

WEEK
THREE
JANUARY 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ants Marching
Ant and Sluggard
Proverbs 6:6-8

Bible Verses

- Proverbs 6:6-8

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large."
Luke 16:10a, NIRV

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Piece of paper on a clipboard and pen for each small group
- Large bucket filled with items you would find at the home of someone who has a pet (leash, treats, tennis ball, collar, dog sweater, pet shampoo, poop bags, doggie tooth brush, food bowl, water bowl, fish food, litter box, laser pointer, cat toys, hamster cage, etc.)—borrow as many of these items as you can!
- Table
- Host's phone

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

Storyteller

WHAT YOU NEED:

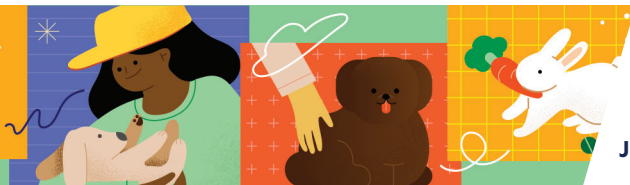
- Storyteller
- Bible
- Two large posterboards
- Thick black marker
- "Ant and Slug Cards" printed from the LG Assets PDF and cut out individually
- Tape (or other adhesive) to hang the posters on the wall, and to attach the index cards to the posters
- Inflatable globe

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PET PROJECT

See it through



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LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ants Marching
Ant and Sluggard
Proverbs 6:6-8

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST "Hello, friends! How's it going? If you're having a great day, give me a thumbs-up like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Awesome! I'm having a pretty great day, too!

"Who can tell me what we've been talking about this month? What's our virtue? (*Pause for response.*) That's right! We've been talking about responsibility.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Responsibility is **showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.**

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

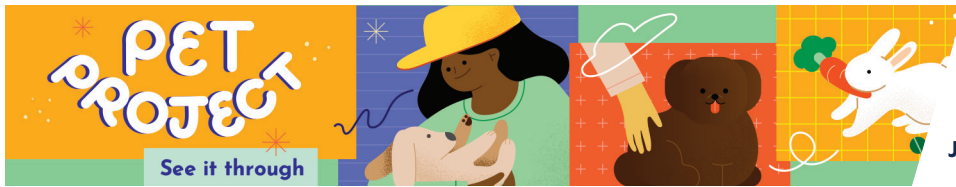
"You need responsibility to see it through—whether you're finishing your school work, doing chores at home, or even taking care of a furry friend.

"I've been given the really awesome responsibility of leading today's game, which I call 'Pet Bucket.'"

Put the bucket full of pet items on the table.

"I have right here a bucket full of things you might find at someone's house if they have a pet. But I won't show you exactly what's in here quite yet! When I say, 'Go,' you'll have 60 seconds to work with your small group and make a list of the items you think might be in this bucket.

Give a piece of paper on a clipboard and a pen to each Small Group Leader.



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

“Just tell your leader if you have any guesses, and your leader will write them down on their piece of paper. When time is up, I’ll show you each item in the bucket, and you’ll get a point for each item your group guessed correctly. Leaders, you can just make a check mark if you have the item written down. The group with the most points, wins! Are you ready? Get together with your group and share some ideas of what could be in this bucket!”

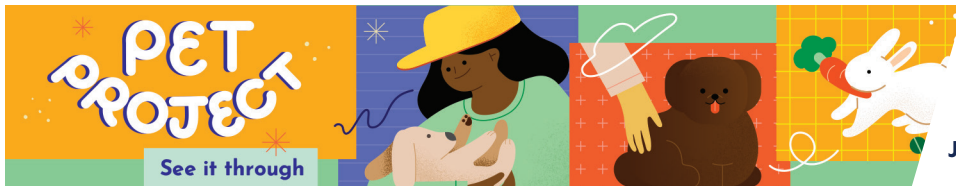
AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (60-SECOND VERSION)

If you’re not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.

Let the kids brainstorm ideas of what’s in the bucket. When time’s up, remove each item from the bucket, one at a time, and call out what it is. Small Group Leaders can check off the words that are on their sheet.

Once you’ve shown everything in the bucket, get the leaders to total their points. Celebrate everyone, then make a really big deal of the group that has the most points! Collect the clipboards and pens.

