



PLAY WELL.
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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



Before kids arrive, pray for you time together and ask God that you would have everything you need from Him to have an amazing time with your kids. Pray that they would feel empowered by God to love those around them.

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: nothing

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest

The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to name 3-4 familiar games such as Go Fish, Scrabble®, Chutes and Ladders®, and Uno®.
- Work together to come up with a pose and a sound effect to represent each of the games they chose.
- Practice the poses and sound effects until kids can do them quickly.
- Call out the games in no particular order.
- Kids must quickly jump into the pose and make the sound effect.
- Start out slowly then speed up.
- If someone messes up, you can opt to have them step out of the game or simply start the game over.
- Repeat with other poses and sounds kids come up with.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are things you're expected to do?

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.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pens, sticky notes or note cards, (optional) foam cups, permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a pen and 10 sticky note or note cards. (If desired, substitute 10 foam drinking cups and markers instead of sticky notes or note cards.)
- Ask kids to write on each card or sticky note one thing that is important to them.
- Challenge kids to arrange their sticky notes or cards in the shape of a pyramid on the floor so that what's MOST important to them is at the top of the pyramid.
- Invite kids to take turns sharing their choices and why they placed them high or low in the priority pyramid.

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MADE TO IMAGINE

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

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BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, white board, dry erase markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to think of (silently) a responsibility they or kids their age typically have.
- For the sake of time, if you have a larger group, you can pair kids up and let them work together to create a clue on their whiteboard for the group. Just make sure they walk out of earshot to do the planning and then create their clue (relatively) silently.
- Discuss, with each example, ways they can show love for God and love for others as they do the tasks that are expected of them.
- Ask:
 - When doing a task that is boring or that you don't enjoy doing; such as, helping with laundry or cleaning your room, how does it help to think of ways those tasks are showing love for God or others?
 - Can someone love God and not others? Explain.
 - Can someone love others and not God? Explain.
 - If you do the things that are expected of you but have a bad attitude about it, are you still being responsible? Why or why not?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What's one benefit of being responsible?
- What's one consequence of not doing what is expected of you?
- Why should a Jesus follower be known as a person who is responsible?
- Would you say that loving God and loving others is an expectation God has of those who say they follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- What's one way you could show more love for God this next week? How about for others?

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Checkers, checkerboard

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind kids that if we want to follow Jesus, we have a responsibility to love God and love others.
- Encourage them to ask God to help them show love to the people around them. When others see how they love them, they can see how God loves them, too.
- Tell kids to pick the color of pom pom that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence:
 - Today I need God's help to better love . . .
 - God (point to a RED pom pom)
 - Someone in my family (point to a BLUE pom pom)
 - Someone at school (point to a YELLOW pom pom)
 - Someone I know who's not in my family or school (point to a PINK pom pom)
 - Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they'd like about their choices then encourage a couple volunteers to pray aloud for themselves and others in the group
- Close in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You are the perfect example of love. You gave us your Son who loved us because He loved You. Help us to follow You well this week by growing in our love for You and choosing to love others as much as we love ourselves."