



WHAT'S INSIDE  
MATTERS MOST

WEEK  
**ONE**

OCTOBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

**2-3**

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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Car Part Bingo Cards" and "Car Part Bingo Caller Cards" Activity Pages, bingo chips or paper squares; *Optional: candy, small toy cars, or other small prizes for winners*

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a bingo card from the "Car Part Bingo Cards" Activity Page and about 25 bingo chips or paper squares to use as markers.
- Instruct each kid to cover the free space in the center of their card with a marker.
- Shuffle the "Car Part Bingo Caller Cards" and place the stack face down in front of you.
- Select a card from the pile and call out the car part.
- Remind kids to use the marker to cover only the matching square on their bingo card.
- Tell the kids that the first one to cover five spaces in a row—horizontally, vertically, or diagonally—must call out "Bingo!"
- Continue play in the same way, drawing a card and calling it out for kids to cover that space.
- When someone calls out "Bingo," check the kid's bingo card and declare a winner!
- Direct the rest of the kids to remove all their bingo markers and switch cards with a neighbor to play again.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.
- If offering candy or other small prizes, award a prize to the winner of each round.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Just the Way You Are

A Tree and Its Fruit  
Luke 6:43-45 (John 15:1-17)

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be truthful with your whole life.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Anyone who lives without blame walks away safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught."  
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! I learned a thing or two about the different parts of a car! What would happen if your car battery died? (*Invite responses.*) What if you lost your fuel pump? (*Invite responses.*) It takes a lot of different parts to make a car run! **[Transition] Today, we'll talk about how the small choices we make can affect our whole lives. Let's go!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



### \* 1. HEAR, PRAY, TALK, LIVE [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Integrity Examples" and "Hear, Pray, Talk, Live Cards" Activity Pages; Bibles; and painter's tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get in pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible.
- Instruct the pairs to look up Luke 6:43-45.
- Call on volunteers to read the verses aloud to the group.
- Ask:
  - According to these verses, what kind of fruit does a good tree produce? What kind of fruit does a bad tree produce?
  - What does this have to do with integrity? (*Share that integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.*)
  - Who do we need to stay connected to in order to live with integrity?
- Tape two parallel lines on the floor, about 15 feet long. (*This will be a lane for kids to run down.*)
- At the end of the lane, place the "Integrity Examples" strips face down in a stack.
- Instruct the kids to line up at the start of the lane.
- Direct the first kid in line to move through the lane to grab a card, come back down the lane, then tag the next kid in line.
  - Instruct the kids to travel through the lane any way they choose, BUT they must travel differently than anyone did before them.
  - For example, if the first kid runs, the next kid can walk, the next kid can hop, the next skip, the next crabwalk, etc.
- Once all "Integrity Examples" have been collected, lay out the "Hear, Pray, Talk, Live" Activity Page cards in the center of the lane.
- Review each faith skill with the kids.
  - Hear from God—When we read the Bible and listen to what God has to tell us through the Bible, we learn we can trust God no matter what.
  - Pray—Talk with God—Through prayer we connect with God. We show gratitude, say sorry for what we've done, and express how we're feeling.
  - Talk about God—When we talk about faith with other people who also have a relationship with God, we can learn about God. We can also share our faith and tell others about Jesus.
  - Live—Worship with your life—Worshipping God is more than just singing songs. Worshipping is about living life in a way that honors God.
- One at a time, invite each kid to read their "Integrity Example" aloud.
- Direct each kid to decide which of the four faith skills it represents.
- Lead the kids to talk about why the integrity example falls under that category, then place it on the floor underneath that faith skill. Some cards may fall into more than one category.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**(\* 1. HEAR, PRAY, TALK, LIVE CONTINUED)**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Just like a good, healthy tree bears good fruit and a bad, unhealthy tree bears bad fruit, we can only live with integrity and do good when we stay connected to Jesus! But how do we do that? How do you stay connected to someone you can’t see with your eyes? We can stay connected to Jesus by practicing these faith skills! We can HEAR from God by reading the Bible. God’s word shows us who God is and how Jesus lived and treated others!

“We can PRAY and talk to God. God hears us whenever we pray, and we can share everything that’s on our minds. We can TALK about God with others! In fact, one way we get to do that is here in our small group every week! And we can LIVE a life that honors God by living in a way that honors God.

“When you practice these faith skills, they’ll help you stay connected to Jesus so you can **be truthful with your whole life.**”



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### 3. ROLLIN' MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Page, Bible, matchbox cars, and office tape; *Optional: timer*

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to get in pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible.
- Help the kids find Proverbs 10:9 in their Bibles using the Bible navigation tips below.
- Read the verse together as a group.

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide 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, lead them to find "Proverbs" in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 10. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 10.*

- Talk about how following Jesus and living with honesty and integrity is like walking along a safe path.
- Set out the matchbox cars, the "Memory Verse Cards," and the tape.
- Encourage kids to work together to tape each of the "Memory Verse Cards" to the top of a matchbox car.
- Once finished, allow the kids to refer to their Bibles, roll the cars around, and line them up in verse order.
- Read the verse aloud together to check their work.
- If time allows, mix the cars and time the kids to see how quickly they can put them back in verse order.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we make wise choices that honor God and others, it's like taking a safe path. But when we're dishonest with our words or actions, it's like getting stuck on an unsafe, crooked path. Which path would you rather travel on? (*Invite responses.*) The safe, easy path for sure. This week, when you find yourself in a situation and you're tempted to bend the truth or do something unwise, remember that Jesus will help you **be truthful with your whole life.**"

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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:** Cards from "Hear, Pray, Talk, Live" activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Set the four cards in the center of the group so they can be read.
- Encourage the kids to touch the card of the faith skill they want to practice this week.
- Close your group in prayer, asking God to help you all follow through this week so you can have integrity.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"When we stay connected to Jesus—just like a good tree produces good fruit—we'll make good choices, wise choices that may lead to better things. You can practice these faith skills this week so you can **be truthful with your whole life.** Let's pray.

"Dear God, we love You. Thank You for Jesus and that we can follow Him each day. Please help us spend time this week practicing these faith skills so we can make choices that honor You. We know we can't live with integrity on our own. We need Your help to be truthful with our whole lives. Thank You for Your promise to be with us and help us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to point out the cards with the four faith skills and share how practicing those will help you stay connected to Jesus so you can **be truthful with your whole life.**

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