ZONDERVAN

Faith Commander Children's Curriculum
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Today’s world is full of activities that are opposite of what is pleasing to God, and children need the truth of God’s Word in their lives to help them navigate the right course. In this curriculum, our goal is to help them gain a better understanding of the parables of Jesus and how those parables should guide their behavior. Jesus was a powerful storyteller, and in the curriculum we will provide some modern-day retellings of these parables so your kids will see that God’s laws are just as important today as they were two thousand years ago.

This may be the first time that some of your kids have encountered these parables. It may be the first time that they have really listened to Jesus’s teachings and sought to apply those lessons to their lives. It may be the first time they have received instruction on how God wants them to forgive others, pray for others, and be kind to others. It may be the first time they have been challenged to have a “redonkulous” faith in Jesus and truly obey God.

The Faith Commander curriculum will give the children in your group the opportunity to learn biblical lessons from characters dressed as the Robertsons from Duck Dynasty®, play games, do interactive craft projects, hear stories, and more. They will wiggle, giggle, get messy, and get involved in the parables of Jesus and the antics of the Robertson family.

This curriculum was developed to allow for flexibility in format and teaching style. You can use it for midweek or Sunday programming, but it is certainly not limited to those times. It will work in a variety of teaching formats and time frames.

We hope that you and your church will have a lot of fun with Willie and the gang. But most importantly, we pray that your children will experience the love of God, learn from God’s Word, and be strengthened in their faith.

In Him,
Korie and Chrys

The Faith Commander curriculum has been written to meet the needs and teaching styles required for three separate age groups: (1) preschoolers, (2) early elementary (kindergarteners through second graders), and (3) later
elementary (third graders through fifth graders. Each lesson is divided into the following components:

**STEP 1**
**COME TOGETHER**

**Introduce and Give Context for the Lesson**
Each lesson begins with gathering your children together. During this time, you will pique their interest in your subject matter for the day through an interactive game, discussion, or activity. At the end of this time, your Storyteller will blow a “duck call” (or whistle) and lead your kids to the teaching area.

**STEP 2**
**PRESENT THE STORY**

**Teach and/or Act Out the Parable**
In this section of the lesson, your children will listen to a modern-day retelling of one of Jesus’s parables as performed or told by Uncle Si, Jep, Jase, Phil, Willie, and others in the Robertson family (the preschool scripts are understandably shorter and less involved). It’s important for this step that you plan ahead and have all your supplies, props, and volunteers in place so that the lesson runs smoothly. In addition, you will need to recruit some actors to play the parts of the Robertson family and rehearse their lines in the script. Your volunteers can dress the parts as elaborately as they like, but here are some basic ideas for what they could wear:

Uncle Si — camo cap, T-shirt/camo shirt, glasses, gray hair/beard, carries plastic cup
Jep — bandana, long brown hair, brown beard, plaid shirt/T-shirt
Willie — bandana, long brown hair, brown beard, plaid shirt
Korie — long blond hair
Jase — black stocking cap and clothing, long brown hair, brown beard
Phil — long gray hair, gray beard, camo headband, camo clothes
Miss Kay — shoulder-length black hair, apron

Before the story or skit begins, your children will have the opportunity to sing a few worship songs to God. For this time, you can either recruit some volunteers to serve as your “Rockin’ Rednecks” worship band, or you can download and play a few of the songs that are recommended at the start of the lesson.

**STEP 3**
**EXPLORE THE STORY**

**Reinforce the Main Theme**
During this step, you will lead your group through different options to extend and reinforce the teaching time. Each activity requires different supplies and preparation, so read through the options and take note of supplies you will need to order or gather in advance. Feel free to tailor the activities to fit the space and supplies you have on hand.

**STEP 4**
**PRAY AND DISMISS**

**Pray Together and Conclude the Lesson**
At the end of each lesson, you will have a time of prayer in which you ask God to help the children put the principle they learned into effect. You will close your time by encouraging your group to memorize the verse for the week and hand out a copy of the *Family Table Talk* take-home sheet.
LESSON 1
REDDONKULOUS FAITH!

OBJECTIVE: To teach each child that God wants our faith to grow and grow.
MEMORY VERSE: “Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith” (1 Corinthians 16:13 NIRV).
REDNECK RHYME: “Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!”
ROCKIN’ REDNECK SONGS: “By Faith,” by Jeff Slaughter; “King of the Jungle,”
from Great Worship Songs for Kids.

STEP 1
COME TOGETHER
Welcome the children to the group. Play music in the background to help create a fun and welcoming environment while the children engage in social play. Allow them to choose from toys in the room or participate in one of the following activities.

OPTION 1
FAITH COMMANDER WELCOME CERTIFICATE
Supplies: Faith Commander Welcome Certificate (one per child), markers, and stickers.
Give each child a Faith Commander Welcome Certificate. Have the children write their name on it and decorate the certificate. Share your excitement for this new Faith Commander series!

OPTION 2
FAITH COMMANDER FAITH WALK
Supplies: Full-size photos of Jase, Jep, Korie, Miss Kay, Phil, and Uncle Si; smaller wallet-sized photos of the Robertsons; basket; music; music player; prizes (optional).
Teacher Prep: Print off the photos of the Robertson family members (you can easily find these online). Tape the larger photos of the Robertsons in a circle on the floor. Place the smaller matching photos in a basket. (Note: With larger groups, you may choose to play the game with only six children at a time, or you can play with more than one circle at a time, duplicating supplies as necessary.)
• For this option, you will invite kids to play an activity similar to the classic childhood game Cake Walk.
• Begin by saying, “I’m so glad you are here
with us! During the next few weeks, we’ll be getting to know the Robertson family members from the TV show Duck Dynasty®. So, let’s play a fun game to help us learn the names of the Robertsons.”

• Have the children stand on one of the Robertson family member photos. When you play the music, the children will walk around the circle on the different photos. When the music stops, so do the kids. Pick a picture from the basket. The person who is standing on the photo of that person wins!

• Say, “The Robertson family loves to tell others about faith, family, and ducks! Today, they’ll be teaching us about having a ‘Redonkulous’ Faith! I’m so glad you are here with us.”

**OPTION 3**

**FAITH COMMANDER**

**BEAN BAG TOSS**

**Supplies:** Bean bags, four buckets (labeled “hard path,” “rocky,” “thorny,” and “good soil”), four zip-top bags (one with good soil, one with rocks, one with thorns/weeds, one with a piece of cement), masking tape.

**Teacher Prep:** Line up the four labeled buckets along one side of the room. Place the zip-top bag in the coordinating bucket. Take about six steps back from the basket and mark a line on the floor using masking tape.

• Say, “I am so glad you are here with us for Faith Commander! In our Bible study today, we’ll be learning about four types of ground—a hard path, rocky ground, thorny ground, and good soil. We will begin by seeing who can toss bean bags into these buckets!”

• Have the children form a single file line behind the masking tape. Give each child four turns to toss the bean bag into the buckets. Award one point if they can land the bean bag in the hard path, rocky, or thorny buckets, and three points if they can make it into good soil bucket.

• Continue until all the children have taken a turn or time runs out. As the children are playing, be sure to emphasize the four types of soil (e.g., “Way to go, Jack! You made it in the thorny soil!”) Conclude by stating that today they will hear a story from the Bible where Jesus talks about these four different types of soil—and how the good soil will best help our faith to grow and grow!”

