



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2023

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

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.

1. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed.

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 #2.

1. UNDERSTAND MORE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Road to Emmaus" Activity Page on tan or brown cardstock, twenty for each small group.
- Print "Understand More" Activity Page on colorful cardstock, five for each small group.
- Print the "More about Jesus" Activity Page on colorful paper and cut apart, one set of cards for each small group.
- Pen or marker
- Bible

- Tuck the "More about Jesus" cards into the Bible like bookmarks in their corresponding spots.
- Large die

*2. SCARECROW SCENARIO

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Help Needed" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each small group.
- Print the "Scarecrow Scenario" Activity Pages, each page on a different color of cardstock and cut out the pieces; one set for every two or three kids.
- Shirt boxes—one for every two or three kids
- Bibles—one for every two or three kids
- Markers
- Glue sticks

3. BEAN HUMBLE

[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:

- Clean, dry water bottles—one for each kid
- Jelly beans or similar candy
 - Fill half of the water bottles with about half a cup of candy each bottle.
- Individually wrapped candy or other small prizes suitable for your environment
- Bible marked at Philippians 2

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:

- Print the "Jesus Loves You" Activity Page on paper, one for each small group.



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1. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Say, "Simon says" followed by a nonsense "verb" and "noun" below.
 - Simon says, "Stobble your foobit."
 - Simon says, "Pumfle your heebit."
 - Simon says, "Timble your nombit."
- Confidently give the command as if the kids will understand what in the world you're saying!
- When they respond with giggles and confusion, feign disbelief and try again with two other phrases.
- Finally, "translate" and teach each phrase.
 - "Stobble your foobit" means "Stomp your feet."
 - "Pumfle your heebit" means "Pat your head."
 - "Timble your nombit" means "Touch your nose."
- Once the kids can translate the gibberish into motions, play the game again. Be sure to go slowly until they get the hang of it.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Stand by Me

On the Road to Emmaus
Luke 24:13-35

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Put others first by helping them understand.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we started our game, did you understand what I was saying? Why not? (It was nonsense. You weren't saying real words.) Yes! What I said didn't make ANY SENSE AT ALL until I helped you understand. **[Transition] In Large Group, we'll hear about something that didn't make any sense to two people until someone helped THEM understand. Let's go learn more.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

GROWING FROM
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1. UNDERSTAND MORE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Road to Emmaus" and "Understand More" Activity Pages, "More about Jesus" Activity Page cards in Bible, pen or marker, and a die

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the "Road to Emmaus" pages in a serpentine line, creating a life-size board game.
 - Label the first page "Jerusalem" at the start and label the last one "Emmaus" at the end.
 - Randomly place the "Understand More" game pieces throughout the path.
 - If your environment allows, make the path go into a hallway or another room.
- Guide kids to get into pairs and line up at "Jerusalem."
- Lead the first team to roll the die and move the appropriate number of spaces.
- If they land on an "Understand More" space, help them pull a "More about Jesus" card from the Bible.
 - Read the card aloud.
 - If the card is from the Old Testament, ask a leading question to link the prophecy to Jesus. ("Where was Jesus born? Yes! In Bethlehem, just like Micah 5:2 said He would be!")
 - Marvel that the prophecies told things about Jesus HUNDREDS of years before He was born.
- When all kids reach "Emmaus," lead them to excitedly run back to Jerusalem.
- Guide them to echo you as you call out, "Jesus is the Savior of the world!"

WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our Bible story today, the two friends were confused when Jesus died. They didn't understand that God's plan was for Jesus to die and come back to life so that He could be the Savior! Even though they had spent time with Jesus, they still had more to understand.

"Was Jesus upset that His friends didn't understand? (No!) No, Jesus cared about His friends SO MUCH that He wanted to help them understand what God was doing. We can take the time to help others understand, too. We can encourage people and remind them that God made them unique and special, and we can help them understand more about Jesus. So remember to **put others first by helping them understand.**

"And you know what? If there's more that YOU'D like to understand about Jesus, that's okay! You can ask a parent, me, or any of the other leaders here. We'll be happy to help you understand as much as we can!"

