

WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

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. Thank God for the love you have for your few and their families. Ask God to help your few understand what it means to be loved by Him and to let that love overflow to others. For those who are going through hard times at home, pray that they would feel God's love and presence with them.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest

Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God. Love others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.
Luke 16:10a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

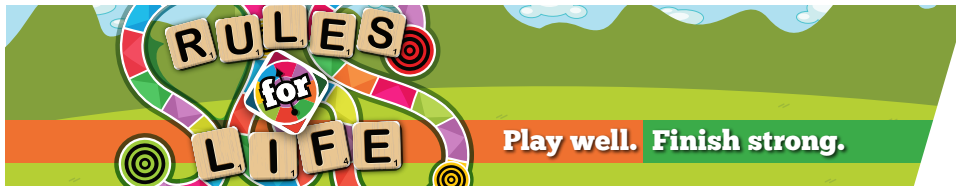
EARLY ARRIVER Option 1

WHAT YOU NEED: small bean bag, hand sanitizer, music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name and with an elbow bump.
- Explain that an elbow bump is a way two people can say hi without spreading germs.
- Encourage each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Instruct kids to sit in a circle.
- Hand a bean bag to one kid.
- Explain that they will pass the bean bag around the circle until the music pauses.
- Play upbeat music.
- When you pause the music, ask the kid who holds the bean bag: Who is one of your favorite people ever?
- Continue passing the bean bag and playing music until each kid has had a turn to answer the question.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



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EARLY ARRIVER Option 2

WHAT YOU NEED: hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Teach kids the (ASL) sign for “love” and two unofficial signs for “love” and “I love you.”
 - Make your hands into fists and cross your arms over your chest for “love.” (ASL)
 - Unofficial “I love you” – Start with a fist then extend the pinky, followed by the index finger, then the thumb. Keep the middle and ring fingers down.
 - Unofficial “love” – Curl the fingers on both hands and point your thumbs down then joining them to make a heart shape (hand heart).
- Invite kids to share any ways they say “love” or “I love you,” either through hand signs, gestures, inside jokes with family, or a specific language spoken at home.

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

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



DOUBLE BOP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Balloons, permanent marker, and timer or timer app

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group in a circle.
- If you haven't already, make sure everyone sanitizes their hands.
- Instruct the kids to spread out as far as they can from each other.
- Use the marker to label one balloon "LOVE GOD" and the other one "LOVE OTHERS."
- Challenge the group to keep both balloons in the air for one minute.
- Set the timer on your phone or use a physical timer.
- Introduce a few rules:
 - No one can tap either balloon twice in a row.
 - No one can hold the balloon.
 - Everyone has to stay in their spot.
- Start the timer and let the kids try to keep the balloons in the air for one minute.
- If a balloon hits the ground, stop the timer.
 - Tell the kid nearest the balloon to pick it up then say one way to "Love God" or "Love Others," depending on which balloon touched the ground.
 - Then direct the kid to bop the balloon into the air to resume play.
- Once your group can get to one minute, try two, then three.
- Play as long as time allows.

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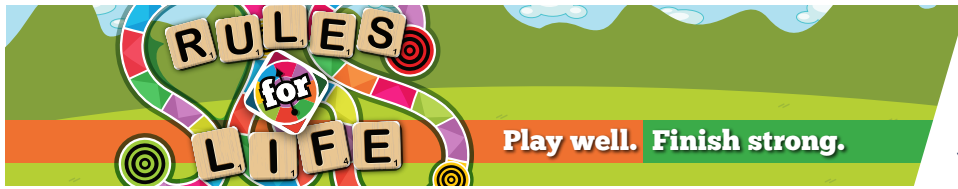
I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who knew it could be so hard to keep two balloons in the air or to **love God. Love others?** It seems like something that would be so easy, but a lot of times it's difficult and a lot like work to show how we **love God. Love others.**

[Make It Personal] (Share a time in your life when you went out of your way to show love to God or others or both. Did you go on a mission trip? Help someone in your neighborhood? Stand up for justice in some way? Give more generously? Share what you did and how you felt. Was it easy or difficult? What did you have to give up: time, money, opportunity? Invite kids to share as well.)

"The Bible says that we have a responsibility to **love God. Love others.** That's what God expects of people who follow Jesus. But it's not always easy! Responsibility usually comes with some sort of cost, but in this case, it's always worth it."



