



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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to stand in the middle of your space.
- Tell them to think about what they like to do at parties.
- Let them know you will give them a set of choices,

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Just Want to Celebrate

The Wall Is Rebuilt
Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17

- party-style.
- If a kid prefers option one, they run to the wall to the right.
- If a kid prefers option two, they run to the wall to the left.
 - If your space doesn't have walls, instruct the kids to run to the right side of the space or to the left side of the space.
- Continue until all options have been read or as time and interest allow.
- If you choose, invite kids to take turns being the leader and reading one set of options.
- If you have extra time, invite the kids to come up with their own options.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

Two Corners Party-Style options:

- Round 1: ZOOM™ party or drive-through party
- Round 2: Cookie cake or ice cream cake
- Round 3: Summer party or winter party
- Round 4: Party with friends or party with family
- Round 5: Fancy clothes party or pajama party
- Round 6: Confetti or sprinkles
- Round 7: Party at your house or party somewhere else
- Round 8: One big gift or lots of small gifts
- Round 9: Sharing the same birthday with your best friend or having the day all to yourself
- Round 10: Chocolate cake or vanilla cake
- Round 11: Big birthday breakfast or big birthday dinner
- Round 12: Staying home from school on your birthday or taking cupcakes to school and celebrating with your friends
- Round 13: Themed party or no theme
- Round 14: Big party or small party
- Round 15: Cupcakes or regular cake

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.
Colossians 3:23a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I like your style, friends! Whether you prefer a huge, fancy party or a small get together with friends, parties are always fun because you are celebrating something special! We celebrate because we are excited and thankful!

[Transition] Today, we'll learn why we always have a reason to celebrate!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



*SPACE CELEBRATION PART 1

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Shelter materials, paper tablecloth or long roll of craft paper, and coloring materials; *(optional)* magazines or grocery store flyers with pictures of food; scissors; tape or glue sticks; and snacks **If providing snacks, be aware of food allergies in your group.

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Build a shelter using the shelter materials—as outlined in Getting Ready.
- Gather the kids in the shelter.
- Roll out the paper tablecloth or craft paper on the floor.
- Direct the kids to use the coloring materials (or the optional food pictures) to create a celebration feast on the “table.”
 - Instruct the kids to draw plates, cups, and utensils on the table.
 - Remind kids to draw food, as well, if you’re not using food pictures from magazines.
 - Encourage the kids to decorate the tablecloth with pictures of flowers, centerpieces, candles, or other “fancy” touches.
- Once the table has been prepared, gather around the table for discussion.
- *(Optional)* Serve your group a snack to celebrate.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“What a feast! What were God’s people celebrating in our Bible story today? *(finishing the wall and the holiday of Sukkot)*”

“God’s people had built the wall and gates in 52 days! That’s amazing. Nehemiah knew that it wasn’t just the people’s hard work that had gotten the wall built. God had seen them through, just like Nehemiah said He would when they started!

“So Nehemiah and the rest of God’s people gathered to honor God and listen to Ezra and the priests share God’s Word. As the people listened, they became sad. Do you remember why? *(They realized that they hadn’t been following God very well—even though He had done so many good things for them.)*”

“But Ezra and Nehemiah told the people not to be sad. Why? *(because that day was a holy day to celebrate what God had done)*”

“That’s right! It was Sukkot or the Feast of Booths! It was time to celebrate, not to be sad! Nehemiah and Ezra reminded God’s people to **look for ways to celebrate what God has done**. They told the people to build shelters, just like you guys have! And to celebrate the Feast of Booths.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* SPACE CELEBRATION PART 1, CONTINUED)

[Make it Personal] *(Share a time in your life when you found comfort in remembering what God has done—for you, your family, or His people—even in challenging circumstances.)*

“God has done so much for us, and He is still working every day. There is always something to celebrate when we’re following Jesus. So keep your eyes open and **look for ways to celebrate what God has done.**” *(If you’re serving snacks, hold them up here like a toast as you repeat the Bottom Line.)*





CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO CREATE

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



***PUT A PRAISE ON IT!**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Put a Praise on It!" Activity Pages, markers, kid scissors, plastic sandwich bags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give every kid a "Put a Praise on It!" Activity Page, pair of scissors, and one plastic sandwich bag.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct kids to decorate their coupons with markers.
- Direct kids to cut out their coupons and place them inside their sandwich bag to use throughout the week.
- Encourage kids to be on the lookout for ways to celebrate what God has done through the people around them this upcoming week.
- Each time they see God doing something good, tell them to write it down on their praise coupons and hang the coupon somewhere they can look at it all week long as they continue to remember what God has done.
- Remind kids that God is always working for the good of those who love Him, which means there's always something He's doing that they can celebrate!
- Once the kids have decorated and cut out their coupons, ask if they saw anyone showing initiative in the past week.
- Allow time for kids to share stories and encourage them to write something down on their first coupon.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are so many reasons to praise God if you just choose to **look for ways to celebrate what God has done**. Maybe you make a new friend this week and see God providing friends for you. Maybe you did well on your spelling test. You can thank God for giving you a brain and helping you remember how to spell your words. What if you celebrate God for giving you a home to live in, food on your table, or shoes on your feet—even if they aren't the ones you wish you had?"

"We could also praise God for what He did by taking initiative and sending Jesus so we can have a relationship with Him. You can always **look for ways to celebrate what God has done**. [Make it Personal] (Share about a time you celebrated what God has done in your life.) This week, let's take initiative and look out for what God is up to and 'put a praise on it' every time we see Him in action!"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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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: none

WHAT YOU DO:

- Explain to kids that one of the ways we can pray is to thank God and celebrate what He has done.
- Ask kids to share about their favorite part of today's celebration.
- Guide them to talk about one thing they'll do to continue the celebration at home this week.
- Close your group time in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, today we don't want to ask You for anything. We just want to celebrate who You are and what You have done! Not only did You send Jesus so we can have a relationship with You, but You continue to work in our lives each and every day. There are not enough words, songs, balloons, or streamers to celebrate all You have done! Because we know You are always at work, this week we will continue to **look for ways to celebrate what God has done**. We love You! And we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate
what God has done.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their "Put a Praise on It!" coupons. Prompt them to share what their coupons are for and what they will do with them throughout the week. Encourage adults to help kids **look for ways to celebrate what God has done** and celebrate alongside them, all week long!

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