



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**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 the kids who typically feel like they know everything already and those for whom learning and school come naturally. Ask God to give them attitudes of willingness to learn. Pray that today kids would leave ready to put others first by helping them understand.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Stand by Me

On the Road to Emmaus  
Luke 24:13-35

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Put others first by helping them understand.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."**  
Philippians 2:3, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve**

### BASIC TRUTH

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

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, "Leaf" Activity Pages, markers, tape, and Tree Mural from previous weeks

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the container.
- Point out the Tree Mural from the previous weeks on the wall.
- Give each kid a leaf from the "Leaf" Activity Page and a marker.
- Ask kids to think about a time this week when they put someone first by treating them the way they want to be treated. For example,
  - They were patient playing games with their younger brother.
  - They helped a parent without being asked.
- Encourage kids to write their answer on their leaf.
- Give each kid a piece of tape.
- Direct the kids to add their leaf to the Tree Mural.
- Be sure to fill out your own leaf and put it on the Tree Mural.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Lead the kids in playing a memory game.
- Invite the kids to pick the place where the group would want to travel.
- Start by saying, "I am going on a road trip and I'm taking a . . ." Fill in the blank with an object that starts with "A" like an apple.
- Direct the kid next to you to repeat the sentence and add a second item to take on the road trip that starts with "B."
  - For example, "I'm going on a road trip and I'm taking an apple and a book."
- Continue around the circle, giving everyone a chance to add an item to the list.
- Challenge them to make the items as closely related to your destination as possible!



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO IMAGINE

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



### \* 1. ROAD TRIP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jerusalem and Emmaus Road Signs" and "Emmaus Review Sheet" Activity Pages, tape, and one die

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the "Jerusalem" sign in one area of your environment and the "Emmaus" sign in an opposite area of the environment.
- Gather the kids in "Jerusalem."
- Explain that they will travel to "Emmaus."
- In order to travel, lead the kids to take turns answering a review question from the "Emmaus Review Sheet."
- If a kid gets the answer right, instruct them to roll the die and pick a kid in the group to move forward the number of steps shown on the die. (If a six is rolled, direct the kid who rolled the die to choose a kid to move forward six steps.)
- The goal is for everyone to arrive at Emmaus at the same time, so kids should be challenged to pay attention to their peers and adjust their step size accordingly.
- Explain that some questions can have more than one answer, so more than one kid can provide an answer then roll the die.
- Once the group gets to "Emmaus," ask them if Cleopas and his friend stayed in Emmaus. (No)
- Then asked kids why they didn't stay. (They had to get back to Jerusalem to tell the others about Jesus.)
- Guide the group to "travel" back to Jerusalem.
- To move, invite kids to share something they know about Jesus, one at a time.
  - For each example, a kid who shared gets to roll the die and the entire group moves together that many steps.
- Continue in this way until the kids return to "Jerusalem."

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### BASIC TRUTH

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

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus took the time to help Cleopas and his friend understand what had happened in Jerusalem. Jesus walked with them and explained what the Scriptures said about the Messiah—everything the Scriptures said about Jesus. Jesus explained the Messiah would come and save God's people. Jesus explained the Messiah would die but would come back to life. As Jesus broke bread and gave thanks, Cleopas and his friend understood who Jesus was. Jesus died and came back to life to save God's people. How did Cleopas and his friend respond once they understood? (Pause for responses.) Yes! They ran back to Jerusalem to help others understand Jesus is alive!

"Think about the people who put you first by helping you understand something. Maybe it's a friend who helped you understand how to play soccer or a teacher who helped you understand how to read. Like Cleopas and his



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### (\*1. ROAD TRIP, CONTINUED)

friend running back to Jerusalem to help others understand Jesus is alive, maybe a family member helped you understand more about Jesus.

“One way to grow in humility is to **put others first by helping them understand**. This week, look for opportunities to help others understand how much Jesus loves them by treating them like Jesus would.”

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



**3. VERSE CLUMPS**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Verse Cards" Activity Page, markers or pencils, and Bibles

*NOTE: This is best done in a large group, so consider combining small groups of the same or close grades. The more kids playing, the more fun it is.*

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**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather kids together to play a game similar to "Clumps."
- Make sure you have one verse card for each kid and shuffle them all together.
- Tell kids that each card has one section of the memory verse on it.
- Let each kid select one card.
- If the number of kids and leaders is not divisible by four, have some sit out for the first round to make the numbers work. Then play enough rounds that everyone has a chance to play at least twice.
- Instruct the kids to find the three other kids who have the other cards to complete their set and link arms with them.
- Direct the kids to link arms in the correct order of the verse.
- Once kids have all four cards to complete the verse and have linked arms, instruct them to sit down and yell, "Philippians 2:3."
- The first team to sit down and say the verse reference, wins.
- If your group is very large, consider playing until multiple teams get the verse in the correct order.
- If time allows, collect and shuffle the cards then play again.
- Gather kids back into Small Group.
- Direct kids to select one card.
- Give each kid a marker or pencil.
- Challenge kids to write the rest of Philippians 2:3 on their card.
- Provide Bibles if kids need them or if you want to look up the verse together, use 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 "Philippians" in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 chapter 2.*



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### (3. VERSE CLUMPS, CONTINUED)

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“One way we can grow in humility is to memorize Scripture. The stories and principles in the Bible help us make wise choices and understand how to put others first. Our verse this month reminds us that humility isn’t about getting ahead and being the best. To ‘grow in humility’ means we look for ways to put others first. ‘Being humble’ means we value others and we **put others first by helping them understand** how important they are to us and to God.”



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**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:** "Verse Cards" from "Verse Clumps" activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Pray as a group with the "Verse Cards" as a model. (We have based our directed prayer on the NIV but it can be easily adjusted based on your preferred translation.)
- Lay out one set of cards so all kids can see them then invite them to help you lead the prayer as below.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God, thank You for giving us the Bible to help us understand how much You love us. Thank You for showing us how to grow in humility as we (*direct kids to read the first sentence of Philippians 2:3, Verse Card #1*). Help us as we (*direct kids to read the second sentence of the verse, Verse Card #2*). God, we want to (*direct kids to read together the third sentence, Verse Card #3*). God, help us to (*direct kids to read together the last sentence, Verse Card #4*). God, show us how we can **put others first by helping them understand** how much You love them.

(*Guide kids to silently pray for a moment.*) "We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell them the story of who Cleopas and his friend met on their walk to Emmaus and what happened.

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