

BIG IDEA

We can worship God out loud.

THE BIBLE

The Rocks Cry Out : Luke 19:37-40
(Psalm 105:2; Psalm 30:8-12)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Painting Encouragement Rocks
- **ACTIVITY** | Party With No Sound
- **ACTIVITY** | Scream Races
- **QUESTION** | What's your favorite worship song?
- **BIG IDEA** | We can worship God out loud.
- **STORY** | Share about a time when you had to get out of your comfort zone.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 19:37-40
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Make Glasses Sing
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 105:2
- **ACTIVITY** | Make Your Own Musical Instruments
- **ACTIVITY** | Alphabet Praise
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Rocks
- **ACTIVITY** | Praise Party Musical Hula Hoops
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29

SMALL GROUP TIME

■ **DISCUSSION**

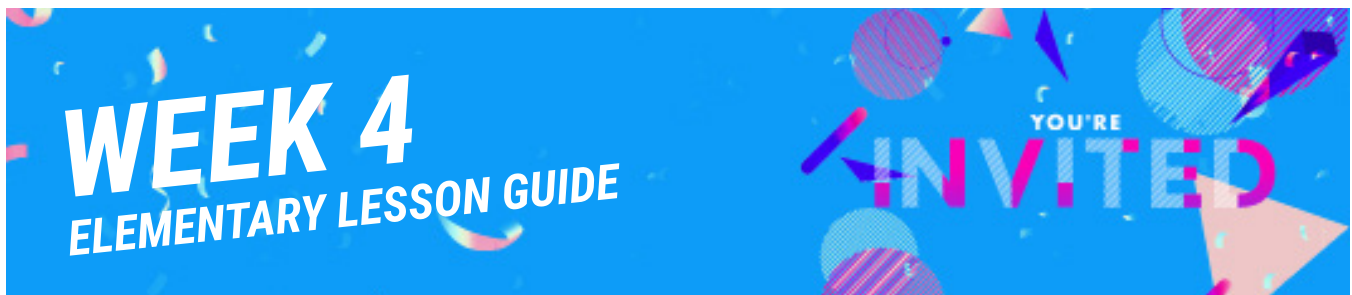
- In the Bible story, what were the disciples doing as Jesus was coming down the road?
- What did Jesus say would happen if the disciples kept quiet?
- Are you more like the Pharisees or the disciples, and why?
- How can you worship God outside of church?
- What is your favorite worship song to sing to God?
- What is one reason you can praise God today?

■ **SCRIPTURE** | **Psalm 30:8-12**

- What was the writer of this Psalm feeling?
- Do you feel like your heart is singing God's praises?
- Is there anything keeping you from praising God?

■ **ACTIVITY** | Don't Forget the Worship Lyrics

- **MEMORY VERSES** | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29



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The Rocks Cry Out Luke 19:37-40
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LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Painting Encouragement Rocks

- We've been talking this month about partying for Jesus! We've talked about praising God through prayer, worshiping by how we live, worshiping during hard times, and today we will talk about worshiping God out loud. Our Bible story today has to do with rocks, so let's make some encouragement rocks.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a station with a plastic tarp or table cloth cover, acrylic paint and paint brushes, small cups of water, and paint pens. Give each child a rock and let them paint their rock with an encouraging message or picture on it to inspire someone else. You can also cover the rocks in an acrylic sealant if you want to make them weather-proof. You may want to search for ideas online and print out pictures to give kids ideas for their rocks.*
- You can take your rocks home and find somewhere public to leave your rock so someone who needs it can find it.
- **How do you hope your rock encourages someone?**

ACTIVITY | Party With No Sound

- Now who's ready to party? Think about the last party you went to. What did you like about it? We're going to act out our favorite party activities!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to choose their favorite party activity (Examples: dancing, eating,*

singing, playing a game, talking to friends, doing a craft). Tell them to start, but then stop and tell them to be completely silent. Give them a few seconds to do it silently. Tell them you're going to do it again, but they can talk like normal until you hold up your hand and say, "Quiet." Then they have to continue doing their activity silently. You might want to make it a contest and eliminate the groups that are the last to become silent each time you hold up your hand.

- It wouldn't be very fun to be at a party with no sound or talking, would it? In our Bible story today, we will learn about some people who tried to silence a group of people who were celebrating.

ACTIVITY | Scream Races

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make sure you're not right next to your adult worship service when you play this game, or that the doors are closed so they can't hear. This one is going to be loud! Choose 2-4 kids to play at a time. They will stand on one side of the room and touch the wall. When you say "Go," they will take a deep breath, let out a loud yell, and start running. They will keep running as they are yelling. When they run out of breath, they must stop wherever they are. If they get to the other side of the room, they will just touch that wall and run back and forth between the two walls. The kid that gets the furthest on one yell wins that race. Keep playing and see who can get the furthest.
- We had fun shouting out loud during our game. Today, we're going to learn about how we can praise God out loud.
- Sometimes we can praise God silently by praying or by living for Him, but sometimes we can praise Him by singing and shouting.

QUESTION | What's your favorite worship song?

- **What's your favorite worship song?**
- **Why is it your favorite?**

THE BIG IDEA | We can worship God out loud.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
- Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
- Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
- Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
- Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **We can worship God out loud.**

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

BIBLE STORY | Luke 19:37-40

- Over the past few weeks we have been having a party here at church. We've learned about worship and prayer, worshiping by how we live, and the importance of worshiping in hard times. Today, we're going to talk about what could happen if we don't worship. I'll give you a hint: it has to do with rocks.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- In this Bible story, Jesus was coming into Jerusalem for the Passover. As He was coming down the road, a big group of people gathered and started shouting praises to Him for the miracles they had seen Jesus do.
- But there were some people who were standing there who weren't happy: the Pharisees. Pharisees were religious teachers who were annoyed by the disciples praising Jesus, so they told Jesus to make them be quiet.
- **How did Jesus respond?** Jesus told them that if the people kept quiet, the rocks would cry out. Could you imagine? If the people didn't praise God, Jesus said the stones would praise Him.
- **Do you want the rocks to praise God in your place?** I don't know about you, but I don't want to be so quiet that a rock has to start worshiping in my place.
- We don't have to be quiet. We can sing and shout and praise God for what He has done for us. **We can worship God out loud.**

OBJECT LESSON | Make Glasses Sing

- **Do you think a glass of water can sing?** On its own, it can't, but if we do a little trick, we can make this glass of water sing a beautiful song.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this a few times before the service, so you know how hard to press to get the glasses to make a sound. Fill the glasses halfway with water and make sure your finger and the rim of the glass are clean. Dip your finger in water to get it wet, then press down and run your finger around the rim of the glass without stopping. You can change the way it sounds by adjusting how hard you press down. You can use different glasses with different amounts of water in them and press down at varying levels to get different notes and songs from the glasses of water.*
- We know this glass of water didn't really "sing a song." So when the Bible talks about rocks or the whole earth singing praises to God (Psalm 66:4), we know trees and rocks and mountains don't really sing songs either.
- When the Bible tells us the earth sings God's praises, it means that everything God created reminds us of Him because He made it, and He makes good things.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 105:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- We can pray and talk to God quietly, but sometimes God wants us to sing and say our praises to Him out loud.
- The Bible talks a lot about praising God through song. It says to "sing praises to God" 115 times! The whole book of Psalms is a collection of songs that were written to praise God, and several people in the Bible recorded songs they sang to God in response to something He did for them that was good.
- **Why do you think singing is an important way to praise God?**
- **Do you enjoy singing to God?**
- **Do you think singing is a good way to worship, even if you don't feel like you're a good singer?**

ACTIVITY | Make Your Own Musical Instruments

- Since we're talking about worshiping God, let's make our own instruments and praise God out loud!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose any of the following instruments and supplies:
 - **Paper Plate Tambourines:** Let kids decorate paper plates. Then lay one plate down, put a handful of dried beans on it, put the other plate on top, and staple it all the way around.
 - **Maracas:** Fill empty Easter eggs with dried beans and then close them. You can also tape two spoons to the outside of each egg using masking tape, to make handles.
 - **Drums:** Gather a variety of objects, like boxes, bowls, plastic Tupperware, and wooden spoons to make drums.
 - **Bells:** String jingle bells on yarn and let the kids wear them like bracelets or tie them to sticks.
 - **Clapping Sticks:** Decorate paint stirrers with paint or markers and then hit them together.
 - **Rubber Band Music Box:** Put a variety of rubber bands around a box lid so they are tight. Then the kids can strum them and pluck them to make music.
 - When they are done, have your own praise parade and let them play their instruments while they sing and shout praises to God.

ACTIVITY | Alphabet Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids sit in a circle (or split them into small groups to sit in a circle). Go around the circle and each person will say one thing that starts with a letter of the alphabet (go in order) that is a reason they are thankful or a reason they can praise God. Examples: A = Animals; B = Bible; C = Christ; D = Dad; E = Eternity; F = Family. See which group can keep it going the longest or see which group can get to the end of the alphabet first.
- There are so many reasons we can praise God. All the good things in our lives are from Him. We just have to remember to say thank you.

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

OBJECT LESSON | Rocks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a rock to take home.
- In the Bible, people sometimes used rocks to build altars of praise to God. In Joshua 4, we read about when the Israelites crossed the Jordan river and made a pile of rocks to thank God for bringing them into the Promised Land and remember all He had done for them.
- When you look at your rock, let it be a reminder that you can praise God because He has been good to you.

ACTIVITY | Praise Party Musical Hula Hoops

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** If you're playing the hula hoop version of this activity, set out enough hula hoops for all the kids in your group to fit inside them. Form the hula hoops into a circle on the ground. If you're playing musical chairs, set out enough chairs in a circle for everyone in your group, minus one. Play the worship music and encourage the kids to sing and dance to it until the music stops. When the music stops, they will all jump into the nearest hula hoop (or sit on a chair). Whoever

doesn't fit or doesn't get a chair will be out. Keep playing, taking away a hula hoop or a chair each round, until you have only one hula hoop or chair left.

- As we're playing this game, make sure you sing as loud as you can. We are having a party—a praise party!

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time singing together. You can single any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Ain't No Rock," by Shout Praises Kids and "Shout," by Yancy.
- Remember, when you worship, you can let loose and have fun as you sing and dance for God!
- Let's praise Him together, because He is good!

MEMORY VERSES | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **In the Bible story, what were the disciples doing as Jesus was coming down the road?** (*Praising Him and shouting out loud.*)
- **Why did the Pharisees get upset?** (*Because the people were praising Jesus.*)
- **What did Jesus say would happen if the disciples kept quiet?** (*The rocks would cry out.*)
- **Are you more like the Pharisees or the disciples, and why?**
- **How can you worship God when you're not at church?**
- **What is your favorite worship song to sing to God?**
- **What is one reason you can praise God today?**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 30:8-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What was the writer of this Psalm feeling? Why was he praising God?**
- **Do you feel like your heart is singing God's praises?**
- **Is there anything keeping you from praising God?**

ACTIVITY | Don't Forget the Worship Lyrics

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a list of your group's favorite worship songs (or any song they're all familiar with). Choose one kid to sing part of the song, then stop them in the middle and have the kids finish the line.
- One of the ways we worship God is through singing. People in the Bible sang songs to God a lot. They sang when something good happened, when something bad happened, when they made a commitment to God, and when they remembered the good things He had done for them.

MEMORY VERSES | John 1:1; Ephesians 4:29

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