

# #SELFIE

## Plans to Give You Hope and a Future—Week 1

Teaching Point: God has a plan for my future.

Because I know God has a plan for my future, I am filled with hope.

### Items Needed:

4 Flashlights or laser pointers

4 hand held mirrors (provided—see Jill)

4 copies of “Target practice” (provided—see Jill)

1 copy of “God has wonderful plans for me” per small group (provided)—see Jill

Prizes for charades volunteers

Prizes for memory verse race

Celebrity Pics (provided—see Jill)

Construction paper cut-outs

Jeremiah 29:11 posters (see Jill)

Verse cut-outs in envelopes (see Jill)

“God has wonderful plans for me” sign (see Jill)

**Before Class (used in large group):** Tape the provided targets to the wall.

Large Group:

7:10-7:30

The word “selfie” was officially included in the dictionary in the past year. The term “selfie” means a photo taken of oneself that is generally taken with the intent of sharing the photo on social media.

**Selfie Celebrity Challenge:** boys vs. girls. Show the pics of 6 celebrities (provided) with various pieces of their face covered using construction paper cut outs. Have kids take turns guessing who the person taking the selfie is.

Our society has become a “selfie” culture. Absorbed with self at every turn. Our world constantly says “this is all about you,” or “have it your way.” God’s Word says something completely different. (Philippians 2:3-11) What if we could learn to see ourselves the way that God does? What does God’s view of us have to do with how we live our day to day lives? Isn’t it all about us anyways?

**Ask:** Have you thought about what sorts of things you want to be when you grow up? Let’s play a game. Play a few rounds of charades having kids act out what they want to be when they grow up and allow other kids to guess. Award prizes to those who were willing to act in front of the group.

People often ask kids, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” What if instead, people asked “What do you think God wants you to be when you grow up?”

How might our thinking be different if we looked at our future through God’s eyes, instead of through our own “selfie” eyes?

Have kids look up and read Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Show Jeremiah 29:11 posters and have kids read the verse along with you from the poster or their Bibles.

**OBJECTIVE:** Give each small group leader the Jeremiah 29:11 cut outs in envelopes. Give each team a designated target that you taped to the wall, a hand held mirror, and a flashlight. The object of this game is to direct the light from the mirror to the selected area. The first team to do so will receive a word of their verse from the envelope. Keep playing until one team has the entire verse and has put it into the correct order.

**Memory Verse Game Breakdown:** One member holds flashlight and one holds the mirror. The large group leader will say “go” and the person holding the flashlight will shine it towards the mirror, the person holding the mirror will attempt to “hit” the appointed target spot with their light. Have one of the leaders point to one of the target spots on the printed Target Practice paper.

Award the fastest team.

A lot of times “selfies” are taken in mirrors. The only person that is seen is the person holding the camera/phone. God’s Word says that we are supposed to be like this mirror —it deflected the light onto that target. We should be deflecting Jesus when other people look at us. Not ourselves. Matthew 5:13-16 or 2 Corinthians 2:18

Small Group: 7:30

What sorts of things do you picture in your future in five years? In ten? In twenty?

Your future doesn’t really belong to you. It’s not yours. God’s Word says that He created us to bring glory to Him.

**Ask:**

How do you feel about knowing that according to God’s Word, your future isn’t yours?

Knowing that your future shouldn't be yours, what sorts of things does that change for you as you consider your future? (in what field you work, who you marry, where you live, what you do with your money, etc.)

Have kids look up and read Ephesians 2:10

These verses tell us that we were created by God for His purposes. **Ask:** How can you begin now to think about your future knowing that God has designed you for a special purpose? (example....it may direct what you participate in now, who you hang out with, what you do with your spare time, etc.)

Pray together as a group. Spend time offering praise to God for creating us and reminding us that He has an amazing future planned for us when we learn to walk with Him.

Have each member of your small group pose for a picture with the "God has wonderful plans for me" sign (provided). Have one of your leaders take photos and send to Jill via iCloud stream, or text. Pics will be printed and kids will receive a brand new "selfie" different from any other they've taken. It will serve as a reminder that God has plans for their future. (pics available at a later time—not immediately)

\*Return to large group meeting room for wrap up and dismissal

\*\*if you have time remaining, have kids race to see who can put the memory verse in order the fastest using the cut outs that were used earlier in large group .