“That was so fun, and everyone did really great! Everybody, give someone a high-five as we get ready to sing and dance with our worship team!”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY **WORSHIP** GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! It's great to see all of you. Every time we worship, it's a way that we can say 'thank You' to God. We're not just singing songs. We're giving our worship and praise to God. We're putting our focus on how good God is, and on what God is doing in our lives. Come on and sing this with us.

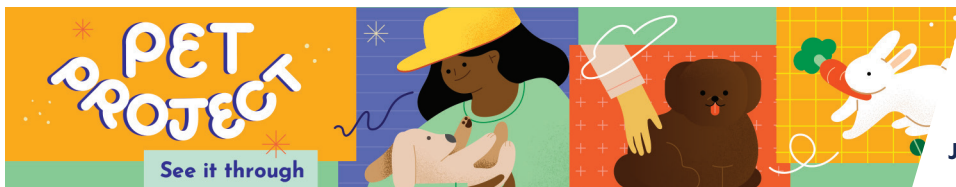
AUDIO: "SING YOUR PRAISE" / TRACK 2 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "SING YOUR PRAISE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"God is always there to help us. God can give us the strength we need to be responsible and do what we're expected to do. As we read in Psalm 121:1-2: 'I look up to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord. He is the Maker of heaven and earth.' (NirV) Let's lift our voices and say 'Thank You God' with this next song. Here we go!"

AUDIO: "THANK YOU GOD" / TRACK 1 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "THANK YOU GOD" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! Today, we're looking at a really wise idea about responsibility that we can find in the Bible, in the book of Proverbs. (*Hold up Bible.*) Proverbs is FULL of wise sayings, and many of them came from King Solomon.

"Solomon became king at a very young age. He was worried about how he could lead God's people because he didn't have much experience. One night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream and told him he could ask for anything he wanted. Solomon asked for wisdom so he could lead the people well. And God gave him what he asked for!

"Because of this, King Solomon was known as one of the wisest people who ever lived. Many of the things Solomon learned and said were written in a book with other wise sayings. These proverbs are short sayings that can help people make wise decisions in their everyday lives."

CONSIDER THE ANT

STORYTELLER: "So what did Solomon have to say about responsibility? Well actually . . . Solomon talked about a type of animal. He talked about the ant! Solomon seemed to think that there was a lot we could LEARN from the ant.

Put the ant poster on the wall.

"Here, listen to Solomon's words from Proverbs 6:6-8.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 6:6-8 (NirV) and read.

You people who don't want to work, think about the ant! Consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander. It has no leader or ruler. But it stores up its food in summer. It gathers its food at harvest time.

"Solomon noticed how ants are always working—and working hard! God created them to do that. Ants know to store up food without anyone telling them to. Solomon said that WE should pay attention to the way ants work, because God designed all of us to work hard too.

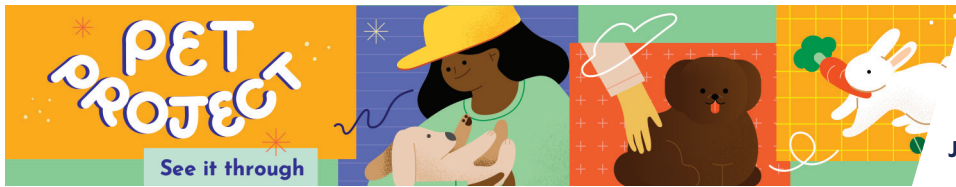
Hold up the inflatable globe.

"Even in the very beginning, God gave Adam and Eve the important responsibility of caring for the world. And you and I have been given the responsibility to do something really important—love God and love others in everything we do. There are many different ways we can do that. But it takes hard work!"

Set down the inflatable globe.

... YOU SLUGGARD

STORYTELLER: "Listen again to the first part of what Solomon wrote.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Proverbs 6:6 (NIV) and read.

You people who don't want to work, think about the ant!

"In a different translation, that part says, 'Go to the ant, you sluggard.' (NIV)

"Sluggard is kind of a funny word, isn't it? It means a lazy, sluggish person. But I like to picture a slug.

Put the slug poster on the wall.

"The ant moves quickly, doing its job and doing it well. But when I think of a sluggard, I think of a person just sitting there, barely moving or doing anything—like a slug!"

ANT OR SLUGGARD?

