

#### PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

#### MADE TO PLAY

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

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY** 

**Come Together** 

Accept One Another /

Peter and Cornelius

Romans 15:7

(Supporting: Acts 10)

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE** 

Accept one another.

**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE** 

As you deal with one

another, you should think

and act as Jesus did.

Philippians 2:5, NIrV



STORY

# 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the group to join you in a seated circle.
- Say: "I'm having a party, and you can come if you guess my secret rule! I'm bringing (choose something that starts

with the same letter as your name)."

- Ask the kid next to you: "What are you bringing?"
  - If that kid says something that starts with the same letter as their name, say, "Yay! You can come!"
  - If that kid says something that doesn't starts with the same letter as their name, say, "Sorry, you can't come to my party."
- Continue around the circle in this way, giving each kid a turn to share what they are bringing to the party.
- After each kid has had at least two chances to share, reveal the rule.
- Play several rounds, with a different secret rule each time.

#### Rule ideas:

- Things that are in your Small Group space.
- Things that begin with the letter "e."
- Things that come in pairs (pants, scissors, socks, etc.).

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"We made some silly rules about our party! How did it feel to not be invited to the party? Maybe it didn't matter much to you, because you knew it was a game. **[Transition]** But in our true story from the Bible today, we'll hear about someone who learned how to welcome all people and instead of leaving them out! Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

# MONTHLY VIRTUE

Live It Out-Discover how to love like Jesus

# **BASIC TRUTH**

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



# PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

#### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



# **1. WALKING WATER**

# [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared cups of water, plastic spoons, paper towels, food coloring, baby wipes, and tablecloth

#### (Do early because it takes time to move) WHAT YOU DO:

• Lay the tablecloth over a table or on the floor in your

group space.

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
  - It's okay if there is a group of three!
  - If you can, create groups with older and younger kids.
- Invite the groups to gather around the tablecloth.
- Give each group a water cup, food coloring, and a plastic spoon.
- Set out a paper towel on the table.
- Instruct the kids to drop 4-5 drops of food coloring into their cup, gently stir it with the spoon, and place their spoon on the paper towel.
- If you have mostly younger kids, consider doing this step beforehand.
  Direct the kids to place their colored water cups in a line or a circle on the tablecloth.
- The cups should almost be touching each other.
- Use the Bible Story review points below to recap the story and tie it into the experiment.
  - "When God gave Peter the vision of animals, God showed him that Jesus is for everyone—not just people from a Jewish background. This was huge! Peter began to realize that Jesus came for all people."
  - "Peter travel to Cornelius' home. This was another big deal! Accepting one another often begins with listening to someone, showing kindness to those who are different than us."
- Fold a paper towel in half, then fold it again.
- Before the next step, say this:
  - "Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit and went with Cornelius' men. This reminds us that when we follow God's direction and accept one another, God can work in us to do incredible things!"
- Place one end of the paper towel in the first cup and the other end in the second cup.
- Repeat this step until every cup has a paper towel flowing from one cup to the other.
- Consider calling on kids to help you place the folded paper towels in the cups.
- Observe how the colored water is absorbed by the towels and "walks" down the line (or around the circle).
- Say: "When Peter shared the good news, Cornelius and his household believed in Jesus and were baptized!"
- Give each kid a baby wipe and instruct them to clean their hands.

# TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Come Together

Accept One Another / Peter and Cornelius Romans 15:7 (Supporting: Acts 10)

# **TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Accept one another.

# **MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. Philippians 2:5, NIrV

# **MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Live It Out-Discover how to love like Jesus

# **BASIC TRUTH**

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



# (1. WALKING WATER, CONTINUED)

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our Bible Story today, we see that God had accepted Cornelius, and then God told Peter to be ready for him, and then Peter accepted him. Then God started to work in Cornelius' whole family and household. From there, the Good News spread throughout the whole world. It's a huge chain reaction—like our experiment today! Over and over in the Bible we see how Jesus spent time with ALL sorts of people. People who were considered outcasts or unimportant—even non-Jewish people! Jesus loved and accepted everyone, and because Jesus has accepted us, we can **accept one another**."



