

Level 6, Quarter B

God—Up Close and Personal

Additional Activities

1. My Joy

Philippian Facts (10-15 minutes)

This fact finding activity uncovers background information on the book of Philippians. **Supplies:** Bible reference books

Use Bible reference books to look up background information about the book of Philippians. Ask kids to research the historical and cultural aspects of Paul's letter and the city of Philippi. Children can also use a Bible concordance to find verses using the words: joy, joyful, rejoice.

2. My Confidence

Pep Talk (10 minutes)

This creative thinking exercise paraphrases Philippians 1 in the way a coach might give a pep talk to his or her team.

Paul's letter to the Philippian Christians sounds like a pep talk a coach might give a sports team. Pretend you are a coach talking to your team. Paraphrase Paul's words and give a pep talk to your team. Let kids work together in pairs or groups of three. Encourage the kids to pick a sport and customize the pep talk by using lingo or terms specific to that sport.

Courageous Christians (10 minutes)

This testimony time builds trust that God will work in difficult situations. **Supplies:** guest speaker (optional)

Invite a missionary or someone with a testimony to share with your class about times when persevering through difficult situations wasn't easy, but God's purpose was revealed. Let children ask questions about the situation.

If you don't have a guest speaker available, discuss some missionaries or Christians such as Corrie ten Boom, Brother Andrew, Joni Eareckson Tada, or others.

3. My Attitude

Shining Stars (10-15 minutes)

This creative art activity thanks church workers for being shining examples of humbly serving others. **Supplies:** thank-you notes, star-shaped cookies and frosting (optional)

If possible, bring in star-shaped cookies and frosting. Let the kids decorate the cookies. Have a variety of thank-you notes or take paper and let kids fold it to make a thank-you note. Encourage the children to choose a church worker and write a note thanking them for being a "shining example" of Christ and how He humbly served others. Let the kids give a cookie and the note to the worker.

Stick to a Humble Attitude (10 minutes)

This craft activity creates a reminder to exhibit a humble attitude.

Supplies: plain white stickers like mailing labels, markers

Have students make their own stickers to remind them to have a humble attitude. Kids could make slogans or design a logo. Some ideas: No Arguing Zone, Got Humbleness?, Jesus Showed the Way Up...Is Down!; Don't Complain or Argue—It's not Christlike! Suggest that children give stickers to their friends or use them on their notebooks or quiet-time journals.

4. My Prize

Running the Race (10-15 minutes)

This testimony time inspires kids to keep running the race for Jesus.

Supplies: guest speaker who has run races or marathons

Invite several people who have participated in a marathon or have experience in running track to talk to your children about the experience, perhaps sharing photos or video clips. Ask them to include how they felt at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the race. Find out what kept them going when they were tired or discouraged. Ask if people along the way cheered them on, offered water, or helped in any other way. What kinds of awards, either tangible or intrinsic, were part of completing the race? Draw parallels to our spiritual "race" toward the prize of the upward call of Christ.

Ready! Mobile (10 minutes)

This art project reinforces the second quiet-time step. Supplies: coat hanger, yarn, paper, markers, tape

Remind kids that there are three components to the **Ready!** quiet-time step—1) read God's Word; 2) record your thoughts; 3) pray from the heart. Divide the class into six groups. Assign each one of the three steps to three groups and also assign the topic "**Ready!**—Enjoy God's fellowship" to a group. The remaining two groups should work on the S-P-A-C-E and H-E-A-R-T acrostics of the second and third components. Using a coat hanger and their creativity, have kids work together to create one hanging mobile for the classroom that reminds them what to do during this quiet-time step.

5. My Secret

Contentment Thieves (10-15 minutes)

This creative thinking exercise allows children to identify ways their contentment leaves and how to get it to return.

Peace and contentment usually go together. Contentment isn't a real thing that a thief could break in and steal. Instead it is a feeling—often when the feeling leaves, we feel robbed of our joy and contentment. Let's try to identify some situations where we feel contentment, what might take that contented feeling away, and how contentment might return.

Have the class form groups of three. Let the first student name something that makes him or her feel contentment such as, "I'm reading a book with my cat curled up on my lap." Then the next child names something that could steal that contentment like, "A loud noise scared the cat and she's hiding under the bed." It is up to the third child to name a way to restore the peace and bring contentment back to the situation for example, "I held out a kitty treat and she came back to my lap." Then switch and let a different child in the group name something that makes him or her feel contented and continue the pattern.

After all the kids have shared a contented situation with the group, discuss these questions. **When was a time you felt your contentment was stolen away? How did the feeling return? The situation you are in doesn't make you content. Contentment is a feeling, and our feelings are a choice that we make. You can still feel peace even if you are in a difficult situation. Paul found there was a secret to feeling contentment—even in jail!**

Philippian Poster (10 minutes)

This art poster illustrates each child's favorite part of the Book of Philippians. Supplies: paper, markers

Have each child choose a chapter of Philippians and write his or her favorite truth learned from that chapter. Kids should think of a fun way to illustrate the point or write the verse and decorate the poster. Allow time for each child to share the poster with the group. Display the posters on a bulletin board or in the hallway.

Newspaper Cut-Up (10 minutes)

This categorizing activity allows children to recognize peace and its opposites. Supplies: stack of newspapers, scissors, tape, three large sheets of posterboard

Hang three posters on the wall. Distribute the newspapers and scissors and ask kids to cut out articles, photos, ads, or headlines that fit into each of three categories—Conflict, Discontent, and Peace. For instance, stories of war or gang violence could go under "Conflict." Advertisements could go under "Discontent" (things that stir up feelings of unhappiness with present circumstances or possessions.) Students may have a harder time finding examples that promote "Peace," but there may be articles on treaties or agreements ending conflict.

When they are finished, discuss how the first two categories demonstrate an absence of peace. The examples under "Conflict" should be obvious. Those under "Discontent" may need explanation. (Ads try hard to make people feel dissatisfied, discontented, even envious, without the product or service being promoted. If we feel that way, we lack inner peace.) Spend time focusing on things that we should think about that will lead us toward God's peace.

6. My Missions

Christian Means... (10 minutes)

This creative thinking exercise enables kids to consider what being a Christian means to them. Supplies: paper, pencils

Give each child a piece of paper and have him or her write the word "Christian" down the middle of the paper. Then let kids think about what it means to them to be a Christian. Students should write down their thoughts and figure out how to fit their answers into the letters of the word. Their thoughts don't have to begin with the letters in "Christian," but should fit somewhere in the word. Example: C-Christian follower; H-someone wHo believes in Christ as their Savior; etc.



Ephesians Explored (10 minutes)

This research project provides insight into ancient Ephesus.

Supplies: Bible reference books, library books

Bring in a variety of Bible reference books and let the kids start exploring the historical and cultural background of the book of Ephesians. Some children may want to research the geography of the area. Obtain books that show the geography, history, and travel tips for Turkey and specifically Ephesus.

7. My Blessings

Further Study (10 minutes)

This inductive Bible study step analyzes words used in Ephesians 1 to help students better understand the passage.

Have children get into small groups to study the first chapter of Ephesians. Let kids find the key words, repetitions, contrasts, comparison, purpose, punctuation, cause/effect, verb tense, climax, and summary.

Find the Blessings (10 minutes)

This word search reminds students of their spiritual blessings.

Give each child a piece of paper and to use to create a word search for someone else, listing spiritual blessings. When they have created the puzzle, let them trade with someone and find the blessings.

8. My Identity

We're Unified (10 minutes)

This creative writing activity encourages kids to modernize the message of unity in Christ. **Supplies:** paper, pencils

Read Galatians 3:28. Discuss how this ties in with Paul's explanation in his letter to the Ephesians. Set out paper and let the kids write their own letter to the Jews and Gentiles explaining the concept of their new identity in Christ. Encourage children to think of more modern examples or new word pictures to help explain the concept.

9. My Power

Estimating Measurements (10 minutes)

This game generates curiosity about measuring things. **Supplies:** rulers, yardsticks, measuring tapes (1 per small group)

Let's get to know our surroundings through this scavenger hunt game. I will name a dimension or measurement of an item that I want you to find in the room. You will work together in groups with one of these measuring tools. Divide the kids into groups and give each group something for measuring.

Find something:

- three and a half inches long
- an object between one and two feet wide
- exactly one foot tall
- with dimensions that add up to twenty-four inches
- two totally different items with the exact length or width

When a group finds a match, call out the next item to find. Continue until all items have been found. Afterwards, gather the class back together and discuss these questions: **Why do we measure things? What is the largest thing you could measure? What is something that would be difficult to measure? Why?**

Secrets Survey (10 minutes)

This movement activity explores how kids feel about secrets.

Today we are going to conduct a survey about secrets. You will vote by moving to one side of the room.

After I ask a question, move to the left side of the room to vote "yes" and the right side to vote "no." If you are unsure, stand in the middle. As kids vote, randomly ask them to explain their answers.

- Can you keep a secret?
- Have you discovered a secret before it was time for it to be revealed?
- Have you asked someone to keep a secret who did?
- Have you asked someone to keep a secret who didn't?
- Should you keep a secret if it will hurt someone?
- Does God keep secrets from us?

When someone keeps a secret from you, how do you feel? Let several children answer. **The only secret God keeps from us is the exact time when Christ will return. Why hasn't God told that secret to anyone?** Encourage responses.

How do you feel when you figure out a mystery or discover someone's secret? Choose two or three children to respond.

Prayers for Understanding (10 minutes)

This prayer activity allows students to intercede for others to know the vastness of God's love.

