

WEEK 4

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I believe God's words are true.

BIBLE

Jesus Rejected At Nazareth:
Luke 4:14–30; Psalm 19:7–14

ABOUT THIS WEEK

A compass is an important tool when you camp because it always points north, which means you can find your way whenever you go camping. This week, we'll hear about how Jesus was rejected as God's son in his hometown. Jesus shows us how God's words always point to the truth, so whenever we have questions, we can say, "I believe God's words are true."

LARGE GROUP TIME

Rise and shine, happy campers! It's our final day of *Camp Believe It*. We've learned a lot about the wilderness together—specifically, Bible stories connected to the wilderness. Through the stories of John the Baptist, we discovered that God gives us purpose and can speak to us. Then, we followed Jesus into the wilderness and learned how he overcame temptation by trusting God's words because God is powerful. Today, we're going to learn one more thing that is absolutely important. Let's go!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Truth Or Test Compass

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, set up a spinner like [this](#), [LEARNING ADVANTAGE Six-Color Spinners - Set of 5 - Game Spinner Write On/Wipe Off Surface for Multiple Uses](#) with every other section marked "Truth" or "Test." Have kids take turns spinning it. Based on the spinner results, ask them a question like the examples below. If they land on a question they don't want to answer or a test they don't want to do, allow them to pass.
 - Truth: What is your favorite thing about spending time in nature?
 - Truth: What animal would scare you the most if you saw it while camping?
 - Truth: What is the most adventurous outdoor activity you've ever tried?
 - Truth: If you could go camping anywhere in the world, where would you choose to go and why?
 - Truth: What's the funniest or silliest thing that has happened to you during a camp or any trip you've been on?
 - Truth: What would it be if you had to eat the same food for every meal at camp?
 - Test: Do your best animal impression, and let everyone guess what animal you're pretending to be.
 - Test: Do a silly dance for 30 seconds.
 - Test: Pretend to be a bird and sing a made-up song for everyone.

- Test: Make your best impression of a tree.
- Test: Eat a [bug lollipop](#).
- This was a strange compass because it didn't point north like a standard compass. It challenged us to tell the truth or tackle a test. Some of these challenges might have been hard for us to do because we might be worried about what other people think about us.
- In today's Bible story, we'll discover that many people had different opinions about Jesus, but he wasn't concerned with what everyone thought. He focused on the truth.

POLL | Camp Trivia: True Or False

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of Camp Trivia with the following true or false questions. Kids can move to one side of the room depending on their answer.
- Can you figure out which of these statements are true and which are false?
 - Campfires are only allowed during the day. *False.*
 - Ticks are insects found only in the woods. *False. They can be anywhere with lots of shade, grass, and bushes.*
 - A compass always points to the North. *True.*
 - When hiking, you should always go alone. *False. It's always safer to go with someone who knows the trail.*
 - Bears are attracted to the smell of food, so keeping food inside your tent at night is a good idea. *False. Food should be stored in the car or bear-proof containers.*
 - Always check the weather forecast before camping. *True.*
 - It's safe to touch or play with wild animals you encounter while camping. *False. Don't do that.*
 - Pinecones can be used as natural fire starters. *True.*
 - Campers should always clean up their trash and leave no trace of their presence in the wilderness. *True.*
 - Mosquitoes are more active during the day than at night. *False.*
 - Cotton clothing is a good choice for camping because it dries quickly when wet. *False. Cotton dries slowly.*
 - Campers should drink water directly from rivers or streams without treating it. *False.*
 - Camping tents should be set up on high ground to avoid flooding during rain. *True.*
 - It's safe to climb trees without checking for broken limbs, snakes, spiders, or raccoons first. *False.*
- When exploring the wilderness, knowing what is true is important because it will help keep you out of trouble and make for a more enjoyable experience.
- Today, we will see how knowing what is true from God will help us, too.

