FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: "*God rescues and saves people. God does mighty miracles in heaven and on earth.*"
Daniel 6:27

Big Idea: *God rescues His people because He loves.*

Bible Story: 400 Years of Silence

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Memory Verse Relay

- Divide kids into teams and form a straight line.
- The first player from each team will run to a board to write the first word of the memory verse.
- Then that kid will run back to tag the next person who will run to the board to write the next word in the verse.
- Continue playing until a team has completed the whole verse.
- ***Option for younger kids*** - Scouts can tell the leader the word and the leader can write it.

Bible Time – Books of the Bible Scavenger Hunt

- Write the New Testament books of the Bible on small index cards.
- Hide the cards around the classroom.
- Instruct kids to look carefully to find the cards.
- Once they are all found, have the kids work together to put them in the correct order.

Get-To-Know-You Game – This or That?

- Designate two sides of the room for different choices. You can have signs to hold up or just point where the kids should go.
- Ask questions like “Do you like tacos or pizza?" "Do you like dogs or cats?"
- Have the kids move to the side that represents their choice.
- Repeat as time allows.

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *“Hey KXP! Today’s true story from the Bible isn’t actually in the Bible. We are going to talk about what happened in history between the Old Testament and the New Testament. This time is called the "400 Years of Silence." The word* ***"silence"*** *doesn't mean nothing happened. In fact, a lot happened! It means that God did not send new prophets during that time. Think of it like the pause between two chapters of a story in a book. The author isn't speaking directly, but the story is still moving forward.”*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

400 Years of Silence

The Old Testament ends with prophets such as Malachi. Malachi reminded God's people to obey Him and promised that one day God would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord. After Malachi, no new books were added to the Old Testament for hundreds of years. Yet many Christians believe God was still working behind the scenes, preparing the world for Jesus. At first, the Jewish people lived under the rule of the Persian Empire. The Persians allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, and worship God. Life was not always easy, but the Jewish people had some freedom to practice their faith.

Around 330 BC, a young king named Alexander the Great spread Greek language and culture everywhere he went. This became very important later because many people could speak Greek. The message about Jesus could spread more easily and the New Testament was eventually written in Greek. There was a time when many of God’s people spoke Greek more than Hebrew. Because of this, scholars translated the Old Testament into Greek. This translation is called the **Septuagint**. Why was this important? Imagine if your Bible were only available in a language you couldn't read. The Septuagint helped people understand God's Word in the language they spoke every day.

After Alexander the Great died, his empire was divided among his generals. One ruler treated the God’s people very badly. He tried to force them to follow Greek religious practices. He banned some Jewish customs, destroyed the Temple, and punished people who obeyed God's laws. Many faithful Jewish people suffered because they refused to stop worshiping God. A Jewish family called the Maccabees led a rebellion against the terrible ruler. Even though it was very hard, they won important victories. The Temple in Jerusalem was cleansed and rededicated. This event is connected to the Jewish celebration of **Hanukkah**. Have you heard of Hanukkah? It is celebrated in December around Christmas time.

Eventually the powerful Roman Empire took over the region. Rome built roads, cities, and trade routes. Although Roman laws could be harsh, these roads later helped missionaries travel and spread the good news of Jesus. By the time Jesus was born, Rome controlled the land of Israel. Many Christians see these events as God's preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Out of these 400 years came many good things. The Greek language was spoken across much of the world. This made it easier for people from different places to hear and understand the gospel. Roman roads helped people travel long distances. The apostles could carry the message of Jesus to many cities.

For centuries, God's people waited for the promised Messiah. Many were eagerly expecting God to act. They had a growing hope. After the 400 years of silence, God spoke again through a messenger. The angel Gabriel announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus, just as the prophet Malachi had said he would. The New Testament begins with the story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. This is how God rescues His people. He loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. He was God’s rescue plan all along.

Let’s think of it like this. Imagine reading a book where the king promises to send a hero. Then there are 400 pages with no new messages from the king. During those pages, kingdoms rise and fall, languages spread, roads are built, and people wait. Finally, after 400 pages, the hero arrives.

That's why many Christians talk about the 400 Years of Silence. God wasn't giving new messages through prophets, but history was moving toward the coming of Jesus. Jesus was the most faithful follower of His Father, God. And we can be faithful followers of Jesus. We can learn from Him, act like Him, obey like Him, and treat others the way He treated them – with understanding and love. I want to follow Jesus! How about you?!

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: "*Thanks for being with us here in KXP for this amazing semester! There are a couple of things I want you to know. Next week we are celebrating the end of the year with a special time together and saying farewell to our 5th graders. You don't want to miss it! Also, starting in July, Kindergarten through 5th grade kids won't meet in classrooms because we want you to join your family for our At the Movies series. I hope you make plans to invite a friend to come see a movie with you. There's a lot to look forward to this summer and I can't wait!"*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | Trust God While You Wait

During the 400 Years of Silence, God's people had to wait a long time without hearing a new message from a prophet. Even though God seemed silent, He was still working. We can trust God during our waiting times too.

Leaders: Encourage the kids to do one of the following each day this week:

1. **Pray for 2 minutes** about something you're waiting for (an answer, a change, a friend, a goal, etc.).
2. **Read one Bible verse** that reminds you God keeps His promises.
3. **Write down one way you saw God working** that day, even if it was something small.

Some verses you can use:

- Isaiah 40:31 — "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."
- Psalm 27:14 — "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart."
- Romans 8:28 — "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him."

Group Discussion Questions

- Is it hard to wait without seeing immediate answers?
- How does knowing God was working during the 400 years of silence help you trust Him today?

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.

Scouts & Navigators Explorer Guide
Week 3 | June 21, 2026