Advent Week Four: Trust God in Times of Challenge, Struggle, and Change
Isaiah 35:1-10
Sermonette

THEME: F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God)

Bible verse: “You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.” (Psalm 59:9-10)

Materials:
1. A stuffed frog or large drawing of a frog OR miniature toy frogs for each child (i.e., these finger puppets available for order: http://bit.ly/frogfingerpuppets)
2. The attached cut-out frog with memory verse, one for each child, which they may color and take with them

Keep your stuffed frog and frog puppets and/or the coloring sheets hidden until all children are gather. Then bring out your stuffed frog and hold it out toward the children, or distribute toy frog puppets to all children. (If using puppets, put a puppet on your forefinger first, then invite the children to do the same.) Read Psalm 59:9-10, then say:

Who knows what this is/these are? (Pause for responses) Right! It’s a frog! Did you know that frogs can help us remember something very special about God? Each letter in the word frog—F. R. O. G.—can remind us to fully rely on God. Can you say that with me? Fully Rely On God. The word “fully” means every day in every way; “rely” means to trust and believe.

When we fully rely on God, we let God take care of stuff that is too big for us to handle on our own. If you can’t reach the top shelf at home, who do you ask to help you? (Wait for responses) When you’re at school and you don’t know the answer to a question, whom do you ask? (Pause for responses)

Yes! In the same way, God helps us when we need help or guidance or to figure out new things. God sees and know when we do good things and God cheers for us. God is with us when we’re in trouble. God is there when we make a mistake and want to do better. All we have to do is pray to God and believe that God loves all of us and everybody in the whole world, and God wants us to love each other and depend on each other. God sent Jesus to us to show us how to live in a way that makes God smile and that makes God’s world better. As we get closer to celebrating Christmas, let’s also celebrate that we can Fully Rely On God! Pray with me:

Dear God, Thank you for the good news that Jesus is coming. Help us to know that we can rely on you in all things and help us to be people who act and love like Jesus. We trust you and love you, AMEN!

Here’s a FROG coloring sheet for you. Take it home, color it, and hang it up until Christmas to remind yourself that we can Fully Rely on God. (Distribute coloring sheets)