

GOD NEVER CHANGES

The Great I AM - Small Group

God is awesome
He has a big plan for me
God wants to be my closest friend

THE ESSENTIALS: GOD THE FATHER

Main point: God never changes. He is always the same.

FOR LEADER ONLY

God is the same as He was in the Bible times, and He'll be the same forever and ever. The Bible is full of stories illustrating this. Moses saw all the circumstances around him change. Once He remembered that his God was the God of his ancestors and there was nothing too difficult for Him, he was able to be used by God to lead His people. He brought them out from under the rule of the Egyptians and led them to a land better than they could have asked for or imagined. In the same way, children need to know that the God they read about in the Bible is the same God they sing to and ask for help today. They need to know that they can turn to God at any time and that our God, who never changes, can help them through hard times. Then they will be confident to trust God. They will turn to him when they need help. Others will see the peace in their lives and get a glimpse of the awesome, unchanging God we serve.

OFFERING

Ask the children to place any offering that they brought in the specified location.

PRAISE

Sing one of the songs that you have been singing in the large group session together as a group. Ask to use the poster board with the words written on it to hold up for the children while you are singing.

DECLARATION

The declaration is an opportunity for everyone to declare how the material that they learned today affects what they believe. Have the kids repeat the declaration after you phrase by phrase.

We're going to declare what we believe today. Please repeat after me:

God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I trust in God, and He helps me.

suggested
ages:

5 - 8 **PASS THE BALL**

The objective of this game is to review what the children learned during the lesson and reinforce the idea that God never changes.

MATERIALS NEEDED

a ball or stuffed animal

a list of questions prepared in advance

Good morning, kids. I want to play a fun game. First, I'll need everyone to come over here and sit in a circle.

The teacher should bring the ball or stuffed animal to the circle.

In just a minute, I am going to ask a question about our lesson. When I ask the question, don't answer it yet! I will pass the ball/stuffed animal to someone. The person who has the ball is allowed to speak. That person must answer the question. If you get the ball passed to you and you don't know the answer to the question, then I will ask the people who know the answer to raise their hand. We'll pass the ball to someone who knows the answer and then that person can answer.

So, remember - do not talk if you don't have the ball. Are there any questions? Let's begin.

Ask a question and then pass the ball to a child. After a question has been answered, have the child pass the ball back to you and begin again.

1. What strange thing did Moses see?
2. What was Moses doing when God spoke to him?
3. What changes did God say he wanted for his people?
4. Why did God call Himself I AM?
5. Is God the same now as He was in those stories in the Bible?
6. Is there an area in your life that has changed recently?
7. Are you in a new grade this year? Is it different?
8. Has anything in your family changed or have your friends changed?
9. Will God ever change?
10. What are some things you love about God and that you are thankful never change?
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.

Feel free to add your own questions about the lesson.

WRAP IT UP

Wow, what a fun game! That was so awesome. You guys did great and obviously you paid attention. Don't forget that God never changes no matter what. Other things may change around us all the time but God never changes. He can help us through anything. He loves you. He wants to be your friend and He is awesome!

suggested
ages:

9 + TIC TAC TOE EXTREME

The object of this game is to reinforce the lesson and main point through review while at the same time encouraging kids to think creatively and work as a team.

MATERIALS NEEDED

9 squares of poster board cut to be 2 feet x 2 feet

INSTRUCTIONS

The game is exactly like Tic Tac Toe, but played on a larger scale and with a twist. The players play on a life sized game board, with the children as the game pieces. The teams alternate turns. Each turn, the team selects a team member and place that person on a square on the game board. Then, the team must answer a question or complete a task. If the team answers the question correctly or completes the task, then the team is able to keep their player on the square. However, if the team doesn't answer the question correctly or doesn't complete the challenge, then the team must remove their team member from the game board and the other teams begins their turn. The idea is to place three team members in a row just like Tic Tac Toe. Which ever team places three players in a row first wins the game.

The best way to play this game is girls vs boys, but the children could be split up in any way. The important thing is to differentiate between the two teams. A bandana could easily do this. This game can be played more than once. If you have time, play the best out of three rounds. Think of more questions to ask and challenges to present. To decide which team goes first, flip a coin. If there is a deadlock, have the last two players come up to the front of the room. Ask a question. The first child who raises their hand and answers the question correctly wins for the whole team.

What an awesome time we had in large group! What an incredible story about how God never changes. Our God never changes, no matter what! Well, we are going to play a super fun game. Are you ready to play?

Wait for a strong yes.

Ok, I need the boys to line up on this wall and the girls to line up on the opposite wall. Can someone help me to place the squares three across the top and three down in the middle of the room?

Wait for the class to split up and someone to help place the squares on the floor. Make sure you are encouraging the children the entire time.

Great! Thanks so much. You guys are so good at this! Ok this is how we are going to play the game, but you need to listen up so that you can understand the rules.

This game is very easy. In fact, it's just like tic tac toe, but it's a lot bigger. You are going to have to work as a team in order to win. Each turn a team will be able to place one of their teammates on one of the big squares. But, in order to stay on that square, the team will either have to answer a question from the lesson or the whole team will have to complete a task. If you get the question wrong or do not complete the challenge, your team member will not be able to stay on the space and the other team will get a turn. However, if you answer the question correctly or complete the challenge, then your team member gets to stay on the square. Now, the whole point of this game is to use strategy and place three of your teammates in a row on the board before the other team does. Whichever team gets three of their teammates in a row wins the game. It's just like tic tac toe, only you have to work as a team and be able to answer questions correctly and complete challenges.

Are there any questions?

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES

If you plan on only playing the game once, pick the questions and challenges below that you like the best. Or, even better, come up with some of your own questions from the lesson and fun team challenges.

