



WEEK
FIVE
MAY 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-3

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



Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for sending Jesus to pay the price for all of us by going to the cross. Ask God to help kids remember that they can bounce back because of what Jesus did for them.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Keep Holding On

Keep Looking to Jesus
Hebrews 12:1-3

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Balls" Activity Page cards inside bag, offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet the kids as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to take turns picking a card from the bag and discreetly looking at the picture on it.
- One at a time, let the kids stand in the front of the group and act-out how the ball on their card is used to play a sport.
- Encourage the rest of the group to guess the sport.
- Continue playing until everyone has a chance to act.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because of what Jesus did for 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 IMAGINE

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



*JESUS' BIG LOVE FOR US [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board, marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to sit in a circle as you hold the dry erase board.
- Encourage the kids to brainstorm things they face each week that are hard.
- Write their answers all over the board. Try to cover the whole board but leave space in the center.
- Some ideas if they get stuck:
 - hard assignment at school
 - big game
 - forgetting their lunch
 - unkind classmate
 - friends who are fighting
 - losing the game
 - waking up late
 - breaking something
- Say, "We all face hard things. And it can be hard to keep going and get back up if all we ever do is focus on the tough situation."
- Write "JESUS" in big block letters in the center of the board.
- Point out all the things Jesus faced because of His BIG love for all of us.
 - Arrested
 - Wrongly accused (Jesus never did ONE wrong thing.)
 - Hurt/beaten
 - Yelled at
 - Spit on
 - Misunderstood
 - Hated
 - Laughed at
 - Killed
- Ask, "Why did Jesus face all of those hard things?"
- Draw a large heart around "Jesus."
- Set the board aside to use during the prayer later on.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus faced all of those hard things because He knew what was coming. In the biggest bounce-back event ever, Jesus ROSE from the dead. He came back to life. He took on all that punishment, all that hard stuff, to make it possible for anyone to have a relationship with God! You can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**

"Have you ever played in a game where you were losing? What happens when you hear someone like your mom, dad, or grandma—someone you know loves





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(*JESUS' BIG LOVE FOR US, CONTINUED)

you—starts cheering for you to keep going? Doesn't it help you bounce back when you know someone loves you and is cheering for you? Absolutely! When someone loves you a whole lot, and you know they're on your side, you can keep going for sure!

"Jesus loves you even more than that! And He proved that love by facing all those hard things. We can push through the hard things and keep going when we remember that Jesus LOVES us and is on our side. You can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**"

[Make it Personal] (Tell your few about a time you kept going—kept doing the right thing—even when you wanted to quit. How did knowing that Jesus loved you and was on your side help you bounce back? If possible, choose a story from your childhood—maybe a time you told the truth when it was hard or you stood up for what was right even when you were the only one.)



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



* LIFE MAP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, coloring materials, (Optional) decorations like stickers, embellishments, ribbon, etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and set out the coloring materials (and optional decorations).
- Ask kids to think about three or four difficult times they've gone through. (These can be anything from learning to ride a bike and falling a lot; moving to a new place; a fight with a sibling or friend; not making a sports team, etc.)
- Once the kids have thought of a few difficult times they have experienced, encourage them to think about how those things could be represented in a pretend obstacle course.
- For example:
 - Learning to ride a bike could be walking or riding a tricycle on a track
 - Moving could be packing up a box and carrying it
 - A fight with a friend might look like a tug of war
 - Not making a team might look like shooting some soccer goals
- Once the kids have some ideas, direct them to make a map of the obstacle course of their lives.
- The obstacles can be arranged chronologically or from least to most difficult.
- Once the obstacle courses are finished, invite the kids to share about their maps.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Each of our lives has ups and downs, easy times and difficult ones. What keeps you going when you face obstacles like the ones on your maps? (Invite responses.)

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you felt like you were just facing obstacle after obstacle in life. How did you handle it? Who did you talk to? How did you pray during this time? Let kids share if they would like to, but keep in mind those going through exceptional circumstances.)

"Jesus' life had obstacles, too. In fact, He was killed as a result of people lying about Him. He was hurt and betrayed by one of His friends. But none of this stopped Jesus. He kept going through all these difficulties to fulfill God's plan.

"Jesus kept going—to the cross and beyond. He even came back from the dead to show nothing could stop Him from showing God's love. And He sent His Spirit so He could always be with us, to give us what we need to keep going during our own obstacles. That's why you can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**"





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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Obstacle papers from "Life Map" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to pair up and talk about their obstacle maps.
- Invite them to pray for each other and remind each other to **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**
- Close your group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we know that no matter what we face, You will give us the strength we need to keep going! Thank You for always being with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share their obstacle maps. Remind the kids that no matter what life throws at them in the future, they can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**

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