

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for kids to be able to fill their hearts and minds with positive, noble, right, and true things. Ask God to guide them to memorize key verses that will always be on their hearts. Pray the same for yourself: that you will find space to be mindful of the things filling your heart and that you will be able to think on what is right, true, pure, and noble.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Always on My Mind

Think on These Things
Philippians 4:8

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Focus on what's true.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Anyone who lives
without blame walks safely.
But anyone who takes a
crooked path will get caught.**
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Integrity—Choosing to be truthful
in whatever you say and do**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: "Hidden Pictures" Activity Page, offering container, and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who've brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Hidden Pictures" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Point out the key on the side so they know what to look for.
- They can circle the hidden items as they find them on the page.
- While kids are working, talk about their week using the questions below as a guide.
 1. Tell me about your favorite day this week. Why was it your favorite?
 2. What did you do this weekend (or yesterday)?
 3. If you could switch places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach?
 4. What are you reading?
 5. Did you have a chance to practice integrity this week? When? What happened?

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to sit in a circle on their knees.
- Explain that this game requires four moves:
 - Up – hands up over your head
 - Down – hands at your sides
 - Pat – pat the floor
 - Clap – clap hands together
- Call out the four motions in any random order for the kids to follow.
- To keep interest high, increase the speed of the commands. You can also select a kid in the group to lead in calling out the motions.
- If the kids in your group seem to master this fairly easily, ask them to do the OPPOSITE of what you call.
- So if you say, "Up," kids will put their hands down. If you say, "Pat," kids will clap, and so on.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You really had to FOCUS in order to play this game! **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we'll hear about something even more important that we all should focus on. Let's go."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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3. RIGHT ON TARGET

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Phrases" cards, Bibles, floor tape, scissors, and beanbags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Call on a volunteer to open a Bible to Proverbs 10:9 and review the memory verse as a group.
- Ask a second kid to read the verse as you prepare for the game using the instructions below:
 - Use the floor tape to create two, 3' x 3' squares on the floor of your small group area.
 - Shuffle each set of "Memory Verse Phrases" cards and lay out one set of cards in random order inside each square.
 - Divide the group into two teams to line up about three feet from their team's square.
- When you say, "Go!" the first kid in each team will toss the beanbag, aiming to land on the first phrase of the verse.
- If successful, they run to grab the phrase card and hand off the beanbag to the next kid in line.
- If they miss, they must retrieve the beanbag and try again.
- Each team must pay attention so they collect each phrase in the order of the verse.
- Once all phrases have been collected, the team puts the cards in verse order and sits down to signal they are finished.
- Check their work by reading the verse aloud then declare a winner.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"All month long, we've been talking about what it means to live with integrity, to choose to be truthful in all we say and do. This verse reminds us that choosing integrity keeps us on the safe, straight path. So this week, let's ask God to help us **focus on what's true**. Because what we choose to think about—focus on—really does affect what we DO! Let's stay off the crooked path by choosing to **focus on what's true.**"

MADE TO MOVE

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4. BRAIN GAMES

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Scrap paper balls in two colors and hula hoops

WHAT YOU DO:

- Arrange the hoops in a circle.
- Guide each kid to stand inside a hoop. Optional, if necessary, kids can pair up.
- Ask kids to pretend that the hoops are their minds and what they think about.
- Dump all of the paper balls into the center of the group's circle.
- Tell kids that the [first color] paper balls are "bad" or "yucky" thoughts and the [second color] balls are "good" or "true" thoughts.
- Tell kids that the object of the game is to keep the "bad" thoughts out of their minds and the "good" thoughts in!
- Quickly push, throw, or scoop the paper balls into the kids' hoops.
- As kids rush to throw the "bad" thoughts out of their circles, do your best to push or throw them back inside.
- The result is a manic (and fun!) paper fight!
- When the number of loose "good" thoughts begins to dwindle, lower the energy by downshifting the game to slow-motion.
- When the game ends, collect the paper balls.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to "bring it home."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What are some real-life 'bad' thoughts that you can 'push' out of your brains? (Some groups may have a difficult time brainstorming, and that's okay. If so, give kids time to think then ask prompting questions; such as. Do you ever think, 'Nobody loves me' or 'I'll never get what I want' or 'You're mean!') Close your eyes and imagine pushing all of those thoughts out of your brain. (Pause.) Are they all gone? Good!

"Now, what are some good or true thoughts that you can think instead? (Pause. If kids are stuck, ask "Could you think, 'God loves me no matter what'; 'It will be okay'; or 'You're special to God.')" Excellent ideas! Close your eyes and choose one good or true thought. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids the true or good thought that you chose, such as 'God loves me no matter what,' 'God is good,' or 'God works all things together for good to those who love Him.')** Imagine taking that true thought and holding it inside your head. (Pause.) Do you have it? Good!

"God doesn't want us to think bad or yucky thoughts. Instead, He wants us to think about what's good and true. He wants us to think about Who He is and what He's like. He also wants us to think about what's true about ourselves and other people. So, this week, remember to hold on to your good thoughts. And remember to **focus on what's true!**"

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MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



5. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Focus on What's True" and "Think on These Things" Activity Pages, markers

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Always on My Mind

Think on These Things
Philippians 4:8

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a **BRAIN** page.
- **Use the "Think on These Things" page and read the verses with the kids.**
- Guide them to **write one of those verses on their BRAIN** page.
- If time allows, invite kids to color their "brains."
- They can draw good thoughts or embellish as they choose.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Focus on what's true.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God wants us to think about what's good and true. One way we can think about what's true is to think about God's Word. His Word says (*read a few 'Think on These Things' verses*). Take your 'brain pockets' home and put them some place where you'll see them a lot. You can put them by your bed, on your dresser, or by your computer. Whenever you see it, read one of the verses or ask someone to read one to you. Because when you do that, you'll be focusing on what's true! Let's pray."

Guide kids to pray silently, asking God to help them **focus on what's true!**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them today's **focus on what's true.**

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