



Compass Kids

Isaiah 55:6-13

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 55:6-13

Purpose:

Compass Kids partners with families to disciple their children through Bible comprehension and memorization.

Each semester, the Compass Kids curriculum will guide children through learning a mid-sized passage of scripture. They'll memorize a new piece each week through auditory, visual, and kinesthetic activities, building up to recitation of the whole passage. As they learn God's Word, our hope is salvation for those who are not yet believers and sanctification for those who are.

Isaiah 55:6-13 was put to song by Northway Collective: Kids and is available on all streaming platforms. Click [here](#) to listen on Spotify.

Isaiah 55:6-13:

Every passage we select is chosen with prayer and careful thought. Isaiah 55:6-13 is a beautiful proclamation of God's forgiveness and the future He has planned for His people. The three main ideas we emphasize in this curriculum are: God's Heart is Good (v. 6-9), God's Word is Good (v. 10-11), and God's Plan is Good (v. 12-13).

Materials:

Included you'll find 11 weeks of content, followed by a final celebration and competition we've called the Compass Bowl!

Each week includes the following materials:

- **Curriculum Overview:** a guide for small group leaders to follow as they lead their class. It includes instructions for an opening activity, the memory verse folders, a game, and any helpful definitions.
- **Large Group:** a manuscript for the teacher leading the large group time, including suggested hand motions and a summary of main ideas.
- **Small Group:** a guide for small group leaders to discuss each week's lesson with their class, including extra open-ended questions for older grades.



INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 55:6-13

- **Folders:** a weekly print-out to give to each child. On it, you'll find that week's portion of the memory verse and a blank space for writing it out or drawing an interpretation of it. We hole-punched these and placed them in a folder with brads for each child.
- **Icons:** three simple icons to represent the key truths: God's Heart is Good, God's Word is Good, and God's Plan is Good. We printed these on foam boards and made digital slides for large group teaching!

Suggested Schedule

Our program ran from 6:00-7:20PM (doors open at 5:45), and we provided dinner for each child. Here are the schedules we followed for preschool and elementary.

Preschool Schedule

6:00 – Opening activity
6:10 – Large group
6:30 – Dinner
6:40 – Small group and folders
7:00 – Game

Elementary Schedule

6:00 – Dinner and opening activity
6:10 – Large group
6:30 – Small group and folders
7:00 – Game





Week #1

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:6

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near;”

Opening Activity:

Get to know the kids in your class and let them decorate the front of their folders with stickers!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Helpful Definitions:

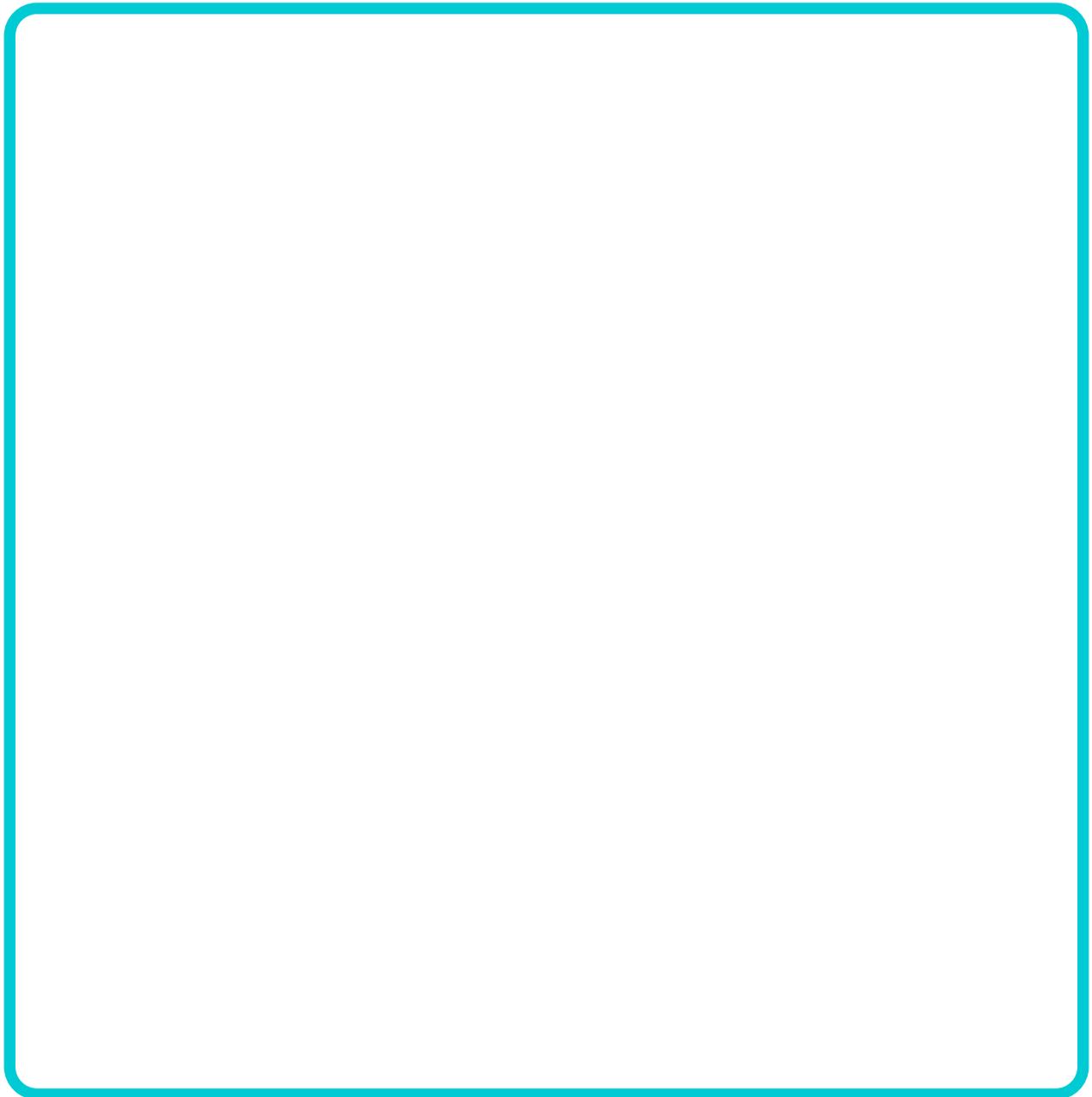
“Seek” – to search carefully for something or someone



VERSE

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near;"

Isaiah 55:6



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:6

Passage:

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near;"

Hand Motions:

- "seek the Lord" – searching motion with hand on forehead
- "while He may be found" – point like you just found something
- "call upon Him" – hands around mouth and shout
- "while He is near" – sign language for "near"

Teaching:

this is a longer lesson than usual because it's setting up context for the whole semester

Welcome to Compass Kids! This semester we are learning from the book of Isaiah. Will you say that with me? Isaiah.

Isaiah was the name of a prophet, and a prophet is someone who shares messages from God. Isaiah wrote this book of the Bible to share a very important message with God's special and chosen people, the Israelites. Here's where we are on the timeline! **point to God's People Wait** A savior has been promised, but God's people are still waiting for him.

The Israelites, God's chosen people, had hearts that were sick with sin, and they wanted to trust the big, strong nations around them for protection instead of trusting God. Through his entire message, Isaiah has bad news and good news for them. The bad news is that disobedience will lead to disaster. The other nations won't protect them, and hard times are coming. But Isaiah also has good news: God is not done with His people, and He has a wonderful plan. Isaiah 55 is part of that very good news, and that's what we're going to learn together!

Our verses start with two commands: to "seek the LORD" and "call upon Him."

To seek means to look for something very carefully. Have you ever played hide-and-seek before? While one person hides, the other person... **seeks!** The seeker



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:6

goes looking high and low for their friend, around corners and under tables and anywhere else that they can think of. And while they look, they call out to their friend. "Where are you??" "I'm going to find you!"

Well, the words in our verse today are the same: seek and call! But there's a big difference. What is normally the goal of the person hiding during hide-and-seek? **To stay hidden!** They want to pick a super sneaky spot where no one can find them. And when their friend calls out to them, they stay as quiet as possible!

But this verse tells us that God has a different goal. When God's people look for Him, He wants to be found! And when they call out to Him, He answers back! Through prayer and learning God's word, God's children get to hear His voice. God wants His children to know Him.

And that's why we're spending 12 weeks learning Isaiah 55 together! We hope if you're already a child of God, these verses would help you learn more about the God who loves you. And if you are not a child of God, we hope you would hear His voice calling out to you for the first time!

One truth we teach here is that **God is good**. As we memorize Isaiah 55 together, we're going to expand that into three parts:

1. God's Heart is Good
2. God's Word is Good
3. God's Plan is Good

For the next few weeks, we're going to focus on God's heart. Today we learned that **God's heart is good, so we can seek and find Him!**

Summary:

- Isaiah is a book of messages from God to His special and chosen people.
- The goal of memorizing scripture is to know God's voice.
- God's heart is good, so we can seek and find Him!



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:6

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near;”

1. What did we learn about Isaiah during large group?

Isaiah was a prophet, meaning he shared messages from God. Isaiah wrote this book of messages to God’s special and chosen people, the Israelites.

2. What were God’s people tempted to do?

Disobey and put their trust in the big, strong nations around them for protection.

3. What was Isaiah telling them to do instead?

To seek the Lord and call upon Him.

4. What does it mean to seek something?

To look for something with a lot of time, care, and effort.

5. When God’s people seek Him and call out to Him, what does He do?

He answers back and wants to be found.

Deeper discussion question for older classes: Open your bibles to Isaiah 55:6 and read it together. What are some ways that God’s children hear His voice? What would it look like to seek Him?

Summary:

- Isaiah is a book of messages from God to His special and chosen people.
- The goal of memorizing scripture is to know God’s voice.
- God’s heart is good, so we can seek and find Him!





Week #2

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:7

“...let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon...”

