



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
FEBRUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

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



## 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Does anything ever make you doubt that God is worthy of your respect? Explain.
- What are some ways that kids your age show disrespect for God and may not realize it?
- What do you think is most important—words or actions—when it comes to respect for God and others? Why?

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### God is God

A Roman Commander Has Faith  
Matthew 8:5-13

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you show respect to God?

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



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### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, paper, pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give partners a Bible and ask them to look up Deuteronomy 8:6.
- Use the tip below if kids need help locating the verse.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Deuteronomy. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (Old) So we know it's toward the front of the Bible. It's the fifth book in the Old Testament. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). When they find Deuteronomy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 8. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 6 in chapter 8.*

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- Invite partners to simply read through the verse without discussing it.
- Give partners a sheet of paper and one pen. Without discussing what they are going to write, tell them to grip the pen together and silently write a 6-12 word summary of what the verse means.
- They should do this without speaking and while they both hold the pen.
- When finished, let partners show their papers to the group and each share what they were trying to write.
- Ask:
  - What was it like to try to write something when you and your partner were not going in the same direction or were thinking of different words to write?
  - What did you have to do in order for the words to be written?
  - How does your struggle to go one way with the pen and your partner's to go another remind you of the struggle we sometimes have with God or others who are in charge?
- Read the verse again then discuss how doing what God wants us to do shows God respect. Emphasize that God desires our respect out of love, more than fear or wanting us to feel like we have no choice.
  - How do you show respect to God?
  - When we don't want to do what we know God says to do, what are some things we know about God that are helpful to remember?
  - What are three ways you can show respect to God this week?
- Clarify for kids that while God deserves and asks for our respect, we always have the choice to go our own way. Doing so is not the wise choice, but because God loves us, we have that choice.



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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Doodle Board Kits

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a Doodle Board Kit.
- Invite kids to neatly write on their Doodle Board several things about God that give us reason to respect God as the most important.
  - They can write single words or a simple sentence.
  - Let them know that spelling isn't as important as writing down what they feel, but if they need help or ideas, they can ask you for help.
- When finished, collect the Doodle Boards then place them in a large circle around the room.
- Ask kids to quietly stand in front of a Doodle Board and silently thank God for the characteristic or qualities described on it.
- When they hear you say, "Green Light," they should move to the right and stand by a new Doodle Board.
- When they are back to their original spot, close in a group prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, we believe You should have our greatest respect. You showed US that we are important to You when You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Help us show You how important You are by spending time talking to You in prayer, doing what You want us to do, and continuing to learn more about You from the Bible. Remind us of the things we learned this month about showing others they are important by what we say and do. In Jesus, name amen."

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