



Children's Church

It's church...just for kids!



 **SPRING**

Leader Guide

SPRING • CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.



KidsOwn Worship®: FaithWeaver® Children's Church, Leader Guide, Spring

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Current Edition Credits

Contributing Authors: Michelle R. Hicks, Janet R. Reeves, Bonnie Temple, and April I. Thoms

Editors: Scott M. Kinner and Beth Robinson

Copy Editor: Lyndsay Gerwing

Project Manager: David Jennings

Creative Development Editors: Karl Leuthauser and Dave Thornton

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photography: Rodney Stewart

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We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

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*Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend shifting sessions as needed so Session 5 lines up with Palm Sunday and Session 6 lines up with Easter. For a suggested schedule, visit the Digital Download Center.

Don't just teach about the Bible. Change lives!

KidsOwn Worship® is a resource God will use to change the lives of the children in your church.

KidsOwn Worship sessions encourage people to focus on the one most important thing in life: *a growing relationship with Jesus*. In Luke 10:41-42 (the Martha and Mary story), Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed." Every session in

KidsOwn Worship helps students focus on this one thing, a growing relationship with Jesus. Whether they're studying Bible stories from the Old Testament or the New Testament, learners will be challenged to grow closer to Jesus every week.

You'll be thrilled at the way KidsOwn Worship encourages learners to weave faith into life. By providing meaningful activities, great discussions, and personal challenges, KidsOwn Worship takes learners past head knowledge of the Bible and into heart- and life-change.

With KidsOwn Worship, students of all ages will

- experience God's story in fresh, fun, meaningful ways;
- understand God's Word by doing surprising, fun stuff;
- discover the adventure of applying God's truth to everyday life;
- build a forever friendship with Jesus—the best friend they could ever have!

Welcome to KidsOwn Worship: Church for your kids.

Children's church is where your preschoolers and elementary children build their worship foundation. It's where they focus on God in a personal way—and experience children's worship through uplifting songs and fun, memorable Bible learning.

We know you don't want to just teach about the Bible in your children's church; you want to change lives through worship that touches minds and hearts in amazing ways! Thanks to KidsOwn Worship, your preschool and elementary children will experience worship through memorable songs and impactful Bible learning. It's flexible, easy-to-plan and—most importantly—effective in helping your kids grow a personal relationship with Jesus.

While KidsOwn Worship can be used in conjunction with any Sunday school curriculum, it works particularly well with FaithWeaver NOW and FaithWeaver Friends. Together, your families will learn about the same important Bible passages—allowing them to grow in faith as families.

We're so glad you've decided to touch the heart of God and change the hearts of your kids with KidsOwn Worship. We know you'll help kids grow closer to God!

Thom Schultz
Joani Schultz

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.



KidsOwn Worship also works hand in hand with FaithWeaver NOW and FaithWeaver Friends. All three of these great programs follow the same Scope & Sequence to help reinforce the Bible message throughout the week. FaithWeaver NOW is available for infants–adults.

Staffing Your Children's Church

To help make your children's church experience strong, it is important that you have at least one adult helper no matter how many children attend your children's church. In addition, we recommend that you recruit at least one helper for every 15 children.

Song Leader

You may want to recruit a song leader who can lead your children in a powerful worship experience. Give the DVD to the song leader, and let your song leader know which songs will be sung each week and what discussion he or she is responsible for.

Preschool Leader

You may decide to keep all the children together during the entire worship time or to separate the preschoolers and elementary students during "Let's Learn the Point!" If you decide to separate preschoolers for this section, recruit a preschool leader, and make sure there's a room where the preschoolers can meet.

Staffing for Your Children's Church Size

If your children's church is made up of 30 or fewer children, you'll be able to run an effective children's church program with two leaders—one to present material or lead worship songs, the other to gather supplies and help children with their individual needs.

If you have more than 30 children in your children's group, we suggest that you use a small-group format, which we call Praise Crews, for discussions. Using Praise Crews will change both the number of volunteers and the kind of volunteers you'll need (see the margin box). Each Praise Crew will need a responsible teenager or an adult helper to build relationships and help with individual needs.

