



# PRESS PLAY

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

VBS 2021 | ELEMENTARY

SMALL GROUP

# DAY 1

## JESUS'S FLOCK

**WHAT YOU NEED:** two paper plates, "ears" from the "Ears Template" Activity Page, cotton balls, glue, craft sticks or brushes, scissors, elastic string (optional)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- With a parent's help, cut a 6" hole out of the middle of a paper plate.
- Turn the plate "upside down" so that the middle is higher than the edges.
- Squeeze a line of glue around the rim of the plate, spread it with the craft sticks or brushes, and then attach cotton balls. Add more glue as needed.
- Use a pencil to recreate the ears using the template
- Cut out the ears and glue them to the back of the plate. Have the ears stick out slightly to the side.
- If you have string, poke holes on either side of the mask and tie the string to make the mask hands-free.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

The Bible calls Jesus the Good Shepherd. And just like a shepherd knows each and every one of his sheep, Jesus knows YOU! He knows the things you like and don't like; He knows the things you do well and the things that are hard for you; and He knows the things that make you sad and the things that make you happy. Jesus knows everything about you, and He loves you!

How does it feel to know that Jesus KNOWS YOU? Can knowing that Jesus knows you help you be brave and confident? Yes, it can! When you know that Jesus knows you and loves you, you can be confident! We can say it this way: **I can have confidence because I am known.**

And you know what? When you have CONFIDENCE that Jesus knows and loves you, you can be brave and love and serve others too! So the thing to remember today is this: **I can have confidence because I am known.**

# DAY 2

## THEY BELONGED

**WHAT YOU NEED:** a Bible or Bible app; a pen; a large, plastic storage container; water; an empty yogurt container (or small plastic cup); 5 LEGO people figurines (or similar); dry beans or other small items to represent fish; a colander, or slotted spoon, or small paper cup with holes

### WHAT YOU DO:

- If possible, take your supplies outside to do this activity.
  - Open your Bible to Luke 5 and use it to fill in the blanks for the story recap below.
1. Who were the people in today's story? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What did Jesus tell the fisherman to do with their nets? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Did the fishermen think they would catch any fish? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. When Simon and the other fishermen obeyed Jesus, they caught SO MANY fish that their nets started to \_\_\_\_\_ and their boats started to \_\_\_\_\_ !
  5. Simon was afraid and worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will fish for \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 5:10).
  6. Did Simon and the other fishermen follow Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Later, Jesus told someone else to follow Him. Who was it? \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Levi obeyed Jesus. He even had a special \_\_\_\_\_ for Him!
- Add 1" to 2" of water to your large plastic container.
  - Use your gathered props in this way:
    - yogurt container = boat
    - 5 figurines = Jesus and the other men
    - beans or other small items = fish
    - colander or slotted spoon or small paper cup with holes = net
  - Using the Bible passage as a guide, recreate the story using your props.
  - Older kid option: Video your reenactment and send it to your small group leader! Or if you have access to a stop-motion app, create your reenactment that way and share it with your group

After Simon and the other fisherman caught SO MANY fish, Simon KNEW that Jesus is God. He knew that ONLY GOD could help them catch that many fish. And when Simon realized that Jesus is God's Son, he was scared. But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will fish for people" (Luke 5:10, NIRV).

Jesus wanted Simon and the other fishermen to know that they BELONGED with Him. He wanted them to have CONFIDENCE that He had a special plan for their lives. Jesus has a special plan for YOUR life too! And Jesus wants you to BELONG with Him. You can say it this way: I can have confidence because I belong.

Answers:

1. *Jesus, the fishermen, Levi*
2. *To put them into the water*
3. *No; they had fished all night and hadn't caught any fish*
4. *Break; sink*
5. *People*
6. *Yes, right away they left their boats and nets and followed Him.*
7. *Levi, a tax collector*
8. *Feast*

# DAY 3

## HURRY DOWN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** “Tree” Activity Page; “Zacchaeus” Activity Page; crayons, markers or colored pencils; scissors. Optional: 1” green tissue squares and glue sticks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Color Jesus, Zacchaeus, and the tree trunk.
- If you’re using the green tissue squares, glue the “leaves” to the tree.
- Cut out Zacchaeus and place him on the top of the tree.
- Read Luke 19:1-10 and move Zacchaeus down the tree when you get to that part of the story.

Did you know that we are all like Zacchaeus? Everyone sins and does wrong things. But just like Jesus forgave Zacchaeus, if you ask Him, God will forgive you of the wrong things you do. Our sin puts distance between us and God. That’s why God sent His Son—to bring you closer to Him. Jesus came to earth and gave up His life so you can have a relationship with God and be His close friend.

Just like Zacchaeus was forgiven, you can be forgiven too. Knowing that God will forgive you for every wrong thing you’ve done should make you feel happy and thankful. It can even help you feel bold and brave. Remember this:  
**I can have confidence because I am forgiven.**

# DAY 4

## A NEW CREATION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible or Bible app; pretzels or chips; bowl and spoon; a variety of condiments, including things like ketchup/mustard/mayo/relish, ranch dressing, dried herbs/spices, soy sauce, salsa, chocolate syrup, canned frosting, sprinkles, pie filling (You don't need all these things, but pick your favorites.)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Open your Bible or Bible app and read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- What do you think "a new creation" means? \_\_\_\_\_
- It's time for YOU to make a new creation! Using all the condiments you gathered, you're going to create a new dip for your pretzels or chips!
- Grab a bowl and spoon and choose a few items to mix together to create a new dip.
- As you mix up your creation, be creative, but remember you're going to want to taste your creation!
- When the dip is ready, break out the pretzels or chips and taste test your new creation. Invite a family member to taste it too! Share with them what it was like to make a new creation.

Check out what you made. Did you know that your dip can't be "unmade" or taken apart? Even if we put it in a giant separator machine in a lab, these ingredients are fused together. If you mixed together mayo and chocolate syrup, nothing can take them apart. They can never be separate again.

The verse you looked up earlier says, "When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIRV). That's a big change! It's permanent, like the dip you made.

Have you ever had a big change in your attitudes, habits, or actions? What was that like? Write about it here, or share with a parent or sibling.

\_\_\_\_\_

There's a difference between changing your actions and changing your heart. What do you think the difference is?

\_\_\_\_\_

Which one lasts longer? \_\_\_\_\_

Say this out loud: **I can have confidence because I can change.**

If your dip turned out well, share your new creation with your family! And don't forget to clean up!

# DAY 5

## MUSICAL NOTES

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Decoder" Activity Page, pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Fill in the blanks using the musical notes code.
- Read out loud what you've decoded.

What did Jesus command us to do? Our Memory Verse is a command. A command means it is not optional. That's a big deal! Once you understand what God has done for you because He loves you, you are commanded to love others. God wants you to love others because when you do, they get to experience God's love through you.

Do you know someone who needs to feel loved? Maybe you have someone in your life who annoys you. Or maybe someone is mean to you and ignores you. Maybe you know someone who is constantly excluded and feels left out. Even though it might be scary to find ways to show love to them, it's important to remember that God is with you and He will show you what to do.

Remember this truth today: **I can have confidence because I can make a difference by loving others.**