



WEEK  
**FIVE**

OCTOBER 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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



### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- When your thoughts are stuck on something wrong or a problem you're worried about, what can you do to get unstuck?
- Why do you think it's often easier to focus on the negative instead of the positive?
- What are some ways we can train ourselves to focus on what is true?
- How does it help you to remember that God knows your thoughts?
- What is one thought you been struggling with that you'd like to get rid of this week? From the list of things Paul encouraged the Philippians to think about, which one would be most helpful to you in changing your focus?

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### All About Soul

Think About These Things  
Philippians 4:8

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you spend the most time thinking about?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Focus on what's true.

### 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.



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### MADE TO CREATE

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



### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles,

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Psalm 19:14, using the Bible Navigation tips below.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. (Old) If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.*

- Read the verse together.
- Ask:
  - What is the writer of this psalm asking for?
  - What do you remember from Philippians 4:8—our Bible story passage for today—that helps us know what kinds of words and thoughts please God? (Read Philippians 4:8 if a review is needed.)
  - When would Psalm 19:14 be helpful for you to think about and remember?

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#### (4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- Please
- Thoughts
- Repeat Psalm 19:14 together as you close.
- Invite the winning players from each team the opportunity to take their poster home or give it to someone else in the group.



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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Philippians 4:8 in your Bible.
- Invite kids to echo (repeat) the words from Philippians 4:8

as you close in prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Philippians 4:8

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

NIV:

"Dear God, we need Your help to think about what is right. This week, help our minds focus on what is true (*echo*), noble (*echo*), right (*echo*), pure (*echo*), lovely (*echo*), worthy of respect (*echo*), excellent (*echo*), and worthy of praise (*echo*). Help us remember that the choices we make matter—even the things we choose to think about. We love You and want to please You in the things we do, the words we speak, and the thoughts we think. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

NIV:

"Dear God, we need Your help to think about what is right. This week, help our minds focus on what is true (*echo*), noble (*echo*), right (*echo*), pure (*echo*), lovely (*echo*), admirable (*echo*), excellent (*echo*), and praiseworthy (*echo*). Help us remember that the choices we make matter—even the things we choose to think about. We love You and want to please You in the things we do, the words we speak, and the thoughts we think. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."