

## Grapple Unit: Big, Big God

### Grapple Question 4: Do I Have to Tell Others About My Friend God?

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Key Faith Foundation:** Sharing My Faith With Others

**Key Scriptures:** Matthew 5:15-16; 10:32-33; 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15

#### Bible basis for teachers

**Matthew 5:15-16; 10:32-33; 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15**

**Grapple Question:** What About When God Feels Far Away?

**Key Faith Foundation:** Sharing My Faith With Others

Jesus died on the cross so we can be forgiven and have a relationship with God. This amazing news changes lives! However, telling others about God can be scary, even for adults. Use this lesson to help kids realize they have an incredible gift they need to share with everyone they know.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus placed the future of all he had done on earth in his disciples' hands. Jesus gave them a task that has yet to be completed: "Make disciples of all the nations." As Christians we're called to reach out to people around us and tell them about Jesus. But Jesus didn't just give a task; he also promised to help. Jesus told the disciples—and us—that he'd be with his people always, even to the end of the age.

In Matthew 10:32-33, Jesus gave the disciples a warning. Jesus said anyone who was willing to recognize Jesus as the Son of God here on earth would be recognized in heaven. However, anyone who denied Jesus here on earth would be denied in heaven. Use these verses to help kids understand that Jesus will be with them when they tell others about him.

Matthew 5:15-16 offers a word picture of the "light" that Jesus' followers should be. The passage also says that when our good deeds shine brightly, people will praise God. Encourage kids to discuss how sharing God with others involves more than just using words. How we treat others and what we do when we think no one's looking are also ways to tell others about God.

First Peter 3:15 calls on us to worship Christ as the Lord of our lives. The Apostle Peter told us to always be ready to explain why we have hope in Jesus and why our lives are different. Encourage kids to think about how knowing Jesus has changed their lives. Challenge them to think of one important thing they can tell their friends about Jesus this week.

#### understanding preteens

Because kids this age don't want to stand out or be different, they can be intimidated by the idea of telling other people about God. Remind them this can be done naturally—and through actions as well as words. God wants everyone to have a friendship with him!

**the lesson at a glance**

LESSON SEQUENCE		WHAT KIDS WILL DO	SUPPLIES
1	<b>grapple community</b> (5 minutes)	Build relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVD player</li> <li>• Christian music</li> <li>• music player</li> <li>• snacks</li> </ul>
2	<b>grapple games</b> (10-15 minutes)	Choose two games to play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clothespins</li> <li>• a long rope</li> <li>• 2 chairs</li> <li>• 2 small blankets, twin sheets, or towels</li> <li>• several soft, lightweight balls</li> <li>• 2 white paper wads</li> <li>• 2 different-colored paper wads</li> </ul>
3	<b>grapple time</b> (10 minutes)	Experiment with spreading messages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVD player</li> <li>• <i>Grapple</i> DVD</li> </ul>
4	<b>grapple team time</b> (15 minutes)	Turn to the Bible for advice about sharing God with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles</li> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person</li> <li>• paper</li> </ul>
5	<b>grapple team reports</b> (10 minutes)	Report what they learned from the Bible passage they studied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper</li> <li>• pencils</li> </ul>
6	<b>grapple prayer</b> (5 minutes)	Choose a prayer option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper</li> <li>• pencils</li> </ul>
7	<b>grapple dare</b>	Hear the Grapple dare.	

## 1 grapple community

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship. Give kids this discussion starter as they eat. Say: **Find out if anyone in our group has talked to a friend about Jesus, and if so, how it came up.** Play one of the three-minute countdowns (included on your *Grapple* DVD) to let kids know how much time remains.

## 2 grapple games

Say: **We're going to play a game, but you'll get to choose. Would you rather play Clothes Pinning (see Games Guide, where you try to hang clothespins on one another? Or would you like to play Blanket Volleyball (see Games Guide), where you toss balls as a team? Have kids vote on the game they'd like to play. Then lead kids in playing the game.**

Say: **Now we'll play another game. Would you rather play Roundabout Relay (see Games Guide), where you race to pass paper wads back and forth? Or would you like to play Ask the Answer Man! (see Games Guide), where you can get any question answered? Have kids vote on the game they'd like to play. Then lead kids in playing the game.**

## 3 grapple time

Get Ready: [Cue the Grapple DVD to the "Super Splash" clip.](#)

Lead the entire group in the following:

**Let's do an experiment to see how long it takes to pass along a message. I'm going to ask a special messenger to pass along some news as quickly as possible—one person at a time—before I turn out the lights! If you get the message, don't follow the messenger's instruction until the light goes out.**

Choose one person to be the messenger. Whisper the message "Sit cross-legged on the floor" to that person. After 20 seconds, briefly turn out the lights. The kids who received the message should be sitting on the floor. Count how many kids received the message this way.

