

## WEEK 1 | THE WARM-UP – KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

# RED LETTER CHALLENGE KIDS

### Theme

Introducing the five principles of RLC: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, Going

### Memory Verse

"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." Matthew 7:24

### Bible Verses

"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. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

### Big Idea

Why are the red letters of Jesus important?

### Dear Parents:

In the Red Letter Challenge, we are committing to putting the words of Jesus into practice for the next five weeks. Those five weeks are divided into five themes: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. Each week we will have different ideas and ways that your child(ren) can try to put Jesus' words into practice.

- **BEING:** So many times Jesus talks about the importance of spending time and just being with Him. Before he invites us to do things for Him, through Him, in His name, he invites us into a relationship. Our relationship with Him will determine how effective we are at actually doing the things He asks.
- **FORGIVING:** Jesus is all about 'dat grace. So many of us struggle with receiving God's forgiveness, forgiving ourselves, or forgiving others. To truly represent Jesus in this world, we have a great understand of God's grace in our lives and extend that grace to others.
- **SERVING:** After spending time being with Him, and receiving His forgiveness, now we are so motivated. After all that He's done for me, I want to serve Him. I want to get out into the community, help those in need, love my neighbors, etc.
- **GIVING:** Jesus talked about the Kingdom of heaven more than anything else. A close second was money. I've found through the words of Jesus it's impossible to be a stingy Christian. Jesus followers are generous.
- **GOING:** It's no coincidence that many of Jesus' last words in each of the Gospels and even the last command He says in the book of Acts centers on the fact that we as Jesus followers must not just be His hands and feet in the community, but also His mouthpiece. We are to go out there and tell the Good News that this same Jesus that has died on the cross for my sins and forgiven what I've done has done the same for everyone

Keep an eye out for these weekly handouts and help your child accomplish one, some or all the challenges.



## Theme

BEING with Jesus

## Memory Verse

"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..." Hebrews 12:2

## Bible Verses

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2

## Big Idea

Why is BEING with Jesus important?

## Dear Parents:

Today we learned the importance of being with Jesus. There is no time like now for kids to start to get introduced to the concept of spiritual disciplines. These disciplines will be practiced all throughout this 40 day challenge,

but specifically this week we want to focus on just BEING with Jesus. Later in our Challenge there will be many opportunities for kids to do more outwardly focused challenges, but we believe that Jesus teaches and models spending time with God the Father is what fuels the rest of his ministry.

So like Jesus, we want our kids to understand from the very beginning that our doing flows out of our being, because the strength that we are using is always Christ's strength and not by our own human attempts.

Talk to your child about the ways that you personally BE with Jesus. Use some of the ideas below to start some new habits as a family this week!

Challenge: ways your child can BE this week:

- Get a Bible that is appropriate for your age level. If you have a Bible already, put it on your nightstand and try to read a page or a section every day as a family before bed or on your own.
- Listen to worship music
- Celebrate and thank God for five things He has done for you. Plan a party to celebrate!



**Theme**

FORGIVING like Jesus

**Memory Verse**

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1

**Bible Verses**

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. " 1 John 2:1-2

**Big Idea**

Why is FORGIVING like Jesus important?

**Dear Parents:**

Forgiveness was the theme this week! Sometimes kids find it easier to forgive than adults do! Forgiveness is something we start teaching our kids at a young age, because we can all understand what it feels like to be hurt by someone.

Forgiveness is something that is so easy to talk about, but really hard to actually do. For kids, we start with the importance of obedience before understanding. We don't always understand completely how forgiveness works, or even why we need to forgive, but actually saying the words out loud and keeping them from getting revenge is the first steps in the lifelong lesson of practicing forgiveness.

Share your own personal stories of how you've been hurt and had to forgive. Use everyday events like someone cutting you off on the road or a mistake at a restaurant or even times when you have to break a promise you made to your child to talk through forgiveness. We forgive our children, and sometimes our children have to forgive us! When offenses happen in a family, use those as starting points to talk about forgiveness and healing.

Challenge: ways your child can FORGIVE this week:

- Write some sins that you have committed on the rocks below, or write some sins that you are angry at someone else about on that rock. Instead of throwing those rocks: drop them at Jesus feet. He will take care of it all for you. Pray about the things you wrote on your rocks.
- Forgive someone today. Don't just say, "It's OK" or "No problem!" Actually say, "I forgive you."



## Theme

SERVING like Jesus

## Memory Verse

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

## Bible Verses

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

## Big Idea

Why is SERVING like Jesus important?

## Dear Parents:

Today we talked about the awesome opportunity we have to both understand our own gifts and talents and then using those to help and serve others. We discussed motive for serving and that we love and serve because Christ first loved and served us. Our serving ultimately comes as a response to God's redeeming love on the cross for us and His continued love and service to us: taking care of us every day.

Talk with your child this week about what unique gifts and talents God has given to them. Use the list below to match up and see how they can serve this week!

Ways you can SERVE this week:

- Serve someone today who can't or won't pay you back.
- Make some cookies and bring it to them.
- Offer to pull weeds for them.
- Bring them flowers.
- Make them a cheerful card.
- Offer to play with some younger kids in the neighborhood so their mom can work in the yard or around the house.
- Offer to walk their dog for them.

## NEXT WEEK!!

We are talking about giving and want to raise money. Please pray about and discuss with your child about what it would look like for them to bring a special money offering next week to raise money for

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**Theme**

GIVING like Jesus

**Memory Verse**

3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others." Luke 21:3

**Bible Verses**

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:1-4

**Big Idea**

Why is GIVING to Jesus important?

**Dear Parents:**

Many of the principles of the Red Letter Challenge are things that will progress as children grow into adulthood: but often kids grasp things even easier than adults do! The giving principle is often something that is often even easier for kids to do than adults! It will amaze you at their generosity, when you give them opportunities to give and share.

We talk about motive for giving, as well as who is the Ultimate Giver, Jesus. Understanding what Jesus has given to us helps us give freely to whoever needs it. We give because we have been given everything.

Not accepting and allowing them to give extravagantly like that stifles something that is so beautiful inside. If during this week they feel prompted to give something that makes you hesitate, that's normal! Let them give! And give freely!

Challenge: ways you can GIVE this week:

- Give food to the needy. Ask your parents or an adult oif you can help clear out your cupboards or go shopping and collect food for the needy. Find a church or a food pantry in your area to drop off the food to.
- Go through closets and empty out drawers of clothes/toys to give away to a neighbor or a local second hand store or women's shelter.



## Theme

GOING like Jesus

## Memory Verse

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."

Acts 1:8a

## Bible Verses

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:7-8

## Big Idea

Why is GOING with Jesus important?

## Dear Parents:

As we wrap up this Red Letter Challenge, we don't end with an easy task! Going is sometimes hard for kids to understand because they are always told "go brush your teeth", "go clean your room", "go to school". Going to kids just feels like a command to obey, rather than an invitation to adventure! We want to instill in our children the understanding that GOING with Jesus is not a task to be completed, but an adventure to embark on! It should be thrilling and intriguing.

And it doesn't matter how young they are, they are called on a great commission to be a witness. They have the Holy Spirit with them at all times, and they never go alone.

Challenge: ways your child can GO this week:

- Have dinner with your family sometime this week. Maybe you do this every day and this is a super easy challenge for you. If it is, I want you to lead the family in prayer before dinner.
- Say hello to neighbors you haven't met yet. Make them some bread or warm cookies or bring them flowers.
- Or, say hello to someone you don't know at school or at practice or at church. Offer to help them or sit with them. Ask them what their name is and tell them yours. The first step in making a new friend is as simple as "hello!"

