

WEEK  
**FIVE**  
JULY 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



*Before kids arrive, pray that the Holy Spirit would move in your heart and the hearts of your kids to help all of you be honest about ways that you can have more self control in the area of your words—things you say and things that you type. Pray that your kids would feel God's grace as you explore this warning in James together.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Under Control

Taming of the Tongue  
James 3:1-6

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**What can happen when you lose control?**

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God gives you the power to have self-control.**

## 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.**

## BASIC TRUTH

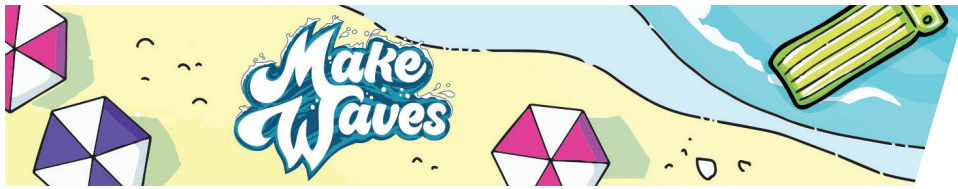
**I need to make the wise choice.**

## JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, timer

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Gather kids in a circle.
- Challenge kids to see how many times they can clap their hands in 10 seconds.
- Repeat with the following actions and others kids come up with.
  - Say their middle name
  - Smile, then frown
  - Say, "Waves Save"
  - Blink
  - Snap their fingers
  - Jump
  - Stomp one foot
- Vary the game by challenging kids to do a combination of several in a row.



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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



## TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pipe cleaners (or substitute with Play-Doh®)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each of the kids four pipe cleaners.
- Ask them to shape two of the pipe cleaners to represent something that is out of control and the other two to represent self-control.
- When finished, invite kids to take turns telling the story or the meaning behind their shapes.
- Ask:
  - How would you define self-control?
  - What would you say is the worst thing to have out of control? Why?
  - What is the one part of your life where self-control is needed most?

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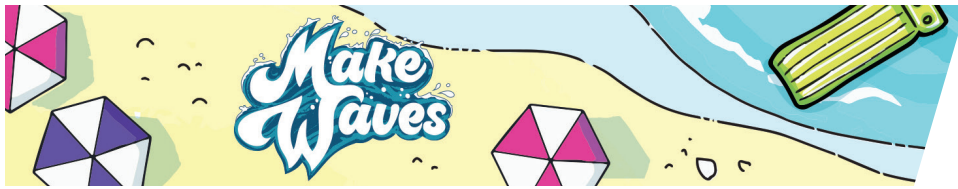
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## MADE TO CONNECT

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 typically happens when one friend in a group loses self-control?
- How can you help keep each other accountable in having self-control? Do you think you need help from each other?
- Share about a time when you lost your temper and later regretted your words or actions in that moment? What would you say to help someone else avoid the choices you made in those situations?
- We often just say the first thing that comes into our heads without thinking first. How do we learn to control that?

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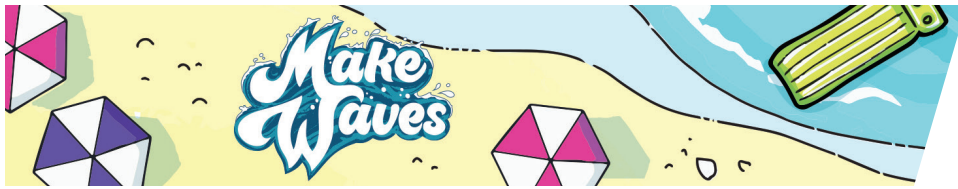
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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



## MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Index cards, pens

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to print their name neatly on an index card.
- Collect the cards.
- Remind kids that we all struggle with self-control in similar ways.
  - Each of us loses our temper, gets frustrated, annoyed, and angry.
  - We all have said or done something that gets us into trouble and we later regret it.
- Ask kids to think about an area of their life that they need God's help to have self-control in the things they SAY.
- Randomly distribute the index cards on which kids wrote their name.
- Invite kids to pray for themselves and, in a similar way, for the kid whose name is on the card they were given.
- Collect the cards again.
- Ask kids to think about an area of their life that they need God's help to have self-control in the way they act and the way they speak.
- Distribute the index cards once again.
- Encourage kids to pray for themselves and, in a similar way, for the kid whose name is on the card they were given.

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