



SESSION 3

LESSON GUIDE

MISSION:
DEEP SEA

THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.

THE BIBLE

Jesus and the Salvation Story:
Philippians 2:5-11

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

VIDEO | Morning Intro 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video.*

MUSIC | Waves of Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sing and dance along to some fun songs about God's love, including our original theme song, "We Go Deep!" Here are some other songs we like:*
 - ["Higher Than the Sky"](#)
 - ["Deep, Deep, Deep"](#)
 - ["Your Love is Deep"](#)
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *An alternative playlist for preteens: ["Only Wanna Sing"](#) / ["Real Love"](#) / ["We Are Royals"](#)*

ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Bounce

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Blow up a beach ball for each small group. Write the following questions on the ball. Bounce the ball around the group, occasionally stopping when a kid catches it. When the ball is in someone's hand, ask them the question their hand lands closest to. Ask if they know the answer. If they do not, read them the answers listed below:*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a separate ball in a different area of the room and do the same activity one-on-one or have a kiddie pool filled with balls in the back of the room or the hallway. Let the kids get in the bin of balls and take out a pre-printed picture of the answers to the questions. Tell the one-on-one buddy to read the back of*

the pictures to them.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Instead of writing the questions down, put numbers or a picture instead. When the kid catches the ball, they can tell you the number or picture their hand touches. Each number or picture may represent a question for you to ask them from the list provided.*

- **What is the difference between a sea and an ocean?** A sea is partially enclosed by land.
- **How can plants grow in the ocean without sunlight?** Sunlight can actually reach 600 feet underwater.
- **What is the deepest ocean in the world?** The Pacific Ocean. It has a known depth of 36,198 feet in the Mariana Islands.
- **Why is the ocean blue?** Believe it or not, no one is really sure why the ocean is blue!
- **What is the most dangerous creature in the ocean?** [The box jellyfish.](#)
- S.E.A. Agents-in-Training, today's first mission is to find out some unknown facts about the ocean. If we are going to dive deep under the sea, we should know some of these things in order to be safe.

ACTIVITY | Octopus Tag

- Let's play a fun ocean game where we get to be sea creatures!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Mark a large square using stakes and ribbon. This will be your "ocean." Choose someone to be the "octopus," and tell them to stand in the center of the ocean. All other players are "fish." The fish will line up at one end of the ocean and the octopus will call out, "I am the octopus! Let's see if you can cross my ocean!" The fish will then try to swim (run) across the ocean and the octopus will try to tag them before they reach the other side. If tagged, fish become "crabs" on the ocean floor. Crabs crouch down where they were tagged, and try to also tag players running by. Each time players reach the other side of the ocean, the octopus and crabs will say the chant again and the players will try to cross the ocean again. The last fish tagged becomes the new octopus.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy for this game. If the kids cannot play this game or do not want to play this game, provide a separate area where they can move like different animals in the sea, such as a shark (place a fin on their heads and go from one line to the other); crab (walk sideways or crawl from one line to the other); fish (pucker lips and flap arms); dolphin (jump); ocean diver (swim around in designated space).*

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

ACTIVITY | DEEP SEA HQ Skit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the script provided to perform a skit or make a video for the kids.*

ACTIVITY | Sunken Treasure

- Buried deep in the ocean is something that everyone would like to find. . . sunken treasure! Sunken treasure can be of great value.

- A relationship with God is something that is also of great value! Even greater value, I'd say. And when we spend time with God, our faith grows deeper and we get even closer to God.
- **What are some ways we can spend time with God?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each group will be given a sunken treasure map. The kids will have to work together to come up with a list of ways they can spend time with God. They'll write one way they can spend time with God on each of the spots on the treasure map. Once they fill in all of the lines, reward them with a treasure of chocolate gold coins.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a big crayon (easier for special hands to hold) and let them circle the answers on their map while sitting with the group. Encourage them to share their map with the group.*
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Customize the sunken treasure map to lead to three spots around the room. When they arrive at each spot, tell a leader to ask them, "What is one way we can spend time with God?" They can think and talk it out together before moving on to the next spot the map suggests, where they will be asked the same or a similar question.*
- We may not be able to follow a treasure map to God, but things like reading our Bible, praying, singing songs of worship, and coming to church are all ways we can find this treasure!