- What was wrong with the helper during the skit?
- What was the helper worried about?
- Name 3 things that change all the time.
- Place everyone on your team from oldest to youngest
- What book of the Bible is our memory verse from?
- Have everyone on the team hop on one leg for a minute
- Why was Moses afraid?
- What was Moses doing when God spoke to him?
- What did God want Moses to do?
- How did God speak to Moses?
- Why did God call Himself I AM?
- Who were the children of Israel?
- God used Moses in awesome ways, true or false?
- God always changes, true or false?
- Find someone in your group who was born in October.
- Have someone from your team stand on their head
- Did God help Moses accomplish the plan He had for him?
- Did Moses have to do everything alone?
- Our God can do anything, true or false?
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WRAP IT UP

Wow, what a fun game! That was so awesome. You guys did great, and you obviously paid attention. Don't forget that God never changes no matter what. Other things may change around us all the time, but God never changes. He can help us through anything. He loves you, He wants to be your friend, and He is awesome!

suggested
ages:

9 + WHITE BOARD BRAINSTORM

Preparation

The idea behind this activity is help kids understand why it is important that God never changes and how this can affect them in their everyday life. This is one of the most important parts of the morning because through it the lesson becomes personal and applicable for the kids.

The focus of the activity is to encourage the children to think about two questions:

- 1. What changes in my life?*
- 2. How can God help me with these changes?*

Before you begin the activity, think about something that changed in your life when you were young. Brainstorm some things that change in kids' lives. Think about some ways that God has moved in your life, especially a way that God moved during a time of change.

If you have a personal story that has to do with change and God moving in your own life, write it out and prepare to share it with the children. A personal story will make the lesson stick in their minds much better.

MATERIALS NEEDED

*white board
markers
eraser or paper towel*

INSTRUCTIONS

Gather the kids around you as close as you can. Split the white board in two by drawing a vertical line. On one side of the white board, you will write the ideas that the kids share as to the changes that happen in their lives. On the other side of the white board, you will write the ways that God can help. Encourage the children as they participate, give suggestions yourself, and expand upon what they say.

Hi kids. I need your help. Today we're talking about things that change in our lives. Let's think about some things in life that change. What are some things that change for us?

Try hard not to do all the talking. Really encourage the children to think and speak.

Great comments. There are many things in life that change. You know what the great news is in all of this? We serve an awesome God and our God is always ready to help us. What are some ways that God can help us?

Here you might have to offer some answers or suggestions. This depends a bit on the age of the kids. Following are some examples.

Changes

*I changed to a new school
My friends start doing bad things
My teachers change
I get a new brother or sister
My mom or dad gets a different job*

God Moving

*God gives me favor with people
God brings me new friends
God comforts me when I am sad
God gives me strength to make the right decisions
God helps me be strong*

BRING IT HOME

In our story, Moses' life changed in a big way. At first, Moses didn't think that he had the strength to do all God asked Him to do. However, God helped Moses to complete all He asked Moses to do. God brought people to Moses to help and encourage him. God gave him the right words to say at the right times. God gave Moses strength and wisdom to handle any problems that came his way. God even worked miracles through Moses. God loves you just like He loved Moses. God wants to and can help you through all the changes in your life. God never changes.

APPLICATION

Our God never changes. He always stays the same. Life is full of changes but we can always depend on God because He never changes. This week, let's ask God to help us with a recent change in our life. He can give us strength and wisdom to say and do the right things. He can send people our way to comfort us, He can bring us new friends, and heal hurt hearts. God is a big God and He is an awesome and powerful God. He can help us through all the change that we face in life.

PRAYER

Father God, you are such a great God. I thank You that You will never stop being God. Thank you that you had a big plan for Moses and you have a big plan for each of us. You are awesome, oh God, and you are powerful. Thank you that we know You can help us with all the changes in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.

suggested
ages:

6 + MEMORY VERSE SCRAMBLE

We suggest to only include this game if your class is 20 students or less. Otherwise, it would be a better idea to host a shouting competition between the girls and boys, have the kids shout the verse a few times and see who can do it louder.

The point of this game is to review the memory verse in a fun manner. The game can be played more than once - for example, the best 2 out of 3.

MATERIALS NEEDED

the memory verse scramble pieces cut out of poster board (For 4 - 6 year olds, write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece. For 7 and up, write each letter on a separate piece.)

enough bags containing the pieces of the memory verse so that each group (of no more than 8 children per group) can have their own bag

We are going to play a game that will test our memory of the memory verse this week. First I'm going to give you all of the instructions and then we'll get started. So for now, just listen. In just a few minutes, I am going to split you up into teams. Each team will receive a bag. Inside the bag are all the words/letters to the memory verse, but they're all mixed up. The contest will be which team can lay out the memory verse in the correct way the fastest. You'll have to work together as a team. The team to get the memory verse written out the fastest wins. Are there any questions?

Okay, so once again, the object is to arrange all the words/letters of the memory verse in the correct order. First we'll form our groups.

Split the group into groups of no more than 8 children per group. Once the groups have been formed, hand each team a bag and let them go at it!

*Once they think they've formed the memory verse, check it: **For I am the Lord; I never change. Malachi 3:6***

If they've correctly formed the memory verse correctly, give a couple more minutes to the other team to see if they can finish. If they look as though they will not get it, call time. Let the winning team read the verse aloud together and then practice the memory verse once as a class altogether.

suggested
ages:

5 - 8 COLORING SHEET

Give the children time to color the coloring sheet. Ask them what is happening in the picture and other questions to remind them of what happened in the lesson while they color. Encourage them as they color as well.