*When the Storyteller blows the duck call, it’s almost time to begin the Bible story and worship time. Have the children help clean up the toys and coloring supplies. (You may want to play/sing a “clean up song” to speed up the process.) When the children have picked up all the toys, lead them to the teaching area for a time of fun worship music and a Bible story. Ask small group leaders and/or classroom helpers to sit with the kids, provide crowd control, and participate as directed by the Storyteller.*
**Actors:** Storyteller, Uncle Si, Rockin’ Redneck Praise Team.

**Supplies:** Duck call (for the Storyteller); beard, bandana, camouflage, and iced tea cup (for Uncle Si); farmer’s hat; seeds for “planting”; bag or basket to hold the seeds; four zip-top bags—one with good soil, one with rocks, one with thorns or weeds, and one with a piece of cement.

**STORYTELLER:** Welcome to Faith Commander! We are so glad you are here! So, how many of you have seen the TV show *Duck Dynasty®*? (Kids respond, “Yay!”) All right! Well, today Uncle Si from *Duck Dynasty®* is going to help us tell a story from the Bible. But before we do that, we’re all gonna sing some songs. So let’s bring out our Rockin’ Redneck Praise Team to help us. Join me in giving them a big redneck welcome! On the count of three, let’s say, “Hey, Jack!”

The Rockin’ Rednecks come out and lead a few worship songs (choose the Rockin’ Redneck song options noted at the beginning of the lesson or songs of your own choosing).

**STORYTELLER:** That’s some gooood singin’! Okay, now please sit with me on the floor. Let’s see if you can follow my lead and do everything I do. (Do a variety of motions such as smiling, patting your head, and folding your arms. These should be motions that you do not have to get up and move around to do. Continue as long as there is interest.) Y’all are great at following my directions!

Now, when you follow someone, you do the same thing that person does, right? (Kids respond, “Right!”) We want to always follow Jesus, our Faith Commander. Today, we are going to learn a super-important way we can follow Jesus—by having a “Redonkulous” (reach your arms up high in the air) Faith. Can you say that word with me? (Redonkulous.) Can you say it and reach your arms up as high into the air as they will go? (Kids say “redonkulous” and lift their arms in the air.) One more time, this time in your craziest, most redonkulous voice? (Kids say “redonkulous” in crazy voices with their arms raised high in the air.)
Well, “redonkulous” is really just a funny way of saying huge, great, and ridiculous (*use big arm gestures*). It means we should have a huge or ridiculous amount of faith or trust in Jesus. So, whenever you hear that word today, I want you to reach your arms up high into the air to remind you how big and huge your faith in Jesus should be. One more time! (*Kids say “redonkulous” with their arms raised in the air.*) Nice job! That was pretty redonkulous (*kids raise their arms high up in the air*)

You guys ready to hear from my friend Uncle Si? (*Kids respond, “Yay!” Lean in and whisper to capture the children’s attention.*) Actually, he’s not the real Uncle Si. The real Uncle Si is busy making duck calls (*blow duck call*), like this one here, down in Louisiana. On the count of three, let’s say, “Hey, Uncle Si!”

**UNCLE SI:** Hey! It’s good to be here, Jack! I’m Uncle Si. I was wondering, do you ever feel hungry? Like, so hungry your tummy even growls a bit? (*Kids respond.*) I sure do! Well, I remember one time when we had to make a bunch of these here duck calls (*show duck call to kids*). Willie came in and said Jep and me had to make tons of these duck calls that day. Oh, but my stomach was feeling reeeaaallly hungry. You know what I mean, Jack? And, hey, I was so hungry, I couldn’t think of nothing—nothing but food. I tried to talk Jep into leaving with me for an early lunch, but he wouldn’t go. Jep said we had to get the work done for Willie first.

Finally, all I could think about was frog legs and cornbread and ham sammiches and—oh, I was so hungry I couldn’t take it no more! I told Jep I had to get something to eat, and now. So I left Jep to finish making the duck calls all by himself. Well, when Willie found Jep hard at work and me not there . . . let’s just say Willie was not happy. He gave Jep a big ol’ yummy lunch at Miss Kay’s. I sure missed out on that one. Bummer. And that’s a fact, Jack. Hey! I gotta get back to work, kids, or Willie will be lookin’ for me again. I’m gone!

**STORYTELLER:** Let’s thank Uncle Si for visiting with us (*lead in clapping*). You know, that reminds me of a story Jesus told in the Bible about a farmer who scattered some seeds. (*Storyteller puts on the farmer’s hat and holds the bag or basket with seeds.*)

In this story, a farmer went out to plant his garden (*shake
the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). As he was throwing the seeds on the ground, some of it fell on a path where it was hard. Do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The birds came and ate it up! (Option: Have the children act like birds eating seeds off the path.)

The next seeds fell on some rocks, where there wasn’t much dirt around (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). The seeds started to grow up fast, because the dirt wasn’t very deep. But when the sun came up, do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The plants were too hot, and they fried in the heat because they had no roots. Oh no! (Option: Have the children act like withering plants in the heat.)

The farmer kept on throwing his seeds on the ground (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds), and some seeds fell among some weeds and thorns that he hadn’t pulled up. Do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The thorns grew up and choked the plants. Can you pretend to choke a plant? (Model this for the children.) Yikes!

Finally, some of the seeds fell on good soil (shake container and pretend to scatter some seeds). And do you know what happened when those seeds landed in good soil? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The seeds produced a huge, “redonkulous” (kids raise their arms in the air) crop of vegetables for the farmer. It was an amazing harvest! (Option: Have children act like a seed that can grow, grow, grow!)

Well, all Jesus’s friends wanted to know why Jesus had told them all this. They already knew that seeds would grow best in good soil! Duh, right? But Jesus said the story had a special meaning. It was really about people. The seeds (shake container) were like Jesus’s words from the Bible. Some people heard His stories and followed Him. Those people were like the good soil in the story. (Hold up zip-top bag filled with good soil.) They did everything that Jesus told them to do. They made good choices.

But other people didn’t do what Jesus told them to do. These people were like the other types of dirt. Some were like the path (hold up the zip-top bag with cement), or like the rocky ground (hold up the bag with rocks), or like the thorny ground (hold up the bag with thorns). What happened to all of the seeds
that fell in these kinds of dirt? Those seeds got eaten up by birds, or withered up by the sun, or got choked out by thorns. None of them grew up healthy and strong.

Wow! What a story! So, let’s see if we can remember the four types of soil. First we have the path (hold up the bag with cement). Second, we have the rocky soil (hold up the bag with rocks). Third, we have the soil with thorns (hold up the bag with thorns). And, finally, we have … what? (The kids respond, “Good soil!”). Great job! Now, let’s bring up Uncle Si again.

(Have Uncle Si come and stand in front of the class.)

**STORYTELLER:** All right, let’s put our best thinking cap on. Of the four types of soil (hold up the zip-top bags), do you think Uncle Si was good soil? (Kids respond, “No!”) Hmmm. Let’s think about this “thorny soil” for a minute. The thorny soil is like someone who cares more about himself than others. Would you say in this story that Uncle Si was thorny soil? (Let the kids respond.) That’s right, he was thorny soil. So, what got Uncle Si in trouble? (His hunger.) Right. Uncle Si’s need for food got in the way of him doing what Willie asked him to do. All right, thanks Uncle Si!

**UNCLE SI:** Hey! I’m gone. It’s time for me to take a nap. And that’s a fact, Jack!

**STORYTELLER:** Kids, this is super important. Jesus, our Faith Commander, says the Word of God, or the Bible, is like a “seed” that is planted in our hearts. A person who hears God’s Word (put hand on ear), prays (fold hands), and then does what the Bible says is like good soil. That is the kind of soil Jesus wants us to be. That will help us to have Redonkulous (kids raise their arms high in the air) Faith. Anyone want to be good soil? (Kids respond, “Yay!”)

