

# CLIFFHANGER

THE STORY ISN'T OVER



WEEK

**FIVE**

OCTOBER 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, take a few moments to pray for them. Praise God for being ultimately in control of everything! Pray that kids would find comfort in knowing that the Creator of the universe knows about, cares for, and is in control of all things. Ask God to help kids find strength and encouragement in the knowledge that the One who loves them most is still writing their story.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### When You Believe

Israel Goes through the Red Sea  
Exodus 13:17–14:31

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Hold on because God  
is still in control.**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Let us not become tired of  
doing good. At the right time  
we will gather a crop if we  
don't give up."**

Galatians 6:9, NIV

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Grit—Refusing to give up  
when life gets hard**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, paper, and markers or colored pencils

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Allow any kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container when they arrive.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and some markers or colored pencils.
- Ask kids to draw something out of their control.
  - This could be anything from the weather to having to do chores at home to what color car their parent drives to what they had for dinner last night.
- Give them another piece of paper and instruct them to draw something IN their control.
  - This could be their grades at school, helping with their younger siblings, how hard they work at sports practice, how well they listen in Large Group, where to play when they go to the playground, etc.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



## GUIDE MY HAND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper plates and washable markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Pair kids up. (If you have an odd number of kids, pair yourself with a kid.)
- Give each kid a paper plate and a marker.
- Tell kids to write their name on the rim of their plate.
- Instruct pairs to choose one kid to sit on the ground, place their plate on their own head, and draw a stick person (head, body, legs, and arms) on the plate.
- Encourage kids to look at their pictures when they're done.
- Instruct kids to flip the plate over and put it back on their head (blank side up).
- Tell them to draw a stick figure again, but this time their partner will guide their hand as they draw.
- Ask them to compare the two pictures.
- Direct kids to switch roles and do it again.

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### WHAT YOU SAY:

"A lot of times when things feel out of control, WE try to control them. When you were doing the drawing by yourself, did it turn out well? (*Allow kids time to answer and hold up their first drawing for everyone to see.*) How did your drawing turn out when your partner was in control of your hand? (*Allow time for answers and showing drawings.*) When things feel out of control in our own lives, do you think things will turn out better if we try and control them or if we trust God to be in control? (*Allow time for answers.*)

"When the Israelites came to the Red Sea, do you think they could have taken control and swum across? (*Pause.*) That definitely would not have worked. Instead, they trusted God, and He got them through HIS way. If you try out for the baseball team or cheerleading and don't make it, do you think God still has a plan for you and is in control of your life? (*Allow answers.*) YES! He loves you so much! What are some things that seem out of control in your life? (*Allow answers.*) How can you trust God is in control? (*Allow answers.*)

"I have to say, your first drawings made me giggle a little. They didn't QUITE look like people. But when you had someone in control, helping you, it looked so much better. When we let God be in control of our lives instead of us, our lives will be so much better—not always easier, but definitely better. God has big plans for us that we can trust, just like the Israelites did. You can **hold on because God is still in control.**"

**[Make it Personal]** (*Share a kid-appropriate story of a time you felt like you weren't in control of something in your life, but the more you trusted God with it, the better it was. It could be that you didn't like one of your*

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## (GUIDE MY HAND, CONTINUED)

*teachers in elementary or middle school when you started the year but ended up loving them by the end of the year. Maybe you didn't make the softball team one year but that allowed you time to do something else amazing. Remind kids that God is always in control and at work in your life and theirs.)*

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## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



## POP ROCK VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, Pop Rocks®, and paper cups

NOTE: If you have dairy allergies or lactose intolerance in your group, do not use the Pop Rocks.

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids look up and read the verse Galatians 6:9 in their Bibles with the navigation tips below.

**Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd 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 Galatians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 6.

- Read the memory verse out loud together.
- Give each kid a small amount of pop rocks in a paper cup.
- One at a time, tell kids to stand up, put the candy in their mouth, and say the verse. (Allow them to use their Bible for reference if needed.)
- If any of your kids have a dairy allergy and can't eat the candy, do not use Pop Rocks for any kids, so as to not single out anyone. Instead, instruct kids to try to say the verse as clearly as they can with their tongue sticking out.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys had me laughing so hard. That was so much fun! I'm glad I get to learn the Bible alongside each of you. You teach me so much each week. As you go into this next week, I want to challenge you to look for ways you can do good and not get bored or tired with it. Be intentional and try to do good each day. What are ways you can do good this week? (Allow time to answer.) Those are all GREAT ideas. And let's not forget to **hold on because God is still in control.**"

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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:** Paper plates from "Guild My Hand" Activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask kids to hold their paper plate drawings.
- Review the difference between their drawing when they tried to do it themselves and when someone else controlled their hand.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"I love knowing that God is in control. When I try to control my own life, it ends up a mess—a lot like your first drawings. When I let God be in control, it always turns out best for me. Remember when things get hard this week to **hold on because God is still in control.** Let's pray."

*(Pray with kids and allow any kid who wants to pray out loud to do so. Ask God to help kids remember they can trust God to be in control of their lives, even when they seem stuck. When it seemed like there was no way out for the Israelites, God made a way.)*

As adults arrive to pick up, have kids show them the difference in the two drawings on their paper plates.

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