



# TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK  
**THREE**  
MAY 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**2-3**

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on what you believe about Jesus and what led you to believe in Him as the Messiah. Ask God to help the kids in your group to become more confident in how they talk about God with others. Pray for those kids with questions and doubts - that your group would be a safe space for them to practice

talking about God.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus  
Is the Messiah  
Matthew 16:13-20

## 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, parachute (or tablecloth, bedsheet), and soft balls or pom-poms

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the parachute (or tablecloth or bedsheet).
- Invite kids to gather around the parachute (or tablecloth or bedsheet) and hold a piece of it.
- Instruct the kids to hold the parachute tightly.
- Place one ball or pom-pom in the center of the parachute.
- Direct the kids to practice tossing the ball up into the air and catching it, without letting the ball fly completely off of the parachute.
- Make room for more kids as they arrive, and invite them to join.
- As kids practice, continue to add more balls or pom-poms to the parachute for a challenge.

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about God.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."**

1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice**

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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## MADE TO PLAY

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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a game of "What am I?"
- Say: "I'm going to read a list of clues about an object. Every object is either a skill or talent, or something you can

use to practice a skill or talent."

- One at a time, read aloud a list of facts about an object. (Some suggestions are below.)
  - Feel free to add your own examples.
- After each fact, ask: "What am I?"
- Invite kids to guess what the object is.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus  
Is the Messiah  
Matthew 16:13-20

### Object Facts

- I'm often the color brown. You can hold me in your hands. Everyone runs after me. You can throw me or kick me. What am I? (**football**)
- You can hold me, or I can stand on my own. I'm often used on a stage. I make everything louder. You can sing into me. What am I? (**microphone**)
- I'm often colorful. You can hang me on your wall to make your space more beautiful. You can make me by using brushes, pencils, or paint. What am I? (**art**)
- You wear me. I can help you move gracefully. Sometimes I make a sound when I move, and sometimes I'm completely silent. You wear me on your feet. You wear me when you're on stage with music playing. What am I? (**dance shoes**)
- I'm long and skinny. I can be made with metal or wood. I help make delicious food. You can use me in the kitchen. I can flip pancakes. What am I? (**spatula**)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job guessing! All of these activities take lots of *practice*! What are some of your favorite activities? (*Invite responses.*) Those are all great answers!

**[Transition] Today, we're going to hear a story from the Bible about a very important question that Jesus asked His friends. We'll discover something important that we can all practice. Let's find out!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



## 3. VERSE ACCORDION

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Colorful cardstock (cut into strips), markers, and tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up this month's Memory Verse, 1 Timothy 4:8, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus  
Is the Messiah  
Matthew 16:13-20

**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 "1 Timothy" in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 8 in chapter 4.

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about God.

- Invite kids who would like to read the verse out loud to the group to do so.
- Set out the markers and cardstock strips.
- Invite the kids to choose eight strips.
- Direct them to write a section of the verse (a few words) on each strip, saving one strip for the reference.
  - Instruct the kids to use all eight strips.
- When kids finish writing out the verse, encourage the kids to line up their strips in verse order, leaving a small space in between each strip.
- Set out the rolls of tape.
- Instruct the kids to tape the strips together in order on one side, making sure the verse isn't covered up.
- Direct the kids to repeat with tape on the back side.
- Instruct the kids to fold the verse back and forth in different directions into an accordion shape!
- Say: "You can keep this pocket-sized Memory Verse with you wherever you go."

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Training the body has some value.  
But being godly has value in every  
way. It promises help for the life  
you are now living and the  
life to come."

1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Look at all of these amazing verse accordions! They fold up so small, you could carry it with you in your pocket or bring it along if you have a sports game or play practice. Just like we practice soccer, singing, or dancing, we can also **practice talking about God**. When we fill our minds with God's Word and memorize Scripture, we can be even more ready to talk about God when we're with our family and friends. Let's find a time to **practice talking about God** to someone this week by showing them our verse accordions!"

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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## 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to form groups of two or three.
- Once everyone has picked a spot to gather with their group, invite them to share something good God has done with their group.
- Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, direct the kids to come back in a circle as a whole group.
- Invite anyone who would like to share with the group.
- Close the group time in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for our time in groups where we can practice talking with others about You. Help us to slow down, keep our eyes open, pay attention, and be ready to notice what You are doing all around us. Give us the courage to share what You are doing with others. Thank You that we can grow in our faith as we practice talking about You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show them their verse accordions and to read the verse.