

LESSON 8
“CONFIDENCE”
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

John 3:1-21 (pages 1150-1152)

CHARACTER WORD

Confidence - Trust; a feeling of assurance or certainty

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can have confidence in Jesus' power to forgive.

MEMORY LINK

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 1151)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Hula hoops

Option 2: Index cards

BIBLE CONNECTION

Fan, large piece of cloth

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: No supplies needed

Option 2: No supplies needed

Nicodemus Talks with Jesus at Night

WHAT'S THE POINT?

John 3:16 is a verse that is foundational to the gospel. This one verse explains God's great love for all people. A love so great that God provided a way that no one has to be separated from Him in sin but that all people can experience the life He offers. That solution is given in the sacrificial death of God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

Today's lesson clearly shows students how to have a relationship with God by placing their trust in Jesus Christ. In today's Bible Connection, Jesus helps Nicodemus understand how a person can be “born again.” Students can know and believe with confidence the truth of salvation taught in the Bible.

God's Word is clear. Salvation is only available through Jesus Christ. That truth gives confidence about a relationship with God that can begin today and continue through eternity.

Do you have confidence in the salvation of Jesus Christ? How does the gospel impact your life day by day? Pray that the students in your Beach Club will be confident about Jesus' ability to save them from their sin.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- *Today's Bible story happens at night. What things have you done in the night?*
- *Our character word today is confidence. What does confidence mean to you?*
- *Tell about a time you were confident. Where did your confidence come from?*
- *What does it mean to have confidence in someone else's ability?*



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles, if they brought one, so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



Make sure all the students can see the words to the songs. Print the verse in large letters on poster board or use a projection system. Ask a helper (leader or student) to forward projection slides or hold the posters so your hands and attention are free to demonstrate motions and you can give your full attention to leading worship. Before singing, take time to explain what the lyrics mean and define any words that might be unfamiliar. Students will focus on God more when they understand what they are singing about and who they are singing to – GOD!

Consider these song choices: “Say Say Say You Believe It”, by Kristian Stanfill, Heaven Bound Kids; “God So Loved the World”, by Hillsong Kids; “Eternal Life” (John 3:16), by Seeds Family Worship.

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students

8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



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Focus on the Bible

Direct students who brought their Bibles to hold them up high in the air. Remind the students there are two parts of the Bible: the Old Testament which tells about things that happened before Jesus and the New Testament which tells about Jesus and the things that happened after Jesus.

Tell the students that today’s Bible verse is in the New Testament. Guide them to find John 3:16 in their Bibles (page 1151). As they locate the page, explain that today’s Memory Link is something Jesus said and is one of the most well known verses in the Bible. Ask a volunteer to read John 3:16 aloud as the rest of the group follows along

Focus on today’s Memory Link

Remind everyone that today’s character word is confidence. Explain that John 3:16 explains how people can have confidence in Jesus’ power to forgive sin. Divide the students into four groups. Assign one of the following phrases to each group, taking time to define each of the following phrases:

- “God so loved the world” – God created the world and loves all the people in it.
- “He gave His only begotten Son” – God sent Jesus, the only Son He had, to earth to take our punishment for sin.
- “That whoever believes in Him” – trusting Jesus to save you from your sins.
- “Should not perish but have everlasting life” – Instead of being separated from God, you can have a relationship with God that starts now and lasts forever.

Guide groups to stand and recite their portion of the verse in order. Repeat several times.

Option 1 - SHAKE IT

Hula hoops for each surf team

Students will take turns hula hooping as the others recite the verse. Try not to let the hula hoop fall to the ground before the verse is completed. For expert “hula hoopers”, see how many times the group can recite the verse before the hula hoop falls.

Option 2 - REMOVE A WORD

Index cards for each surf team

Prepare: Write 2-3 words from the verse on separate index cards. Be sure to include the Scripture reference.

