

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



*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to remind you and the kids that He wants to have a relationship with each of us. Pray that God will show them ways to be in a relationship with Him. Ask God to help you show the kids how their relationship with Jesus can change how they see themselves.*

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Change Your Mind**

Matthew  
Matthew 9:9-13

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

**How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.**  
Psalm 139:14, NIV

**MONTHLY LIFE APP**

**Individuality—Discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference**

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I can trust God no matter what.**

**EARLY ARRIVER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Ask a variety of "Would You Rather" questions.
  - Would you rather never eat chocolate candy again or never eat fruity candy again?
  - Would you rather eat a hot fudge sundae or a whole box of movie theater candy?
  - Would you rather have chocolate ice cream in a cup or vanilla in a cone?
  - Would you rather eat a Snickers® without using your hands or swallow Sour Patch Kids® without chewing?
  - Would you rather mix M&M's® and Skittles®, or Reese's Pieces® and Skittles?
  - Would you rather eat only mini candy bars for your whole life or just one enormous school-bus sized candy bar for your whole life?
  - Would you rather eat fried chicken with chocolate syrup or pizza topped with whipped cream?
  - Would you rather eat ice cream flavored with spaghetti sauce or a chocolate bar filled with noodles?
  - Would you rather eat ice cream for breakfast for a month or candy for dinner for a month?
  - Would you rather have free candy for a year or free pizza?
  - Would you rather eat an ice cream cone stacked as tall as you or a gummy bear that weighs the same as you?



WEEK  
**TWO**  
OCTOBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**K-3**

**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



### CANDY COATED

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Candy Coated Verse" Activity Pages, **glitter foam letters**, scissors, glue sticks, Bibles

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Give each kid a "Candy Coated Verse" Activity Page and set out the **letters**, scissors, and glue sticks.
- Together, look up Psalm 139:14 and read it out loud.
- Show the group where the verse is printed on their "Candy Coated Verse" Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to find the letters in the shortened form of the verse
- Direct the kids to glue the letters over the letters on their pages.
- Set the papers aside to dry.

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#### Change Your Mind

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### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Psalm 139:14, NIV

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"This is one sweet verse! I love that this verse reminds us of the way God made us and values us. Let's read more of this Psalm together. (Read Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18 from the NIV Bible. You can invite older kids to read out loud, too.)

"When I read this, I see how **knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself**. I can see myself as a special, unique creation of God, loved and rescued! How does this Psalm help you see yourself?" (Invite responses—I see that I'm loved, forgiven, safe, special, unique, created, purposeful.)

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

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**MADE TO PLAY**

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



**CANDY DASH**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Candy Dash Questions" Activity Page, plush toy or pillow, (optional) small prizes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Line the teams up shoulder-to-shoulder facing each other across your small group area.
- Place the candy pillow on the floor in the middle of the two lines of kids.
- Count off the kids on each team and tell them to remember their number.
- To play the game, call out a number from each team like "one and five."
- Direct the two kids whose numbers have been called to run to the middle, try to grab the pillow, and bring it back to their team.
- If the kid who grabs the pillow gets tagged by the other kid before the pillow gets back to his team, put the pillow back in the middle and call two more numbers.
- If a kid gets the pillow back to their team without being tagged, ask them a question from the Candy Dash Questions and give them a point for their answer (even if it's wrong).
- After the kid puts the pillow back in the middle, call different numbers.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.
- (Optional) Award a small prize to the team with the most points at the end of the game.

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"You are all super-fast at this Candy Dash! Wow! And I loved all that you remembered about our Bible story! Matthew's whole life changed when he followed Jesus. Sometimes he might have felt like a bad guy, working at a job for the enemy that ruled over his people. Do you think so? (*Invite responses.*)"

"I wonder why he chose that job. Why do you think he chose to work as a tax collector when he knew most of the people would hate him? (*Pause for responses. Maybe he needed money, he wanted money, he was good at math, he needed work, etc.*) We don't know why Matthew was working for the Romans. But it couldn't have felt great to be disliked by everyone because you worked for the enemy."

"When Jesus called Matthew, He gave him a whole new life—a new job, new friends, a new future. Now instead of retiring in some fancy house with other rich lonely tax collectors, Matthew spent his life telling the whole world about Jesus and how He changes lives."

"Matthew even wrote a book of the Bible! When we read the book of the Bible that Matthew wrote, it's all about Jesus and how He came to rescue sinners."



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**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### **(CANDY DASH, CONTINUED)**

The first thing Matthew did when he followed Jesus was have a giant dinner where he called other people—other tax collectors and outcasts—to come see what Jesus did and who He is. And people showed up! They were ready for a fresh start.

“No one wants to feel stuck being a ‘bad guy,’ and the great news is that we never have to! We can accept the free gift of rescue that Jesus offers and discover that **knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**”





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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:** Non-breakable mirror

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Hold the mirror up to each kid as you use the conversation below to guide kids into a responsive prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Change Your Mind**  
Matthew  
Matthew 9:9-13

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"[Kid's name], YOU are AMAZING, WONDERFUL, VALUABLE, and SPECIAL!  
[Kid's name], YOU are AMAZING, WONDERFUL, VALUABLE, and SPECIAL!  
(Repeat with each kid.) And you know what? When you know how Jesus sees you, it changes how you see yourself, too. Let's pray.

*(Prompt kids to say, "amazing and wonderful" when you pause.)*

"Dear God, You are *(pause for kids to say 'amazing and wonderful')*.

"How You made each of us is *(pause)*.

"Thank You that because YOU see us as *(pause)*, we can see OURSELVES as *(pause)*, too.

"We love You, Jesus. Amen."

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents, "God made me amazing and wonderful!"

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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