



WEEK
TWO
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 brings you happiness in normal life?
- What is the difference between happiness and joy?
- Why is it challenging to have joy in hard situations?
- Is it possible to be happy, but not have joy?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Joyful Noise

Paul and Silas Are
Thrown into Prison
Acts 16:16-40

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What brings you joy?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you find joy.

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 PLAY

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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared "Seek and Find" Activity Page, blindfolds, Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Before kids arrive, take time to hide "Seek and Find" Activity Page pieces in various places around your group space. (i.e., underneath stack of Bibles, taped to the bottom of a chair, taped to the inside of a cabinet, etc.)
- If there is no time to do this before group starts, ask kids to turn around or close their eyes while you hide them.
- Choose a volunteer to be your seeker. Tie a blindfold over their eyes and make sure they cannot see.
- Silently point to one of the hidden verses so the rest of the group can know where it is.
- Instruct the group to begin giving clues to the seeker, in order to help them locate the hidden verse.
 - Kids can say things such as, "Walk over to the white board." Or "Take three steps to your left."
- Once the seeker has located the verse, they can take off their blindfold.
- Hand them a Bible and ask them to look up the reference on the card they found.
- Let them read it out loud for the group.
- Repeat this process, asking for different volunteers, until every verse has been found.
- Ask:
 - Which verse sticks out to you the most or makes the most sense to you?
 - How can we search for joy like we searched for these verses? (Look for things to be thankful for, pray and ask for God's help, ask for friends and family to help)

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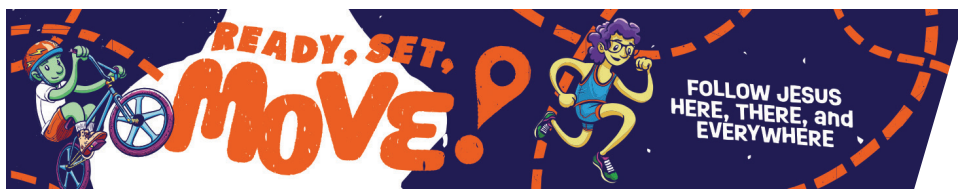
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Large piece of butcher paper (or if there is still space left, just use the same one that was used in Week 1), markers, "JOY Prayer" Activity Page, pens or pencils, an assortment of pillows and/or blankets, "Prayer Stations" Activity Page

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the 3 Prayer Stations that you set up in Week 1. See below for the changes you'll need to make for this week.
 - STATION 1: Prayer Graffiti. Tape a large piece of butcher paper to the wall and place a variety of markers on the floor next to it. If there is enough space on the paper from last week, you can just have kids add to it, instead of putting up a new piece.
 - STATION 2: JOY Prayer. Place the "JOY Prayer" Activity Pages in a stack, as well as a few pens or pencils.
 - STATION 3: Rest with God. Place a few pillows and blankets for kids to use for a quiet, restful prayer time.
- Explain what kids are supposed to do at each Prayer Station.
 - Prayer Graffiti: Kids will creatively express their prayer requests in words and/or pictures on the paper taped to the wall.
 - JOY Prayer: Kids will each get a copy of the "JOY Prayer" Activity Page, which will guide them into thinking about different things they can pray about, using the acronym, J-O-Y (*Jesus, Others, Yourself*). They can use a pen or pencil to write things down in the columns.
 - Rest with God: Kids can get comfortable in the space, and silently spend time with God. Explain that this could mean they pray about something on their mind, or they can even just spend time thinking about God or thanking God for various good things in their lives.
- Let kids each choose a prayer station to start.
- 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 wants to hear from us 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!

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