



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: Deck of cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a card but instruct them not to look at it yet.
- Ask kids to hold their cards up to their foreheads all at the same time. Everyone should be able to see the cards of

others but not their own. Make sure kids are clear that they shouldn't know what card they are holding up.

- Invite kids to look around at everyone's card then take turns sharing whether they think their own card is the highest card, lowest card, or in the middle. If kids choose correctly, they keep their card.
- Shuffle back into the deck any cards that are not kept by kids then play several rounds.
- The kid with the most cards at the end, wins.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No

Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You used some great thinking skills to make a decision about your cards. It's important to collect information and THINK before you do something. That's not only good advice for a game strategy—it works for everything in life.

[Transition] That's why we're spending time in Large Group to learn what can help us make the wisest choices of all—all the time."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you know when to stop?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."

2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.





CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Markers, "Lots of Dots" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask:
 - What are some activities we spend time doing that are not necessarily bad unless we do them too much?
 - What about the things we spend our money on?
 - What about the food we eat?
 - What about the kids we hang out with?
- Give each kid a marker and a copy of "Lots of Dots" Activity Page.
- Invite kids to choose one of the categories that is hard for them to not focus on too much. What do they have a hard time stopping once they get started? They can use the blank boxes to add something that's not already listed.
- Remind them that nothing on the list is necessarily bad or wrong. Some things can become more important to us than they should or need to be. That might be different for each person. Knowing when to stop—when enough is enough—is as important as knowing when to keep going,
- Challenge kids to use the tip of their marker to make as many dots as they can in the box they chose. They will have 30 seconds to make as many dots as they can, so tell kids to count to themselves as they make "Lots of Dots."
- When time is up, find out if anyone made more than 100 dots.
- Invite kids to talk about the boxes they marked.
 - When you're doing the activity in the box you marked with dots, how do you know what is ENOUGH and what is TOO MUCH? Is it always bad to lose track of time when you're doing something fun or working on a cool project?
 - What's the difference between overdoing, overindulging, or going overboard as opposed to "losing yourself" in something creative or productive?
- Repeat with another box on the "Lots of Dots" page as time allows.

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WEEK
FIVE
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

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 does God give us to help us identify where we need more self-control?
- What might God use to help us figure out when it's time to stop doing something?
- How do parents and others that care about you help you know when to stop?
- How does growing in self-control demonstrate our love for God and a desire to live for Him?

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FIVE
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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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: Silicone bracelets, permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a silicone bracelet and a permanent marker.
- Show them how to draw a PAUSE sign on the bracelet using the permanent marker. *Provide Illustration if possible, of a circle with two parallel, vertical lines:*



- Encourage kids to take the bracelets home and wear them as a reminder to hit pause, think about the things they say and do, then invite God to give them self-control to do what they should even when they don't feel like it.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You have the power we need to do what's right. You're ready at all times to show us where we are going too far, too fast, or too much. We need Your help to hit pause and take time to think before we act. Thank You for loving us. Forgive us when we mess up. Keep the lessons we've learned this month in our minds and heart as we leave. In Jesus' name, amen."

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