
REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

SERIES: A HEART OF WORSHIP

Join us throughout the month of December as we learn what it's like to have a heart of worship! We will be reading through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, Jeremiah and Luke!

REMEMBER VERSE

ZEPHANIAH 3:17—The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:35	Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
0:35—0:40	Transition to Large Group
0:40—1:00	Large Group (B100)
1:00—1:05	Transition to Small Group
1:05—1:15	Bless and Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God's Presence Inspires Worship
King David

WEEK 2: The Lord Is Our Righteousness
Jeremiah

WEEK 3: Jesus Is God's Gift
Zechariah and the Angel

WEEK 4: God's Son Brings Peace
Birth of Jesus

WEEK 5: God Honors Faith
Simeon and Anna

CURRENT WEEK: Remember & Celebrate
Feast: First Fruits

EQUIP

Feast of First Fruits: A Festival Celebrating God as Trustworthy

The Festival of First Fruits celebrates the trustworthiness of God. First fruits represent the joyous occasion of the first grain harvest of the spring. One sheaf of grain was taken to the temple as an offering. These offerings were made on the day following the Sabbath, or Sunday, and marked the beginning of the two-month spring harvest. In the New Testament, Jesus resurrected as the "first fruits" offering on Sunday, the day after the Passover Sabbath.

ENCOURAGE

God is our provider. He gives us all that we need for today. Sometimes we don't recognize His provision because it comes packaged in a way we didn't expect. Part of the discipline of thankfulness is to thank God even before we know how He will provide. Rest in the fact that He is great enough to do whatever is necessary to provide for us and believe that, in His goodness, He knows what we need better than we do.

As children of the Most High God, we're told not to worry about anything but with prayer, petition, and thanksgiving to make our requests known to God. And the peace that surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7). Thanksgiving positions our heart to respond to the character of God (James 1:1-17), not to the circumstances of our lives. As you spend time in thanksgiving and confession this week, remember it's God's character, not our perceptions or our circumstances, that brings celebration and joy to our lives.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What is your favorite thing to do for fun?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

Today, we will be playing a review game! Feel free to add any other elements to the game that is provided!

INSTRUCTIONS: Place topic signs on board. Divide class into 2 (or more) teams depending on the size of the class (some ideas to divide are: by birthday month, by clothing color, randomly numbered, etc.). Have another leader be scorekeeper. Allow the teams a minute or two to create a fun team name. Pick one team to go first. That team will choose which topic they would like to answer. The leader facilitating the game will choose the question. Allow the whole team a chance to discuss with each other their final answer. The points possible are listed on each card based on difficulty but feel free to adjust as needed. Repeat for each team. Continue game until all questions have been answered or as time permits. Encourage leaders to sit with teams to help maintain a whole team effort within each team.

SUPPLIES:

- Topic Signs
- Question Cards

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

The Festival of First Fruits reminds us that God is trustworthy. He hears and answers the prayers of His people. The Israelites knew that the crops on their land came from God and that He would always provide everything they needed.

- What does the word trustworthy mean?
- How did God show Himself as *trustworthy* to His people in The Big God Story?
- How has God been trustworthy in your life?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

PSALM 3:3-4, 8 – But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain ... From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.

BLESSING: May you remember that God hears you when you call out to Him. May you know that you can trust Him to always take care of you and give you what you need.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

STORYTELLING

During the Festival of First Fruits, God's people gave the first part of their harvest to the Lord. The Israelites would bring a sheaf, or bundle, of the first of their grain to the temple and offer it to God. It was a reminder that they could trust God to provide the rest of the harvest for them. From that day on, they counted down to the next big holiday, the Feast of Harvest, when all of the crops were brought in. The Festival of First Fruits was a time for the Israelites to put their faith in God as they remembered how He is trustworthy to provide for all of their needs.

QUESTION: True or False: David wasn't excited about bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem.

ANSWER: False. David and his men were excited and filled with joy.

QUESTION: What did David write to worship God?

- a. A novel
- b. His name in the sand
- c. A report
- d. Psalms

ANSWER: D

QUESTION: When Jeremiah prophesied that Jesus would come as God's promised King, what did he say Jesus would be called?

- a. Bob
- b. The Lord our Righteousness
- c. King of Kings
- d. Paul

ANSWER: B

QUESTION: True or False: When we trust in Jesus, He gives us His righteousness.

ANSWER: True. When Jesus died and rose again, He did for God's people what they couldn't do for themselves: He made them righteous in God's eyes.

QUESTION: What was the priest, Zechariah, doing when the angel spoke to him?

- a. Riding a roller coaster
- b. Praying in the temple
- c. Eating a hot dog
- d. Reading a good book

ANSWER: B

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- None

QUESTION: What was the name of Zechariah's promised son?

- a. John
- b. Carlos
- c. Anthony
- d. Aidan

ANSWER: A. Zechariah's son, John the Baptist, would prepare people's hearts for the coming Messiah, Jesus.

QUESTION: What did the shepherds do after the angel told them Jesus had been born?

- a. They went to sleep
- b. They gave each other a high five
- c. They went looking for Jesus and told everyone they met the good news of His birth
- d. They shrugged their shoulders

ANSWER: C

QUESTION: True or False: Jesus was born in a castle.

ANSWER: False. Even though He's the King of Kings, Jesus was born in a humble way, among animals.

QUESTION: True or False: Simeon and Anna had waited many, many years for their Savior to come.

ANSWER: True

QUESTION: True or False: Choosing to follow God sometimes stretches our faith.

ANSWER: True. Sometimes following God can take us out of our comfort zone, but we can always trust Him to help us do what He asks us to do.

QUESTION: King David is described as:

- a. A man after God's own heart.
- b. A man who worshipped idols
- c. A man who never sinned
- d. A man after silver and gold

ANSWER: A. King David was not perfect, but he sought after and worshipped God.

QUESTION: What city was Jesus born in?

- A. Jerusalem
- B. Nazareth
- C. Bethlehem
- D. Galilee

ANSWER: C. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem for the census, and while they were there, Jesus was born.