Involving Older Children

If you have older elementary children or preteens who want to be involved in children's church, consider forming a children's worship team. It's a great way to help children learn to serve, and you'll find that many children are eager to participate on a worship team. Hold regular rehearsals to help the worship-team children learn the song lyrics and motions. Be sure to rotate children into the worship team often so that many children get a chance to learn how to serve.

Important Legal Information

By purchasing KidsOwn Worship you also buy the right to use the material, songs, and lyrics as often as you like. Please remember that this content is copyrighted material and can only be used within your children's ministry program. This right does not grant permission to post material on the Internet or to sell, reproduce, or redistribute this material in any manner. To request permission for this, please visit group.com/permissions.

What Do Praise Crew Leaders Do?

- Arrive early and be ready to welcome the kids in your Praise Crews.
- Worship enthusiastically! If you put your heart into worshipping God, kids will, too!
- Listen carefully to directions and help each child participate in the worship activities and the discussion that follows.
- Gently redirect kids who get off track or start misbehaving. It's your job to help kids have an awesome experience at KidsOwn Worship.

Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38



Worship Theme:



Jesus is worthy of our commitment.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise Jesus for being worthy of our commitment.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
1 Let's Praise God! <i>(about 25 minutes)</i>	Sing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Worship Christ" (1 Peter 3:15) • "Come, Thou Almighty King" • "God of Great Wonders" • "A New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) • "Faith" (Hebrews 11:1) 	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Bible, video equipment

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(about 25 minutes)</i>	* Tough Decisions Talk about promising to follow Jesus and how keeping that promise can be tough.	Classroom Supplies: Tape, scissors, enlarged photocopy of pictures (found in Preschool Activities)
	Follow the Lord Play a mirroring game about following to practice following a leader.	
	I Promise Sing about their promises to follow Jesus.	

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(about 25 minutes)</i>	* Build a Leader Draw leaders, and consider what makes a leader worthy of their commitment.	Classroom Supplies: 1 sheet of newsprint for every 3 children, markers
	"A Soldier's Life" Watch a video about being a soldier, and discuss being committed to Jesus.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment
	* Take Up Your Cross Do an experiment about commitment to explore what it means to be committed to Jesus.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: Package of Spinning Tops



Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(about 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Offer their gifts to God.	Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls
	I Have Decided Say a prayer of commitment with the leader.	
	Make Your Home in My Heart Sing a commitment song to worship Jesus through music.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38

This seems to be the first time in the Bible that Jesus openly told his disciples of his coming rejection and death, and they did not like it. Peter, often a spokesman for the group, confronted Jesus about these negative comments—surely things weren't that bad, he thought. Peter wanted Jesus to change his mind and forget all this talk about dying.

Here we see a clear statement about what it means to follow Jesus. Too often we think of God as someone who will give us the things we want, a powerful being who can help us advance our own agendas and achieve our own goals. Instead, truly following Jesus means listening to what he says, discovering his will for our lives, and then obediently following, no matter how attractive or repulsive that may seem to us at the time.

The next segment of the passage takes that concept a step further. A crowd had gathered to hear Jesus, and he wanted to clarify his meaning. Jesus pointed out how difficult it may be to become a disciple. Denying oneself means turning away from selfish, self-protective attitudes and seeking the true humility and faith God wants to see in us. In the terms of the *Joy* acronym, it means putting Jesus first, others second, and yourself last.

What does it mean to take up your cross? Jesus no doubt used that wording because he knew he was going to die on a cross. For his disciples to each take up his own cross didn't mean just to endure suffering. It meant to accept the suffering they would face because of their faith in Christ. Sometimes we speak too lightly of "taking up our cross," when in fact we are suffering for our own sins or weaknesses, not for our

identification with Jesus. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that their faith might cost them something, a message not too often heard in our culture today.

