

JULY 2020 • WEEK TWO

PRETEEN PARENT GUIDE

BIBLE STORY

Paul in Athens/
Unknown God
Acts 17:16-34

MEMORY VERSE

*God's grace has saved
you because of your
faith in Christ. Your
salvation doesn't come
from anything you do.
It is God's gift.
Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)*

LIFE APP

Faith
Trusting in what you
can't see because of
what you can see

KEY QUESTION

How can you help
others know Jesus?

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others
the way I want to be
treated.

ACTIVITY: AMAZING RACE

WHAT YOU NEED: A few chairs or stools (kitchen table sized), something to use for a blindfold (bandana, scarf, thin t-shirt), and a timer (optional)

WHAT YOU DO:

As much as possible, clear out some space in a room and scatter around the chairs or stools from one side to the other. Blindfold your kid and put them on the opposite side of the room from you.

Using only the sound of your voice, guide them through the chairs. Say things like, "Do you trust me? Okay, take two steps to the left. Stop! Now, one small step to the right. One more small step. STOP! STOP!"

(You can make it sound a lot more complicated than it really is, giving them extra directions between chairs.)

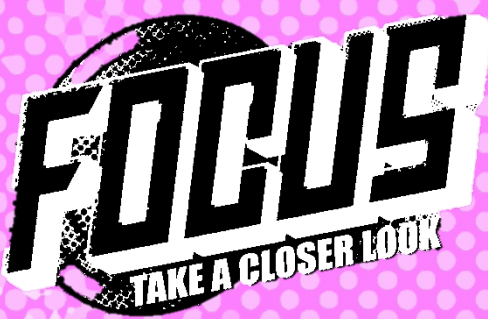
When they're finished, it's your turn! Put on the blindfold and follow the sound of your kid's voice from one end of the room to the other. If you're feeling competitive, use a timer and see who can complete the maze the quickest!

WHAT YOU SAY:

Way to go, everyone! In this game, you had to help your blindfolded partner follow the path. In our story today, we'll learned about another BIG way God wants us to help others: by telling them about Jesus!

But we don't just have to TELL people what we know about God. We can also SHOW what we know! Since God is loving and kind, we can be loving and kind to others. Since God is forgiving, He can help us forgive others, too. God sent Jesus to show us what He's like. And we can help others know Jesus by the words we say and the way we live.

[Make it Personal] (Give an age-appropriate example of a time when you helped someone else know Jesus through your actions. Maybe you were kind to someone who isn't always kind to you. Maybe you forgave someone even when you didn't feel like it.)



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GOSPEL MOMENT

Jesus is the answer for everyone! He's the One God sent to be our Savior—our Rescuer. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever.

When Paul was in Athens, he used an altar to an unknown god to share the message of Jesus with the people. He spoke about things that the people were talking and thinking about already, to try to help them understand who Jesus is. **[Bottom Line]** “**You can help others know Jesus**—just like Paul did. Just be real and talk in a way they can understand. You can explain what a difference Jesus has made in your life, or how He's changed your family for the better. What you say is important. But remember, helping others know Jesus isn't just in what you say; it's also in what you do.

You see, one of the reasons God sent Jesus is to show us what HE is like. We can help others know Jesus by the way we live, and the way we **[Basic Truth]** **treat others the way we want to be treated.** When we treat people with love, respect, and kindness, they can see the love of Jesus through us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When someone treats you badly, what does it make you think? How does it make you feel?
2. What about when someone is kind without at all expecting anything in return? What does that feel like?
3. Why does putting others first stand out so much or seem so different from what's “normal”?
4. How does treating someone well help them know Jesus?
5. What's one way you could SHOW someone Jesus?

PRAYER

God thank You for this opportunity to pray with and for each other. We know You always hear us when we pray. We ask that your love shine through us all to the people around us and bring it to mind this week as we go about our days. Thank You for Paul's example in the Bible, and most of all, thank You for Jesus. We need You, God, and we love You! Amen.