

KIDS DISCIPLESHIP (3-5)

FEBRUARY 24

BIG IDEA

Jesus understands my challenges.

BIBLE

Jesus Predicts His Death: Mark 8:31-38

REMINDERS

*All materials will be provided for you. Please stop by the Leader Table and pick everything up.

*6:10 - Please go ahead and sit down with your group and get started.

*6:43 - Ben will play the 2 minute countdown for everyone to gather to watch the video together.

*6:45 - 5th Graders will lead everyone in saying "The Lord's Prayer", together.

*6:46 - Large Group Leader, Mary Leslie Tipps, VIDEO

*7:20 - Please stop and clean up your space. Take your cart and line them up under b-ball hoops.

*7:25 - Please allow your small group to leave and walk down the stairs to sit by the Jesus Mural.

*7:25 - Leaders, you may leave with your own children, before you get stuck in carpool traffic!

*7:30 - Carpool Pick-Up begins.

VIDEO | Challenge Accepted (6:45)



CONNECTION (6:10)

6:10: Go ahead and get started as soon as the first child shows up in your small group. Ask them about their week. Be sure to tell them about your week, also. Things you have talked about together in your group, and prayer requests. How did they do on that test they were studying for? How are they feeling at home, since their parents got divorced? How is your grandma feeling after her surgery?

GAME | Final Countdown

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** -Play a sports version of, "Rock, Paper, Scissors." You must do an exercise pose at the count of three: A squat for rock, a forward lunge for scissors, and a jumping jack for paper. (Catch: Small group Leader against each kid!) Play until only one person remains.-

GAME | J-E-S-U-S Basketball Challenge - Need small basketballs and small cans

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This game is played just like the basketball game, "HORSE." The Small Group Leader takes the first shot. Creative Examples: Bounce it twice, Under the leg, Jump and Shoot, Use Non-Dominant Hand, etc. The first kid attempts the same shot. If they miss, the kid gets a "J." Each person gets one shot. Repeat. Play until someone gets J-E-S-U-S. (I hope I explained this well enough. Hopefully, the kids in

your group know how to play.)

ACTIVITY | See Like a Referee - Need a Referee whistle wrapped in plastic wrap

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-Courtney will wrap a whistle in layers and layers of plastic wrap to form a ball of plastic wrap around the whistle until you can no longer see what is in the middle. The group must pass the ball around, each kid taking one layer of plastic wrap off and then passing it to the next.-
- **POINT OF THE ACTIVITY**
- **SAY:** Referees are often in great shape, observant, have strong character, and can make decisions quickly because they can see the game from a different point of view.
- **SAY:** When Jesus sees your challenges, Jesus sees them from a big picture point of view.

SCRIPTURE | Mark 8:31-38 - Need Bibles

- **SAY:** I can't believe we've reached our last week of "Challenge Accepted!" We have learned that no matter what kinds of challenges we face, Jesus takes care of us, shows us the truth, and helps us when we are tempted.
- **SAY:** In today's Bible story, we find that Jesus faced a very serious challenge, and it involved having to make a prediction. **Do you know what a prediction is? Have you ever made a bet or tried to guess who would win a game?**
- **SAY:** You see, Jesus also had to make a prediction, but it involved himself. Jesus predicted when he was going to die.
- **[Read Mark 8: 31-33.] How do you think you would have reacted if you were Peter or any of the other disciples?** Jesus just told his closest friends that he was going to die soon. Jesus knew it needed to happen to save the world from sin, but his friends did not know this. They didn't understand why Jesus would choose this.

- *[Read Mark 8:34-38.]* Jesus reminds his friends that anyone who loves God has to do what Jesus was doing – which is to let go of our own way and follow God's way. It must have been so difficult for Jesus to accept that he was going to die, especially because he really didn't deserve to. But he was going to obey God because that was the way God was going to save everyone from sin. Jesus accepted the challenge.
- **SAY:** We have to accept the challenge, too. It's not always easy to choose to do the things God wants us to do. And trust me, Jesus gets it. Jesus knows how hard it is. But we know, like Jesus did, that God's ways are always better – even if we can't see it just yet.

ACTIVITY | Challenge Accepted or Rejected?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give one volunteer from your group a challenge from your prepared list. Ask the kids whether they accept or reject this challenge. If they accept, they must say "Challenge accepted!" and do the task.-
- **List of Example Challenges:**
 - *Fifteen-Second Mannequin Challenge*
 - *Try Not to Laugh Challenge*
 - *Dance Routine Challenge*
 - *Impersonate a Voice Challenge*
 - *Twenty-Second Don't Blink Challenge*
 - *Guess The Lyrics Challenge*
 - *Say the Alphabet Backward Challenge*
 - *Eyes Closed Selfie Challenge*
 - *Try Not to Sing Challenge*
 - *Name Five Disney Princesses Challenge*
- **POINT OF THE ACTIVITY**
- **SAY:** There are many challenges we take on because we know we can handle them. But we don't accept every challenge that comes our way. Sometimes, challenges we didn't ask for happen and they can be very difficult to manage.
- **SAY:** However, no matter what it is, know that Jesus gets it. And Jesus

will help you through it. Remember, **Jesus understands our challenges.**

ACTIVITY | Legs of the Race - Need Bandanas or Scarves

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using bandanas/scarves, tie together the leg of one person to the leg of another in the entire group, and instruct them to try and cross from one side of their space to the other. Once they arrive, untie them and only tie together two kids legs at a time. Instruct them to go back to the other side, only being tied to one other person.*
- **SAY:** Which was more challenging, being tied to one other person or being tied to your whole group?
- **POINT OF THE ACTIVITY**
- **SAY:** Being tied to your whole group is like being led by other people. Being tied to only one person is like walking alongside Jesus.
- **SAY:** The most important thing we can do is to listen to how Jesus is leading us instead of following what the crowd says we should do.

REFLECTION | Ping Pong Problems - Need Ping Pong Balls and Cups

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide a ping pong ball for each kid and four different cups for the kids to choose from. Cups will be labeled with: "Challenges at School", "Challenges at Home", "Challenges with a Friend", and "Challenges in the World."*
- **POINT OF THE ACTIVITY**
- **SAY:** Think about the biggest challenge you are facing at the moment. In which of these buckets would you say your challenge goes? Put your ping pong ball in that bucket.
- **SAY:** Though we might face different challenges, we can all remember that no matter what we're dealing with, Jesus understands and Jesus will help us with any challenge that comes our way.
- **SAY:** We might not fully understand each other's challenges, like Jesus does. But as part of God's family, we should always encourage and support each other.

MEMORIZATION/ RING TOSS - Need paper plate rings and small orange

cones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *In order to practice memorizing THE LORD'S PRAYER this week, short phrases of The Lord's Prayer will be written on paper plate rings. The Kids and Small Group Leader will take turns tossing the rings (IN ORDER) onto the small orange cone, while saying The Lord's Prayer outloud.*

PRAYER TIME

- **SAY:** Jesus, we love You so much! Thank You for the way You understand our challenges. Thank You for helping us through difficult times. We know that You went through challenges here on Earth, and that's how You help us through ours. Remind us to look to You whenever we have a challenge in our own lives.

DISCUSSION

- **How many days later did Jesus raise from the dead?**
- **Why did Jesus have to die?**
- **What did Jesus say a Jesus follower has to do?**
- **Re-read Mark 8:33. What do you think it means to have in mind the concerns of God instead of human concerns?**
- **What do you think it means to "take up your cross?"**
- **When Peter found out Jesus' death was inevitable, how do you think Peter felt?**
- **Do you think it was challenging for Jesus to tell the disciples about the upcoming death?**

ACTIVITY | Bracelet/Game Plan - Need leather cord, beads, and scissors

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask kids to describe what they've learned this month in a catchy sports slogan (WWJD, Challenge Accepted, Jesus MVP, Team Jesus). Then have kids create a bracelet containing that phrase.*

- **POINT OF THE ACTIVITY**23ed
- **SAY:** This month, we talked a lot about the challenges Jesus faced, and how Jesus shows us what to do when we face challenges of our own. Remember that whatever you are going through, you are not alone – Jesus has been there. Jesus understands your challenges. Jesus accepts you and your challenges. Let's accept the challenge to follow Jesus the best we can!

JOURNAL TIME - Need your Journals and Pens

- *Write "Jesus understands my challenges."
- *Write Mark 8:33 and the Bible Verse.
- *Take prayer requests. Write them down.
- *Pray for each other.

MEMORY VERSE | I John 5:5 (ESV)- Need 4 Muffin Tins and 24 ping pong balls

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse by having each kid place the ping pong balls (IN ORDER) into the 24 muffin tin spaces.*