



WEEK
ONE
JULY 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:

- What is your favorite Christmas or birthday gift you have ever received?
- Have you ever been offered a gift that you turned down?
- How do you feel when you get a gift?
- Is it difficult to accept that there's nothing we can do to earn the gift of Jesus? Why or why not?
- What is grace, and what does it have to do with faith in Jesus?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Salvation Is Here

Salvation Is God's Gift
Ephesians 2:8-9

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you feel when you get a gift?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is a gift for everyone.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."

Ephesians 2:8, 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 MOVE

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



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Wheelbarrow Verse" Activity Page cards, masking tape; *Optional: Bibles*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to pair up.
- Explain that you will be doing a wheelbarrow race.
- Give kids a chance to decide with their partner which one will walk on their hands and which one will hold their ankles.
- Use a piece of masking tape to mark one long "Starting Line" at one end of your group space.
- Instruct kids to stand with their partners behind the line. (Be sure to leave plenty of space in between each pair of kids, in order to prevent them from running into each other.)
- On the opposite end of your group space, use the masking tape to mark another long line.
- Place stacks of prepared "Wheelbarrow Verse" cards along the line, one stack across from each pair of kids.
- When you say, "Go!" kids will get into the wheelbarrow position and race to the other end to pick up one (and only one!) card from their stack.
- Then they bring the one card back to the start line.
- Pairs can switch positions if the kid walking on their hands gets tired.
- Once they have retrieved every piece in their stack, they work together to put the pieces of Ephesians 2:8 together in the correct order. (Challenge them to do this without first looking up the verse in the Bible.)
- The first pair to put the verse in order wins!
- After every pair has finished putting their pieces together, give each of them a chance to read the verse out loud for the group.
- Ask the following questions:
 - For those who walked on their hands, why did you need to have faith in your partner in order to do this race? (*They had to trust that they would hold on to their ankles and not drop them.*)
 - For those who held their partners' ankles, why did you need to have faith in your partner? (*They had to trust that their arms were strong enough to walk on their hands and not fall.*)
- Point out that when everyone had faith in their partners, they were able to complete the challenge of gathering all the pieces and putting the verse together. When we have faith in Jesus, we can have a relationship with Him, and we have God's help to become more like Jesus. That is the absolute best gift we could ever receive—even better than completing a relay race!

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

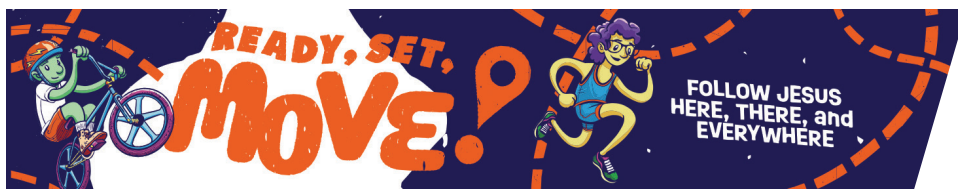
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Stations" Activity Page, large piece of butcher paper, markers, assortment of Legos or blocks, prepared piece of poster board, dark rocks or stones, clear or glass pebbles

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into three groups and assign one group to each of the three Prayer Stations.
- Explain what kids are supposed to do at each Prayer Station.
 1. Prayer Graffiti: Kids will creatively express their prayer requests in words and/or pictures on the paper taped to the wall.
 2. Stack of Blessings: Kids will make towers with Legos or blocks. With each piece they place, they should think of something they can thank God for and say a silent prayer as they build.
 3. Gift of Forgiveness: Kids will silently talk to God about a way they've recently sinned and messed up. Encourage them to ask God for forgiveness. They can then place a dark rock or stone on the cross on the poster board. Then, they can take one of the clear pebbles to keep. The clear pebble can be a reminder that God's gift of forgiveness is for everyone, no matter what.
- Allow groups to have several minutes at each station.
- Remind everyone to be respectful while they rotate and spend time at each station, giving each other space and quiet.
- After everyone has had a turn at each station, encourage kids by assuring them that prayer can be creative. God loves for us to pray in all different ways. If there is a particular station they liked, they can pray this way at home, too. Talking to and spending time with God can help us build our faith!