



WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 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 both the good and the struggles in your life. Take time to thank God for the ways you've changed and grown to become more and more like Jesus. Ask God to help the kids in your group learn to treat others with kindness rather than judgment.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and Hula-Hoops® (or floor tape)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive and introduce yourself to any new visitors.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out a few Hula-Hoops on the floor (or invite children to help you create large squares with the floor tape).
- Instruct the kids to "swim" around the group space, avoiding the Hula-Hoops (or tape squares).
- Periodically, call out: "Shark!"
- When you call out "shark!" direct the kids to get into a Hula-Hoop (or tape square) to be "safe."
- Establish the rule that only the first two kids to get inside the Hula-Hoop (or tape square) can remain.
- Call out "swim" to start the first round, and call out "shark!" periodically.
- Instruct the kids who don't make it in a Hula-Hoop (or tape square) to be out for that round.
- Ask kids who are out to help you remove one Hula-Hoop (or peel up one tape square) before starting the next round.
- Continue until there are a few winners.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly,
you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom,
you should ask God for it. He will
give it to you. God gives freely to
everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you
should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



* 2. BUBBLE UP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bubble Up" Activity Page, 4-5 inflated balloons, and a device for playing upbeat music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Start the music.
- Invite the kids to stand up.
- Toss the inflated balloons out into the group.
- Challenge the kids to work together to keep the "bubbles" up in the air.
- When the music stops, instruct kids to grab a balloon if they can, and freeze!
- Share a scenario from the "Bubble Up" Activity Page.
- Instruct whoever is holding a balloon (or whoever was the last one to touch a balloon), to work together to provide a wise choice to make in response to a scenario you share.
 - If needed, explain the scenario involves a "plank" (unforgiveness, jealousy, selfishness, or arrogance), and they are to work together to agree on a wise response to choose love and kindness instead.
 - For example, instead of being jealous, we could be genuinely excited and celebrate someone.
- Continue to play as time and energy allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job making wise decisions! We can learn how to look at ourselves clearly, even the places we need to change. Then, we can learn wisdom—finding out what you should do and doing it. We should treat others with kindness instead of judging them. Often, what bothers us about someone else is something that we struggle with too. The truth is, **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.**

"There are a lot of things to keep up with in our lives, and we're sure to make mistakes sometimes. But the good news is that, even when we mess up and struggle to get it right, God still loves us! That love is so deep God wants to help you become more and more like Jesus. Through prayer, you can always stop and ask God to show you what's going on inside of you. Can you think of any other ways we can realize what we need to work on?" *(Invite responses, like: we can ask a trusted adult, etc.)*



WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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. WORD PICTURES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper or poster board, and coloring supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two groups.
- Give each group a large piece of butcher paper or poster board.
- Set out the coloring supplies for the two groups to share.
- Write one section from the Memory Verse on each large paper.
 - For the NIV, it's:
 1. *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault,*
 2. *and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)*
 - For the NIV, it's:
 1. *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you.*
 2. *God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault. (James 1:5)*
- Ask each group to work together to read their part of the verse aloud.
- Ask kids to work together to illustrate that section of the Memory Verse.
- When both teams have finished, bring the groups together to read their part of the verse and share their illustrations.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wisdom isn't just about being smart or knowing something. Wisdom is knowing what to do with what you learn. We can always talk to God about showing us where we need to grow and change. God might even lead you to ask a parent or trusted adult about it too. People who love you and care about you will help you to see yourself clearly. Because **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.**"



WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubbles, and bubble wand

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids into a moment of prayer.
- Instruct the kids to find a quiet place to sit around the room, with space between each other.
- Invite the kids to reflect on their lives and quietly talk to God, asking God specifically to show them any areas where they have planks in their lives.
- As the kids are quiet, slowly begin walking around among the kids and blowing bubbles.
- While staying seated, invite kids to pop the bubbles as they imagine God taking the "planks" away from their lives.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Think of the 'planks' in our own lives. What are the things we need to notice so we can change and become more wise? Is it unforgiveness, jealousy, selfishness, arrogance? Remember **When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.**

"Dear God, thank You that You love us so well. You are fair and truthful and kind. Thank You that You want us to love each other well too. Please show us where we have planks in our eyes so we can see more clearly. We want to love people fairly and well like You do. We love You, Jesus, and we ask these things in Your name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show their group's poster board or butcher paper with the illustrated Memory Verse on it. Encourage them to read the verse.