As he spoke of what it means to follow him, Jesus knew that many in the crowd around him would soon be shouting, "Crucify him!" They would suddenly be ashamed of the one they had followed out of curiosity. Our generation is much like that of Jesus' day. People who claim to be religious—or even Christian—shy away from a bold witness for Jesus. It's easy today to say you believe in God, but it's much more difficult to admit you're a Bible-believing, Jesus-following Christian.

Devotion for Leaders

Humans are willing to sacrifice a lot for the sake of those they love. Your relationship with Jesus *will* require sacrifice, risk, and loyal commitment—but it's all worth it!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: How can you take up your cross? Try living out the *Joy* acronym: Pray about one specific way you'll put *Jesus* first (such as spending time with him first thing each day), put *others* second (such as washing a friend's car), and put *yourself* last (such as giving up TV time in order to minister to others).

Why We Worship for Leaders

Jesus' words in Mark 8 can be hard to hear. We love to hear about how Jesus loves us and about how he died to save us. We like to celebrate his power and give thanks for his care. But when Jesus says we need to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow him, we start to hedge. While it's easy to follow Jesus when it's all about accepting his gifts to us, it's a little tougher when we realize that a big part of following Jesus is commitment, self-denial, and self-discipline. Following Jesus takes a bit of work.

But committing one's life to Jesus is worthwhile. In fact, it's the only option for living that is worthwhile. That's because Jesus alone is worthy of our commitment. Jesus spoke the world into existence. Jesus came to earth as a man and lived a perfect life. Jesus died and rose again to garner our salvation. Think as hard as you can. You won't be able to come up with anyone more deserving of our lifelong commitment and our undying love. Help the children in your children's church understand just how much Jesus has done for them. And help them worship Jesus by being committed to him.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready. Watch the video segment titled "Commitment" before you show it to the children.

"A Soldier's Life"—Watch the video segment titled "A Soldier's Life" before you show it to the children.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let's Praise God!

Play the music videos on the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* as kids arrive. Ask some children to stand at the door and welcome everyone who comes into the room. Ask these greeters to smile, shake hands, and say, "Welcome!"


When everyone has arrived,

Say **Hello, everyone! Welcome to children's church. We're here to worship Jesus—to give him the glory and honor that are his due. Let's sing "Worship Christ."**

 Sing "Worship Christ" (1 Peter 3:15).

Ask • **Why is Jesus worthy of worship?** (He died for us; Jesus is God; Jesus loves us.)

Say **Jesus is worthy of our worship. We worship Jesus by saying things such as, "Worship Christ as the Lord of your life." Right now, let's use our words to praise Jesus, our Lord and king. Let's sing "Come, Thou Almighty King."**

 Sing “Come, Thou Almighty King.”

Say ▶ **That was great singing. Jesus is honored with our words of praise. We can also worship Jesus with the way we live our lives.**

Ask ▶ • **What are some things we can do that worship Jesus?** (Obey our parents; love other people; follow Jesus.)

Say ▶ **We can do many things that show we worship and honor Jesus. Today we’re going to talk about one specific thing we can do to worship Jesus. We’re going to talk about being committed to Jesus. Jesus is worthy of our commitment.**

Ask ▶ • **What do you think that means?** (Jesus deserves our worship all the time; we should always follow Jesus; we should have a relationship with Jesus all the time.)

Say ▶ **Let’s watch a video that explains what it means to be committed to Jesus.**

 Show the video segment titled “Commitment.” This segment explores what it means to make a commitment.

Ask ▶ • **What does it mean to be committed to something?** (To dedicate your life to it; to promise to honor and serve it.)

Say ▶ **It’s not always easy being committed to something. It takes a lot of hard work and a lot of self-discipline. We all know that nobody is perfect. But when we make a commitment, we should do our best to keep that commitment—especially our commitment to Jesus.**

Ask ▶ • **Why do you think Jesus wants us to be committed to him?** (He wants us to have a lifelong relationship with him; he wants us to serve him forever.)

• **How does being committed to Jesus bring him honor and worship?** (When we’re committed to Jesus, we honor him with the way we live our lives; it shows that we trust him and know that he is worthy of our commitment and worship.)