Mix up the index cards and place them on the floor in front of your surf team. Guide students to put the words in order. Recite the verse. Ask a volunteer to remove a card while the other students cover their eyes. They guess what words were on the card that was removed. Students will recite the verse, including the removed words. Continue playing until all cards are removed and the students are able to recite the entire verse from memory.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 1151)

Teaching Tip

Because John 3:16 is a well-known and important Bible verse containing doctrinal truth about salvation, we intentionally included the entire verse for this week’s Memory Link. If the verse is too long for some of your students to memorize in one week, consider adapting so students only memorize the first half of the verse this week.

Don’t assume the students in your club have heard John 3:16 before. While some of them will know it well, they may not understand what the verse means. Since more than 60 percent of students in Beach Clubs indicate no church connection, many of your students will never have heard John 3:16 before. Patiently take time to explain words and concepts that will be new for many of the students in your club.

BIBLE CONNECTION



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Teaching today’s character word through gospel-centered Bible story

Fan, large piece of cloth

Set the Stage

Draw attention to the covered fan. Ask students to guess what is under the cloth. After a few guesses, give them a hint by turning on the fan without removing the cloth. Explain that even though they couldn’t see the fan, they could see the “effects” of the fan blowing air and causing the cloth to move. Turn off the fan and continue teaching.

When Jesus changes your life, other people can see the “effects” of God’s Spirit living within you by the way you talk, act, and live your life. God changes people from the inside out when we ask Him to forgive us of our sins. That’s how you can have confidence in Jesus’ power to forgive your sins. It is how we behave or act on the outside because of how Jesus changes us on the inside.

Tell the Story

Ask students to open their Bibles to John 3:1-2 (page 1150) to find the names of the two people in today’s story (Nicodemus and Jesus). *Nicodemus was a religious leader called a Pharisee. Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night, probably because he didn’t want people to see him talking to Jesus. Was Nicodemus confident? Probably not since he was sneaking around in the dark!*

Nicodemus was curious. He wanted to know the truth about Jesus. Nicodemus was confident that God sent Jesus. Remember how you saw the wind and knew there was a fan? Nicodemus had seen the miracles Jesus did and knew they could only be done through God’s power.

So Jesus responded to Nicodemus in a very unusual way. Ask a volunteer to read John 3:3 aloud to discover what Jesus said to Nicodemus. Jesus said you must be “born again” to see God’s kingdom.

Nicodemus was confused. He asked Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old? How can a person go back inside his mother to be born a second time?”

Jesus explained that being “born again” involves a re-born spirit, not a physical birth. God makes a person’s life brand new! Jesus used the example of the wind to help Nicodemus understand better. Jesus explained that when the wind blows you can hear it and feel it, but you can’t see it. That’s how it is for a person who is “born again.”

Again, Nicodemus was confused. “How can these things be?” he asked Jesus. Jesus began to teach Nicodemus many things. He wanted Nicodemus to have confidence in who He was and why God sent Him.

Jesus explained that God sent Jesus down from heaven to save people. God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, Jesus, so that the whole world might be saved through Him.

As You Prepare

Plug in the fan near the teaching area; cover the fan with the cloth.

Nicodemus wanted to know the truth about Jesus. Jesus explained with confidence that God sent Him to earth to save people from sins. Let's review today's Memory Link and talk about how you can have confidence that God sent Jesus to save you from sin.

Guide students to find John 3:16 in their KBC Study Bibles (page 1151). Review the four sections of the verse as discussed in the Memory Link. Ask students to explain what each portion of the verse means based on what they learned earlier in the session.

Application

Nicodemus had questions for Jesus, so he went to Jesus at night to talk with him. In your surf teams, it's a great chance for you to get your questions answered, just like Nicodemus did, and talk more with your leaders about how a person can be "born again".

Gospel Connection 

Show the John 3:16 verse, with blanks, either on poster board or projector screen. Explain that God's plan is for each of them personally.

Here's the confidence you can experience when you know the truth from God's Word. God not only loves each person in the world, but He loves each of you. He knows you. He created you. But you have a problem. You were born a sinner and there's nothing you can do on your own to change that. But God loves you so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for your sins. On the cross, Jesus suffered and died because of your sin. By accepting what God has said in the Bible and trusting Jesus to save you from your sins, you can be "born again". You can know with confidence that you are forgiven and made new. All you have to do is ADMIT that you have sinned; BELIEVE that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and CHOOSE to make Him your Forever Friend.

