

Chapel 1

Big Picture Point: Jesus knows me and loves me.

Bible Story: Jesus is Anointed at Simon's House, Luke 7:36-50

Introduction:

Opening Song: "Your Love Never Fails", The Newsboys

"Good (Morning/Afternoon)! Welcome to our first chapel! I am so excited to talk to you today and to really explore what it means to Celebrate the Grip – that means that we are going to see all the ways that God has got us and won't ever let us go, because of how much God loves us. There are a lot of stories in the Bible that tell us all about this, and most of them have to do with Jesus.

The Bible (*hold up Bible*) is completely true – it's not a book full of made-up stories, but a book that contains the true Story of God and People. In the Bible, we learn that Jesus, God's only Son, came to us, looking like one of us, to find and embrace us, just as we are, because God made you and loves you no matter what.

Now, before we get into our Bible story today, I need 4 volunteers to come up and play, "What Do You Know"?

Game: "What Do You Know?"

Materials: Pads of paper, markers, earmuffs, silly string, "fabulous prize"

One contestant is chosen to be the guesser and will turn around and put on the earmuffs while the other contestants write down any number between 1 and 10 on their papers and show the audience.

"Ok, (*Contestant name*), you have a chance to guess what number these contestants each chose. If you guess any of their numbers, you win, and you will receive this "fabulous prize" (*show fabulous prize*). If you guess no numbers correctly, you lose and will be silly-stringed off the stage to the amusement of every person here. Are you ready? Ok. You may ask each contestant one question and one question only to give you a hint as to which number they have chosen.

(Allow the game to play through, rewarding the contestant if they guess correctly, and letting the other contestants spray him with silly string if they do not. If you have time, and the first contestant loses, play another round with the remaining contestants, selecting a guesser and playing as in the first round.)

Thank you so much to our fantastic contestants; let's give them a round of applause! (*Dismiss contestants back to their seats, or to the washroom if they've been silly-stringed*)

Bible Story: Jesus is Anointed at Simon's House, Luke 7:36-50

Materials: 5 pieces of paper, stapled to long paper strips, to go around actors' foreheads like the game "Hedbanz". Paper 1 shows a broken heart, paper 2 shows "angry eyes", and papers 3-5 show big question marks.

Adult volunteer to play Jesus.

(Open Bible) "This is the Bible, and as I said before, it tells the true Story of God and People. The part of the Story we're reading today comes from Luke, chapter 7, verse 36-50. I'll need more volunteers to help me with this story today – 2 girls and 3 boys please. *(Bring volunteers on stage, and give a boy the angry eyes headband, a girl the broken heart, and the remaining kids the question mark headbands)* And also, our Jesus, played by *(adult volunteer's name)*.

So, to set the scene, Simon *(point to Angry Eyes)* was a Pharisee. He was very concerned about following the rules, and he invited Jesus over to talk with Him, mostly about rules. Simon was also very concerned with making sure everyone else follows the rules too, which is why he has angry eyes. He got very upset when people broke the rules. Simon invited Jesus to his home, with some other guests who had questions about Jesus *(point to the crowd)*. So, Simon, his guests, and Jesus, were all sitting down at dinner, eating and talking. They were eating Roman style, which means they were kinda lounging around, like you might at a picnic. *(Encourage the actors to recline and mime eating)*

Now, we all know how to treat guests in our home to make them comfortable – what are some ideas? *(allow answers from the group)* Well, in Simon's country, when a guest came to your house, in order to make them feel comfortable and welcome, you'd offer them a way to wash their feet from the dusty road, some nice lotions to take away the camel smell, and kiss them on the cheek. But remember, Simon was mostly concerned with rules and not people, so he didn't do any of that when Jesus came over to his house. Simon wanted to get talking right away about the rules and how people should follow them.

Simon and his friends and Jesus were eating and talking all about the rules, when suddenly a woman burst into the room *(point to Broken Heart)*. Some parts of the Bible say different things about her name, so we'll call her MM for Maybe Mary. MM walked straight into the room and threw herself at Jesus' feet *(direct Broken Heart to do so)*. She cried over Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. She opened a little jar she had in her pocket and poured special perfumed lotion all over Jesus' feet and she kissed His feet. She wanted Jesus to know how much she loved Him, because she knew that Jesus loved her first.

Simon was horrified! This was a woman who was well known all over town for breaking all of the rules! And she had just barged into a private party! Look surprised, Simon. Now look angry. Good. So Simon thought to himself – If Jesus really was sent by God, He would know that this woman is a rulebreaker. She is the worst of the worst.

Now, in our guessing game, did anyone get it right 100% of the time? No, because none of us knows everything. But Jesus not only knows everything, He knows everyone. Jesus knew that this woman was so grateful because she was forgiven of her sins. Jesus knew that Simon really wanted to follow God the right way and keep all the rules. Jesus knew that the crowd hadn't made up their minds yet about who He was.

Jesus told Simon a story that showed that God had already forgiven this woman of all she had done and that God had forgiven Simon of his sins too – like loving rules more than people. God forgave first because He knew everything this woman had done, everything Simon had done, everything everyone of us has ever done. But God loved us just the same and forgave us just the same.

God knows everything you've ever thought, or done, or said. God knows how much you love your parents and friends, He knows how much you want to send your little siblings to the moon sometimes; He know when you lie and fight and hug and forgive. God knows all of those things. And God sent Jesus to us to love us and to make a way for our forgiveness.

This is why we have our first Big Picture Point: **Jesus knows me and loves me.** Let's say that together: Jesus knows me and loves me. Great! We'll be talking more about that in our small groups in just a few minutes. But first, let's pray and thank God for His love for us. (*Lead Closing Prayer*)

Closing Song: "Hey, Jesus Loves Me", Shout Praises Kids, *Friend of God*, 2007

Small Group Discussion

Game: Laundry Basket.