Opening Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

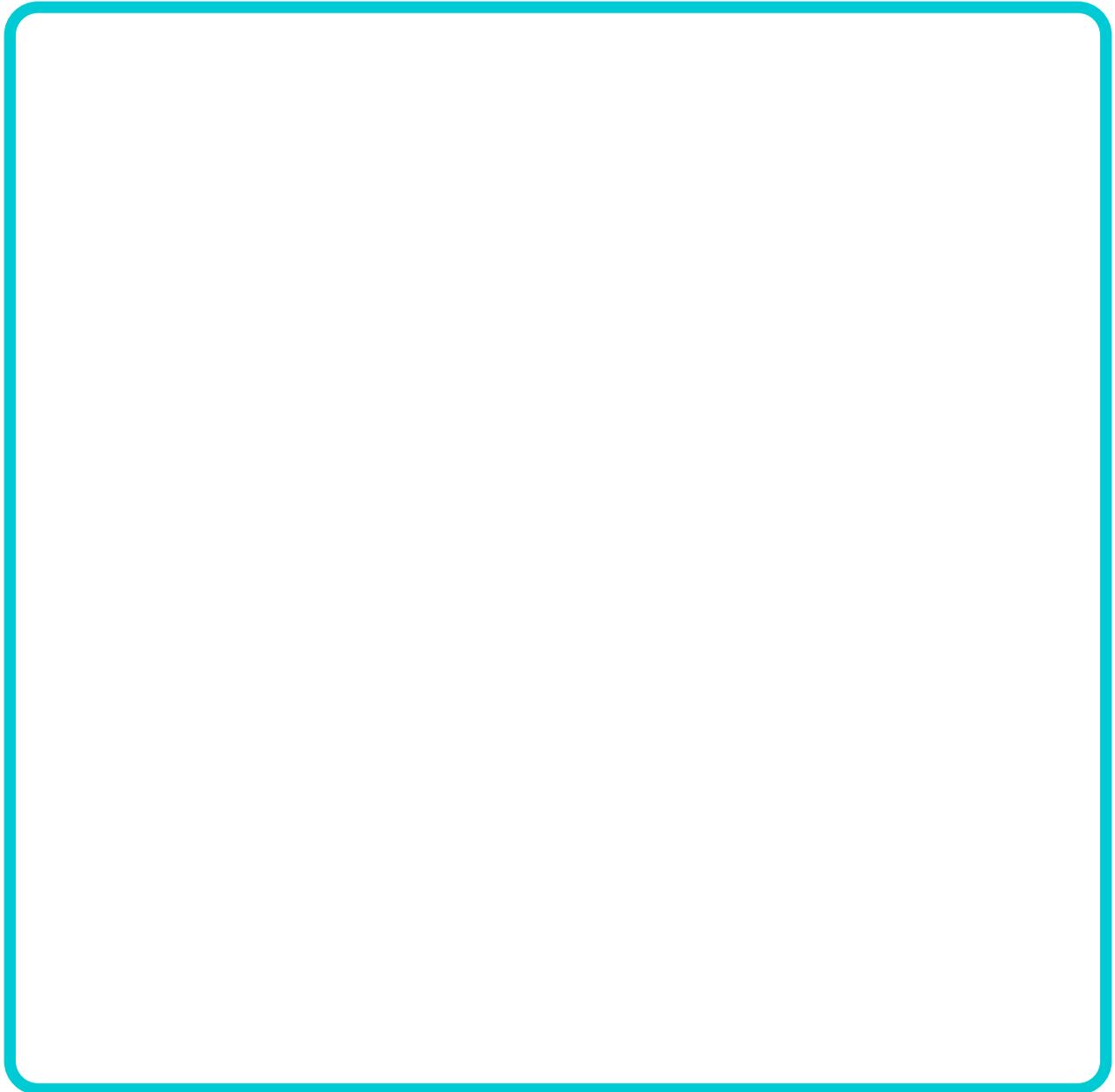
Helpful Definitions:

- “Forsake” – to leave behind or get rid of something
- “Wicked/unrighteous” – sinful, not right with God
- “Compassion” – seeing, caring, and acting when someone is in need
- “Abundantly” – so much, overflowing
- “Pardon” – to forgive

VERSE

“...let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon...”

Isaiah 55:7



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:7

Passage:

"...let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon..."

Hand Motions:

- "let the wicked" – arms in an X (like trespasses from Eph. 2)
- "forsake His way" – press hand out to the side like pushing something away
- "and the unrighteous man" – thumbs down (like sin from Eph. 2)
- "his thoughts" – pointing to mind
- "let Him return to the LORD" – run in place with arms outstretched
- "that He may have compassion on him" – hug
- "and to our God" – hands pointed up
- "for He will abundantly pardon" – wipe hands like a clean slate

since this is a longer verse, spend more time practicing it together in large group

Teaching:

Last week, we learned that Isaiah was a prophet who had a message for God's chosen people, the Israelites. We also learned that **God's heart is good**, so we can seek and find Him.

Our next verse begins with a command to turn away from wickedness and unrighteous thoughts. These are big words that describe sin. Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God.

God's chosen people, the Israelites, were tempted to sin by trusting the big, strong nations around them instead of trusting in God. You probably don't struggle with trusting other nations right now, but I bet you're tempted to put your trust in other things! Like the Israelites, maybe you feel like you don't really need God's help. Do you put your trust in your grades at school, your friendships, or everything going your way? Do you break God's rules because you think you know better than He does? All of us are born with hearts that are sick with sin.

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:7

Isaiah is reminding God's people that if they will leave their sin and return to God, He will have compassion on them. Compassion means seeing, caring, and acting when someone is in need. God sees that His people need to be rescued from sin, and because He cares, He will send them a Rescuer! Does anyone know who that Rescuer is? **Jesus!**

Isaiah also says that God will "abundantly pardon." This means that God won't give them the punishment their sin deserves— instead He will forgive them! And He won't just forgive His children a little bit. He will forgive them fully, freely, and forever!

The good news for us is that Jesus the Rescuer has already come! ***point to the cross and empty tomb on the timeline*** He has already died on the cross and come back to life! Everyone who turns away from their sin to love and trust Jesus becomes a child of God and does not get the punishment they deserve.

Our main idea today is this: **God's heart is good, so we can return to Him!**

Summary:

- **Everyone has sinned and deserves God's punishment.**
- **When we turn from sin, God shows compassion and mercy.**
- **God's heart is good, so we can return to Him.**



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:7

“...let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon...”

1. What did we learn last week— can someone remind me?

That God’s heart is good, so we can seek and find Him.

Older classes: Open the Bible to Isaiah 55:7 and read it together.

2. To forsake means to leave behind or get rid of something. What does this verse tell us to leave behind?

Wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts (aka sin)

3. Who should we go to instead?

The Lord!

4. What does it mean that God will be compassionate? (Hint for elementary: it’s on the attribute wall)

He will see, care, and act when someone is in need. He showed His children compassion by sending Jesus to rescue them.

5. To abundantly pardon means to forgive and show mercy. What does it mean that God will be merciful? (Hint for elementary: it’s also on the attribute wall)

He will not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Deeper discussion question for older classes: Has someone ever shown you compassion? What did they do for you? Is there a story in the Bible that this verse reminds you of?

Summary:

- Everyone has sinned and deserves God’s punishment.
- God shows His children compassion and mercy.
- God’s heart is good, so we can return to Him.



Week #2



Week #3

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:8

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.”

Opening Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Helpful Definitions:

“Ways” – how someone lives or acts

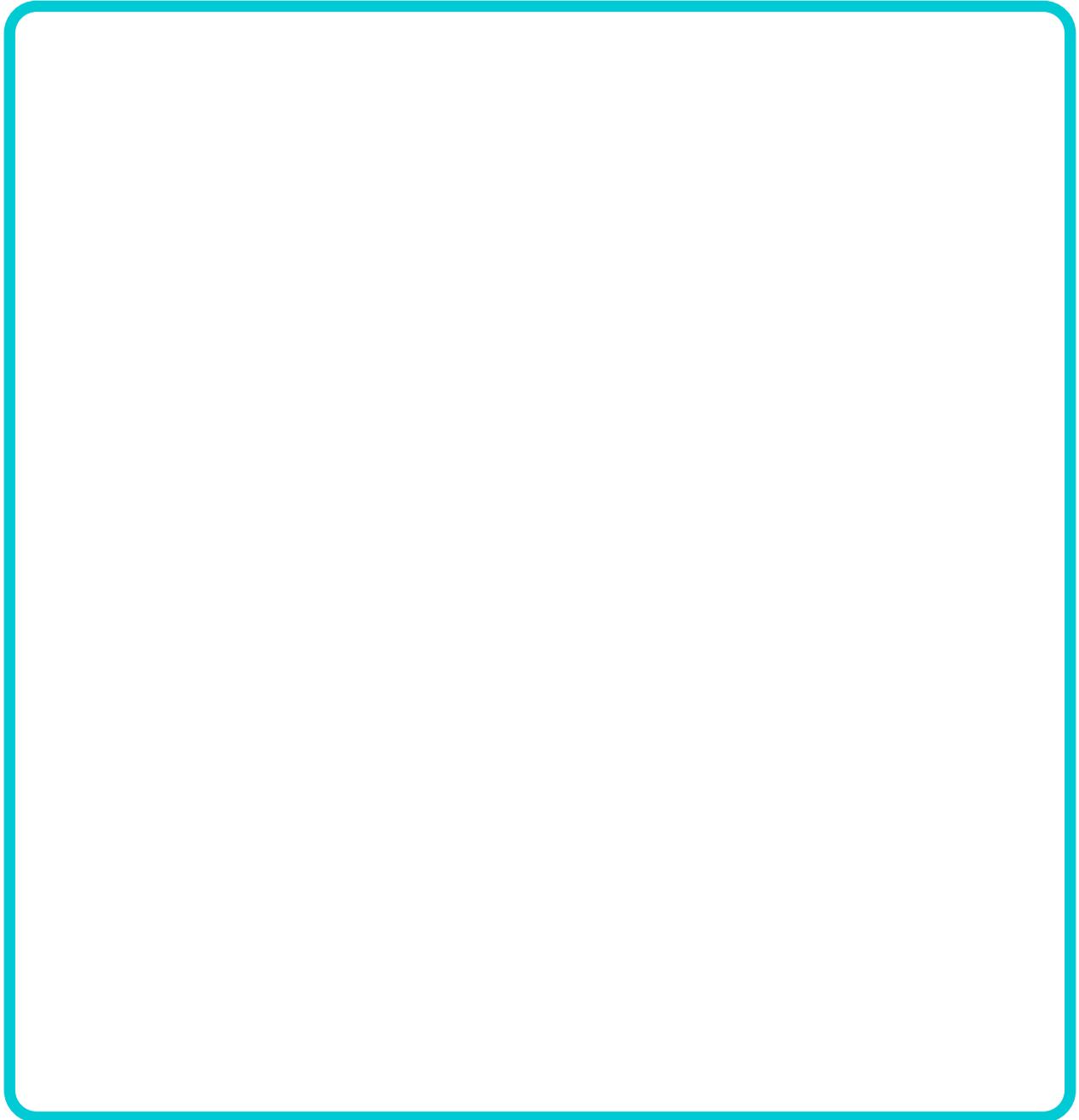
“Declares” – to say strongly



VERSE

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.”

Isaiah 55:8



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:8

Passage:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.”

Hand Motions:

- “for My thoughts” – point up to the sky
- “are not your thoughts” – point to your mind and shake head no
- “neither are your ways My ways” – road motion with hands (like course in Eph. 2)
- “declares the Lord” – L across body (sign language for “Lord”)

Teaching:

Last week, we learned that **God’s heart is good**, so we can return to Him and be forgiven.

This week, we have a shorter verse, and it’s an announcement from the Lord! Through His messenger, Isaiah, He tells us that His thoughts and His ways are not the same as ours.

Now at first, this might seem like bad news! When you meet someone for the first time, you usually look for things you have in common— ways that you are the same. Maybe you and your friend both like volleyball or football or maybe you both have younger siblings. So why should we be excited that God is different?

