



WEEK
FOUR
OCTOBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



CANDY DROP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Small candies or plastic beads sorted by color, jars or containers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into smaller groups of five.
- Set out four jars from widest opening to narrowest in front of each group.
- Give each kid in the group a different color of candy or beads.
- Choose a color, instruct the kids with that color to go first.
- Direct the first kid to move down the line and hold a candy at shoulder-height over the jar and try to drop it into the jar.
- When the first kid moves to the second jar, instruct the second kid to start the line.
- Explain that each kid has three tries to drop a candy into each jar.
- When a kid finishes the last jar, direct them to join the end of the line of their group and start again.
- Run the game continuously until kids run out of candy or time is up.
- The color that has the most pieces in the jar with the smallest mouth in each group, wins.
- If you have several groups and winners of those groups, have a "drop off," where the winners of each team compete to see who can drop more candies in the jar with the smallest mouth.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Right Now

Timothy
1 Timothy 4:12
(supporting: Acts 14–17;
1 Timothy 4:14,
1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can make a difference right now.

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Well done, everybody! This wasn't just a game to test your candy dropping skills. It reminds me of something important. We learned last week that we all have gifts—those are our [candies or beads]. And we know that we all have opportunities to make a difference—those are like our jars.

"The narrow jars show that sometimes we need lots of practice and maybe we need to learn new skills to make a difference in certain areas. You might not know how to help someone change a flat tire yet or be able to cook a whole meal for a sick neighbor, but you'll learn how to use your gifts in those ways. You have your whole life ahead of you to learn how to use those gifts. It may be hard now, but it will get easier as you grow.

"But some gifts you have right now! And some opportunities you have right now! Those are like the big jars or buckets. Can you think of some opportunities that you have right now? (Invite responses and help kids think of some answers like helping out at home or being kind in school.)

"Those are awesome! I hope you do those things as often as you can. And while you grow and wait for those other opportunities, be looking for ways **you can make a difference right now**. Timothy in our Bible story had opportunities to make a difference when he was young, and you do, too."

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



MAKE A DIFFERENCE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Make a Difference" Activity Pages, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Make a Difference" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the first sentence on the page: How can I make a difference?
- Prompt kids to share if anything immediately comes to mind. Ask if there's a situation in their lives right now that they wish they could change.
- Tell kids that with every situation in which they could make a difference, there may be some challenges but there may also be simple solutions.
- Below are some prompts to get the kids thinking.
 - There is a new kid at school who doesn't have many friends yet. How can you make a difference right now? What would make it easy for you to choose to make a difference in their life? What might make it hard for you to choose to make a difference?
 - Your mom (or adult in your life) is having a really hard day. How can you make a difference right now? What would make it easy for you to choose to make a difference in their life? What might make it hard for you to choose to make a difference?
 - Your friends at school are making fun of one of your other friends for going to church and believing in Jesus. How can you make a difference right now? What would make it easy for you to choose to make a difference in their life? What might make it hard for you to choose to make a difference?
 - An older lady lives next door to you. It's hard for her to walk and go outside. How can you make a difference right now? What would make it easy for you to choose to make a difference in her life? What might make it hard for you to choose to make a difference?
- Give the kids time to think about a situation and write their responses to the questions on their Activity Pages.
- Provide help as needed; these are big questions they're wrestling with! Make sure kids understand that sometimes making a difference can be as simple as being a good friend or doing a household chore (without complaining) for a parent.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Maybe you have experienced something similar to the situations I read, or maybe you wrote down other ways you can make a difference right now. Making a difference right now could mean calling your grandma, doing the dishes for your mom, or even inviting one of your friends to church with you. Whatever situation you find yourself in, there is always an opportunity where



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(MAKE A DIFFERENCE, CONTINUED)

you can make a difference right now. You don't have to be an adult to make a difference. Just like in our Bible story today, Timothy encouraged people and showed them what it looked like to love and live for Jesus even before he was an adult. You can do that, too. Just like we talked about last week, we all have gifts we can use to make a difference, and you can do that right now."

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time when you were younger and made a difference. It doesn't have to be huge. It could be something small like helping your little sibling learn to ride their bike or helping someone with their homework. But the difference you made mattered.)





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Activity Pages from "Make a Difference" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to hold their "Make a Difference" Activity Page.
- Invite kids to share what they wrote, if they want.
- Close your group time in prayer, asking God to help the kids make a difference even when it's hard.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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(supporting: Acts 14-17;
1 Timothy 4:14,
1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys are difference makers—right now! Not in five years or once you have a full-time job or get to high school. Right now, as a second or third grader, you can make a difference in other people's lives and in the world. You make a difference in my life every week just by being here with me and talking about following Jesus! Let's pray together and ask God to help us remember this week, and for the rest of our lives, **you can make a difference right now.**"

(Close your group time in prayer.)

"God, thank You for making each of us amazing and wonderful. Thank You that we can make a difference—right now as second and third graders. Please show us ways You want us to make a difference in the lives of the people around us and in the world. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, have kids share one way they plan to make a difference this week.

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