



WEEK  
**TWO**  
OCTOBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**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



*Before kids arrive, take a couple of minutes to pray in preparation for your time with your kids. Pray for wisdom to encourage each of them individually in the way that God sees them.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How would you describe yourself?

### 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, NIRV

### 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.**

### JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, Skittles®

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive.
- Give kids a small bag of Skittles®.
- Tell kids to reach into their bag and, without looking, grab a Skittle®.
- Ask kids to answer the question that matches the color of the Skittle® they picked:
  - Green: What is one job or chore you have?
  - Red: What is one thing you enjoy doing?
  - Orange: What is one thing you don't like to do?
  - Purple: What is a book or movie you like?
  - Yellow: If you could make or invent anything in the world what would it be?





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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:**

- How would your friends describe you? How would you describe yourself?
- Would you describe yourself as valuable? Why or why not?
- How do you know Jesus sees you as valuable? Especially when you don't feel valuable, how can you remember you matter to Jesus?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus sees you as valuable? How does it change the way you think about yourself?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



### VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, Q-Tips®, markers, a box, "Ephesians Cards" Activity Page, sticky notes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather kids in a circle.

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- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up Psalm 139:14 and read the verse together.
- Say:
  - How we are made is amazing and wonderful!
  - Last week we talked about how God made us. What is special about humans that is different from any of God's other creations?
- Write the words, "Wonderful," "Amazing," and "Made in God's Image" on a box. *Optional: Instead of writing on the box directly, use sticky notes and stick the notes to the box.*
- Give each kid an "Ephesians Card."
- Read one of the translations together.
- After reading the verse, ask kids to underline the word(s) that describe them.
- Repeat this with each of the translations.
- Discuss the words kids underlined in the verses. What do they have in common?
- Write the underlined words on the box, too.
- Divide kids up into four teams and assign each team a color.
- Make sure there is a marker available for each team color assigned.
- Give each kid a **few** Q-Tips®.
- Instruct kids to mark their Q-Tips® with their assigned color.
- Line kids up about 5-10 ft from the box.
- Challenge kids to launch their Q-Tips® into the box.
- Declare the winner the team with the most Q-Tips® in the box.
- Tell kids to collect all the Q-Tips® that didn't land in the box.
- Use the following to engage kids in a wrap up conversation:
  - Just like some of our launched Q-Tips® "missed the mark," we all sometimes feel like we miss the mark or don't measure up. We don't always feel like God's masterpieces.
  - **[Make It Personal] (In an age-appropriate way, share about times when you feel like you've missed the mark. Maybe when your words aren't kind or when you feel like you're not doing enough "good stuff.")**
  - Are there times you feel like that too? (*Gently prompt kids to share times they felt like they "missed the mark." Be prepared to share an age-appropriate time you didn't feel amazing or wonderful. Maybe you didn't do well on a work assignment or you made plans to eat lunch with a friend for lunch and you forgot about it and didn't show up.*)



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### (VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- Even when we don't feel amazing or wonderful, what do we know is true about how God created us? (review the words on the box)
- Even when we don't feel like God's masterpiece, how do we know we matter to Jesus? How do we know we are valuable to Jesus? (Emphasize that Jesus knows we will "miss the mark." He knows we are messy, but no matter what, Jesus looks past the mess and sees how God created each of us; no matter what, you are valuable to Him, too.)
- What can we do to remember, no matter what, we are valuable to Jesus?
- **[Make it Personal]** (Share with the group what you do to remember you matter to Jesus. Maybe you thank Jesus for what He did for you, for making a way to be with God forever. Maybe share with the group a verse you say when you are feeling like you don't matter, when you aren't feeling wonderful or amazing.)





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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:** "Ephesians Cards" from the Verses to Take with You Activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Encourage kids to write a prayer on the back of their "Ephesians Card."
- Prompt them to thank God for how He made them and to thank Jesus for showing us we are important to Him no matter what.
- Gather the group together and let them share their prayers with the group.

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