

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



Large and Small Group today. Pray for the wisdom to be able to answer the questions they ask and for the willingness to be open about how you process John 3:16, the story of Nicodemus, and the Gospel.

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, mobile device

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Say

God So Loved the World
John 3:16
(supporting: John 3:1-21)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Using a mobile device, go to: <http://on.natgeo.com/3jV8IOP> for an image of an Inca Suspension Bridge.
- Ask: "Would you be confident to walk over this bridge? Why or why not?"
- If time, search for images of other bridges.
- Ask:
 - Which bridge would you be most confident walking across?
 - Which bridge would you not want to cross?
 - What if it was windy?

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How does Jesus matter in your life?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can be confident because God loves you.

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.

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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



TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to sit on the floor.
- Ask a series of “yes or no” questions. If kids think the answer is yes, they stand up; if they think the answer is no, they remain seated.
- Before revealing the answers, ask:
 - How confident are you in your answer?
 - Instruct kids to give a thumbs up if they are confident or a thumbs down if they are not confident in their answer.
 - They can also give a “neutral” thumb if they’re sort of in the middle between confident or not confident.
- Start by asking questions about yourself.
 - Be sure to ask questions kids can answer with confidence, such as, “Am I wearing shoes?” or “Do I have a pet elephant?”
 - Then ask other questions that kids may not be sure about, “Do I like to read?” or “Do I have a green bike?”
- Allow kids to ask questions to the group about themselves and see how confident the group is in answering the question.
- Potential wrap-up questions:
 - Why were you confident in some of your answers and not in others? To prompt kids, use their responses to the questions.
 - For example: Why were you confident I was wearing shoes? Why weren’t you confident I have a green bike?
 - To have confidence is to know that something is true. What are ways we know things are true?

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MADE TO MOVE

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



BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, black and red markers, tape, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to John 3:1-8 and read this portion of Nicodemus's story aloud to the group.
- Then, using a black marker, write out John 3:16 on butcher paper and tape it to the wall.
- Tell kids to sit on the floor in front of the butcher paper.
- Play a review game with the group.
 - Read a question from the list below.
 - If kids know the answer, they stand up. The first kid to stand up answers first.
 - For questions with multiple answers, let kids share their answers in the order they stood up.
 - After they answer, they sit back down.
 - For questions with multiple answers, kids can only give one answer at a time; kids must sit down and stand up again to give additional answers to questions.
 - Award a point to each kid with a correct answer. The kid with the most points at the end of the game wins.
- **Review Questions:**
 - What do we know about Nicodemus?
 - Why did Nicodemus visit Jesus? (*To ask Him questions, learn more*)
 - When did Nicodemus visit Jesus? (*At night*)
 - Why do you think he visited Jesus at night?
 - John summarized what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:16. Read John 3:16 and underline "God loved" in red. Ask: Who did God love? (*To emphasize God loves everyone, let kids answer quickly and in rapid succession.*)
 - Underline "He gave" in red and ask: God loved us so much He gave us who? What do you know about Jesus? (*This provides an opportunity to review the truths we know about Jesus.*)
 - Underline "Whoever believes" in red and ask: What does it mean to believe in Him? (*Be prepared to ask follow-up questions, e.g. Yes, Jesus died for our sins. What is a sin?*)
 - Underline "have eternal life" in red and ask: To have eternal life means to live forever with God. We don't need to wait for heaven to get to know God; we can know God right now. What are some ways we can get to know God better?
- After you have finished the game and declared a winner, gather kids in a circle. *Note: Be sensitive that kids may have questions about what it means to believe in Jesus. Assure them that asking questions is a great way to learn who Jesus is and what it means to believe in Jesus. Remind kids that even though Nicodemus was a teacher and knew the Scriptures better than most people, he still had questions. Encourage them, as they process information, if they have questions, they can talk to you or to someone they know who is a believer, e.g. a parent or grandparent or friend.*

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- To have confidence is to know that something is true.

What are things we know are true?

- What are things you know are true about Jesus?
- How does Jesus matter in your life?
- How does knowing you are created in God's image give you confidence?

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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: Bibles, (Optional) butcher paper from
the Bible Story Extension Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review John 3:16 using your hand. Use the following as a guide for discussion:
 - Point to your thumb—the thumb represents you. All of us sin or disobey God and our sin separates us from God because He's perfect.
 - Point to your index finger—but God loves all of us so much
 - Point to your middle finger—that He gave us Jesus
 - Point to your ring finger—and when we believe in Jesus
 - Point to your pinky finger—and trust Jesus is the way to be with God
 - Make a fist hiding your thumb with your fingers—you will never be separated from God and you can be with Him now and forever.
 - Allow kids time to practice reviewing John 3:16 using their hand to prompt them.
- Close in prayer.

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