Materials – a circle of chairs, carpet squares, or papers

Make sure you are one chair short of the number of kids in your group. Assign each kid one of four articles of clothing – shirt, socks, jeans, hats. Pick one player to begin as IT in the center of the circle. IT calls out a clothing type, and all those kids must trade seats quickly. If IT can get a seat in the scramble, whoever is left standing in the center becomes the new IT. At any point, IT can call "Laundry Basket", and all the kids must trade seats. Play as long as interest holds.

"We're comfortable with people knowing what kind of clothes we like by what we wear; but there's a lot of stuff we wouldn't want anyone to know about us – that we're still scared of the dark, or that we lied to our mom about our homework, or that sometimes we are extremely angry or sad or lonely."

Discuss what Jesus knew about this woman: that she had good days and bad ones, that she made wise choices and foolish ones, and yet He loved her. How is that like us? When we have things we want to hide, we can remember that **Jesus knows me and loves me.**

Chapel 2

Main Point: Jesus is my Good Shepherd.

Bible Story: The Lost Sheep, Luke 15: 1-7

Introduction:

Opening Song: "Movin' Me," Amber Sky Music

Good (morning/afternoon) again guys! This week at camp just keeps getting better and better. We are really seeing all the ways that God has got us and will never let us go because of how much He loves us. Yesterday, we heard that no matter what we think – like Simon and Maybe Mary and the crowd – Jesus will always love us and never let us go.

Today, I'm excited to hear another true story from the Bible, which is God's gift to us and tells the Story of God and People. This story today is different though – it's a story within the story. We will hear a story that Jesus told to show us that no matter where we go Jesus will always love us and never let us go.

Jesus loved to tell stories; and remember we are learning that Jesus, God's only Son, came to us, looking like one of us, to find and embrace us, just as we are, because God made you and loves you no matter what.

But before we get into all of that, let's get some playing done with our all new game: "Sheep Wars: The Fleece Awakens".

Game: "Sheep Wars: The Fleece Awakens"

As many cotton balls as possible in two large trash bags, two laundry baskets or wide buckets, masking tape.

Divide the group into two teams, and make a wide space for the game (*move chairs or benches if necessary, or lead the teams to a clear space in your chapel area; you could do this outside, but be sure to allow for plenty of transition time*). Use the masking tape to make a line down the center of the play area and set a basket on either side. Ask a few volunteers to stand tall over the group and then release the cotton balls so they fall all over the play space. Then begin the game - each team must try to gather the cotton balls on their side into the basket faster than the other. The winning team will receive a prize appropriate to your camp context (*more outdoor/pool time, first in line at meals, later lights out, special pizza delivery, etc.*) After both teams have finished gathering their cotton balls, collect the baskets and reset the chapel area for the Bible story.

"You guys played well and really went after your lost sheep!"

Bible Story: The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:1-7

Materials: pillowcase filled with: bag of plastic Easter grass (or gift bag filler), bottle of water, pair of fluffy slippers, small section of garden fencing (the decorative border).

(Open Bible) “This is the Bible, and we are learning that it is the true Story of God and People. Today we will read from Luke, chapter 15. Luke wrote down a lot of what Jesus said and did. One day, Jesus was surrounded by a crowd of people that all had different ideas of what it meant to belong to God. If God’s really got us, they said, what about all those other people who are not following Him? Does God love them, too? So Jesus told a story that would help people understand that no matter where you go, God’s got you and will never let you go.

Let me get a few more volunteers up here again to help tell the story *(Be sure to choose different volunteers than yesterday. Gather the volunteers around the pillowcase while you begin the story.)*

Jesus said – There was a shepherd who had one hundred sheep, and one day he noticed that there were only 99 sheep. One had gotten loose! Now, where could that sheep possibly have gone and what was the shepherd going to do about it? It was quite a pickle! Now some would say that the shepherd had plenty of sheep still; but a good shepherd knows his sheep and wants each one especially. So, the shepherd locked the sheep fences nice and tight and went off to search for the missing sheep.

Now, volunteers. There are a few things that sheep might go wandering off to find; some things that sheep really need. I’m going to ask you to reach into this pillowcase, without looking, and guess what item you feel. *(Let each volunteer pick an item, guess by feel what that might be, and pull it out of the pillowcase to reveal what it is.)* Ok, we have quite a few options here.

(Ask volunteer to hold up the grass/filler) Sheep need food – new, fresh green grass everyday. If sheep stay in one place too long, they’ll eat all the grass down to the dirt and would starve to death. So a sheep might wander off to find food. *(Ask volunteer to hold up the water)* Sheep need water too; they need to drink clean water everyday. Sheep can smell water and will follow their noses to a stream or river. So a sheep might wander off to find water. *(Ask volunteer to hold up the slippers)* Sheep also need comfort. Mommy and baby sheep will snuggle up together to sleep, and sheep will huddle around each other on cold nights. They also get nervous around loud noises and new sights and that would make them run to look for comfort. So a sheep might wander off to find comfort. *(Ask volunteer to hold up the fencing)* Sheep need boundaries. They like to stay together and need someone to lead them. They check out their pasture and grazing land to find out how far away is too far from the flock and the shepherd; a boundary like a fence or some rocks helps them feel safe. So a sheep might wander off to test the boundaries.

Thank the volunteers and have them place the props back in the bag and go to their seats.

This was a brief introduction to sheep – what they need and where they might go to try and find it. That’s kind of like us: we need our physical needs taken care of and also some of our wants, we need family and friends and acceptance, we need to test boundaries and grow and learn. We might go to some pretty extreme places to get what we need: we might go along with the crowd when they’re doing something wrong so we can be accepted, we might steal or cheat or lie to get a physical thing we want, we might test the boundaries too hard and break our parents’ or teachers’ trust, we might seek comfort in too much video games or eating our way through three boxes of Oreos. We’re kind of like sheep – wandering around, driven by our needs.

