

WEEK 5 K-4 LESSON



Need to Know: *No Matter What Happens, God Is in Control*
Bible Story: *Jonah and the Huge Fish (Jonah 1-3)*

Circle Up 1

1. WELCOME kids to our series, “Mystery Manor,” and TELL them your name. Then SAY: *In this series, we’re detectives searching for clues that will help us solve a mystery and answer questions we have about God! To get to know each other a little better, I want you to tell us your name and answer a question—Has something bad ever happened to you? How did that make you feel?*
2. ALLOW each child to share their name and answer the question.
3. SAY: *When bad things happen, it can be upsetting or even confusing. So, today we are going to learn that no matter what happens, God is in control! So say that after me:*

No Matter What Happens, God Is in Control

Read the Bible 2

1. SAY: *We can find clues to help solve the mystery of how God is in control when we look in the Bible!*
 2. GIVE each child a **Detective Notes Sheet** and place the **drawing utensils** in the center of the group.
 3. READ the **Bible Story Sheet** to the group, allowing them to fill in their **Detective Notes** as you read. Then, ASK:
 - *What did God tell Jonah to do?* (Go to Nineveh and tell them about God) **Yes!**
 - *What bad thing happened to Jonah?* (He was swallowed up by a fish) **That’s right!**
 - *What good came out of the bad things that happened to Jonah?* (Jonah realized he needed to obey God)
 4. COLLECT the coloring utensils and SAY: *Great job! We used God’s Word to help us solve a mystery, and now we know that no matter what happens, God is in control!*
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Let’s Practice 3

Option 1: Bingo

1. SAY: *To help us understand that God is in control, we’re going to play a game!*
2. GIVE each child a **Bingo Board** and a coloring utensil. It is OK for multiple kids to have the same **Bingo Board**. HAVE kids place an X on the free space of their **Bingo Board**.
3. PLACE the **Bingo Pieces** in the center of the group, logo side up. Choose a bingo piece.
4. READ the **Bingo Piece** aloud to the group. Once the group has answered the question, SHOW the picture on the back of the **Piece**, and ALLOW kids to make an X on that space of their **Bingo Board**.
5. The first child to cover five spaces in a row and say, “Bingo,” is the winner.
6. Once the game is over, COLLECT **Bingo Boards**, and **Bingo Pieces**.
7. GIVE each child a **lollipop**, rewarding the winner first. Make sure the kids do not eat the lollipop until they get permission from their parents.
8. SAY: *Let’s say what we need to know today one more time:*

No Matter What Happens, God Is in Control

Option 2: Group Discussion

1. SHARE with the group about a time when you weren't sure if God was in control, but how your faith grew when you realized that He always was. **MAKE SURE** what you share is appropriate for the age group.
 2. GENERATE additional group discussion by asking:
 - *Do you think there's anything that could happen to you that would surprise God?*
 - *How can you know God is in control?*
 - *How does knowing that God is in control help you every day?*
 3. Then REVIEW the Need to Know together: ***No Matter What Happens, God Is in Control***
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Memorize It 4

1. SAY: *When we have questions about who God is, we can look in the Bible for answers! There's a verse in the Bible that tells us what we'll find when we search for clues about Him! Say it after me:*
"But without faith (cover eyes)
no one can please God. (shake head)
We must believe (hand over heart)
that God is real (two thumbs up)
and that He rewards everyone (hand out in front)
who searches for Him." (make binoculars with hands)
Hebrews 11:6 (make book with hands)
 2. PRACTICE saying the verse with the group two times, having them repeat each line.
 3. Practice the verse in different ways: fast, slow, loud, quiet, while jumping on one foot, etc.
 4. TELL kids that they have the rest of this series to learn the verse, and if they do, they will win a prize!
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Let's Pray 5

ASK your group for any prayer requests. Then PRAY the following for your group:

- Thank God for being in control, no matter what happens
 - That they would trust that God always has the best planned for their lives
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Stay Together 6

KEEP kids engaged in Small Group until they are checked out by doing the following activities:

- PLAY "I Spy" by allowing one child to spy something in the room and describe it to the group. ALLOW the group five guesses to see if they can determine what it is. CONTINUE playing allowing different kids to spy an object.
- PLAY "Clue Collectors" using the **die**:
 - CHOOSE a category. (Example: Animals, Movies, Places)
 - ALLOW kids to take turns rolling the **die** and naming that number of things from the category. ENCOURAGE them to help each other when needed.
 - CONTINUE playing until everyone in the group has had a turn.
 - COUNT how many clues the group collects in a category.