



WHAT'S INSIDE
MATTERS MOST

WEEK
FOUR
OCTOBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. As you prepare to encourage kids to be examples of Jesus to the people around them, pray that God would give them the stamina to use their words, actions, and choices to show God's love to others. Think about what you have coming up this week and pray for any opportunities for God to use you to show love to others.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

We Didn't Start the Fire
Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego
Daniel 3

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Hidden Pictures" Activity Page, "Hidden Pictures Key" Activity Page, pencils, and offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Hidden Pictures" Activity Page and pencil.
- Point out the key along the side of the "Hidden Pictures" Activity Page with the list of things to find hidden in the picture.
- As the kids search, ask:
 - What did you do before coming to church today? Did anything crazy or unusual happen before you got here?
 - What's the silliest thing that happened this week?
 - What's the best thing you ate this week?
 - What's something new you learned this week?
 - Was someone kind to you this week? What did they do?
- Reference the "Hidden Pictures Key" Activity Page if kids get stuck and need help.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you do what's right,
others can see God.**

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 need to make the wise choice.



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



2. WHAT IF I DO, WHAT IF I DON'T?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape a line down the center of your Small Group area.
- Instruct the kids to line up single file on the tape line,

facing you.

- When you say "Go," direct the kids to jump from one side of the line to other.
 - They can jump in either direction and as fast or as slow as they want.
- After a few seconds of jumping, call for the kids to "Freeze!"
- Make sure the kids are on one side of the tape or the other.
 - If a kid is standing on the tape, direct them to choose a side.
- Read a scenario from the list below.
- Call on a kid on the left side of the tape and ask, "What might happen next in this scenario if you DO show integrity?"
- Let them give an answer.
- Call on a kid to the right side of the tape and ask, "What might happen next in this scenario if you DON'T show integrity?"
- Let them give an answer.
- After talking through a scenario, direct the kids to hop from side to side then freeze!
- Repeat in the same way until you've discussed all the scenarios below.
- Integrity Scenarios:
 - You notice your friend's favorite, brand-new mechanical pencil has fallen off their desk.
 - You left your bike in the driveway. When your dad comes in, you can tell he's frustrated that you didn't put it away.
 - You see a kid who's left out at recess. All the other kids are saying mean things about them.
 - You're watching TV and have the remote in your hand. You promised your little brother he could pick the next show.
 - You paid for a book at the book fair and were given back too much change.
 - You accidentally came home from ball practice with a teammate's brand-new pair of batting gloves. They're WAY cooler than the gloves you have.

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Is showing integrity easy? (*Invite responses.*) Sometimes. Sometimes we know what's right, and we do it without really thinking about it. But sometimes, it's hard. We're afraid we might get in trouble if we tell the truth or we might be left out if we stand up for the kid getting picked on.

"It can be hard to do the right thing over and over and over again. But guess what? There is someone who did! Jesus lived His whole life on Earth with complete integrity. He was truthful in everything He said and everything He



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. WHAT IF I DO, WHAT IF I DON'T? CONTINUED)

did. When we try to live like Jesus, we can show God's love to others. We may look to Jesus for help. When you walk with integrity—just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—you help others see God's great big love for them, too. And that's what we're focusing on today. **When you do what's right, others can see God."**



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



3. PASS IT ON MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to get in groups of two or three.
- Give each group a Bible.
- Instruct each group to look up Proverbs 10:9 using the navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

We Didn't Start the Fire

Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego
Daniel 3

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.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you do what's right,
others can see God.

- Read the verse together out loud.
- Direct the kids to stand in a circle and place their hands out to their sides, palms up, one hand on top of the other of the kid next to them.
- Start the verse by saying the first word and (lightly) slap the right hand of the kid to your left.
- Instruct that kid to say the next word of the verse and (lightly) slap the right hand of the kid on their left.
- Continue in the same way, with each kid repeating the next word of the verse and passing the gentle slap around the circle.
- Repeat the verse as often as time and interest allow.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Anyone who lives without blame
walks away safely. But anyone who
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will get caught."

Proverbs 10:9, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so fun! When it comes to integrity, we can think about a crooked or straight path. Would you rather walk along an unsafe path, full of potholes and scary twists and turns or along a smooth and straight, perfectly paved path? (Invite responses.)"

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

"Our verse reminds us that when you live a life of integrity—when you're truthful in whatever you say and do—it's like you're walking along a safe path. Making choices that honor God can lead others to know God, too. When you're in a situation where you're tempted to lie or leave out the truth, ask God to help you do what's right. Remember, **when you do what's right, others can see God.**"

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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: Index cards and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an index card and pencil.
- Direct the kids to spread out so they can have privacy to work on their own.
- Encourage the kids to think about the week ahead and write out a prayer asking God to help them do the right thing this week.
- As they finish, lead them through the discussion below.
- Give the kids a moment to pray silently on their own.
- Close your group time in prayer, reminding the kids that **when you do what's right, others can see God.**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

We Didn't Start the Fire
Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego
Daniel 3

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When it's hard, when you want to do the opposite of the right thing, it's important to remember that you aren't alone! When we put our trust in Jesus and follow Him, we have the Holy Spirit to help us do what's right. I want to give you a moment to pray on your own. You can read your prayer on your card aloud or say it in your head. Once you finish, I'll close in prayer.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you do what's right,
others can see God.**

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with You—forever! Please remind us that we don't have to try to do the right thing on our own. Help us know that You are with us, that Your Holy Spirit will guide and help us be truthful with our words and actions. We want everyone around us to know how much You love them. Help us show them Your love this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to retell the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and talk about how they had the courage to live with integrity trusting that **when you do what's right, others can see God.**

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