Do you think every Christian understands the vast love of Christ? Give evidence to support your answer. Allow each child to contribute to the discussion. **People are hurting and desperate to feel loved. Even Christians, who have Christ's love in their hearts, sometimes forget or act unloved and don't use God's strength or power to help them. How could Christians be better witnesses if they truly lived like they were rich in Christ?** Let kids respond. **Take a piece of paper and write down the names of Christians that you would like to see experience the fullness of God's love, power, and wisdom.** After students have written a list of names, have them gather into small prayer groups of three or four. Each group should spend time praying for the people on the list.

Prayer for Your Church (5-10 minutes)

This prayer activity encourages students to pray specific prayer points for their church.

Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus to fully experience God's love and riches. Have each child write a prayer for your church members. You may want to ask kids to contribute to one group prayer and then present it to the pastor or let the students pray it for the members during a church service.

10. My Walk

Walk Humbly (10 minutes)

This follow-up activity expands the children's knowledge of how to walk humbly.

Paul stresses that just a little bit of humility isn't enough—to live God's way, you need to be completely humble. The Greeks were not known for their humility. They were warriors. In fact, they saw it a sign of weakness. Why is humbleness a requirement for unity? Let kids respond. Give an example of how a humble attitude helps bring peace when two or more Christians are not getting along with each other. **The opposite of humility is pride. How does a prideful attitude hurt the Church's unity?** Encourage responses. **Remember that Paul uses the picture of a body with one head—Christ. When the rest of the body is humble under Christ the head, then the church body can be effective in ministering and reaching the spiritually lost.**

Draw large footsteps on the board. Have students write on a footstep a way that they could show humility. Examples: let my friend use my mp3 player, give up my bus seat for someone else, etc. **Let's take steps this week to walk in humility.**

Gift List (10 minutes)

This survey shows areas where kids have gifting from God.

Use the spiritual gift survey found at the end of this document. Let kids take the survey or test and see what areas of gifting emerge. Discuss the ways each child could use those gifts to bring glory to God.

Old/New Man (10 minutes)

This hands-on project contrasts the old way and new way of living.

Supplies: large poster board or bulletin board paper

Take large poster board or paper that covers bulletin boards. Take the paper and tape it together to make a large piece big enough to trace a child. You will need two bodies traced. Label one outline "old nature" and the other one "new nature." Have the kids write inside the bodies the traits Paul mentioned that fit each person. Cut out the outlines and display them on a wall in your classroom or in the hallway.

11. My Light

Shining Search (10 minutes)

This Bible-based activity helps kids find Bible verses about light.

Supplies: Bible concordance

Let kids use a Bible concordance and find verses related to "light" or "shine." As a child names a reference, have the class race to see who can find the verse first and read it to the class. Sing praise songs or hymns on the topic of light or shining for Jesus.

Light Collage (10 minutes)

This collage reminds children to be a light for Jesus. **Supplies:** poster board, magazines, Bible concordance

Bring in a variety of magazines. Let kids cut out pictures of any kind of light and create a collage on the poster board. Then have children fill the collage with a variety of verses about light. Students can use a Bible concordance to find verses on the subject of light.



12. My Battle

Prayers of Resistance (10 minutes)

This prayer activity motivates kids to pray for believers suffering spiritual attacks around the world. **Supplies:** map or globe

Have kids find 1 Peter 5:7-9 in their Bibles and read the passage together. Discuss ways to resist the devil. Set out a map or world globe. Let children lay hands on a country and pray for the people in that country who suffer attacks from the enemy.

Armor Reminder (10 minutes)

This follow-up activity helps kids remember to daily put on the whole armor of God. **Supplies:** paper, pencils

Have the children make a reminder to daily put on the armor of God. Kids could write up an email to send to themselves, draw a poster, write notes to put around their mirror, etc.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR KIDS

God has given each Christian at least one spiritual gift. This activity will help you get started discovering which gift or gifts God has given to you. Place a number in the box before each sentence according to how true it is of you. Use this scale:

3 = Nearly always **1 = Some of the time**
2 = Most of the time **0 = Not at all**

☐ **1** I like to help people with things they cannot do by themselves.

☐ **2** I am confident that God can do great things—even when others doubt.

☐ **3** I enjoy thinking about problems and finding solutions that help others.

☐ **4** When I see injustice or unfairness, I want to say something about it.

☐ **5** I like to share with my friends what Jesus means to me.

☐ **6** It is fun to show or explain to others how they can learn something new.

☐ **7** I can sense when people are hurting and try to ease their pain.

☐ **8** I enjoy taking responsibility and directing others.

☐ **9** I like to plan ahead and to get things done.

☐ **10** It is fun to give money to help people who need it.

☐ **11** I enjoy pointing out the strengths and abilities of other people.

☐ **12** I feel good about myself when I do jobs that others won't do.

☐ **13** I encourage others to trust God, even when things look bad.

☐ **14** My friends view me as a person who is wise.

☐ **15** I like to challenge other Christians to become committed to the Lord.

☐ **16** It is easy for me to talk with people about God.

☐ **17** I want to learn as much as I can about the Bible and being a Christian.

☐ **18** I show sympathy toward people who are going through personal pain.

☐ **19** I help others work together to accomplish important things.

☐ **20** I am able to set goals and plan the best way to reach them.

☐ **21** When I receive money, I look forward to giving some to the church.

☐ **22** I can comfort and advise others so they feel helped and motivated.

23 I serve the Lord at church by moving chairs, working in the kitchen, or cleaning up.

24 I enjoy trusting God to meet my needs and the needs of others.

25 I help people use Bible truths to solve their problems.

26 I feel driven to tell others what the Bible says about their situation.

27 I like to talk with people who still don't know Jesus as their personal Savior.

28 I enjoy researching topics so I can tell others what I have learned.

29 I feel compassion for people who suffer with difficult problems.

30 I enjoy leading, inspiring, and motivating others to do God's work.

31 I enjoy organizing thoughts, ideas, and dreams into a plan of action.

32 I give money to God's work and feel like a partner with the ministry.

33 I enjoy challenging people to walk closely with the Lord.

34 I enjoy working "behind the scenes" to make projects succeed.

35 I believe God will keep His promises in spite of difficult situations.

36 I receive special insight from God for making important decisions.

37 I speak messages from God that encourage people to change.

38 I enjoy making friends with people so I can explain the Gospel to them.

39 I think I could teach a Bible study or lead a small group study.

40 Other people open up to me and see me as caring and sensitive.

41 In a group, others often look to me for direction.

42 I can give others responsibilities for a task and help them accomplish it.

43 I feel moved when I hear about the urgent needs of others.

44 I encourage and motivate other people when they are down.

45 I feel good when I help out doing routine things at church.

46 I can trust in the power of God to accomplish the impossible.

47 I sense God's presence when important decisions need to be made.

48 I am persuasive and direct when I share truths from the Bible.

49 I am comfortable telling unbelievers about my relationship with Christ.

50 I have the ability to teach so that God's Word comes alive to others.

51 I would like to visit rest homes and other places where people need visitors.

52 I can see overall needs and involve others to meet the needs.

53 I can organize ideas, people, and tasks that lead to good results.

54 God takes care of my needs because I give selflessly and cheerfully.

55 I can encourage people who are "off track" to get right with God.

SPIRITUAL GIFT SCORECARD

This scorecard will help you begin your personal journey to discover and use your spiritual gifts. Remember, as you walk with the Lord and grow in your faith, your spiritual gifts will grow with you! Over time, you will find that some gifts and areas of ministry will become more and more interesting to you.

To find out your score for each spiritual gift, write the number you chose for each statement in the boxes below. Then add up the numbers in each row.

Total

1	+	12	+	23	+	34	+	45	=	<input type="text"/>	Serving —divine power to complete tasks that support and encourage other people. Helping —divine power to befriend people and to assist them with special needs.
2	+	13	+	24	+	35	+	46	=	<input type="text"/>	Exercising Faith —divine power to show confidence in God's ability to resolve a problem, even when other people doubt.
3	+	14	+	25	+	36	+	47	=	<input type="text"/>	Applying Wisdom —divine power to understand a situation and to provide God's insight or advice.
4	+	15	+	26	+	37	+	48	=	<input type="text"/>	Proclaiming —divine power to reveal the truth of God's Word, explaining it clearly and with conviction.
5	+	16	+	27	+	38	+	49	=	<input type="text"/>	Evangelizing —divine power to testify about Jesus Christ, leading people to personal faith in Him.
6	+	17	+	28	+	39	+	50	=	<input type="text"/>	Teaching —divine power to communicate Biblical principles so that Christians understand and grow in the faith.
7	+	18	+	29	+	40	+	51	=	<input type="text"/>	Showing Mercy —divine power to express compassion and support for people who suffer pain and problems.
8	+	19	+	30	+	41	+	52	=	<input type="text"/>	Leading —divine power to grasp God's purposes, influencing others to accomplish God's work.
9	+	20	+	31	+	42	+	53	=	<input type="text"/>	Managing —divine power to organize and plan, directing people to complete tasks well.
10	+	21	+	32	+	43	+	54	=	<input type="text"/>	Giving —divine power to generously and joyously give to the Lord, meeting the needs of the Church and other people.
11	+	22	+	33	+	44	+	55	=	<input type="text"/>	Encouraging —divine power to motivate people to do their best, taking righteous action.

Circle your two or three highest scores. How can you use one of those gifts you circled to serve others this week? (Be specific!)