

UPPER ELEM Flight Plan

March 15th



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| Lesson | Jesus' Hard Teachings |
| Bible Passage | John 6 |
| Story Point | Many people misunderstood Jesus' teaching. |
| Key Passage | "He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14 |
| Big Picture Q & A | <p>How does God care for His creation?</p> <p>God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.</p> |



Finding Food
 Give the world's first ever illustrations how you feel about each of them.

Hard Teachings
 Give the world's first ever illustrations how you feel about each of them.

- Food on earth will not last forever.
- The Son of Man gives food that never goes bad.
- Jesus came from heaven.
- Jesus is the Holy One of God.
- Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."
- God wants people to believe in the One whom He has sent.
- Jesus said, "Unless you eat My Flesh and drink My blood, you will not live forever."

EMOTIONAL STATEMENTS

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 LHM 05, Semester 3: Jesus' Hard Teachings | 8

leader bible study

On the heels of His miraculous feeding of the five thousand, Jesus encountered crowds who erroneously concluded He was worth following because He could use His power to fill their empty stomachs. But Jesus recognized their motives and challenged them to go after something greater—not to work for food, which does not last long, but to receive eternal life by believing in Him.

Over and over again, people misunderstood Jesus' words. They asked what they could do to get the food that lasts forever. Eternal life is a gift that God gives—not to those who perform certain deeds, but to anyone who believes in Jesus. Then the crowd asked for another sign. If Moses had provided bread for 40 years, couldn't Jesus do that too? Jesus pointed out the bread didn't come from Moses; it came from God. The crowd was so determined to get bread to eat that they didn't recognize that God had now provided true bread from heaven by sending His Son.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Jesus didn't want just to fill people's stomachs, He wanted to give them true life. Jesus continued, "If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever" (John 6:51). As you teach, emphasize to kids that God invites us to come and eat. We partake in the bread of life by believing in Him.

The Jewish leaders struggled with Jesus' teaching. How could this man, whom they knew as the son of Joseph, be the Son of God? Furthermore, Jesus talked about giving His flesh and blood. To the Jews, this didn't make any sense. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. When Jesus talked about His flesh and blood, He was talking about His death and resurrection.

Many people stopped following Jesus because they could not accept His teachings. Yet Peter, one of the Twelve, grasped the truth: "You have the words of eternal life. ... You are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69). When we trust in Jesus, He gives us the gift of eternal life.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

March Focus: The Kingdom to Come



MAR 1st: Kingdom Parables *Matthew 13*

Story point: God's growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.



MAR 8th: Three Parables *Luke 15*

Story Point: Jesus came to seek and save the lost.



MAR 15th: Jesus' Hard Teachings *John 6*

Story Point: Many people misunderstood Jesus' teachings.



MAR 22nd: Jesus Raised Lazarus *John 11*

Story Point: Jesus has power over death.



MAR 29th: The Last Supper/Palm Sunday!

Story Point: Jesus commanded His disciples to remember His sacrifice .



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to share about their least favorite subject in school. Why is it their least favorite? Is the subject hard to understand?

Big Picture Question

When Jesus was on earth, He taught people about God and His kingdom. God's kingdom is wherever God is ruling. He is ruling over us now, but one day His kingdom will come fully when Jesus returns. As you listen to today's Bible story, think about our big picture question and answer: ***How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.***

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together
Colossians 1:13-14 • Our key passage reminds us that God's kingdom is better than this world. Apart from Jesus, we are in darkness and are slaves to sin. When we trust in Jesus, He invites us into His kingdom. He forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Today's Bible story took place after Jesus fed the crowd of more than five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. The people had seen Jesus' disciples cross the sea, but they knew Jesus had stayed behind. So when they found Jesus with His disciples on the other side, they were surprised! They didn't realize Jesus had walked on the water to meet His disciples in the middle of the night. The crowd had more questions for Jesus. Let's find out what they talked about

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **John 6** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

After the crowds saw Jesus' miraculous feeding of the five thousand, they went looking for Him. But Jesus knew they were looking for Him for the wrong reasons. Rather than following Him because they believed He is the Messiah, they wanted to follow Him because they believed He could provide food for their hungry stomachs. Jesus wanted the people to seek something greater than physical food. He wanted them to find eternal life in Him.

The people asked Jesus, "What does God want us to do?" How did Jesus answer? Look at John 6:29. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.] People don't need to do anything to earn eternal life; they only need to believe in God's Son, Jesus. When we trust in Him, He gives us the free gift of salvation from sin and life with God forever.

The people had a hard time believing that Jesus—who grew up in Nazareth as Joseph's son—was actually the Son of God who had come from heaven. Many people misunderstood Jesus' teaching. They didn't agree with everything He taught.

What did Jesus say that caused people to turn away from Him? Look at John 6:53,60. [Allow kids to read the verses and respond.] Jesus said His followers needed to eat His flesh and drink His blood in order to have eternal life. Is that what Jesus really meant? Did He want people to eat His body? [Let kids share their thoughts.] The people did not know what was going to happen to Jesus. Jesus was going to give His body by dying on the cross. He would shed His own blood to rescue people from sin and death. We "eat and drink" when we take the Lord's Supper by trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection.



Jesus didn't want to just fill people's stomachs, He wanted to give them true life. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. When Jesus talked about His flesh and blood, He was talking about His death and resurrection. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us the gift of eternal life.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: MANY PEOPLE MISUNDERSTOOD JESUS' TEACHING.

A crowd of people went looking for Jesus. They found Jesus on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. "Teacher, when did You get here?" they asked Jesus.

Jesus answered, "Why are you looking for Me? Did you want to find Me because I can do miracles, or were you looking for Me because I gave you food? If you're seeking food, remember that food on earth will perish. Search for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give it to you."

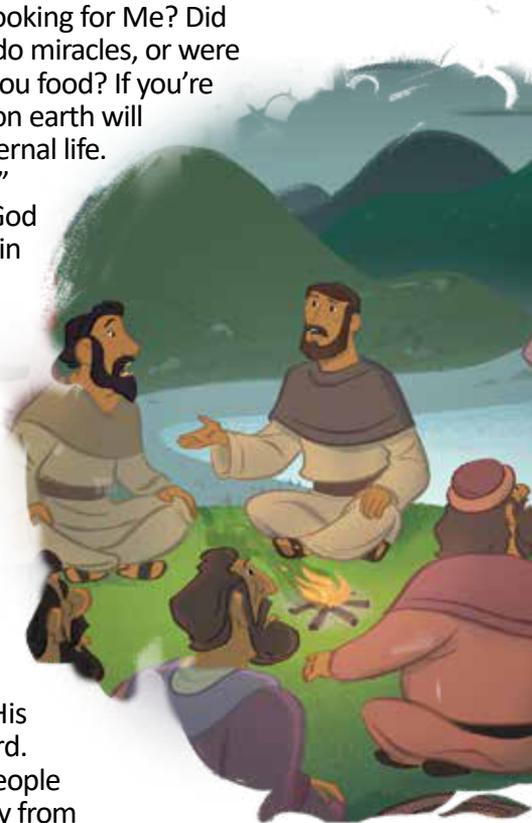
The people asked, "What does God want us to do?" Jesus said, "Believe in the One whom He has sent."

The people said, "Will You do another miracle?" Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again."

The Jews began complaining. "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" they asked. Jesus said again, "I am the bread of life. Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you will not live forever."

When Jesus said this, many of His followers said, "This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?" Many of the people who had followed Jesus turned away from Him. Jesus asked His twelve disciples, "Do you want to go away too?"

Peter answered, "Lord, where would we go? We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."



