

# UNUSUAL

WEEK 4

## BIG IDEA

God's love is unchangeable.

## BIBLE

David and Bathsheba: 2 Samuel 11:1-15; (Psalm 51)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

## WHAT?

### MUSIC | "Wild Love" ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cue this song, "[Wild Love](#)," by Elevation Rhythm to play for the kids during worship time.
- Let's get started today with a song about the wild love God has for us and that we have for God! If you want to, do your best wild animal dance to the song! How do giraffes jive? How do baboons boogie? Let's see!

### ACTIVITY | Wacky Wombats ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This game is a twist on musical chairs. Depending on the number of kids in your group, you may need to play in phases or have a group of players and a group of spectators. Begin with chairs –one fewer than your total number of players – in a circle or back to back. Begin the music – try using [a Putumayo collection](#) for a fun, global feel – and the kids will begin walking around the chairs. When the music stops, have a leader call out a body part over the mic, and instead of sitting, the kids have to put that body part on the chair –elbow, ear, knee, bare foot, thumb, etc. The kids are out if they put down the wrong body part or are the last to get to a chair. Be sure to remove a chair for every kid that was out in the last round.

- That game was full of changes! It was different every round! But even though a lot of the game changed constantly, the rules never changed!

## QUESTION | Have you ever had a big change? ▲

- **Has anyone ever had something big change in their lives? Maybe at home or at school?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Allow the kids time to answer the question, but prepare ahead of time for difficult examples of change: The kids may share things like a divorce, a death, someone they loved moving away, etc. Make sure you are sensitive to those responses while maintaining a healthy flow and maybe prompting some positive change stories to balance.*
- Change can be really good and awesome, but sometimes, change can also be hard. The good news is, there's something out there that never changes. Let's find out what that is!

## SO WHAT?

## SCRIPTURE | II Samuel 11:1-15 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Summarize the story in II Samuel 11:1-15.*
- Let me ask everyone a question. **Have you ever found yourself in a place you weren't supposed to be?** (*Allow the kids time to answer. Feel free to share your own age-appropriate experience.*) Well, that's what happened in our Bible story today. King David wasn't exactly where he was supposed to be, and that got him into some trouble.
- I have another question for you. **Who here has ever seen something really, really cool and you just had to have it, but it would really hurt someone else if you took it?** Well, that's exactly what position David was in, and guess what? He didn't make a great choice.
- David was supposed to be with the rest of his troops at battle, but David decided to stay at home. One day, he noticed a woman named Bathsheba who he thought was very beautiful. David decided he was in love with Bathsheba. But there was a problem. Bathsheba wasn't available! She was already married to a man named Uriah!

- But David cared more about his own feelings than about whether Uriah might be hurt, and honestly, we're not really sure if anyone asked Bathsheba how she felt at all! Yikes!
- And believe it or not, it gets worse! David knew that he'd be in big trouble for falling in love with a married woman since that was way against the rules, even for a king who could do pretty much whatever he wanted.
  - He tried a bunch of different things to make Uriah go away, but nothing seemed to work. One bad decision kept leading to another until David made the worst decision of all . . . he sent Uriah into battle knowing that he'd be killed.
- Even though David messed up big time, God doesn't abandon him. Of course David would have to face the consequences of his poor choices, but God still loved him and did not take away the promises about his future. God's love for David stayed the same.

## THE BIG IDEA | God's love is unchangeable. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Brick enters, crying dramatically, holding another trophy.*
  - **Leader:** Brick! Hey! It's great to see you again! You seem a little bit upset! What's wrong?
  - **Brick:** I'm a fraud! (*Resumes sobbing.*)
  - **Leader:** A fraud? Why do you say that?
  - **Brick:** You see this trophy? I don't deserve it! I'm a terrible person.
  - **Leader:** Brick, you're definitely not a terrible person.
  - **Brick:** No, I definitely am. I . . . I . . .
  - **Leader:** You what?
  - **Brick:** I . . . cheated! (*Wails in agony.*)
  - **Leader:** What? Do you want to tell me about it? It might make you feel better.
  - **Brick:** Okay, see, I went to the state championships for toe lifting. And they had a rule: No sweatbands. But I never compete without my lucky sweatbands! They're what makes me a winner! So, I just . . . wore them. And then I won! And now, I'm a terrible person and God probably doesn't like me!
  - **Leader:** Oh, Brick. It's not okay to break rules, but look: I can tell you this for sure: God loves you. God has always loved you. God will always love you. No matter how big your mistakes, God will keep loving you.

God's love is bigger than we can imagine! The love God has for you will never, ever change!

- **Brick:** Wait . . . really?
- **Leader:** Yes, really! Actually, we were just about to talk about that very thing some more! Here, maybe we could invite (*Choose a kid*) up to the front to help you read this week's Big Idea! (*When the kid gets to the front, give them a not-too-tight jar with a piece of paper inside containing the Big Idea. They can open it and pull it out.*) Okay, you two. Can you go ahead and read that together?
- **Leader:** That's right! **God's love is unchangeable!**

#### VIDEO | Unusual, Episode 4



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

#### QUESTION | Can you name something that never changes?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open the floor for answers. Help guide the kids with examples, such as particular buildings, monuments, elements of nature, etc. The whole point is for the kids to see that even though those things are old, nothing is as consistent and eternal as God's love because God's love never changes.

#### OBJECT LESSON | Unchangeable Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a white disposable bowl and a napkin. Fill the bowls with water and ask leaders to gently coat the surface of the water with ground black pepper or glitter. The kids will dip their finger in the bowl and the "sin" will stick to their finger. They can use the napkin to wipe it off. Then, the leaders will give each kid a drop of dish soap to rub on their finger and have them wait until they're told what to do next.
- This pepper represents our sins, or things we've done that pull us away from God. Sometimes, we hurt people. Sometimes, we offend people. Sometimes, we allow one bad decision to lead to another until it's all just one big mess!
- But unlike people who may not forgive us, God's love is unchanging. God's love chases our sins away so we can be truly close to God! Is everyone's finger good and soapy? Okay, dip it into the bowl. That's how God's love washes away your sin!
- Aren't you glad **God's love is unchangeable**? Let's remember to be thankful and grateful to God for that unchangeable love all week!

## SCRIPTURE | Psalm 51 ▲

- We have been hearing stories about David all month, and there are still things we didn't hear about yet.
- How many of you know that David was a musician? Did you know that many of his songs and writings form the book of Psalm in the Bible? That's right! Reading one of them is like taking a peek into David's very own diary or journal. Listen to this one.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 51.
- This Psalm demonstrates a time when David really regretted the mistakes he had made and was asking God for forgiveness. The great thing is, God's love is unchangeable, so David received forgiveness, and so can we, through Jesus!

## NOW WHAT?

## REFLECTION | Optical Illusions ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a screen – or print them out as large as possible— to show three, classic optical illusions: [duck or bunny](#), [young woman or old woman](#), [two faces or one vase](#) . Tell the kids to call out what they see. This will be a lot of fun because different kids will see different images. Reveal that both interpretations are correct.
- Like these images, there are times when you face a situation where the way you see it is completely different than someone else does.
- God doesn't only care about the wrong things we do, but also how we respond when people do wrong things to us or around us.
  - Now, this doesn't mean you should let people hurt you – you're kids and it's your trusted adults' job to make sure you're safe and healthy, so if someone is hurting you, always tell your parents or your teacher or your pastor or someone else you trust and they will help you talk out the big feelings. Never keep it to yourself if someone is really hurting you.
- God does want us to practice our forgiveness when our friends and siblings and even when our parents do things that make us mad. Let's try some scenarios and see how we might deal with them and how we can find it in our hearts to forgive people.
  - What if a friend was playing with your favorite toy and they broke it?
  - How about if there was only one juice box left and your brother took it without even offering it, even though he had the second-to-last one yesterday?
  - What if your mom promised that she'd take you to the playground on Saturday, but she ended up having to go to work?
- A lot of times, both sides are right. The best way to approach situations like these is try to understand the other person's point of view and both offer and ask for forgiveness.
- The good news is that God is always there to forgive us! Unlike these images that do change, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever! **God's love is unchangeable!**

## ACTIVITY | Weird Hybrids ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write as many animals as you can think of on different slips of paper and put them in a box – branch out from the usual farm and zoo animals, too! Split your group into two teams. Each team sends up one person and they each pull out one slip of paper from the box. They need to

*combine the animals on their slips of paper and draw a picture of what this new hybrid animal would look like (e.g., a cow with octopus tentacles instead of legs). The first team to guess the correct two animals gets a point! You could choose to give a small reward to the team with the most points if you'd like.*

- Look at how we changed up all these animals . . . which is impossible in real life! Just like how it will be impossible to change God's love for us! **God's love is unchangeable!**

## PRAYER

- Dear God, your love is always there, even when we make mistakes. Your unchanging love helps me to be forgiven and to experience a new life. Thank you for giving us everything we need. Help us to be examples of your unchanging love. Amen

## SMALL GROUP TIME

## DISCUSSION

- **Where was David supposed to be?**
- **Why was it wrong for David to be in love with Bathsheba?**
- **How did David try to cover up what he had done?**
- **Re-read II Samuel 11:1. It can be dangerous when we're not where we're supposed to be. When have you found yourself in trouble because you were not where you were supposed to be or doing what you were supposed to do?**
- **How do you respond when you see something you really want, but can't have?**
- **What do you do after you've made a big mistake?**
- **Why does God still love us after we've done wrong things?**

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 55:8 (NIV) 

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- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*