



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

September 24-25, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

He Is – Week 2 (Faithful)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God is faithful.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 4:18-21
Matthew 14:25-33
John 21:15-16
Deuteronomy 7:9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"The Sky is Falling – Emoji Edition"

Emojis are an everyday part of life now! In this video-driven game, an emoji will pop up on the screen for each round. Then, several emojis start dropping from the top of the screen – your objective is to count how many of that emoji fell from the sky. There are ten rounds, and the highest score wins! Game can be played individually or in groups!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

You may have said or heard someone say this phrase before: "He/She was there for me." What do you think people mean when they say that?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

He Is – Week 2 (Faithful)
September 24-25, 2022

Hey everybody and welcome to Week 2 of our “He Is” series! In this series, we are looking at what God is like: different qualities about Him and His character. Last week, we talked about God being sovereign and this week, we will talk about how God is faithful. Let’s jump right into our **THP (Take Home Point)** for this week!

God is faithful!

I want to tell you about a man who we read about in the New Testament of the Bible and lived in the first century named Peter. Some of you may have heard of Peter – he was a fisherman and Jesus hand-selected him to be one of his disciples. We can read about it in the New Testament in Matthew 4:18-21: *“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.*

In that time period, teachers like Jesus would have been referred to as a rabbi. That’s a teacher or leader in the Jewish faith. Rabbis would scout out young men who they thought could become their disciple. One of the stipulations for a young Jewish boy to be considered for a position like this is that they had to have the first five books of the Old Testament **MEMORIZED!** The Jewish people call it the Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. **ALL OF IT MEMORIZED!**

Think about how hard it is to memorize something for social studies or science or health class. These guys had to memorize the first five books of the Bible. That’s not all...by the time they were the age of a typical high school student and they still wanted to become a disciple of a rabbi, they had to have **THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT MEMORIZED!** Not just the first five books...the entire Old Testament!

Here’s the point – what can we conclude about Peter and his brother, Andrew, being fishermen? They didn’t make the cut for being the disciple of a rabbi – they weren’t good enough. Have you ever been cut before? Like on a sports team? It stinks, doesn’t it? You work really hard, but the coach can only keep a certain number of players, and some people get cut. Well, these guys got cut from the disciple team.

And then...Jesus shows up and He asks them to be his students anyway. He didn’t go find the best students; the ones who had everything memorized. He just went and picked some ordinary fishermen. **Jesus believed in them when no other rabbi did. He was beginning to show faithfulness to Peter by being there for him when no other rabbi would.**

THE MESSAGE

Jesus ended up picking 12 guys to be his disciples and some crazy things happened to Peter in particular. One time, the writer Matthew (who we just read from) records an experience that happened to the disciples while they were on a boat during a big storm. Jesus was on the shore praying, but because of the storm, the waves would obviously be too big to row back to shore and pick him up, right? Well, Jesus decided to take matters into His own hands!

Check out what happens in Matthew 14:25-33 in the New Testament: *“Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “Tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”*

After hearing this, you might think Jesus was upset at Peter. Like, when he says, “You of little faith...why did you doubt?” it could almost be like hearing, “You blew it again! Why did you do that?” Actually, maybe it’s the opposite. Maybe Jesus was almost like, “Peter, why did you doubt? You were doing it! You had it! Why did you doubt yourself and me?” Jesus still thought Peter had potential and still believed in him in spite of his lack of faith in this situation.

Now obviously, you have to feel for Peter. All of us have blown it at one time or another, even when we had the best of intentions. In just a few sentences, we see Peter have enough faith to walk on water, too! He also became scared of the storm and doubted if he could keep walking on the water and ultimately sank. I think we can relate to Peter a lot – there are times when we give our all to God and other times where we doubt if it’s worth it.

If you continue to read Peter’s story, he had a lot of ups and downs in his life. There were moments when he worshiped Jesus and then there were other moments, like right before Jesus was killed, where he told a bunch of people that he didn’t even KNOW Jesus. Peter was concerned that he would be killed if the authorities found out he was one of Jesus’s disciples. The crazier part is Jesus knew this was going to happen (that Peter would deny knowing him) and told Peter that, but Peter insisted that he would never do that. And yet, he did.

Here’s what happens after that: Jesus is killed but then He is resurrected from the dead. The most unimaginable miracle in human history. It proves that Jesus really was God. After His resurrection, He goes to see His disciples. Can you imagine what Peter must have been feeling? Super happy, relieved, overjoyed, and overwhelmed that Jesus is alive again, but man, I can’t help but think of the shame and sadness he also felt over what he had done.

THE MESSAGE

Jesus eventually has a one-on-one conversation with Peter. It's the first time they've talked to one another since everything happened. You know what's cool...one of the disciples, John, decided to kind of follow them from a distance so he hears everything. Do you have a friend that's eavesdropping on conversations? Usually, that's a bad thing, but in this instance, I'm glad John did that so we could know what happened. Check out what he says happened in the New Testament in John 21:15-17: *"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.' The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'"*

Put yourselves in Peter's shoes – he is looking into the face of God and a man who was his rabbi, mentor, coach, and closest friend. He said he didn't even know who he was. I mean, how do you even say you're sorry for that? However, Jesus's response is really interesting each time Peter tells him that he loves him. He says to "feed my sheep" or "take care of my sheep." What does that mean?

Jesus is using sheep as an illustration for people. Sheep need a shepherd to watch over them, care for them, and keep them from danger. It means, "Peter, take care of my disciples. Take care of and watch over all those who follow me and believe in me." Just like a shepherd does with their sheep, Jesus wanted Peter to watch over the first Christians and be their leader.

What Jesus did for Peter is a great example of God's faithfulness. He was always there for him, even when he made mistakes. In fact, after Peter makes the biggest mistake of his life, Jesus gives him the most important job he had ever given him. He didn't go ask someone else who hadn't messed up. He didn't give up on Peter. He still believed in him! Peter went on to be an incredible leader for the Church and ended up being crucified to death just like Jesus was. He gave his entire life for Jesus.

Let's go back to our **THP (Take Home Point)** one more time: **God is FAITHFUL**. Let's bring this to you and me: we need to remain faithful to God no matter our past or our mistakes. Scripture teaches that God is a God of grace (unconditional love). The promise of the Gospel is this; even when we aren't faithful to God, He is always faithful to us. Even when we aren't at our best, God is always at His best.

Do you believe that God believes in you? Do you believe that God is always there for you? I believe He has been for me. He has always given me a second chance and He has always been there for me. He has been FAITHFUL. I want each and every one of you to know that God is going to be faithful, whether in the good or the bad. He won't give up on you. Even when we let him down, deny Him like Peter did, or simply don't love Him, I promise you He will be faithful.

Even we aren't always faithful to Him, God will always be FAITHFUL to us. Let's pray. **(Teacher's Note: After praying, finish the script)**

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Our THP focused on the word faithful and there are many Scriptures that describe the faithfulness of God to us. Let's read one of those verses: Deuteronomy 7:9 from the Old Testament.

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."

How do you think God has been faithful to you in your life?

Today, we focused a lot on the story of Peter and the background of his life. Do you see any similarities between your life and Peter's life? What about some differences?

Jesus asked Peter to help start His Church after Peter made the biggest mistake of his life. What do you think this shows us about the faithfulness of God?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game slides and/or videos
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister

