



WEEK TWO: WHAT DOES GOD DO?

Appetizer

Have you ever wondered what God does on a daily basis? It's kind of a funny question, because it's not like God has a checklist of things to get done each week. But this question can help us understand what God is up to in our world and how we can follow Him in this mission. And this question also reminds us that the God who is great and good is also active all around us.

In this week's *Snack Pack* devotions, we discovered how God is active in our everyday lives even when we don't realize it. Today, we're going to let you create some stories to remind us of this truth. Let me give you an example: A fireman named Ed lost his job, and the bank was about to take his house away. But then his church rallied around him and collected some money to help him pay his mortgage for a month. Then one of his friends from church helped Ed find a new job. Six months later, Ed told his friends at church how they had reminded him that God does not abandon us and that He delivers us from hard situations.

(Teachers: Divide the students into groups of three or four. Tell each group to come up with a story about how God is active in the life of a character. Assign each group a different character - for example, a fourth-grade teacher, a football coach, a dance instructor, and an astronaut. Give the groups about five minutes to come up with their stories and then have one member of each group share its story. The stories should not last longer than two minutes. If your students are having trouble coming up with stories, remind them of the things we saw God do in this week's devotions - love, act, guide, deliver, and transform.)

Main Course

It's often hard for all of us to believe something we can't feel, taste, see, touch, or hear. But if we are going to follow God as He acts in our world, we must move beyond our five senses and trust Him. This isn't always easy, but the stories we just heard remind us that it is possible. The truth is that God is always active in our lives.

When you read the Bible, you see that God loves to act in the lives of people. Just like a parent acts in the life of his or her child, God acts in the lives of His children. He does this because He really cares about us. Let's look at a story from the Bible that shows us one of the things that God does in our lives.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21

This passage teaches us a ton about how God acts in the lives of His people. We see that God chose to speak to Samuel so that He could guide this boy's life. And just as God jumped into Samuel's life, He does the same thing in our lives. Samuel was not looking for God to act in His life. He didn't even recognize God's voice. But God was

patient and persistent so that He could act in Samuel's life. As a result, Samuel followed God and became part of God's bigger story.

The thing we want you to remember today is that God is active. He moves and He cares. He guides and He delivers. He transforms us so that we can become the kind of people He wants us to be. The story of Samuel is a perfect example of this. Samuel was just a kid like you, but God acted in his life. So even if it's hard for you to believe that God is really active, the truth is that He is. God is moving in your life even right now.

Dessert

We all love stories. We love using our imagination to create stories like we did a little while ago. And we love reading great stories. One of the best things about the Bible is that so much of it is stories. Even Jesus loved to tell stories to teach people. Before we go today, let's name some stories from the Bible in which God acted to help people. (Teachers: Give your students about three minutes to list some of these stories. As they do, give a few details on each story so that students learn about these stories.)

All the stories we've heard today remind us that God really is active. He has stepped into the lives of millions of people to love, guide, deliver, and transform, and He continues to do this in our lives today. We always have hope because our God is active!