



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

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



**2. OPENING ACTIVITY**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Help each kid find a partner.
- If there's an odd number in your group, pair yourself with a kid.
- Guide partners to stand facing each other.
- Call out a series of commands such as "hand to hand" or "foot to foot."
- Kids must then touch their partner's hand with their hand or foot with their foot, etc.
- Possible combinations include:
  - Hand to hand
  - Shoulder to shoulder
  - Ear to ear
  - Hand to foot
  - Elbow to elbow
  - Elbow to knee
  - Back to back
  - Foot to foot
  - Ear to knee
  - Knee to knee
  - Elbow to ear
  - Toe to toe; etc.
- At random times call out, "People to people," and everyone must quickly find a new partner.
- Keep interest high by varying the pace at which you give commands and the frequency you call "People to people."

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**We Belong Together**  
The Church  
Hebrews 10:23-25

**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.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**"You guys did a great job of working together! [Transition] Today's Bible story is all about the importance of TOGETHER. Let's go learn more."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

**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



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## BASIC TRUTH

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## \* 1. STRONGER TOGETHER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Church" Activity Page, washable inkpads, hand wipes, and markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a "Church" Activity Page.
- Place inkpads in the center of the table.
- Encourage each kid to press their pointer finger on an inkpad and place their fingerprint inside the church.
- Direct the kids to pass their paper to the kid on their right.
- Instruct kids to press their pointer finger on the inkpads again and place their fingerprint inside the church in front of them.
- Direct the kids to continue passing around the "Church" Activity Pages, placing their fingerprints in each church.
- When finished, each kid should have their own church with everyone's fingerprint inside, including their own.
- Give each kid a wipe to clean their hands.
- If time allows, set out the markers.
- Encourage the kids to color their churches and add Small Group rooms off to the side of the big worship space or draw the Large Group stage somewhere on the page.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"What are some things that are fun to do as a group? (*Invite responses—sports, attending a game or concert, sleepovers, school, church, etc.*) So many of our life's greatest experiences would be way less fun if we did them alone.

"The author of Hebrews is reminding us that even though each of us is ultimately responsible for following Jesus and growing in our faith, we need each other to encourage us to stay strong and not lose faith. But if we don't spend time together, it can be really hard to work together and encourage each other.

"One way we can be together is at church. Each of the fingerprints on your paper represents someone who can encourage you and help you keep your faith strong. It's one of the reasons it's important to spend time with your small group by attending church regularly as well as finding ways to get together outside of church. What are some ways you can do that? (*Invite responses—have a playdate, go to a game or performance, invite them to your birthday party, etc.*) It's important to hang out with friends who love Jesus because **our faith is stronger together.**"



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### (\* 1. STRONGER TOGETHER, CONTINUED)

*[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell the kids about your history in church. Did you grow up coming to church? What was your small group like if you had one? How did being in community keep your faith strong and help you grow? If you haven't been a part of a community of believers for very long, tell kids what you're looking forward to now that you have a faith community.)*



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25 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



### 3. FILL IN THE BLANKS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible and whiteboard and dry erase marker; *Optional: butcher paper, pencil, and eraser instead of whiteboard and marker*

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:8 and refer to it as needed.
- Draw as many blanks on the whiteboard as there are words in the memory verse, including one blank for the reference (Ephesians 2:8).
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Call out one word at a time of the verse in random order.
- Choose a kid to write that word on the board or paper in the correct spot within the verse.
- Instruct the rest of the group to recite the verse to the blank spot to help the kid figure out which blank the given word goes in.
- Repeat this process through the entire memory verse, calling out words from the verse randomly until the blanks are filled in properly.
- Read the verse in its entirety when it is filled in.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse is worth repeating over and over again to remind us that only God's grace can save us. What's grace? (*Invite responses.*) Grace is when somebody does something good for you that you don't deserve. If you steal your older brother's favorite video game or toy and you drop it and it won't play anymore, what do you think your brother would do? (*Invite responses.*) What if he doesn't do that? What if he goes out and buys the same game or toy for you? Sounds crazy, right? That's grace.

"Being right with God doesn't come from anything you do, it only comes from God's grace. When we are in a relationship with and trust God, it is important to have other people around us who can encourage us. They can help us during difficult times and regular times, to grow in our faith. **Our faith is stronger together.**"

### BASIC TRUTH

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### 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:** "Church" Activity Pages from "Stronger Together" activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Make sure each kid has their "Church" Activity Page.
- As each kid holds their drawing, encourage them to pray silently for friends who love Jesus and the ability to be a strong friend to others.
- After giving kids a few moments to pray on their own, close your group time in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God, thank You for the confidence that at the end, Jesus will return and make right everything that's wrong! In the meantime, help us stay committed to attending church and developing friendships with those who love You. Help us encourage each other so we can stay strong in our faith in Jesus and show Your love to the world. We love You, Jesus, and it's in Your mighty name we pray. Amen. **Our faith is stronger together.**"

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their church coloring and explain how **our faith is stronger together.**

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