Say ▶ **When we commit to Jesus, we’re dedicating our lives to serving him and loving him. Committing to Jesus is a wonderful thing, too. Check out what the Bible says will happen to people who commit their lives to God.**

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun” (Psalm 37:5-6).

Wow! When we commit to God, he commits to us, too.

Let’s sing “God of Great Wonders.” We can commit to Jesus because he’s so great. We can go to him with any problem because there’s nothing he can’t do. Let’s sing this song with all our hearts.



Sing "God of Great Wonders."



Jesus really is worthy of our commitment. Jesus created us and everything we see around us. We're his children. And we were created to love him and serve him. Let's sing about that.



Sing "A New Creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



When we serve, love, and please Jesus, we're living our commitment to Jesus. When we live like this, our first thought is pleasing Jesus rather than pleasing ourselves.

When we commit ourselves to Jesus, he promises to do good things for us. Listen to what Psalm 37:5-6 says: "Commit your life to the Lord. Here is what he will do if you trust in him. He will make your godly ways shine like the dawn. He will make your honest life shine like the sun at noon" (New International Reader's Version).



- **What does it mean for "your godly ways to shine like the dawn"?** (Everyone will see them; they will glorify God.)
- **What does it mean for "your honest life to shine like the sun at noon"?** (It will bring light to the world; people will see your honest life.)
- **Why do you think Jesus makes this happen when we commit our lives to him?** (Jesus wants everyone to see what life with him is like; Jesus wants to bring light to our lives.)



When we commit ourselves to Jesus, the things we do are good and pure and helpful to others. Those kinds of actions honor Jesus, and they also benefit us. Living the way Jesus wants us to live will help us to be happy and satisfied because the things Jesus asks us to do are best for us. Jesus is worthy of our commitment because only Jesus can promise to always do what's best for us. Let's sing about our commitment to Jesus.



Sing "Faith" (Hebrews 11:1).



The words of this song are true. When we commit ourselves to Jesus, we can be sure that Jesus will be where we are. We can be sure that Jesus will never leave us. Jesus is worthy of our honor. He's worthy of our worship. And he's worthy of our commitment. Let's thank Jesus now.



Jesus, you are our perfect God. We know that you created all things. You created us to love you and serve you. We know that we'll only be truly happy when we commit ourselves to you and live the way you want us to live. Jesus, help us to be committed to you. Use today's activities to teach us more about committing ourselves to you. In your name, amen.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 13-14

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

** Build a Leader*

Have children form groups of three. Make sure each group includes someone who can write the words. If you have teens or adults to help each group, you can make the groups larger—up to six children.

Give each group a large piece of newsprint and markers or crayons. One person in each group should lie down on the paper while someone else traces around him or her with a marker.

Then have each group discuss the characteristics that make a good leader. Have kids write those characteristics on their person shape. For example, if the group decides that a good leader would have a courageous heart, someone in the group should write "courage" where the person's heart would be. Give the groups four or five minutes to work.

When the groups have finished, have them show their "leaders" to all the other groups. Then have the small groups discuss these questions:

- Ask**
- **Look at the leader you've built. What would it be like to commit to or follow a leader with these qualities?** (It would be easy; it would be a lot of fun to follow this leader.)
 - **How do you think your leader would treat the people who were committed to him or her?** (The leader would treat them well; the leader would value the people; the leader would respect them.)
 - **How many of the characteristics that you wrote on your person shapes are characteristics of Jesus?** (All of them; I don't know if Jesus would be a fun leader; Jesus has all of these qualities and more.)
 - **What would it be like to be committed to Jesus?** (Jesus is the best leader; it would be better than being committed to any of these leaders; it would probably be harder to commit to Jesus than one of these leaders.)
 - **Why is it a good idea to commit ourselves to Jesus?** (Jesus is the only one who has our best interests in mind all the time; Jesus is worthy of our commitment.)

Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38

Worship Theme:



Jesus is worthy of our commitment.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Tough Decisions—Make an enlarged photocopy of the pictures below, and cut them out. Tape the picture of Jesus to one wall in your room. Tape the picture of the child to the opposite wall.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo “read” the story situations in “Tough Decisions.”
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



* Tough Decisions

Say We all know that it’s good to follow Jesus. Today we’ve been talking about making a promise or a commitment to follow Jesus. Sometimes making that promise is hard. Sometimes Jesus wants us to do one thing, and we want to do another. Let’s play a game to help us talk about how to follow Jesus even when we want to do something different.

Look at the picture of Jesus on the wall over there. Now look at the picture of a child on the other wall. I’m going to read some story situations. At the end of the story, you’ll have to decide what to do. If you decide to do what Jesus wants us to do, you’ll go over to the Jesus picture. If you decide to do what you want to do, you’ll go to the picture of the child. Ready?

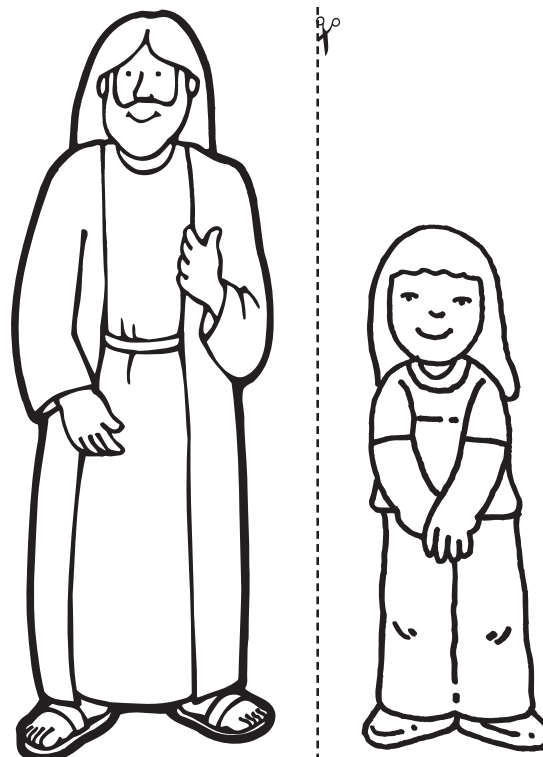
Story situation 1: **One day you’re playing with your baby brother. Your little brother sees your favorite toy and crawls over to play with it. Wait a minute, you think. That’s my toy. I think I want to play with it now. You really want to play with the toy. It doesn’t seem fair that your baby brother got to the toy first. It’d be easy to take the toy away from him. Now you have to decide what to do.**

Ask • What would Jesus want you to do?

Have children decide if they’d follow Jesus by doing what he wants them to do or if they’d take the toy away from their little brother. Have them stand by the picture to show what they’d do.

Ask • Have you ever been in a situation like this? Was it hard to decide what to do? Why or why not?

Story situation 2: **One day you’re playing at the park. You’ve been waiting all week to swing on the swings. As soon as you see an empty one, you run for it. Soon you’re swinging as high as you can. But then you see a girl whom you’ve never seen at the park before. She’s crying and looks lonely. You think about getting off the**



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* Tough Decisions (Continued)

swing to go and be nice to her. But if you get off the swing, someone else will take it and you won't get to swing anymore. Now you have to decide what to do.

Ask • What would Jesus want you to do?

Have the children each decide if they'd follow Jesus by doing what he wants them to do or if they'd stay on the swing. Have children stand by the picture to show what they'd do.

Ask • Have you ever been in a situation like this? Was it hard to decide what to do? Why or why not?

Story situation 3: **One day you're playing in the living room at your house. You've made a wonderful fort with sofa cushions and blankets and chairs. Your mother comes to tell you that it's time to put things away because you're having company for dinner. She says, "Please**

put away the cushions and the blankets. Then you can play in your room until dinnertime." But you don't want to put the fort away. You're having too much fun. Now you have to decide what to do.

Ask • What would Jesus want you to do?

Have the children each decide if they'd follow Jesus by doing what he wants them to do or if they'd keep playing in the fort. Have children stand by the picture to show what they'd do.

