

Zap Pack Teaching Notes – Week 1

Bible Truth: I can talk to my friend Jesus through prayer.

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Young Samuel talks with God at night.

Bible Verse: Romans 5:11 (NLT)
“Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”

Supplies:

- DVD Player and TV/Projector
- 2 Backpacks (*one for boy and one for girl*)
- 1 Set of 8 Communication History Pictures (*recommend printing on cardstock*)
- 2 Sets of Letter Cards placed in Envelopes (*recommend printing on cardstock*)
- 1 Cell Phone (*can optionally take it out from another backpack*)

Countdown Video (1 min/1 total)

Call together all children into the teaching area while one minute countdown video plays.



(push button to start countdown video)

Welcome & Opening Prayer (1 min/2 total)

Warmly welcome children to your children's ministry. This is also a great time to make any specific announcements or acknowledge birthdays. It is also recommended that you open in prayer asking for God's blessing on your time together.



(say the following...)

- Welcome back to _____ . Today we are going to start an exciting new series called “Zap Pack”!
- For the next 6 weeks we are going to have an electrifying time exploring what it means to be Livin' for Jesus!
- Let's begin by asking God to help us open up our eyes (*point*) and ears (*point*) and hearts (*point*) to the truth found in God's Word (*hold up Bible*).

Dear God, Thanks you for all the kids that you brought to church today. We know that you want all of us to learn something important today from Your Word. Help us to be great listeners while we have a great time together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Small Group Connection (5 mins/7 total)

We want to make sure that we connect with every child God brought our way. This is the time for children to turn to their Small Group Leader who will ask them a few simple get-to-know-you-better questions. The countdown video will signal when it's time for them to refocus on you, the upfront teacher.



(say the following...)

- Now that we've talked with God, let's take a few minutes and talk with each other.
- Your Small Group Leader has a few questions that will help your group connect with each other.
- Turn to them now...



(push button to start Small Group Countdown video)



(small group leaders will ask these questions)

- What is your favorite thing to do with your friends?
- When was the last time you got to do this?
- How often do you talk with your friends during a typical day?
- What do you usually talk about?

- Have you ever had to move away from good friends?
- Have you ever had to be the "new kid" at school?

Worship Song #1 – Welcome You (3 mins/10 total)

We like to get kids up on their feet and moving to upbeat worship songs. Not only do we get a chance to sing praises to God, but we also give kids a chance to work off any pent-up energy! Suggested hand-motions to the songs can are included on the DVD Getting Started section.



(say the following...)

- Okay, everyone up on your feet because we need to make sure you all feel welcome here...
- Sing along with me...



(push button to start Worship video)

Opening Icebreaker – What Came First? (5 mins/15 total)

We like to have a visual element that will help the children understand the lesson. This short illustration is really just to get the kids minds engaged with the day's topic.



(push button to display “What Came First?” logo screen)



(say the following...)

- We're going to jump start today's lesson by seeing how much you know about the history of communication.
- The screen shows a very old pay phone. So...how did people communicate before phones?
- I want to see what you all think, so I brought in these sheets of paper that have pictures of ways people have communicated throughout history.
- I am going to have some helpers come up and hold them for me.
(choose a variety of children to hold each of the pictures while you quickly explain what each of them are)
- Now I want to see if you can put them in order of “What Came First”.
(have children position themselves in whatever order they feel is correct...oldest on left and newest on right)
- Let's find out how our friends did. Here is the actual order... (read below as children put in correct order)
 1. **Homing Pigeons** – Sent message of winner of Olympic games in 776 BC
 2. **Morse Code** – Samuel Morse invents code of dashes/dots in 1835 to use with Telegraph machines
 3. **Pony Express** – United States started in 1860 to deliver mail across the country.
 4. **Telephone** – Alexander Graham Bell invents the electric telephone in 1876.
 5. **Cell Phone** – Martin Cooper of Motorola makes first cell phone call in 1973.
 6. **Personal Computer** – IBM sells first PC in 1981
 7. **E-mail** – Ray Tomlinson sent the first network e-mail in 1971, but personal e-mail came after PCs.
 8. **Text Message** – First text message sent from a Motorola beeper in 1989, but didn't become popular until after the year 2000.
- Let's thank our helpers. They did a great job! (clap for them as they return to their seats)
- That was a little history of how people communicate with each other.
- Today we have so many ways we can talk with our friends.
- **So, how do people communicate with God? (prayer)**
- **Did you know prayer has been around longer than any of these methods?**

Bible Truth (1 min/16 total)

This is the main teaching point for today's lesson. Everything revolves around communicating this Biblical truth.



(push button to start Power Point screen)

I can talk to my friend Jesus through prayer



(say the following...)

