



WEEK
FIVE
MAY 2022

SMALL GROUP
1st & 2nd

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

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.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. JESUS' BIG LOVE FOR US

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry erase board
- Dry erase marker

2. BOUNCE BACK OBSTACLE COURSE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Bottom Line Cards" Activity Page and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Masking tape
- Items found around the classroom to create an obstacle course: Bibles, chairs, tables, trash can, bins, clipboards, etc.

3. OVER/UNDER MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31
- Playground ball

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry erase board from "Jesus' BIG Love for Us" Activity

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.**



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* 1. JESUS' BIG LOVE FOR US

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board, marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to sit in a circle as you hold the dry erase board.
- Encourage the kids to brainstorm things they face each week that are hard.
- Write their answers all over the board. Try to cover the whole board but leave space in the center.
- Some ideas if they get stuck:
 - hard assignment at school
 - big game
 - forgetting their lunch
 - unkind classmate
 - friends who are fighting
 - losing the game
 - waking up late
 - breaking something
- Say, "We all face hard things. And it can be hard to keep going and get back up if all we ever do is focus on the tough situation."
- Write "JESUS" in big block letters in the center of the board.
- Point out all the things Jesus faced because of His BIG love for all of us.
 - Arrested
 - Wrongly accused (Jesus never did ONE wrong thing.)
 - Hurt/beaten
 - Yelled at
 - Spit on
 - Misunderstood
 - Hated
 - Laughed at
 - Killed
- Ask, "Why did Jesus face all of those hard things?"
- Draw a large heart around "Jesus."
- Set the board aside to use during the prayer later on.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus faced all of those hard things because He knew what was coming. In the biggest bounce-back event ever, Jesus ROSE from the dead. He came back to life. He took on all that punishment, all that hard stuff, to make it possible for anyone to have a relationship with God! You can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**"

"Have you ever played in a game where you were losing? What happens when you hear someone like your mom, dad, or grandma—someone you know loves

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Keep Holding On

Keep Looking to Jesus
Hebrews 12:1-3

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because of
what Jesus did for you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"But those who trust in the LORD
will receive new strength. They
will fly as high as eagles. They will
run and not get tired. They will
walk and not grow weak."

Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up
when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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(* 1. JESUS' BIG LOVE FOR US, CONTINUED)

you—starts cheering for you to keep going? Doesn't it help you bounce back when you know someone loves you and is cheering for you? Absolutely! When someone loves you a whole lot, and you know they're on your side, you can keep going for sure!

"Jesus loves you even more than that! And He proved that love by facing all those hard things. We can push through the hard things and keep going when we remember that Jesus LOVES us and is on our side. You can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**"

[Make it Personal] (Tell your few about a time you kept going—kept doing the right thing—even when you wanted to quit. How did knowing that Jesus loved you and was on your side help you bounce back? If possible, choose a story from your childhood—maybe a time you told the truth when it was hard or you stood up for what was right even when you were the only one.)



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an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. BOUNCE BACK OBSTACLE COURSE [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bottom Line Cards" Activity Page, masking tape, items around the classroom to create an obstacle course

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage the kids to help you use the items you gathered to create an obstacle course in your Small Group area.
- Tape the "Bottom Line Cards" on several different obstacles at various spots around the course.
- Tape a start line and a finish line on the floor.
- Run through the course yourself as the kids watch you to make sure they understand how to conquer the obstacles.
- Each time you come to an obstacle with a card, say, **"Keep going because of what Jesus did for you"** loud and with gusto!
- Let the kids run through the course (a couple at a time, so they don't get bunched up) and remind them to repeat the Bottom Line every time they come to a card.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Keep Holding On

Keep Looking to Jesus
Hebrews 12:1-3

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because of
what Jesus did for you.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Whew! That was fun. And maybe a little challenging. What was the toughest part of the course? *(Pause for responses.)* Sometimes, we face real life obstacles where we might be tempted to cut corners, make an unwise choice, or take shortcuts. When we feel ourselves moving towards being dishonest or doing the wrong thing, we need to remember what Jesus has done for us! When you're tempted to give up, you can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."

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3. OVER/UNDER MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Isaiah 40:3, a
playground ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible at Isaiah 40:31.

Read the verse aloud as a review.

- Line the kids up single file.
- Hand the ball to the first kid in line.
- Encourage the kids to repeat the words of the verse as they pass the ball over their head or between their legs, back and forth, down the line. (The first kid in line will pass the ball over their head to the second kid, then the second kid will pass the ball between their legs to the third kid, and so on.)
- When the ball makes it to the end of the line, have the last kid send the ball back to the front, passing it over and under.
- Once the ball reverses to come back to the front, tap the first kid in line to run to the back of the line.
- Repeat the verse in the same manner as time and interest allow.
- Remember, this is a LONG verse and the kids will likely not remember the next word on their own. Make sure you lead them through the verse for each round.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Keep Holding On

Keep Looking to Jesus
Hebrews 12:1-3

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Isaiah 40:31, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! Our memory verse reminds us that God is with us. That's what Isaiah meant when he wrote 'they will run and not get tired.' When we put our trust in God, God will give us what we need to keep going and bounce back, no matter the circumstance! God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. Because of God's great love for us, we can live with God now and forever. And when you face a tough situation, you can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**"

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4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board from "Jesus' BIG Love for Us" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hold up the board you created earlier.
- Remind the kids that they can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**
- Lead the kids in a prayer like the one below.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we love You. Thank You for sending Jesus so we could be forgiven and everyone could have a relationship with You. Help us focus on Jesus and what He has done for us when things get hard. Thanks for loving us, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, let the kids show off the board and share with the adults that you can **keep going because of what Jesus did for you.**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Keep Looking to Jesus
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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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