Ask • Have you ever been in a situation like this? Was it hard to decide what to do? Why or why not?

Say It's not always easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes it seems like more fun to do what we want to do. But it's always best to keep our promise to follow Jesus.

Follow the Lord

Say When we make a commitment to Jesus, we're making a promise to follow him. We're saying that Jesus is our leader, so we should do the kinds of things he would do. Let's play a game about following Jesus. You'll need a partner for this game. Help the children find partners. You may need to be someone's partner if you have an uneven number of children.

You and your partner will take turns being the leader and the follower. Assign the first leader in each pair. Ask the leader and the follower to face each other.

Have you ever watched yourself in the mirror? When you move your arm up like this (demonstrate by moving your arm), the arm in the mirror moves the same way. The leader will move part of his or her body, and the follower will try to be just like the mirror and move the same way.

With a partner, demonstrate moving parts of your body as your "follower" mirrors the movements. Have the pairs play for a few minutes.

Say Now it's time to switch. The leader is now the follower, and the follower is now the leader.

After each child has had a turn to lead and follow, ask the children to sit.

Say We follow our leader, Jesus, by doing what the Bible tells us to do.

- Ask**
- What are some things the Bible tells us to do?
 - Tell us about a time you saw someone being kind.
 - Tell us about a time you obeyed your parents.

Say When we do these things, we're keeping our promise to follow Jesus. Let's sing about our promise to follow Jesus.

I Promise

Help preschoolers sing this song to the tune of "Hickory, Dickory, Dock."

Sing A promise is something to keep (cross your heart)

Forever and always. (Turn around.)

I promise that I will always follow (cross your heart)

Jesus with all of my heart. (Point up; then cross your hands over your heart.)

Repeat the song, and ask a child to tell you one thing he or she can promise to do to follow Jesus. Continue until every child has had at least one turn.

Pray Jesus, we love you and want to follow you every day—even when it's hard. Help us to keep our promise to follow you. Amen.

(continued from page 12)

Say Jesus is the best leader we could ever hope for. A good leader is worthy of our commitment. Jesus is worthy of our commitment. Let's find out what it means to be committed to Jesus.

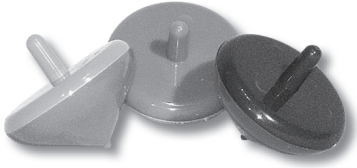
"A Soldier's Life"

▶ Show the video segment titled "A Soldier's Life." This segment shows that when a soldier signs up to be in the military, he or she makes a complete commitment to the military.

After the video, have kids discuss these questions in the small groups they were in for the previous activity.

- Ask**
- **What do you think about being a soldier? Do you think you'd like it? Explain.** (It looks too hard; it would take a lot of work; it looks like a fun challenge.)
 - **What would be tough about being a soldier? What would be easy?** (It would be tough to do all that working out; it would be something new every day, so that would make it easy.)
 - **In what ways is being a Christian like being in the military? In what ways is it different?** (It can be tough to be a Christian; we have to train to be a Christian like soldiers have to train; it doesn't usually take a physical workout to be a Christian.)
 - **Why does a soldier have to be totally committed to the military?** (Soldiers could get distracted by other things if they aren't totally committed; a soldier has to work hard, so it takes commitment.)
 - **Why is it a good idea to commit ourselves to Jesus?** (It can be hard to be a Christian, so we should be committed to Jesus; when we're committed to Jesus, it's hard to get distracted; if we're going to follow Jesus, we need to be committed to him.)

Say A good soldier does what the commanding officer says to do because a good soldier knows that the officer is giving good information about what to do. It can be tough to always do what Jesus wants us to do. All of us struggle with it. But that's the kind of commitment Jesus wants from us. And Jesus is worth that kind of commitment because he's a good leader. In fact, he's a perfect leader. He's trustworthy. He's loving. He knows everything. He's God. Jesus is worthy of our commitment.



* *Take Up Your Cross*

Have kids form pairs or trios. You should have no more than 20 groups. Have kids form groups of four or five if necessary.