SCRIPTURE | Philippians 2:5-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Philippians 2:5-11 together. Tell the story of salvation in a way that would make the most sense to your kids, and aligns with your church tradition! We have suggested one way you might do this here.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a small dry erase board and colorful dry erase markers. As the story is being told, ask another leader or one-on-one buddy to draw it out. Draw two sides of ocean waves with a space. Write 'sin' on one side and 'God' on the other. Write down sins and such, then draw a life-preserver with a cross in the middle to bridge the gap between the waves.*
- Earlier, we experienced a big problem with the submarine! Something wasn't right and it needed to be fixed. The problem with our sub is kind of like a problem God's people have. The name of that problem is sin.
- **Sin is what separates us from God.**
 - God made us, cares for us, and never wanted to be separated from us. That's why there had to be a way to overcome sin. Sin might be telling a lie, hurting someone, or something else. All of us sin and all of us have a chance to be forgiven.
 - God loves us so much that God wanted us to be close together again and would do the most loving thing to help us. Jesus wanted the disciples to see how God was going to make sure everyone had a way to connect with God again.
- **So, God sent Jesus.**
 - Jesus became a human to rescue us from sin. Jesus never sinned and always loved. This is why Jesus' life and death makes up for our sin. Even though Jesus died, Jesus came back to life and lives forever. Have you ever heard of the phrase, "Jesus lives?" If you haven't yet, then let's say it together: Jesus lives! Jesus lives! Jesus lives!

- Now, everyone has a chance to know and be close to God. We can spend time with God now, exploring the ocean – or anywhere in the world – because of Jesus. God’s arms are always open wide. **How wide?** Wider than the ocean! And God welcomes us into a love so deep. **How deep?** Deeper than the ocean!
- Just like on this voyage beneath the ocean and getting to see God’s creation in all sorts of new ways, the more time we spend with God, the deeper our faith grows.

THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before VBS, write the words of the Big Idea on diving sticks. Fill a blue kiddie pool with water. Groups will “dive” down through the water using their hands and pull up the diving sticks. The kids will race to get all the diving sticks and put them in the correct order to reveal today’s Big Idea.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a separate kiddie pool with the same supplies, just take away the racing aspect so they can take their time.
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (hand moved from ground up to demonstrate growing) deeper (pointing downward) when I (point to self) spend time (points to wrist like there is a watch there) with God (points up toward the sky).
- You’ve uncovered today’s Big Idea! **My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God!**

OBJECT LESSON | Salvation

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a single sheet of paper to demonstrate the Gospel. Watch this [video](#) tutorial on how to make a paper gospel presentation, then fold the paper as you talk to the kids.
- It says in the Bible, in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God.”
 - [Fold down top corner of paper to form a triangle.] **Who is the Word?** Jesus.
 - [Fold the other corner down to make a “house” shape.] **And what do we know about Jesus based on this verse?** Jesus existed with God before the world was created and Jesus is God. If Jesus is God, that means Jesus has all of the same characteristics of God.
 - [Flip the house over and fold the house in half.] **What is God like?** God is perfect, holy, good, mighty, kind, patient, and without sin.
 - [Fold in half again, like wings on an airplane, but both wings should be on one side.] **If God is like that, then what are humans like?** Humans are often selfish, greedy, imperfect. . . because we are full of sin. [Tear down the middle, starting from the thinner end to the thicker end. You should have two sections – one with a lot of little pieces, and one piece of paper intact.]
- **What is sin?** Sin is anything we think, say, or do that God does not want us to think, say, or do.
- **Who sins?** Everyone! Can you think of some examples of sin? [Place the one piece of paper to the side and unfold and spread out all of the pieces so the kids can see them. Arrange the pieces to spell “Sin”.]
 - There’s nothing we can do on our own to get rid of sin – it’s always with us unless we trust God to help us.

- *[Unfold the largest piece of paper to reveal a cross.]* God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin because only someone like Jesus could do it! Jesus was born like you: 100 percent human and not like you because Jesus was 100 percent. Being perfect helped Jesus fix what wasn't perfect - the problem of sin in the world.
- God gave us Jesus so we could have the chance to be close to God. The story of Jesus shows us how deep God's love for us really is.

PRAYER

- God, It's amazing how deep Your love is. It's amazing how you sent Jesus to save us! I feel so happy knowing I can be close to You and forgiven by trusting in You!

