

NH Kids | What Can I Do? Week 3 | 01.19.2025

Big Idea: I can trust God's plans for me.

Story: Jesus Calls Andrew, Peter, James, and John:
Mark 1:14–20; Psalm 62:5-12

The Tie-In:

Example: The curriculum here provides the example of an architect or project manager. Most often, a project is going to fall apart without a plan well laid out and adhered to. God, in this analogy, is the architect and we are the project. We can trust that God not only has good plans, but that He has plans for us in the first place.

Points to Hit:

A telling of the story found in Mark 1:14–20.

If we remember from last week, God knows each of us individually, and cares about us individually. (Matthew 10:29-30, Psalm 139:1-4)

This doesn't just stop at how He relates to us, but it also extends to how He has purposed each of us. We know that when we join the body of Christ, we take on roles that are different from those around us, whatever that be. We can trust that God has equipped us and will continue to equip us for whatever He would have us do. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

Beyond just trusting God's plans for our lives in terms of what we do, we should also trust Him for how we will live, and even survive. Jesus tells us not to worry; that when we pursue the Kingdom and righteousness of God first, we don't need to worry about food or clothes. These things will be added to us by a loving Father who cares for even each bird of the air. (Matthew 6:25-34)

A prime example for all of this comes in the form of the men that Jesus calls in our story today: instead of worrying about food or clothing or whether or not Jesus had a plan, they abandoned their old lives and chased after Him. (Mark 1:14–20)

How the curriculum phrases some of the points:

In this story, we find Jesus calling four of his disciples to follow him. Their names are Simon, Andrew, James, and John. All four of these guys had something in common. Do you remember what it was? That's right – they were fishers. Speaking of careers, that's a tough job! They went out every day to catch fish that

they could sell to provide for their families. Some of them were in the family fishing business like James and John were with their dad, Zebedee.

Jesus came and interrupted their plans because he had much better plans for them. He told them that instead of fishing for fish, they could follow him and fish for people. That meant they would go with Jesus to tell more people about God. When Jesus told them to follow him, they didn't wait, think it over for long, or let their worry about what might happen to their fishing business get in the way.

They just trusted what Jesus said and followed him right away. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were among the first to become disciples of Jesus, and they did end up going out to "fish" for more people to follow Jesus, too!

Post-Story Activities

Game: Build a Building

INSTRUCTIONS: Divide your group into at least two teams. Have 36 cups for each team. Kids must run up to a table one at a time and set one cup for a cup pyramid. Once a kid places a cup, they run back to tag the next person. This repeats until all 36 cups are stacked in a pyramid. If the cups get knocked over at any time, the team must start over from the beginning.

TIE-IN: Building things requires a lot of planning, even for a simple structure built out of cups. What was your plan for getting this done well? Did anything happen that threw off your plans during this activity?

Sometimes, plans in life have to change, too, but we can be confident that God has special plans ahead for all of us.

Poll: The Game of Life Plans

Ask a series of "Would You Rather?" type questions about the future. You can use the questions below or make up your own. Indicate which side of the room they should move to depending on their answers.

Let's say your future had to be made up of these options.

Which would you choose?

Own an amusement park or a zoo?

Live in a tree house or on a boat?

Drive a double-decker bus or ride a horse?

Have a swimming pool filled with hot cocoa or fruit punch?

Wear a uniform made of fresh fruits or fruit snacks?

Thinking about the future can be hard, a little overwhelming and, in this case, a little silly! Thankfully, God has a plan for us. We can have plans and hopes of what might come, but at the same time, we can rest easy knowing God's plans are better!

Game: Job Interview

INSTRUCTIONS: Give each kid a piece of grid paper and a pencil. Have them map out either an exterior or the floor plans of their dream house. Then provide a bunch of Lego bricks and see if they can create what they laid out in their blueprints.

TIE-IN:

Which room in this dream house can you dedicate to spending time with God and learning more about God's plans? What will you do there?

Make sure you write somewhere on your plans:

I can trust God's plans for me.

Maybe they won't happen exactly the way you think they will, but we know they will be beyond anything we can dream up!

Discussion

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

What did Simon, Andrew, James, and John all have in common?

They were fishermen.

What did Jesus say to them?

To follow Jesus and become fishers of people.

How did they respond to Jesus' call?

They left everything right away and followed Jesus.

Read Psalm 62:6-7. What do these verses remind us about God? How do those things help

us trust God's plans for us?

God is our rock, salvation, fortress, mighty rock, and refuge. These verses remind us we can depend on God and trust God's plans.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Why do you think it's important to think about the future right now?

How is following Jesus part of God's plan for you? How do you know?

What are some plans you think God might have (or you hope God has) for you?