I’d like to do a little test, and then you can tell me if it’s good that God is different from us. I’m going to read a sentence out loud. If it’s true about you, I want you to point to yourself. If it’s not true of you, just keep your hands in your lap. Ready? Let’s try it...

- I made the entire world.
- I control the thunder and the rain.
- I put the moon and stars in the sky.
- I have never sinned.

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:8

- I see and know everything.
- I always forgive fully, freely, and forever.
- I have made mistakes.
- I've made selfish choices.
- I've said unkind words.
- I've been lazy.
- I don't see or know everything.
- I've made bad decisions.
- I sometimes have a hard time forgiving.

Okay now, I want to try another test. I'm going to read the same list, but this time, I want you to point up if it's true about God and keep your hands in your lap if it isn't. ***repeat activity***

I think by now you might get the idea. This is why it's amazing news that God is different from us! We are small, limited, and sinful. God is big, unlimited, and always good! His thoughts and ways are not the same as ours, and that should make us very glad!! Knowing that God is different from us should lead us to worship Him. He's the only one who is completely perfect, so He's the only one who deserves to be shown, honored, and enjoyed as most valuable.

Our main idea today is this: **God's heart is good, so we can worship Him!**

Summary:

- **God's thoughts and ways are not like ours.**
- **This is good news because we are limited and sinful, and God is not!**
- **God's heart is good, so we can worship Him.**



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:8

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares the LORD.”

1. What did we learn last week— can someone remind me?

God’s heart is good, so we can return to Him.

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:8 and read it together.

2. According to this verse, what two things are different about God?

His thoughts and His ways.

3. What are some examples of how God’s thoughts and ways are different?

He is perfect, He never sins, He sees and knows everything, etc.

4. What are some things we do that God never does?

Say unkind words, lie, make bad decisions, struggle to forgive, etc.

5. Is this good news or bad news? Why?

It’s good news because we are small, limited, and sinful, but God is big, unlimited, and always good!

Deeper discussion for older classes: Have you ever wished you could be as powerful as God? Why would that not be a good thing? Read Isaiah 40:25-28. How does Isaiah say God is different than us in these verses?

Summary:

- God’s thoughts and ways are not like ours.
- This is good news because we are limited and sinful, and God is not!
- God’s heart is good, so we can worship Him.





Week #4

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:9

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Opening Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out in their folders.

Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

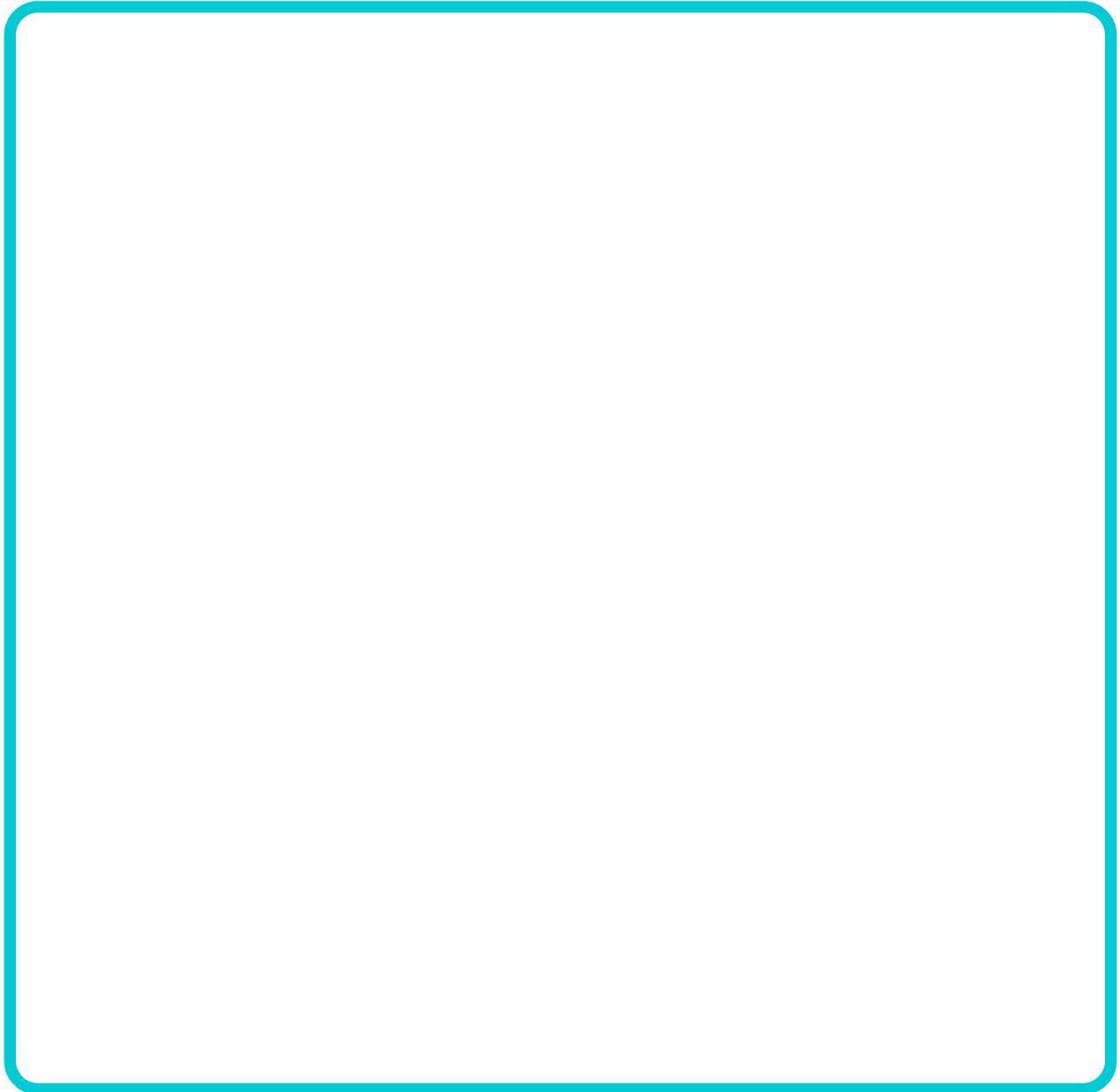
Helpful Definitions:

“the heavens” – everything above the earth (sky, stars, space, etc.)

VERSE

“For as the heavens are higher than
the earth, so are My ways higher than
your ways and My thoughts than your
thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:9



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:9

Passage:

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

Hand Motions:

- "for as the heavens are higher" – raise arms up
- "than the earth" – make round globe with arms
- "so are My ways higher than your ways" – make a course motion with hands
- "and My thoughts" – point to sky
- "than your thoughts" – point to mind

Teaching:

Last week, we learned that **God's heart is good**, so we can worship Him! We also talked about the good news that God is different from us.

Today, God is going to repeat this idea and even add a picture to help us imagine it. Whenever you see something repeated in the Bible, imagine it's like a big flashing light saying: Attention! Attention! Don't miss this!!

Why do you think God would put such a big exclamation point on this idea?

Remember what God's chosen people, the Israelites, were dealing with when Isaiah shared this message with them. They were scared of the future, so they wanted to look to other nations for protection because they didn't trust God. They've sinned and disobeyed God, but God has invited them to turn away from sin and run to Him instead.

God's chosen people needed to hear that only God was worthy of their trust. ***for elementary large group, walk over to the attribute wall and point them out as you speak***

The other nations might've seemed like they had power, but only God is almighty. The other nations might've seemed safe, but they weren't. Only God is unchanging and a perfect refuge.



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:9

And if they decided to turn away from sin? Then, unlike people, who hold grudges, God would be completely merciful. Unlike people, who can be cruel and unkind, God would be loving and compassionate towards them.

This truth should be like a big flashing light to us too. When we put our trust in school or friendships or everything going our way, we're putting our trust in a refuge that won't actually protect us. And when we sin and disobey God's rules, it's like saying to God, "I know better than you!"

But unlike us, God is compassionate and merciful. If we'll turn away from sin and run towards Him instead, He will not hold a grudge against us or respond in anger. He will gladly welcome us and forgive us.

Our main idea today is this: **God's heart is good, so we can trust Him.**

****Review verses 6-9 together since this is the end of the first unit****

Summary:

- **God's thoughts and ways are not like ours.**
- **Unlike us, God is trustworthy and forgiving.**
- **God's heart is good, so we can trust Him!**



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:9

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

1. What did we learn last week— can someone remind me?

God’s heart is good, so we can worship Him.

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:9 and read it together.

2. What are the two things about God that are different from us? (Hint: it’s the same as last week)

His thoughts and His ways.

3. Why did the Israelites need to be reminded of this? Who were they tempted to trust instead?

They were tempted to trust other nations instead of God.

4. How is God better than those other nations (and the Israelites’ own hearts)?

He is completely worthy of their trust; the other nations are not. He is the almighty one and can actually protect them. And He is also compassionate, so He will forgive them if they return to Him.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Who does this verse say we should trust? Where are you tempted to place your trust instead of in God? How are God’s ways better than that person or thing?

Summary:

- God’s thoughts and ways are not like ours.
- Unlike us, God is trustworthy and forgiving.
- God’s heart is good, so we can trust Him!





Week #5

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:10

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater...”

Opening Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Helpful Definitions:

“Sower” – someone who plants seeds

VERSE

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater...”

Isaiah 55:10



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:10

Passage:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater..."

Hand Motions:

- "For as the rain and snow come down" – make falling rain motion
- "from heaven" – point up
- "and do not return there" – cross hands in no signal
- "but water the earth" – lower hands while bending knees like sinking into soil
- "making it bring forth and sprout" – make blooming motion while rising back up
- "giving seed to the sower" – making a motion like picking up a seed and handing it out
- "and bread to the eater" – make similar motion, but picking up and taking a bite

****this is a long verse and it primarily serves to set up the metaphor for the next week, so spend plenty of time reviewing at the end****

Teaching:

Last week we finished the first section of our verse! We learned that **God's Heart is Good**, so we can trust Him. This week, we are starting a new section! For the next three weeks, we'll learn all about how **God's Word is Good**.

Today's verse starts with something called a metaphor. A metaphor is when you compare one thing to another to explain what it's like.

For example, when your parents sing "you are my sunshine"— are they saying you are a big yellow ball in outer space? No, of course not! They're saying that you're like the sun because you make them feel happy, just like a bright sunny day! Or when your teachers describe you as a "busy bee"— are they saying that you have tiny wings and a stinger? No! They're saying that you are like a bee because you're zooming around really fast!



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:10

So that's a metaphor: using one thing to describe what another is like. And today's verse is a metaphor about God's Word! God is telling us that His Word is like the rain and snow.

When rain falls down, it doesn't just disappear. It might seem like it does, but it's actually soaking deep into the soil. And if there are any seeds under the ground, it waters them! Even though we can't see it, something amazing is happening. With water and time, those seeds grow into good things! They grow into vegetables for eating and wheat for baking bread and flowers for smelling.

show pictures to younger classes to demonstrate each step

This verse is telling us that God's Word is like that. When God speaks, His word doesn't just disappear. Even when we may not see it right away, His Word always creates good things!!