But this story in the Bible is not mostly about sheep. It’s about the Shepherd. It’s the Shepherd who cares for the sheep and gives them what they need. It’s the Shepherd who is in charge of the whole flock and every sheep in it. The Shepherd notices when one leaves, and it’s the Shepherd who goes to find it. The Shepherd has got the sheep – they are His. There is no place they can go, no need they could have, that would make the sheep not belong to Him. The sheep wandering the pastures and looking for food is still His sheep, the sheep heading towards a stream is still His sheep, the sheep huddled in a little bush is still His sheep, and the sheep way far off that is looking for the boundary is still His sheep. Sure, they may be far from Him, but they are still His. The Shepherd is still willing to go find them and bring them back.

The Bible says that the Shepherd left the ninety-nine sheep and went to look for the lost sheep. When he found it, He picked up the sheep and carried it on His shoulders all the way back home. Then, the Shepherd had a party, gathering his friends and neighbors, because He was so thrilled that His lost sheep was back home safely. The Shepherd didn’t say, ‘hey, look at my new sheep!’ No, the Shepherd was celebrating that the sheep that had wandered off was found. That lost sheep had always belonged to the Shepherd and the Shepherd had brought it back home.

This brings us to our second Big Picture Point: **Jesus is my Good Shepherd.** No matter what we need or where we go, we always belong to Jesus. He always has us in His hands. There is nothing we could do or say to make that untrue. When you feel like you’ve gone somewhere that’s not right, when you think you might have wandered off after something you think you need, remember that Jesus is your Good Shepherd. You can talk to Him anytime and He will be there for you. Let’s thank Him for that right now. *(Lead Closing Prayer.)*”

Closing Song: “Not Forgotten”, Hillsong Kids

Small Group Discussion

Craft: Good Shepherd Mural

Materials – a printout of Psalm 23, NIV; a roll of butcher or craft paper; markers, crayons, or colored pencils; (optional: scissors and glue and a variety of decorations like sandpaper, blue colored cellophane or tissue, Easter grass, cotton balls, et.)

Gather the group and read the Psalm aloud. Then, unroll the paper to make a large space for the kids to collaborate on making a Good Shepherd mural from the passages in the Psalm. Let kids make the green pastures, the still waters, the paths and the dark valley; encourage them to draw feast tables and overflowing cups. Allow as much time as possible for kids to be creative and be sure to coach them on sharing and working together.

“All the things we mentioned that sheep need – food, water, comfort, and boundaries, are given by the Good Shepherd. No matter where the sheep goes, into pastures or streams or valleys, the Shepherd is there. You can trust God to give you what you need and you can know that Jesus is always with you because, just like this Psalm says, **Jesus is my Good Shepherd.**”

Unroll some more paper and let kids draw modern places they might be where they need either physical or emotional needs met: at school, at home, alone at night. Then, lead them each in a sentence prayer: When I am (place) and I need (acceptance/food or shelter/comfort/to learn, etc.), I can trust that **Jesus is my Good Shepherd.**

Chapel 3

Big Picture Point: Jesus loves me even when I don't measure up.

Bible Story: Peter meets Jesus, Luke 5:1-11

Introduction:

Opening Song: "Hey! Jesus Loves Me", Shout Praises Kids, *Friend of God*, 2007

"Hey everyone! Welcome back to chapel; I'm so glad you're here! You all found your way back to our (*building/pavilion*) just fine, so I don't have to worry about you wandering like the sheep we learned about last time. We've been looking in the Bible, the True Story of God and People, to hear more about what Jesus is like and how He will always hold us and have our back. The first time we gathered, we heard that **Jesus knows me and loves me**, and last time I saw you, we said that **Jesus is my Good Shepherd**. Let's say those two things together: **Jesus knows me and loves me and Jesus is my Good Shepherd**. Excellent! So we've heard that Jesus knows everything we think and feel and there's nowhere we could go that He would not bring us home. But sometimes, that's kind of a tricky thing to understand.

We all have messed up and sinned, and if you've been in church before, you've probably heard that God, the One True God who made you and me, can't stand to be around sin. So you might think that God hates us and Jesus made Him like us again by paying for our sin. But that's not true! God has always loved us, has always had us in His grip, and has always been on our side! God is the One who sent Jesus to show us that we belong to Him.

There are times we realize that we don't measure up to all that, and we'll see what to do about that later today. But right now, it's time for a game!! Let's bring up 4 volunteers!

Game: Stacking Up

Materials – Stacking Cups (either the official kind from speedstacks.com or several packs of the red plastic kind); small prize

Bring up your volunteers and give each a large stack of cups. On "Go", the kids must stack the highest pyramid of cups they can in 2 minutes (*a large timer is a great visual to go along with this*). Play a few rounds so kids can get quicker with unloading the cups from the stacks. Play a final winning round and award a prize (*a small treat or toy related to time: A large box of Nestle Quick drink mix, a wristwatch, Fast Break candy bar; or a new sleeve of red plastic cups*) to the fastest stacker.

