

RAISE YOUR GAME

PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE

WEEK
THREE
MAY 2023

SMALL GROUP

2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



Before kids arrive, pray for each kid who will be in attendance this morning—those who are regular attenders and those who may be visiting for the first time. Ask God to open their hearts, that they may be able to understand that because God has forgiven us, we can also forgive others. Ask God to help you and the kids walk in love and forgiveness.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Pressure

Peter and John Are
Taken to the Sanhedrin
Acts 3:1–4:21

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is with you no matter what.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"So we say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid."
Hebrews 13:6a, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Confidence—Living like you
believe God is with you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, and coloring materials

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name to Small Group.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a piece of paper as they arrive.
- Instruct the kids to fold the paper in half by length and by width then open the page to create a big plus sign (+) in the middle.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Invite the kids to draw four of their favorite things, one in each box on their page.
- Share some examples of what they could draw:
 - food
 - pet
 - sport
 - toy
 - game
 - animal
 - dessert
 - holiday
- Once kids have drawn their four pictures, challenge them to look for another kid in the room who has at least one favorite thing in common!
- Ask:
 - What are some of your favorite foods?
 - What about animals?
 - What kinds of things cheer you up on a bad day?

RAISE YOUR GAME

PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE

WEEK
THREE
MAY 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. GAME PLAY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Game Play Charades Cards" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the cards from the "Game Play Charades Cards" Activity Page.
- Instruct one kid to pick a card not share what it is with the group.
- Guide the kid to silently act-out what is on the card.
- Invite the rest of the group to guess the actions. (If the group's answer is basically the same as what's on the actor's card, but not worded exactly, you can accept that answer.)
- The first kid who guesses the action gets to become the next actor, drawing a card and acting it out for the group.
- Play until everyone who wants to has had a chance to act-out a card.

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Confidence—Living like you believe God is with you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some outrageous scenarios from video games, but we all have times when we're scared or lonely, times when we're happy and hopeful. In all of these times, **God is with you no matter what.**

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you felt God's presence—maybe in joy over creation or thankfulness for family or friends, maybe when you were lonely or sad and felt God's reassurance. Have you read something in the Bible recently that felt particularly personal? All of these are ways we know God is with us.)

"We can feel and see God's presence in many ways—in family and friends, in the Bible and in worship songs, when we pray or worship, even when we give help or serve others. If you're not sure that God is with you, pray! Then be on the lookout for a moment of joy or peace or forgiveness that wouldn't usually be possible—that's God with you, God's Spirit present in every minute of your life."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- When was the last time you knew that God was with you? Or you felt close to God?
- Are there any downsides to God being with you no matter what?
- What can you do when you feel like God is far from you?

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K-1

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. PUTTING THE BOLD IN THE PBJ

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Take out a Bible and see if anyone would like to try to find the verse for this month or if anyone has it memorized and wants to say it for the group.
- As a group, divide the verse into phrases and let kids come up with motions to help everyone remember it.
- Let the group try to think of motions first, but if they're stuck, give them the suggestions below.
 - So we say with confidence (put hands on hips and stand like a superhero)
 - The Lord (point above)
 - is my helper (clasp hands together in front of you)
 - I will not be afraid. (shake head)
 - Hebrews 13:6a (open hands like a book)
- Take turns letting everyone be bold and share the verse and motions with the group.
- If any kid doesn't want to say the verse alone, the group can say it together with them.

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"It's so good to learn God's Word so we can always have it with us. You were BOLD like Peter and John when you shared God's Word with us! God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit and helps us know the character of God through the Bible. When we memorize Scripture, we can have it with us to remind us that God is our helper. When you're facing something that makes you afraid like answering the teacher's question in front of the class or inviting someone new to play with you on the playground, you can have confidence because **God is with you no matter what.**"

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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:

- Gather the group.
- Tell the kids that you're going to pray a responsive prayer.
- You will make a statement, and they will answer, "God is with me no matter what."
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Pressure

Peter and John Are
Taken to the Sanhedrin
Acts 3:1–4:21

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you're feeling awesome and excited and happy . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When you're feeling sad and mad and bad and generally rotten . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When you're scared and lonely and there's a thunderstorm outside . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is with you no matter what.

"When you've done something wrong and you're embarrassed . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When your pictures look amazing and you have a zillion followers online . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When you feel like no one likes you and you're not good enough . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

God is with you no matter what. (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.' Then lead them to say 'Amen' with you.) Amen."

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"So we say with confidence,
'The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.'"
Hebrews 13:6a, NIV

As adults arrive to pick up, send the kids home with the treats from the piñata and their video game currency. Invite the adults to get pictures of the kids wearing the giant box heads, too!

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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