Say In the Bible, Jesus gives us clear instructions for making a commitment to him. He says that if we want to come after him, we need to deny ourselves and take up our crosses. This means that people who are committed to Jesus do what Jesus wants them to do rather than what they want to do. Jesus wants us to follow him all the time—even when it's hard and even when we don't want to.

Give each group a Spinning Top from the KidsOwn Worship Kit. Each group will need a hard surface on which to spin the top. If your worship area is carpeted, give a hardcover book to each group.

Say We can use this Spinning Top to help us remember what it's like to make a commitment to Jesus. When we deny ourselves, pick up our crosses, and follow Jesus, we live for Jesus and not for ourselves. We're living the right way. Place the Spinning Top right side up on a hard surface, and spin it to see what happens when we live for Jesus.

Give kids a moment to do this.

Ask

- What happened when you spun the top right side up? (It kept spinning; it spun for a long time.)
- How is that like what happens when we live completely for Jesus? (We can keep following him; our commitment lasts forever.)

Say When we don't deny ourselves, pick up our crosses, and follow Jesus, we only make a halfhearted attempt to follow Jesus. When we live like this, we're living for ourselves. Spin the top upside down to see what happens when we live our lives for ourselves.

Give kids a moment to do this.

Ask

- What happens when you spin the top upside down? (It doesn't work very well; it wobbles and falls over.)
- How is that like what happens when we live for ourselves? (Our lives don't work very well; we have to stop and change directions in our lives.)

Say When we deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus, we're making a strong and lasting commitment to him. Jesus is proud of us for following him even when it's hard. When we follow Jesus even when it's hard, we bring honor to him. We're showing Jesus that we think he's so important that we're going to follow him no matter what.

Let's offer our gifts to Jesus and thank him for being a leader who's worthy of our strong commitment.

3

Let's Pray!

The Offering

Say ▶ Some of us have brought gifts of money to give to God. But all of us can give Jesus the gift of our commitment. While we take the offering today, talk to Jesus about being committed to him. If you want to, you may offer Jesus the gift of your commitment. If this is what you'd like to do, tell Jesus that you'd like to be committed to him. Tell him that you understand what it means to be committed to him. Ask him to help you keep your commitment.

Take the offering.

I Have Decided

Say ▶ Let's pray a prayer of commitment to Jesus. Listen to my words, and repeat them as a prayer.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I won't be turning back.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I will deny myself.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I will pick up my cross.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I won't be turning back.

Amen.

Make Your Home in My Heart

Say ▶ Let's sing a prayer of commitment to Jesus. Let's ask Jesus to give us pure hearts so we can follow him forever.



Sing "Create in Me a Pure Heart" (Psalm 51:10).



Welcome to KidsOwn Worship® Children's Church! Explore attributes of God to learn how God is worthy of our worship:

KidsOwn Worship reinforces the same Bible stories kids explore with FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum and FaithWeaver Friends® midweek program! Download FREE samples at group.com/samples.

KidsOwn Worship DVD

Lead worship with kid-friendly music videos—or extend the learning when families get one to take home.



KidsOwn Worship Videos USB

Get music and lesson videos in .mp4 format for easy integration into your presentation software.



WEEK	BIBLE STORY	THEME
Week 1	Jesus Teaches About Commitment	Jesus is worthy of our commitment.
Week 2	Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple	God deserves our sincere worship.
Week 3	Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him	God saves us.
Week 4	Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving	Wholehearted giving pleases God.
Week 5	People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem	Our praise honors Jesus.
*Week 6	Jesus Is Alive!	Jesus lives.
Week 7	Jesus Appears to His Disciples	Jesus is Lord.
Week 8	Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts	God gives us spiritual gifts.
Week 9	Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus	God's spirit strengthens us.
Week 10	Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus	We respond to God through worship.
Week 11	Peter Visits Cornelius	God accepts all who believe in him.
Week 12	Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch	Christians worship God together.
Week 13	Jesus Sends Power From God	The Holy Spirit is powerful.

*Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend moving Easter as needed so week 6 lines up with Easter. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.



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