"Excellent stacking everyone! Sometimes you feel like you are going straight to the top and sometimes you feel like you just don't measure up. Let's have a hand for our fabulous volunteers!" *Dismiss kids to their seats.*

Bible Story: Peter meets Jesus, Luke 5:1-11

**Materials: 2 large pieces of paper or posterboard on easels, markers.
Adult volunteer to play Peter**

“Let’s look in the Bible to hear about someone who realized he just couldn’t measure up. Please welcome Peter to our chapel here at *(name of camp)*. *(Peter comes on stage.)*”

Peter is a fisherman and he has a lot of things to do. Peter, please write your to-do list here on this giant paper. This week you have to: clean the nets, polish the boat, sort the fish, pay your harbor dues, empty the smelly fish gut barrels, find that missing oar, and teach your little brother not to yell SHARK every ten minutes. Got it all? Good! That’s a lot to do. But there’s one thing that is essential to being a fisherman, one thing that defines you, that without accomplishing this you are not a fisherman at all, so write it down really big: you need to CATCH FISH. That’s the most important thing you need to do to be a fisherman. *(Have Peter sit down)*

So we turn to our Bible story: Jesus was teaching people all along the shore on the Sea of Galilee – that’s like a really big lake. Jesus decided to get into a boat, probably so everyone could hear and see Him better. Jesus picked the boat that belonged to Peter and asked him to go out from shore a little ways so Jesus could see all the people. Jesus talked to the crowd and taught them all about God. Peter was probably pretty proud to have Jesus in his boat! Jesus was kind of a big deal in those parts, and he was in Peter’s boat!

After He was finished teaching, Jesus told Peter to go farther out and catch fish. Now, this wasn’t a good time of day for catching fish; but there was more than that.

Remember that Peter’s number one to-do was to “catch fish”? Well, on that particular day, he had totally failed on his biggest job. Peter told Jesus: “We’ve been fishing all night and working hard and we haven’t caught a thing.” He probably didn’t feel super proud then.

Still, Peter did what Jesus said and he went out to deep water and let down his nets. He might have felt a little silly and embarrassed. After all, he had already failed in his job and now he was going to fail in front of Jesus.

So he let down his nets and then something AMAZING happened – the nets started to sink, they pulled the boat all the way to one side, because they were full of fish! There were so many fish in the nets that Peter needed to call his friends in other boats to come help. It was a miracle. Jesus gave Peter a giant catch of fish.

See, Jesus didn’t need Peter to be the best fisherman in order to love him. Jesus loved Peter even when he didn’t measure up in what he did.

But the story doesn't end there. When Peter saw this miracle, he fell to his knees and said, "Lord, leave me. I am a sinful man." Sin means not measuring up, not hitting the mark. Peter had his to-do list of fishing, but there was another list he had, that we all have, too. (*Go to the other paper*).

This list wasn't just things to do, but things to be: (*write as you speak*) be kind, be loving, be patient, be generous, be truthful. Peter knew that there were times he wasn't kind to others, that he lost his temper, that he was selfish, that he didn't tell the truth. Peter knew that not only did he not measure up in what he did, but he missed the mark on who he was.

That's true for all of us- none of us measure up to the mark of being perfect. We all mess up this list. Sometimes it's small and sometimes it's big: you decide to watch TV instead of helping your mom unload groceries, or you take \$10 from your dad's wallet without asking. That's sin, missing the mark, and we all do it in different ways and at different times.

When Jesus finds us, like the sheep in our story last time, we realize, just like Peter did, that we are sinful – we don't measure up in what we do or what we are. But the great news: what the Bible calls the Gospel, the Good News, is what Jesus said to Peter, "Don't be afraid." Jesus knew that Peter sinned and missed the mark. Jesus wasn't there to punish Peter or reject him. Jesus was in that boat because He loved Peter and had a special plan for him to tell other people about the Good News. Jesus loved Peter even when he missed the mark on who he was.

Just like that, Jesus loves you and has a plan for you to tell others about Him. When you've missed the mark, when you've done something wrong or been selfish or unkind, and you know you just don't stack up, please remember our Big Picture Point for today, "**Jesus loves me even when I don't measure up.**" Jesus died to forgive our sins; that means He doesn't remember them or keep track. They are forgiven forever because Jesus loved us when we didn't measure up, far before we loved Him. We don't need to be afraid when we do things wrong that Jesus won't love us any more; He's got us in His grip forever. That is an amazing gift! Let's pray. (*Close in prayer, giving kids time to respond to the Gospel according to your church's tradition*)

Closing Song: "God's Love is Big", Vineyard UK, God

Small Group Discussion

Game: Blind Fish Matchup

Materials: Fish cut from many different colors of construction paper; bucket; bandannas or blindfolds; markers.

Divide the group into two teams and let them run, relay style, to the bucket of paper fish. Once there, each kid puts on a blindfold and grabs 2 fish from the bucket that they believe are matching color. When they take off the blindfold, they can see if they matched correctly or not. Correct matches can be brought back to their team; incorrect matches are put back into the bucket. The winning team is the one with the most fish at the end of the game. Let kids play as long as time allows.

“You tried really hard to match those fish without seeing, but sometimes you missed the mark and you didn’t even know it. Peter in our story thought he was doing a pretty good job at his to-do and to-be lists, but when he saw Jesus he realized that he didn’t measure up. When we look to Jesus, we see that we don’t hit the mark, but we also know that **Jesus loves me even when I don’t measure up.**”

Let kids write on the fish ways that they might miss the mark or not measure up – sin and sinful attitudes. *(Be sensitive to kids who might be going through a difficult time with bullies or low self-esteem. This is not a shaming activity at all.)* Then, all say the Big Picture Point “**Jesus loves me even when I don’t measure up**” and throw those fish “overboard” *(away from your small group area).*

Chapel 4

Big Picture Point: Jesus' love gives me a Big Picture for life.

Bible Story: Jesus and Peter walk on water, Matthew 14:22-33

Introduction

Opening Song: "Movin' Me", Amber Sky Records

Welcome back! Can you believe we're more than halfway through camp? It has been an amazing week so far! I've loved learning with you as we look deeper into God's Word, the Bible. The Bible (*hold up Bible*) is completely true – it's not a book full of made-up stories, but a book that contains the true Story of God and People. In the Bible, we learn that Jesus, God's only Son, came to us, looking like one of us, to find and embrace us, just as we are, because God made you and loves you no matter what.

