

WEEK
TWO
JULY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Good Vibrations
City on a Hill
Matthew 5:14-16

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show God's goodness to others?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Show God's goodness to others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns."
Philippians 1:6, NIV

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

HOST

- NONE: 4 corners - digital game

STORRY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Dry erase board and marker
- A call bell

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

- SUMMER IS HERE!!!!

- MAKE WAVES Ñ What you do today can change the world around you

- All month long, we will be talking about what it would look like if we could **CHANGE** the world around us
- To **MAKE WAVES** means that we are being intentional about what we do each day because it can have bigger effects than we could ever imagine

- **Baptisms - NEXT WEEK WE WILL GO TO BAPTISMS TOGETHER**
Something important to us at **MISSION** is recognizing when people are growing in their faith and being transformed by the love of Jesus. One of the ways that we express that at **MISSION** is through Baptism. It is an outward expression of an inward change/commitment to following Jesus.

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

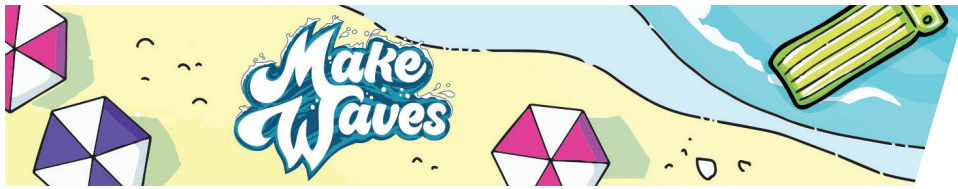
Week 1 - This is Living & Good Grace

Week 2 - Let Go & Graves Into Gardens

Week 3 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Who You Say I Am

Week 4 - Real Love & Waymaker

Week 5 - The Best Is Yet to Come & Good Grace



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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

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

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: LET GO

AUDIO: GRACE INTO GARDENS

Host enters carrying a beach ball.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

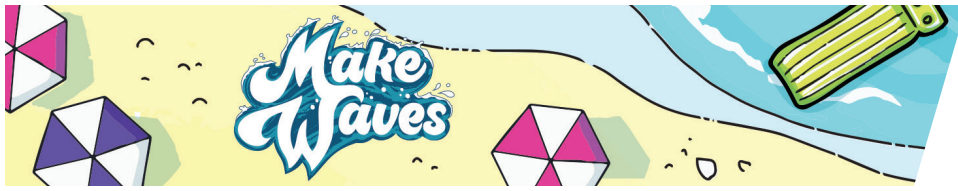
WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that is happening culturally or currently, the latest video game or movie launches, and so on. Host tells them how excited they are that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Welcome back to [Name of Environment], everyone. I've got to tell you, I'm REALLY excited about what's happening today!"

GAME TIME: 4 CORNERS



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

As Communicator comes out, bring out the white board and set it up towards center stage.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hello, everyone! Now, we know that there are good things in this world and bad things in this world, right? And strangely enough, sometimes those things are different to different people. Some people might think that pepperoni on a pizza is a good thing . . . while others might think pepperoni is gross and a bad thing!

"I'll put it to all of you: what is a 'good thing'? And think beyond food. Of all the things in this world, what are some of the 'good' things?"

Make a list on the dry erase board with suggestions from the group. Comment on them and affirm their ideas.

"That's actually a pretty 'good' good list. Ha! See what I did there?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Before we move on, think about this list to yourself. Don't answer out loud or raise your hands, but think about it. How many of these good things do you practice? What are the good things that you are adding into this world?"

"We all know that we'd rather be 'good' than 'bad,' right? We usually try to avoid the bad stuff, right? We hope to fill our lives with good: good grades, good friends, good times, and yes, good food. But if we're honest, we probably don't always choose the good, wise things, do we?"

"But if you're anything like me, you want to figure out how to make the wise choice, choose what's good, and show God's goodness to others. But how we do that when it's so easy to make a bad choice? How can make sure goodness is part of our life?"

