



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 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 needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- How have you put someone first recently?
- We naturally tend to think of ourselves first. What can we do to get in the habit of thinking outside of ourselves and seeing where we can put others first?
- Why do you think some people are easier to put first than others?
- Why do you think it's so hard to put others first?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water

Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When has someone put you first?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

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 can trust God no matter what.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

GROWING FROM THE GROUND UP

WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water

Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When has someone put you first?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

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 can trust God no matter what.

4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, plastic eggs, sticky notes, pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to pair up.
- Give 10 plastic eggs and a Bible to each pair.
- Ask kids to separate the eggs so they have 20 halves.
- Invite kids to look up Philippians 2:3. Share the tip below if kids need help locating the verse.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Philippians. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 3 in chapter 2.

- Explain that one partner will read part of the verse as the other partner assembles one egg for every word.
- The kid saying the verse must wait until an egg is put together before they move on to the next word.
- When all the eggs have been put together, kids should break up the eggs, switch roles, and continue with the next sentence or section of the verse.
- The winner is the team that complete the entire verse first.
- After the game, guide kids to discuss the meaning of Philippians 2:3.
- Ask:
 - What are the DOs and DON'Ts found in Philippians 2:3?
 - Looking back at the individual words in this verse, which ones would you say are most important? Explain why. (Write each word kids come up with on a separate sticky note to use during "Make it Personal with Prayer.")
 - Describe a proud person. (Without naming names.)
 - Describe a humble person.
 - Putting others first means we have to be willing to set aside what we want sometimes. When might you need to do that?
 - What can you do to show that you're trying to put others first?
 - Who is someone that you can specifically put first this week and how will you do it?



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

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: Sticky notes from "Verses to Take with You"

WHAT YOU DO:

- If you have particularly large number of kids or a lot of energy in the group today, take a moment to encourage kids to quiet down, take a breath, and prepare their heart to talk to God.
- Set out the sticky notes from the previous activity as you remind kids of the key words they chose from Philippians 2:3.
- Select one of the words and invite kids to use that word in a sentence prayer.
- They can pray silently, but encourage those who are willing to pray aloud. Their prayer can be one of praise, thanks, or a request for help to put others first.
- Choose a different word and allow kids to create another sentence prayer.
- Continue another time or two if desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for being the perfect example of humility. Show us ways to put others first the way You do. In Jesus' name, amen."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Washed by the Water
Palm Sunday/Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
John 12:9-16; 13:1-17
(Matthew 21:1-11)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When has someone put you first?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus put others first.

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 can trust God no matter what.