STORYTELLER: *"So we have two examples here. (Reference the two posters.) We have the ant . . . and we have a slug.*

Pick up the printed cards.

"Let me read these cards. For each one, you can tell me if it sounds like an ant or a slug.

For the following examples, read the text from the card and then attach the card to the edge of the ant poster.

- (reading card #1) "Who shows us how to work—the ant or the slug? (Pause for response: ant.)*
- (reading card #2) "Who doesn't need anyone to tell them what to do? (Pause for response: ant.)*
- (reading card #3) "Who works hard on their responsibilities each day? (Pause for response: ant.)*

"Right. Just like an ant, you can work hard! You can take responsibility for your own chores and schoolwork. You can do what you need to do without waiting for someone to tell you to get started or to follow through. And if you need help, you can take responsibility to ask for it!

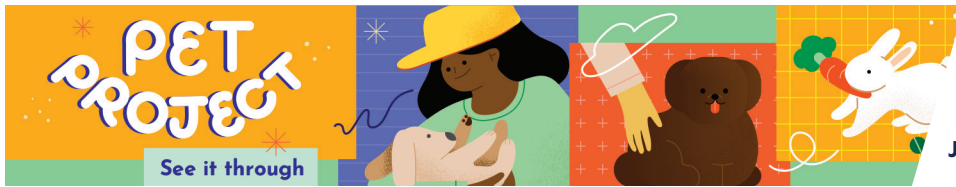
"Now what about these?"

For the following examples, read the text from the card and then attach the card to the edge of the slug poster.

- (reading card #4) "Who sits around doing nothing? (Pause for response: slug.)*
- (reading card #5) "Who does a job halfway or doesn't finish? (Pause for response: slug.)*
- (reading card #6) "Who whines and complains when someone asks them to help? (Pause for response: slug.)*

"I think you've got it! It's important that we work hard, like an ant . . . and that we don't wait around like a slug or a sluggard.

"Even in those times when we're NOT working, we can do that well too. We can hang out with our friends and family and people we love. And when we're by ourselves, we don't have to stare at a screen all the time! We can spend time outside . . . discover something new . . . or just be still. God designed us for both rest AND hard work. They go together!"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Solomon gave us a lot to think about with the example of the ant. God made the ant to work hard by gathering food in the spring and summer. God made US to work hard too.

Pick up the inflatable globe again.

"God made us to share love with the world—with the people we see each day.

"So remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

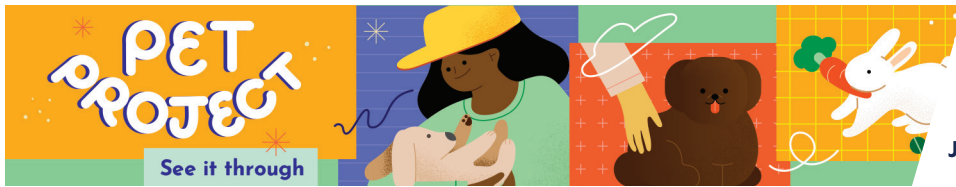
"Work hard.

"It's what God created us to do! Let's pray."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for the way You created ants to be such busy workers! Like Solomon said, ants give us an example of what it looks like to work hard. Help us to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and live with responsibility—by always giving our best effort to whatever task is in front of us. Help us not to be lazy, but to work hard and do what You've made us to do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Solomon was really wise when he said that we should be like the ant.

Reference the ant poster from the story.

"God made ants to spend their lives working hard. And they definitely do! They get the job done. And like Solomon said, ants give us a great picture of how WE can live with responsibility. We can work hard and do our very best with whatever we're expected to do.

"Remember . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Work hard.

"Think about what that looks like for you. You know you need to get your homework done. You know you need to clear your place after dinner. You know you should put your toys away when you're done with them. Our lives are full of opportunities to 'see it through' and show others that we can be trusted.

"So, don't wait to be asked. Just do it! Just do what you know you need to do. If someone needs help, then jump in to help! You've got this!

"If you're ever finding it hard to take responsibility and see it through, think about how Jesus lived. Jesus lived a life of love and compassion. He came to give up his life on the cross to save us. And that's exactly what He did!

"In Small Group, you'll get to talk with your friends about how you can **work hard** and show some responsibility. You can head that way now!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP