

## Measure Up

Week 3

### **BIG IDEA**

God makes us ready at the right time.

### **BIBLE**

Jesus Begins His Ministry: Matthew 4:12–23

## FREE TIME

### **PLAY | Free Time**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with games and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know some kids and work on building relationships.*
  - *Have kids go to the bathroom prior to class beginning*

### QUESTION | Ready On Time

- **Have you ever tried to leave the house to go somewhere, such as school or church, but something keeps you from leaving at the time you planned? What is it?**

## LARGE GROUP TIME

SAY...

Welcome back to Measure Up, where the ride has been more epic than a rollercoaster drop! We are learning about Jesus, who was once a kid like you! As Jesus grew up, he did what God called him to do, and once people learned who Jesus was, they began to follow him. Today, in week three, we'll see just that!

## WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Rocket Blast

- SUPPLIES: Foam Finger Rocket, Hoop
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Players will blast foam finger rockets through hanging hoops [like this](#). Give players three foam rockets. Award park prizes to players who successfully blast the rockets through the hoops!*
- A nice way to unwind from all the twists, turns, and spins on theme park rides — especially right after a meal — is to try some of the arcade games.
- Let's warm up for our Bible story today by trying one of those together!

## SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 4:12–23 (Jesus Begins His Ministry)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Dress up as a ride operator (polo shirt with khaki pants or shorts and name badge). You will need kid volunteers to play Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Zebedee. Have them act out the things you say in the story. Please make sure you point to each character when you mention them in the story as their cue to act it out. Have volunteers wear nametags that differentiate the characters so that the kids can tell who everyone is.*
- Hey friends! Welcome back to our live show experience at the *Measure Up* theme park. Today's show is called "Jesus Begins His Ministry." **Everyone say, "Ooh! Aah!"**
- Ooh and aah, indeed! As always, we here at the *Measure Up* theater love audience participation. Wave your hands if you'd like to be a part of the show! *[Select volunteers.]*
- Let's begin!
- Our story starts out with a bit of sad news. John the Baptist was in jail. **Can you all shake your heads with me?**
- When Jesus heard, he went away from Nazareth and went to live in a town called Capernaum, which was by the lake. From there, he started teaching everyone to follow God (**Jesus teaches**).
- One day, Jesus was **walking** beside the Sea of Galilee when he saw two brothers, Peter and his brother Andrew.
  - **Give me a thumbs up if you remember Andrew and his brother Peter.** Remember how Peter used to go by the name, "Simon?"
  - So last time, we heard the story of them meeting Jesus for the first time when they decided to follow Jesus and listen to his teachings.
  - But today's meeting is even more special than that.
- So Andrew and Peter were fishermen and they were casting a net into the lake.
  - Jesus pointed at the two of them and said, "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
  - **What do you think they did?** That's right — at once, they left their nets and followed him.
- They had already been devoted followers of Jesus, but Andrew and Peter were now being called to become one of Jesus' main disciples. They left in a hurry and even just left their nets in the water without pulling them up. They didn't worry about what they had in their hands because they knew that Jesus had so much more for them!
- From there, Jesus saw James, his brother John, and their father, Zebedee. **Everyone wave to James, John, and Zebedee!**
  - They were in a boat preparing their nets.
  - Jesus called them, too, and they immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.
- You see, Jesus was always the son of God, but he didn't start preaching and doing miracles right away. He waited for the right moment and waited to be joined by the right people before he began God's work.
- **Please help me give a round of applause to our volunteers!**
- After hearing this story, any ideas what our Big Idea might be?

BIG IDEA | God makes us ready at the right time.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Flip over the big idea on the whiteboard and *read aloud!*
- **God makes us ready at the right time.**
- Know that God makes you ready at the right time — more ready than you are when you've waited in a line in the hot sun for over an hour to ride an epic water slide!
- (OPTIONAL: let's get ready right now to worship God.)

MUSIC | Worship (OPTIONAL)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Feel free to use one or both music videos for some worship.*

VIDEO | Measure Up, Episode 4 (OPTIONAL)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

STORY | I'm Not Ready!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story about a time when you were a kid and you were told you needed to do something but you didn't feel like you were ready OR you tried to do something you weren't actually ready for (such as taking the training wheels off a bike, getting rid of a security blanket, getting a shot, baking a cake, or swimming in the deep end). Why did you feel like you were or weren't ready? Was it the right time? How do you know?*
- There are many milestones in our lives that creep up on us before we think we're ready to face them. But no matter how we feel about them, there are many indicators from people around us, and sometimes from our own bodies, that tell us that it is or isn't time.
- **But do you know who knows us better than we even know ourselves?** God!
- God knows what you can and can't handle because **God makes us ready at the right time**. We can trust that when God calls us to do something, it's because we can!

## NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | Fast Pass

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the following questions for kids to think about and have them share with the person next to them or have a couple of kids volunteer to share for each question (w*

whatever works best for your group.)

- At some theme parks, certain attractions have super long lines. Sometimes you can get a fast pass that allows you to get on the ride quicker.
- Let's pretend that you are given a fast pass for the future!
  - **How old will you be in a year?**
  - **How long do you think your hair will be?**
  - **How much taller do you think you will get?**
  - **How many more books will you have read?**
  - **How many more movies will you have seen?**
  - **How many new friends will you have made?**
  - **What bad habit will you have broken?**
  - **What new skill will you have learned?**
  - **What do you think God might want you to do on this day one year from now?**

MEMORY VERSE | Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

- **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have a parade route go in a circle around the room. While the music plays, have them do the parade as a large group. When it stops everyone says the memory verse. We suggest performing with streamers, hula hoops, batons, pom poms, and clappers, while you play music. When the music stops, they need to stop and do their parade routine and say the memory verse together.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, your timing in all things is perfect. Even when we feel unsure or unprepared, when you are the one calling us, we know it's always the right time. Help us to be brave and be willing to drop everything else to do what is right in your eyes. Keep making us ready to follow you more and more every day. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Jesus say to Simon and Andrew?**
- **What did Simon and Andrew do when Jesus asked them to follow Him?**
- **What did Jesus do once he gathered disciples?**
- **Do you find it easy or difficult to wait for the right time for things? Why?**
- **What are some ways we might know that it's the right time for something?**
- **Can you think of one way to prepare for anything God might call you to do?**

## Scripture

- Practice the memory verse one more time with your kids in your small group.
- **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**
- Have the kids recite the verse from memory with your help. If they can, give them a token.
- Get prizes! :)

## ACTIVITY | Go Fish!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide decks of [playing cards](#) for each group to play [Go Fish](#) or purchase [Go Fish cards](#). You could even make up your own rules to make it more fun.
- **Have you ever waited in a long line for a ride?** It would be boring if you were standing all by yourself, but usually, you're with family and friends who help you pass the time. Sometimes you might even play a game!
- **Who's played Go Fish before?** This game is all about waiting for the right time to find the right card! As you play Go Fish with your group, be reminded that when it comes to following God, **God makes us ready at the right time.**