

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES**MADE TO CONNECT**

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that kids would see the importance of spending time with God. Pray that they would leave today armed with motivation to do the things that grow their faith. Ask God to allow you to be a part of that journey with your few.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**God Is God**

A Roman Commander Has Faith
Matthew 8:5-13

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Remember God is most important.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Do to others as you want them to do to you."
Luke 6:31, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Respect—Showing others they are important by what you say and do

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and small bouncy ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids as they arrive with a high five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to gather in a circle.
- Bounce the ball to the kids while they're in the circle.
- Instruct the kids to bounce the ball back to you.
- Make sure each kid has a turn.
- At first, ask each kid a different question while you bounce the ball such as:
 - What is your favorite color?
 - What is your favorite food?
 - What games do you like to play?
- Direct the kids to answer the question when they catch the ball.
- After everyone has had a turn, ask each kid the same question when you bounce the ball: Why do you come here to church/Small Group?
- If you have younger kids, only ask that first question and play until everyone has answered.
- Affirm all answers—even the silly ones that might be true (because I love the donuts afterwards, because my mom makes me, etc.).
- If you have mostly older kids (4-6 grade), change the game by making it Wrong Answers Only.
 - For example, "Leshawn, why do you come to church?" (because I hate weekends; because video games are boring; because I love the smell of hymnals in the morning!)

MADE TO IMAGINE

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

**1. COURSE MAP**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Course Map" Activity Pages; coloring materials; safety scissors; and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Course Map" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Set out the coloring materials and glue sticks.
- Invite the kids to color the map and the people.
- Direct the kids to cut out Jesus, the Roman commander, and the servant.
- Instruct the kids to glue Jesus and the Roman commander near the Capernaum town hall.
- Direct the kids to glue the servant at the commander's house on the other side of the page.
- Fill in the bottom of the map together "Healing at 15,000 MPH."
 - *Note: this is five times the speed of sound (MACH 5)—technically hypersonic speed. We know that the healing of the servant was instantaneous and miraculous, but Jesus did "say the word" so we're going with that scientific figure, as if His voice travelled that fast. You can explain that 15,000 MPH is five times the speed of sound, and we're just making up a super-fast number, we're not really sure how Jesus healed the servant. That's just how powerful God is!*
- When the kids have finished the maps, set them aside.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This is an incredible Bible story. Jesus healed someone from across a city! Jesus was near the synagogue at one end of this town, and the commander's servant was in the fancy Roman headquarters on the other side! There's no way that this was not a miracle. And one of the most amazing things is, the Roman commander expected it! He completely respected Jesus as someone who had ultimate authority over time and space and people.

"See, the Roman commander knew about respect and authority. He had total control over not just his own troops but even the citizens of that city. He could just point to someone on the street and ask for a meal, or help with his luggage, or to dig a deep hole for a well, and the person would have to do it. They were completely under his authority. They might not like it, but they had to do what he said.

"The commander, who only had to respect the emperor and his own commander, recognized that Jesus deserved the ultimate respect. Jesus could command not just people but the whole world—including sickness and disease. The Roman commander didn't write to his own commander and ask for a fancy Roman cure or write to the emperor and ask for help. He didn't bother. He went straight to the top—Jesus.



WEEK
FOUR
FEBRUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. COURSE MAP, CONTINUED)

“The Roman commander knew that out of all the people he had to respect and all the people who respected him, to **remember God is most important**. Only God can heal and rescue us from sin.

MADE TO CREATE

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

**3. REMEMBER**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared "Dog Tags" Activity Pages and pre-cut yarn from "Early Arriver;" markers, stickers, other decorative items; and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids look up and read the verse using the Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to "Luke" at the top of the page as you say, "Luke." Then guide children to find the big number 6 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 6 for the little 31; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st 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 "Luke" in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Luke starts with the letters L-U. When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, 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 31 in chapter 6.

- Give each kid a set of "Dog Tags."
- Read the Bottom Line and memory verse together.
- Guide each kid to print their name on the blank tag. (Note that some kids are still developing their fine motor skills, so don't worry if names seem "messy." The fact that kids are writing it themselves is a BIG DEAL.)
- Explain that soldiers wear dog tags to tell who they are and what part of the military they belong to.
- Invite kids to decorate the tags as they choose.
- Help them thread the tags with the yarn or string.
- Tie them around each kid's neck.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Is what Jesus said important? (Yes!) EVERYTHING Jesus said is important because HE IS GOD! He is ALL-POWERFUL, and He is ALL-LOVING. So, since Jesus told us to 'Do to others what you want them to do to you' should we try to do what He says? (Yes!) You bet! So how can you 'Do to others what you want them to do to you'? (love them, say and do kind things, pray for them, be a friend, etc.). Great ideas! This week, wear your dog tags to help you remember to 'Do to others what you want them to do to you'; and when we do that, we can **remember God is most important.**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application

**4. PRAY AND DISMISS**
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Teach kids motions for the phrase “His love is forever.”
 - His—point to heaven.
 - Love—cross your arms over your chest with your hands in loose fists.
 - Is forever—stretch your arms and hands straight out in front of you, palms facing each other.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in a responsive prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“God is ALL-POWERFUL and ALL-LOVING, and He can do the IMPOSSIBLE with just a word! HE is MOST important. So let’s **remember God is most important**. And you know what? The more we know God, the more we can give Him AND others respect. Let’s say a prayer to help us remember how AMAZING God is! (Lead kids in the responsive prayer below based on Psalm 136:1-4, 23, 26, NIV. After each phrase, help the group respond by saying and doing the motions for “His love is forever.”)

“Remember God is most important. (His love is forever.)

He is the GREATEST God of all. (His love is forever.)

He is the MOST POWERFUL Lord of all. (His love is forever.)

He is the ONLY ONE who can do great miracles. (His love is forever.)

He gives good things to EVERYONE. (His love is forever.)

Give thanks to the God of heaven.” (His love is forever.)

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today’s Bottom Line. **Remember God is most important.** You can also encourage them to tell a way they’ll **remember God is most important** this week.

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