



ADVENTURE WEEK 2021  
PRESS PLAY: GET IN THE MIX  
CREW LEADER GUIDE



# ADVENTURE WEEK 2021 | Crew Leader Guide

Hello Crew Leader!

We are so excited for what God has in store for this week and for all that He is going to do in the lives of these kids. Our theme is *Confidence: Seeing you the way God sees you*. Our prayer and hope is for kids to grow in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus, that they might be able to say, “for You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust (some translations say confidence), O LORD, from my youth.” Psalm 71:5.

Please take time to read over the guide each day and pray in preparation for your small group time.

Each day will have the following:

- leader Bible study for your own preparation and edification
- prayer prompt to pray before your crew arrives
- icebreaker activity to build trust and community (10 minutes)
- craft (5 minutes)
- discussion questions (10 minutes)
- the Gospel: God’s Plan for Me (15 minutes)

Our memory verse for the week is John 15:12, “My Command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” Please be sure to review the verse and have it memorized.

If there is a kid in your crew who has more questions about salvation and baptism or is prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray to receive Christ, we have Encouragers ready to talk and pray with them.

Thank you for taking the time to partner with us as we minister the love of Jesus to these kids. We are thankful for you! We are praying for you!

## Day 1: I AM KNOWN AND I BELONG

### The Good Shepherd

#### Leader Bible Study

Jesus' teaching caused division among the Jews. They argued about who He was and where He had come from. Had He really come from God? Was He crazy or demon-possessed? In John 10, Jesus taught about Himself by using a comparison that is found throughout the Old Testament: The Lord as the Shepherd of His people. In Bible times, shepherding was a common occupation. Leaders of nations—even non-Israelite nations—would refer to themselves as shepherds of the people. A good shepherd would guide, provide for, and protect his people. Yet Old Testament prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel criticized Israel's leaders for failing to shepherd God's people well. The Israelites were like sheep—helpless and wandering—and they longed for a truly good shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who provides abundant life for His sheep. A shepherd would gather his sheep at night and form a pen to keep the sheep in and to keep wild animals and thieves out. The shepherd would lay across the opening. Like a shepherd provides safety for his sheep, Jesus provides salvation and eternal life. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. A shepherd protects his sheep from wolves and other wild animals, even at risk to his own life. Jesus gave up His life on the cross to rescue sinners from sin and death. Finally, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep. Even when two or more flocks gathered in a pen, a shepherd could call for his sheep and they would respond to the sound of his voice. Jesus knows His sheep personally. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came to do His Father's plan: to die on the cross and rise again so that we might be saved. We can live sacrificially as we point others to the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Christ connection: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. God sent Him to rescue sinners. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep so they could have forgiveness and eternal life. When we trust in Jesus, we are His sheep who listen to, follow and obey Him.

#### Prayer Prompt

##### **Pray over your crew before they arrive**

Pray for kids to know and acknowledge God as their Good Shepherd and their need for the One who will search and bring them back when they wander away, for the One who gave His life for us all. Pray for kids to know when they feel lost or scared or alone, they can cry out to the Good Shepherd. Pray for kids to listen to, follow, and obey God.

#### Intro Activity & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

##### **My name is... and I like to**

The leader starts by introducing herself/himself with her/his name and something she/he loves to do. For example: 'My name is Lucy and I like to watch Disney movies and bake cookies.' Then, one by one, kids will go out and perform the same sentence.

##### **Shepherd Roundup**

Form two or more teams of at least three players. Choose one player on each team to be the team's shepherd. Make sure kids are all familiar with one another's names. Put blindfolds on the rest of the players. Move the shepherds around the perimeter of the room. Then prompt them to begin calling out the names of the players on their team (the "sheep"). The sheep must listen for their shepherd's voice and move carefully to him. Play until a shepherd gathers all of his sheep. For an added challenge, suggest that the shepherds also call out the names of players on opposing teams to try to mislead them. Players should listen carefully to follow only the voice of their true shepherd.