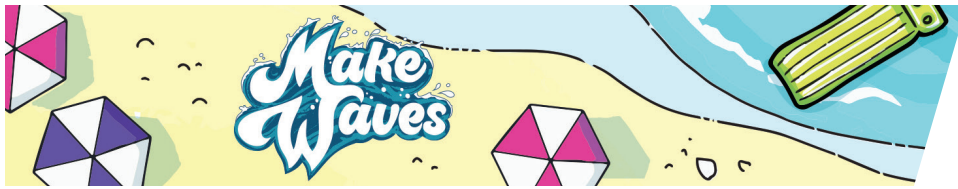
"All good questions. And when we have questions, one of the first places we should check out is the Bible. In the Bible we can find all sorts of wisdom from people who experienced God in their lives and were inspired to write what they learned so we can have a relationship with God and learn the best way to live. Let's check out a few verses where Jesus talks a bit about this idea of goodness."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today we head to the book of Matthew, written by . . . yes, a guy named Matthew! Matthew was one of Jesus' first disciples. He captured some of the amazing things Jesus did and said when Jesus was on earth!"

"Matthew included a number of fantastic stories, but he also took the time to write out one of Jesus' most important messages, known as The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus spelled out how we can live as part of God's kingdom. Let's look at a few verses towards the beginning of the sermon."

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14-16 (NIRV) and read.



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"Here's what Matthew recorded in Matthew 5:14-16. Jesus said:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."

"Okay, at first reading, you might be like, Huh? You were talking about light and then a town on a hill? Why would anyone put a lamp under a bowl? What is even going on right now?

"I find the best way to understand something is to break it apart. Let's start at the beginning.

Erase the ideas on the board and take out the bell.

"To help perk things up, we're going to try a new fun way of learning too! It's an improv game called DING! (*Hit the bell.*) Here's how we play: You start telling a story. A few sentences in, I'll hit the bell (*Hit the bell.*) and you have to stop, go back one sentence, keep the same idea but say it in a different way. For example, if I were to ask you what you love doing during the summer, you might say, 'Summer is awesome! My friends and I have SO much fun! I love to go swimming with my friends!' (*Hit the bell.*) 'I love to play basketball with my friends!' (*Hit the bell.*) 'I love hitting my friends with basketballs!'

"Get the idea? Let's try a few before we get into the Scripture! Who wants to try?

This may take a few tries to get a flow going. Use the following prompts to get kids to start telling stories, and DING them to get them to change certain sentences. Encourage them to think, give them space to mess up, and as always with Improv Games, it's "YES, AND!" Don't shut down or correct their ideas or directions!

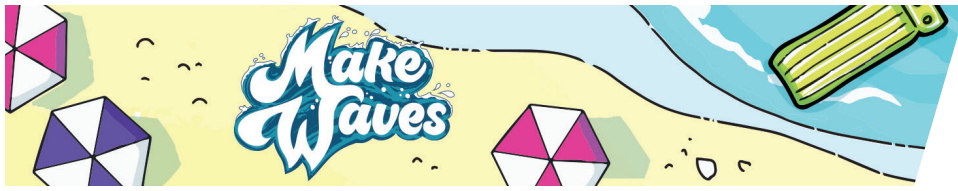
- You are taking a school trip to an amusement park.
- You are helping your family pack for a vacation to outer space.
- You're visiting a zoo for mythical creatures.
- You are leading the first meeting of a the [Name of Host] fan club.
- You are a guide leading a tour through the weirdest museum ever.

Once you've gone through a few, give all volunteers a round of applause and continue.

"You got it! Now let's see if we can add it to what we're talking about today.

"You are the light of the world, the Scripture says. Me? You? We're light? No, I'm a person. Not a bulb. If this Scripture isn't to be taken literally, like we're all on fire, but metaphorically, saying we're LIKE light . . . that might make more sense.

"Let's try out our first DING! Let's say you're a torch salesman and you're trying to sell me on all of the features of this amazing torch you've got for sale. Anyone want to try?



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Choose a willing volunteer. Encourage them to start, but DING them on the features of the lamp.

"Not bad! So what things did we learn about the torch?"

Write some aspects of the torch on the board. These could range from 'it gives light' or 'it lights up dark places' to 'it can fend off wild animals.'

"From this list, we can gather that fire, or in this case a torch, has some similarities to 'light' in general. Both brighten things up. Both are warm. And both get rid of darkness. Now, if we were to say that about a person, like the Bible is suggesting with 'You are the light of the world,' it fits as well. You can brighten things up. You can be warm . . . and you can get rid of darkness. Pretty cool description!"

"The next part reads kind of like an object lesson, doesn't it?"

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14-15 (NIRV) and read.

"A town built on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl."

"A town on a hill and a lamp under a bowl. Hmm."

Turn out the lights, grab a flashlight and turn it on, but cover the end.

"Understand that back in Bible times, lamps were these smallish, clay pot-looking things, almost looking a little like a teapot. There was an opening at the top to pour the oil in, and the spout part had a wick, flax or cotton, something to light it. They weren't huge, so they only gave off a little bit of light."

Lay the flashlight on the ground.

"Not very effective on the ground, right? So, to get the maximum amount of light, people would take the lamp and . . ."

Set the flashlight on end, pointing up at the ceiling.

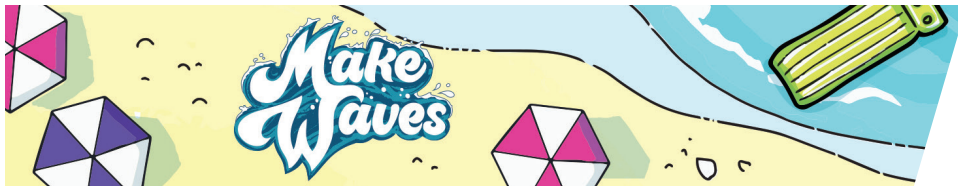
". . . Voila! It gave off the most light possible and lit up the room! Young people, that's you. You weren't meant to take all the things God gave you, all of the gifts, the knowledge, the wisdom, the blessings, and NOT put them on display for all to see!"

"Let's try our next DING! This time, I'll need some suggestions from the group. Can someone tell me some kind of accident that could happen in a house? Like a broken window?"

Have kids shout out ideas, and pick one.

"Ok, now I need you to shout out an age, like someone's age."

Wait for lots of ages to be called out, and then pick an age – but make it a young age, under 10 if possible.



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“Okay! We’ve got [Accident in House Idea], and I need three volunteers for this one. Someone is going to be [Picked Age] years old, and the other two are going to be the parents. The parents are wondering what happened, and the person who is [Picked Age] years old is going to try to make up a story to try to cover it up, pretending like it didn’t happen. Ready? Go!

Let the scene start, but DING the person who is playing the younger age when he or she is trying to come up with excuses. Have fun with this one!

“So fun! Great job! Now, it seems as though [Name of Volunteer who played the younger age character] was trying to come up with a bunch of excuses, trying to hide things from the parents . . . even though the [Accident in House Idea] was pretty plain to see.

“Let me read this verse again, only with the part after it included:”

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14-15 (NirV) and read.

“A town built on a hill can’t be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house.

“A city (or in this case, a town) built on a hill is meant to be seen. A lamp is meant to shine light. It would be silly to try to hide either of those things, because you’re stopping the very purpose for which those two things were made!

“It would be like you making a pizza, then using it as a doorstep.

“If you are the light of the world, and if you were meant to shine, to bring warmth, and to get rid of darkness—if you were made with a purpose, why are you trying to hide it? In the very next sentence, Jesus said, ‘In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it.’ Let your light shine! And light, in this case, is goodness. The goodness of God.

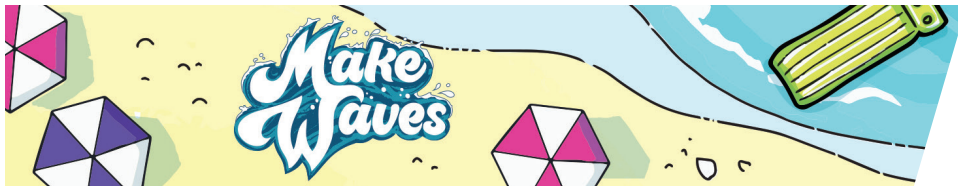
“Let’s try another DING! to tie in this last bit of Jesus’ teaching. For this one, I’ll need two volunteers, and you’re going to be two big top carnival workers trying to drum up business and get people to come in and see the wonders inside your tent! You can start off things with ‘Ladies and gentlemen! You won’t believe the wonders that lie inside!’ Then make up what kinds of attractions are inside the tent. Who wants to try?

Choose two willing volunteers, and DING them when they’re coming up with things inside the tent. Encourage them to be as creative as possible . . . it’s a circus, so there can be some odd things to see!

“Wow, I want to go to THAT circus. These two completely sold me! And how did they do it? They shouted. They called out. They described it in detail. And they let everyone know what was inside.

“The last part of the Scripture says,

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:16 (NirV) and read.



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"In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

"First, let's give a round of applause to all of the amazing volunteers. It's one of my favorite improv games to play, and you all did amazing! *(Pause for applause.)*

"You're probably wondering, 'What in the world does a circus have to do with Jesus' message?' Great question. The whole point of that last DING was to show people—clearly excited people—talking about something they wanted other people to see. Try to get others to experience what they were experiencing. They wanted to let others know what was going on inside that tent.

"That's what Jesus is saying here about you.

"YOU are the light of the world, meant to bring brightness, warmth, goodness, and intensity and dispel any darkness. YOU are the one to shout it from the rooftops, to let everyone know what's going on inside YOU. When you don't try to hide it and let people know what's inside you, that's when people will see the good things you do. And that's when your Father in heaven will be glorified."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's do one more DING! shall we? This time, I'd like two people to come up and tackle this one.

Choose two volunteers, both outgoing, both strong kids in your program, regulars, ones who you know would do well.

"Okay, here's the scenario. One of you it's your first time here at [Name of Environment], and you're not sure about this whole 'Jesus' thing. The other person has been here before and is telling him how awesome God is. We'll start with the first timer! Ready? Go!

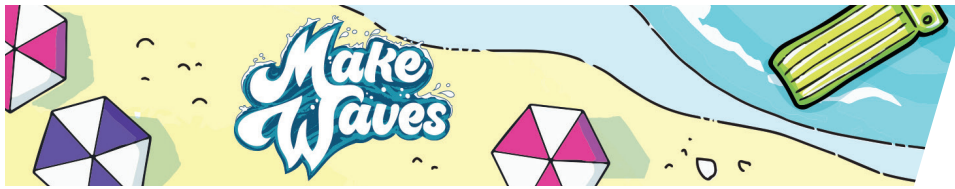
Start the scene and hit the bell when appropriate! Try to get the 'first timer' to give multiple reasons if he or she says "I'm nervous" at the beginning. Also, hit the bell when the other person is talking about the things God has done in their lives, like "God is amazing" DING "God has always been there for me" DING "God will never leave you"

"Let's give it up for these amazing volunteers! (pause) That's what I'm talking about, kids. You aren't meant to hide. You're meant to shine. You're meant to tell others about Jesus and about what He means to you. You're meant to interact with other people and be a representation of what Jesus is because honestly, you might be the only 'Jesus' that some people see.

"Let's read the whole Scripture together. And while we do, think about what you're reading.

Open the Bible to Matthew 5:14-16 (NIRV) and read.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.



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"Friends, God made you to shine. You weren't made to hide. Jesus was saying that if you live your lives HIS way, it's like a light brightening up a whole house. It's like a town, a city, a beacon on a hill. We're shining a light for the whole world to see.

"Unlike what we saw with the character trying to hide the accident from his or her parents, that light shines brightest when you're honorable and true in everything that you do. And God's Spirit totally helps with this! With God's Spirit, we can show off our bright goodness in our own unique way. We may not always get it right . . . we're human, after all, and we mess up a lot . . . but when we come together and show God's goodness, we get to show people how much God loves them.

"And THAT will make all the difference in the world.

"I mean, think about it. How different would the world be if everyone decided to share a bit of goodness?"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"**[Key Question] How can you show God's goodness to others?** Think about situations where you could shine a bit of light or times when you could change a tense atmosphere with a little bit of goodness. How can you act, what things could you say, or what things could you do to show God's goodness? You'll discuss this further in your Small Groups, but right now, let's pray and ask God to help us see how we can shine our lights and share Jesus' love with the world. Let's pray."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP