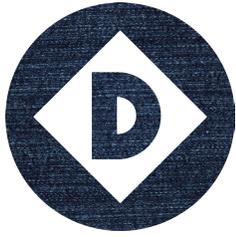


DISCIPLES



“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25



Week 3



TOPIC

Faith

DISCIPLE

Nathanael

BIBLE STORY

Nathanael's Disbelief

John 1:43-51

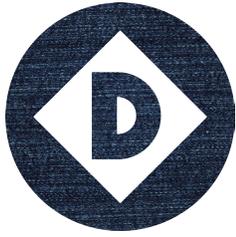
TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I will believe in Jesus even though I can't see him.

WEEKLY VERSE

“Then Jesus told him, ‘You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.’”

John 20:29



Week 3



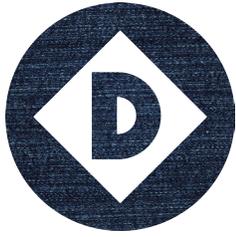
SKIT

Skit Information

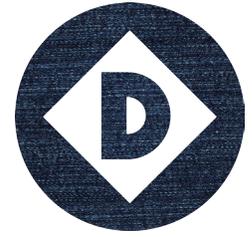
The skits will require two people. One person will play themselves (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

Character Bio

The character's name is Minion Maddie. If a male is playing the character consider calling them Minion Mark or Minion Matt. Minion Maddie loves minions so much that she decided she wants to become one herself. Her goal in life is to become more like a minion in every way. Consider putting your character in a yellow shirt, overalls, black shoes, black gloves, a yellow hat, and goggles. Extras: Add minion accessories, wear a minion shirt, decorate minion shoes, go all out.



Week 3



SKIT

Leader: Hey everyone! I have a feeling we may be seeing Minion Maddie again today. She always seems to just show up out of nowhere.

Minion Maddie: *Comes in holding her stomach looking sick.*

Leader: Hi Minion Maddie! Oh, you don't look so good. Are you feeling ok?

Minion Maddie: I'm not feeling well at all. Remember how I told you I was going to practice my banana eating skills?

Leader: Yes, I do, and I think I might know where this is going...

Minion Maddie: Yeah... do you want to guess what my new all time record for most bananas eaten in one day is?

Leader: Um... sure. 5?

Minion Maddie: Nope, higher!

Leader: 8?

Minion Maddie: Even higher!

Leader: 12?

Minion Maddie: So close! I'm just going to tell you. It's 15!

Leader: So you're telling me that you actually ate 15 bananas in one day?

Minion Maddie: Most definitely! I ate more bananas than any of my fellow minions in training, but I'm beginning to regret my choices.

Leader: I can't even imagine how sick you must feel! That's a lot of bananas. Why would you even do such a thing?

Minion Maddie: Well, because I must be the best minion in training in my class... no EVER!

Leader: Ok. I am glad that you are striving to do your best, but try not to make yourself so sick next time.

Minion Maddie: Yeah, I think I'm going to be done with bananas for a while after this.

Leader: So, I do have a question for you. I'm assuming that since you said there is a whole group of you in minion training, someone is your leader. Who is it?

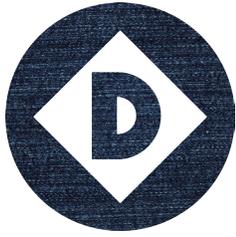
Minion Maddie: That's actually a secret.

Leader: Oh, so it's classified info I can't know?

Minion Maddie: No, I mean no one knows who they are.

Leader: I guess I'm a bit confused. Why would you follow a leader you have never seen before?

Minion Maddie: I may not have seen them, but I know people who do know the leader, and I know a lot about them. I



Week 3



SKIT

know what they stand for and what they care about, and that's all that matters to me!

Leader: As crazy as that does sound to me, I do have to admire your faith in a leader you have never even seen before.

Minion Maddie: Thanks, but isn't that a lot like you guys?

Leader: What do you mean?

Minion Maddie: Don't you follow a God you have never seen before?

Leader: Wow! You are so right. We do. When you put it that way, it doesn't sound so crazy anymore.

Minion Maddie: When you have faith in someone, you don't need to see them to believe that they are real and worth following.

Leader: Thanks for reminding me of that. I think you might have taught me something today!

Minion Maddie: You're welcome! Well, I'm going to need to go lie down and not eat any more bananas for a while.



Week 3



GAME: BLIND DRAWINGS

Supplies

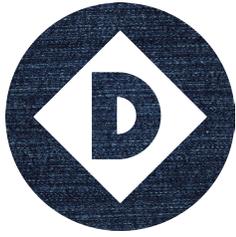
- Paper or white board
- Marker
- Blindfold
- Small pieces of paper
- Small container

Setup

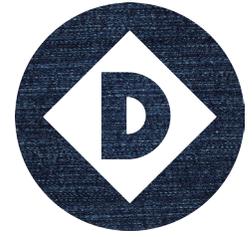
- Set up a table with some paper on it, or set up a white board with a dry erase marker.
- Write words for blind drawings on small pieces of paper and put them in the small container. Blind drawing word options: banana, minion, goggles, overalls, unicorn, scarf

How To Play

1. Choose 2 kids from one team for each round. Alternate between teams for each round.
2. One kid will be blindfolded. The other kid will reach in the small container and choose a piece of paper. They will whisper the word to the kid with the blindfold on.
3. The blindfolded kid will have 30 seconds to get the rest of their team to guess the word based on their drawing.
4. Keep playing until you have played all 6 rounds. The team with the most correct words wins.



Week 3



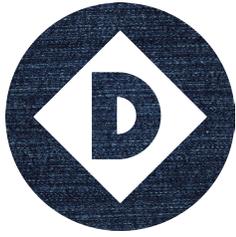
MESSAGE

Supplies

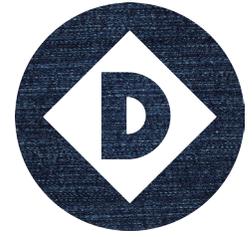
- A Bible in your preferred version (this curriculum uses the NLT version primarily)
- Steal the Moon Movie Clip from Despicable Me prepared (8:43-11:18)
- Package of Oreos

Introduction

What are some things you believe in but you can't see them? *Allow kids to respond.* That's exactly what faith is all about. Faith is believing in something or someone even though you can't see it. Today, we have to have a lot of faith to be disciples of Jesus because we don't have the privilege of walking on the earth with Him like the disciples did. They still had to have faith that Jesus was who He said He was. They were able to talk to Him, poke Him to see if he was real, and don't forget all the amazing miracles they were able to see Him perform. Do you think it was easier for the disciples to believe in Jesus than it is for us today? *Allow kids to respond.* Whether it's easier or harder, following Jesus is definitely worth it. Minions are actually great examples of having faith in their leader. Let's check out this video clip to see how much the minions trusted their leader. *Play Steal the Moon Movie Clip.* The minions were ready to follow Gru's next big plan before they even knew what it was. They didn't care that his plan to steal the moon was literally impossible, they were going to follow him anyway because he was their leader. Jesus' disciples all decided to follow Him in the end, but they were not all sold on Him being who He said He was from the start. They were ordinary people just like you and me, and they doubted Jesus at times. Nathanael was one of the disciples that wasn't quite sure about Jesus. We don't know a lot about Nathanael. We only see him mentioned a few times in the Bible. In every other book in the gospels, he is called Bartholomew, but in the Gospel of John, he is called Nathanael. He was good friends with one of the other disciples named Phillip. Phillip was the one who initially told Nathanael about Jesus, and he was pretty skeptical about it at first.



Week 3



MESSAGE

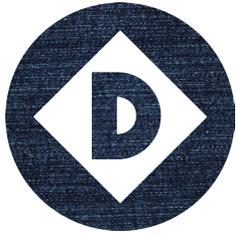
Bible Story

Let's read John 1:43-46 together to find out how Nathanael heard about Jesus, and what his initial response was. "The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Come, follow me.' Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth. 'Nazareth!' exclaimed Nathanael. 'Can anything good come from Nazareth?'" Let's stop there for a moment and examine the situation. Philip and Nathanael had both read the writings about Jesus, and believed that He was coming. However, Nathanael clearly didn't think that such a person would come from Nazareth. Nazareth was a very small, rural village. Many people thought the people who came from Nazareth were under-educated, simple people. No one would expect Jesus, the Messiah, to come from such a simple, common place. This made Nathanael question whether Jesus was really who He told Philip He was. So Philip is like, if you don't believe me, come see for yourself.

Let's read verses 47-50 to see how a personal encounter with Jesus changed Nathanael's attitude. "As they approached, Jesus said, 'Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.' 'How do you know about me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, 'I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.' Then Nathanael exclaimed, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!' Jesus asked him, 'Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.'" Nathanael's weakness was disbelief. He couldn't quite wrap his mind around believing that Jesus was the Son of God without some kind of sign. Jesus, knowing his weakness, told him something that only he would know to prove to Him that He was who He said He was.

Life Application/Object Lesson

Pull out oreo container. Who loves to eat oreos? Allow kids to respond. How do you know that there are actual oreo cookies inside this package? Allow kids to respond. I need a volunteer. Choose a volunteer to come up to the front. Without opening the package to look inside, you can do anything else to decide if there are oreos in there. Do you think there are oreos inside the package? Allow kid to respond. How did you know? Allow kid to respond. You were

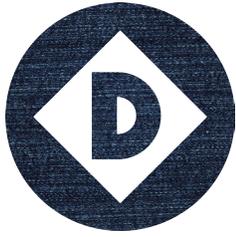


Week 3



MESSAGE

able to smell them, touch them, read the packaging, etc. You may not be able to see them with your eyes, but you know those oreos are in there. It's the same for us as followers of Jesus. We may not be able to see Him and talk to Him in person like Nathanael, but there are other ways to experience God. What are some of the ways we can have faith that God is real even though we can't see Him? *Allow kids to respond.* Those are some great reasons. We can see Him in the Creation He made, we can read about Him in the Bible, and we can experience His presence when we pray and worship Him. It isn't always easy to follow a God who we can't see right in front of us, but that's where true faith comes in. Jesus said to His disciples in John 20:29, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." That's us. God honors and blesses those of us who have chose to believe in Him and follow Him without seeing. Let's pray and ask God to give us the faith to follow Him for the rest of our lives. *Optional: Give a salvation prayer for any kids who have not chosen to follow Jesus yet.*



Week 3



GAME: WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

Supplies

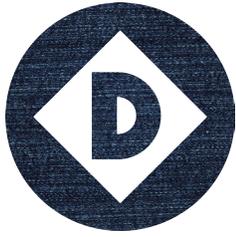
- Large paper bags (1 per item per team)
- Blindfolds
- Minion themed items (banana, twinkie, goggles, minion toys, gloves, potato)

Setup

- Place one of each item in large paper bags. Make multiple bags of each item for as many kids playing simultaneously.

How To Play

1. 2 kids can play in each round.
2. Blindfold the kids and give them each the same item in a paper bag.
3. The blindfolded kids will have to guess what the item is by only touching it. The audience should be silent and not yell out any clues.
4. The first kid to guess the item correctly wins that round.
5. Choose 2 new kids for each round.

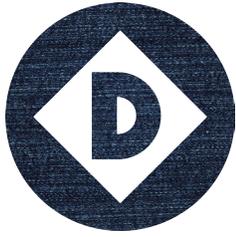


Week 3



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to have faith?
2. What are some things you know are real even though you can't see them?
3. How would you explain why you believe in God to someone who doesn't believe in Him?
4. Have you ever doubted that God exists? Why?
5. Optional: Look up these verses about faith and discuss them as a group.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - 1 Timothy 4:10
 - Hebrews 11:1
 - Hebrews 11:6



Week 3



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of our current series?

Answer: Disciples

2. Who was the disciple who told Nathanael about Jesus?

Answer: Philip

3. What did Jesus tell Nathanael he could see him doing?

Answer: sitting under a fig tree

4. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: I will believe in Jesus even though I can't see him.

5. What is our theme verse for the Disciples Series?

Answer: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25