

WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

OPPOSITE DAY

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is with us even though we can't see him.

THE BIBLE

The Transfiguration: Luke 9:28-36;
Romans 8:31-39

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "Everywhere I Go" (Tim Timmons)
 - "To The Edge" (Vineyard Kids)
 - "Your Love For Me" (North Point Kids)
 - "Believe It" (Gateway Kids Worship)

ACTIVITY | Opposite Tag

- Welcome to our last Opposite Day for this month! We've done a lot of activities in the past few weeks that have to do with opposites.
- Are you ready for one more?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Establish that there will be no running in this game — only walking. Choose one kid or leader to be "it." Once the game begins, "it" tries to tag the other kids, but has to do it walking backward. Once tagged, that person joins the person that's "it," and has to walk backward to tag the other players. Play until everyone is walking backward.*

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Play Sardines throughout your campus where one preteen has to hide somewhere while everyone searches for them. Once someone finds the hidden person, they join them in the hiding spot. Play until everyone finds the hiding spot then start over.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Play a different kind of reverse tag where everyone has to try to catch one leader. It would encourage teamwork and not make anyone feel left out for possibly not being able to move as fast.*

- Walking backward to play tag was a little challenging because it was harder to see where you were going and where everyone was.
- Today we are talking about how Jesus allowed his friends to see something in a completely different way.

ACTIVITY | Fact or Fiction?

- **What is the opposite of “fact”?** It’s fiction! Let’s try an activity that shows your skills at telling facts or making up fiction.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a shoebox containing any item you want – seriously, it can be anything, but the wackier the better! Ask a volunteer to come up to look inside the box without showing anybody else and they can choose to tell the audience exactly what’s in the box or make it up. If they think the volunteer is telling the truth, have them yell, “Facts!” If they think what they’re describing is not in the box, have them yell out, “Fiction!” Prepare as many shoeboxes as you want to play.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have two preteens play this head-to-head (like the “Box of Lies” game from The Tonight Show).*
- Sometimes when we don’t see things with our own eyes, we shrug it off as not being true, or fiction. But when it comes to the things Jesus taught in the Bible, we can rest assured they are a hundred percent facts, even though we didn’t get to see it ourselves!

QUESTION | What are some things we can’t see?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out white paper, white crayons, watercolor paint, and paintbrushes.*
- With this white crayon, I want you to write down five things we can’t see, but believe in (e.g., *wind, gravity, air, love, peace, etc.*).
- Now, take your paintbrushes and paint over the words to see them revealed!
- **What are some things you wrote down?**
- **Why is it tough to believe in something when you can’t see it?**

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

BIBLE STORY | The Transfiguration

- Today’s Bible story is about something opposite, of course, but this time, Jesus showed it to the disciples who were with him. Let’s find out what happened.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For today’s Bible story from Luke 9:28-36, draw a sketch of a person on white bulletin board paper to represent Jesus. Either attach it to a lamp or another light source, or put it up on a wall and provide neon yellow highlighters. Ask for two volunteers to stand behind the paper to be silhouettes of “Moses” and “Elijah.”*

- One day, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him to a mountain to pray. Jesus did this sometimes. Even though he was God’s son and talk to God at any time, he would designate a specific time and place to spend time with God.
- But then something really strange happened. All of a sudden, Jesus started . . . glowing. *[Turn on your light source to backlight the paper, or ask for volunteers to start coloring in the outline with highlighters.]*
- Then two figures appeared. *[Ask volunteers to stand on either side of the outline, behind the paper as silhouettes.]* It was Moses and Elijah, who were very important people from the Bible that the disciples knew all about.
- One of the disciples, Peter, was so amazed by everything that was happening that he said that they should set up shelters and stay there on the mountain. But then a voice came from heaven saying, **“This is my son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”**
- Whoa! Everyone looked around because they didn’t know who said that. **Who do you think it was?** It was God! And as soon as God spoke, the disciples saw that Jesus was alone again. *[Turn off light and ask volunteers to step out from behind the paper.]*
- Jesus didn’t suddenly become God’s son, but suddenly everyone who was there on the mountain could it, too. Even though they couldn’t see Jesus shining anymore, Moses and Elijah were gone, and God wasn’t speaking through a cloud, because of this experience, Peter, James, and John knew for sure that Jesus was truly the son of God and that he was going to be with them always.

BIG IDEA | Jesus is with us even though we can’t see him.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the color wheel pieces from previous weeks and label it with the words from this week’s Big Idea (see your Shop & Prep List). This time, put up only green, blue, and purple leaving empty spaces where volunteers can come up and fill in with red, orange, and yellow to complete the wheel and reveal the Big Idea.
- Today’s Big Idea is NOT . . . **Jesus is with us even though we can’t see him.**
- Okay, just kidding, that IS our Big Idea! Happy Opposite Day!
- The disciples didn’t “see” who Jesus really was until they got to that mountain. But they got to see Jesus and spend time with him in person – something we can’t do.
- That doesn’t mean Jesus isn’t here, though! Just like the truth about Jesus had been there all along, Jesus is with us always!

