



# K - 2ND



## CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids: **Do you know what the word reject means? Explain it to me. How does it feel to be rejected? Why?**



## WHAT DO YOU REJECT?

**Start by 9:20/10:45**

Form a large circle. Tell kids that you will say two items and they need to reject one over the other option. Reject means to choose not to accept or believe something or someone. Lead kids to stay seated in the circle if they reject the first option or stand up if they reject the second option. Consider using the examples below or create your own:

Popcorn or ice cream cone

Video game or board game

Pool or beach

Riding a bike or rollerskating

Pizza or hot dog

Camping or Disneyland

**This game showed us how we sometimes pick one thing over another. Today, we're going to learn about how the religious leaders chose not to believe in Jesus, even though the truth was right in front of them. In our Bible story, we'll hear about a man named Stephen who told others about Jesus, but the religious leaders didn't want to listen and refused to believe what he said.**

**START BY**  
**9:30/10:55**

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



**LARGE GROUP**

# SMALL GROUP



## DISCUSSION

- **Can we choose to follow Jesus?** Yes! We can choose to believe in Jesus or not. Some people don't believe in Him, but Jesus loves everyone. He died on the cross to take away our sins. If we believe in Him, we are forgiven and become part of God's family!
- **How does Jesus' death and coming back to life give us hope?** Jesus died, but He didn't stay dead—He came back to life! That means we can live forever with Him in heaven. When Stephen was hurt for loving Jesus, he saw Jesus waiting for him in heaven. That reminds us that no matter what hard things we go through, heaven will be full of joy with Jesus!
- **Why did Jesus say His followers would have hard times?** Jesus said that people who love Him might be treated badly because the world didn't love Him either. Before we believe in Jesus, we are far from God. But when we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and brings us into His family. No matter what happens, Jesus is always with us!



## KEY PASSAGE

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:5 together.

**Jesus went through pain and died to take away our sins. But He didn't stay dead— He came back to life! Because of this, we can have hope, even when we go through hard times, because Jesus is alive and with us.**

Form kids into a circle. Hold a ball in your hand and say the first word of the key passage. Then toss or roll the ball to a kid and challenge him to say the next word in the key passage. Continue tossing or rolling the ball until the entire key passage has been said. Repeat, making sure each kid has a turn.



## WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Form kids into pairs and invite them to describe an animal to their partners. For example, one might say to his partner "I see an animal with a long neck and a long tongue." Lead the kid's partner to guess what animal is being described. Allow each partner to describe several animals.

Then invite kids to listen as you describe what Stephen saw while he was being stoned: **"I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Who saw this heavenly scene? Yes, Stephen saw Jesus waiting for him in heaven. Stephen was able to suffer with courage and hope because Jesus was waiting for him. If we have trusted in Jesus, we have this same hope too. Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners. Jesus died so that we can be forgiven and live with Him forever.**



**Key Passage:** *But he was wounded for the wrong things we did. He was crushed for the evil things we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him. And we are healed because of his wounds. Isaiah 53:5*



**Big Picture Question:** *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.*



As time allows, pass out crayons and pencils for kids to work on the activity sheet.



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers. Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.