



WEEK  
**FIVE**  
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 specifically for those kids who might have a relational breakage with someone in their lives. Ask God to give them hearts of humility, that they might be the ones to take the first step toward fixing the relationship and making things right. Lift up kids for whom relational trouble is a regular thing. Ask God to bring them peace and wisdom, and pray that you would be a safe place for those kids to go for help.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Mercy's Shore

Jesus Restores Peter  
John 21:1-19 (John 18:1-27)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Put others first by making things right.**

### 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, masking tape, and Tree Mural from previous weeks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids by name to Small Group.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Point out where you've hung the Tree Mural from the previous weeks.
- Give each kid a leaf from the "Leaf" Activity Page and a marker.
- Ask kids to think about when they put others first this week even though it may have been hard.
- Encourage kids to write their answers on their leaf.
- Give each kid a piece of tape.
- Direct the kids to add their leaf to the Tree Mural.
- Tape an "X" on the floor to mark where the first kid should stand in line.
- Instruct the kids to stand on the line in one of the following orders:
  - by age (this will require them to talk about exact birthdays and figure out where they fall on the calendar).
  - alphabetical order using their first name.
  - alphabetical by favorite animal.
  - If two or more kids pick the same animal, challenge them to think of a way to determine who goes first in the line.

**MADE TO PLAY**

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



**1. FEED MY SHEEP**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic or paper Easter grass and cotton balls in bowls or buckets; plastic spoons; tape squares; and timer

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Be sure there is Easter grass and an equal number of cotton balls in both of the bowls or buckets and there are two tape squares to be the pens for sheep.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Assign each team to a pen (tape square) for their “flock.”
- Give each kid a plastic spoon.
- Instruct the teams to line up at their pen area.
- Direct the first kid to run to the bucket, dig until they have a cotton ball on their spoon, balance the cotton ball on their spoon as they take it to the pen, and drop it gently inside the square.
- Instruct the kids not to touch the cotton balls, grass, or buckets with anything other than their spoon.
- Start the timer when you start the game.
- While the kids are running, direct the rest of their team to watch the flock.
  - If any cotton balls drift out of the square, they’re out of play.
  - If a cotton ball is drifting, permit a team member to use their spoon to nudge it back into place.
- The first team to get all of their cotton balls into the pen, stops the clock.
- Only sheep inside the pen will be counted for both teams, and the team with the most inside, wins.

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“When you fight with someone, how do you know when it’s over? *(Invite responses.)* Peter had let Jesus down. He was thrilled to see Jesus alive again, but he might have felt uncertain about how Jesus felt about him. Jesus, of course, did exactly the right thing when He saw Peter. First, He gave them a huge catch of fish, just like in the beginning when they first met!

“Then, He talked about Peter’s job going forward. He told Peter to feed His lambs—to take care of the people who followed Jesus later. Jesus showed Peter that he was forgiven and things were right between them again. Jesus knew how to **put others first by making things right**. He forgave first, before Peter even said anything.

“When we have an opportunity to forgive, we should take it right away! Don’t hold on to being right and the other person being wrong.”



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SMALL GROUP  
**K-5**  
STARTER

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

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



### \*2. PIECE IT TOGETHER [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Piece It Together" Activity Pages; small pieces of torn-up construction or tissue paper; and glue sticks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a "Piece It Together" Activity Page.
- Set out the torn-up construction paper or tissue paper and glue sticks.
- Encourage the kids to use the paper pieces and glue sticks to make a mosaic-style pattern on their Activity Page.
- Set them aside to dry.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Mosaics like these show how broken things can be mended and sometimes become even more beautiful than before. Things break, and so do friendships. We say things we don't mean or do something selfish and get hurt. All relationships have breaks. We all have an opportunity to forgive and be forgiven. It's never easy, but you can choose to **put others first by making things right.**

"You can say you're sorry when it's needed, and you can be the first to forgive. Have you ever been mad at someone who hurt your feelings and you just wanted to STAY mad, even after the fight was over? Or have you ever needed to say you were sorry and just didn't WANT to?"

*[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you were tempted to hold a grudge or not apologize. What did it take for you to say 'I'm sorry' or 'I forgive you'? What kind of humility did it take to put that relationship above your own feelings? What happened after you made up with the other person? How did your relationship grow or change?)*

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

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



**3. VINE VERSE**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles and green yarn or ribbon

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up and read Philippians 2:3 with the navigation tips below.

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**Finding verses with a multi-age group:** 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, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find "Philippians" in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 2, and give time for all kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 3 in chapter 2. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

- Direct the kids to stand in a circle, shoulder to shoulder.
- Give one kid the roll of yarn or ribbon.
- Instruct that kid to hold the end, say the first word of the verse, and toss the ball of yarn to another kid across the circle.
- When that kid catches the ball of yarn, direct them to say the next word of the verse.
- Then instruct them to hold the loose part of the yarn with one hand and throw the ball of yarn to another kid across the circle.
- After the kids have said the entire verse, including the reference, Philippians 2:3, challenge the kids to untangle themselves without letting go of their piece of yarn.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"This got pretty tangled! When we have relationships, like friendships and family, things get complicated. We get mixed up in a lot of feelings and emotions. We say and do things in the wrong order sometimes.

"How did you work together to get untangled? (Invite responses.) Did you get to just do your own plan to make things right? (Invite responses.) No, you had to put others first and let some people step under or around you. You had to wait your turn and listen to others.



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### (3. VINE VERSE, CONTINUED)

“Sometimes, in order to mend relationships with our family and friends, we need to **put others first by making things right**. Even though it’s tough, sometimes we need to be the ones who make the first move to either apologize or start the conversation about what happened to break the relationship. Our verse reminds us to value each other. We do that when we forgive, apologize, and cooperate.”

*Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids*

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Have you ever let go of a grudge? What was that like?
- How can apologizing be a sign of humility?





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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:** Crafts from "Piece It Together" activity and pens or markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid their mosaic craft from earlier and set out the pens or markers.
- Ask kids to find small gaps in their mosaics and write the names of people they want to put first this week—especially people they need to work with to make things right.
- Remind the kids by saying, "This week, **put others first by making things right.**"
- Close your group time in prayer.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

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John 21:1-19 (John 18:1-27)

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for showing humility when You made things right with people by rescuing us from sin. Your love puts us first, and we are so thankful. Please show us how to act like You this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Put others first by making things right.**

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show them their mosaic crafts and explain that they can **put others first by making things right.**

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

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