

RULES

for

LIFE

Play well. Finish strong.

WEEK

THREE

JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CHALLENGE

an activity that helps kids explore the through
in the process of drawing into building
designing, and problem-solving

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ants Marching

Ant and Sluggard
Proverbs 6:6-8

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

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 need to make the wise choice.



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into two teams.
 - One team will be the Bumblebees. They will buzz around, moving quickly in a crouch, trying to tag their opponents by gently poking them with one finger.
 - The other team are the Zombies. They will walk around slowly with their arms stuck straight out in front of them, trying to tag their opponents by closing both of their hands gently around their shoulders.
- Play tag with these teams.
- When a kid gets tagged by the other team, they join that team and become either a Zombie or Bumblebee.
- Play as long as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This was a pretty silly game, but believe it or not **[Transition]** the Bible tells a story about a hardworking insect to show us something important. Let's go hear what it is!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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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. Pray that kids would see the value in hard work and start to develop the habit of not shying away from working hard. Thank God for the abilities you and your few have to work hard physically, mentally, and spiritually. Pray that kids would leave today encouraged to tackle whatever lies in front of them.

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EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: hand sanitizer, and decks of cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name and with an elbow bump as they arrive.
- Encourage the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- After they clean their hands, instruct kids to get a deck of cards and share it with a friend.
- Show them different ways to shuffle cards and encourage them to take turns trying by themselves.
- Direct the kids to pick up the cards when they go all over the place after attempting to shuffle.
- As kids practice shuffling, ask them: What do you think is the hardest subject in school?

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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

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***GAME OF LIFE**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Game of Life" Activity Pages, markers, glue sticks, plastic sandwich bags, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out "Game of Life" gameboard and blue squares page to every kid.
- Encourage kids to choose four blue squares to fill their blue spaces on their gameboard. They cut those squares out and glue them to the blue spaces on the gameboard.
- Instruct the kids to write down ways they can work hard this week in the green squares on their gameboard. Give them examples of places where they can work hard (the park, home, school, neighborhood, at a friend's house).
- Instruct them to leave the orange spaces free to use later.
- Once the kids have completed their gameboards, hand out a numbered squares page to every kid.
- Give a pair of scissors to each kid and instruct them to cut out the numbers and place them in a plastic sandwich bag.
- Explain that every day they can pull out a number and move that many places on their gameboard. Whatever space they land on is their "work hard" challenge for that day!
- Let kids practice pulling out a number to see where they land.
- Engage kids in a conversation about a way they can work hard based on the gameboard space they landed on.
- If they land on an orange space, explain that you will fill those spaces in later.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are probably the coolest looking gameboards I've ever seen! As our amazing game shows, there are so many different ways to **work hard** and use what God has given us. God didn't make us to stand still in the game of life. He created us strong, unique, and full of passion to do big things in this world! Let's go out and **work hard** this week!"



MADE TO IMAGINE

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



WORK AND REWARD

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Work and Reward Cards" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the two decks of "Work and Reward Cards" in the front of your small group area.
- Call a kid to go first.
- Instruct the kid to select a "Work" card and silently act it out for the group.
- When the group guesses the work on the card, direct the kid to choose a "Reward" card.
- Ask the kid to act out the reward on the card.
- When the group guesses the reward on the card, have the kid give a thumbs up or down, depending on whether they would do that work for that reward.
- Give the other kids a chance to vote if they'd do the work for that reward as well.
- Let the first correct guesser be the next one to act out a work and reward.
- Play until everyone has had a turn to act-out for the group.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Sometimes, an awesome reward is worth a ton of hard work! Has that ever happened to you? (Allow kids to share about the best rewards they ever got for working hard.) But there are plenty of times when you have to **work hard** just because it's the right thing to do.

"In our Bible story, we heard that people were made by God to work! We were created to do good, fulfilling things with our bodies and our minds. What is some good, hard work you get to do? (Invite responses. If kids are struggling to answer, prompt them—learn new things, play with siblings, garden, problem solve, ride bikes, carry groceries or laundry, etc.)

"When you get tired and don't want to **work hard**, remember that work is not a punishment, it's what we were made for. So find a job to do and get to it!"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- When is it most difficult for you to **work hard**? School? Chores? Something else?
- Who could you ask to help you stay motivated when you need to **work hard**?



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**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: Gameboards from "Game of Life" Activity and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to get their gameboards and a marker.
- Explain that one of the ways we can work hard is to pray big and bold prayers for people! Big prayers don't have to be long, though! Even short prayers can ask God for big things, like peace for a tough family situation or help learning a challenging subject at school.
- Encourage kids to write some big prayers for their family, friends, city, or our world in the orange squares on their board.
- Invite kids to share one of their prayer ideas from their orange squares.
- Close your group time in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for the opportunity to **work hard**. We know that every small thing we do each day can be used to show Your love to others. We ask that You help us see ways we can **work hard** this week and that we would be excited to be a part of a purpose that is bigger than ourselves! We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their gameboards. Ask them to talk about one of the ways they can **work hard** this week. Encourage adults to check in with kids throughout the week to see the progress they make!

