

Reach Out, I'll Be There

Bible Story: Reach Out, I'll Be There (Peter Goes to the House of Cornelius) • Acts 10

Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others.

Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*
Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WARM UP

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: a whiteboard, a dry erase marker (or a piece of paper and pencil)

What You Do:

- Ask kids to name some celebrities they've heard of: characters from TV, movies, or YouTube; famous athletes or musicians.
- List them on the whiteboard.
- Ask:
 - Who do you think is richer?
 - Most famous?
 - Best looking?
 - Coolest?
 - Nicest person?
- Ask kids to rank these celebrities by which one would make a good friend.
- As they rank their list, ask them what qualities the different celebrities have that would make them a good friend.

Extra Guests

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Cotton balls, straws

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams and line them up on one side of a table.
- Give each kid a straw.
- On the other side of the table, lay out a big pile of cotton balls.
- Pick up a cotton ball for each kid and hand it to them.
 - The first kids must use the straw to blow their cotton ball to the other side of the table (or room if you use the floor).
 - Then, they grab an extra cotton ball and blow both cotton balls back to the beginning.
 - They can blow one cotton ball part of the way, then the other to catch up to it, or blow both cotton balls together.
 - BUT, they cannot blow a single cotton ball all by itself to the other side, then come back for the other one.
 - When both cotton balls have made it back to the team, the child can choose one cotton ball from the new pile, and repeat the process.
- Play for a certain amount of time or to a predetermined number of cotton balls. Use some friendly competition with other members of the family to build excitement.

What You Say:

“When Cornelius sent people to Joppa to get Peter, he must have really hoped that Peter would return with his friends! Why might Peter have been against going to Cornelius’ house? (*Invite answers: Cornelius wasn’t Jewish, he was a Roman soldier; Peter might have wanted to keep preaching only to the Jewish believers who were like him, etc.*)

“How did God make sure that Peter was ready to go to Cornelius? (*God sent Peter a vision about food. God showed Peter that he must preach to everyone, not just Jews.*)

“What happened when Peter and the others finally got to Cornelius’ house? (*Peter told them about Jesus. Cornelius and his family believed. The Holy Spirit was with all of the new believers.*)

“God made sure that Peter was ready to preach to the new people, and He made sure that this story is in the Bible so that we can all see that **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes how you see others**. Peter and Cornelius could have been enemies, but because of Jesus, they became friends and brothers in the same faith. They both believed that what they’d heard from God was true even when they couldn’t see it!”

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you have 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- If Peter hadn’t gone to Cornelius’ house and shared about Jesus with them, what do you think might’ve happened? (*a lot fewer people would have heard the Gospel, Cornelius and his friends might not have heard*)
- Why do you think it’s sometimes hard to accept or love those who are different from us?
- Who in your life do you need to see differently? (*Help kids not to name names, but just to describe situations or relationships.*) What are some prayers you can pray to ask God to change how you see those people?

Find It

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: “Crossword Verse” Activity Page (last page of this doc), pencils

What You Do:

- Recite this month’s verse, Hebrews 11:1.
- Give each kid the “Crossword Verse” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to find all of the words from this month’s verse and circle them.
- As they work, engage them in conversation about the verse and this summer’s Life App of faith.
 - If faith is believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see, what are some things you *can* see (or hear, feel, experience) that help you know Jesus is real? (*My church, the love of my family and friends, nature*)
 - What’s one thing you learned this month about God’s story?

What You Say:

“You did a good job finding our verse today. God told Peter that he should give others a chance. And Peter had faith in God, and obeyed what God asked Him to do. He found people to share the story of Jesus with! It’s important to find people in your life to give them a chance to hear God’s story. **[Bottom Line] Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others**. Think of someone who you might need to see differently. Ask God to change how you see that person, then make the effort to show them that Jesus loves them!”

Pray and Close

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: “Faith Log” Activity Pages from the previous weeks, pencils or markers

What You Do:

- Gather the kids for prayer and ask them this week’s Big Question from the Faith Log: Who do you need to really see this week?
 - Explain this question to your younger, more concrete kids: Who do you need to treat the way God treats them?
- Invite kids to use pencils to write in their “data” and talk about how ***[Bottom Line]* knowing Jesus changes how you see others.**
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus for each and every one of us. Please help us to have faith to see how You love our friends, neighbors, and even our enemies. Give us eyes to see them the way You see them and help us treat them the way you would have us treat them. Amen”

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BEING

FAITH

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WHAT

What to Do:

Print one copy for each kid.

Crossword Verse, NIrV

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