



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

NOTE: The secret to this game has nothing to do with the pattern or the 10 craft sticks that are used. The clue is the number of outstretched fingers you are showing. As you

explain the game, don't reveal this secret. Keep your hands visible, but don't make the number of fingers you're holding out too obvious.

- Ask kids to kneel in a circle with their hands on the floor.
- Place 10 craft sticks in a random pattern in the middle of the circle on the floor.
- Tell kids that the craft stick pattern represents the number of friends you have invited to a party.
- Challenge kids to look at the formation of the craft sticks, then go around the circle giving their guess as to what number it is.
- When everyone has shared their guess, congratulate the kids who guessed correctly. Unless they know the secret of the game, it's most likely just a lucky guess.
- Rearrange the craft sticks and repeat with a different number.
- Ask kids who think they know the secret not to say what it is but to keep making correct guesses until everyone catches on or time runs out.
- Before moving on, share the secret of the game if kids were not able to figure it out on their own.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Just Want to Celebrate

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

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:

"Many families celebrate special days together—birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and other special events. The next time you're at a family gathering or a party, you might have fun playing this game together. If you don't have craft sticks, you can use spoons or coins or 10 small objects of any kind."

[Transition] So, today we'll wrap up our story of Nehemiah. There's a happy ending and a celebration. No party tricks, but I think you're going to enjoy learning about it anyway."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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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



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What are some things you know about God's character that you can praise or celebrate right now?
- If we want to make a point of noticing what God has done in our life and remembering to thank Him, what might help us do that?
- When things don't turn out as we had hoped, why can we still celebrate?
- (Brainstorm some creative ways we can celebrate what God has done in our lives.)

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MADE TO CREATE

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



VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, cardstock, art supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite one of the kids who enjoys reading aloud to look up and read Psalm 19 to everyone.
- Ask kids what the writer of this Psalm was celebrating and praising God for.
- Remind kids that celebrating God is something we should do all year long, not just on Christmas or Easter.
- Set out the supplies.
- Challenge kids to create a Praise Poster that represents their own personal celebration of God.
 - It can be a collage of words or drawing, or the kids could also cut letter shapes out of the magazine pages (like ransom notes) to make their posters look interesting.
- Get them started with a few ideas if needed.
 - What praises did the author of Psalm 19 write about that you can identify with?
 - What events can you look back on in your life or the life of others and see how God has helped in some way?
 - How has God answered prayer?
 - How has God helped you make wise choices?
 - What has God provided for your family?
 - What friends has God given you?
 - In what unique ways has God created and gifted you?
 - What part of creation do you find most awesome?
 - What has Jesus done for you that no one else could ever do?
- Bring kids together and let them share their posters.

If possible, consider having each kid record a 15-second video explaining their poster and what they are celebrating. With parental permission, post on your kid's ministry website or on a social media group.

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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: Praise Posters from "Verses to Take With You"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the Praise Posters from the previous activity and let kids share celebration prayers inspired by the praises they expressed on their posters.
- As always, encourage kids to take turns praying out loud but don't force those who are reluctant. Remind them that God hears our prayer whether it's silent or spoken.

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What You Day:
"Dear God, You deserve our praises every day. You care for us, help us make wise choices, answer our prayers, and remind us of Your amazing power as we look at all You have created. Best of all, You love us and gave us Jesus, Your one and only Son, who took the penalty we deserve for sin. Thank You for making a way for us to be forgiven and to know You forever. Remind us often of the things we have learned this month from the life of Nehemiah. Give us the help we need to take initiative by seeing what needs to be done and doing it. In Jesus' name amen."