

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray specifically for the kids who might be going through hard situations where the outcome is unknown. Ask God to give those kids His comfort and peace. Help them see that His plan is the best plan and He's in control, even though they might be scared about what's next. Thank God for always having a plan for our lives.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Cities in Dust

Israel Captures Jericho
Joshua 5:13–6:20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God's plan is the best plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the
Lord in the land of the living.**
Psalm 27:13, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see
yourself the way God sees you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, offering container, paper, and colored pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Give each kid a pencil and a piece of paper.
- Ask the kids to write or draw what they want to be when they grow up.
 - *This doesn't have to be serious. Make sure the kids don't feel pressured. They can draw about any dream they have for when they are older—a job, the type of family they want, a place they want to visit, etc.*
- Direct kids to draw or write a plan to achieve their dream.
 - Their plan could include things for later—like learning to drive, taking courses in a subject, moving somewhere else.
 - Their plan could also include things for now—like studying hard in school, being friendly, doing chores around the house.
- Ask: What happens when we have a plan for something? Does a plan make something harder or easier to do?

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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



SHOUT! TRUMP! MARCH! FALL!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, blocks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a pump of hand sanitizer.
- Using the questions below, quickly review the story as a group.
- Divide your group into pairs.
- Place several blocks in the middle of each pair of kids.
- Instruct the kids to build a tower that will stand in the middle of them as they face each other.
- Tell kids they'll play a game called "Shout! Trumpet! March! Fall!" When you give one of the four different directions, the kids do what you direct them to do:
 - Shout: The kids put their hands to their mouths like they're shouting something.
 - Trumpet: The kids form their hands to look like they're playing a trumpet.
 - March: The kids march in place.
 - Fall: The kids try to be the first one to knock their tower over and make it fall.
- Call out your action words in random order and quickly.
- Instruct kids to rebuild their tower each time someone knocks it over then rejoin the game once the tower is rebuilt.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

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Review questions:

1. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness? (*40 years*)
2. Who was the leader of the Israelites when God told them to conquer Jericho? (*Joshua*)
3. What was the name of the sacred chest where God's presence somehow stayed among His people? (*Ark of the Covenant*)
4. What happened when the priests stepped into the Jordan River? (*God parted the waters just like He parted the waters of the Red Sea.*)
5. Who met Joshua and told him the plan to march around Jericho? (*Commander of the Lord's Army*)
6. How did God instruct His people to attack Jericho? (*by marching around the city and blowing trumpets*)
7. How many days did God's people march around the city? (*seven days*)
8. How many times did they circle the city on the last day? (*seven times*)
9. What happened on the seventh day after they marched the seventh time around the city and everyone shouted? (*the walls came down*)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God's plan may not always make sense. Can you imagine how the Israelites felt? Marching around a city and blowing trumpets in order to conquer it? That doesn't really seem like the best plan, does it?"

(SHOUT! TRUMP! MARCH! FALL!, CONTINUED)

“The awesome thing is that we can trust God, no matter what. We can be confident in God’s plans even when they don’t make sense because we know He is always working for good. **[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you had to trust God’s plan even when it didn’t make sense.)**”

“Maybe this past year you had to do online school or not see your friends and family as much as you’d like. No matter what God’s plans look like in our own unique worlds, we can have confidence that **God’s plan is the best plan**. The next time you have a hard time believing, just open the Bible to the story of Joshua and know that even the craziest of plans work out when you have God as your Director!”

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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



WHAT'S NEXT?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of three.
- Explain that you're going to assign each group a scenario and they will act-out their response in front of the larger group.
- Give an example: There's a friend at school who's having a hard time at home. You know God's plan is for you to treat others like you want to be treated. What should you do?
 - Your group could act-out someone inviting that friend over to play after school and letting them know you are there for them if they need someone to talk to.
- Go around to each group and quietly tell them their scenario so the other teams can't hear.
- Give the groups time to think through how they will act-out their response. (For more reserved kids who might get hung up on the "act-out" part, give them the option of explaining their scenario to the group and describing what their response should be.)
- Call on each group one at a time, read the scenario you have assigned them, and ask them to act-out their response.
- Continue until all scenarios have been acted out.

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Scenarios:

1. You're nervous about your piano recital. You want to quit before you have to play in front of everyone. But you know God's plan is for you to work hard at everything you do. What's next?
2. You're having a hard time getting along with one of your classmates while working on your group project. They do the project very differently than you would. But you know God's plan is to show His love to everyone even if they're different from you. What's next?
3. You really want to play at your friend's house, but you can tell your dad could use some help getting chores done around the house so he can focus on a project for work. You know God's plan is for us to serve others and be a helper when we can. What's next?
4. You've never received a good grade on a math test, and you have a big one coming up tomorrow. You don't see the big deal of even trying to study when you've worked hard before and still didn't do well. You know God is with you and wants you to ask Him for help. But you don't see how anything could help with a problem as big as math. What's next?

(WHAT'S NEXT?, CONTINUED)

5. All of your neighbors are playing together outside. You and your friend decided it's a good idea to keep all the basketballs to yourself. The others are getting upset. You and your friend come up with a super-cool game that requires all of the basketballs, so you want to play just the two of you. But you know God's plan is for you to treat others the way you would want to be treated. What's next?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"It can be easy to ignore the times we need to think about God's plan and just do our own plan instead. Like give up piano and just pick up a new hobby or ignore the kid who's different from you and not listen to his ideas.

"Going with God's plan isn't just about doing what is right. We go with God's plan because we also know that it will lead to the best end result. We may not see what God is trying to teach us or what His plan is leading us towards, but we can have confidence that it will be better than we could imagine. Maybe by not giving up piano, you'll face your fears, gain even more experience, get stronger, and become a better piano player. Perhaps by taking time to learn and listen to someone who is different than you, you will learn something new and gain a new friend. Choosing God's way may require us to do something challenging or maybe even awkward, but we can have confidence that we're following the best plan. No matter what you face this week, remember that **God's plan is the best plan.**"

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



prayer.

PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "God's Plan" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids to gather in a circle and hold hands, if possible.
- Use the conversation below to guide kids in a responsive

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"The important thing to remember today is this. *(Hold up the Activity Page and point to each word as you say it.)* **God's plan is the best plan.** Say it with me. **God's plan is the best plan.** Let's pray. *(Lead kids to echo the Bottom Line after you.)*

"Dear God, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: "God's plan is the best plan."

LEADER: "When we're confused, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: "God's plan is the best plan."

LEADER: "When things don't make sense, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: "God's plan is the best plan."

LEADER: "Thank You that no matter what, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: "God's plan is the best plan."

LEADER: "You are SO good. Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: "God's plan is the best plan."

LEADER: "We love You, Lord. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents today's **God's plan is the best plan.**

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