

Bible Study: Living Outside the Box

Purpose: To encourage everyone to stay strong in their faith over the summer, and keep reading the Bible, and growing in God's word. We looked at some Biblical examples of people who lived by faith, and not by sight. These people thought outside the box, so to speak. We read about Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and Peter at the mount of transfiguration, and Saul who came to be known as Paul.

Illustration Ideas:

1. I made a printout of the pattern of a box. Keeping all the parts connected, it invariably becomes a cross-shaped pattern before folding. On the inside I had written Jesus Christ, and then folded it into a box and taped the sides. I then passed around the box to everyone, and had them write what they thought could hold them back, or box them in, from pursuing God to the fullest. At the end of the Bible study, we passed around scissors, and cut open the box, laying it out flat, and discussed how when you live outside the box, the cross is revealed.

2. I went to the hardware store, and bought wide, flat, round metal washers and wrote on each one "To It." I told the group: When at home over the summer, if you tell yourself, "I'll read the Bible when I get a round-to-it," I've given you all round-to-it's ahead of time, so don't let that hold you back. Make time to read God's word.

2 KINGS 2:1-18 – Elisha succeeds Elijah

Q: Why do you think Elisha refused to leave Elijah's side?

Q: What was the significance of Elisha telling the other prophets to be quiet?

Q: What is significant of the mantle?

Q: What do you think Elisha was thinking when the chariots came and took Elijah?

Q: Why did Elisha tell the prophets not to search for Elijah?

Q: What lesson can we learn about living outside the box?

MATTHEW 17:1-13 – The Transfiguration

Q: What do you think was the significance of Elijah & Moses appearing with Jesus?

Q: Was Peter correct in his enthusiasm, wanting to build three temples?

Q: How was Peter corrected by God the Father?

Q: What lesson can we learn from what happened at the Mount of Transfiguration?

Q: What did Jesus mean when He spoke about Elijah returning?

Q: What lesson can we learn about living outside the box?

ACTS 9:1-31 – The conversion of Saul

Q: Who was Saul, and what was his passion?

Q: Why didn't Jesus just send one of the disciples to talk to Saul?

Q: What is the significance of Saul becoming blinded?

Q: Were the disciples justified in their hesitancy to accept Saul?

Q: What did Saul do when he was being persecuted for his newfound belief?

Q: What is significant about the actions of Barnabas towards Saul and the apostles?

Q: What lesson can we learn about living outside the box?