With His Word, God created the whole world— the moon and stars, the mountains and trees, and all the plants and animals. By just speaking, God made everything. And next week we're going to learn about another amazing thing God's Word makes. But for today, our main idea is this: **God's Word is good, and it creates good things!**

Summary:

- Rain and snow turn seeds into good things.
- Like the rain and snow, God's Word is working even when we can't see.
- God's Word is good, and it creates good things!



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:10

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater...”

1. Can someone remind me what we learned last week?

God’s heart is good, so we can trust Him.

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:10 and read it together.

2. Can someone remind me what a metaphor is?

Comparing one thing to another to explain what it’s like. (Ex: “my sunshine,” “a busy bee,” “strong as a lion,” etc.)

3. What does God compare His Word to?

The rain and snow

4. What does rain do when it falls?

It soaks into the ground and waters any seeds under the soil, making them grow.

5. How is God’s word like that?

When God speaks, His Word doesn’t just disappear. His word creates good things!!

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Genesis 1 (the first few verses or the entire chapter, if time permits). How does God make everything? What does this tell us about the power of His Word?

Summary:

- Rain turns seeds into good things.
- God’s Word is like the rain.
- God’s Word is good, and it makes good things!





Week #6

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:11a

“...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty...”

Opening Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups.
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

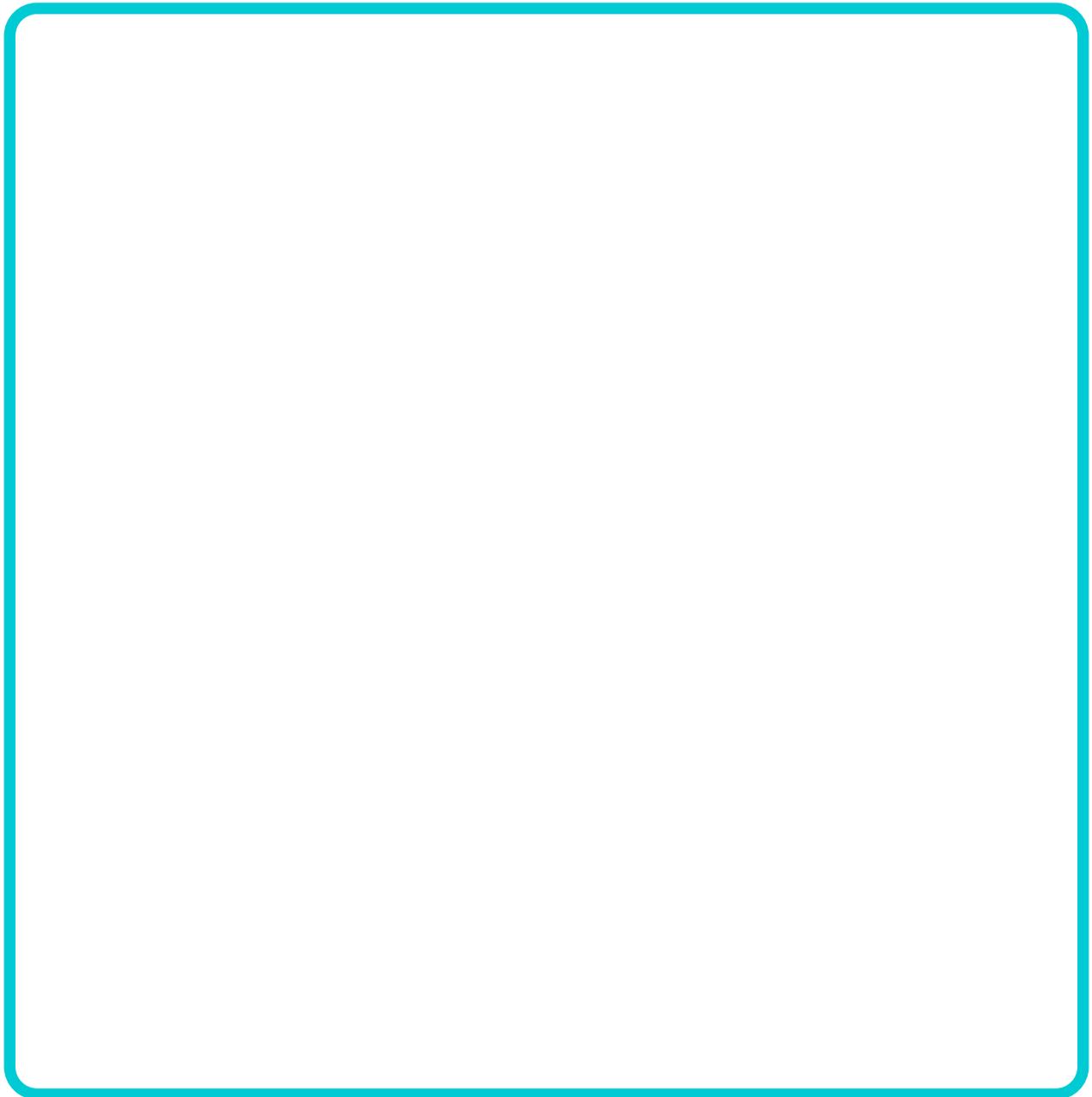
Helpful Definitions:

“Shall/shall not” – will/will not

VERSE

"...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty..."

Isaiah 55:11a



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:11a

Passage:

"...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty..."

Hand Motions:

- "So shall my word be that goes out" – slowly stretch arms out wide
- "from my mouth" – point to mouth
- "it shall not return" – shake head no
- "to me" – point up
- "empty" – drop hands with palms open

Teaching:

Last week we began a new section of Isaiah 55 all about God's Word!

We learned that like the rain and snow, God's Word doesn't just disappear. Even when we can't see it, God's Word is creating good things! God created the whole world with His Word, and today we're going to learn about another amazing thing that He does.

When God created the world, He also created the first man and woman, named Adam and Eve. God made Adam and Eve to have hearts that loved and enjoyed Him more than anything else. But one day, a snake lied to them and told them to break the one rule God had given them. Adam and Eve believed the snake and chose to sin. (For preschool: Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God. God always knows what is best.)

When Adam and Eve sinned, their healthy hearts turned into sick hearts. If you learned Ephesians 2 with us in the fall, you might remember that all of us are born dead in our... **trespasses!** That means that all of us are born with sick hearts too. We don't want to love, obey, and enjoy God, and we can't rescue ourselves from sin.

Because He is rich in mercy, God had a plan. He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life to rescue His children! Jesus would take the

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:11a

punishment they deserved and trade their old, sick hearts for new, healthy hearts that loved God!!

But I have a question for you: How do we know that God did this? Did you just wake up one day and think, "I bet Jesus died on a cross and came back to life?" **No!** We know the amazing news about Jesus because of God's Word. In God's Word, we find all of His promises and we get to see Jesus keeping those promises!!

As God's children read His Word and see everything that God has done for them, something wonderful happens. Even though God has already given them a new, healthy heart, He is not done working. Like rain helps a seed grow, God gives His children the Holy Spirit to help their hearts grow to look more like Jesus. And as God's children read His Word, the Holy Spirit grows their love for God and their love for other people. Instead of wanting to sin, they start wanting to obey because they see how much better God is! ***refer to plant illustrations for younger classes***

Just like a beautiful blooming flower, this doesn't happen at once. In fact, God works in the heart of His children for their entire lives, continuing to help them grow!

God's Word creates good things. With His Word, God created the whole world, and God's Word also grows healthy hearts for God's children. Today's main idea is this: **God's Word is good, and it grows healthy hearts.**

Summary:

- **God's Word creates good things.**
- **As God's children read His Word, their love for Him grows.**
- **God's Word grows healthy hearts.**

SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:11a

“...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty...”

1. What did we learn last week— can someone remind me?

God's Word is good, and it makes good things!

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:10-11 and read it together.

2. Fill in the blank for me: all of us are born with hearts that are...?

Dead in our trespasses

3. What does it mean to be dead in our trespasses?

To have a sick/dead heart that does not love God, to be stuck in our sin, and to be separate from Him

4. How are God's people like seeds?

When they hear God's Word, it is like water for their hearts. It brings them back to life and their faith grows!

5. Can anyone else's words do that?

No! Only God's Word brings life.

Deeper discussion for older classes: If your heart was a seed, what would it look like right now? Is it still buried deep under the soil, needing water? Is it starting to grow? (If time permits and you want to take this even deeper, read Matthew 13:1-9;18-23 and discuss The Parable of the Sower.)

Summary:

- All of us are born dead in our trespasses.
- Faith comes from hearing God's word.
- God's Word is good, and it brings life.





Week #7

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:11b

“...but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Opening Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their journals.

Memory Verse Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Helpful Definitions:

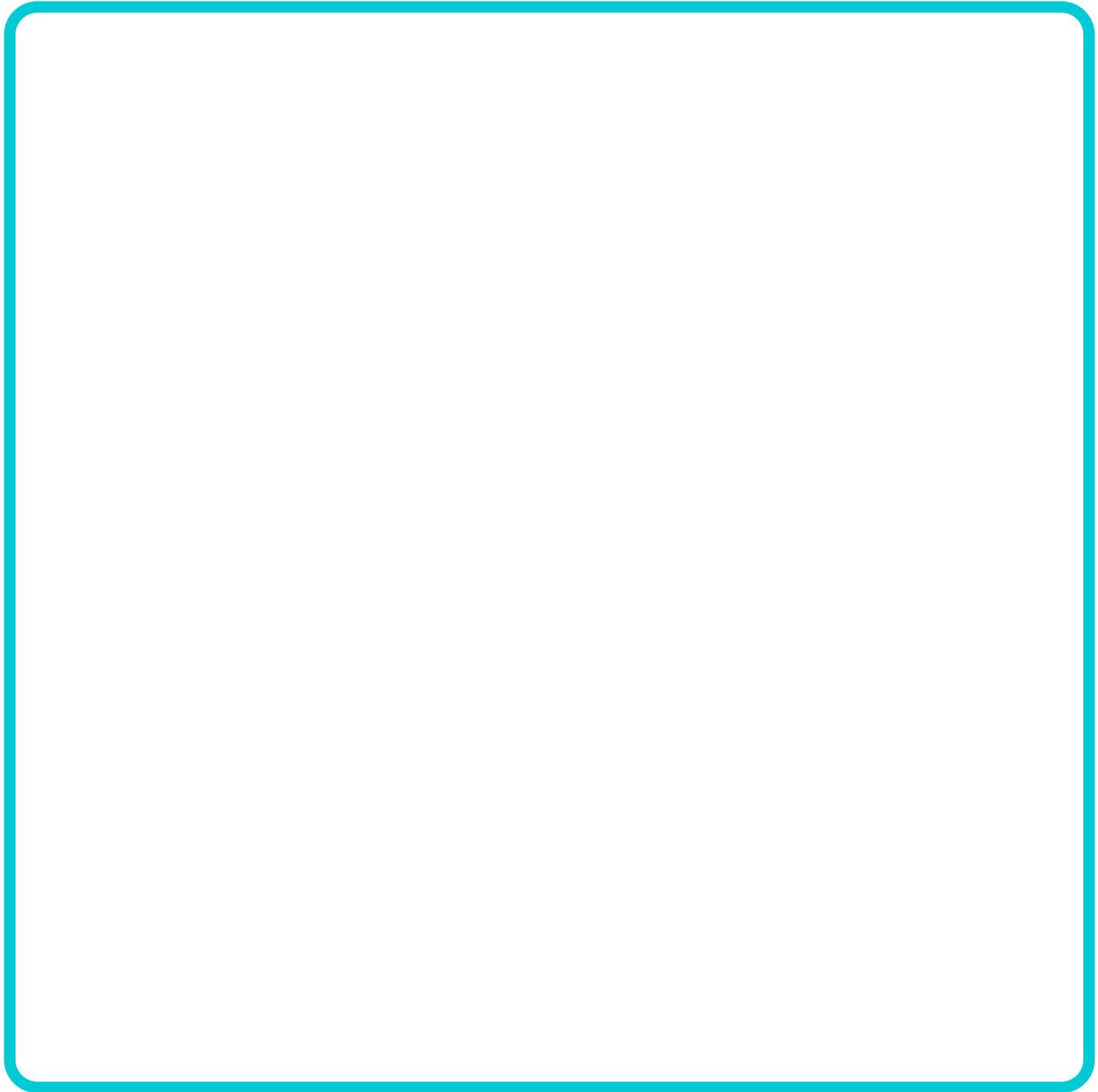
"Shall/shall not" – will or will not

"Accomplish" – to do or make happen

VERSE

“...but it shall accomplish that which I
purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for
which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11b



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:11b

Passage:

"...but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Hand Motions:

- "but it shall accomplish that" -pretend to whisper it to a friend
- "which I purpose and" -pretend to whisper it to another friend
- "shall succeed in the thing" -two thumbs up
- "for which I sent it" -send arms out and then spin around (long dance break in song)

Teaching:

Today we're finishing the second section of Isaiah 55! We've learned that **God's Word is Good**, and it creates good things. We also learned that God's Word helps God's children become more and more like Jesus.

Before we move on to the last section of Isaiah 55, we need to tie together what we've learned. Why did God's chosen people, the Israelites, need to remember that God's Word is good?

Let's rewind back to our first lesson. We learned that God's chosen people were in the middle of a scary situation, and they had a choice to make. When hard times came, they could've trusted God by obeying His Word! God's Word includes all of His good commands and promises for His chosen people.

But we already know they made a different choice. Instead of trusting God and obeying His Word, they sinned and placed their trust in other nations. It was probably hard for the Israelites to believe that God's Word was good. Their situation was scary! Could they actually trust that His commands and promises were what was best?

If you haven't wondered that before, you probably will one day. All of us are going to face hard things we don't expect, and maybe you already have. Friends disappoint us, people we love get sick, and situations make us really

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:11b

sad or confused. It's important to remember a few things about God's Word when that happens.

First, God never promises that life will be easy, but He does say that His commands are what is best for His children... even when it doesn't seem like it to them. Have you ever had to drink medicine that tasted absolutely disgusting? It probably didn't seem like the best thing to you at all. But your parents knew you needed that medicine for your body to get better. In the same way, God's commands don't always feel good or fun to His children at first, but they are always what is best.

Second, remember what we learned earlier about how rain waters seeds. ***point to picture if you still have it up*** When the rain soaks into the soil, can we still see it? **No!** But just because we can't see the rain doesn't mean it isn't working. In fact, if we wait long enough, we'll see a beautiful flower come up out of the ground!!

God's Word is like that. God's children may not always see how He's going to keep His promises. It may take a really long time! It might feel like they're waiting... and waiting... and waiting! But our verse today reminds us that God always does what He says He'll do.

Isaiah's message to God's chosen people is still true and important today:
God's Word is good, so we can trust Him.

Summary:

- **God's chosen people doubted that His Word was good!**
- **God's commands and promises are always what is best.**
- **God's Word is good, so we can trust Him.**



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:11b

“...but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

1. What have we learned about God’s Word the past two weeks– can someone remind me?

God’s Word is Good, and it creates good things. God’s Word brings dead hearts to life and grows God’s children to be more and more like Jesus.

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:10-11 and read it together.

2. What situation were God’s chosen people, the Israelites, in when Isaiah wrote to them? How did they respond?

God’s chosen people were in the middle of a scary situation, and they had a choice to make. They could trust God to lead and protect them or they could turn away from Him and put their trust in other nations. They chose to sin by trusting other nations instead of God.

3. Does God promise that life will be easy if we obey His commands?

No, but He does promise that His commands are always what is best for His children, even when it doesn’t seem like it to them (i.e. medicine example).

4. Do God’s promises always seem like they’re answered really fast?

No, sometimes God’s children have to wait. But God always keeps His promises and He is always working, even when we don’t see it (i.e. rain & seeds example).

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Psalm 119:169-172. Do you ever doubt that God’s commands and promises are good? Which ones are hard for you to believe or obey? (Leaders: this is a good chance to share how God helps you in your weakness!)

Summary:

- God’s chosen people doubted that His Word was good!
- God’s commands and promises are always what is best.
- God’s Word is good, so we can trust Him.





Week #8

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:12a

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;”

Opening Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their journals.

Memory Verse Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

4. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
5. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
6. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

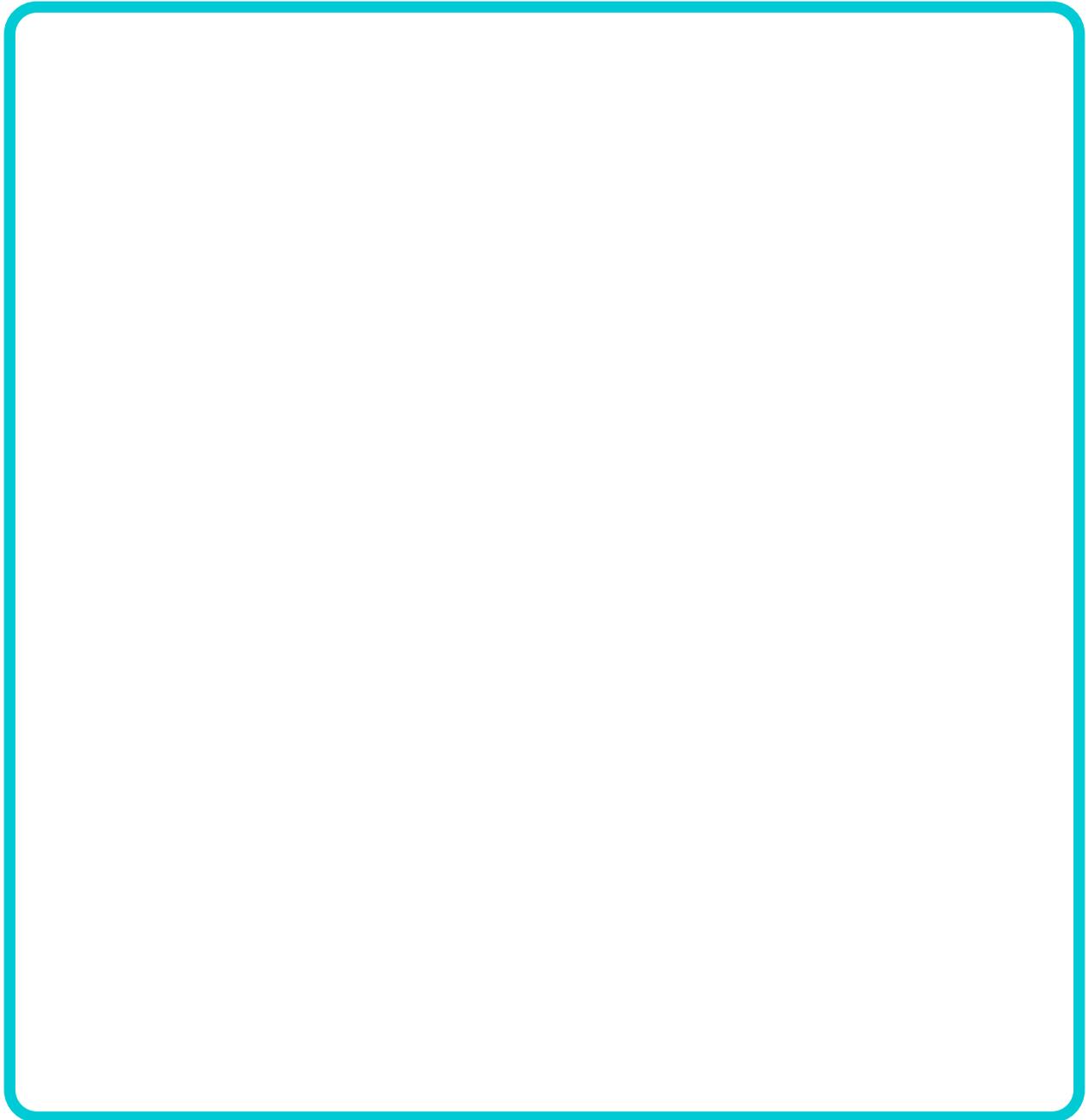
Helpful Definitions:

- “Shall/shall not” – will or will not
“Led forth” – like following a leader

VERSE

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth
in peace;”

Isaiah 55:12a



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:12a

Passage:

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;"

Hand Motions:

- "For you" – point out
- "shall go out in joy" – walk in place
- "and be led forth" – act like you're being tugged forward
- "in peace" – sunburst motion with arms

Teaching:

Today we're beginning the last section of Isaiah 55! We've learned that **God's Heart is Good**, so we can trust Him. We also learned that **God's Word is Good**, and it helps God's children become more and more like Jesus. Today we're going to start learning that **God's Plan is Good**. (Reference the board with the "God's Plan" icon.)

You might be asking, "What is God's plan?" Well let me tell you! God has had a plan from the beginning of time. (Use the **God's Big Story Timeline as a visual teaching tool**.) In the beginning, God created everything to be very good. But then Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and their choice brought sin into God's perfect world. Sin causes our hearts to turn away from God and love and trust in other things instead of Him.

Was God's plan ruined? No! God's plan was still at work. God promised that a rescuer would come to pay the penalty for our sin and give God's people the gift of salvation. Who was this rescuer? That's right- Jesus! But Jesus wasn't born right away. God's people had to wait a long time for the Rescuer to come. Was God's plan bad because of this waiting time? No! God's plan is always good. Finally Jesus was born and lived a perfect life. But then He died. Do you think many people thought that God's plan was ruined because of this? Yes, probably. But we know that Jesus' death was part of God's good and perfect plan! And Jesus did not stay dead. On the third day He rose from the dead! But God's Plan is still not over. Now God's people are waiting for Jesus to return and make everything new!

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:12a

Just as we can see on the timeline, there are moments in God's plan when His people might feel confused or hopeless or sad. And there is a lot of waiting! Think about the last time you had to wait for something you really wanted. Was that easy or hard for you? If you're like me, waiting is not always easy. God's people might have wondered if God actually had a plan or if His plan was really good. You might've asked those same questions before. Raise your hand if you've had good times in your life. Raise your hand if you've had hard or scary or sad times in your life. Raise your hand if you've had confusing or times of waiting in your life. Yes, we've all experienced times that are good or hard or confusing. But the amazing thing is that God's plan is always at work and it is always good! Just like His plan was always at work throughout the timeline, His plan is always good and always at work in the lives of His children too!

Isaiah 55:12 tells us that God's chosen people shall "go out in joy" and "be led forth in peace". Can someone tell me what joy is? That's right! Joy is celebrating God no matter what. What is peace? Yes, peace is contentment or calmness that comes from knowing that God is in charge and He does what He says He will do. If we trust that God has a plan and that His plan is good, we can walk in joy and peace in every part of our lives. Even in the hard, confusing parts of life when we are tempted to believe that God's plan is not good, we can be reminded of this truth.

We can have joy because we know that God has a plan. We can also have peace because we know that His plan is good. He is faithful, He does what He says He will do.

Isaiah's message to God's chosen people is still true and important today:
God's plan is good, so we can live in joy and peace.

Summary:

- God's chosen people sometimes doubt that God's plan is good.
- God always has a plan and His plan is always good.
- God's plan is good, so we can live in joy and peace.



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:12a

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;”

1. What did we learn last week— can someone remind me?

God’s Word is good, so we can trust Him.

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:12a and read it together.

2. What is joy?

Joy is celebrating who God is no matter what.

3. What is peace?

Peace is contentment or calmness that comes from knowing that God is trustworthy and in control.

4. When is God’s plan at work?

All the time! Even when God’s children don’t understand His plan or don’t think it is good, God’s plan is **always** good and **always** at work.

5. How can we know that God’s plan is good?

God is perfect and He always does what is best for His children and what brings glory to His name.

6. How does knowing that God’s plan is good allow His children to live in peace and joy?

Because they know that God is good and that His plan is trustworthy, God’s children can live without worrying or trying to control their lives.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Share a time when you struggled to believe that God’s plan was good. Did you eventually realize that it was or do you still have to choose to believe that God’s plan is good?

Summary:

- God’s chosen people sometimes doubt that God’s plan is good.
- God always has a plan and His plan is always good.
- God’s plan is good, so we can live in joy and peace.





Week #9

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:12b

“the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

Opening Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

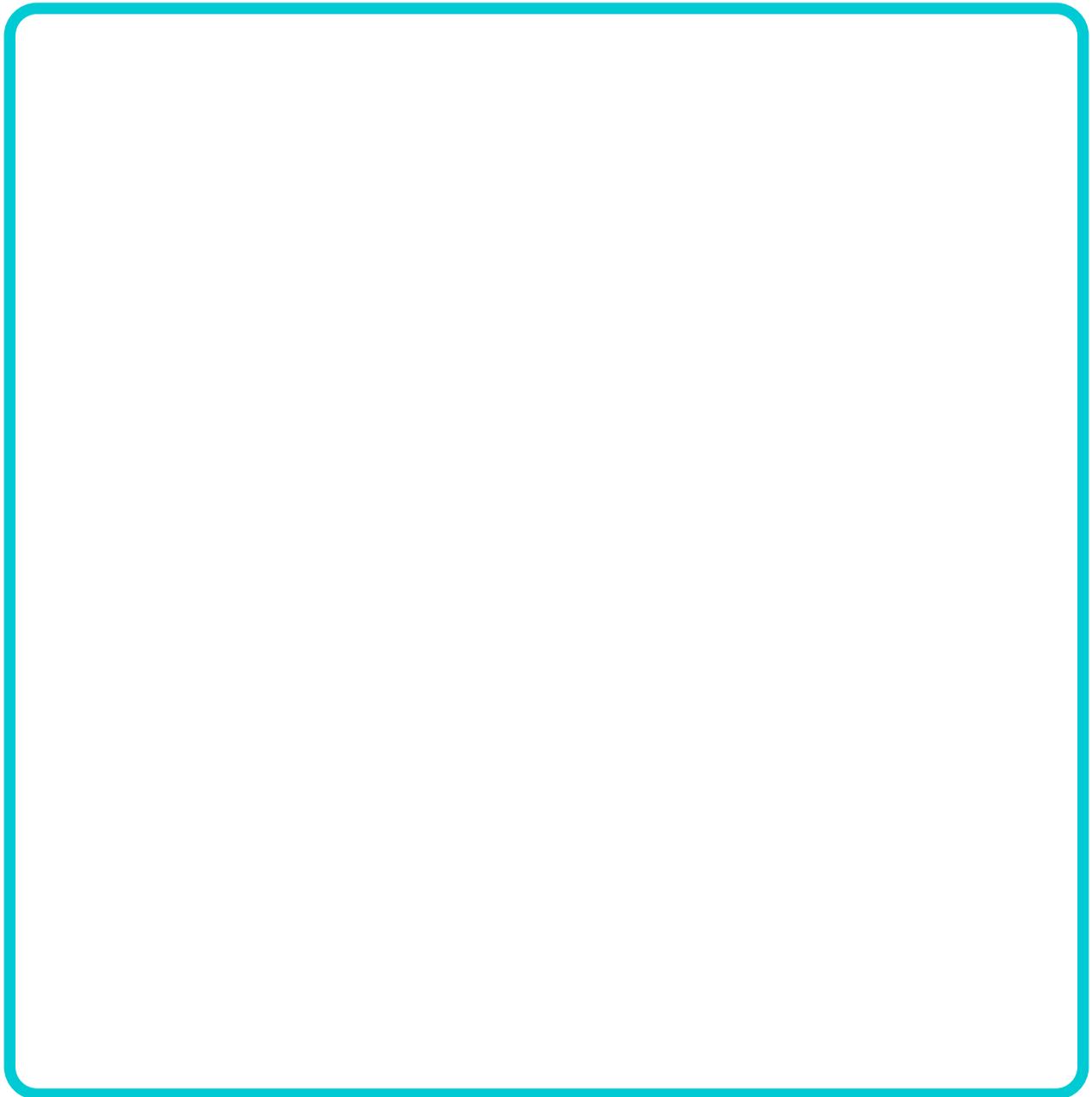
Helpful Definitions:

“Shall/shall not” – will or will not

VERSE

“the mountains and the hills before you shall
break forth into singing, and all the trees of
the field shall clap their hands.”

Isaiah 55:12b



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:12b

Passage:

"the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Hand Motions:

- "the mountains" – make a mountain peak with arms
- "and the hills before you" – make a rolling hill motion (similar to an ocean wave)
- "shall break forth" – cup hands around mouth
- "into singing" – sign language for "singing"
- "and all the trees of the field" – pose like a tree
- "shall clap their hands" – clap above head

Teaching:

In this last section of Isaiah 55, we're learning all about how **God's Plan is Good**. Last week we learned about how God's plan brings His people joy! Today we're learning about how God's plan includes His creation too.

I want you to close your eyes for just a moment and imagine what Isaiah is describing in these verses. This might seem a little silly at first, but God made our imaginations and it's good to use them to think about the Bible! You don't need to answer these questions out loud, but just think about them in your mind.

**Guide them through this slowly and give them time to think* (For preschool: Instead of closing their eyes, show them pictures of mountains and trees. As they look at the pictures, ask them to think about the questions below.)*

Imagine a big mountain or hill singing a song:

What would that sound like?

Would a mountain sing loudly or quietly?

Would it have a deep voice or a soft voice?

Now imagine a whole field of trees clapping:

What would that sound like?

What would that look like?

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:12b

Would they sound the same as the mountains or different?

have them open their eyes

I don't know about you, but I have never seen a mountain sing or a tree clap. If I did, I would stop everything I was doing to watch! I can imagine that it would be an absolutely amazing thing to hear and see.

God created everything to bring Him glory. Anything beautiful we see in nature is just a sneak peek of how beautiful and powerful God is. When you see a large and mighty mountain, you can know that God is even larger and mightier! When you see a tree blooming with colorful flowers, you can know that God is even more lovely.

God also created everything to praise Him. Singing, clapping, and dancing are different kinds of celebration. We dance and clap when we're excited about something that's happening, like a birthday party or a wedding. Think about the last time you had a really great day. Sometimes we catch ourselves singing or dancing just because we're happy!

All of God's creation was designed to celebrate Him, and that's what we see with the singing mountains and clapping trees. These verses in Isaiah 55 tell us that when God keeps His promises, God's people AND all of creation will break out in joy! **God's plan is good, so creation praises Him!**

Summary:

- God created everything to praise Him and bring Him glory.
- Singing and clapping are pictures of celebration.
- God's plan is good, so creation praises Him!

SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:12b

“the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:12 and read it together.

1. What would it be like to hear singing mountains or see clapping trees? How did you feel when you were imagining that?

2. Why did God create everything?

To glorify Him and to praise Him! Everything that is good and beautiful points to how good and beautiful God is.

3. Why do people usually sing, dance, and clap? When was the last time you were so happy you couldn't help but sing?

People sing, dance, and clap as a way of celebrating happy or exciting things!

4. Why does Isaiah 55 say that the mountains and trees will celebrate?

Because God will keep and accomplish all of His promises.

5. How should people respond when God keeps His promises?

The same way!! They should celebrate!

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Psalm 96 or Psalm 148 in your Bibles and read out loud. What does this Psalm have in common with Isaiah 55? What reason does the Psalm give for praising the Lord?

Summary:

- God created everything to praise Him and bring Him glory.
- Singing and clapping are pictures of celebration.
- God's plan is good, so creation praises Him!





Week #10

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:13a

“Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle...”

Opening Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Helpful Definitions:

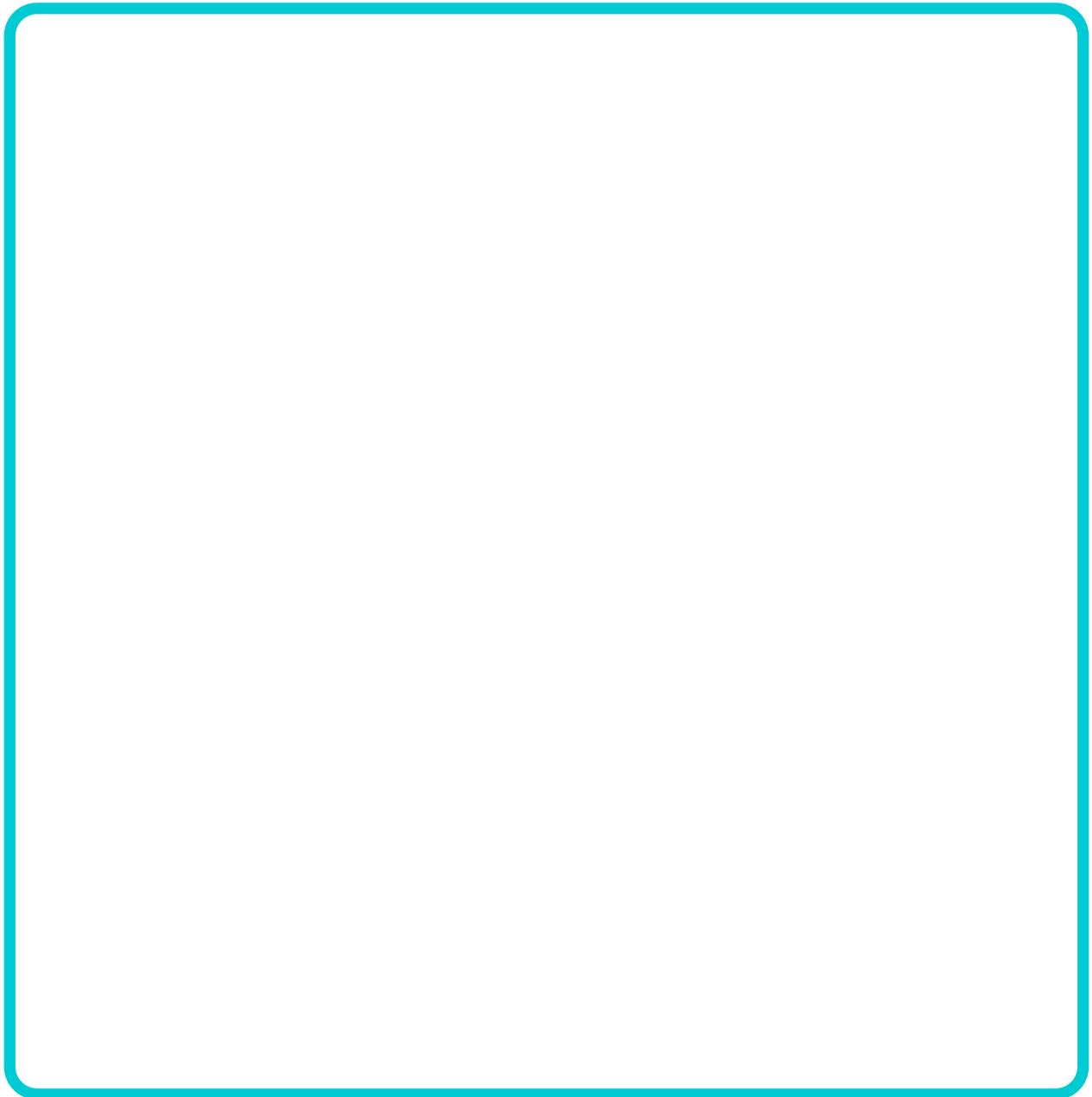
- “Shall/shall not” – will or will not
- “Thorn/Brier” – plants that are ugly and prickly
- “Cypress” – a strong, tall tree
- “Myrtle” – a beautiful tree with flowers



VERSE

“Instead of the thorn shall come up the
cypress; instead of the brier shall come up
the myrtle...”

Isaiah 55:13a



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:13a

Passage:

"Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle"

Hand Motions:

- "Instead" – fist pump and jump
- "of the thorn" – groovy dance move "down"
- "shall come up the cypress" – groovy dance move "up"
- "instead" – fist pump and jump
- "of the brier" – groovy dance move "down"
- "shall come up the myrtle" – groovy dance move "up"

Teaching:

Last week, we learned that **God's plan is good**, so creation praises Him! Today we're going to zoom in a little closer on what God's good plan is and why it's worth celebrating.

Several weeks ago, we learned that God created everything with His Word. By speaking, He made the moon and the stars, the mountains and the trees, and all the animals and people. We call everything He made His creation. And when God made everything, He said it was good.

But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, His good world was broken by sin. We call this the Fall. We talk a lot about how the Fall was bad news for people. It turned their healthy hearts into sick hearts and broke their relationship with God.

The Fall didn't just affect people though. It affected all of God's creation. Genesis 3 describes the ground as being full of thorns. Does the world still have beautiful things? Of course!! We just talked last week about how mountains and trees are a sneak peek of God's goodness. But there are sad things in creation now, too. People and animals get sick. Storms knock down trees. Plants don't get enough water and shrivel up.

Isaiah uses two examples to represent the sad things in the world: thorns and briars. Here are pictures of what those look like to help us understand what he

LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:13a

means. **show a picture of a thorn and a brier**

How do you think it would feel to touch one of these? It would hurt! Thorns and briars are prickly. If you planted seeds in a garden and these grew from them, would you be disappointed? I would be! Thorns and briars aren't very pretty to look at. This is what the world is like because of sin. It is full of things that are not the way that God intended them to be. Things are hurtful and not beautiful like God wanted them to be.

But God has promised not to leave it this way! Why? Because His plan is good!

Isaiah uses two different examples to represent what God is going to do. He says that instead of the thorn, He'll grow the cypress. **place picture of a cypress tree over the picture of the thorn** A cypress is a tall, sturdy tree that lasts for years and years. Instead of the brier, He'll grow the myrtle. **place a picture of a myrtle plant over the picture of the brier** A myrtle is a tree with deep roots and lovely flowers.

How would it feel to touch one of these— would it hurt like the thorns and briars? No, these would be easy to touch. If you planted seeds in a garden and these grew, would you be disappointed? No, these are beautiful and strong!

This is how much better God's plan is! Even though sin broke His good world, God has promised that He will not leave it that way. **refer to God's Big Story timeline for elementary** He has already sent Jesus to rescue His children from their sins, and one day, He is going to send Jesus again to make the whole world new. Like trading thorns for cypress and briars for myrtles, God is going to take all the bad news and turn it into reasons to praise Him. **God's plan is good, and He'll make all things new!**

Summary:

- Like prickly thorns and briars, sin affected all of creation.
- Like beautiful cypress and myrtle trees, God is going to turn it to good.
- God's plan is good, and He'll make all things new!



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:13a

“Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle”

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:13a and read it together.

1. How did God make everything? How did He describe His creation?

He made everything by His Word, and He said it was good.

2. How did sin affect people?

Sin made healthy hearts into sick hearts and broke people's relationship with God.

3. How did sin affect the world?

Sin brought pain and sadness. Things are not the way they were meant to be (ex: people and animals get sick, storms knock down beautiful trees, and plants wither up without water).

4. What is the difference between thorns/briers and cypress/myrtles?

Thorns and briers are ugly and prickly. Cypress and myrtles are beautiful and sturdy.

5. What does God promise to do one day?

Like taking prickly thorns and trading them for lovely flowers, God is going to make all things new!! He is going to take all of the bad news and turn it into reasons to praise Him!

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Revelation 21:1-4 together. These verses are talking about how God is going to make a new heaven and new earth one day. What will be different about the world then? How will that be better than the way things are right now?

Summary:

- Like prickly thorns and briers, sin affected all of creation.
- Like beautiful cypress and myrtle trees, God is going to turn it to good.
- God's plan is good, so He'll make all things new!





Week #11

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Isaiah 55:13b

“And it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Opening Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their folders.

Memory Verse Activity: Hopscotch

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

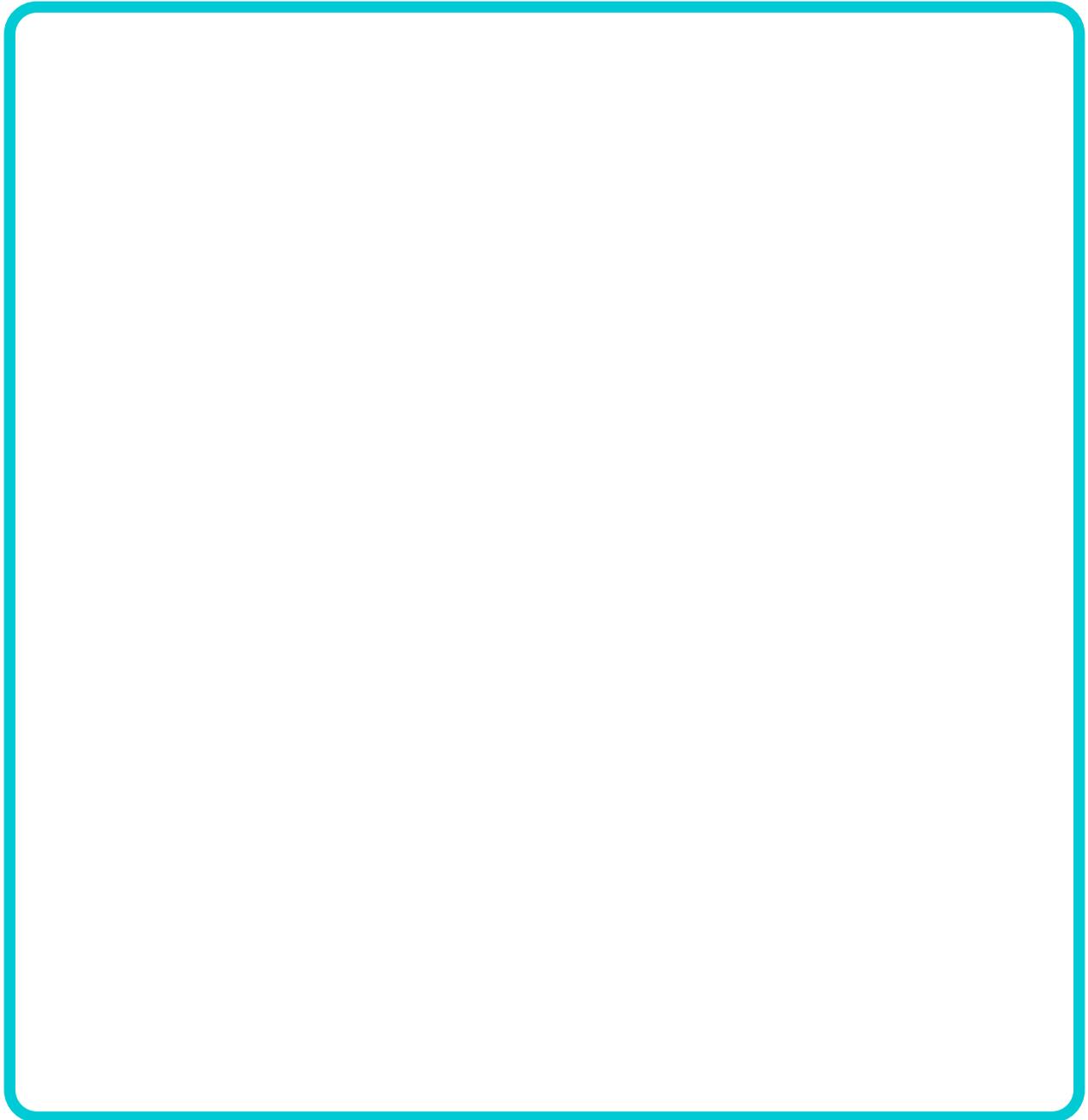
Helpful Definitions:

- “Shall/shall not” – will or will not
- “Everlasting” – forever, never-ending

VERSE

"And it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Isaiah 55:13b



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:13b

Passage:

"And it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Hand Motions:

- "And it shall make a name" – sign language for "name"
- "for the LORD" – sign language for "Lord"
- "an everlasting sign that shall not" – act like you're making a big banner with your hands
- "be cut off" – sign language for "don't" (crossing arms back and forth like saying "no")

Teaching:

For ten weeks, we've been memorizing Isaiah 55:6-13 together! Today we're going to review what we've learned so far and then add on the very last piece of our passage.