We've heard stories that may have been new to some of you and some maybe you've heard before. We've collected 3 Big Picture Points so far. Let's say them together. **"Jesus knows me and loves me. Jesus is my Good Shepherd. Jesus loves me even when I don't measure up."** Excellent! You're doing great remembering those Big Picture Points.

Today, we're going to talk about that big picture and why it's so important, but first, let's play a game!

Game: 321 Focus!

Materials: Graphics slides on your screen, or large pieces of paper with the following numbers: 3, 67, 8, 54, 21, 9; paper wads, party horns, pom-poms, and other distracting items; 2 large pieces of paper and markers.

Divide the group into two teams. Explain that you'll show a sequence of numbers to the whole group, and whichever team can remember the numbers will win a prize. Show the numbers, one at a time, either on a large screen or papers on the stage area. While the numbers are shown, have all of your small group leaders (*or other adult volunteers*) try to distract the kids as much as possible by throwing paper wads, blowing party horns, chanting with the pom-poms, singing, dancing, etc. Play loud music and, if possible, flash lights around your chapel area. (*Someone in a funny costume, like a clown or a gorilla, might be fun here too.*) Quiet down all the commotion and ask each team to get together and write what they think the numbers were on their papers. Whichever team gets the numbers and sequence correct (or closest), wins an award appropriate to your camp context (*later bedtime, first in line at meals, extra free time, ice creams from the store, etc.*). If they both get all numbers correct, plan a fun treat for everyone.

"Wow! That was really difficult! You had to focus on the big picture while everything was trying to distract you and disrupt your focus. Let's hear about someone else in the Bible who had that same problem."

Bible Story: Jesus and Peter walk on water, Matthew 14:22-33
Materials: none

“This is another story from the Bible, which is the true book that guides us as we learn how strong God’s grip is on us; the way that God has got us and will never let us go.

Today we’ll look at a chapter in Matthew, who was a friend of Jesus and wrote down a lot of what Jesus did and said. Another of Matthew and Jesus’ friends was Peter, whom we were introduced to yesterday. Does anyone remember what Peter did for a living? Yes, that’s right, he was a fisherman. So today’s story takes place aboard Peter’s boat on the big lake, the Sea of Galilee.

Peter and his friends were out on the lake, in the deepest part of the water, when a storm came up. Now, here’s where you come in. I’d like all of you on this side of the room, in the back, to be the rain. (*Indicate the back left of your chapel area*). When I say “rain”, tap your hands on your lap like rain. Try it once. Ok, great. Now, you over here (*back right of the chapel area*) are the wind, so you need to howl and make swooshing noises when I say “wind”. Give it a try. Whew, that gave me the shivers. You here at the front (*front left of the chapel area*) are the waves, so you need to stand up and down and wave your arms like the wave at a baseball game. Can you do that whenever I say “waves”? You’ve got it! The rest of you here (*front right of the chapel area*) are the thunder and lightning. You should stomp your feet and yell “crash!” whenever I say “thunder and lightning”. Do it once, all together. Good! Now you all know your parts, and listen carefully. You might be doing your parts slowly or loud or soft. And when I say the word “storm”, do everything all at once. Let’s try that, ready, one, two, three – STORM!! Yikes! That was quite a stor---- terrific racket! Back to our story.

Peter and his friends were out on the boat. Jesus wasn’t with them because He had stayed behind on the shore to pray alone. So the disciples – that’s the name for Jesus’ friends – were by themselves. They were probably telling stories and eating whatever was in their camel-skin lunchboxes. When suddenly, they noticed that the **wind** had picked up. It was getting faster and louder. Then the **rain** started, slowly at first, but then harder and harder until they were soaked. The **waves** got bigger and bigger and even bigger and one of the disciples yelled as he spotted **thunder and lightning** in the sky. They took down the sail and huddled on the deck together. This was no little spring shower – this was a full-blown **storm!** The **rain** splattered down and the **wind** started tossing their boat up and down and back and forth among the **waves** that were now higher than their heads! **Thunder and lightning** cracked across the sky. They were scared and overwhelmed. Then they noticed something else – something impossible. Jesus was walking on the water towards them. He was in the middle of the lake, in the middle of the **storm**, walking on top of the water. This was a miracle. They could hardly believe it, and they thought He might not be real. “If you’re real, and not a ghost or a dream or something,” Peter said, “tell me to walk on the water to you.” So Jesus said, “Come on, Peter.”

Slowly, Peter put one foot out of the boat, then the other. He was doing it! Peter was looking at Jesus and walking on the water towards Him.

While Peter looked at Jesus, he was able to walk on top of the water, not sinking or drowning or even swimming. Jesus was standing on the water and Peter was right there next to Him! How amazing!

Now, as we saw in our game, it can be hard to focus on what's important while there's a lot going on. Peter was watching Jesus, but little by little he started to notice all the other things going on. First was the **wind** – it was really strong! Then he looked at the **waves** – they were over his head! And he noticed he was soaked by the **rain** and his wet clothes were weighing him down. He heard the **thunder and lightning** and remembered how dangerous it is to be in the water when there's electrical activity. Then, he looked away from Jesus and saw the whole entire **storm** and it happened – Peter started to sink!

Immediately, Jesus grabbed Peter's hand and held him up. Jesus put Peter back in the boat and climbed in after him. The **storm**, which was super loud and heavy and everywhere all around them, stopped at once! They all looked at Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God."

