

JUNE 14

## Kingdom Quest—Seeking the Greatest Treasure

**Bible Story:** The Story of the Lost Sheep • *Luke 15:1-7 (Supporting: 1 Timothy 1:15)*

**Bottom Line:** Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.

**Conversation Starter:** What is the way to God's kingdom?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIV

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY

### What You Need:

- Crepe paper/bandana
- Cotton balls

### What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Cover each kid's eyes with Crepe paper/bandana.
- Scatter a few cotton ball "sheep" on a table or on the floor.
- Challenge them to find all the "sheep" while looking only through the bottom end to see. It will be surprisingly difficult and disorienting.
- Let them try for a minute, then allow the kids to take the eye covering off and easily find the sheep.

### What You Say:

"That was pretty tough, right? When you're only looking through a tiny slit, you can miss a lot of what's right in front of you. It's easy to get a limited perspective. In our Bible Story today, some people had a very limited perspective about who belonged in God's kingdom. But Jesus told them a story called a parable to show them they were missing the big picture. Let's go hear it."

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY:

### 1. Take a Snapshot

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask the group to think about a time they lost something that was really important to them. It could be a favorite toy, a pet, or even a piece of jewelry.
- Go around the circle and let each student share their "Lost and Found" story.
- Ask them:
  - How did you feel when you realized it was lost? (*Stressed, sad, panicked?*)
  - What did you do to find it? How hard did you search?
  - How did you feel when you finally found it? (*Relieved, joyful, excited?*)
- After everyone has shared, connect their feelings to the parable.

#### What You Say:

"All those feelings you described—panic when it was lost, determination to find it, and total joy when you did—that's a small picture of how God feels about us. The Bible says we are so valuable to Him that He would search for us no matter the cost. God doesn't give up. God is like the shepherd, setting aside everything else to come and find us, even when we're completely lost and helpless. God rescues us for all time.

"And when even one person chooses to turn their heart to God and be rescued, God is so excited, and all of heaven is filled with joy! The joy of the shepherd finding the sheep is like the joy in heaven when one person is found. **Bottom Line] Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.**"

### 2. Discussion Questions

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:

# FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

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- Why did the shepherd go after the one sheep when he still had 99?
- Why did Jesus tell this parable?
- What is the way to God's kingdom?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus cares for YOU? Out of everyone in the entire world, you are special to God, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom!**

### 3. Verses to Take with You

#### What You Need:

- Timer (or smartphone or stopwatch)

#### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Matthew 6:10.
- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Explain how to play "Sit and Stand Verse":
  - Everyone starts seated.
  - Going in order around the circle, each person is responsible for one word of the Memory Verse.
  - The first person will quickly stand up, say the first word ("May"), and immediately sit back down.
  - As soon as the first person is seated, the second person stands, says the second word ("your"), and sits back down.
  - This continues around the circle, creating a wave-like effect until the entire verse is complete.
  - Try it once slowly to get the hang of it. Then, introduce the challenge.
- Say, "Okay, that was a good practice round. Now let's see how fast we can do it! I'm going to time you."
- If desired, time the group as they go through the verse. Let them try two or three times to see if they can beat their own best time.

#### What You Say:

"Nice job! That's harder than it sounds, right? It takes a lot of focus to know your word and be ready to pop

up at the exact right moment. It's a great picture of how we can point to God's kingdom. Each of us has a small but super important part to play. When we all do our part, it creates something amazing, like saying this whole verse together.

"While we can point to God's kingdom, only He can make it bigger with more people following Him as King. But that's something we so want Him to do! And that's what this month's Memory Verse is asking: *'May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven'* (Matthew 6:10 NIRV), we are asking God to do the same thing: to bring more of His goodness and love to the people around us. We want God to make His kingdom bigger and bigger, so let's pray this prayer often!"

### 4. Pray With Your Group