There’s a song that will help us remember to have Redonkulous (kids raise their arms high in the air) Faith. It goes like this. (Start the song in a scrunched position, and as you say “grow,” grow taller. Sing it to the tune “The Wheels on the Bus.”)

> Read your Bible and pray every day, pray every day, pray every day.<br>Read your Bible and pray every day, and you’ll grow, grow, grow!
Great singing! Have a seat! *(Hold up the four bags of soil again.*)

So, what kind of soil does God want us to be? Hard? Rocky? Thorny? Or good soil? *(Kids respond, “Good soil!”)* Remember, one way that our faith will grow and grow and grow is when we read the Bible, pray, and try to do what the Bible asks us to do. Pretty soon we’ll have a Redonkulous *(kids raise their arms high in the air)* Faith!

During our time together at Faith Commander, we’ll be learning one new verse each week, so I have motions to help us remember this important verse. They go like this . . . *(Make up motions for the verse. Have the kids stand up and practice them.*)

Now, each week I’ll give you a card with the memory verse on it. Take this home and practice it, and if you can tell me the verse the next week, you will get a prize. *(Share the Memory Verse incentives, as available.)*

We’ll also be ending with a Redneck Rhyme—a short saying to help us remember the lesson. Are you ready for our first Redneck Rhyme? It goes like this: “Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!” Can you say that with me? *(“Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!”)* How ’bout saying our Redneck Rhyme one more time as loud as you can? *(“Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!” Storyteller gives the kids a big thumbs up!)*

Excellent! Let’s talk to God now and ask Him to help us remember what we’ve learned here today. “Dear God, thank You so much for Your Word, the Bible. Help us to listen to how You want us to live, and then do it. We want our faith to grow and grow and grow. In Jesus’s name, Amen.”

All right, gang, let’s play “follow the leader” over to your activity times.

*Duck calls blow and music plays as the kids head out to their group time activities.*
STEP 3
EXPLORE THE STORY

As time allows, select one of the following activities that works best for your group, or create a variety of stations for the kids to pick from within the classroom.

**OPTION 1**
FAITH COMMANDER FLOWER CUP

*Supplies: Styrofoam cups, memory verse labels, markers, stickers, crayons.*

*Teacher Prep: Write the memory verse on the labels (one for each child).*

- For this activity, have each child decorate a Styrofoam cup and put the memory verse label on the side of it.
- **Say,** “Who can remember what the seeds represented in our story today? *(Allow the kids to respond).* That’s right! The Bible. Now who can remember the four types of dirt in our story today? *(Allow the kids to respond).* That’s right! The hard path, rocky soil, thorny soil, and good soil. What kind of soil does God want us to be like? *(Allow the kids to respond).* That’s right! The good soil.”
- Encourage the children to plant some flower or grass seeds in their cups at home and “watch them grow” in good soil. Discuss how the seeds will grow when they are planted in good soil, just like we will grow when we are “planted” in God!

**OPTION 2**
REDONKULOUS FAITH SEED ART

*Supplies: Redonkulous Faith Seed Art sheet (one per child), card stock, seeds, glue, crayons.*

*Teacher Prep: Copy the seed art sheet on to card stock.*

- **Say,** “We learned today that Jesus, our Faith Commander, wants our faith to grow and grow. In other words, He wants our faith to be huge and redonkulous! One way our faith will grow redonkulous is by reading the Bible.”
- Pass out the Redonkulous Faith Seed Art sheet and the seeds. Remind the children that the “seed” in the Bible story today represents God’s Word, the Bible. Have the children color and decorate their paper and then glue the seeds in the center of the sunflower.
- **Say,** “What awesome sunflowers! As followers of Jesus, we want our faith to grow and grow. Keep this paper in a special place. When you see it, remember that your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger! Ask God to help your faith in Him grow more and more every day!”

**OPTION 3**
PASS THE DUCK, JACK!

*Supplies: Stuffed/rubber duck.*

- Have the children gather together in a big circle. Review the memory verse three times—once in a whisper, once in slow motion, and once as fast as you can. Now pass the duck around the circle. The child who receives the duck says the next word in the verse. You may
want to go clockwise first, and then counterclockwise, and then the third time allow the children to “gently pass, not throw” the duck to anyone in the circle.

• **Say,** “Awesome job! God wants us to have a Redonkulous Faith! One way our faith will grow redonkulous is by reading the Bible. So, don’t forget we’ll be memorizing one new verse each week. Now that you all know this week’s verse, you can help the rest of your family memorize it at home!”

**STEP 4**

**PRAY AND DISMISS**

*Supplies:* *Family Table Talk handout (one per child).*

• As you prepare for dismissal, pray together and ask God to help each child grow in his or her faith this week. Encourage the children to spend time memorizing 1 Corinthians 16:13 at home. Make sure each child leaves with his or her take-home activities, including the first memory verse card and Family Table Talk handout.

• As parents arrive, introduce them to the Family Table Talk handout and encourage them to spend time around their dinner table talking about “Faith, Family, and Ducks”—in that order, of course!
Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith.
(1 Corinthians 16:13)
LESSON 1: Redonkulous Faith!

Be on your guard.
Stand firm in the faith.
(1 Corinthians 16:13)

LESSON 2: Radical Forgiveness!

Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.
(Colossians 3:13)

LESSON 3: Ravenous Prayer!

Tell God about everything.
Ask and pray.
Give thanks to him.
(Philippians 4:6)

LESSON 4: Real Obedience!

The way we show our love is to obey God’s commands.
(2 John 1:6)

LESSON 5: Rowdy Kindness!

Put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes.
(Colossians 3:12)

MEMORY VERSE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Photocopy on card stock (one per child) and cut out each lesson’s memory verse. Hand out one new verse card each week. You can also hole-punch and provide mini rings so the children can collect all five verse cards.
FAITH COMMANDER
CHILDREN’S CURRICULUM
EARLY ELEMENTARY
(GRADES K–2)

KORIE ROBERTSON & CHRYSS HOWARD
LESSON 1
REDONKULOUS
FAITH!

OBJECTIVE: To teach students that following God requires a “redonkulous” amount of faith.


MEMORY VERSE: “Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith” (1 Corinthians 16:13 NIRV).

REDNECK RHYME: “Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!”


STEP 1:
COME TOGETHER

Welcome the children to the group. Play music in the background to help create a fun and welcoming environment. When everyone is settled, select one of the following activities that works best for your group, or create a variety of stations for the kids to pick from within the classroom.

OPTION 1
FAITH COMMANDER WELCOME BADGE

Supplies: Faith Commander Welcome Badge (one per child), markers, stickers.

Teacher Prep: Print out the badges onto card stock and cut out.

Give each child a Faith Commander Welcome Badge. Have the children write their names and decorate the badge. Share your excitement for this new Faith Commander series!

OPTION 2
PIN THE BEARD ON THE ROBERTSONS

Supplies: Individual photos of Jase, Jep, Willie, Phil, and Uncle Si Robertson (two of each), blindfold, masking tape.

Teacher Prep: Print out two photos of each of the Robertson men. For each of the two sets of photos, cut the beard out of one, and throw the rest of the photo away. Put a piece of masking tape on the back of the beard. Hang the other photo of each Robertson on a wall. Place a piece of masking tape on the floor to serve as a starting line.

Say, “I am so glad you are here with us for Faith Commander! Over the next few weeks, we’ll be getting to know Phil, Jep,
Jase, Willie, Uncle Si, and the other Robertson family members from the TV show *Duck Dynasty®* a bit better. Today, let’s play a game to help us remember the names of the Robertson men.”

