

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- It's easy to forget all of the things God does for us. What can you do to help you remember and celebrate what God has done every day?
- Who else can you remember to appreciate?
- What can you do if you can't think of a reason to celebrate what God has done?
- Why does God deserve to be celebrated?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Permission to Dance

David Dances
2 Samuel 6:12b-22a

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show God you're grateful?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God has done.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord,
because he is good. His faithful
love continues forever."

Psalm 136:1, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Gratitude—Letting others know you see how they've helped you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Psalm 98:4" Activity Page, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get into pairs.
- Give each pair a set of shuffled "Psalm 98:4" word strips from the Activity Page and a roll of tape.
- Challenge teams to race to arrange the strips in the order that makes most sense without them knowing the verse ahead of time.
 - Clue them in that the verse is something we should shout out every day.
- Instruct the kids to shout the verse reference (Psalm 98:4) when they think they have the correct order.
- When finished, give each pair a Bible.
- Invite the kids to look up and read Psalm 98:4 to see how closely their order matches the verse.

***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.*

- Instruct the kids to loop and tape the strips together to make a chain in the correct verse order.
- Discuss the meaning of Psalm 98:4.
 - Do you think God wants us to literally SHOUT for joy? Why or why not?
 - How does a grateful attitude impact how joyful you are?
 - When would remembering this verse help you have gratitude?
 - If you could give a shout out to God right now, what would you want to say?
- **[Make it Personal] Share some of the "shout outs" you can give to God today as you think of everything that God has done.**
- If desired, display the verse chains in your meeting space or invite kids to name a few people they can give them to as they leave today.

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, pens, supplies for Gratitude Continuum

WHAT YOU DO:

Note: Kids began a "Gratitude Continuum" in Week 1, an ongoing activity throughout the month. It can take on a variety of forms. Choose a format that works best for your environment. (see Getting Ready for more)

- Look up Psalm 136:1 and read it to the kids.
- Say: "Because of God's great love, we always have something to celebrate. God has given us so much—things like people who love us, food to eat, healthy bodies so we can work, play, serve others, and even DANCE. Any good thing we have comes straight from God."
- Give each kid a pen and the supply you've chosen for the Gratitude Continuum.
- Invite kids to add to the Gratitude Continuum they began last week by writing down one or two shout outs they can give to God for something that God has done.
 - Prompt the kids with ideas like: They can celebrate God's character, ways God shows love to them, something God taught them today, or anything they're feeling particularly grateful for today.
- Remind the kids that we can celebrate what God has done in quiet ways such as writing our thoughts or silently talking to God. We can also celebrate with excitement and energy in ways that show how much we love God.
- Direct kids to add what they've written to the Gratitude Continuum in whatever form you've chosen.
- Bring everyone together.
- Invite the kids to pray silently or aloud for things they are grateful for today.
- After a few minutes, close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You are worthy of our greatest expression of gratitude and our most joyful celebration. We praise You for what You have done in the past and look forward to all You will do in the future. Help us remember to take time to say thank You. When we know Jesus, we always have something to celebrate as we follow Him. Amen."

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