FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: ***"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost but have eternal life." John 3:16***

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

Bible Story: Judges | Joshua 23-24; Judges 1

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 Cup Tower

What you'll need: plastic cups
How to Play: Kids build a tower out of cups. Each cup will have a word from the memory verse on it and the tower should be built and read from bottom to top.

Bible Time – Choose This Day Game

What you'll need: two signs – one that says **Serve God** and one that says **Serve Idols**
How to play: Read different scenarios and ask the kids who they are serving when doing the action – **God** (are they honoring God with their choice?) or **idols** (are they honoring things other than God or even honoring the idol of self?). Talk about why serving God is always the best choice.

- Telling the truth
- Taking things that belong to someone else
- Praying
- Arguing with your parent(s)
- Reading the Bible with family
- Spending hours playing video games
- Feeding people at a shelter
- Thinking a certain sport is your identity

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: *"Welcome back to KXP! We are so glad you're here. We have spent the last few weeks talking about Joshua and how he led the Israelites towards the Promised Land. God guided and led Joshua just like God led Moses."*

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.

Judges | Joshua 23-24; Judges 1

After the unusual battle and epic defeat of Jericho, Joshua said ***in chapter 23, verse 9, "The Lord has heled you defeat many great and powerful nations. He has forced them to leave ahead of you. No nation has been able to defeat you."***
As Joshua grew old, he gathered all the leaders of Israel together to give them his final advice. Joshua reminded them how God fought for them and kept every promise. He told them how important it was to obey God's Law. Joshua urged them not to worship the gods of other nations but to stay faithful to the Lord. Joshua wanted his people to obey God and live well. Joshua reminded all the people of Israel's history and then he said in ***chapter 24, verses 15 and 16 "You must choose for yourselves today. You must decide whom you will serve… As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord. Then the people answered, 'We will never stop following the Lord.'"***

To help them remember, Joshua set up a large stone under an oak tree as a witness to their promise. Every day they chose to follow God. It's the same for us. Every day we can choose to follow God and obey His ways. Well, Joshua lived to be 110 years old. He had a really long life. But after he died, the Israelites asked God who would go first to fight the Canaanites. God answered them by saying Judah would go first.

God always provided a leader for His people. But some of those leaders didn't follow and obey God fully. They would obey some of God's commands but not all of them. Have you ever done only part of what your parents ask you to do?

Let's pretend your mom asked you to clean your room. You make the bed and pick up your toys, but you throw your clothes under the bed or behind the bookshelf. Is that completely obeying your mom? Is that completely cleaning your room? I don't think so. Doing only part of what your asked is not fully obeying.

That's what many of the Israelite leaders did. They would follow God and obey His commands sometimes. Then they would make bad choices that didn't honor God. God would rescue His people and after a while they would sin again. This cycle would happen over and over. But God saves His people because He loves them.

John 3:16 says "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost but have eternal life." A few lessons from this true story from the Bible are to stay faithful to God because He is faithful to those who believe in Him. Choose to serve God always and obey Him completely. Let's pray together-Lord, thank you for keeping Your promises. Please help us choose You every day and obey You completely. In Jesus' name we pray – Amen.

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

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

Say: *"Thanks for joining me today. As we get closer to Easter, let's keep our mind on Jesus and all that He did for us. See you next time!"*

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 | Obedience Traffic Light

Supplies:

- Construction paper
- Red, yellow, green circles

Instructions:

Make a traffic light and label:

- 🟢 Green – Full Obedience
- 🟡 Yellow – Halfway Obedience
- 🔴 Red – Disobedience

Leaders discuss examples:

- Cleaning your room completely (Green)
- Cleaning only half of your room (Yellow)
- Refusing to clean and taking a nap instead (Red)
- Loading cups into the dishwasher but not plates (Yellow)
- Staying up to play video games after your mom said, “Time to go to sleep.” (Red)
- Raking the entire front yard of leaves (Green)
- Doing only 3 out of 10 math problems on your homework sheet (Yellow)
- Crumpling up your homework and shoving it in your backpack and forgetting all about it (Red)
- Cleaning your bathroom counter, sink, and putting your stuff away (Green)

Lesson Connection:

God wants “Green Light” obedience!

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.