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

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Take Care of You Creation Genesis 1–2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made us to take care of each other.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Take Care Cards" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Shuffle the "Take Care Cards" and place them in a stack, face down in the center of your small group space.
- Call on a volunteer to select a card then look at the item without letting anyone in the group see the picture. (Make sure they know what the item is and what it's used for.)
- Then, encourage that volunteer to describe the item to the group WITHOUT saying its name.
- Kids will guess until they correctly identify the item.
- Continue in the same way, selecting new volunteers for each round until you've gone through all the cards.
- When finished, lay the cards face up on the floor in your Small Group area.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Look at all these different items! Can you figure out what they all have in common? (Be prepared to ask questions like "What do you do with a toothbrush? How is that similar to what you do with soap?") Yes! All of these are things we use to take care of ourselves. A toothbrush helps you take care of your teeth. A pillow helps you get good sleep! And sunscreen keeps your skin from getting burned by the sun. [Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll hear how we can take care of each other! Come with me."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

SMALL GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Take Care of You Creation Genesis 1–2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made us to take care of each other.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

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



*FINGERPRINTS AND FLOWERS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Inkpads, heavy paper, baby wipes, black, blue, brown and green markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the inkpads and markers.
- Give each kid a piece of heavy paper.
- Guide the kids to think of something they heard in the Bible story today, either something that God made or a part of the story that they loved or found super interesting.
- Direct kids to draw the "basic" parts of their idea in marker, like the trunk of a tree, a stem of a flower, the outline or arms of a person, the legs of a bug, etc.
- Instruct the kids to gently press their thumbs or index fingers onto the
 inkpads and stamp their fingerprints to make up the colorful elements of
 their picture—the wings of the butterfly, faces or bodies of people, flower
 petals, river waves, etc.
- Set these aside to dry and wipe off kids' hands with baby wipes.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God made so many things during creation, including people! God's work was to create this world, and God did it so well. What's your favorite thing about creation? (Invite kids to talk about nature, seasons, humanity, etc. Steer away from "stuff" people made, and let kids really think about the complexities of creation. You could prompt this by asking what if questions: What if God had made all flowers with just one color? Or the sun with no warmth? What if we weren't created with knees? Or tastebuds? What if water always tasted like taco sauce? What if God hadn't created gravity? This could get silly, but kids may have trouble connecting to "creation," especially if they live in an urban area.)

"What job did people have to do—what was their part in creation? (Invite responses—to take care of the world and all creation.) God made this amazing world because of love, then God made people because of love and gave them work to do—because of love!

"Nobody loves doing all the work. Like I don't always . . . (name a chore you like the least, and invite kids to do the same). There's not a lot of love in THAT chore.

"But taking care of our world and our families is a way that we can do the original work God gave us to do, with love. We can be part of the amazing, beloved creation God made by caring for the people and places around us.

God made us to take care of each other."

SMALL GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Take Care of You Creation Genesis 1–2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made us to take care of each other.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

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



VERSE TAG

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up 1 John 4:10 with the navigation tips

below and read it a few times out loud.

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all 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, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find "1 John" in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds 1 John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 John. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find 1 John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 4, and give time for all kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 10 in chapter 4. Then read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers, or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

- Play a game of tag.
- Choose one kid to be "It."
- Share that before "It" begins to chase everyone around the small group area, "It" says to say the first word of the memory verse: Here.
- Explain that any kid who is about to be tagged by "It" can sit on the ground and say the next word in the verse (first "is," then "what," etc.)
- "It" has to run away when the next word of the verse is said.
- Continue playing the game, instructing the kids to say the next word in the verse before they're tagged.
- When the verse is finished, gather everyone to say the verse again.
- Start another round of the game.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse reminds us that God loved us first. In our Bible story, we heard that God created humankind out of love. God's whole relationship with people comes from love.

"God invites us to be part of that love when we care for people. In fact, **God** made us to take care of each other. Sometimes that's hard though. You might not feel very loving towards someone who needs caring for. Maybe your little sibling is being super-annoying or the friend you're trying to help in class keeps playing around. What do you do then? (Invite responses.)

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

(VERSE TAG, CONTINUED)

"In those situations, we get a chance to be like Jesus and love first, like our verse says. We get to love our family and friends by taking care of them, even if they aren't acting very lovable. Has anyone ever loved you first like that and taken care of you even if you weren't acting loving towards them?" (Invite responses. This might be a sensitive topic but usually kids can remember a parent or grandparent caring for them when they were grumpy, a friend who stuck with them during a rough time, etc.)

SMALL GROUP

K-3

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

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Take Care of You Creation Genesis 1–2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made us to take care of each other.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

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



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Psalms" Activity Pages, coloring materials, kids' papers from "Fingerprints and Flowers" Activity, scissors, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid the picture they made during the "Fingerprints and Flowers" Activity.
- Set out the scissors and tape.
- Tell kids that people often use the Psalms to pray and praise God, using others' words when it's hard to find words of their own.
- Read a few lines of Scripture from the "Psalms" Activity Page aloud to the kids.
- Invite older kids to read a few lines or a prayer if they'd like.
- Set out the "Psalms" Activity Pages.
- Encourage the kids to cut lines and phrases from the Psalms and tape them around their picture on their page. They can mix and match if they want!
- When the kids are finished, invite them to take turns reading the lines they chose as a closing prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Amen! I love that these pictures remind us how **God made us to take care of each other!** Let's make sure we're looking for ways to do that this week!"

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take their prayer collages and their treats, if they haven't already eaten them!