

Monday

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Which character had a life that didn't go how they expected at first?
- Did Po (*Kung Fu Panda*) feel ready to be the Dragon Warrior?
- Did Hiccup (*How to Train Your Dragon*) fit in at the beginning?
- What changed for them over time?

● Understanding the Verse

- What does it mean that God has a *plan* for you?
- Do you think God's plan is random or on purpose?
- What does "plans to prosper you" mean? (Does it mean just money?)
- What does it mean to have *hope* and a *future*?

● Personal Reflection (Real Life for Kids)

- Have you ever had something not go your way?
- Did it feel confusing or disappointing at first?
- Can you think of a time something bad turned into something good later?
- What are some things you hope for in your future?

● Gospel Connection (Trusting God's Plan)

- Do we always understand God's plan right away?
- Who can we trust even when we don't understand what's happening?
- How did Jesus show that God's plan is good—even when it looked sad at first?
- Why is Jesus the biggest reason we can have hope?

● Deeper Thinking (Older Kids 9-12)

- Why do people sometimes doubt God's plan?
- Is God's plan always easy? Why or why not?
- How can hard times actually be part of a good plan?
- What does it look like to trust God this week?

● Simple Takeaway Question

- If God has a good plan for you, how should that change the way you feel about your future?

Tuesday

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

- In *How to Train Your Dragon*, why was it hard for Hiccup to trust Toothless at first?
- In *Shrek*, did Shrek always trust others? What changed?
- In *Kung Fu Panda*, did Po understand everything his master was teaching right away?
- What happened when these characters finally chose to trust?

● Understanding the Verse

- What does it mean to “trust in the Lord with all your heart”?
- What does “lean not on your own understanding” mean?
- Have you ever thought you knew what was best—but it didn’t turn out that way?
- What does it mean to “submit to God” in your daily life?
- What do you think it means that God will “make your paths straight”?

● Personal Reflection (Real Life + Theater)

- Have you ever been confused about what to do?
- Have you ever been nervous about a performance, audition, or learning lines?
- What do you usually do when you don’t understand something?
- What would it look like to trust God in those moments instead of just yourself?

● Gospel Connection (Trusting Jesus)

- Why can we trust God even when we don’t understand?
- Has God ever failed us?
- How did Jesus show perfect trust in God?
- How can we talk to God when we feel unsure or afraid?

● Deeper Thinking (Older Kids 9-12)

- Why is it hard to stop relying only on ourselves?
- What’s the difference between being wise and trying to control everything?
- Can God use confusing or hard situations for good?
- What does trusting God look like this week in school, home, or on stage?

● Simple Takeaway Question

- What is one situation this week where you will choose to trust God instead of just your own understanding?

Wednesday

Proverbs 18:24

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

(This one relates to Shrek, but also focuses on the gospel talking about Jesus being the only one we can always rely on.)

- Who are Shrek's friends in the movie?
- Was Donkey always a "perfect" friend? Why or why not?
- When did Donkey show he was a really *loyal* friend?
- Have you ever had a friend stick with you even when you were being grumpy (like Shrek)?

Understanding the Verse

- What do you think it means to have "unreliable friends"?
- What happens when someone keeps choosing bad or untrustworthy friends?
- What does it mean that a friend "sticks closer than a brother"?
- Can a friend be closer than family? How?

Personal Reflection (Kid-Level Real Life)

- Have you ever had a friend let you down? What happened?
- Have you ever been an unreliable friend? What did you learn?
- What makes someone a *good* friend?
- How can you be more like a "stick-with-you" friend this week?

Gospel Connection (Jesus as the True Friend)

- Do people always keep their promises? Why not?
- Who is the one friend who will *never* leave us?
- How is Jesus different from even our best friends?
- When you feel lonely, scared, or left out, how can you talk to Jesus?

Deeper Thinking (Older Kids 9-12)

- Why do you think we sometimes choose the wrong friends?
- Can someone be a good friend but still mess up sometimes?
- Why do we need Jesus even if we have good friends?
- How did Jesus show He sticks with us no matter what?

Simple Takeaway Question

- If you could remember *ONE* thing from today, what would it be?

Thursday

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

(Relates to Po in Kung Fu Panda, transformation from noodle guy to Dragon Warrior. Talk about trying new things with God's strength, especially in theater.)

- What was Po like at the beginning of *Kung Fu Panda*?
- Did Po feel ready to be the Dragon Warrior?
- What were some things Po struggled with at first?
- What helped Po grow and change?

● Understanding the Verse

- What does "I can do all things" mean? Does it mean we can do *anything* we want?
- Where does our strength come from according to this verse?
- Why do we need *Christ's strength* instead of just our own?
- What's the difference between trying alone and trusting God to help you?

● Personal Reflection (Real Life + Theater)

- What is something new or scary you've had to try? (stage, lines, singing, performing, etc.)
- How did you feel before doing it?
- Is there something you're nervous to try right now?
- What would it look like to ask God for strength before doing it?

● Gospel Connection (Strength Through Jesus)

- Does Jesus promise everything will be easy? Why or why not?
- How does Jesus help us when we feel afraid or not good enough?
- What are some ways we can rely on Jesus (prayer, trusting Him, asking for help)?
- Why does knowing Jesus change how we face hard things?

● Deeper Thinking (Older Kids 9-12)

- What are some limits we have as people?
- How does God work through our weaknesses?
- Can failing sometimes be part of God helping us grow?
- How can you use your gifts (like acting, singing, creativity) for God?

● Simple Takeaway Question

- What is one thing you will try this week with God's help instead of being afraid?

Friday

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

(Relates to Poppy in Trolls. Talk about choosing and spreading joy because of Jesus.)

- What is Poppy like in *Trolls*?
- Is Poppy happy even when things go wrong?
- How does Poppy try to help others feel joy?
- Is Branch always joyful at the beginning? What changes?

● Understanding the Verse

- What does "rejoice" mean?
- Why do you think the verse says it *twice*?
- Does "always rejoice" mean we're never sad?
- What's the difference between being silly-happy and having real joy?

● Personal Reflection (Kid-Level Real Life)

- What are things that make you happy?
- What are things that make you feel sad or upset?
- Have you ever had to choose to be joyful even when you didn't feel like it?
- How can you help a friend feel better when they're having a bad day?

● Gospel Connection (Joy Because of Jesus)

- Why can we have joy even when life is hard?
- What has Jesus done for us that gives us joy?
- Does Jesus leave us when we're sad or struggling?
- How can we talk to Jesus when we're not feeling joyful?

● Deeper Thinking (Older Kids 9-12)

- What's the difference between happiness (based on circumstances) and joy (from Jesus)?
- Why is it sometimes hard to rejoice?
- How can your attitude affect the people around you?
- What would it look like to "spread joy" this week at school or home?

● Simple Takeaway Question

- What is one way you can choose joy and share it with someone this week?