# 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

# **TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

#### **Come Together**

Accept One Another / Peter and Cornelius Romans 15:7 (Supporting: Acts 10)

# **TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Accept one another.

#### **MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. Philippians 2:5, NIrV

# **MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Live It Out-Discover how to love like Jesus

# **BASIC TRUTH**

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



# 2. BUDDY UP

#### [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Large dice, and a device for playing upbeat music

### WHAT YOU DO:

• Explain to the kids that they will play a group game where they'll have to move quickly to form groups.

- Explain how to play:
  - The kids are to move around your group space while you place the music.
  - You will roll the dice, pause the music, and call out the number rolled. For example: "3."
  - Kids are to work to form groups of three quickly.
  - Any kids who aren't able to form a group of three must sit out until the next game.
- Direct the kids to spread out.
- Begin playing the upbeat music.
- Roll the dice, pause the music, and share the number with the kids.
- Instruct the kids to quickly make groups of the number rolled by holding hands or touching shoes together.
- Encourage kids who are in a group to reach out to another kid who is not in a group by pulling them into the middle of their group.
- Continue rolling the dice, pausing the music, and calling out a number for several rounds.
- Play as long as time allows.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great game, friends! The atoms that make up everything around us bond just like this. Sometimes it's a single bond-like the ones you made when you partnered up with one friend. But sometimes they make double bonds-like when you gathered with two friends. We are reminded to **accept one another** in every way, right down to the tiniest pieces that make up creation.

"What is a unique way you could show acceptance to someone in your 'orbit' right now?" (Invite responses, like: bring a friend to church, include a lonely classmate in your game at recess, etc.)

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you felt left out. Maybe it was at school or on a sports team. How did that feel? Has anyone ever accepted you when you needed extra support? How do you ensure you accept those around you?)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How does it feel to be accepted?
- Why is it a good thing that God made each of us unique?
- When is it hard for you to accept others?



# 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. PUZZLER

#### [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED**: Bible marked at Philippians 2:5, "Puzzle Pieces" Activity Pages, coloring supplies, zip-top bags, safety scissors, and a permanent marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to join you in a seated circle.
  - Read Philippians 2:5 from the marked Bible.
- Repeat the verse several times with your group.
- Give each kid a "Puzzle Pieces" Activity Page.
- Set the coloring supplies in the middle of the circle.
- Invite the kids to color their puzzle.
- Give each kid a pair of safety scissors and a zip-top bag.
- Instruct the kids to cut the puzzle pieces apart along the lines and place the pieces in the zip-top bag.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on their zip-top bags with a permanent marker.
- Set the puzzles aside for the kids to take home.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we think and act like Jesus, as our Memory Verse says, it's important to **accept one another**. Jesus showed acceptance to all kinds of people—rich people, poor people, non-Jewish people. People who were strong, people who were weak. People who needed healing on the outside and people who needed healing on the inside.

"If there was any way to include someone, Jesus found it! He met people at their houses, at parties and weddings and funerals, at the market and at the well. Wherever they worked or played or rested, Jesus found them! Let's find more ways to **accept one another**."

# TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Come Together

Accept One Another / Peter and Cornelius Romans 15:7 (Supporting: Acts 10)

# **TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Accept one another.

#### **MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. Philippians 2:5, NIrV

# **MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Live It Out-Discover how to love like Jesus

# **BASIC TRUTH**

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



**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. **(Choose one or both of these activities.)** 

# **1. EARLY ARRIVER**

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Masking tape, one roll for each Small Group

# 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**Made to Play:** an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and 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 #3.

### **1. WALKING WATER** [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Explore:** an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Clear cups half full of water, one for every two kids
- Plastic spoons, one for every two kids
- Paper towels, one roll for each Small Group
- Food coloring, 3-5 colors for each Small Group
- Baby wipes, one pack for each Small Group
- Tablecloth, one for each Small Group

### 2. BUDDY UP [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large dice, one for each Small Group
- Device for playing music, one for each Small Group

#### \*3. PUZZLER [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

- WHAT YOU NEED:
- Bible marked at Philippians 2:5, one for each Small Group
- Print "Puzzle Pieces" Activity Page on cardstock, one for every kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Zip-top bags, one for every kid
- Safety scissors, one pair for every kid
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group

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

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

• Puzzles from Memory Verse 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.**