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**Preparing Your Writing Sample**

As part of the application process to be a Shine writer, you are asked to provide a sample of your writing. As we read your sample, we will be noting your writing style, theological reflection on the Bible text, and your creativity.

1. Choose the level you want to write:
* Pre-Kindergarten (ages 3–6)
* Elementary (grades 1–5)
* Junior Youth (grades 6–8)
1. Use the template below to write several activities for a teacher to follow. The Bible text and Faith Link for the session have already been chosen for you and are in the template. While we are not asking you to write an entire session, the sections chosen will give us a snapshot of your ability to write for your chosen age group.
* Be sure to write out the activities and instructions clearly and succinctly, paying attention to the specified word count.
* Be creative in your approach, while remembering that teachers are busy and often don’t have a lot of preparation time.
* Strive to make each item age-appropriate and engaging for a range of children.
* In addition to the session activities, you will also need to provide a plan for a student page in the at-home resource for each of the age levels. This is described in detail at the end of the template.

**Writing Sample Template**

Age group: **PreK–Kindergarten (PKK), Elementary (ELM), Junior Youth (JY)** *[Specify the age group for which you are writing.]*

Session title: **Five Friends**

Scripture text: Mark 2:1–12

Faith Link: Jesus sees what is in people’s hearts.

**Connect** *[300-word maximum for this section]*

**GATHERING ACTIVITY** *[Include an opening activity that will gather the group and build relationships. This activity should be brief (5 minutes max) and encourage interaction between the teacher and the children and among the children themselves.]*

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** *[Introduce a spiritual practice that the children and teacher can do together. The goal is for children to* ***experience*** *the practice, rather than just learn about it. This practice should relate in some way to the session or themes within the story.]*

**MEDIA CONNECTIONS** *[List 3 or 4 books, websites, music, art, or other resources to supplement the session.]*

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**Encounter** *[word maximum not applicable]*

**THE STORY** *[****For PKK and ELM****, write out the Bible story in an age-appropriate way in 300–400 words.* ***For JY****, provide any background information necessary to help the teacher set up the story. Include instructions for reading the story from the Bible. Think creatively about how to make the story interactive for youth.]*

**WONDER AND REFLECT** *[****For PKK and ELM****, write 2–3 reflection questions or wondering statements. This section is about theological reflection, pondering possibilities, entering the story, and making meaning for our lives. It is* ***not*** *about wondering out loud about random unanswerable questions.]*

*[****For JY****, write 2–3 Dig In questions that invite discussion and deeper reflection on the Bible text. Write an additional 2–3 Live It questions that invite youth to consider how the text relates to their daily lives and informs their words and actions. Keep in mind that these are discussion prompts rather than wondering questions.]*

**DIG IN**

**LIVE IT**

**Explore**

*[175-word maximum for each activity - Prepare 2 options for small-group or individual activities. These should be designed to take 10–20 minutes. Consider activities that elicit creativity, foster interaction, allow for physical movement, and/or provide an opportunity for children or youth to respond to the biblical text.]*

**[ACTIVITY 1]**

**[ACTIVITY 2]**

**Preparing At-Home Resources**

Describe in detail what you would do for an at-home resource related to this Bible story. Follow the guidelines below for your age level. You do not necessarily need to supply any visual elements but do give complete descriptions for what you envision. Keep in mind these resources will be used by parents and children (PKK and ELM) or by youth (JY).

**PREK–KINDERGARTEN**

*[Plan 2 pages, 100 words max on each page. Page 1 must be a simple, creative retelling of the story for young children. It can be a rhyme, fingerplay, song, or narrative, etc. For Page 2 you may include any of the following: a fingerplay, song, simple prayer activity, or provide an idea for a coloring page connected to the Bible story. These pages are part of a booklet that parents and children can read and do together at home.]*

**ELEMENTARY**

*[Plan 2 pages of daily devotional content related to the Bible story. This will be a 2-page spread with content for each day of the week. You may plan for daily readings (include the Bible reference only, not the complete text) with a related activity for children and their families to do or a question to talk about each day. Consider including a “word” or quote for the week and activity or space for a prayer list or notes. 150–200 words max on each page, depending on how much white space you envision for writing or doodling.]*

**JUNIOR YOUTH**

*[Plan 2 pages of daily devotional content related to the Bible story. This will be a 2-page spread with content for each day of the week. You may plan for daily readings (include the Bible reference only, not the complete text) with a related activity for youth to do or a question to think about each day. Consider including a “word” or quote for the week and activity or space for a prayer list or notes. This devotional spread differs from Elementary as this resource is meant for youth to read and do on their own. 200–250 words max on each page depending on how much white space you envision for writing or doodling.]*