



WEEK
FIVE
JULY 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Make a Story Sheets" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to get into groups of four or five, or make one group if you have five or fewer kids.
- Give each group a set of "Make a Story Sheets" Activity

Pages.

- Instruct the kids to work together to make a story with their pages.
- Invite the kids to share their stories.
- Set the sheets aside and get ready for Large Group.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are a lot of ways to tell a story! *[Transition]* **Let's go hear about the best story ever and the ways we can tell it!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Other Side
Heaven
Revelation 21:3-5a

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God will make everything right in the end.

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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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



1. THE BIG STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "The Big Story Sheets" Activity Pages and coloring materials

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the sixteen pages from "The Big Story Sheets" Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Instruct the kids to put the events in order.
- Invite the kids to sign their names on the "Our Small Group" sheet and add drawings or decorations to that page.
- Circle up around the sheets from "The Big Story Sheets" Activity Page.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Other Side
Heaven
Revelation 21:3-5a

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God will make everything right in the end.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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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:

"What's your favorite part of the Big Story? (*Invite responses and share yours!*) Sometimes, we forget that we're part of God's Big Story! All of us, the whole world and everyone in it, are part of God's big plan that **God will make everything right in the end.**

"We started with everything going right, in the Garden of Eden, and we will end with everything right again—in heaven. It's hard to imagine heaven and living with God forever. Anything that seems to take 'forever,' feels like an unpleasant thing—a dentist visit, a boring class, waiting for your family to finish talking after church. We don't really see 'lasting forever' as a good thing.

"But what if something amazing lasted forever? The best vacation you've ever been on, a bottomless ice cream cone, that perfect morning at the beach or camping in the woods, when everything seems possible. I think that's what heaven might be like.

"And nothing goes wrong there. You never oversleep, miss your bus, get bullied, eat something gross, fall down, get hurt, or fight with your siblings. All the things that go wrong here, **God will make everything right in the end.**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



3. CARRY A TUNE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split your group into smaller groups of two or three.
- Make sure each group has a Bible.
- Instruct each group to look up and read Ephesians 2:8 together with the navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Other Side
Heaven
Revelation 21:3-5a

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find “Ephesians” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kid finds Ephesians lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Ephesians. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find Ephesians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 2, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 8 in chapter 2. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God will make everything right in the end.

- Direct each group to come up with a song for the verse.
- Assign themes to each group:
 - Christmas tune
 - Nursery rhyme tune
 - Pop star tune
 - Chant with hand clapping and foot stomping
- Allow kids to practice for a few minutes.
- Invite the kids to perform their song for the group.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

“This is the last week of our verse! You’ve done a great job of ending on a high note! Haha! Get it?”

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Faith—Trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see

“The end of things—like the end of the month or the end of the summer, or even the end of the year—brings a lot of thoughts of finishing things, wrapping them up. What are you ending this month? What will you be starting next month? (Invite conversation.)”

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

“Just like this month ended, and summer doesn’t last forever, we can keep in mind that the ups and downs, the highs and lows of life won’t last forever. We can think that the bad stuff will stick around forever and the fun stuff goes by too fast, but keep in mind that **God will make everything right in the end.**”



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(3. CARRY A TUNE, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] (Share one age-appropriate thing that you hope will be part of experiencing forever with God—music, feasting, sights of nature that we’ve never seen here, worshipping with others, spending time talking with God, etc. Invite the kids to share as well.)



WEEK
FIVE
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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: *Optional: Bottom Line on paper*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in a responsive prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Other Side
Heaven
Revelation 21:3-5a

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I'm SO THANKFUL that God gave John a special dream about heaven! Because of John's dream, we have a beautiful picture of what heaven will be like. And remembering that beautiful picture can give us hope, because we know that **God will make everything right in the end!** And the end of God's story is HEAVEN. Let's pray."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God will make everything right in the end.

(Guide kids to say the Bottom Line when you pause where indicated. Provide help as needed. Tell kids it's okay for them to pray with their eyes open so they can see your cues or read the Bottom Line.)

"Dear God, thank You so much for heaven. *(Pause for **God will make everything right in the end.**)* You will wipe away every tear from our eyes. *(Pause.)* There will be no more death. *(Pause.)* No more sadness. *(Pause.)* No more crying or pain. *(Pause.)* You are making everything new. *(Pause.)* Thank You, Lord, that in heaven we will SEE YOUR FACE! *(Pause.)* We will live with you FOREVER! *(Pause.)* We love You SO MUCH, Lord. Amen."

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

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line. **God will make everything right in the end.**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

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