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

SCRIPTURE | Luke 4:14–30 (Jesus Rejected At Nazareth)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dress up and set up your space like you did in previous weeks. Have kids circle around you as you tell today's Bible story.
- Alright, campers, gather around the fire for a story one last time before we pack up our campsite, and everyone heads back home.
- **Let's read Luke 4:14–15 and see what happened.**
 - Jesus had just wrapped up his time in the wilderness and headed back to his hometown. A hometown is where someone grew up as a kid. **What would you say your hometown is? Is it here?**

- Many people from his hometown, of course, knew about Jesus—he was kind of famous as a teacher—and they were excited that he was coming to their town! They couldn't wait to hear his teaching.
- **Let's read Luke 4:16.**
 - Jesus went to his hometown synagogue. It's like he had gone home and visited the church he attended as a kid.
 - Imagine if one of you who grew up at our church became a well-known preacher and came back to teach us. That would be so cool!
- **Then, Jesus started to teach. Let's read Luke 4:17–22.**
 - Jesus read from the Old Testament. He read a verse from Isaiah, which was about the savior God promised to bring good news to the poor, heal the blind, and set people free. The people had been waiting for a savior for hundreds of years, and here was Jesus, saying, *"Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."* Jesus was saying that the promised savior was here. People went wild—at least at first.
 - Then, Jesus gave them a message that was tough to swallow.
- **Let's read Luke 4:23–27.**
 - Everyone had heard the rumors about what Jesus had been doing in other towns. They thought they would get special treatment because they knew Jesus, but he wanted everyone to know that he came for everyone. Jesus wasn't the kind of savior some people were expecting.
 - **How do you think the people in Jesus' hometown took this?**
- **Let's read Luke 4:28–30 and find out.**
 - Wow, were they angry. They were so mad because Jesus didn't say what they wanted him to say. Plus, Jesus was from their hometown. How could someone they grew up with be the savior of God?
 - But Jesus could not lie — he told the people who he really is and who God really is. Jesus wouldn't say something just because people wanted to hear it. Jesus spoke only the truth, and for that, people wanted to throw him off a cliff.
- God's words are filled with promises and some truths that might be difficult for us to believe. But just like Jesus showed everyone in the synagogue, God only gives us what is true.
- *Camp Believe It?* Believe it—it's all true!

BIG IDEA | I believe God's words are true.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the Big Idea reveal similar to how you did it in Week 1. Write out the word "God's words" or "true" using stickers or blacklight paint or reuse the "believe" poster from previous weeks.
- Here at *Camp Believe It*, we learn so many things from God that are true. This week's Big Idea is no exception. So what did we learn today that we can believe? Let's take a look at the stars in our pretend night sky to give us a clue.
- **I believe God's words are true.**

ACTIVITY | Wild Wonders

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a wall or a board labeled "Wild Wonders," and provide kids with sticky notes and pencils to write their questions and post them on the wall.
- **Do you have any questions about God and the Bible?**
- **Is there something you don't understand or have been wondering about?**
- Write your questions on the sticky notes—you don't have to sign your name on them—and post them to the wall of Wild Wonders. Remember, there are no bad or wrong questions, so don't be afraid to ask them.

- It's okay to have questions about God and the Bible because God is so big. Our human minds can't take it all in. God is bigger than our questions. God knows our questions anyway, so don't be afraid to ask.
- As we continue to read and study the Bible, we'll find that our questions go away or change. The more we know God, the more true things we learn.
- **I believe God's words are true.** How about you?

OBJECT LESSON | True North

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get a compass or use the one on your smartphone and show the kids how the needle always points true North, no matter which way you turn. Give each kid a turn to circle while holding the compass.
- When we are out in the wilderness, we need to know our way around or else we could get lost. One way to keep track of this is to use a compass. The needle of a compass always points true North. This is because the needle responds to the earth's magnetic field. No matter where you turn, the metal needle points toward the magnetic poles in the north and south. One end is painted red to show which way is North. This way, when you are on a hike where there are no signs, you can use a compass to help guide you. Without a compass, you might get lost.
- God's words are like a compass. God's words always point to the truth. So when you are trying to make your way through life and you feel a little lost, turn to God's words and let them point you back to "true north." **I believe God's words are true.**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 19:7–14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read
- The Bible talks about the "law of the Lord"—the laws God gave to humankind to guide us as we live. It's another way to talk about God's words.
 - **Let's read Psalm 19:7–9.** God's words are perfect, trustworthy, right, radiant, pure, and firm. We can trust God's words. God's words are priceless.
 - **Let's read Psalm 19:10.** Have you ever thought of God's words that way — more precious than gold and sweeter than honey? God's words are so valuable because they keep us from losing our way.
 - **Let's read Psalm 19:11–14.** God's words show us how to turn away from sinning. This is one reason it's good to learn from the Bible and remember what it says. That way, we can recognize what's true and withstand temptation, the way Jesus did when the devil tried to tempt him in the wilderness.
- When we read the Bible, sometimes it can be hard to believe some of the amazing truths written within. But **I believe God's words are true**, and so should you.

VIDEO | Camp Believe It, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).
[TeachingVideo4_CampBelieveIt_Elementary_GrowKids on Vimeo](#)

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

REFLECTION | Campfire Chat

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the campfire setup from the Bible story or display a video of a campfire ([like this](#)) [Cozy Campfire](#) 🔥 [Relaxing Fireplace Sounds](#) 🔥 [Burning Fireplace & Crackling Fire Sounds \(NO MUSIC\)](#) on a screen. In pairs or groups of three, have kids take turns responding to each question. Have time in between each question to allow kids who want to share with the whole group to do so. Afterward, invite kids to stand up

and say the Big Idea together, earning their Week 4 "Big Idea Badge." You can prepare these badges by printing them on [one-and-a-half-inch labels](#) or on regular paper to insert into a [button badge kit](#). You could instead use a [button maker](#) if available.

- At the end of a long camping day, some campers like to sit around and chat by the campfire. Let's gather around and talk about everything we experienced today.
 - Can you think of any story from the Bible you (or most people) find hard to believe?
 - Why is it hard to believe? Why do we believe it anyway?
 - When you find something hard to believe, do you try to prove it or disprove it?
 - Who are some people you can trust to show you what's true?
- Now it's time to collect our Big Idea badge of the day. **What's our Big Idea? I believe God's words are true.**

RESPONSE | Truth Trail Signs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut [wood-patterned bulletin board paper](#) into regular paper-sized pieces and give one to each kid. These don't have to be perfect since hiking trail signs can be weathered and crooked. To make it sturdier, have kids glue the paper to a piece of cardstock. Have them write "Truth Trail" in large letters on the front. On the back, have them write or draw their responses after the group brainstorm.
- Camping and wilderness outings would be hard without signs along the trail to help us find our way. God's words are like trail signs in our lives that point us to what's true, which is why our Big Idea is **I believe God's words are true.**
- Once you've hiked the trail yourself, you know your way on it and can then lead other people. You can let them know which way to go, which paths to use and which to avoid, and what beautiful things they might see.
- **What are some ways you can help point other people to Jesus and God's words, which are true?** Let's brainstorm together. Maybe you can do it through:
 - **Acts of kindness:** You can help someone in need of assistance or a friend.
 - **Acts of service:** You could clean up a park or places in your neighborhood. You could save up money to give to people like missionaries who are sharing God's truth in other places.
 - **Sharing God's story:** You could memorize a Bible story or verse and be ready to share God's words with others. You could even share your own story about God's faithfulness. Or you could invite someone to church where they can hear more about God's words.
- Pick one of these action steps that you think you want to try right away. Write or draw about that action step on the back of your sign and take it home to remind you to help point others to God's truth. We can even pray about it together right now.

MEMORY VERSE | John 6:69 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- "We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

PRAYER

- God, you are trustworthy and true. Thank you that I can always trust what you say. Help me learn more from the Bible and remember your words whenever I go through a hard time. Also, help me remember that your words are true, even in times when I don't always understand them. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS
 - What did the passage that Jesus read at the synagogue say? *In short, that the promised savior has come and that savior was Jesus.*
 - How did the people react at first? *They spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at his words.*
 - Why do you think people got so upset later? *Jesus said words that they didn't want to hear. Jesus wasn't fulfilling Scripture the way they thought he would. They didn't believe someone from their hometown could be the savior.*
 - Reread Psalm 19:8. How might God's true words give "joy to the heart" and "light to the eyes?" What do you think this means?
- APPLICATION QUESTIONS
 - How would you describe God's words to someone who's never heard them?
 - What is a promise from God that you know is true?
 - What can you do to learn more of God's words?