Week 7

You Can Know God through Jesus!

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28 *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

Main Teaching: God can give you the grace to be humble. **Word Up:** God gives grace!

Supplies:

- Word Up Visual – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for "His Name is Jesus", "Trust in the Lord" and "All Things" - Worship (Sing About the King 2 CD)
- Optional Song Visuals for "His Name is Jesus" and "Trust in the Lord" (cefpress.com)
- Die and instruction card – Small Group
- Mixing bowl, measuring cups and spoons, dessert, and sovereign visuals– Object Lesson (Resource Pack)
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Card with PROMISE spelled backwards – Memory Verse
- Six paper plates with actions written on the bottom – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Two sets of Verse Puzzle Pieces and a straw for each child - Activity
- Robert Foster Flash Card Visual 6 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Memory Verse Token Romans 8:28 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

15 min – Small Group
10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
10 min – Object Lesson
15 min – Memory Verse
10 min – Game
5 min – Missionary Story
10 min – Small Group Wonder Time

SMALL GROUP

Tell the Truth

Materials: One Die, Card with instructions on it

1. Tell your name
2. Share a fun fact about yourself
3. Name your favorite food
4. Name one of your favorite people
5. Name your favorite place
6. Share your favorite activity

Allow each student to roll a die once. Prompt them to share the fact for the number they roll. After the game, ask students when it is easy to tell the truth and when it is difficult to tell the truth. Why is it important for people who love Jesus to tell the truth?

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to YouTube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"Trust in the Lord"

"His Name is Jesus"

CLUB RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

WORD UP!

"God gives grace!"

Do you have someone in your life that is really kind? They like you so much that they always think the best of you? Maybe you have had a teacher that doesn't get upset if you mess up. If you forget your homework at home, they might say something like "That's ok – you can bring it in tomorrow." Or a parent that doesn't get mad if you drop your plate on the way to the dinner table and make a huge mess. They just say, "that's ok – let's get that cleaned up." When you do something wrong and deserve punishment, but someone doesn't give it to you, that is called grace. God is the best giver of grace. Even though we do wrong things, God is ready to give us grace! If we believe in Him, He will always forgive our sins. He gives us grace so we can have a friendship with him that starts right now and goes on forever and ever in heaven someday. **Word Up!, "God gives grace!"**

OBJECT LESSON

A Royal Treat

(If possible, sit or stand near a table set with a large mixing bowl and other kitchenware like mixing spoons and measuring cups as you present this Gospel Spotlight. Allow children to use these items as they pretend to add and mix ingredients for the "Royal Treat.")

If you were a royal chef who was commanded to make a special treat for a royal banquet, what would you choose to make? *(Allow response.)* For thousands of years kings and queens have eaten many fancy foods. I have some pictures of fancy treats.

Fancy Treat Visual

Shout out on the count of three the one you think you would like best. Now whisper the one you think a king or queen would like best. *(Allow responses.)* Someone had to gather the correct ingredients and put them together in just the right way to make such tasty looking treats. Can you imagine being able to make treats like this without any ingredients at all? That's impossible for even the greatest chef in the world, but God did something even more amazing than making a fancy dessert without ingredients!

God made the universe from nothing! He created all the plants, animals, and spices that we use for food just by speaking. He didn't need any ingredients or instructions! He also created people with the intelligence to figure out how to put these different ingredients together and make many delicious and interesting foods. Can you think of a food that is soft? Can you think of a food that is hot? *(Allow responses.)* God made you able to enjoy the look, smell, taste, and feel of many different foods. He loves you very much and likes watching you enjoy the good things He has made. His love for you will never stop. *(Read Psalm 107:1.)* God's love lasts forever. God is perfect and wise—everything He does is good! God has done many awesome things that no one else could ever do.

God created the universe and made us with the ability to use and enjoy His incredible creation. One way people enjoy God's creation is by preparing and eating food. Let's pretend to do that right now. We're going to pretend to be royal chefs preparing a special treat for a fancy royal feast. The treat we're going to make is something many people like to eat, but long ago rich people such as kings and queens were sometimes the only ones who could afford it. What do you think it's going to be? *(Allow response.)* Listen closely and we'll see if you're right. Let's get started!

(If desired, have a child use a measuring cup or spoon to pretend to add sugar to the bowl.)

Would the royal treat turn out the way it's supposed to if we ignored the recipe and added the wrong ingredients? After all, sugar looks a lot like salt. *(If possible, show some salt and sugar side by side in clear plastic bags.)* Do you think I could just add salt instead of sugar? *(Allow response.)* Our royal treat would taste terrible if I did that! Following instructions is usually important when you're making food. But the Bible says God has given us some instructions that are much more important than any recipe.

God wrote His laws in the Bible to give us instructions for living life the right way. When you break God's laws, it is much worse than ignoring a recipe. If you ignore a recipe, your food might taste bad, but ignoring God's law can ruin your life right now and forever! Sadly, all of us sin by breaking God's laws because we are born wanting to sin. You sin when you say mean things to other people, lie to your parents or teachers, or act grumpy when you don't get what you want. These things ruin your life by hurting your relationships with other people, but even worse, they destroy your relationship with God! *(Read Romans 3:23.)* Everyone has sinned, even you. Because of your sin, you can never get to God on your own. Sin is much more serious than messing up a recipe. Unless God forgives you, sin will keep you away from God in a terrible place of punishment forever. This is the worst thing that could ever happen to you.

