



WEEK  
**THREE**  
OCTOBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO EXPLORE

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



### OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared "Mystery Bags"

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Pass Bag #1 around the circle.
- Challenge kids to identify what is in the bag using only their sense of smell. Kids cannot look in the bag.
- Tell kids to wait to give their guess until everyone has had a chance to smell is and formulate a guess.
- Once everyone has had a chance to smell what's in the bag, let them give their guesses.
- Whoever guesses correctly gets to be the first to "experience" the next bag.
- Repeat the activity with Bag #2; however, instruct kids they can only use their sense of hearing to identify what is in the bag.
- Repeat the activity with Bag #3; however, instruct kids they can only use their sense of touch to identify what is in the bag.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Hey, Sew Sister**  
Lydia  
Acts 16:13-15

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you good at?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your gifts to help others.

### 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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God created us with ways to figure out things, and you did a great job using what God gave you—your senses—to solve the mystery of what was in the bags. **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear what else, besides our senses, we need to use.**"

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:**

- We often describe gifts as things we are good at, but our character traits are gifts from God. Think of a trait someone might have (*honesty, quietness, bravery, loudness, etc.*). How can the trait be a gift to use to help others?
- Why do you think we refer to our talents or our traits as “gifts”?
- What if you don’t know what your “gift” is? What can you do to discover what you are good at?
- What skills do we need to follow Jesus? (*This question is an opportunity to talk about how anyone can follow Jesus independent of what gifts they have or skills they mastered. A follow-up question could be: When you follow Jesus, how do you reflect Him to others when you use your gifts to help?*)

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### MADE TO CREATE

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



### BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, mobile device, large pieces of butcher paper, tape, markers, paper

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask:
  - What are some commercials you have seen? Do you have a favorite?
- Using a mobile device, find an age-appropriate commercial on YouTube and play it for the group.
- Ask:
  - What are they trying to sell in the commercial?
  - Besides commercials, how else do people advertise things they are selling?
  - What did Lydia sell?
- Group kids in teams of three.
- Tape a large piece of paper to the wall for each team.
- Challenge teams to work together to create a giant billboard to advertise Lydia's store.
- *Optional: Broaden the challenge to designing any means to "get the word out" about Lydia's fabric. For example, teams could create a social media post, write a jingle or create a logo.*
- If necessary, prompt kids by asking:
  - What would be a good name for Lydia's business?
  - What information about Lydia would they include?
  - How would you describe Lydia?
  - What do you think Lydia would be good at? (*If necessary, prompt kids to refer to Acts 16:13-15 and to the gifts discussed in Take a Snapshot.*)
- Allow teams to share their advertisements.
- For further discussion, consider using the following:
  - How did Lydia use her gifts to help others?
  - Pick some of the gifts discussed in the Take a Snapshot Activity. Encourage kids to come up with ways they could use some of the gifts discussed in the Take a Snapshot Activity to help others.
  - What if Lydia didn't use her gifts? What can we miss out on if we don't use our gifts?

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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:** "Prayer Cards" Activity Page, markers,  
Bibles

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give each kid a "Prayer Card" and a marker.
- Emphasize that we all have gifts we can use to help others.
- Challenge kids to write on their "Prayer Card" a gift they have been given and a specific way they can use the gift to help others.
- To get them started, **[Make it Personal] (Share what you'll be writing on your card.)**
- Close in prayer.
  - God, You are so generous. You made us in Your image and You have given us gifts. Each of us is good at something. Thank You for my gift of . . . (Pause for kids to fill in the blank with the gifts they wrote on their "Prayer Card") God, You give us what we need to help others. This week help us to use our gifts to . . . (Pause for kids to fill in ways they will use their gifts to help others). Amen (when kids are done praying).

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