

Story Discussion/Application

Bringing Jesus to Their Level

We've all struggled with asking our kids, "What did you learn today?" The typical answers I get are, "I can't remember," or, "Jesus." Here is a way to help them remember what they learned while reinforcing what it can mean to them.

For preschoolers, it's a good idea to recap the story a bit as you help them think about what it can mean to them (kindergartners are starting to think a bit deeper but it won't hurt for you to do this with them as well.)

Here's a dialog you can use with your kids and some questions you can ask to get them thinking:

Our Bible story, today, was about a man named Paul who loved Jesus. Paul traveled to a city called Rome so he could tell the people about Jesus. He told them that everything Jesus says is the truth (*give two thumbs up*), because Jesus always tells the truth. (*Give two thumbs up.*) We can read Paul's story in the Bible. (*Hold up the Bible.*)

Paul wrote down what he knew about Jesus so we could read it and believe in Jesus, too. **Who can believe in Jesus?** (*Pause.*)

That's right! And when we read the Bible, it helps us believe in Jesus. Our Bible verse even says that, "*These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,*" John 20:31.

All of the stories in the Bible were written to help us believe in Jesus. Let's stand up and say that verse together with the motions.

"These are written (open your hands like a book) so that you (point out) may believe (point to head) that Jesus is the Christ, (point up) the Son of God. (Rock baby.)" John 20:31. (*Open your hands like a book.*) (*Repeat the verse with the motions a few times.*)

And that's the truth! (*Give two thumbs up.*) Now, let's sit down so we can talk to God.

Paul wanted us to know that everything Jesus says is the truth. So, what are some of the things Jesus said? Let's think together and make a list of some of the things Jesus said. *(Make a list together with your family instead of asking each family member individually.)*

EXAMPLES: Jesus said He is God's Son. Jesus said He loves everyone. Jesus said to follow Him. Jesus said to love people the way He loves us. Jesus said He will always be with us. Jesus said He will hear us when we talk to Him. Jesus said to let the children *(name each child)* come to Him.

Wow! Jesus said A LOT of great things, and they are ALL true. Let's use our list to thank God for all the things Jesus said. Before we pray, let me ask you a few questions.

(These questions may be more difficult for younger, preschool kids; they are designed to get kindergartners thinking.)

- What do you like most about Jesus?
- What do you think it means to follow Jesus?
- What is your favorite true story about Jesus?
- Who can you share that story with so they can know Jesus too?

Would you like to pray before I pray?

(Give your child an opportunity to pray if they want to.)

Prayer

Dear God, it is so wonderful to know that we can believe in Jesus and everything He said, because everything Jesus said is true. Because Jesus said it, we believe that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus loves everyone. Jesus wants us to follow Him. Jesus wants us to love people the way He loves us. Jesus will always be with us. Jesus will hear us when we talk to Him. Jesus wants all children, *(name each child)*, to come to Him. I pray we will always believe in Jesus and what He said. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.