

New Life in Jesus Means God is With Us

Penny Crusade 2017

**ALIVE!**

John 5:24

Introduction (for teacher's use):

This week's Penny Crusade video focuses on the ministry of Pastor Jaime. Jaime is a Mexican pastor who found new life in Jesus when he entered a drug rehab several years ago. Through his new life in Jesus, Jaime has discovered a God who will never leave him, but will always be with him through the ups and downs of life. That will be where our discussion will focus this week. (Watch the week 7 video with the kids before beginning this lesson.)

Scripture Passage: Deuteronomy 31:8 (ESV)

"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Teacher Notes:

When Joshua followed Moses as the leader of Israel, he was taking on a big task. Moses had led the people during an amazing period of their history. He led them out of Egypt and slavery, and had been the main connection between them and God ever since. So Joshua had big shoes to fill. And in that time, those words that God would not "leave or forsake" him were very important.

These are words that Pastor Jaime came to understand in a different way, as he had lived a life where everyone he knew had abandoned him. But as he came into new life in Jesus, he came to understand that God wouldn't abandon him like others had. This is an important truth, and one that is offered to us all as we come into new life in Jesus.

Let's talk more about how our new life in Jesus means God is with us ...

Discussion Questions:

- What kinds of struggles did Pastor Jaime face in his life?
- What caused Pastor Jaime to feel like everyone would abandon him?
- What did Pastor Jaime learn when he came into his new life in Jesus?
- Have you ever felt abandoned? Or like no one cared about you?
- What can God's words to Joshua teach us when we feel abandoned?

Activity: “Growing in Jesus” Activity

Needed Supplies: item to hide

One child is the “hider,” one is the “seeker,” and one is the “timer.” The “seeker” will leave the room to give the “hider” a chance to hide the object. Everyone in the room will know where it is, but no one but the “hider” will be able to give any hints or clues. The “seeker” will return to the room and look for the hidden object. The hider is allowed to give the seeker clues by saying “cold” when the seeker is far from the object and “hot” when the seeker is close to the object. Take turns until everyone has a chance to be the seeker. The person who finds the object in the shortest amount of time is the winner.

After the game, talk about how the great thing about God is that he never wants to hide from us. He is EVERYWHERE all of the time and wants us to be with him.