Breaking God's laws is much worse than messing up a recipe. But following the instructions when you're making food is still pretty important if you want the food to turn out right. Let's add the next ingredient to our royal treat.

(If possible, have a child use a measuring cup or spoon to pretend to add milk to the bowl.)

Let's pretend to mix the ingredients together. *(Do with children.)* Do you think our royal treat would be the same if we ate each ingredient by itself instead of mixing them all together? *(Allow response.)* Eating a cup of sugar by itself would probably make you sick! The milk wouldn't taste bad by itself, but it certainly wouldn't taste like a royal treat. We need something more to add flavor.

(If possible, have a child use a measuring cup or spoon to pretend to add cocoa powder to the bowl.)

Cocoa powder will work together with the other ingredients to make our royal treat delicious. But did you know cocoa powder tastes bitter by itself? A good chef can make ingredients that aren't very good by themselves work together to make something fantastic! In a much greater way, God can use things that seem bad to make good things happen. That reminds me of a verse the memory verse we are going to learn today. *(Quote Romans 8:28 with children.)*

Sovereign visual

God is sovereign. He has the power to use bad or difficult things for good. In the story of Esther, we saw many ways that God used difficult and bad things to make something good happen. The Bible tells us about another time when God used many things that seemed very bad to do something awesome.

Jesus, God the Son, lived with God the Father in His perfect home, Heaven, where bad things never happen. But Jesus left Heaven to come to Earth about 2,000 years ago. He took on the form of a man and lived in a place where He could get sick and hurt. That doesn't seem very good, and then it got worse. Even though He never did anything wrong, people treated Him like a horrible criminal. They arrested Him, beat Him up, and spit on Him. Does that seem bad or good? *(Allow response.)* It seems very bad, but it got worse. They nailed His hands and feet to a wooden cross where He bled and died a terrible death! This all seems very bad, but Jesus didn't try to stop it because He was doing it for you! *(Read 1 Peter 3:18a.)* Jesus willingly suffered for your sins by bleeding and dying in your place so you could have a friendship with God. Jesus knew that unless He took the punishment for your sin, you would be separated from God forever. On the third day after He died, Jesus came back to life! Today Jesus is the King of Heaven. God took all these horribly bad things that happened to Jesus and used them to do something awesome. He made the way for you to be saved from sin! God has the power to make all things work together for good.

That's way better than mixing ingredients together to make a tasty treat. But the way ingredients work together can remind us of how God works things together for good. We've mixed all the ingredients for our royal treat and now we need one more thing to finish it. Let's see what it is.

We need ice to finish our royal treat by making it very cold. Can you guess what it is now? *(Allow response.)* Our royal treat is chocolate ice cream! Clap your hands if you like ice cream. *(Allow response.)* We don't know for sure when or where ice cream was invented, but different versions of this tasty treat were enjoyed long ago by royalty in different parts of the world. I think it would be a fantastic treat for a royal feast. What flavor of ice cream would you choose to serve at a royal feast? *(Allow response.)*

We've only been pretending to make a treat for an imaginary royal feast. But the Bible tells us about a real royal feast that's going to happen in God's perfect home someday. God is richer, wiser, and more powerful than all the other kings and queens of the Earth put together, so we can only imagine how incredible His royal feast will be. God's home is a beautiful place where there is no sickness, pain, sadness, or death. It's more awesome than we can even imagine!

INVITATION

The Bible describes the awesomeness of the forever home God will have for us. There will be a golden street, gates made of pearl, and fantastic food in God's home. But the greatest part is that God is there. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for your sin so you can also be there with Him forever! ***(Read John 3:16.)*** God loves you so much that He wants to give you everlasting life. This is new life with God that begins when you believe in Jesus as your Savior and never ends. Believing in Jesus means trusting that Jesus really took the punishment for your sin and only He has the power to forgive your sin so you can be with God. If you believe in Jesus as your Savior, God will be with you right now and take you to live in His amazing home when you die. You will be with God—the greatest king of all time—forever! **Please bow your head and close your eyes** while you think about this for a moment. **Would you like to believe in Jesus today?** If so, please **show me** by nodding your head. *(Acknowledge responses.)* If you just nodded your head, you can **meet me** *(designate time and location)* and we can look at the Bible together to answer any questions you have about believing in Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

INTRODUCTION

(Hold up a card with "promise" spelled backwards.) Can you guess which word this is? It isn't jumbled up, it's actually backwards. Does that help you figure it out? *(Allow responses.)* It is the word "promise." People make promises but they don't always keep them. But when God makes a promise, He always keeps it! Our verse today is a wonderful promise from God.

