people that live near to us, but we also want to tell those that live far away from us.

## **Activity 2: Greatest Story Ever (tackling the who Jesus is piece of your testimony)**

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Whiteboard

### *What you say*

To talk about Jesus to others means we that we need to know the story of whop Jesus is. Let's spend some time as a group talking about what Jesus did on earth here and let's see if we can make a timeline and put things in order.

### *What you do*

Make a timeline of Jesus' activities: beginning with Jesus' birth and ending with the Ascension. See if the kids can put in any stories that they remember about Jesus and fill in the timeline. It's OK if you as the teacher don't know where everything goes. Use your Bible! Look it up!

## **Activity 2: Map of Your Neighborhood**

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Paper, Markers

### *What you do*

Prompt the kids to draw their house in the center of the paper. Have them draw a map on the paper of what neighborhoods look like. Then take turns sharing with each other their drawings and even who lives in the various houses.

### *What you say*

Everyone has such different neighborhoods! Jesus sends us into our neighborhoods to share Jesus and be a light. I want to see what your neighborhoods look like. Jesus had put you in that specific neighborhood to be a light! That is no accident! He has a plan for you there!

## **Activity 4: He Has Risen!**

Ages: all ages

### *What you need*

Helium balloon, bible

*Optional: Get a helium tank and give each child a balloon to take home!*

### *What you do*

Use a helium balloon to give an illustration of Jesus' ascension into Heaven. Read Acts 1:6-11.

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

### *What you say*

The Bible says that when Jesus left the earth, He simply floated right up into the sky and into heaven. We are going to watch a balloon float up into the sky now. Are you ready? Let's see if we can watch it the entire time it is leaving. Does this mean that Jesus is far away from us? No! Jesus is with us! The Bible says that God sends his Holy Spirit to come on each one of us. We are never alone even as we go and be witnesses of Jesus in our schools, homes, neighborhoods and activities.

## Activity 5: Who Else Has God Sent?

Ages: older ages

Jesus	Moses	Joshua	Gideon	Peter
Ezekiel	Paul	Jeremiah	Angels	Elijah
Samuel	Jonah	Abraham	Elisha	Shepherds

### *What you need*

A bible for every child

### *What you do*

Divide up the names so that everyone is looking up one or two of the names above. Have them write down how God sent each one of these individuals and what they were sent to do. Go around the room and share what they found to the group.

### *What you say*

Being sent is always part of Jesus' plan. He loves us and wants us to be with Him, but he also wants there to be motion! Not everyone's "GO" looks the same. Your "GO" will look different than these men in the Bible.

## Activity 6: Great Commission (Play Red Light and Red Light)

Ages: older ages

### *What you need*

Nothing

### *What you do*

One person plays the "stop light" and the rest try to touch him/her. At the start, all the children form a line about 15 feet away from the stoplight. The stop light faces away from the line of kids and says "green light". At this point the kids are allowed to move towards the stoplight. At any point, the stoplight may say "red light!" and turn around . If any of the kids are caught moving after this has occurred, they are out. Play resumes when the stop light turns back around and says "green light". The stop light wins if all the kids are out before anyone is able to touch him/her. Otherwise, the first player to touch the stoplight wins the game and earns the right to be "stoplight" for the next game.

## *What you say*

As we have learned in the Red Letter Challenge, there are times to go, and there are times to stop! It takes a listening ear to know when you have to go and when you should stop. But when Jesus says "GO", we are to confidently and joyfully go!

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord,

We want to know exactly where you want us to go. Sometimes it feels like we are stuck doing what we are told to do and we don't know how we can go. But Jesus, we know that your command to go is for everyone of every age. It's for kids as well as grownups. You call us to go, but you also promise that you will always be with us no matter what. We are so thankful for you and ask you to give us strength and help us keep learning about you and what it means to follow you and GO!

Amen

# WEEK 6

# GOING

## KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

### Theme

GOING like Jesus

### Memory Verse

Acts 1:8a: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."

### Bible Verses

Acts 1:7-8: He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### Big Idea

Why is GOING with Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

As we wrap up this Red Letter Challenge, we don't end with an easy task! Going is sometimes hard for kids to understand because they are always told "go brush your teeth", "go clean your room", "go to school". Going to kids just feels like a command to obey, rather than an invitation to adventure! We want to instill in our children the understanding that GOING with Jesus is not a task to be completed, but an adventure to embark on! It should be thrilling and intriguing.

And it doesn't matter how young they are, they are called on a great commission to be a witness. They have the Holy Spirit with them at all times, and they never go alone.

Challenge: ways your child can GO this week:

- ➡ *Have dinner with your family sometime this week. Maybe you do this every day and this is a super easy challenge for you. If it is, I want you to lead the family in prayer before dinner.*
- ➡ *Say hello to neighbors you haven't met yet. Make them some bread or warm cookies or bring them flowers.*
- ➡ *Or, say hello to someone you don't know at school or at practice or at church. Offer to help them or sit with them. Ask them what their name is and tell them yours. The first step in making a new friend is as simple as "hello!"*