Christ Connection: Jesus wanted to do more than fill people's stomachs; He wanted to give them true life. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. When Jesus talked about His flesh and blood, He was talking about His death and resurrection. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us the gift of eternal life.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to John 6. Explain that the Gospel of John tells us about Jesus' miracles and teachings leading up to His death and resurrection. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 6:67-69. Lead the group to discuss:

- 1. How would you answer Jesus' question—you don't want to go away too, do you? Do any of Jesus' teachings confuse you?** *Invite kids to share their thoughts. Acknowledge any doubts or confusion. Emphasize that Jesus' closest disciples recognized that even though Jesus' teachings were hard, He has the words of eternal life. He is the Holy One of God. (Matt. 26:35.)*
- 2. What did Jesus mean when He said people would eat His body and drink His blood?** *Jesus was talking about His death and resurrection. He did not mean people would literally eat Him; He meant that those who trust in His finished work on the cross would have forgiveness and eternal life. Point out that when we take the Lord's Supper (the bread and drink), we remember what Jesus did for us. (Option: read 1 Cor. 10:16.)*
- 3. What kind of king did the people want Jesus to be? What kind of King is Jesus?** *People thought Jesus would provide physical food and protection from enemy kings. But Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. He came to give life by rescuing sinners. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Dan. 2:44.)*



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

- With Us -Good

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Believe it or not!

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Choose one player to begin by stating something about himself that is either true or false. The rest of the kids should decide if they believe it (and remain standing) or don't believe it (and sit down). Then prompt the player to reveal if his statement is true or false. Continue around the circle until everyone has a chance to participate.

- Did any of you have a hard time believing something that turned out to be true? While Jesus was on earth, He taught people many things about God and His kingdom. Everything Jesus taught was true, but not everyone believed His teaching.

Food Tag

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Go around the circle, prompting each player to say the name of a food. Players should choose a food that no other player has already chosen. Assign one player to stand in the middle of the circle. The rest of the players should stand with their hands out and palms up to be tagged.

The player in the center of the circle will say the name of another player's chosen food. Then he will try to tag that player. The player whose food was chosen should shout out the name of a different player's food before the player in the middle tags her.

If a player is tagged before calling out another food, she takes the place of the player in the middle.

- All of these foods you named are making me hungry! In the Bible story we will hear today, many people wanted to follow Jesus because they thought He could give them food whenever they were hungry. But Jesus had something even better to offer.

Key Passage Activity

Before the session, write the words or phrases of the key passage on separate index cards. Consider including some word cards that do not belong in the key passage. Mix up the word cards. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading Colossians 1:13-14 aloud together.

Challenge kids to arrange the word cards in order. Kids should identify and set aside any words that don't belong.

“I Am ...” Word Game

Form two or three teams of kids. Play a word game using the ways Jesus identified Himself. Choose an “I Am” phrase from the printable and draw a blank for each letter.

Invite teams to take turns guessing one letter. If the letter is in the phrase, fill in the corresponding blanks and allow that team to guess again. If a team guesses a letter not in the phrase, the next team takes a guess. The first team to guess the phrase on its turn earns a point.

Choose a player to find and read the reference for the phrase in their Bible. Consider discussing what each phrase teaches us about Jesus.

- The Gospel of John records many names for Jesus. In today’s story, Jesus said “I am the bread of life.” **Many people misunderstood Jesus’ teachings.** Jesus wanted to do more than fill people’s stomachs; He wanted to give them true life.

When Jesus talked about His flesh and blood, He was talking about His death and resurrection. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us the gift of eternal life.

Do you understand?

Invite the kids to gather in the center of the room, with enough space around them to sit and stand without bumping their neighbors. Ask questions about natural occurrences. Kids will stand if they understand how it works and sit if they do not.

Suggested questions:

What makes the sky look blue?

What causes the northern lights?

How do plants make food with sunlight and air?

How do birds avoid getting lost when migrating?

- Those are some difficult to understand topics. Some people may spend their whole lives trying to fully understand stuff like that. Today, we learned about some of Jesus’ teachings that were difficult to understand.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don’t know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus’ light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



