



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2024

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 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:

- When have you had to work hard?
- When can it be challenging to work hard?
- Is there a certain kind of work you enjoy doing?
- How do you react when no one notices your hard work?
- How does our hard work show love to God and others?

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Ants Marching**  
Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had to work hard?

### 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

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



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### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Work Hard Words" Activity Page, "Work Hard Words Answer Key" Activity Page, pencils, Bibles

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to choose a partner.
- Instruct the partners to sit together.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible.
- Give each kid a copy of the "Work Hard Words" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to work together to look up the Bible verse references to fill in the answers to the crossword puzzle.
- After everyone has completed their crossword, go over the answers together as a group.
- Refer to the "Work Hard Words Answer Key" Activity Page as needed.
- Ask:
  - What do you think it means in Colossians 3:23 when the verse says we should work with all our heart, like we're working for God?
  - Did any of these verses stand out to you? If so, why?
  - How can God's Word help us work hard?
- Say: "We have the Bible to help us learn who God is and help guide us through life. When we know what God says, we can trust those words to help us when we're struggling with something or when we're not sure how to handle a situation."
- Encourage kids to take the crossword home and choose a verse to focus on this week.

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Proverbs 6:6-8

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had to work hard?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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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: notecard

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Ants Marching**  
Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

- Instruct the kids to write prayers that are focused on asking God to help them work hard. (These should be brief reminders that will help guide them when they pray at home.)

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had to work hard?

- Encourage the kids to think of specific jobs or responsibilities they're expected to do.
- Examples of prayers might include:
  - Remember to clean my room without being asked.
  - Avoid letting video games distract me from doing my homework.
  - Finish my chores even when I don't want to.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

- Encourage kids to take their notecard and place it somewhere they will see it.
- Challenge them to set time aside in the week ahead to pray each day.
- Say: "Praying doesn't have to be complicated or take a long time. Just taking a little time talking to God each day is a great way to spend time with God and also to stay focused on how we can work hard."
- Encourage the group to sit in a circle.
- Invite each kid to share with the group something that they're working on.
- Instruct the kids to pray around the circle.
- Ask each kid to say a prayer for the kid sitting to their left.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large."  
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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

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## (5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER, CONTINUED)

- Encourage the kids to think of specific jobs or responsibilities they're expected to do.
- Examples of prayers might include:
  - Remember to clean my room without being asked.
  - Avoid letting video games distract me from doing my homework.
  - Finish my chores even when I don't want to.
- Encourage kids to take their page home and place it somewhere they will see it.
- Challenge them to set time aside in the week ahead to pray each day.
- Say: "Praying doesn't have to be complicated or take a long time. Just taking a little time talking to God each day is a great way to spend time with God and also to stay focused on how we can work hard."
- Encourage the group to sit in a circle.
- Invite each kid to share with the group something that they're working on.
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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

**(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

#### 1. JUST FOR FUN

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Dice, two for each Small Group
- White board and dry-erase marker (or piece of paper and pen/pencil), one for each Small Group

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

#### \* 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

- Oven mitts, two for each Small Group
- Individually wrapped pieces of candy, one large bag for each Small Group
  - *Optional:* Use individually wrapped sticky hands or similar prizes for a non-food version.
- Large bowl, one for each Small Group
- Stopwatch or phone timer, one for each Small Group

\*NOTE: Beware of food allergies

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Create:* an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- White board, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry eraser, one for each Small Group
- Print "Ant Farm Art" Activity Page on paper and cut out, one set for each Small Group
  - Keep the "artist cards" together, in order, in one pile and the "narrator cards" together, in order, in another pile.

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Work Hard Words" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Print "Work Hard Words Answer Key" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Pencils, one for each kid
- Bibles, one for every two kids

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

Option 1:

- For kids not present in previous weeks: Extra prayer jars that were made in Week 1, a few for each Small Group



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- If extra were not set aside, gather jars, containers, or plastic cups and add some simple decorations with stickers or colorful permanent markers
- Permanent markers, one for each kid
- Large craft sticks, a few for each kid (or leftover from previous weeks)

*Option 2:*

- Print "Pet Project Prayers: 3" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Pens (or pencils), one for each kid

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**