

SMALL GROUP ROTATION NIGHT 1

Summer Jam Slogan: “God loves me even when I make the wrong choice”

Bible Story: Jonah runs from God (Jonah 1)

Supplies provided: Treasure Maps, thin markers, frames, adhesive stickers, memory verse cards, scratch off sea creatures, scratch off tools, ribbon, plastic tablecloth

Activity #1 – Ocean Explorer Treasure Maps

1. Have each kid open their Treasure Map to pages 2-3.
2. Lead the kids one by one around the circle in discovering what their submarine captain name is based on their birthday and first letters of their first name.
3. Have them write their submarine captain name and draw a picture of themselves as the captain.
**Younger groups may need help writing.*
4. **Say this:** Tonight, we learned (or will learn) about a man named Jonah. God asked Jonah to go help the people of Nineveh. But Jonah was scared and didn't want to go, so he ran away by getting on a boat. God then sent a big storm to stop him from running away. God didn't do this to be mean, but because He loved Jonah. He wanted to stop Jonah from making a bad choice and help him get back on the right path. Just like a loving parent stops a child from running into danger, God stopped Jonah because He cared about him! Even though Jonah made the wrong choice God never stopped loving him!”
5. Have kids turn back to page one in their treasure map. Review the Summer Jam verse together a few times.
6. Ask kids: “What five characteristics of God do we learn about in this verse?”
(forgiving, gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love”
7. Now turn back to the heart on page five: “God is.” Have the kids write the 5 things we learn about God in the sections of the heart. **** for younger kids, just review the 5 characteristics together as they color in the sections of the heart with different colors.***

Activity #2 – Under the Sea Frame

1. Place the plastic tablecloth on the floor, and have the kids color on the tablecloth to avoid getting marker on the floor☺
2. Give each child a wooden frame w/the sea creatures. Tell them to write their name on the back.
3. They will color the outside of the frame and the 4 sea creatures with the thin markers.
4. Pop out the sea creatures and use the adhesive stickers to attach them to the frame.
5. Give each child a memory verse card.
6. Have them use the adhesive stickers to attach the card to the back of the frame.
7. Encourage the kids to hang this up somewhere at home where they will be reminded that no matter what they do, God will ALWAYS love them because of who He is!
8. Keep the frames in your bag to pass out at the end of the night.

Activity #3 – Pray

Say this prayer with your group: “God, thank You for who You are. Your love for us is unconditional. Thank you that no matter what we do, even when we mess up like Jonah, you never stop loving us! We are so grateful for a fun place like Summer Jam that we can come and learn more about You. Keep us safe and happy today. In Your Name we pray. Amen.”

Activity #4 - Sea Creature Scratch-off/ Bible Story Review

1. Give each child a sea creature scratch-off and a scratch off tool.
2. Have them write their name on the back.
3. As the kids decorate their sea creatures, ask the discussion questions below:
 - Have you ever been asked to do something that you really did not want to do?
 - Have you ever made the wrong choice, but then was forgiven by someone else?
 - How did it feel when you were forgiven?
4. Give each kid a ribbon to put through the hole at the top and tie.
5. Keep these in your leader bag until the end of the night.

Extra Time Activities – Pages 11/ 12 in the Treasure Map

Page 11 – Help Joseph get to Ninevah maze

Page 12 – Jonah word search

Extra Time Activity – Memory Verse Motions

Review the Summer Jam Memory Verse on Page 1 of their Treasure Map again: “You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.” Nehemiah 9:17b NIV

1. Divide your group in 2-3 smaller groups.
2. Have each group come up with motions to a section of the verse.
3. Have each group share what they came up with.
4. Practice the entire verse using the motions they came up with.