



PLAY WELL.  
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



*Before kids arrive, take some time to lift your group up to God in prayer. Ask God to give you the words to say and the questions to ask to help your kids recognize areas in their lives where they can work a bit harder as a way to honor Him with the way they live their lives. Pray that your kids would see that working hard is a way that they can live out their faith in Jesus.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Ants Marching**  
Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**When have you had to work hard?**

### 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.**

### JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** nothing

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask kids to sit with an arm's distance between them in a circle.
- Choose one kid to stand in the middle.
- Direct the remaining kids to take turns asking simple questions of the kid in the middle.
- The only answer the kid in the middle can give is, "ANT" or "ANTS."
- The goal of the kids around the circle is to come up with questions that will make the kid in the middle laugh when they answer.
  - For example, kids might ask, "What did you eat for breakfast?" or, "What do you use to brush your teeth?"
  - Whoever succeeds in getting the kid in the middle to laugh switches places with them and a new round begins.
- Play several rounds, choosing other single words to use as answers.



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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:** Hand sanitizer, note cards, pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Provide a pump of hand sanitizer to each kid before beginning this activity.
- Ask kids to secretly write down three jobs they consider hard.
- Two of the jobs should be jobs they have actually done, and one should be a job they have never done.
- Instruct them to put a star next to the job that they've never done.
- Clarify that all of the jobs must be ones that kids their age are capable of doing.
- The goal is to make it hard for the other kids to guess which jobs they've done and which they have not.
- Collect the cards and mix them together.
- Read a card and then let kids guess who they think the card belongs to and which job is the one they have never done.
- Award the following points to the guessers:
  - One point for guessing the identity of the writer
  - One point for guessing the job that was not true
- Award the following points to the kid whose card is being read.
  - One point for each incorrect guess of the writer
  - One point for each incorrect guess of the job that was not done by them

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### MADE TO IMAGINE

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



### BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Origami Ant" Activity Page, pens, paper cut into an 8.5" x 8.5" square

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a sheet of origami paper and a pen.
- Instruct kids to write on one side of the paper as many words as they can think of in 30 seconds that describe a hard-working ant.
- Tell them to turn the paper over then give them another 30-seconds to write down words that describe a sluggard or lazy person.
- Invite kids to take turns saying one of their words at super-fast, ant speed or super slow, slug speed and see if the others can guess what they're saying.
- Give each kid copy of "Origami Ant" activity page.
- Lead kids in following the folding directions step-by-step.
- Read Proverbs 6:6-8 aloud.
- Take a few minutes to lead kids in reflecting on what Proverbs 6:6-8 means for them.
- Ask:
  - In what ways does hard work honor God?
  - Describe what it feels like to be lazy.
  - What's the difference between being lazy and simply taking a break for a while?
  - How does it feel to work hard?
  - What are some possible consequences of being lazy?
  - How can you tell if you're a hard worker or if you're lazy?
  - What are some lazy areas of your life that you can work on to be more responsible this week?

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- Describe a time when you had to work hard. What did you enjoy about that experience? What did you not enjoy?
- Why do you think some people are harder workers than others?
- If someone is super smart, does that mean they don't have to work as hard as others?
- Do you think it's possible to work TOO hard? Explain why or why not.
- What should be our motivation for working hard and not being lazy?
- When you're feeling lazy, what helps you to get going again?

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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:** Pom Poms

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Remind kids that we were created with the ability to work. Some jobs are more fun than others but when we work hard because we are being responsible, we are pleasing God.
- Encourage them to ask God's help to recognize laziness in themselves and to give them strength to do the work they need to do.
- Tell kids to pick the color of pom pom that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence:
  - "This week I need God's help to work hard with everything I've got . . .
    - At home (point to a RED pom pom)
    - In school (point to a BLUE pom pom)
    - On a team/group (point to a YELLOW pom pom)
    - When I'm feeling lazy (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 with prayer:

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, when we face a hard job this week, help us to call on You for help to do our best and not give up. Even when a job is super easy, we need Your help to not be lazy and put it off or do a bad job. Remind us that You are with us and that all that we do is seen by You. We want to honor You by being hard workers. In Jesus' name, amen."

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