- Did you know that Jesus is the best friend you could ever have?
- That's why it's so important that we talk to Him by praying.
- **After all, friends that never talk don't feel like true friends at all.**

Zap Pack Teaching Video – Part 1 (4 mins/20 total)

This is the first part of the teaching video. Zack's world turns upside down when his family moves to a new town, then turns bizarre when he get zapped into his school backpack. There he learns life-lessons from a wise stubby pencil who draws Bible stories.



(say the following...)

- Who has ever been the “new kid at school” before? *(kids raise hands)*
- It can be scary can't it?
- We are about to meet a boy who desperately needs a friend.
- His family had to move and he's about to become the “new kid”.
- His name is Zack. Take a look what happens...



(push button to start Zap Pack – Part 1 video)

Bible Verse – Romans 5:11 (3 mins/23 total)

This is the Bible verse that clearly communicates what we are teaching today. It is a good idea to actually take out your Bible and read from it. If you have extra time (longer than 70 minute service) you can see which of your students can find the verse the fastest and give them a reward. Another option (to fill extra time) is to have children help you come up with hand-motions for the verse and then practice it a few times. You can then reward children who memorize it. I simply recommend reading it and then explaining it in your own words so that the children understand it.



(say the following...)

- We'll get back to our friend Zack in just a minute, but first I want to show you a verse that would help Zack.



(push button to display Bible Verse screen)

“Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” – Romans 5:11

- You can find this verse in your Bibles by turning to **Romans 5:11** *(turn to this in your Bible and hold up)*
- Let's all read this together... *(read out loud with kids)*
- How does this verse help someone who just moved away from their good friends? *(kids share)*
- How does this verse help someone who is about to start their first day in a new school? *(kids share)*
- How does this verse help someone who feels all alone and without any true friends? *(kids share)*
- Maybe thinking of God as your friend is new to you...after all you can't see God.
- You can't see God, but you can still talk to Him. Who remembers how we do that? *(kids respond)*
- **That's right! Today we are learning why it's important that we pray.**

Object Lesson – Cell Phone (3 mins/26 total)

This is a way to help kids visualize and remember the lesson. We believe that children learn best from a loving and engaging teacher. The video and multimedia are there only to support you. The goal of this segment is for a light bulb to go off in each child's head. You want them to truly understand and remember the Biblical truth. This is also an excellent time to help them make the connection between this truth and their life. How can what they are learning change how they live their life? You may choose to keep all the object lessons in a backpack.



(say the following...)

- I brought in something today to help us understand prayer better.
- It's my cell phone (*hold up cell phone...you can optionally take it out of a backpack*)
- I love having a cell phone and know that some of you are lucky enough to have your own.
- What's so nice is I can easily talk to the people I care about at any time...it doesn't matter where I am.
- If I ever get lost, I don't worry because I can call someone to help me find my way home!
- If I'm ever alone, I know that my family and friends are just a phone call away!
- So...how does this cell phone remind us of what we're learning today about prayer? (*kids respond*)
- Prayer is simply talking with God.
- Jesus is waiting to spend time with you...all you have to do is call...I mean pray!
- If you ever feel lost, pray that God will help you find your way.
- If you ever feel alone, like Zack does in our video, remember that Jesus wants to be your best friend.
- Did you know that you can talk to Jesus the way you would talk to a friend?
- Your prayers don't need to rhyme.
- They don't need to sound all fancy.
- You don't even need to close your eyes or talk out loud!

Worship Song #2 – God is Workin' On Me (3 mins/29 total)

We like to get kids up on their feet and moving to upbeat worship songs. Not only do we get a chance to sing praises to God, but we also give kids a chance to work off any pent-up energy! Suggested hand-motions to the songs can be included on the DVD Getting Started section.



(say the following...)

- Okay, everyone up on your feet because I've got another song for us to sing.
- This song reminds us that God is at work in our lives.
- He brought us to church today because He wants us to get to know Him better...like a friend.
- Sing along with me...



(push button to start worship video)

Zap Pack Teaching Video – Part 2 (6 mins/35 total)

This is the conclusion of the teaching video. This is where Zack sees a Bible Story drawn for him and then is given the opportunity to live out the lesson. As the weeks progress, we see God changing Zack into a young man who is truly Livin' for Jesus!



(say the following...)

- Okay, let's find out what happens to our friend Zack in his Zap Pack...



(push button to start Zap Pack – Part 2 video)

Small Group Discussion – 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (8 mins/43 total)

This is a chance for your children to open up their Bibles, read a story about a young person who lived for God. This will be the same Bible Story they saw Woody, the pencil character, draw for Zack in the second part of the Zap Pack video. They will also have a chance to discuss this story with their Small Group Leader. For younger children, read the Bible story while they follow along in their Bibles. The countdown video will signal when it's time to refocus on you, the upfront teacher.



(say the following...)

- I want us to read the Bible story we just saw Woody draw.
- I love that there are stories in the Bible about kids your age!
- During our Zap Pack series, we are going to read some of these stories for ourselves.
- Today's story is about a young boy who might have been just as lonely as Zack.
- Turn to your Small Group Leaders for the next 8 minutes to read about him.