VIDEO | Opposite Day, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s episode of [Grow TV](#).

ACTIVITY | Odd Oxymorons

- **Do you know what an oxymoron is?**
- I know it sounds like a rude name, but it just means two opposite-meaning words that are side by side. You might have heard of some of them before, like, “big baby,” “bittersweet,” or “really fake.”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a list of oxymorons kids would understand (e.g., act natural, alone together, awfully good, small crowd, jumbo shrimp, original copy, true myth, sweet sorrow, walking dead, etc.). Assign each group of four or five an oxymoron and have them act out a conversation where they might use the oxymoron.
- The cool thing about oxymorons is that the words by themselves mean the opposite of each other so they probably shouldn't go together . . . but they do and they make sense!
- **Jesus is with us even though we can't see him** might feel kind of like an oxymoron. But we can know that Jesus is with us because he said he would always be!

BIBLE | Romans 8:31-39

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Romans 8:31-39 aloud or ask a volunteer to read for you. Ask kids to pay attention and see if they can spot any opposites in the passage.
- This Bible passage had lots of opposites happening! **Did you spot any?**
 - Verse 31 told us that since God is **for** us, we don't have to worry about who is **against** us.
 - Verse 32 showed us that God didn't **keep** Jesus but **gave** him up for everyone.
 - Verse 34 said Jesus **died** but came **back to life**.
 - Verses 38-39 listed a ton of opposites — **death and life, angels and demons, present and future, height and depth** — to remind us that none of these things could ever separate us from God's love!
- There are many things — both good things and bad things — that might make us question whether or not Jesus is really with us. When times are bad, we might think God forgot about us. When times are good, we might forget about God.
- But no matter what, **Jesus is with us even though we can't see him!**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Talking to Myself

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids volunteer their responses or break out into smaller groups and have them share with a leader.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACKS:** For older kids who might be reluctant to share out loud, have them write a note to themselves about how they might comfort their past selves because Jesus is always with us.
- **Describe a time when you felt alone and you felt like no one understood you.**
- **If you could talk to yourself in that moment, knowing what you know about Jesus now, what would you tell yourself?**

RESPONSE | Jesus Maps

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Project Google Maps onto a screen or wall. Ask kids for suggestions of places to look up. Then print maps of your city and pass them out to each kid along with markers.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Grab some sketch paper or sketchbooks and have preteens draw a simple picture on the paper as if they were making a map. Have them draw icons to show their current location and possible destinations.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use the carpets that look like maps of neighborhoods (or lay out a large map) and let kids drive toy cars on the roads. As they drive, talk about where they go. Ask, "Is Jesus with you at the _____?"

- Let's look up some cool places on Google Maps you've been to or places you've heard other people have traveled to.
- **Why do we use navigating apps like Google Maps?** That's right, when we don't know how to get somewhere, these kinds of apps give us step-by-step directions. It also tells us what's next, if there's danger ahead, how long a trip might take, and if we've made a wrong turn.
- Jesus being with us is like having a guide through life who can help us navigate our lives. Even though we can't see him, we can talk to him. When we remember the things Jesus taught us in the Bible, we can always figure out which direction we need to go.
- And no matter where we go in life, God will never leave our side! Write the Big Idea on top of the map of our city to remind you that you are never alone.
- **Jesus is with us even though we can't see him.**

MEMORY VERSE | Verse Scramble

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write each word of the memory verse onto index cards and give each team a set. Make as many sets as there are teams. Have kids race to see who can put the words in the correct order first. To tie into the Opposite Day theme, have them try different variations such as putting the verse in reverse order or awarding the slowest team to finish!
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Number each card in order so even non-readers can participate.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for giving us the kind of faith that knows you are with us even when we can't see you. Help us to remember you're always there, in both good times and bad, and to always make room to spend time with you. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What happened to Jesus on the mountain?**
- **How did the disciples do when they saw this?**
- **At the end of the story, what did they hear God say?**
- **Read Romans 8:38-39. Which of those things mentioned can separate us from God's love?**
- **Why do we tend to forget that Jesus is always with us?**
- **What can we do differently because we know Jesus is with us?**
- **What is one kind of opposite thing Jesus said or did that you remember from this month's Bible stories?**

ACTIVITY | Wordsearch

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out the word search printable for the kids to complete in their small groups along with pencils or highlighters.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Using grid paper and pencils, have preteens create their own word search of opposites rather than Bible story words. They have to search for words that mean the opposite of what's in the list.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have each word written on a sticky note and hide them around the room.
- Have you ever gotten stuck looking for a word in a wordsearch and then discovered that the word you were looking for was right in front of you in the most obvious place?
- Many times, we search everywhere else to find love, comfort, and acceptance. But do you know who's always been there for you, who loves you, comforts you, and accepts you? Jesus!
- **Jesus is with us even though we can't see him.**

MEMORY VERSE | II Corinthians 12:9a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/II Corinthians12-9a](http://growcurriculum.org/II%20Corinthians12-9a).
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**