The book of Isaiah was a message from God to His chosen people, the Israelites. He wanted them to trust Him instead of putting their trust in the strong nations around them. God told them that their sin would have consequences, but He would not forget the promises He made them!

Isaiah 55 highlights 3 big truths about God. The first truth is that **God's Heart is Good!** *show icon* God wants His children to seek Him and to turn away from sin. When they do, He is ready to welcome and forgive them. People are small, limited, and sinful, but God is different and that's a good thing! Unlike us, God is big, unlimited, and always good!!

The next truth is that **God's Word is Good!** *show icon* We learned how rain soaks into the soil and grows beautiful plants. In a similar way, God's Word fills the hearts of God's children and grows them to look more and more like Jesus. Beautiful plants don't sprout up right away, but the water and seeds are working under the soil even when you don't see them. In the same way, God's Word is always working!! God's children can trust that His commands and promises are good, even when it doesn't seem like it to them.



LARGE GROUP

Isaiah 55:13b

The last truth we learned is that **God's Plan is Good!** *show icon* Sin brought sadness and death into His world, but God promises that one day He will make all things new. He's going to trade all the bad news for reasons to praise Him! All of creation will celebrate (even the trees and mountains!), and so will God's children! His good plan brings them joy and peace, even when life is hard.

Everyone shout out those three big truths together! *point to each icon as they do* **God's Heart is Good, God's Word is Good, and God's Plan is Good!**

So how does our very last verse fit with these truths? It says this: "And it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

"Everlasting" means something that lasts forever. That means it isn't just true today but will still be true tomorrow and the day after that too! Last week we learned that God's people are waiting for Jesus to come back again. When He returns, He's going to make everything right and God's people will reign with Him "forever and ever (Rev 22:5)." This good news is everlasting— it will never end!

Isaiah also describes God's name as a "sign." Have you ever passed a big billboard or sign while you're riding in the car? Some of them are massive! The sign is there to get your attention and say "Hey! Look at this!!" When God keeps His promises, it's like a huge billboard saying, "Hey! Look at God!! He's amazing!!" This sign will last forever, and nothing can take it down or cut it off. God will always deserve our attention and celebration.

God was faithful to keep the promises He made to the Israelites through His prophet, Isaiah. He showed them compassion and sent Jesus to rescue them, just like He said He would! And God will be faithful to keep the promises He makes to His people today. He will make all things new and nothing can stop this amazing plan. **God's Heart, God's Word, and God's Plan are good, so He will be praised forever!**

Summary:

- **God's Heart, Word, and Plan are Good.**
- **Because He is good, He deserves our attention and celebration.**
- **God will be praised forever!**



SMALL GROUP

Isaiah 55:13b

“And it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

1. What are the three truths in Isaiah 55?

God’s Heart, Word, and Plan are Good!

2. What did we learn about God’s Heart?

God wants His children to seek Him and to turn away from sin. When they do, He is ready to welcome and forgive them. People are small, limited, and sinful, but God is big, unlimited, and always good!!

3. What did we learn about God’s Word?

Rain soaks into the soil and grows beautiful plants. In a similar way, God’s Word fills the hearts of God’s children and grows them to look more and more like Jesus. God’s children can trust that His commands and promises are good, even when it doesn’t seem like it to them.

4. What did we learn about God’s Plan?

Sin brought sadness and death into His world, but God will make all things new. He’s going to trade all the bad news for reasons to praise Him! All of creation will celebrate, and so will God’s children!

Older classes: open your bibles to Isaiah 55:13 and read it together.

5. What does it mean that God’s name is an everlasting sign?

When God keeps His promises, it’s like a huge billboard saying, “Hey! Look at God!! He’s amazing!!” This sign will last forever. God will always deserve our attention and celebration.

Deeper discussion for older classes: What’s one truth you want to remember from Isaiah 55? What’s one thing you don’t understand or still have questions about?

Summary:

- **God’s Heart, Word, and Plan are Good.**
- **Because He is good, He deserves our attention and celebration.**
- **God will be praised forever!**





Week #12

COMPASS BOWL

You made it!

Event:

For the last week of Compass Kids, we host a competition called the Compass Bowl! We decorate the space with pennant banners, have pom-poms ready for the kids to cheer on their teammates, and host a cookie cake after-party for the winning team.

Preschool & Kinder:

For preschool and kinder, we keep the Compass Bowl fairly simple by setting up stations around the hallways.

Each station has an activity to do and a portion of the memory verse taped to the wall. When classes arrive at each station, they play a simplified version of a game from earlier in the semester (pogo-stick relay, hide-and-seek, etc.) or a fun new activity (crawling through a play tunnel, playing "the floor is lava," etc.). Once they complete the activity, they recite that piece of the verse together before they move on to the next one. We stagger the start-times so the classes aren't all at the same station. Once they finish all the stations, their last stop is a dance party where we play the full memory verse song, their class sings it together, and their teachers pop colorful confetti cannons!

1st-5th grades:

For older classes, the Compass Bowl is a competition! Feel free to pair up multiple grades or divide by gender to make more even team sizes.

Within each team, we divide the kids into two groups (green and blue) and mark them by putting on a color-coded bracelet. We recommend 4-6 rounds, alternating between the two green groups competing and the two blue groups competing. While one half of their team competes, the other half cheers for them with the pom-poms!

Because we only do 4-6 rounds, each game covers 2-3 weeks of the memory verse. We try to pick games that work well in a competition setting! Some of their favorites in the past have been the pogo stick relay, hide-and-seek, and the ping-pong relay.

COMPASS BOWL

Isaiah 55:6-13

After all the rounds are complete, we have each team recite the memory verse without any music or help from adults as the tie-breaker! If there's already a clear winner, you can skip this step. At the end of the night, everyone sings the memory verse as loud as they can with the music and we have their leaders pop colorful confetti cannons to celebrate!

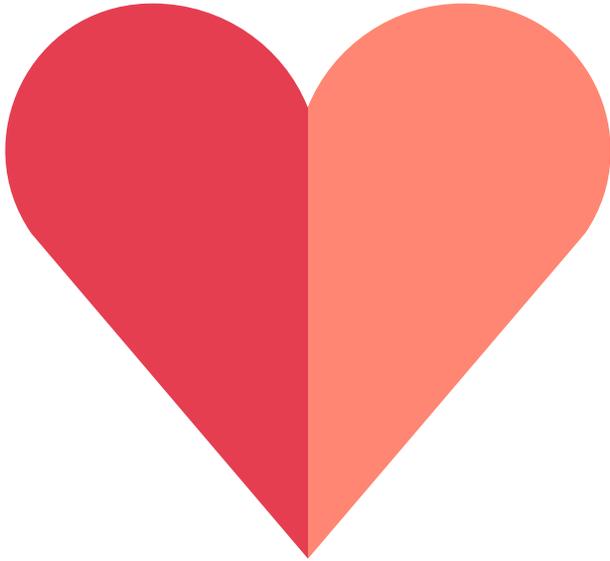


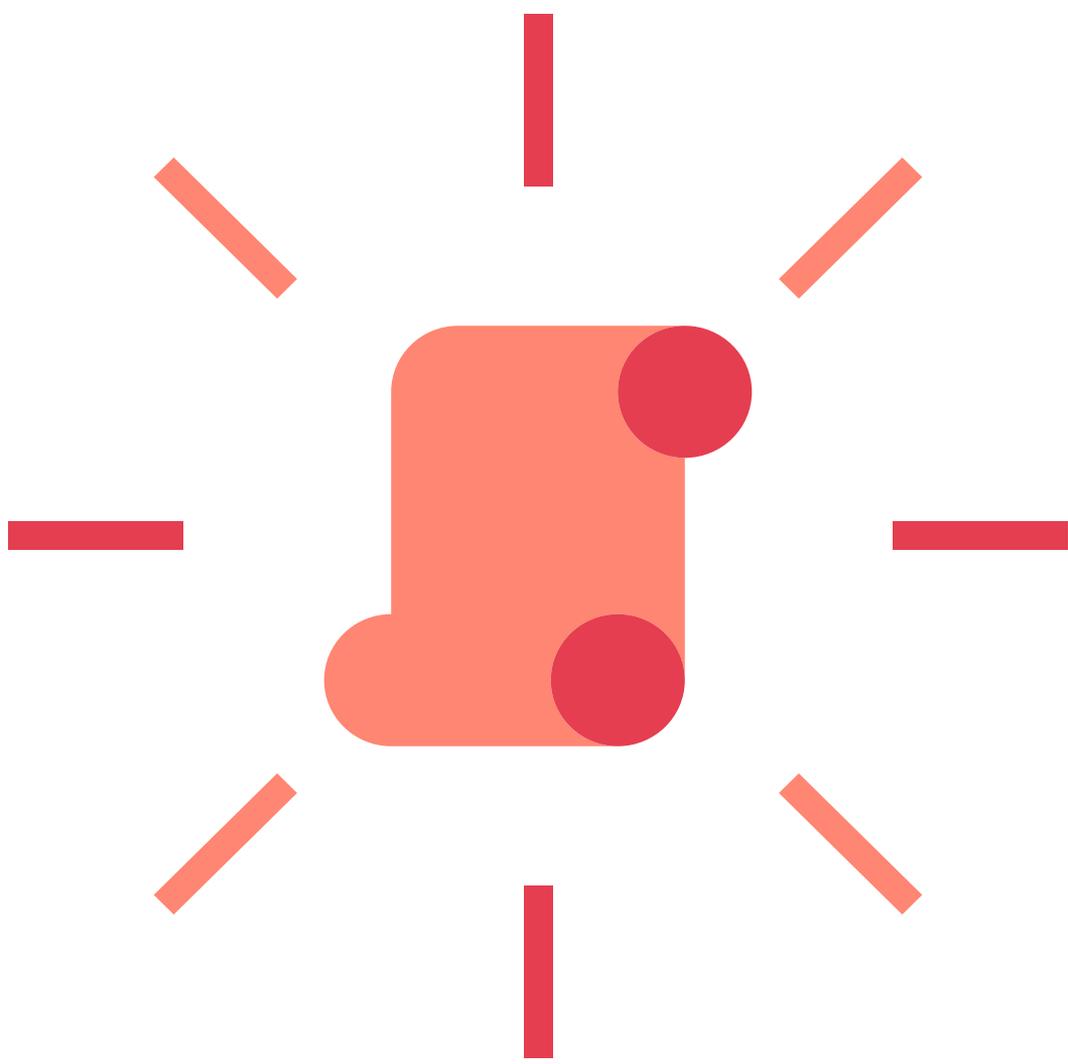
Week #12



Icons

24x24









Teaching Visuals