Lead in prayer.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Gospel Tip

Before you counsel a student, always ask why they responded. "Why did you raise your hand?" or "Why did you want to talk with me?" are great initial questions. Don't assume a student wants to make a decision just because they followed an instruction. If he/she answers your question with, "I don't know", briefly restate the instructions that were originally given. For example, "Mr. Jack said to raise your hand if you prayed with him. What did you pray?" This is a great way to discern why a student responded to an appeal and how you should proceed. Sometimes they just want to ask about the treasure chest and aren't making a decision at all!

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups;
applying today’s Bible Connection and Character Word



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today’s Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- *What questions do you have about today’s story?*
- *Review the concept of “born again” and further explain the changes that take place in a person who chooses to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord.*
- *Name ways that others would recognize when a person has been “born again”. What changes might you observe?*
- *Imagine you have a friend who has questions about Jesus, like Nicodemus did. How can you help your friend have confidence in Jesus?*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today’s Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today’s story in their KBC Study Bibles and highlight today’s Memory Link if they have not already done so.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

Let’s look at Day 5 of your Hang 10 this week. The Bible clearly teaches that there is only one way for you to make things right with God and that is through Jesus. You must place your confidence in Jesus as the only way to God. There is no other way to God except through Jesus. Remember, if you have not asked Jesus to be your Forever Friend, you can do that now, or at home with your family.

Pray

Invite the students to share prayer requests with the group. Invite volunteers to pray a sentence prayer for each request. Lead them in a group prayer to close Surf Team Time. Collect prayer requests on index cards and remember to pray for them this week.

Dear God, I’m thankful I can have confidence in Your word and in You. Thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus, so I can have eternal life. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Teaching Tip

Always be prepared if a student in your surf team wants to talk with you about how to become a Christian. Make sure you have your church’s decision supplies readily available. Review “Leading a Child to Christ” in the KBC Leadership Manual (pages 40-42) and check out additional resources on the Club Leader Tools page of the KBC website.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



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Option 1 - HOP TO IT!

No supplies needed

Instruct surf teams to line up single file. Surf Team Leaders should stand several feet away from their surf team. Players will take turns hopping as directed to their Surf Team Leaders. Leaders will ask the student a review question. If they answer the question correctly, they may run back to their line and tag the next player who will repeat the process. If a student answers incorrectly, they must hop back to tag the next player. The team answering the most questions correctly wins. Ways to hop: On one foot, on both feet, like a frog, like a bunny, backward, etc.

Option 2 - OH SNAP!

No supplies needed

Form teams. Surf Team Leader will ask a review question. The first person who raises his/her hands above their head and snaps their fingers first gets to answer the question. If answered incorrectly, call on the person who was second to snap. Continue until all questions have been answered. Consider using a timer to make the game move at a faster pace.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is today's character word? (confidence)*
2. *Who were the two people in today's story? (Nicodemus and Jesus)*
3. *What gave Nicodemus confidence that God sent Jesus? (He saw Jesus do miracles.)*
4. *What strange way did Jesus describe a person who is forgiven from sin? (born again)*
5. *How is a person "born again?" (by trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord)*
6. *According to John 3:16 how did God show He loved the world? (by sending Jesus to save people from sin)*
7. *How can you have confidence in Jesus' power to save from sin? (by believing what the Bible says to be true)*
8. *According to John 3:16, what happens to people who believe in Jesus? (They shall not perish but have everlasting life.)*
9. *Who can you tell about how to be "born again" by trusting in Jesus? (Answers will vary.)*
10. *What can you read to give you confidence about God? (the Bible)*

Teaching Tip

Your job is to have fun helping students make the truths from the Bible "stick" in their hearts. Be flexible! When games don't work out like you planned, be ready to make last-minute adjustments. Go with the flow!



“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

KBC Study Bible, page 1151