



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your few would be encouraged today to keep going even when the going gets tough. Pray that kids would feel God's presence with them, especially in times when life situations seem impossible. Ask God to show you how to specifically encourage any kids who are going through a tough time.

through a tough time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive.
- Encourage those who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to draw a picture of one place they went this week without telling or showing anyone else what they're drawing.
- To make sure you have a variety of places, give some suggestions: school, home, the playground, your classroom, dance class, etc.
- As they finish, collect their drawings for "Opening Activity."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."

Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.





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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



BIBLE STORY TIMELINE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page, scissors, a sentence strip, paper, crayons or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the sentence strip horizontally on the floor in the center of your Small Group area.
- Hold up the "Bible Story Pictures" one at a time to identify what's happening in each picture.
- Explain that you will put the pictures in chronological order along the sentence strip.
- Enlist the kids' help in laying the pictures along the sentence strip in order.
- To help them be successful, point out the number at the bottom of each picture.
- Pass out a piece of paper to each kid.
- Set out the crayons or markers.
- Instruct them to draw a self-portrait.
- After they finish, lay their pictures at the very end of the sentence strip, fanning them out as best you can.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

(Point to Picture #1.) "Jesus came to Earth to save us! He died on the cross so that everyone can live with God forever. Three days after He died, Jesus rose again. The tomb was empty because Jesus was alive."

(Point to Picture #2.) "For over 40 days, Jesus appeared to different people—over 500! He showed up over and over again to prove that He was alive."

(Point to Picture #3.) "Jesus' friends even shared a meal with Him after He was resurrected. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as a helper to them."

(Point to Picture #4.) "Jesus wanted His friends to tell the WHOLE world about Him. The Holy Spirit came down like fire and suddenly, the Spirit allowed the people to speak in different languages! The power of God's Spirit would help them tell SO many people about Jesus."

(Point to Picture #5.) "Peter spoke to a large crowd, telling them about Jesus. The other Jesus followers shared his words and continued to spread the story. God's Spirit was so powerful that over 3000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized that same day!"

(Point to Picture #6.) "The early church grew quickly. Those first believers met and ate together. They shared what they had and encouraged each other. And the message of Jesus kept spreading."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(BIBLE STORY TIMELINE, CONTINUED)

"The Holy Spirit is with us, too! The Spirit helps us understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Jesus told His followers to tell EVERYONE about Him. But that seemed like an impossible task! Jesus made a promise to be with them. He sent the Spirit to help. That's why we know about Jesus today! When we put our faith in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit to help us, too! We are a part of this same mission, and we can keep going and keep telling others about Jesus because we aren't alone! Remember, no matter what happens, you can bounce back. You can get back up again because you are never alone. **God is always with you.**"

[Make it Personal] (Share a time you faced a tough situation and you knew or felt that even when things were tough, God was with you. Maybe God sent someone to help you. Maybe someone prayed for you. Be specific and give a concrete example. And as always, make sure your example is age-appropriate.)



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



MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out the Bibles, one for every two or three kids.
- Look up and read the memory verse together using the

tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to "Isaiah" at the top of the page as you say "Isaiah." Then guide kids to find the big number 40 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 40 for the little 31; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Isaiah in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Isaiah starts with the letters I-S. When the kids find Isaiah, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Isaiah. Help the kids find the page. When they find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 40. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 31 in chapter 40.

- Read the verse aloud two or three times to help familiarize them with the words.
- Teach the kids the following motions to the verse as they repeat it together.
 - *But those who trust in the Lord* (Make a "T" with your hands.)
 - *will receive new strength.* (Flex arms out to sides to show off your muscles.)
 - *They will fly as high as eagles.* (Flap like a bird.)
 - *They will run and not get tired.* (Jog in place.)
 - *They will walk and not grow weak.* (Walk in place.)
 - Isaiah 40:31

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job! Our verse is packed full of so much good stuff about bouncing back! We can put our trust in the Lord. When you feel like giving up, remember that **God is always with you.** And He promises to give new strength so we can keep going, even when we feel like giving up!"





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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

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PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bouncy balls

WHAT YOU DO:

- Before you pass out the bouncy balls, explain that you will give each kid one to HOLD.
- Make sure they understand that if they choose to bounce them during the prayer, you will take them back until pick-up.
- Pass out the bouncy balls for the kids to hold as you pray.
- Encourage kids to keep these bouncy balls as a reminder that God is with them!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Everyone, hold up your bouncy ball for me to see. *(Pause.)* Good job! I want you to keep these bouncy balls this week as a reminder that **God is always with you**. When you put your faith in Jesus, He promises to send a helper, God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help you bounce back or get back up just like this bouncy ball! Let's pray.

"God, thank You for Jesus and for sending Your Spirit as our helper. This week, when we feel down or all alone, please help us bounce back as we remember that You are WITH us! Remind us, God, that You will NEVER leave us. You are an awesome, big, and powerful God. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, point out the bouncy balls and encourage kids to use these as a reminder that they can bounce back when they remember the truth that **God is always with you**.