Peter thought he had seen the big picture when he looked at everything surrounding him, the entire weather tempest. But Jesus called him to the water and kept him from sinking to show that Jesus and His love for us is the big picture. No matter what else is happening in your life, whether good or bad or terrible or amazing or difficult, is bigger than Jesus' love for you. That's what you can focus on. When times are hard and you feel tossed and turned by your friends' mean words and your bad grade on a test and your parent's grumpiness, you can focus on Jesus' love for you. When you're scared because you have to move or go to a new class or go to the doctor's, you can focus on Jesus' love for you. That's our Big Picture Point today, "**Jesus' love gives me a big picture for life.**" No matter what is going on, it's not the big picture. Jesus' love is the biggest picture and the most important thing to focus on in your whole life. Let's pray and thank Him for loving us in the midst of the **storm**. (*Stop the storm and pray, thanking God for calming the storms in our lives and giving us the Big Picture of His love for us.*)

Closing Song: "Your Love Never Fails", Newsboys

Small Group Discussion

Craft: Big Picture Pieces

Materials: random pieces of puzzles, glue, paper and markers.

Give each child a puzzle piece and let them glue it to their papers. Then, guide them to draw a picture around the puzzle piece, incorporating its colors/shapes into their design.

“Just like our pictures took a little piece and made it into the big picture, Peter needed to focus on the Big Picture of Jesus’ love. If we just saw the little piece that we each got, it wouldn’t make sense. We might get overwhelmed trying to figure out our little piece instead of noticing the big picture. In life, we can let the other things, like difficult situations at school or home, become the focus of all our thought and feelings. But when we remember **Jesus’ love gives me a Big Picture for life**, we can know that whatever is happening, whatever seems like it’s the most important or overwhelming, is not the big picture. Jesus’ love is the big picture, and He’s got us no matter what.”

Chapel 5

Big Picture Point: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with me always.

Bible Story: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-9, 2:1-4

Introduction

Opening Song: “God’s Love is Big”, Vineyard UK

Hey everyone! It’s our penultimate chapel today! That means it’s the second-to-last time we’ll be together for chapel. We’ve done a lot of great work here, celebrating the grip God has on each one of us and all the ways He will be with us and never, ever let us go.

We’ve been exploring the Bible, which is the True Story of God and People, looking at stories about Jesus and stories that He told others to illustrate our Big Picture Points. We have four of them now! Let’s say them together: **Jesus knows me and loves me, Jesus is my Good Shepherd, Jesus loves me even when I don’t measure up**, and our newest one, **Jesus’ love gives me a Big Picture for life**.

All of this about Jesus makes me kind of look around for where He might be. I mean, I’ve never actually seen Him. I’ve seen pictures of what artists think Jesus might have looked like, but they didn’t have cameras way back then, so those are kind of just guesses. I’ve never seen Him at the grocery store, or school, or the park, and I haven’t even seen Jesus sitting in my church!

How can we talk about Jesus always being with us, always holding us in His grip, and never leaving us or letting us go, if we can’t see Him? We’re going to find out more about that, but first let’s play a game!

Game: The Big Blow Up

Materials: either several pieces of bubble gum OR three jars of bubble solutions and wands; wet wipes for cleaning up either activity; a small prize – either a new pack of bubble gum or large bubble solution jar.

Welcome to our next great game, “The Big Blow Up!” I’ll need three volunteers to come here and compete to blow some things up!! (*Select three volunteers, trying to get kids who haven’t had a turn yet.*) Thanks, volunteers! Ok, so here are your materials (*give each kid either a piece of bubble gum or a jar of bubble solution and wand*). Your job is to blow the biggest bubble. If you win, you will receive this fantastic and thematically appropriate prize (*show prize*); if you lose, you will receive an escort back to your seat. Either way, it’s a great time. Ok, we’ll give you a few minutes to warm up. (*Allow kids to practice blowing bubbles for a minute or two; this would be a good time for some upbeat music.*) All right now, on the count of three, blow the biggest bubble you can. 1,2,3 – GO!!! (*As kids blow bubbles, watch carefully and enlist the crowd to help.*) As I hold my hand over their head, please clap for the kid who blew the biggest bubble. Ok, player (*name*), you’re our clear winner. Please take your prize and take your seat! (*Dismiss the other players to their seats.*)

Bible Story: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-9, 2:1-4

Materials: balloons, a small helium tank, and string or ribbon (such as the Party Time kit which comes with balloons, tank, and ribbon); weights for the ends of the balloon strings like hand weights, food cans, water bottles; permanent marker.

That was great! We're going to be talking about something that's hard to see, so I'm glad we started out with such a great example. What filled those balloons that we can't see? That's right, air. We can't see air but we can see what it does. And air is everywhere. The same air that touches you is also at the top of Mt. Everest, in the driest desert, on the Eiffel Tower, in the White House. It's all air that's part of our atmosphere. We can't see it but it is everywhere and powers every human being. We can put air inside things, like this balloon, to help us understand what air is and how it works. *(Inflate a balloon and tie it off, attaching the string and tying it to one of the weights)*

In the Bible, sometimes we learn about things that are hard to understand. One of these ideas is that Jesus can be with us everywhere, all the time. In Matthew 28, Jesus was talking to his friends. Jesus had already been crucified, buried, and risen again. That was a HUGE event, the BIGGEST miracle ever. Jesus' friends were really excited that Jesus had beaten death and was alive forever. They thought that He would then travel with them, teaching and healing, just like He had before. But Jesus had another plan. Luke and Matthew both tell us about it.

Jesus told his friends that He was going to return to His Father in Heaven. *(Draw on the inflated balloon with a sharpie: Jesus and His friends, stick figures OK)*, but He promised them something amazing. Jesus said, "I will send you the Holy Spirit I have promised...and I am with you always, even to the end of time."

Then, Jesus rose up, up, up into Heaven. *(Inflate another balloon, tie it off and attach it to a string and a weight. Draw on it the friends in a group watching Jesus rise in the air, again, stick figures are fine.)* The disciples, Jesus' friends, puzzled over how Jesus would be with them now that He had gone back to Heaven, and what the Holy Spirit would be like.