- **Instruct** the children to line up behind the line you have set up. When it is the children’s turn, give them one of the five beards, blindfold them, spin them around three times, and have them attempt to pin the beard on the matching Robertson family member. The person with the closest beard placement to each Robertson wins.

- **Conclude by saying,** “Great job! Phil, Jase, Willie, Uncle Si, and the other Robertson family members love telling others about their faith, family, and ducks—in that order! Today, they are going to teach us about having a ‘redonkulous’ faith. We will learn that our heart is the trigger to help our faith grow bigger and bigger.”

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**OPTION 3**

**HOT DUCK!**

**Supplies:** Stuffed/rubber duck, music player, music.

- **Say,** “I am so glad you are here with us for Faith Commander! Let’s play a fun game to get to know you better.”

- **Invite** the children to stand or sit in a circle. Hand the stuffed/rubber duck to the first child, and have him or her gently pass it around the circle as you play the music. When you stop the music, the child who is holding the duck must share his or her name and something that he or she loves (for example, “I love hockey,” or “I love chocolate chip cookies”). Continue the game until everyone has shared or the time is up.

- **Conclude** by stating that over the next few weeks, the group will be getting to know the Robertson family members from *Duck Dynasty* a bit better.

- **Say,** “The Robertson family loves telling others about their faith, family, and ducks—in that order! Today, they are going to help teach us about having a ‘redonkulous’ faith. We’ll learn that our heart is the trigger to help our faith grow bigger and bigger.”

When the Storyteller blows the duck call, lead your group to the teaching area. The Storyteller and worship team will then lead the skit and story time. Ask small group leaders and/or classroom helpers to sit with the kids, provide crowd control, and participate as directed by the Storyteller.
SERENDIPITY

**Actors:** Storyteller, Uncle Si, Jep, Willie, the Rockin’ Redneck Praise Team, one volunteer (to hold the “one hour later” sign).

**Supplies:** Duck call (for the Storyteller); beards, bandanas, camouflage, and similar items (for Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie); a farmer’s hat; seeds for “planting”; a bag or basket to hold the seeds; four zip-top bags—one with good soil, one with rocks, one with thorns or weeds, and one containing a piece of cement; a sign that says, “one hour later.”

**STORYTELLER:** Hey, y’all! Welcome to Faith Commander! Are y’all feelin’ redneck crazy excited to be here? *(Kids respond, “Yes!”)* So, how many of you have seen the TV show *Duck Dynasty®*? *(Kids respond, “Yay!”)* Well, during the next five weeks—with help from the Robertson family—we’ll be sharing five great lessons from the Bible. Now, if you’ve never seen *Duck Dynasty®* before, don’t you worry! Before long those Robertsons will feel like they’re old friends!

Now, I should warn you—you won’t want to miss a week of Faith Commander! It’s gonna be a rootin’ tootin’ fun time, y’all! And you know what else? Our entire church is going to be learning the same lesson every week, so you can talk to your whole family about it at home too! Isn’t that awesome!

For the next few weeks, we’ll be learning important ways we can follow Jesus, our ultimate Faith Commander! Today, we’ll discover that we can follow Jesus by having a “redonkulous” amount of faith. Now, you might be wondering what the word “redonkulous” means. “Redonkulous” is just a funny way of saying ridiculous. So, in other words, we should have a ridiculously huge amount of faith! Can you say that word with me? *(Redonkulous.)* One more time—this time in your craziest, most redonkulous voice. *(Redonkulous.)* Nice job! That was pretty redonkulous!

Now, before we move to our Bible story, we’re gonna sing some songs. So let’s bring out our Rockin’ Redneck Praise Team to help us. Join me in giving them a big redneck welcome! On the count of three, let’s say, “Hey, Jack!”
The Rockin’ Rednecks come out and lead a few worship songs (choose the Rockin’ Redneck song options noted at the beginning of the lesson or songs of your own choosing).

**STORYTELLER:** That’s some gooood singin’! So, are you ready to learn more about Redonkulous Faith? *(Kids respond, “Yay!”)* Shall we see if Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie Robertson can help us? *(Kids respond, “Yes!”)* Okay, let’s check in and see what’s goin’ on in the Duck Call Shop today!

*(The action moves across the stage, where Uncle Si and Jep are working in the Duck Call Shop. Willie enters.)*

**UNCLE SI:** Well, loookkkkeee here! It’s Boss Hog!

**WILLIE:** Pipe down, Si! All right, so here’s the deal. We have a big order coming up, and I need your best work. We need to make a bunch of different duck calls, so this is gonna take teamwork and dedication. I’ll be back soon. I have a conference call with their head guys right now to finalize everything.

**UNCLE SI:** Teamwork? Dedication? I’m gonna need a nap, Jack!

**JEP:** He gone!

*(The volunteer walks across the front with a sign that says “one hour later.”)*

**JEP:** How many duck calls did Willie say we need to make?

**UNCLE SI:** You know, I don’t remember him sayin’.

**JEP:** Well, this seems like enough. Besides, my stomach is growlin’.

**UNCLE SI:** Your stomach is always growlin’. You can’t fill that thing up. But come to think of it . . . I’m hungry too. Let’s go!

**JEP:** What about the order? Willie said it had to be done today.

**UNCLE SI:** Well, my stomach is sayin’ it needs to be fed today!

**JEP:** Well, I’m stayin’.
**UNCLE SI:** Are you telling me you’re gonna miss out on lunch?

**JEP:** Yep. I’m stayin’.

**UNCLE SI:** Seriously? You’re gonna stay here and miss out on the pizza buffet just to finish up some duck calls for Willie?

**JEP:** Yep.

**UNCLE SI:** Well, you finish up the order then.

*(Uncle Si laughs and exits. A volunteer walks across the front with a sign that says “one hour later.” Willie enters the Duck Call Shop.)*

**WILLIE:** Where is everyone?

**JEP:** Wellll …

**WILLIE:** Jep, have you been workin’ here alone on all these duck calls?

**JEP:** Yep!

**WILLIE:** Well, come on! Miss Kay just called, and she is laying out a huge feast of our favorite foods. She invited us to come over and eat it.

**JEP:** We gone!

*(The actors leave the stage. Storyteller walks out holding a Bible.)*

**STORYTELLER:** Let’s give our actors a hand *(lead in clapping)*. You know, today’s skit reminds me of a story that Jesus told when He was here on earth. Now, I’m curious, does anyone here know what a “parable” is? *(Allow the kids to respond.)*

Well, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. In other words, it’s a story that uses everyday things to show us a spiritual truth. Jesus used parables to teach people about God and His kingdom. One important story that Jesus told was about a farmer who scattered seeds. *(Storyteller puts on the farmer’s hat and holds the bag or basket with seeds.)*

In this story, a farmer went out to “sow” his seeds. Now, we don’t use that word much today, but it means that he was planting his seeds by scattering them around. As he was doing this, some of the seeds fell on a hard path *(shake the container and
pretend to scatter some seeds). Do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The birds came and ate up all those seeds. Gone! (Option: Have the children act like birds eating seeds off the path.)

The farmer continued to plant his seeds (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). Some of them fell among the rocks, where there wasn’t much dirt, or soil. The seeds grew up fast, because the soil wasn’t deep. But when the sun came out, do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The plants that grew up got too hot, and they all dried out. They didn’t have any roots. Oh, no! (Option: Have the children act like withering plants in the heat.)

Well, the farmer kept on a plantin’ (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). Some of the seeds fell among thorns. And do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The thorns grew up and choked the plants. Can you pretend to choke a plant? (Model this for the children.) Wow!

Now, the farmer also planted some seeds that fell on good soil (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). What do you think happened where those seeds fell in good soil? (Lean in and whisper to grab kids’ attention.) That’s right—the seeds grew into healthy and strong plants. The farmer had an amazing harvest! (Option: Have children act like a seed that can grow, grow, grow!)

After Jesus told this story, all of His friends looked confused. Can you look at your friends like you are really confused? (Storyteller models confused look.) Yes! The people didn’t understand what the story meant. So Jesus told them that the story had a special meaning. He said, “This story is really about people. The seeds (shake the container) are like those people who hear My stories and follow Me. They are like the good soil (hold up the zip-top bag containing the good soil). When I say to be kind, they are kind. When I say they should love one another, they love one another. They make good choices!”

But then Jesus said, “Some people make Me sad, because when I teach them to be good and to be kind, they are still mean to each another. These people have hard hearts like the path and the rocky ground.” (Storyteller holds up zip-top bags containing cement and rocks.) Jesus also said, “Some people are like the thorny soil (hold up the zip-top bag with thorns). They are so
worried about themselves that they get forget what the Bible says. They get distracted. Instead of caring about their friends and their neighbors, they just care about themselves.”

Wow! What a story! So, let’s see if we can remember the four types of soil. First we have the path *(hold up the zip-top bag with cement)*. Second, we have the rocky soil *(hold up the bag with rocks)*. Third, we have the soil with thorns *(hold up the bag with thorns)*. And, finally, we have … what? *(The kids respond, “Good soil!”)*. Great job! We also learned that Jesus wasn’t really talking about soil, or dirt, but about people. Jesus was talking about what people like you and me do when we hear God’s words in the Bible.

Great job! Now, let’s bring up Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie again.

*(Have Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie come and stand in front of the class.)*

**STORYTELLER:** Let’s whisper the four types of soil. *(Kids whisper while Storyteller holds up each of the four zip-top bags in turn.)*

Awesome! Okay, let’s think about the thorns for a minute. The thorny soil is when people get so worried about themselves that they get distracted. Instead of caring about others, they care about themselves. So, in our skit, who acted like the person who had the seeds fall among the thorns? *(Uncle Si.)* That’s right! And what distracted him? *(His hunger.)* Yep. Uncle Si decided it was more important to get lunch than make duck calls and do what Willie wanted him to do.

So, who in our skit acted like the person who had the seed fall on good soil? *(Jep.)* Right. Jep didn’t let his hunger get in the way of doing what Willie had asked. And Jep ended up getting rewarded with a super good meal at Miss Kay’s, didn’t he? Yum!

All right, thanks Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie! *(Jep, Uncle Si, and Willie say “We gone!” and exit.)*

Kids, this is super important. Jesus, our Faith Commander, says the Word of God, or the Bible, is like a … *(shake seed container and let the kids respond)*. That’s right! When we read the Bible, it’s like a “seed” is planted in our hearts. When we hear God’s Word *(put a hand on your ear)*, try to understand what it says *(point to your mind)*, and then do what it says, it is like a seed that is planted in good soil. That is the kind of soil that Jesus wants us to be!
(Hold up the four bags of soil again.) What kind of soil are you? Are you hard, like the path? Are you rocky? Are you thorny? Or are you the good soil? Remember, if we read the Bible, try to understand what it says, and then do what it says, pretty soon we’ll have a Redonkulous Faith. We will be able to stand up and be strong for God. Anyone want to be good soil? (Kids respond, “Yay!”)

During our time together at Faith Commander, we’ll be learning one new verse each week. This week’s memory verse will remind us to have a Redonkulous Faith. I’ll say our verse first, and then you follow along. (Have the memory verse written on the board or on a Power Point slide, if possible.) “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith” (1 Corinthians 16:13 NIRV).

Don’t worry—I have motions to help us remember this important verse. They go like this . . . (Make up motions for the verse. Have the kids stand up and practice them.) Each week I am going to give you a card with the memory verse on it. Take this home and practice it, and if you can tell me the verse next week, you will get a prize. (Share the Memory Verse incentives, as available.)

Each week, we’ll also be ending with a Redneck Rhyme—a short saying that will hopefully stick in our heads to help us remember the lesson. Are you ready for our first Redneck Rhyme? It goes like this: “Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!” Can you say that with me? (“Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!”) How ’bout saying our Redneck Rhyme one more time as loud as you can? (“Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!” Storyteller gives the kids a big thumbs up!)

Okay, let’s talk to God. “Dear God, thank You so much for the Bible. Help us to listen to You when You tell us how to live, and go out and do it. We want to grow up strong in our faith to serve You. In Jesus’s name, Amen.”

All right, kids, we had a great lesson today about having a Redonkulous Faith. Now you are about break and go to your groups to have more fun!

Duck calls blow and music plays as the kids head out to their group time activities.
Explore and discuss how today’s Bible story applies to real-life experiences through activities and discussion questions. Choose any or all of these options to help your class explore the lesson further.

**OPTION 1: SOIL REVIEW**

*Supplies:* Soil Review sheet (one per child), markers.  
*Teacher Prep:* Print out and complete one Soil Review paper to serve as an example.

- Review once more with the children the four different kinds of soil from the Parable of the Sower.
- Hand out the Soil Review sheet and show the children the different pictures you’ve drawn on your paper. Instruct the children to draw a similar picture in each of the squares that represents each type of soil.
- **Ask,** “What were the seeds in Jesus’ story?” *(God’s Word, or the Bible.)* Tell the group that the people listening to Jesus’ story aren’t very different from us today. We also can get busy, or distracted, or just forget to read God’s Word. What kind of soil does God want you to be like? *(The good soil.)* What are some ways you can grow in your faith?” *(Go to church, pray, read the Bible, share about Jesus with your family and friends.)*

**OPTION 2: SEED ART BOOKMARK**

*Supplies:* Colored card stock, seeds, markers, crayons, glue, hole punch, ribbon.  

- Begin by stating that today we learned that Jesus, our Faith Commander, wants our faith to grow and grow—in other words, to be big and “redonkulous”! One way our faith will grow and get “redonkulous” is by spending time in God’s Word, the Bible.
- Let each child select a piece of card stock and a seed. Remind the children that the “seed” in the Bible story they heard today represents God’s Word. Instruct the children to write, “I will hide God’s Word in my heart” on the card stock. Next, they can decorate the bookmark and glue seeds on it.
- **Conclude by saying,** “What awesome bookmarks! We want to be like the good soil in our story. We want our faith to grow and grow! Now, I want you to keep this bookmark in a special place. When you see it, you will remember that your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger. Ask God to help your faith grow more and more each day!”

**OPTION 3: FAITH COMMANDER WHISPERS**

- Have the children gather in a big circle (the bigger the group the better for this activity). Share the memory verse (“Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith”) with the first person in the group. Ask that person to pass it on to the next person by memory, and then the next person does the same thing. When the last person states the verse, see if it still matches what you told the first person.
- **Say,** “Awesome job! We want to have a
Redonkulous Faith, don’t we? Well, one way our faith can grow and grow and be *redonkulous* is by memorizing God’s Word. Don’t forget we’ll be memorizing one new verse each week. Now that you know this week’s verse, you can help the rest of your family memorize it at home!”

**STEP 4**

**PRAY AND DISMISS**

*Supplies:* Family Table Talk handout (one per child).

As you prepare for dismissal, pray together and ask God to help each child grow in his or faith this week. Encourage the children to spend time memorizing 1 Corinthians 16:13 at home. Make sure each child leaves with his or her take-home activities, including this week’s memory verse card and Family Table Talk handout.

As parents arrive, introduce them to the Family Table Talk handout and encourage them to spend time around their dinner table talking about “Faith, Family, and Ducks”—in that order, of course!
INSTRUCTIONS: Photocopy, cut out, and provide one to each child.

SOIL REVIEW

ROCKY SOIL

WEEDY SOIL

HARD SOIL

GOOD SOIL
LESSON 1
REDONKULOUS FAITH!

OBJECTIVE: To teach students that following God requires a “redonkulous” amount of faith.


REDNECK RHYME: “Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!”


STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Welcome the children to the group. Play music in the background to help create a fun and welcoming environment. When everyone is settled, select one of the following activities that works best for your group, or create a variety of stations for the kids to pick from within the classroom.

OPTION 1
DUCK HUNT PAPER AIRPLANE GAME

Supplies: Preprinted pictures of ducks, colorful paper.
Teacher Prep: Print the pictures of the ducks, cut out, and place on a wall.

• Hand out pieces of paper and invite the children to make paper airplanes. Show the group the pictures of the ducks on the wall and explain that each duck they hit with their paper airplane will earn them 10 points.
• Give each child three opportunities to fly his or her airplane and award points for each round. After everyone has taken a turn, declare the child with the most points the winner. Collect the paper airplanes until the end of class, and then redistribute them as the children leave.
• Conclude by stating, “I’m so glad that you are here with us for Faith Commander! During the next few weeks, we will be getting to know the Robertson family from the show Duck Dynasty®. Today, they are going to help us learn about having a ‘Redonkulous’ Faith! We’ll learn that our heart is the trigger to help our faith grow bigger and bigger.”
OPTION 2

DUCK CALLS

Supplies: Drinking straws, children’s scissors, markers.

- **Say,** “I am so glad you are here with us for Faith Commander! Today, we are going to make our own ‘duck calls,’ just like the Robertson family does for a living.”
- **Hand out one drinking straw to each child.** Have the children flatten the end of the straw and then cut a triangle shape in the end to make a point. Instruct them to put their name on their “duck call” and decorate it with the markers.
- **Have the children place the pointed end in their mouth and blow.** Let them take turns getting their duck call down. Once they are finished, collect the duck calls until the end of class, and then redistribute them as the children leave.
- **Say,** “The Robertson family members from the show *Duck Dynasty®* love telling others about their faith, family, and ducks—in that order! Today, they are going to help us learn about having a ‘Redonkulous’ Faith! We’ll learn our heart is the trigger to help our faith grow bigger and bigger.”

OPTION 3

FAITH COMMANDER WRISTBANDS

Supplies: Duct tape (assorted colors, especially camoouflage if possible), child scissors, ruler, markers, stickers, glitter (optional).

**Teacher Prep:** Cut several eight-inch strips of duct tape for the children to use. Make one bracelet ahead of time to serve as an example.

- **Say,** “I am so glad that you are here with us for Faith Commander! The Robertson family members love telling others about their faith. In fact, today they are going to help us learn about having a ‘Redonkulous’ Faith!”
- **Distribute the precut duct tape and have the children place one strip exactly on top of another.** They should now have a non-sticky strip of duct tape. Ask them to decorate with stickers and glitter. Once they have decorated the bracelets, instruct them to close the bracelet with a piece of duct tape. *Voila!*
- **As the students are decorating their bracelets,** **say,** “Today we will learn that our heart is the trigger to help our faith grow bigger and bigger. Can anyone think of ways that we learn more about God?” *(Reading the Bible, praying, sharing our faith with others, going to church, and so forth.)*

When the Storyteller blows the duck call, lead your group to the teaching area. The Storyteller and worship team will then lead the skit and story time. Ask small group leaders and/or classroom helpers to sit with the kids, provide crowd control, and participate as directed by the Storyteller.
**STEP 2**

**PRESENT THE STORY**

**Actors:** Storyteller, Uncle Si, Jep, Willie, the Rockin’ Redneck Praise Team, one volunteer (to hold the “one hour later” sign).

**Supplies:** Duck call (for the Storyteller); beards, bandanas, camouflage, and similar items (for Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie); a farmer’s hat; seeds for “planting”; a bag or basket to hold the seeds; four zip-top bags—one with good soil, one with rocks, one with thorns or weeds, and one containing a piece of cement; a sign that says “one hour later”; props for the Duck Call Shop (optional).

Storyteller: Hey, y’all! Welcome to Faith Commander! Are y’all feelin’ redneck crazy excited to be here? *(Kids respond, “Yes!”)* So, how many of you have seen the TV show *Duck Dynasty®*? *(Kids respond, “Yay!”)* Well, during the next five weeks—with help from the Robertson family—we’ll be sharing five great lessons from the Bible. Now, if you’ve never seen *Duck Dynasty®* before, don’t you worry! Before long those Robertsons will feel like they’re old friends!

Now, I should warn you—you won’t want to miss a week of Faith Commander! It’s gonna be a rootin’ tootin’ fun time, y’all! And you know what else? Our entire church is going to be learning the same lesson every week, so you can talk to your whole family about it at home too! Isn’t that awesome!

For the next few weeks, we’ll be learning important ways we can follow Jesus, our ultimate Faith Commander! Today, we’ll discover that we can follow Jesus by having a “redonkulous” amount of faith. Now, you might be wondering what the word “redonkulous” means. “Redonkulous” is just a funny way of saying ridiculous. So, in other words, we should have a ridiculously huge amount of faith! Can you say that word with me? *(Redonkulous.)* One more time—this time in your craziest, most redonkulous voice. *(Redonkulous.)* Nice job! That was pretty redonkulous!

Now, before we move to our Bible story, we’re gonna sing some songs. So let’s bring out our Rockin’ Redneck Praise
Team to help us. Join me in giving them a big redneck welcome! On the count of three, let’s say, “Hey, Jack!”

*The Rockin’ Rednecks come out and lead a few worship songs (choose the Rockin’ Redneck song options noted at the beginning of the lesson or songs of your own choosing).*

**STORYTELLER:** That’s some good singin’! So, are you ready to learn more about Redonkulous Faith? *(Kids respond, “Yay!”)* Shall we see if Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie Robertson can help us? *(Kids respond, “Yes!”)* Okay, let’s check in and see what’s goin’ on in the Duck Call Shop today!

*(The action moves across the room, where Uncle Si and Jep are working in the Duck Call Shop. Willie enters.)*

**UNCLE SI:** Well, loookkkkee here! It’s Boss Hog!

**WILLIE:** Pipe down, Si! All right, so here’s the deal. We have a big order coming up, and I need your best work. We need to make a bunch of different duck calls, so this is gonna take teamwork and dedication. I’ll be back soon. I have a conference call with their head guys right now to finalize everything.

**UNCLE SI:** Teamwork? Dedication? I’m gonna need a nap, Jack!

**JEP:** He gone!

*(The volunteer walks across the front with a sign that says “one hour later.”)*

**JEP:** How many duck calls did Willie say we need to make?

**UNCLE SI:** You know, I don’t remember him sayin’.

**JEP:** Well, this seems like enough. Besides, my stomach is growlin’.

**UNCLE SI:** Your stomach is always growlin’. You can’t fill that thing up. But come to think of it . . . I’m hungry too. Let’s go!

**JEP:** What about the order? Willie said it had to be done today.
UNCLE SI: Well, my stomach is sayin’ it needs to be fed today!

JEP: Well, I’m stayin’.

UNCLE SI: Are telling me you’re gonna miss out on lunch?

JEP: Yep. I’m stayin’.

UNCLE SI: Seriously? You’re gonna stay here and miss out on the pizza buffet just to finish up some duck calls for Willie?

JEP: Yep.

UNCLE SI: Well, you finish up the order then.

(Uncle Si laughs and exits. A volunteer walks across with a sign that says “one hour later.” Willie enters the Duck Call Shop.)

WILLIE: Where is everyone?

JEP: Wewlll 

WILLIE: Jep, have you been workin’ here alone on all these duck calls?

JEP: Yep!

WILLIE: Well, come on! Miss Kay just called, and she is laying out a huge feast of our favorite foods. She invited us to come over and eat it.

JEP: We gone!

(The actors leave the stage. Storyteller walks out holding a Bible.)

STORYTELLER: Let’s give our actors a hand (lead in clapping). You know, today’s skit reminds me of a story that Jesus told when He was here on earth. Now, I’m curious, does anyone here know what a “parable” is? (Allow the kids to respond.) Well, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. In other words, it’s a story that uses everyday things to show us a spiritual truth. Jesus used parables to teach people about God and His kingdom. One important story that Jesus told was about a farmer who scattered seeds. (Storyteller puts on the farmer’s hat and holds the bag or basket with seeds.)

In this story, a farmer went out to “sow” his seeds. Now,
we don’t use that word much today, but it means that he was planting his seeds by scattering them around. As he was doing this, some of the seeds fell on a hard path (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). Do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The birds came and ate up all those seeds. Gone!

The farmer continued to sow his seeds (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). Some of them fell among the rocks, where there wasn’t much dirt, or soil. The seeds grew up fast, because the soil wasn’t deep. But when the sun came out, do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The plants that grew up got too hot, and they all dried out. They didn’t have any roots. Oh, no!

Well, the farmer kept on a sowin’ (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). Some of the seeds fell among thorns. And do you know what happened? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) The thorns grew up and choked the plants. Can you pretend to choke a plant? (Model this for the children.) Wow!

Now, the farmer also sowed some seeds that fell on good soil (shake the container and pretend to scatter some seeds). What do you think happened where those seeds fell in good soil? (Lean in and whisper to grab the kids’ attention.) That’s right—the seeds grew into healthy and strong plants. The farmer had an amazing harvest!

After Jesus told this story, all of His friends looked confused. Can you look at your friends like you are really confused? (Storyteller models confused look.) Yes! The people didn’t understand what the story meant. So Jesus told them that the story had a deeper meaning. The seeds (shake the container) represented the Word of God—or the message that Jesus had come to teach. The soil represented the people who heard that Word.

Jesus said that some people are like the path. (Hold up the zip-top with cement in it.) These people hear the Word of God, but they don’t understand it. They don’t take it in. Soon, the devil comes along and takes away the seed that has been planted in their heart. Those seeds do not get the chance to grow.

Jesus said that other people are like the rocky soil (hold up the bag with rocks). They hear the Word and get excited about it, but they do nothing more. The seeds just sit on the surface
and don’t sink any deeper into their hearts. What do you think happens to these people when trouble comes? *(Let the kids respond.)* That’s right. When trouble comes, they drift away instead of turning to God. They don’t have deep roots.

Jesus then said that there are people who are like the soil with thorns *(hold up the bag with thorns).* They hear God’s Word and believe what it says. They do! But what do you think happens when the daily worries of life come their way, or when they decide it’s more important to have lots of stuff? Well, just like thorns in a garden, these things start to take over their lives. Pretty soon, there is nothing left of the Word in their heart.

Ah, but then Jesus said that there are people who are like the good soil *(hold up the bag with good soil).* These people hear God’s Word, try to understand it, and put it into practice. In good soil, the seeds *(shake container)* take root and grow and grow, until there is a huge harvest. That is the kind of soil that Jesus wants us to be!

Wow! What a story! So, let’s see if we can remember the four types of soil. First we have the path *(hold up the bag with cement).* Second, we have the rocky soil *(hold up the bag with rocks).* Third, we have the soil with thorns *(hold up the bag with thorns).* And, finally, we have … what? *(The kids respond, “Good soil!”)*

Great job! Now, let’s bring up Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie again.

*(Have Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie come and stand in front of the class.)*

**STORYTELLER:** So, in our skit, who acted like the person who had the seeds fall among the thorns? *(Uncle Si.)* Remember we said that the thorny soil is when people get so worried about themselves that they get distracted? Instead of caring about others, they care more about themselves. That was Uncle Si, right? What distracted him? *(His hunger.)* Yep. Uncle Si decided it was more important to get lunch than make duck calls and do what Willie wanted him to do.

So, who in our skit acted like the person who had the seed fall on good soil? *(Jep.)* Right. Jep didn’t let his hunger get in the way from doing what Willie had asked. And Jep ended up getting rewarded with a super good meal at Miss Kay’s, didn’t he? Yum!
All right, thanks Uncle Si, Jep, and Willie! *(Jep, Uncle Si, and Willie say “We gone!” and exit.)*

Kids, this is super important. Jesus, our Faith Commander, says the Word of God, or the Bible, is like a … *(shake seed container and let the kids respond)*. That’s right! When we read the Bible, it’s like a “seed” is planted in our hearts. When we hear God’s Word *(put a hand on your ear)*, try to understand what it says *(point to your head)*, and then do what it says, it is like a seed that is planted in good soil. That is the kind of soil that Jesus wants us to be!

*(Hold up the four bags of soil again.)* What kind of soil are you? Are you hard, like the path? Are you rocky? Are you thorny? Or are you the good soil? Remember, if we read the Bible, try to understand what it says, and then do what it says, pretty soon we’ll have a Redonkulous Faith. We will be able to stand up and be strong for God. Anyone want to be good soil? *(Kids respond, “Yay!”)*

Optional: At this point the Storyteller could share a short personal story of what has helped him or her grow in faith. Personal stories make lessons stick for this age group!

**STORYTELLER:** During our time together at Faith Commander, we’ll be learning one new verse each week. This week’s memory verse will remind us to have a Redonkulous Faith. I’ll say our verse first, and then you follow along. *(Have the memory verse written on the board or on a Power Point slide, if possible.)* “Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be brave. Be strong” *(1 Corinthians 16:13 NIRV).*

Don’t worry—I have motions to help us remember this important verse. They go like this … *(Make up motions for the verse. Have the kids stand up and practice them.)* Each week I am going to give you a card with the memory verse on it. Take this home and practice it, and if you can tell me the verse next week, you will get a prize. *(Share the Memory Verse incentives, as available.)*

Each week, we’ll also be ending with a Redneck Rhyme—a short saying that will hopefully stick in our heads to help us remember the lesson. Are you ready for our first Redneck Rhyme? It goes like this: “Your heart is the trigger to help
“Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!” How ’bout saying our Redneck Rhyme one more time as loud as you can? ("Your heart is the trigger to help your faith grow bigger and bigger!") Storyteller gives the kids a big thumbs up!

Let’s pray. “Dear God, thank You so much for Your Word, the Bible. Help us to be ‘good soil’—to have hearts that seek to understand how You want us to live, and then to do it. We want to grow up strong in our faith to serve You. In Jesus’s name. Amen.”

All right, kids, we had a great lesson today about having a Redonkulous Faith. Now you are about to break and go to your groups to have more fun!