**SAY** • Even today, shepherds can call out to their sheep in a large herd, and the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice. Sheep will not follow the voice of a stranger. In the story we heard today, Jesus explained how He is like a shepherd.

Craft (5 minutes)

### The Shepherd's Staff



Take the adhesive parts off the verse and stick them to the craft in order.

Talk to the kids about how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. God sent Him to rescue sinners. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep so they could have forgiveness and eternal life. When we trust in Jesus, we are His sheep who listen to, follow, and obey Him.

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem. Many Jewish leaders were listening to Jesus' teaching. In Bible times, leaders were often referred to as shepherds of the people. When Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd, He showed that He is better than any other leader or king. He is our true King. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 10:14-15. Then ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

#### 1. How do you feel knowing that Jesus knows each of His sheep personally—by name?

Invite kids to share their thoughts. Emphasize that each person is created in the image of God. He knows us each by name. Jesus said that no one can take His sheep from Him. He knows us and cares about us. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 12:7.)

#### 2. What can you do when you feel lost and God feels far away?

Encourage kids to consider how lost sheep react. They cannot find their way back on their own, but when they cry out, the shepherd hears and rescues them. We can cry out to God, seeking Him through prayer and His Word. He will bring us back to Himself. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 77:1.)

#### 3. How can the way you live point others to Jesus as the Good Shepherd?

Lead kids to discuss how living sacrificially can give kids the opportunity to tell others about the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Remind kids that as Jesus' sheep, believers should seek to listen to, follow, and obey Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Tim. 4:12.)

THE GOSPEL: God's Plan for me (15 minutes)

Use the cards to teach kids about the Gospel and His plan for them.

Ask the kids what good news is and what would be good news to them. Explain that the word gospel means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.

**GOD RULES** (the crown card) The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Have kids look up the following verses: Revelation 4:11 and Colossians 1:16-17.

**God created everything through Jesus and for Jesus. God is Creator. God rules. God loves us.**

**WE SINNED** (the x card) Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Choose a kid look up Romans 3:23 and read it aloud.

Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment if death. Choose a different kid to look up Romans 6:23 and have them read it aloud.

**Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. We are sinners. Our sin separates us from God. God cannot ignore and must punish our sin.**

**GOD PROVIDED** (the cross card) Read John 3:16 aloud. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Have each kid look up Ephesians 2:8-9 and read it aloud together.

**Sin created a problem we cannot solve on our own. God provided the solution to our sin. Through faith in Jesus Christ alone, we can be rescued from our sin.**

**JESUS GIVES** (the present card) Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Choose 3 kids to look up and read Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and 1 Peter 3:18.

**Jesus lived a perfect life. Jesus willingly gave His life for us by dying on the cross for our sin. Mercy is when we don't get what we deserve. Jesus didn't stay dead. He defeated death and rose again.**

**WE RESPOND** (the hands card) We can respond to Jesus. "The ABCs of becoming a Christian" is a simple tool (this tool is in the back of this guide if needed) that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to the gift Jesus offers.

**There is only one way to be saved—Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift we have ever been given, but we must respond to receive this gift. When we trust Jesus' finished work on the cross for our salvation, God welcomes us into His family.**

If kids have already accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, talk about other ways we can respond to what Jesus has done for us.

After you have used the cards to explain what each of them mean, review them with the kids, asking what each of the symbols mean.

