

Trust God With Your Future

**BIG IDEA**

We can trust God with our future because He is always with us.

**LEADER GOAL**

Help students understand that new beginnings can feel exciting and uncertain, but God invites us to trust Him. Introduce prayer as an ongoing conversation with God.

**BEFORE STUDENTS ARRIVE**

- Review Jeremiah 29:11-13 and the Week 5 teaching.
- Have scripts ready for continued story familiarity.
- Be ready to explain prayer simply as talking with God.

**WELCOME + CONNECT****LEADER SAYS**

"Welcome back, everyone!"

"How's the script reading going this week?"

(Allow students to share.)

"It's so much fun seeing everyone get to know the story a little better each week!"

LIVE SPARK

ONE STEP AT A TIME

GRAB

A folded map with only the first section visible.

IDEA

We don't have to see the whole plan before we begin. We can trust God with the next step.

SPARK

When I don't know what comes next, I can trust God.

DO / SAY

[Hold up the folded map.]

"Okay... I have a problem with this map. It's hiding something."

[Show the folded section.]

"It only shows me the first part. I want to know EVERYTHING! Where I'm going... every turn... and exactly what's going to happen."

[Start unfolding it until it becomes awkward.]

"Okay... now I can't even find where I started."

[Fold it back up.]

"This part says to take three steps. But what happens after that? What if something changes? What if I make a wrong turn?"

[Look at students.]

"Have you ever wished you knew exactly what was going to happen before you started something?"

"Shrek and Donkey don't know everything that's going to happen when they leave for Duloc. They just... start walking."

[Hold up the map.]

"Trusting God can be like that. God doesn't always show us the whole plan."

"Sometimes we say: 'I don't know what happens next... but I know who I'm following.'"

[Take three steps.]

"One... Two... Three."

[Look at the map again.]

"Oh! Now I can see the next part."

"I still don't know the whole journey. But I know enough to take the next step."

"And that's our Spark: WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT, I CAN TRUST GOD."

"Trust can look like praying, listening, asking for help... and taking one faithful next step."

THEN Move directly into Junior Week 5 Welcome + Connect / Small Group activity.



STORY CONNECTION

SHREK CROSSOVER | TRUSTING GOD BEFORE WE KNOW THE OUTCOME

LEADER SAYS

"Today, Shrek and Donkey are about to leave the swamp and begin a big journey to Duloc. They knew where they were going, but they had no idea what would happen when they got there."

"Do you think that would feel exciting? Would it feel a little scary?"

(Allow students to respond.)

"Sometimes life feels like that too. We're about to start something new, but we don't know how it's going to turn out."

"Can anyone think of a time when you started something new?"

(Allow students to share examples such as a new school, trying a sport, moving, joining K2K, learning an instrument, or making new friends.)

"Starting something new can make us feel nervous because we don't know what's waiting for us. The Bible reminds us that even when we don't know what's ahead, God does. Listen to what God says."

**"For I know the plans I have for you - plans for your well-being,"
"not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."**

Jeremiah 29:11



STORY CONNECTION

“God knows what tomorrow holds, even when we don’t. That doesn’t mean life will always be easy or everything will happen exactly the way we expect. But it does mean we can trust Him because He loves us and promises to be with us wherever life takes us.”

“Just like Shrek and Donkey had to take that first step on their journey, sometimes we have to take our next step without knowing exactly what will happen. We can trust that God walks with us every step of the way.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEADER SAYS

“Let’s talk about today’s story.”

1

If you were Shrek or Donkey heading to Duloc, what would you be excited about? What might make you nervous?

2

Can you think of a time when you were starting something new? How did you feel before it started?

3

How does it make you feel knowing that God already knows what’s ahead, even when we don’t?

4

If you could talk to God about a new beginning, what would you want to say to Him?



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

TALKING TO GOD

LEADER SAYS

“Over the past few weeks we’ve been learning more and more about who God is. Can anyone remember something we’ve learned?”

(Allow students to answer.)

“We’ve learned that God made us. He loves us. He is always with us. He gives us hope. Today we’re going to learn something really exciting.”

“We can actually talk to God! Talking to God is called prayer.”

“Prayer is simply having a conversation with God. God isn’t looking for perfect words. He just wants us to come to Him honestly.”

- ✓ We can thank Him for good things.
- ✓ We can tell Him when we’re excited or worried.
- ✓ We can ask Him questions or ask Him for help.
- ✓ We can tell Him we’re sorry when we’ve made a mistake.
- ✓ We can even sit quietly and listen as we spend time with Him.

“The reason prayer matters is because God loves us and wants a relationship with us. Just like friendships grow by spending time together, our relationship with God grows as we spend time talking with Him.”



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

"You can pray out loud or quietly in your heart. You can pray by yourself or with other people. You can pray anywhere and at any time."

"Sometimes prayer might feel a little unusual, especially if you've never done it before. You might wonder if anyone is listening. The Bible reminds us that God always hears us."

"You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:12-13

"What an amazing promise! God listens when we pray."



STUDENT REFLECTION

PROMPT How can prayer help us trust God, even when we can't see the outcome?

(Allow students to share.)



THIS WEEK - YOUR CHALLENGE!

Take a few minutes each day to talk to God. You don't need fancy words. Just tell Him what's on your mind. Maybe thank Him for something good, tell Him something you're worried about, or ask Him for help. Remember, God is always listening.



CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank You that we can come to You anytime in prayer. Thank You for listening to us because You love us so much. Help us trust You even when we don't know what the future holds. Thank You for always being with us and leading us each step of the way. Amen.

Connection Activities



SUPPLIES

Plastic/stacking cups • Markers



TELEPHONE

- Have students sit in a circle.
- One student comes up with a tricky phrase or sentence.
- They whisper it to the person on their right.
- Each person continues whispering the message to the next person only once.
- The last person says the message out loud.
- Compare the final message to the original sentence.

Example Sentences

- Donkey balanced ten waffles while running through the swamp.
- Gingy hid three jellybeans underneath Shrek's muddy boot.
- Lord Farquaad danced proudly across the crooked wooden bridge.
- Dragon carefully carried Donkey over the bubbling swamp water.



CUP STACKING (BUILD UP)

SUPPLIES: Plastic cups/stacking cups, markers.

Two teams may be preferred depending on numbers.

- Give each student a cup and ask them to write a way they can build others up on the cup.
- Put all the cups on a table and have students line up behind the table.
- Start a timer. The first student stacks the cups, then unstacks them for the next person in line.
- Have each group member take a turn and see how quickly the whole group can finish.