



WEEK
FIVE
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:

- Plastic spoons—one for each kid
- Five fish candies or small plastic fish
- *Optional: extra fish candy for kids to eat after the game*

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 FORGAVE

[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:

- Print the "Rebus Cards" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each small group.
- Print the "Jesus Forgave" Activity Page on paper, one for each small group.

- Painter's tape (or another way to post the "Rebus Cards" that works for your environment)
- *Optional: six hula hoops if you can't tape the cards to walls in your environment*

2. MAKE THINGS RIGHT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small dry erase board (or laminate cardstock or slide it into sleeve protectors)—one for every two kids
- Dry erase markers
- Paper towels, lotion-free facial tissues, or pieces of felt—one for every two kids

3. WIGGLE WORM

[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:

- Bibles, for kindergarteners
 - Mark Bibles 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:

- "Put Others First" Activity Page from "Early Arriver"

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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MADE TO PLAY

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



1. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic spoons and fish candies or small plastic fish; Optional: extra fish candy

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide the kids to sit in a close circle.
- Give each kid a spoon.
- Put a fish candy on one kid's spoon and guide them to pass it around the circle.
- The catch is that the kids can only pass the fish with their spoons.
- If kids drop the fish, lead the group to say, "It's okay, we forgive you."
- Kids can then pick up the fish with their fingers in order to resume play.
- As kids get the hang of the game, add a challenge by introducing more fish!
- If you're using fish candy, provide a few "clean" fish at the end for each kid to enjoy.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Mercy's Shore

Jesus Restores Peter
John 21:1-19 (John 18:1-27)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Put others first by making things right.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys did a great job of forgiving each other when someone dropped the fish! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a time when fish and forgiveness went together. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to learn more.**"

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

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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.



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an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



* 1. JESUS FORGAVE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Rebus Cards" and "Jesus Forgave" Activity Pages, painter's tape; *Optional:* hula hoops

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide the kids to stand in the middle of your environment.
- Show them each "Rebus Card," encouraging kids to tell you what they remember about that item from the Bible story.
- Randomly post the cards around your environment.
 - If your environment doesn't have walls, scatter hula hoops around your environment and set a card inside each one.
- Narrate the story with the "Jesus Forgave" Activity Page as a guide.
- As you read, cue kids to quickly move from card to card when you say each item.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Peter had messed things up by saying he didn't know Jesus, but Jesus took the time to make things right. He made sure that Peter knew they were still friends and that He wanted Peter to take care of the other believers. Jesus LOVED Peter, so He put Peter first by making things right."

"Does Jesus still love you even when YOU make mistakes? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus will ALWAYS love you, no matter what! His love and forgiveness will NEVER end! Since God loves you that much, you can love others and forgive them, too. With God's help, you can **put others first by making things right.**"

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COMMUNITY GARDEN

GROWING FROM
THE GROUND UP

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2. MAKE THINGS RIGHT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase boards; dry erase markers;
and paper towels, tissues, or felt pieces

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help each kid find a partner. (If possible, pair younger kids with older ones.)
- Lead kids to think of times when friends might need to make things right.
- If kids are stuck, ask prompting questions to spur their thinking toward things like:
 - being bossy
 - refusing to share
 - saying something mean
 - ignoring another friend
- Give each pair a dry erase board and a marker.
- Lead partners to work together to draw a picture of the situation they chose.
- Encourage kids to share what they drew and tell how they could **put others first by making things right.**
- Lead kids to draw their solutions.
- Explain that when we forgive, it's like we choose to make things right and erase—or forget—the hurtful things that others say or do.
- Hand out the erasers (paper towels, etc.).
- Guide kids to erase their drawings!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Even if you feel like you have a reason to be mad at someone, humility means choosing to forgive and make things right. You can go to that person and tell them that what they did hurt your feelings and that you forgive them. And if YOU'RE the one who hurt someone else, you can tell them you're sorry and ask for their forgiveness."

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you went to someone to make things right. The person may have said something that wasn't kind, ignored you, or done something that hurt your feelings. Tell them how God showed you love through the situation.)

"The important thing to remember today is to **put others first by making things right.**"

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MADE TO MOVE

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



3. WIGGLE WORM

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids to look up and “read” the verse using the Bible navigation tips below.

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Finding verses with 1st 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 “Philippians” in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Philippians starts with the letters P-H. When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 2.

- Emphasize that “valuing others more than yourselves” means that with God’s help, we can be brave and **put others first by making things right.**
- Help kids get into groups of three to five.
- Guide teams to line up at one end of your environment.
- Show each team how to become a humble “wiggle worm.”
 - Direct kids to hold up their left hands.
 - Lead them to put their left hand between their legs.
 - The kid behind grabs that hand with their right hand.
- At your signal, kids move as a unit (a worm) and meander around the environment.
- If the worm “breaks,” it stops and the two kids at the break say, “I’m sorry” and “I forgive you.”
- Then, the kid at the front moves to the end and the worm continues along its way.
- Praise kids whenever they put others first!

WHAT YOU SAY:

“You guys made great humble worms! Part of being humble is being willing to **put others first by making things right.** You can make things right by saying you’re sorry, and you can make things right by forgiving others. When you do that, you show others that you value them, just like our verse says. So remember to **put others first by making things right.**”



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4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Put Others First" Activity Page from
"Early Arriver"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review or teach kids the hand signs for "Put others first."
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"All month, we've been learning that God wants us to (sign 'put others first.')

The important thing to remember today is to **put others first by making things right** (sign the first part). How can you make things right? (I can forgive others. I can say I'm sorry.) Yes! You can make things right by saying you're sorry, and you can make things right by forgiving others when they say or do something that hurts your feelings. Let's pray and ask God to help us **put others first by making things right** (sign the first part).

"Dear Jesus, thank You that You love us more than we could ever imagine. Thank You for loving us, even when we make mistakes. Thank You that You will ALWAYS love us, no matter what! Help us love others and forgive them, too. Help us **put others first by making things right**. We love You SO much, Jesus. It's in Your name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line. **Put others first by making things right.**

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