## Day 2: I AM FORGIVEN AND I CAN CHANGE

### Zacchaeus

#### Leader Bible Study

Zacchaeus lived in the town of Jericho. He was a chief tax collector. Zacchaeus's job was to collect money from the Jews for the Roman government. Many people knew Zacchaeus, and many did not like him. The Bible says that Zacchaeus was rich. Tax collectors often collected more money than necessary and kept the extras for themselves. His greed and dishonesty led Zacchaeus to being looked down upon as a "sinner." But Zacchaeus treasured his wealth more than his reputation. Zacchaeus probably never imagined that his entire life would change in a single day. When Jesus came through Jericho, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. He couldn't see over the crowds, so he climbed a sycamore tree and watched Jesus from a distance. Imagine the crowd's surprise when Jesus approached the tree and called out to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today I must stay at your house." Of all the people in Jericho, Jesus chose to visit Zacchaeus! The other people complained. What was Jesus thinking, going to stay with a sinner like Zacchaeus? The story reveals that Zacchaeus's encounter with Jesus changed him. He offered to give half of his possessions to the poor and to pay back four times what he had cheated from others. Zacchaeus no longer treasured his wealth. He realized that Jesus offered something so much better. Jesus confirmed this evidence of a changed heart: "Today salvation has come to this house." People who encounter Jesus do not walk away unchanged. Pray that the kids you teach would encounter the real Jesus, the One who came into the world because we needed Him. Jesus came to seek and save the lost—people like Zacchaeus and people like us. "I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17). When we repent and trust in Jesus, He changes us.

Christ connection: We are all sinners too. It is easy to look at others and think they are "worse" sinners than we are, but the Bible tells us that all sin is evil. We all deserve death because of our sin. Jesus loved Zacchaeus and He still loves sinners. Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience and died a sinner's death anyway. His death provided the sacrifice needed to pay for our sin. God raised Him from the grave on the third day to show that His work was done. Sin would not prevent people from having a relationship with God anymore, because when we believe in Jesus, He forgives our sin. It's as though we never sinned at all! When we know Jesus, He changes our lives drastically. Not only is our sin taken away, but our hearts are brought to life. We are given the Holy Spirit and new life. As a result, our priorities change too! We want to love and obey God more and more. We want to tell others about Jesus and the wonderful things He has done for us.

#### Prayer Prompt

##### **Pray over your crew before they arrive**

Pray for kids to know that apart from Jesus, they are lost just like Zacchaeus was. Pray for kids to know that Jesus is the greatest treasure they could ever find. Pray for kids to not treasure the things of this world. Pray for change of hearts, attention, desires, and attitudes.

#### Intro Activity & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

##### **The Waiter**

Kids sit in a circle and the leader chooses a kid who will be the restaurant waiter (the leader can be the waiter instead). The waiter goes around the circle asking each kid for their name and favorite food. The waiter moves away from the circle and covers their eyes, then kids change places without the waiter seeing. The waiter returns to the circle and tries to remember all the names and favorite food for each kid.

##### **The Tax Collector Game**

Give each kid a small paper bag containing 12 beans. Instruct each kid to find a partner. Explain that the first partner will hide two or more beans in his hand. The second player should guess if the first player is holding an odd number or even number of beans. If the player guesses correctly, she collects those beans from the first player. If the guess is wrong, the second player must forfeit the same number of beans to the first player. The object of the game is to collect the most beans. Then players switch roles; the second player will hide two or

more beans in her hand, and the first player will guess if she is holding an odd or even number of beans. After a round, kids should find new partners and play again. The winner is the player with the most beans when a set period of time expires.

**Say** • How did you feel when someone else won and took your beans? How do you think the people felt when Zacchaeus took their money? How do you think they felt when he gave them back 7 times as much?!

### Craft (5 minutes)

#### Zacchaeus Meets Jesus



Cut on the dotted line, and cut out Zacchaeus. Punch a hole at the top and bottom of the tree. Provide glue for the children to attach the squares of tissue paper to the tree as leaves. Lace the yarn through the holes and tie it behind the tree. Color Jesus and Zacchaeus. Use clear tape to attach Zacchaeus to the yarn. Move Zacchaeus up and down the tree to retell the story!

Talk to the kids about how they can have confidence because they are forgiven. The religious leaders complained that Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus told these parables to teach about God's forgiveness. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price—His own life—to save people from sin.

### Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

We know that the Bible contains a record of many things Jesus did and said. One of the most important things we can learn is who Jesus is. Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah. As we talk about this story, pay attention to details that help us know Jesus was telling the truth. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 19:1-10. Then ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

**1. How do you feel knowing that Jesus knew everything about Zacchaeus, yet loved him anyway?**

Invite kids to share their thoughts. Emphasize that like Zacchaeus, Jesus also knows we are all sinners. Jesus came to look for people like Zacchaeus—people who do not know God and to save them from their sin. **Jesus said, "I have come to seek and to save the lost."**

**2. What changed Zacchaeus forever?**

Zacchaeus was curious about Jesus. He couldn't get close to Jesus or see Him on his own, so he climbed into a sycamore tree to see Jesus. This was not enough to save Zacchaeus or change him. **Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus forever.** In a way, our lives are similar. Many people make efforts on their own to get closer to God. We may try to pile up good deeds to earn God's love. We may try to run away from God to escape His righteous punishment for sin. But there is only one way to be saved from sin and be made right with God. That one way is Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin and rose again victorious. When we believe in Him, we are changed forever like Zacchaeus was.

**3. In what way has God changed your life through Jesus, or what is a way you would like to be changed?**

This could be a stronger desire to obey their parents, compassion for lost people, generous giving, and so forth. **Jesus is the only way to be saved from sin.** When we have a relationship with Jesus, we are changed from the inside out!

### THE GOSPEL: God's Plan for me (15 minutes)

Use the cards and the following discussion prompts to review the Gospel and God's plan.

**GOD RULES** (the crown card) God created the world! Yesterday we read Colossians 1:16-17 which tells us God created everything through Jesus and for Jesus, including you and me. God is in charge of everything. He rules over the whole earth. God is not a mean, selfish boss or king, but He is a perfect, loving ruler. We belong to God. God created us to bring glory to Him, or to shine the spotlight on Him.

**What are some things God created? What does God's creation teach you about Him?**

**WE SINNED** (the x card) We know the very first humans, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God. Since then, we all have chosen to disobey God. We also know the Bible calls this sin. Selfishly, we do what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do every day. We choose to shine the spotlight on ourselves instead of on God. We have a problem—a sin problem. When we sin, it makes God angry. Sin separates us from God. Yesterday we read Romans 6:23 which tells us God’s punishment for our sin is separation from Him forever. We all deserve this punishment, but God had a plan to save us from our sin problem.

**What are some of the ways you choose to disobey God by going your own way?**

**GOD PROVIDED** (the cross card) Our perfect, loving God provided the only way to save us from our sin problem. He made a way to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. This perfect solution is Jesus. We are completely helpless without Him. We know Jesus is God’s Son, His only Son whom He sent to earth many years ago. He never sinned, not even once. Jesus was God on earth, so He did everything God wanted. He always shined the spotlight on His Father. Jesus lived the perfect life, and He did not deserve any punishment. But, because He loves us, He took the punishment we deserve.

**What are some things you do to try to earn God’s forgiveness? How do people try to be “good enough”? Why doesn’t that work?**

**JESUS GIVES** (the present card) Jesus died on the cross in our place. Everything that we do wrong was punished through Jesus’ being killed on the cross. It’s all been paid for! Because Jesus died on the cross in our place, we can be forgiven of all our sins! But, it gets even better. Not only did Jesus take on our punishment, but when we trust Him to save us, we get credit for His perfect life—as a free gift to us. In God’s eyes, it’s as if we never sinned—not even once—just like Jesus. Because of this, God welcomes us into His family as children of God.

**Have you ever been punished for something you did not do? How did you react? Jesus did this willingly!**

**WE RESPOND** (the hands card) We can respond to the good news by understanding who God is (a holy God) and who we are (sinners).