PRESENTATION

(Read Romans 8:28 from Bible then with children from visual.) This verse is a wonderful promise from God, who always keeps His promises! Romans chapter 8, verse 28 is true because it is in God's true Word, the Bible. Just as God always keeps His promises, He always keeps His Word. His Word is true with no mistakes in it. The Bible is God's gift to you and me so we can know Him and love Him. You can believe His promise.

EXPLANATION

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good—God promises that He is always working in the lives of those who have believed in Jesus as Savior. Not only is God always working, He is working things out to be good in the end—even for things that are bad, sad, or hard. God promises He will be with you through those things and even those things will work out for your good and His praise.

for those who are called according to his purpose—God is always working in the lives of those who belong to Him—those who have believed in Jesus as Savior. God has a purpose for those who have believed in Jesus. This promise is for them!

If you believe in Jesus, you can know God works everything in your life for your good and His praise.

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed in the Lord Jesus, **you can praise God that He is always at work in your life.** Remember that God is in control of your life. **WORD UP!**, **"God is in control!"** *(Say with children.)* Trust Him to make all the things that happen in your life work out for the best. Even when times are tough, you can praise God, knowing He will work all things out for your good and His praise.

Unsaved: If you have never believed in Jesus to be saved from your sin, He wants to save you. He wants you to love Him and follow Him with your whole life. If you believe in Him, He will forgive your sins and work His good in your life. Will you believe today?

REPETITION

(Write simple motions related to preparing a banquet on the bottoms of paper plates ahead of time and put them on the floor or on a table at the front of the room. Let a child share what he would like to eat if he were invited to Queen Esther's royal banquet, then have him pick up a plate and turn it over to reveal the motions on the other side. Help him lead the rest of the class in doing that motion while everyone says the verse together. Then choose another child and keep playing.

Suggested Motions:

- *Stir a huge pot of soup*
- *Set the table*
- *Slice vegetables for a salad*
- *Pour water into cups*
- *Decorate a cake*
- *Wash the dishes)*

Sing Memory Verse Song *"All Things"*

ACTIVITY

Puzzle Relay
Materials: Two sets of puzzle pieces, a straw for each child

How to Play:
Divide the group into two teams. Each team will form a line on one side of the room directly across from their team's set of puzzle pieces which will be scattered on the floor on the other side of the room. Give each team player a plastic straw. One by one, the players will run across the room (relay style) to retrieve a puzzle piece. Each player must pick up their puzzle piece with their straw by sucking in through one end until the puzzle piece sticks to the other end of the straw. They will carry the puzzle piece back with the straw to their team. When they return, the next person in line can run to retrieve another puzzle piece. Once the team collects all their puzzle pieces, they will work together to put the puzzle together. The first team to complete the puzzle wins!

After the activity, remind the kids that today, we learned that **WORD UP!,** "God gives grace!" Grace is a free gift that God gives to us each and every day. It is the greatest gift we could ever receive!

MISSIONS STORY

Robert Foster
Part 6

Who remembers what scared all of Dr. Bob's patients away? *(Allow response.)* A black mamba snake hung in the rafters overhead. Dr. Bob had to get rid of it.

He asked hopefully, "Does someone have a gun?" No one did.

The only things they could offer were a long spear and a cane. So the doctor took the spear and cane and went back into the room. If the snake bit him he would die. He thought of a plan. *If I can pin it against the wall with the spear I can hit it with the cane.*

"Okay, you pray!" he called to the people outside.

Bob quickly pinned the mamba to the wall. But each time he tried to hit the snake's head, it moved too fast. After an hour of swatting and ducking, Bob was getting tired. He could no longer hold up the spear. Regretfully, he pulled the spear out and the snake immediately slithered behind a cupboard.

He went outside and pleaded again, "I need some help to get this

job done." Finally a short, old man with a crippled leg volunteered.

They went into the room and the doctor explained his strategy. If they pushed the cupboard tightly against the wall the snake would be stuck. Quickly they pushed and trapped the snake. When the snake stuck his head out, Dr. Bob hit it hard and killed the snake!

Dr. Bob said this experience reminded him what many people say to missionaries, "You go; we'll pray." People need to pray, but people also need to go. God uses His people to answer prayers. Dr. Robert Foster and his family were willing to go, as were his parents before him, and his son Dr. Stephen Foster. God used them to help many people in Africa and the Good News of Jesus they shared changed lives.

SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME

"God Gives Me Grace"

If you could call and talk to any famous person, who would you call? *(Allow response and share who you would call.)* You can't do that unless you really know them. But if that famous person has children, do you think his children can call and talk to him? *(Allow response.)* The children can do that because they belong to the famous person. When you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can go to the greatest King ever—whenever you want!

What are some things you need Jesus for during the day? *(Allow response.)* We need Jesus all day! And He is ready and willing to help. When you feel helpless, unsure of what to do, or you need grace to be humble, God wants you to come to Him! You can pray, asking Him for grace and help. You don't have to pray for a long time. Just saying, "Jesus, please help me!" or "Jesus, help me be like you!" is enough. God will answer those prayers.

Pray with the kids about the things they need help for during the day.

DISMISSAL

Hand out memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind the kids to be quick to give grace to others this week and to thank God for showing us grace.