



WEEK
THREE
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those in difficult situations at home, those who might be struggling to fit in, and those for whom life is just a lot to deal with at the moment. Pray that they would take today's message to heart and that God would use today to help them feel less alone. Ask God to guide you as you provide a safe place for those kids to process their situations, ask questions, and be prayed for by their peers.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Perfect Storm
Paul Shipwrecked
Acts 27:1-28:10

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Game Cards" Activity Page cards and offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct kids to sit in a circle.
- Set out the "Game Cards" face up so the kids can see them.
- Ask the group to set the cards in order:
 - the farthest from your location to the nearest
 - the largest area to the smallest
 - any other category they can think of

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When bad things happen,
God is with you.**

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, NIRV**

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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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



* 1. BUILD A BOAT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Aluminum foil; scissors; tub or bucket of water; and several pennies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to get in pairs.
- Give each pair a two-foot piece of foil.
- Set out the scissors.
- Invite the kids to make a boat that will float on water. (They can fold, cut, or shape their foil however they like.)
- When each pair is done with their boat shape, direct the kids to put their boat on the water.
- Direct the oldest kid in each pair to carefully put pennies on the boat, one by one.
 - As they do, they should name one bad thing that happened to Paul in the story.
- When a boat sinks, the pair who created the boat is out.
- The pair with the boat that holds the most pennies, wins!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our Bible story today had a shipwreck kind of like our sinking boats right here. We also heard that a lot of stuff happened to Paul—bad thing after bad thing after bad thing. Do you remember some of them? (*Invite responses—prison, shipwreck, snake bite, etc.*) It was like the pennies dropped on our boats. It must have been overwhelming!

"Have you ever felt like that—where one bad thing after another happens? Maybe you were late for school and realized you forgot your homework then your lunchbox was empty AND it was raining outside. (*Invite conversation.*)

"Sometimes, it's more serious than that, but even when it feels like you've had a terrible, very bad day, remember that **when bad things happen, God is with you.**"



WEEK
THREE
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SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



2. BREAKTHROUGH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bad Scenarios" Activity Page, butcher paper, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of three.
- Give each group a "Bad Scenarios" card, a piece of butcher paper, and markers.
- Instruct each team—or if they prefer, each kid—to illustrate their idea of the assigned scenario on a section of the butcher paper.
- After teams have completed their drawings, invite them to present their scenarios to the entire group.
- After each team has presented their scenario, together as a group, brainstorm ways God can help them through each difficult situation.
- Next, instruct each team to choose two people from a different team to hold the ends of their butcher paper.
- Direct the team who drew on the butcher paper to run and break through the paper together.
- Let teams switch roles so that everyone has a turn to break through their paper.
- Collect the torn pieces of paper and set aside for "Pray and Dismiss."

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Each of these scenarios, and so many more, are difficult to get through in life. Sometimes the situation gets better, but sometimes it doesn't. No matter what happens, it's important to remember that God is always with you and wants to help you when you find yourself in a bad situation. What are some things you have done to face a bad situation? *(Allow time for kids to share their ideas. Some kids may choose to share while others may not which is okay. Be sensitive and validate how the kids feel and if necessary, circle back to those who might need a one-on-one conversation with you or a church leader.)*

"You can pray, talk to adults you trust, and even do things you enjoy to help you get through a bad situation. The most important thing to remember is that **when bad things happen, God is with you.** God is with you helping you face every situation you encounter.

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal story about a difficult situation and how God helped you break through.)

"There will always be bad situations that pop up in our lives that are difficult to walk through. But the awesome thing is that **when bad things happen, God is with you.** Keep talking to God. Keep holding on."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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: Pennies and boats from "Build a Boat" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each pair back their foil boat.
- Set out the pennies.
- Invite the kids to think of problems they might have this week—a squabble with a friend, a new situation like a school or camp, worrying about the fall term, trying something new, etc.
- As the kids say a new problem, direct them to drop a penny on their boat.
- Ask why the boats aren't sinking and invite responses. (The kids might look at you like you're crazy—it's because they're on the floor/ground!)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Perfect Storm
Paul Shipwrecked
Acts 27:1–28:10

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When life drops problems on us and we face difficult times, remember that we aren't on a stormy sea. We are held by God. God is with us. We can count on God to keep us steady. **When bad things happen, God is with you.** Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for being with us. Thank You for the opportunities to strengthen our faith and trust in You during bad times. You are our steady foundation. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When bad things happen,
God is with you.**

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to take home a penny to put in their pocket and remember **when bad things happen, God is with you.**

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