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Put others first by helping
them understand.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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ahead. Don't do it because you are
proud. Instead, be humble. Value
others more than yourselves."
Philippians 2:3, NIV

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*2. SCARECROW SCENARIO

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Help Needed" and "Scarecrow Scenario" Activity Pages, shirt boxes, markers, glue sticks, and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids get into groups of two or three.
- Give each team a box, a marker, glue sticks, and set of "Scarecrow Scenario" cutouts.
- Have kids glue the head, hat, and hair on the lid of their box to make a scarecrow. (You might have them do the following before they glue the hair pieces on the box.)
- Direct kids to work together to give their scarecrow specific human abilities (no super-powers or actual scarecrow traits) and write them on the hair strips.
 - This scarecrow is named . . .
 - This scarecrow is good at . . .
 - This scarecrow is also good at . . .
 - This scarecrow likes . . .
- When kids finish, say, "There's one more thing your scarecrow needs—God's power!" Give each team a Bible to put in their box.
- Show kids a "Help Needed" Activity Page card and ask them what the person on the card is having trouble with.
- Encourage each team to share how someone with the skills described on their scarecrow could show humility and help that person solve the problem they're facing.
- If time allows, guide teams to switch scarecrows. Repeat the scenarios.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The important thing to remember today is to **put others first by helping them understand**. You can help others understand Jesus, but you can help them understand in other ways, too. You can help a younger cousin or sibling put on their shoes. You can help your grandparent navigate an app on their phone. You can interpret for others if you speak two languages. You can help someone understand how to play a video game, or you can remind others that God loves them and made them just the way they are. However you help others understand, you can use the things that you're good at to help them!"

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way that you've used the gifts and abilities God has given you to help others. You might have helped someone learn how to read, taught someone how to play the piano, or showed someone how to throw a football or make a layup.)

"How have you **put others first by helping them understand?** (Pause.) Way to go! You **put others first by helping them understand!** This week, look for MORE ways to rely on God's power and use the things you're good at to help others understand!"

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in the brain and taps into the energy
in the body



3. BEAN HUMBLE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Philippians 2; empty water bottles; water bottles with jelly beans or other candy; and individually wrapped candy or other treats

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help each kid find a partner.
 - If you have an odd number in your group, pair yourself with a kid.
- Give one kid on each team an empty water bottle and the other a bottle with jelly beans.
- At your signal, the player with the jelly beans pours their candy into their partner's empty bottle.
- If they drop any on the ground, they leave it there and keep going.
- After a minute, call for the kids to switch roles.
- After another minute or two, call time.
- See which pair has the most jelly beans still in their bottles.
- Collect the dropped jelly beans and throw them away.
- Distribute individually wrapped candy or other treats for the kids to enjoy.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Philippians 2.
- Read the verse aloud, encouraging kids to say it with you.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great game, everyone! How did you put your partner first during our game? (*I shared with them; I helped them, etc.*). Yes! Sharing and helping are GREAT ways to put others first. And let me ask this. When you were the one pouring the jelly beans, did it work better to pour them quickly or carefully? (*carefully*) Yes! And you know what? Being careful is also important when you're helping others understand. Because it's better to show that you value others by being careful and kind than by being quick and acting like you know it all. Philippians 2:3 says it this way, 'Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be HUMBLE.' (NIV) So remember to **put others first by helping them understand**, and as you do, be careful and kind."



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

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus Loves You" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Silently sign "Jesus loves you" to each kid.
- Help the group understand what each sign means, then

teach the signs to the kids.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus cared about His friends SO MUCH that He wanted them to understand who He really is. You can take the time to help others understand who you know Jesus to be, too. You can also help them understand other things. You can help your friends understand how to play a game. You can help younger kids understand how to put on their shoes. You can help everyone understand that they are special and God loves them VERY much. (Lead kids in signing 'Jesus loves you.') Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You that every kid here is AMAZINGLY and INCREDIBLY special to You and You love them more than they could ever IMAGINE! You love [kid's name]. You love [kid's name], and You love (continue with each kid's name). You loved them so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be their Savior and friend. Help them understand more about You every day and help us all to **put others first by helping them understand**, too. We love You SO much, God. In Jesus' name we pray. amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage each kid to sign "Jesus loves you" and help their adult understand what it means.