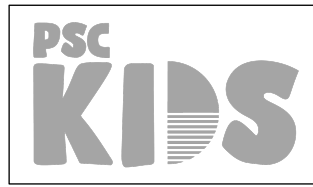


UPPER ELEMENTARY

May 12, 2024



“To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in
the heavens!” Psalm 123:1



BIG QUESTION: What allows us to not be moved by life's ups and downs?
(Trusting God in prayer because He is trustworthy)

Psalm 125:1-5

- ¹ Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- ² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.
- ³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.
- ⁴ Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!
- ⁵ But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

Family Worship (20 minutes)

Objective: Worship together with our families and the congregation

Game (all Elementary) (10 minutes)

Objective: Get some energy out in a fun and controlled way

Video (all Elementary) (5 minutes)

Objective: Introduce the Scripture to the whole group

Circle Up & Discuss (20 minutes)

**UE goes to classroom with beanbag chairs*

Objective: The lesson becomes personal as we dig deeper in discussion

Pray Together (*5 minutes)

**take as much time as needed*

Objective: Talking to God is our greatest privilege

Personal Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Objective: Journal to God about what you have learned today

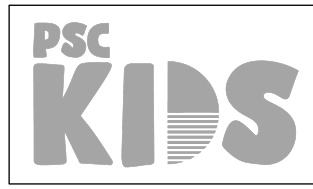
Review (all Elementary) (3-5 minutes)

**UE goes to back to large group room*

Objective: Reinforce what you've learned.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

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BIG QUESTION: What allows us to not be moved by life’s ups and downs?
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Family Worship Experience (20 minutes)

The goal of a family worship experience is to allow children to witness their loved ones drawing near to God as well as connect with the congregation. This incorporates a sense of belonging for the kids, not just in kids ministry, but as a part of the whole body of Christ.

Game (10 minutes)

The game will be a simple game that serves as a time for both Lower and Upper Elementary groups to interact and learn together. This also gives kids a chance to get their energy out and helps settle them in for the upcoming lesson. Supplies and instructions will be provided.

Video (5 minutes)

Before splitting into LE and UE groups, kids will watch a short video that helps to introduce the Scripture Passage and topic of the day.

Circle Up & Discuss and Pray Together (25 minutes)

The goal of this time is to really dig into the scripture passage and spend time in open dialogue with the group. After the video, you will transition to a space that provides a relaxing environment where the group can circle up together. This is more of a small group setting than a classroom setting to encourage sharing and interaction with each other and the leader. This time will be structured as follows, but allow the time to be guided by the needs of the group:

- **Connect the video point**
- **Read the Scripture Passage**
- **Explain / Make it Personal:** Look up any words that may be confusing with the kids and give personal examples for clarity.
- **Sermon Point:** This could be a statement, a story, an example, etc. that comes straight out of the sermon. This is our opportunity to give families a united *full family experience!*
- **Discussion questions**

Each week may look a little different, but the goal of this time is always to **(1) answer the big question, (2) make the verses become real and personal to the kids and (3) connect with the sermon creating a united full family experience.**

Once you have worked through the passage, spend time praying with the kids. Ask for prayer requests. Give the kids an opportunity to pray, but let them know they don’t have to pray out loud if they don’t want to.

Personal Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Each week we will spend time in personal reflection as kids write in their “Give Thanks Journals”. Instrumental music can be played from your phone during this time. Kids should be encouraged to be silent and respect their neighbors as they journal. As they finish, have them put their journals back in their cubby.

Review & Dismissal (3-5 minutes)

Both Elementary groups will come back together for a fun review game in the large group room as they await dismissal. Use this time to drive home the main point of the day.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

May 12, 2024



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BIG QUESTION: What allows us to not be moved by life's ups and downs?
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GAME: Memory Verse Jenga

Remove blocks trying not to have the tower topple, while also trying to get all the blocks with the memory verse words loose. As the blocks with the words are removed, arrange the verse in the proper order.

VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3zmdxDo-po>

TRANSITION TO UPPER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

CIRCLE UP & DISCUSS:

Gather around in your circle and begin by discussing the video:

(The goal of this time is for the kids to see the importance of prayer)

1. What are some things that protect you?
2. Who are some people you trust to protect you?
3. What was the unique protection the video talked about? (prayer)
4. Why do you think we can trust God with our prayers for protection?

EXAMPLE: Abraham is known as a man of faith in the Lord. He trusted the Lord even when asked to sacrifice his son whom he had prayed for many, many years. He trusted the Lord when the Lord called him to leave his home town and go to an unknown place. He trusted the Lord with protection for his nephew as he pleaded in prayer. (elaborate and encourage discussion as a group)

Have someone read Psalm 125:1

Begin open dialogue about what it is like to be immovable.

(The goal of this time is to get the kids thinking about how life has ups and downs and how we respond to those times)

1. What happens when a strong hurricane comes on shore?
2. What are some things that will likely not be moved by hurricane force winds?
3. Why do you think the example of a mountain is used here?
4. What times in your life have you felt you “could not be moved”?
5. What times in your life have you felt you “were tossed about easily”?

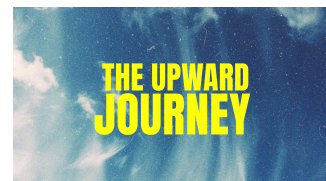
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BIG QUESTION: What allows us to not be moved by life’s ups and downs?
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EXAMPLE: Although Abraham was known as a man of great faith, the Bible shows us many ups and downs in his life. While he trusted in the Lord with many things, there were times when he failed to trust the Lord as well. On more than one occasion, Abraham lied about his wife being his sister because he feared for his life from leaders of countries they visited. (elaborate and encourage discussion as a group)

Have someone read Psalm 125:2

Begin open dialogue about how it feels when we are afraid.

1. Why does it feel good to get a hug from someone we trust when we are afraid.
2. How do you respond if you feel someone you don’t trust surrounding you?
3. Why is it sometimes hard to trust others when we are afraid?

SERMON CONNECTION:

We are only as strong as what we put our faith in. Say that with me. **We are only as strong as what we put our faith in.** When we trust someone, or something, we **depend** on them, **rely** on them and feel comfortable **leaning** on them.

InterACT it:

Let’s use this chair as an example. When I sit down in this chair, I have put my faith in the fact that it will hold me up and not allow me to fall to the ground. Now, I didn’t have to inspect this chair before I sat down in it. I saw the chair, trusted it as a chair and sat in the chair putting my faith in it to hold me up.

Why do you think I could so easily trust in this chair? (allow kids to answer – we trust in the things that have always been trustworthy). I have sat in many, many chairs and I have never (hopefully) had a chair not hold me up when I sat down in it. (if you have had a chair collapse on you before, share with the group and enjoy a good laugh together). So, when I see a chair, I can trust it because chairs have been dependable to me in my life experiences.

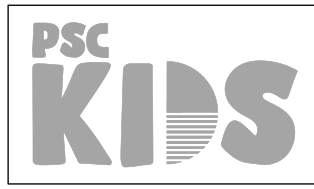
The goal of this time is to drive home the main point of trusting God because He is trustworthy.

RECAP:

So, our video encouraged us to trust God with our prayers for protection. And our Bible verse reminds us that those who trust in God cannot be moved. And, our chair illustration reminds us that we trust what we find trustworthy. All this together teaches us that **we can trust in God through prayer because He is trustworthy.**

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May 12, 2024



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BIG QUESTION: What allows us to not be moved by life's ups and downs?
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PRAY TOGETHER Ask kids for any prayer requests and spend time in prayer. (this can either be done around the tables, or you can come back together on the carpet)

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Have kids grab their journals from their cubby and find a place where they can write or draw quietly in their journals. Play soft or instrumental music from your phone or the tv in the classroom. Explain to the kids that when the music is playing, they are to be silent. As kids start to get restless, give them one minute to finish up and have them put their journals back into their cubbies. Proceed to large group room for review and dismissal.

TRANSITION TO LARGE GROUP ROOM

REVIEW: Ask various questions about today's lesson as you await dismissal.