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

(DOUBLE BOP, CONTINUED)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What seems like the hardest part of **love God. Love others**?
- The Bible story reminded us to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” That means we can show someone God’s love by doing something for them that we’d do for ourselves. What’s something that you do for yourself that you could extend to show love to someone else? (*make my sibling a snack like mine after school, be as attentive to my friend as I want her to be to me, invite my teammate to practice with me at home, cut the teacher some slack when she’s tired*)
- What is one way you like for people to show you love?
- Since you want to be shown love, how can you show someone else love in the same way you want?





WEEK ONE JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest

Greatest Commandment Matthew 22:36-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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SPIN TO LOVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Large Paper clips and paper plates (enough for each child), pen/pencil

WHAT YOU DO:

- Provide each kid with a paper clip and paper plate
• Show them how to draw lines on their paper plate to separate into 6 parts.
• Instruct them to write inside each of the six sections the name of a person they could show love to this week.
• Encourage kids to think of people who they may not always hang around, but people who could benefit from being shown love.
• Show the kids how to place a paper clip in the middle of the plate and a pencil in the middle and spin their clip so that one name is picked
• Talk about how they can show love to the person they landed on.
• Encourage the kids to wake up each morning and take a spin to find more people and ways to show love!

WHAT YOU SAY:

What a cool way to remind ourselves to Love God. Love others. Who are some more people you could put on your spinner? (Allow time for kids to share.) So cool! I can't wait to hear the stories of how you showed love to those people! Just like your arrow will point to a new name each day, you will point that person to God through the love you show them. Don't wait for another opportunity or for another person to show love to you first. You can make the first move this week!



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



**STEPPING UP
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]**

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the Bible Navigation Tips below to look up Luke 16:10a.

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- Read the Bible verse out loud together.
- After you've read the Bible verse, line up the group. Space them out shoulder-to-shoulder, facing the same direction along one side of your small group area.
- Stand on the opposite side and face the line of kids.
- Give a direction to each kid.
 - For example: "David, take two big steps forward."
 - As the kid takes steps, instruct them to name a responsibility they have in real life—or that a kid their age could have—for each step they take.
 - If you've instructed them to take big steps, they name big responsibilities.
 - If you've instructed them to take small steps, they name small responsibilities.
- Then give movement directions to the next kid.
- Keep going through the line until a kid reaches you.
- The kid who reaches you becomes the next caller.
- If the kids need help coming up with responsibilities, here are some ideas (kids can repeat things others have said, if necessary):
 - Small: making my bed, brushing my teeth, packing my backpack, keeping track of my hat/mittens/jacket at school, eating my lunch, charging my devices
 - Big: doing my homework on time, listening to my teachers, obeying my parents, doing my chores, looking after a sibling or neighbor, walking to/from school, caring for a pet, managing my allowance, using my tablet responsibly, taking my vitamins or medicine, practicing my sport or skill





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(STEPPING UP, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Everyone has responsibilities in life—kids, adults, teenagers, grandparents, everyone. What is one responsibility you have that you wish you didn’t? *(Invite answers.)* What’s one responsibility you’d like to have? *(Invite discussion—maybe things like caring for a pet, biking farther from home, having a phone, etc.)*”

“How do you show that you’re ready for a big responsibility like those? *(Invite discussion—by showing how diligent you are with the responsibility you currently have, even if you don’t like it)* Our memory verse tells us that when we can be responsible for the small stuff, we can graduate to being responsible for the big stuff.”

“That shows up in our Bible story today, too. The way that you **love God, Love others** changes as you get older. Right now, you can show that you take this responsibility seriously by being nice to your siblings and obeying your parents and teachers. But later on, you might get a chance to share money with others, to help people in your job, or care for kids of your own. Those are all ways to **love God. Love others**. Stick with all the ways you can do that now, and who knows what responsibilities you will be trusted with in the future?”





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Spinners from "Spin to Love" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage each kid to spin their spinner and pray silently for the person it landed on.
- When all of the kids are finished praying, lead the group in a closing prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest

Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we are so thankful for the great responsibility You give us to love. You put Your people and things around us every day and trust us to take care of them. That's such a big deal! Please help us see the many opportunities we have to **Love God. Love others.** Help us stand up and say yes to the chance to care for others and create a ripple effect of love in the world around us!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God. Love others.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their spinners and talk about one person they will pray for this week. Remind them that no matter what happens this week, they will always have the chance to **Love God. Love others.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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