Then, one day not long after that, all the disciples were gathered together, praying. Suddenly, there was a sound like rushing wind, and it looked like fire was around the heads of all the disciples. *(Inflate another balloon, tie it off, and attach it to a string and a weight. Draw on it a few wavy lines to look like "wind", and a flame shape to represent "fire".)* The disciples were able to speak new languages, and they were suddenly brave and bold about telling others the Good News about Jesus. This was the Holy Spirit, Jesus' gift to the believers. Now, instead of having to stay in one place and have Jesus physically with them, like before, they could go anywhere and tell everyone the Good News.

And they did – the Holy Spirit was with Peter when he traveled to the shores of the Great Sea to tell a Roman soldier about Jesus; the Holy Spirit was with Stephen when he was put in jail in Jerusalem and got to tell a whole city about Jesus; the Holy Spirit was with Philip when he went to Africa to tell an Ethiopian traveler about Jesus. The Holy Spirit was with the disciples in ways that they had never thought of before. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus could be with them every second of every day in every place they went. This was an even more incredible miracle! *(Inflate another balloon, tie it off and attach it to a string and a weight. Draw on it a globe and a large clock.)*

I've used these balloons to help you see something that can't be seen; the air that's all around us. Just like air is in these balloons, the Holy Spirit is in everyone who believes in Jesus, giving them strength and power to live according to God's way. The Holy Spirit makes us more aware of the grip God has on us, and the way that Jesus is always with us and will never let go. *(Indicate the strings and the weights.)*

That's our Big Picture Point today, "**Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with me always.**" Everywhere you go and in everything you do, you are not alone. We can celebrate the grip that God has on us through the Holy Spirit

When you feel afraid or lonely, when you're angry or upset, you can remember that the Holy Spirit is with you. Jesus even said the Holy Spirit was the Comforter, the One who is with us through our troubles. When you're happy and calm, when you're thrilled and excited, the Holy Spirit is with you. Jesus celebrated with His friends, and the church rejoiced with each other in the Holy Spirit all the time. Let's pray and thank God for His Spirit always with us. *(Close in prayer).*

Closing Song: "Not Forgotten", Hillsong Kids

Small Group Discussion

Game: Balloon Smash Relay

Materials: Inflated balloons, each with a strip of paper from the Big Picture Point inside; a large basket or laundry bin to hold them. Make two sets.

Divide your group in half, and form teams to run a relay race. Set each balloon-filled bin on one side of the room and line the teams up on the other. Players should run from the starting point to the bin, grab a balloon, and take it to their team. Then, they should pop the balloon and take out the strip of paper and set it aside. The next player runs to the bin and repeats the actions. This continues until one team has all the strips of paper and puts them in order to read the Big Picture Point.

“Those papers were all part of our Big Picture Point even though they were separate and hidden in the balloons. Even though we can’t see Jesus, we know He is with us all the time by His Holy Spirit. No matter where you go or what you’re going through, remember that **Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with me always.** “

Ask the group to think of times that they want to remember that Jesus is with them. If time allows, blow up new balloons and encourage them to write these situations on the balloons with permanent marker and take them back to their cabins.

Chapel 6

Big Picture Point: Jesus' love gives second chances.

Bible Story: Peter denies Jesus and Jesus restores Peter, Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-17

Introduction:

Opening Song: "Your Love Never Fails", The Newsboys

Welcome to our very last chapel session!! I am so thrilled with everything we've shared over the past few days. We've talked about the Bible, the True Story of God and People, and that Jesus, God's only Son, came to us, looking like one of us, to find and embrace us, just as we are, because God made you and loves you no matter what.

We have five Big Picture Points so far, and we'll learn the last one today. This week, we've learned **Jesus knows me and loves me, Jesus is my Good Shepherd, Jesus loves me even when I don't measure up, Jesus' love gives me a Big Picture for life, and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with me always.** These all explain some of the ways that God has got us in His grip and will never, ever let us go.

These are all great things to keep in mind, and I think we're all pretty clear that God will never let us go, but what about sometimes when we feel like we've let go of Him? It happens to everyone – you do or say or thing something that you know for sure is not pleasing to God. Maybe you're really sorry you did it, or maybe you're not that sorry right now. We all mess up – accidentally and even sometimes on purpose. What do we do then? We'll hear more about that in a minute, but first, our last game of the season! Get your eyes ready, because we're going to play "Rooster or Sheep?"

Game: "Rooster or Sheep"

Materials: graphics slides of various pictures of roosters and sheep or big pictures of roosters and sheep printed on poster-sized paper; blindfolds.

Divide the group into two teams and have them all sit on the ground. Explain that you're going to show a picture on stage and the first person on either team to stand up will get a chance to say if it was a picture of a rooster or a sheep. Display a picture of each to make sure everyone knows the difference between the two. Select an adult volunteer to keep score. The team with the highest number of points for correctly identifying the pictures wins a prize appropriate to your camp setting (*one last dip in the pool/lake, road trip treats from the camp store for the ride home, any special mementos or souvenirs from your camp program*).

Show the pictures, varying the time you display each picture. Make sure to pick new kids to guess for each round (*you can make a rule that if you stand for one round you have to sit for the next*). Declare a winner after several rounds.

"Great job everyone! These two animals actually have a rather big part in our story today, so keep a lookout for them."

Bible Story: Peter denies Jesus and Jesus restores Peter, Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-17

Materials: Graphics or pictures of a rooster and a sheep; adult volunteer to play Peter.

Let's look into the Bible one last time together to see what we can find out about letting go of God. You all remember Peter, right? (*Motion for adult volunteer to join you*). Well, Peter definitely has experience in this area. You remember that Peter realized he didn't measure up when he first met Jesus? But Jesus told him not to be afraid, and showed that He loved Peter anyways. Then, you remember that when they were walking on the water, Peter got overwhelmed and took his eyes off Jesus, forgetting the Big Picture and freaking out, even though Jesus was *right there next to him*? But Jesus grabbed Peter's hand and saved him from sinking, and they got back into the boat together. So, we already know that Peter is definitely sure that Jesus has got him and will never, ever let him go. Right, Peter?

Well, something happened, right at the end of Jesus' life here on earth. Right when Jesus was about to be crucified, when Jesus needed friends the most, Peter let go of Him. Then, as you know, Jesus rose again and after a while He and Peter came face to face. Both times were quite a story, and it happened like this.

I'll need some help a few times in this story, so I'm going to make this side of the room (*indicate the right side*) Team Rooster (*show rooster graphic*) and I'll make the other side (*indicate the left side*) Team Sheep (*show sheep graphic*). Team Rooster, when you see your picture, you need to say "Oh no! What have I done?" Try it out once. Great! And Team Sheep, when you see your picture, you need to say, "You know that I love you." Can you do that? Bravo. Ok, we'll continue.

So, Jesus had been arrested and was being led away for trial in the middle of the night. The officials were moving Him from place to place, and Peter was following them, trying to stay out of sight. Earlier, Peter and Jesus had been talking, and Peter promised Jesus that he would follow Him to the end. Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed three times early in the morning, Peter would say that he had never met Jesus before in his life. Peter thought that was ridiculous, and he crept from street to street, trying to keep an eye on what was happening with Jesus.

Someone in the crowd tugged Peter's shirt. "Hey, what do you know about this Jesus character?" they asked. Peter panicked and said – "Nothing, not at all." And the rooster crowed once. (*Show the rooster picture and let Team Rooster say their piece.*) He crept a little closer towards the building where Jesus was being held. "I know you! You were with Jesus," one of the servant girls said. "Who me? I've never met the man!" Peter said nervously. The rooster crowed again as Jesus was led out of the building. (*Show the rooster picture and let Team Rooster say their piece.*) "You have the same accent as Jesus – surely you must be with Him!" Another bystander had spoken up. "I swear to you I have no idea what you're talking about." Peter said. The rooster crowed a third time, and Jesus looked up from where He was walking and

looked right at Peter. (*Show the rooster picture and let Team Rooster say their piece.*) Peter ran away and cried all night like his heart would break. He had let go of Jesus. He had said that Jesus was not his friend, that he didn't even know Jesus. He had let Jesus walk that whole way into jail, and the whole way to the cross, without Peter, his strongest friend. Peter was so ashamed and sad and sick and sorry.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He hung out with His friends a lot. One night Peter was out fishing but he hadn't caught anything. He was heading back to shore when he saw a familiar figure standing there – Jesus, waiting for him to come in with an empty net, just like the first time they'd met. Jesus told Peter to throw his net on the other side of the boat, and just like the first time, the nets filled to bursting with fish. Peter joyfully jumped out of the boat and half-swam, half-ran to the shore to meet Jesus. They all pulled in the fish and Jesus made breakfast of fish and bread for all His friends. After they'd finished eating, Jesus took Peter aside a little to talk with him. Peter must have been a little nervous and embarrassed, talking with Jesus after what he'd said about Him. But what Jesus said next was nothing Peter had ever expected.

"Peter", Jesus said, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Of course!" and Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep." (*Show sheep graphic and let Team Sheep say their piece.*) They walked down the beach in silence for a few minutes. "Peter, do you love me?" Jesus asked again. "Yes, Lord, I do," said Peter. "Feed my sheep," said Jesus. (*Show sheep graphic and let Team Sheep say their piece.*) They walked a little further. "Do you love me, Peter?" Jesus asked. "Yes! You've asked three times and I've said the same thing." Peter felt bad that Jesus had asked him three times and he braced himself for what Jesus would say next. Maybe Jesus would point out the three times Peter had failed and let go of Jesus' friendship. Maybe Jesus would this time say – No, I know you don't really love me. Jesus took a deep breath. "Peter," He said, "feed my sheep." (*Show sheep graphic and let Team Sheep say their piece.*)

Peter had tried to let go of Jesus' friendship three times, and three times Jesus reminded Peter that Jesus would never, ever let go of him and the plan God had for Peter's life. Peter was going to be the first person to tell others about Jesus after the Holy Spirit came; Peter was going to travel and tell others the Good News, and he was going to be the leader of the first church. Jesus never let go of Peter or His plan for Peter, and He made sure Peter knew it.

See, nothing we do or say or think can separate us from God's love. God has always got us. His love always gives us a new start, just like Jesus gave Peter. That's our final Big Picture Point: **Jesus' love gives second chances.** Even if after camp, you start to doubt our Big Picture Points, even if you mess up and make choices that are not following Jesus, you can always count on the fact that He's got you in His grip, just waiting to give you a second chance to follow His plan for your life. Let's pray. (*Close in prayer.*)

Closing Song: "Hey! Jesus Loves Me", Shout Praises Kids, *Friend of God*, 2007

Small Group Discussion

Game: Rewind

Materials: Index cards that have different actions on them: riding a bike, making dinner, washing the car, etc.

Divide the group into two teams and let a person from the first team to draw a Rewind card from the pile. Then, just like charades, the player has to act out that action. But there's a twist: they must act out the action *in reverse*. Be sure to explain this thoroughly and give examples before play begins. Alternate teams and actors and play until you run out of cards or as long as interest holds.

“This game was tough! We know that time can't really rewind, but sometimes we want it to. That's called regret, wishing we could do something over and make a different choice. Peter definitely had a lot of regret about denying Jesus. What are some things we regret doing? (*Allow kids to share as they feel comfortable.*) But just like Peter, Jesus doesn't want us to live with regret. **Jesus' love gives second chances.** Any time you do something you regret, you can pray and ask Jesus for a second chance. While that won't stop the consequences of your regrettable choice, Jesus can give you strength to see them through and make the changes you need to live the life God has planned for you.”