SNACK | Sandy Shores

- We are going to make our very own beach for a snack today.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Mix up a bowl of vanilla pudding for each group before VBS starts. Keep it refrigerated. Mix in blue food coloring and show the kids how the vanilla pudding turns to "water" (or pre-color the pudding before giving it to the groups). Crumble up graham crackers ("sand") and put it in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag for each group. Give the kids a plastic cup and a spoon. They will layer the "water" and "sand" in their cup. They should have a layer of "sand" at the top of their cup as a beach.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Recruit a few of the preteens to help make these supplies before this VBS session begins. Offer them the opportunity to help the other kids with assembling these during snack time.*
- You probably have noticed that all of our Bible stories so far have had to do with water. Spending time hearing these stories is a way you are spending time with God.
- Just like the layers of your snack, our faith can have layers, too. Our faith grows deeper when we spend time with God.
- **If you could have any sea creature as a pet, what would you want?**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split off into small groups and have kids share their responses to the following questions. You could choose to combine this with snack time, if you'd like!*
- **What separates us from God?** Sin.
- **God loves us and wants a relationship with us. Who did God send to rescue us from sin?** Jesus.
- **Is it always easy to choose what is right instead of sinning?**
- **Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. What does "holy" mean? What are some ways we can be holy?**
- **Why does spending time with God make our faith grow deeper?**
- **Why do you think God chose to rescue us from sin by sending Jesus to Earth?**
- **How does knowing God loves us so much change how we live?**

ACTIVITY | Play Stations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the same “Play Stations” from the last session, or try out some new ones! Keep in mind that this time is to encourage free play, so allow kids to float from station to station at will, but monitor flow.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?**VIDEO | Afternoon Countdown 3**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today’s countdown video.

REFLECTION | Water Beads

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pour a handful of water beads into a shallow bowl or dish and cover with water.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have a separate container with water beads in it that the kids can touch and squeeze. They can also be in a Ziploc bag that is duct taped closed for them to squish around.
 - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Water beads take about eight hours to grow. Explain to young kids that the growing process takes time. Ask them to guess what they think will happen to the water beads when they return the next time.
- Pretend like this water bead is you. You probably know who God is. But there is so much more to know about God! Just like the water makes the water beads grow bigger, spending time with God helps our faith grow bigger.

REFLECTION | Seashells

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a large seashell for each group and let the kids pass it around. Ask them to hold it up to their ears and listen. Ask what they hear.
- Some people say it is possible to hear the ocean in a seashell. You have to be really still and quiet to hear it.
- Spending time with God can be like trying to hear the ocean in a seashell – we have to be still and listen for God.

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids have to recite the memory verse from one end of the room to the other, one word at a time, while blowing bubbles. Give each kid their own mini bottle of bubbles. Tell the kids to line up, say a word of the memory verse, blow a bubble, and take a step forward. Then, they’ll say the next word in the verse, blow a bubble, then take another step forward.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Type this verse three times on one sheet of paper, equally spaced apart. In the second entry, delete every other word. In the third one, delete everything except the first letter of every word. When you hand these out to your preteens, tell them to fold it into a tri-fold. They can practice using each of these as a different way to memorize this verse.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Put one word of the memory verse on poster board bubble shapes. Put bubble shapes on the floor in order and tell the kids to jump, wheel themselves, or crawl from one bubble to the next while saying the word.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Leaders can blow bubbles, and the kids can try to say the verse before they all pop.

- God's love is wide and long and high and deep. Just like the bubbles in the ocean and these bubbles, God's love goes farther than we can imagine.

ACTIVITY | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft

- **What's our memory verse again?** "Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:18.
- We have been talking at VBS about how deep God's love for us is. Did you know deep sea corals are corals that live at depths greater than 160 feet? That is really deep. But God's love goes even deeper than that!
- Let's make our own deep sea coral to remind us of how deep God's love for us is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids each a small paper plate with washable paint in different colors, a straw, and the Deep Sea Coral Painting printable. Add about five drops of water to each of the paints to create a nice, thin paint. Using the end of your straw, dip it in the paint. Tap the end of the straw on your paper where you want your coral to start. Now, gently blow through the other end of the straw. Hold the straw at a low angle so the paint goes out in one direction rather than splattering. However, try all different ways of holding the straw so you can see the different effects that different angles and directions give. Demonstrate to the kids how to do this before creating their own.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Provide sponges to paint with so they sponge coral instead of blowing through straws.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** This activity can get really messy. Be sure to use trays or even shallow cardboard boxes to limit splatter. If available, use aprons to avoid getting the paint on clothing.