



WEEK  
**ONE**  
APRIL 2022

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

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:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Sit in a circle.
- Ask one of the kids to name something powerful that begins with the first letter of their last name.
- Invite the kid on their left to try and top it by naming something even more powerful that begins with the letter of their (the second kid) last name.
- Repeat until everyone has had a turn.
- Continue using first letters of first names, months of the year, or middle initials. With each round, the goal is to name something more powerful than the last thing mentioned.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**How do you react when bad things happen?**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"That's a lot of power. Seems like the only thing that could out-power the most powerful thing you named is GOD! Aren't you glad God is such a powerful God? Knowing God is all-powerful helps us trust in God. **[Transition] Let's spend some time at Large Group reminding ourselves just how mighty, strong, and powerful God is."**

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.**  
John 16:33b, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad**

### BASIC TRUTH

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





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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:**

- What is something good that you have learned from going through a hard or difficult time?
- What would you never learn if you could snap your fingers or say a special prayer and solve any problem in exactly the way you wanted?
- How did Lazarus, Mary, and Martha experience hope in today's story?
- Where do you go to find hope?
- How would you explain hope to someone?

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### MADE TO EXPLORE

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



### VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] **WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles or devices with a Bible app, paper, pens

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out Bibles (or let kids use a Bible app), paper, and pens.
- Look up John 16:33b then ask kids to write the verse on their sheet of paper.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.*

- When finished writing, ask:
  - What are two promises you read in this verse? (*we will face troubles in our lives, God has won the battle over the troubles of the world*)
  - What is one command you read in this verse? (*be encouraged*)
  - How is this verse helpful when something happens that you didn't want to happen or when you're face a problem that feels too big to handle?
- Turn the paper over and ask kids to write a quick description of a problem or situation they are in that feels big, difficult, or scary.
- Give opportunity for those who are comfortable doing so to share what they wrote.
- Invite kids to estimate how many times they think they can fold the paper in half before it becomes too thick to bend.
- Begin folding the paper one-fold at a time and saying the verse together after each one. (The limit is usually seven folds.)
- Take a minute to acknowledge those who came closest in the estimate they made about the number of folds they could make in their paper.
- Ask:
  - With each fold, the paper became stronger. How do each of our problems make us stronger?
  - The problem you wrote down was wrapped tightly in the folded paper. How is that sort of like God's power over your problems?
  - How does that give you hope?
- Challenge kids to keep John 16:33b in mind this week.
- Suggest that they keep the folded paper in a pocket or bookbag as a reminder that a very powerful God is with them through whatever they go through this week.

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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:** Bible

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Read aloud Psalm 147:5 (NIRV), pausing to invite kids to repeat what you read as a personal prayer.
- Allow a brief moment after each pause for kids to reflect on or pray a sentence prayer aloud.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Great is our Lord. *(pause)*"  
 "His power is mighty. *(pause)*"  
 "There is no limit to his understanding. *(pause)*"

"Dear God, we praise You for Your power. Thank You for the promise to help us when we face problems and struggles. We know that life can bring discouragement and disappointment, but we also know that YOU are bigger than any trouble we face. If You can raise Lazarus from the dead, we know that nothing is too hard for You. Help us to trust you no matter what and call on You when we have problems at home, school, with friends, or anything that is bothering us right now. Thank You for loving us and giving us hope. In Jesus, name, amen."

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