**Tell All: What was it like to hear the message or to be left out? When have you felt like everyone knew something you didn't? How do you think we can spread news more quickly?**

**This time, once you hear the message, help out the messenger by whispering the news to others.**

Choose a new message, such as "Raise both hands in the air," and repeat the experiment.

**In Pairs: How many more people were able to hear the message this way? In daily life, what are some messages or news you wouldn't want your friends to miss out on? What reasons, if any, might you have for not telling your friends some extremely important news? Explain.**

**Let's watch a DVD clip to see some kids spreading a different kind of message.**

Show the “Super Splash” clip on the *Grapple* DVD.

**Tommy didn’t get to go to the water park because no one shared the good news with him. Of course we would tell our friends about a fun day at the water park—right? What about the good news that Jesus died for our sin and we can have a friendship with God? Do you really have to tell your friends about that? Let’s grapple with that!**

#### 4 grapple team time

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide at the end of this lesson.

#### 5 grapple team reports

At the end of Grapple Team Time, have kids work with their team to choose one of the options below to report what they discovered.

**Option 1:** *Demonstrate It*

Choose one person’s SHARE story and create a mini-skit to act it out.

**Option 2:** *Draw It*

Draw a picture that symbolizes how you can spread good news to others.

Match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2. Have teams present their reports. *(Do this one team at a time if you have only two Grapple Teams.)*

#### 6 grapple prayer

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the group choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

**Option 1:** *Ker-Plunk Prayers*

Draw a picture of a pebble being thrown into a quiet lake. Then as you ask God to help you tell your friends about him, draw the ripples that happen when the pebble enters the water.

**Option 2:** *Courage Prayers*

Stand in a courageous pose—hold your head high, puff your chest out confidently, and stand firmly on two feet. Pray that God will give you courage to share your faith this week.

#### 7 grapple dare

**Say: You have some exciting news to share. You’re a friend of God! God sent his Son to die for your sin so you can have a friendship with God and live in heaven with him forever. That’s amazing news everyone needs to hear! This week, I dare you to let your friends know about your friendship with God. I dare you to let your good deeds shine, but I also dare you to use your words to tell your friends about God. Unsure of what to say? Use your SHARE story to tell your friends how knowing God has changed your life.**

*(Find the Parent Page for this lesson on the enhanced DVD. Have each child give a copy to his or her parents. Alternatively, send the file to parents via email.)*

# grapple team guide

## 4. Do I Have to Tell Others About My Friend God?

**In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.**

*In Pairs: Tell about a time you were nervous or scared—maybe you had a big test or your teammates were counting on you to score the winning goal. What did you think? How did you feel? How was that like or unlike when you think about telling others about your faith in God?*

Sharing your faith with others can sometimes be fun, but sometimes it's hard and scary. What are some excuses people might give for not sharing their faith with others? Which, if any, are reasonable, and why?

**Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 10:32-33.**

*In Pairs: How is not sharing your faith like or unlike denying God? Based on these verses, what excuses can we offer for not telling others about God?*

**Read Matthew 5:15-16.**

Based on these verses, how can we tell others about our faith in God? What's one way you can let your good deeds shine this week so your friends will know and praise God? In what ways might good deeds be an appropriate or inappropriate substitute for *telling* others about Jesus?

**Read 1 Peter 3:15.**

**Be prepared! Everyone's story of coming to know Jesus as a friend and Savior is unique. Sharing your story is a good way to start sharing your faith! On a separate sheet of paper, answer these questions:**

**S**—Before you knew Jesus, what made God sad about your life?

**H**—How did you hear about Jesus?

**A**—When did you ask Jesus to be your friend and Savior?

**R**—How has your relationship with Jesus changed your life?

**E**—What makes you excited about God?

**What is one thing you can tell your friends about your friend God this week?**

## **grapple team reports**

**With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.**

**Option 1:** *Demonstrate It*

Choose one person's SHARE story and create a mini-skit to act it out.

**Option 2:** *Draw It*

Draw a picture that symbolizes how you can spread good news to others.