(push button to start Small Group Countdown video)



(small group leaders will ask these questions)

- What was Samuel's job in the temple? *(help Eli the priest)*
- What was Samuel sleeping near? *(near the Ark of God)*
- Who did Samuel think was calling him? *(Eli)*
- How many times did it take for God to get through to Samuel? *(three times)*
- How did Samuel respond to God? *(Your servant is listening)*
- How is Samuel's conversation with God like prayer for us today? *(He spoke with God and listened)*
- How is Samuel's conversation with God not like prayer for us today? *(We can't hear God's actual voice)*
- What are some ways that God might show you that He is really listening to your prayers? *(kids respond)*
- How can prayer help you when you feel alone? *(Comfort knowing that God is always there)*
- Why do you think God wants us to pray to Him? *(He loves us deeply and wants to be our best friend)*
- What experience do you have with prayer? *(kids share)*

Pack-n-Play Game – Pillowcase Chase (5 mins/48 total)

This is a fun chance to energize the children with a fun upfront game. Typically this works best if played boys vs. girls. We also try to reinforce the Bible Story and/or the Bible Truth. Have fun and, if you'd like, reward both teams with a small prize!



(push button to display Pack-n-Play Game logo screen)



(say the following...)

- Okay it's time for Pack-n-Play! This is a fun and friendly game between the boys and the girls.
- These games will always involve a Backpack...that's why we're calling this Pack-n-Play 😊
- I need 4 boys and 4 girls who are willing to play today. *(choose your volunteers)*
- Today's Pack-n-Play game is called "Pillowcase Chase"!
- Here is how we'll play...
 1. Line up each team on stage *(boys vs. girls)*
 2. Place a boys and girls backpack in the back of the room; each filled with the envelopes.
 3. On "Go" the first person from each team steps into Pillowcase and hops over to Backpack
 4. They must then reach inside their team's backpack and grab an envelope.
 5. They then hop back to the stage and give the Pillowcase to the next person in line.
 6. Next person can begin hopping, while first person opens the envelope.
 7. The goal is to find the P.R.A.Y. letters and form the word "Pray".
 8. If the envelope contains a letter not needed, just discard it.
 9. First team to spell the word, "PRAY" by holding up the letter cards, wins! *(give all kids a small prize)*

Worship Song #3 – V.I.P. to GOD (3 mins/51 total)

We like to get kids up on their feet and moving to upbeat worship songs. Not only do we get a chance to sing praises to God, but we also give kids a chance to work off any pent-up energy! Suggested hand-motions to the songs can be included on the DVD Getting Started section.



(say the following...)

- Okay, everyone up on your feet because we got one final song to sing.
- This song reminds us all that God loves us and thinks we are V.I.P.s. (*Very Important People*)
- Sing along with me...



(push button to start worship video)

Rapid Rewind Review (5 mins/56 total)

This is a time to reinforce the content of the lesson. There are 6 simple questions to ask. If you want you can provide a small candy prize for each correct answer. No need to bring children upfront, just have them raise their hand if they know the answer.



(push button to display “Rapid Rewind” logo screen)



(say the following...)

- It’s time to see just how much we all learned!
- We are going to rewind all the way to the beginning and rapidly review the lesson.
- Raise your hand if you know the answer. Here we go!



(push button to display Review Question #1 screen)



(push button to display Answer #1)



(push button to display Review Question #2 screen)



(push button to display Answer #2)



(push button to display Review Question #3 screen)



(push button to display Answer #3)



(push button to display Review Question #4 screen)



(push button to display Answer #4)



(push button to display Review Question #5 screen)



(push button to display Answer #5)



(push button to display Review Question #6 screen)



(push button to display Answer #6)

Personal Application Story – Optional (2 mins/58 total)

If you have the time in your service, then you can end with a personal application story. This is where you share a short story about how this Bible truth was lived out (or not lived out) in your life. Please try to keep your stories short and age-appropriate. This is completely optional, but a powerful way to have your children connect with you as their teacher. Many times, this will be the main thing they remember.

Closing Prayer (1 min/59 total)

Conclude with a sincere prayer that repeats the Bible Truth and/or uses the Bible Verse.



(say the following...)

- It would be wrong for us to not end our lesson with prayer.
- To help us focus on our friend Jesus, just close your eyes and fold your hands.

Dear God, Thank you for everything we learned about prayer today. I am so glad that we can talk to you anytime and that you want to be our great friend. Please help us to remember to pray throughout the day; not just before we eat or go to bed. We love you! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Small Group Activity – Build-A-Prayer (11 mins/70 total)

This is a chance for your children to gather with their Small Group Leaders one last time and do a short activity that will help them apply today's Bible truth. We will not display a Countdown since this should take the rest of the service time.



(push button to start exit music)



(push button to stop exit music)

Dismiss to Parents

Dismiss children to their parents.