



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
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:**

- How can your relationship with someone else make your faith stronger?
- Who has encouraged you?
- How do we know God intended for us to work together?
- How can our small group be there for each other?
- What does it mean for our faith to grow stronger? What does that look like or feel like?

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**We Belong Together**

The Church  
Hebrews 10:23-25

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who has encouraged you?

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Our faith is stronger together.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

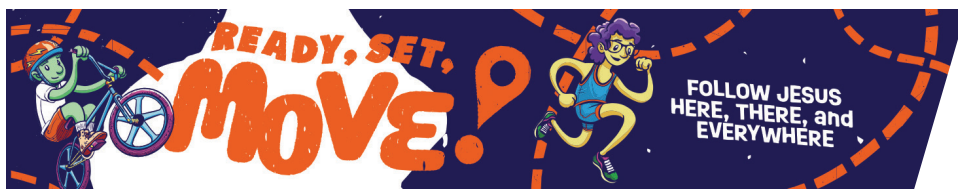
"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."  
Ephesians 2:8, NIV

## 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 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:** Prepared disposable plastic cups, rubber bands, six-inch pieces of string or yarn, Bibles

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into teams of three or four.
- Give each team a set of prepared cups, one rubber band, and enough pieces of string for each kid to have one. Leave the cups in a stack, face down.
- Instruct kids to each tie one end of their string to their team's rubber band, spacing the strings out equally from each other.
- When you say go, they will each grab their string.
- As a team, they must pull on their strings in order to stretch their rubber band.
- Together, they will move the rubber band to secure it over the bottom of the first cup, then lift the cup from the stack, and place it on the floor.
- They will repeat this until each cup is placed on the floor and out of the stack.
- Then they must use the same process in order to lift cups and place them in the correct order to form Ephesians 2:8. The first team to complete this wins.
- Give each team a turn to read Ephesians 2:8 together for the entire group.
- Ask for three volunteers and hand each of them a Bible.
- Assign each volunteer one of the following verses to look up, and read for the group:
  - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
  - Proverbs 27:17
  - 1 Peter 4:10
- Ask:
  - Through these verses, what does God want us to know about being in community and friendship with each other? (*God wants us to encourage each other; we're not meant to grow our faith without other people helping us; God gives us other believers to help grow our faith*)
  - How does the rubber band and cup game we just played fit into what we're talking about today? (*Just like this rubber band method of lifting the cups worked best when everyone was pulling their strings together, our faith is stronger together.*)

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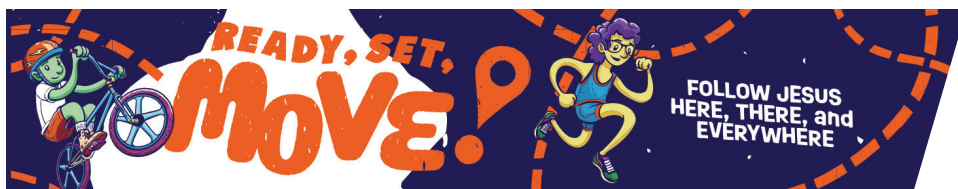
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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, plain paper, markers, "Prayer Stations" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Use the 3 Prayer Stations that you used in Weeks 1,2, and 3. See below for the changes you'll need to make for this week.
  - STATION 1: Matthew 18:20. Set out a Bible, a stack of plain paper, and an assortment of colored markers.
  - STATION 2: Prayer Share. There are no supplies needed for this station.
  - STATION 3: Partner Prayer. There are no supplies needed for this station.
- Explain what kids are supposed to do at each Prayer Station.
  - Matthew 18:20: One kid will need to look up the verse, Matthew 18:20, and read it for the group.
    - They will leave the Bible open so everyone can see it.
    - Kids will spend time using the markers to write this verse on a piece of paper.
    - They can decorate it however they would like and then take it home and put it up in their rooms or on the fridge where the entire family will see it.
  - Prayer Share: You will be at this station.
    - Give every kid a turn to share something that they would like for you to pray about for them.
    - Take time to write down the requests or make a note in your phone.
    - After everyone has shared something, pray out loud for every request that was mentioned.
- Partner Prayer: Kids will pair up and spend time discussing things they would like for the other to pray about for them. Then they will take time to pray quietly for each other.
- 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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