## DAY 3: I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### The Lost Sheep

#### Leader Bible Study

In Luke 19, Jesus went after Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector. Zacchaeus was not well liked, but his interaction with Jesus led him to repent of his wrongdoing. Jesus said to him, “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). Who are “the lost”? What does it mean to be lost? In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables to the crowd of tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, and scribes. Jesus’ teaching brought gospel truth to the tax collectors and sinners—those whose unrighteousness separated them from God—and to the Pharisees and scribes—those whose relied on their own righteous efforts for salvation. The first two parables are similar. In one, a man loses a sheep. He leaves his flock to find the missing sheep, and he rejoices when it is found. In the second, a woman loses a silver coin. The woman carefully searches until she finds it. Then she calls her neighbors and friends to celebrate with her. Heaven rejoices when even one sinner repents. Finally, Jesus told a parable about two sons. The younger son asked for his inheritance, wasted his money on immoral living, and decided to return to his father. Rather than rejecting his wayward son, the father embraced him. The older son, who had always been obedient to his father, reacted with anger. As you read Luke 15, think about the crowd Jesus was speaking to. The focus is often placed on the younger son—the one with whom the tax collectors and sinners could identify—but Jesus also made a point about the older son. The older son was like the Pharisees and scribes, focused on his own morality and feeling entitled to his father’s favor. Jesus taught what God is like. He seeks sinners who have wandered far from Him, and He seeks sinners who try to earn salvation by their good works. As you teach, help kids understand that being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. God loves us, and He actively seeks to bring sinners to Himself.

Christ connection: The good news is that Jesus is the mighty friend of sinners! We are all sinners—whether we break the rules or try really hard to obey them—and Jesus wants us to turn away from our sin and trust in Him. The religious leaders complained that Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus told these parables to teach about God’s forgiveness. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price—His own life—to save people from sin.

#### Prayer Prompt

##### **Pray over your crew before they arrive**

Pray for kids to know Jesus, the Rescuer. Pray for kids to love and know Jesus in the midst of a very dark world. Pray for kids to be bold to tell others about Jesus.

#### Intro Activity & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

##### **Sheep Toss**

Place a plastic cup on the floor. Instruct the kids to line up about five feet from the cup. You may use tape to mark a line for kids to stand on when taking their turn. Give kids a cotton ball and allow them to take turns tossing their cotton ball to land in the cup. You may award points, such as one point for hitting the cup and three for landing the cotton ball inside the cup.

**SAY** • Those cotton balls are soft and fluffy, almost like sheep. Today we will learn about a shepherd in a story Jesus told. He didn’t toss his sheep away but went out in search of a single lost sheep even though he had 99 others that were not lost! Would you do the same to find a lost sheep?

#### Craft (5 minutes)

##### **Wordless Book Necklace**

Follow the provided instructions and go over what each color represents.



### Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

By telling these stories, Jesus wanted to teach the religious leaders how they should react when someone turns from sin and trusts in Him. The religious leaders tried hard to be good, and they grumbled and complained when people who did not try hard to be good came to Jesus. But like the father reacted to his son's return, we should be full of joy when anyone comes into God's kingdom! Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

**1. How are we "lost" before we trust in Jesus?** Lead kids to recognize that being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Bible says that apart from Jesus, we are in darkness and are dead in sin. Jesus makes us alive and brings us into His kingdom. He shows us what is true about God and about ourselves. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)

**2. How does it make you feel that God came looking for you?** Allow kids to share their feelings. Remind kids that God created us, so He knows us and sees us. He seeks after us because He loves us. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 139:1-2.)

**3. What might you say to someone who doesn't know Jesus?** Invite kids to share their ideas. Suggest that kids might share their testimonies, or stories of how they came to know and love Jesus. Review the Gospel Plan Poster and encourage kids to remember the five points to summarize the good news about Jesus: God rules, we sinned, God provided, Jesus gives, and we respond. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 15:3-4.)

### THE GOSPEL: God's Plan for me (15 minutes)

Give kids their own pack of cards to talk about the Gospel today. Allow time for each kid to show the cards and to say what they mean. (Option: turn it into a relay and allow kids to tag each other after they explain one or multiple cards.)

**GOD RULES** (the crown card) When we grasp the gospel, we discover that God created everything through Jesus and for Jesus. God is Creator, God rules, and He loves us. Because He created everything and is Ruler over it, He holds all things together. Sometimes we think we might be as smart and powerful as God and we try to be in charge. But we can't hold all things together. He alone is Creator and holds all things together. He loves us so much and He holds us together!

(Option 1: Dig deeper by inviting kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 1:27. Discuss how God created all things, but He made people special. He made people in His own image. It's so special that He loved us enough to make us in His image.)

(Option 2: The Gospel is all about God and His plan to send Jesus. Sometimes we try to make ourselves the center of the story, but that is God's place. That is why we start with God and not us. God rules. He is Creator and holds everything together. He is at the very core of the good news about God's redemption plan to save us from our sins. God is the central figure. God is the goal. **Who stands in the center of your life today? Is it God, or have you taken over the spot that is rightly His?**)

**WE SINNED** (the x card) When we grasp the gospel, we discover that we are sinners, and our sin separates us from God. God is perfect and holy, but we are not. We cannot reach His perfect standard.

(Option: It is important for us to hear good and bad news. The Gospel is VERY GOOD NEWS, but there is also the bad news about our sin condition. It is important for us to hear the bad news of our sin condition so that we can fully embrace and appreciate the gift of salvation in Jesus. Challenge kids to think back over the past week and ask them to ponder about the things they thought, said or did that didn't please God. Challenge them further to silently pray to God. Give them some examples of things they could pray: agree with God they are a sinner; confess a specific sin to God; thank God for the gift of Jesus; Thank God for the gift of eternal life.)

**GOD PROVIDED** (the cross card) When we grasp the gospel, we discover that God provided the solution to our sin problem through faith in Christ alone. God provided Jesus as the solution and we can see from the Bible,

which is true, that we can trust that Jesus loves us no matter what we have done. God provided the only real solution that would last and solve our sin problem.

(Option: Ask the kids to define *grace*. Explain that grace is a gift we do not deserve. **Why do we need grace from God? How do you feel about the grace God showed you? Do you show grace to others?**)

**JESUS GIVES** (the present card) When we grasp the gospel, we discover that Jesus gave up His perfect life and died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. Jesus willingly took our place on the cross. He took our punishment for sin—death. Because of what Jesus did for us, we don't have to get what we deserve.

(Option: Ask the kids to define *mercy*. Explain that mercy is when we don't get what we deserve. Because of Jesus, God showed us mercy by not giving us the punishment for sin we deserve.)

**WE RESPOND** (the hands card) When we grasp the gospel, we discover that God's gift of Jesus is the only way to be saved. To receive this gift, we must believe in our hearts that Jesus saves us by the work He has already done on the cross.

(Option: Invite kids to open their Bibles to John 14:6. Read this verse aloud together. **Who is speaking in this verse? What three things did Jesus say He was? Are there any other ways to get to God the Father except through believing in Jesus?** Jesus made it clear in this verse that there is one way to God the Father and it's through Him—Jesus.)

When we grasp the gospel, we discover that God rules, we sinned, God provided, Jesus gives, and we respond. These gospel truths are personal, life changing and can make us into a new creation. **In Christ, we are new creations; the old has gone and the new has come.**

If time allows, go over the GOSPEL review (this review is in the back of this guide).

## The ABCs of becoming a Christian

**ADMIT** to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey God. (Romans 3:23) Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19 and 1 John 1:9) Repent doesn't just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

**BELIEVE** that Jesus is God's Son and receive God's gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection.

**CONFESS** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge and calling the shots in your life. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

## The GOSPEL Review

Explain that you are going to say a statement or verse and they are to hold up the card they think best represents that statement.

- Jesus gave up His perfect life and died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. (*Jesus Gives*)
- God cannot ignore and must punish our sin. (*We Sinned*)
- God created everything through Jesus and for Jesus. God is Creator, and He loves us. (*God Rules*)
- "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (*We Respond*)
- Mercy is when we don't get what we deserve. (*Jesus Gives*)
- God is Creator. (*God Rules*)
- We are sinners, and our sin separates us from God. (*We Sinned*)
- Our sin separates us from God. (*We Sinned*)
- God created everything through Jesus and for Jesus. (*God Rules*)
- God provides the solution to our sin problem. (*God Provided*)
- We can be welcomed into God's family by believing that Jesus saves us by what He has already done on the cross. (*We Respond*)
- "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (*Jesus Gives*)
- God provided a way for us to be saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. (*God Provided*)
- God's gift of Jesus is the only way to be saved. To receive this gift, we must believe in our hearts that Jesus saves us by the work He has already done on the cross. (*We Respond*)