*Duck calls blow and music plays as the kids head out to their group time activities.*
EXPLORE THE STORY

Explore and discuss how today’s Bible story applies to real-life experiences through activities and discussion questions. Choose any or all of these options to help your class explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1
SOIL REVIEW

**Supplies:** Soil Review sheet (one per child), markers, Bible.

- Open the Bible to Matthew 13:1–23 and briefly review the Parable of the Sower.
- Hand out the Soil Review sheet to the children and ask, “In what types of soil did the farmer plant the seeds? What did each type of soil represent?”
- Instruct the children to write down words in each part of the circle to explain the different kinds of soil on which the seeds landed.
- Ask the group what the seeds in Jesus’s story represented (God’s Word.) Say, “The people who were listening to Jesus’s story are just like you and me. We also get busy and distracted, and we forget to read God’s Word. So, what kind of soil does God want you to be like? What kind of soil do you want to be? What are some ways you can grow in your faith?” (Some examples include: go to church, spend time with God in prayer, read the Bible, ask your parents questions about God, share about Jesus with your family and friends.)
- As an option, at this point you might want to tell a short personal story of what has helped you to grow your faith over the years.
- Conclude by saying, “On the back of your paper I want you to write down one thing you could do this week that would help you grow in your faith.” Share some ideas first to help the children feel comfortable in relating their ideas, and take turns sharing as time allows.

OPTION 2
TRUE OR FALSE, JACK?

**Supplies:** True or False, Jack? statements; basket, box, or iced tea cup.

**Teacher Prep:** Cut out the True or False, Jack? statements.

- Tell the children that today you are going to play a game called “True or False, Jack?” Say, “Now, you might be saying that your name is not Jack. But Uncle Si likes to call everyone Jack, so for now you’re all Jack. Okay, Jack? Anyway, I’m going to read some statements based on the Parable of the Sower. If you think the statement is true, I want you stand and give me a big thumbs up, like this (demonstrate). If you think the statement is false, I want you stay in your seat and put your thumb down, like this (demonstrate).”
- Select a statement from the basket, box, or iced tea cup and read it aloud. The children will decide to stand up or stay seated. Invite the children who stay seated and made a “thumbs down” to share why they think the statement is false.
OPTION 3
FAITH COMMANDER PICTORIAL

**Supplies:** Whiteboard, markers, erasers, timer, basket, words to act out.

**Teacher Prep:** Cut out the words to act out from the Faith Commander Pictionary sheet.

- Tell the children that today they are going to play a fun game to help them remember what they’ve learned. The game is called “Faith Commander Pictionary,” and it’s played a lot like charades. However, instead of acting out the mystery word for the group, they will be drawing a picture of it on the whiteboard, and then their team members have to try to guess what it is.

- Divide the group into two teams and have each team come up with a name. (Encourage them to select a team name based on the Duck Dynasty® theme. Be creative!) The first team will pick a person to go to the whiteboard and be the “draw-er.” The draw-er picks a word from the basket, and then he or she has 30 seconds to draw the word while the teammates try to guess. The draw-er is not allowed to say anything or to make any sound effects—only the draw-er’s team is allowed to guess. If the team correctly guesses the word, they receive one point. If they are unable to guess it, when time is up the other team gets a chance to make one guess. If that team is correct, they receive one point. Either way, play goes to the other team.

- The game continues until all the words have been drawn or time is up. The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

**STEP 4**
PRAY AND DISMISS

**Supplies:** Family Table Talk handout (one per child).

- As you prepare for dismissal, pray together and ask God to help each child grow in his or her faith this week. Encourage the children to spend time memorizing 1 Corinthians 16:13 at home. Make sure each child leaves with his or her take-home activities, including the memory verse card and Family Table Talk handout.

- As parents arrive, introduce them to the Family Table Talk handout and encourage them to spend time around their dinner table talking about “Faith, Family, and Ducks”—in that order, of course!
The **gospel** is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. True or false, Jack? (*False—*a *parable* is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.)*

The **type of soil** really doesn’t make much difference on how well a plant will grow. True or false, Jack? (*False—*it matters!)*

The seeds that fell on the **hard path** were choked out and couldn’t grow. True or false, Jack? (*False—*the hard path prevented the seeds from going any deeper than the surface, and then the birds came along and gobbled them up.)*

When the farmer scattered his seeds on a **hard path**, the birds came and ate ’em up. True or false, Jack? (*True.)*

Some seeds fell on **rocky places**, but when the sun came up, the plants got too hot and withered and died because they had no roots. True or false, Jack? (*True.)*

The seeds that fell among the **rocks** represent the people who hear God’s Word, but then the worries of life crowd out that message. True or false, Jack? (*False—*the rocky soil represents those who don’t have deep roots, so their faith doesn’t grow.)*

The seeds that fell in the **thorns** represent the people who hear God’s Word but don’t really care about it. True or false, Jack? (*False—*the soil with thorns represents people who hear God’s Word, but then the worries of life and lure of wealth choke it out.)*
TRUE OR FALSE, JACK?
INSTRUCTIONS: Photocopy, cut into strips, and place into a box, basket, or iced tea cup.

The seeds planted in good soil grow and multiply. True or false, Jack? (True.)

A person who hears God’s Word, tries to understand what it says, and puts it into practice every day is like good soil. True or false, Jack? (True.)

Jesus told this story because He wanted His followers to become better farmers. True or false, Jack? (False—He wanted to explain how people should receive the message He was teaching them.)

The enemy tries to snatch the truth from people who want to grow in their faith. True or false, Jack? (True.)

People can be deceived and distracted from believing the truth. True or false, Jack? (True.)

Watching TV, playing video games, and fighting with your sister will help your faith grow and grow! True or false, Jack? (False!)

Our Redneck Rhyme this week states that our mind is the trigger to help our faith grow bigger and bigger. True or false, Jack? (False—our heart is the trigger.)

The Robertson family loves telling others about their faith, family, and ducks—in that order! True or false, Jack? (True.)
Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be brave. Be Strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Put up with each other. Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.
1 Colossians 3:13

Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.
Philippians 4:6

The way to show our love is to obey God's commands. He commands you to lead a life of love.
2 John 1:6

You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.
Colossians 3:12

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Colossians 3:12
Hey, Jack! Welcome to Faith Commander! This week we heard the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1–23). We talked about how the “seeds” in the parable represent God’s Word, the Bible. We also talked about how the different types of “soil” in the parable (the path, rocky soil, thorny soil, and good soil) represent different types of people and how they react when they hear God’s Word. We talked about ways to have a “redonkulous” faith (a made-up word meaning “huge” or “ridiculous”) and ways our faith can grow and grow! The bottom line is that having good soil makes a “redonkulous” difference—and that’s a fact, Jack!

**Table Talk Discussion Questions**

- How would you describe “redonkulous” faith to someone?
- What does a seed need to grow well?
- What are some ways our faith can grow?
- What are the similarities between growing a plant and growing in our relationship with God? What are the differences?
- Who do you know who has a “redonkulous” faith? What makes their faith so “redonkulous”?
- Parents, share a personal story of how your faith has grown over the years. *(Stories make lessons stick!)*

**Following Our Faith Commander**

An important way to be like Jesus, our Faith Commander, is to spend time reading the Bible, praying, and learning from His teachings. Your challenge this week is to spend 15 minutes each day reading the Bible as a family. Consider studying the Parable of the Sower or begin reading in the Gospel of John. Ask God to open your eyes, ears, and heart to all that He wants to show you. The preschool song says it best: “Read your Bible and pray every day, and you’ll grow, grow, grow!” Want more Redonkulous Faith? Spend time reading His words to you!
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• Faith Commander Children’s Curriculum (with a Bonus Willie’s Redneck Rodeo VBS Curriculum) on DVD-ROM
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