



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JUNE 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:

- A follower of Jesus sees things differently than someone who doesn't have faith in or know Jesus. What are some ways that might show up in the following areas?
  - Money
  - People
  - Sickness or death
  - Time
  - Creation
  - Happiness
  - Bible
- What do you know about Jesus?
- What is something you've heard others say about Jesus but you're not sure if it's true or not?
- When you have questions about Jesus, where can you go to find answers? Who can you talk to?

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**I'm a Believer**

Paul Becomes a Believer  
Acts 9:1-9

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you know about Jesus?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Knowing Jesus changes  
how you see things.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, ping-pong ball, hair dryer, extension cord if needed  
*Optional: bendable straw and ping-pong ball for each person (See end of activity for more details.)*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### I'm a Believer

Paul Becomes a Believer  
Acts 9:1-9

#### WHAT YOU DO:

Invite kids to look up Hebrews 11:1. Use the tip below to assist kids in finding the verse.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Hebrews. 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 Hebrews, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 11. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verses 1 in chapter 11.*

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you know about Jesus?

*NOTE: Be sure you try a demonstration of the following experiment ahead of time to feel confident presenting it to the kids.*

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Knowing Jesus changes how you see things.

- Form a circle in an area that allows kids enough space for them to pass the hair dryer while it is plugged in. (If needed, use an extension cord to make this possible.)
- If your meeting space isn't large enough for a circle, choose one kid to stand near the wall where the hair dryer is plugged in then have the remaining kids line up behind them.
- Demonstrate how to use the hair dryer (cool setting only) to keep the ball afloat in midair.
- Pass the hair dryer to one of the kids while still keeping the ball floating in the air.
- Challenge kids to keep the ball afloat as you guide them in reciting Hebrews 11:1 continually as they also, without dropping the ball, pass the hair dryer to the next kid.
- If they drop the ball, prompt them to start the verse over again.
- Continue around the circle a couple times or until the verse has been said in its entirety at least twice.
- Discuss the activity.
  - Explain how this experiment illustrates the kind of faith spoken of in Hebrews 11:1.
  - What do you see around you that helps you believe in God even though we can't see God?
  - If we could SEE God, do you think everyone would believe? Why or why not?
  - What if it was really easy to believe in God? Do you think that would make faith easy or hard? Strong or weak?

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#### (4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

*Optional: Straw and Ping-Pong Ball Experiment*

1. Provide a bendable straw and ping-pong ball for each kid.
2. Bend the short end of the straw upward to make an "L" shape.
3. Hold the long end of the straw in your mouth.
4. Place the ball on top of the short end.
5. Blow air through the straw to raise the ball in the air while Hebrews 11:1 is being read or for as long as possible.



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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:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to each name something they believe about Jesus.
- Encourage them to create a one-sentence prayer to pray aloud that thanks or praises Jesus for the quality or characteristic they named.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Jesus, there are so many things we can praise You for. The more we learn about You, the more our faith grows. Help us to keep following You even when it's hard. We need Your help to see things the way You see them and to trust You no matter what."

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