



WEEK
ONE
OCTOBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Someone Like You
Image of God
Genesis 1:26-28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You were made in God's image.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.
Psalm 139:14, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Individuality—Discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Made in the Image" from *Little Praise Party-Ready Set Go* and "Gloriously Free" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Mirror String Painting
Application Activity: Dough Playground
Memory Verse Activity: Candy Stack Verse
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids understand what it means to be created in His image. Pray that God will personally show them how He made them each uniquely amazing and wonderful. Ask God to show you how to help kids discover their individuality and how it relates to God who created them.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Someone Like You
Image of God
Genesis 1:26-28

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Ask each kid to think of an animal.
- Invite the kids to describe their animal without saying the animal's name.
 - For a monkey, a kid could say, "This animal loves to swing from trees and eat bananas."
- Instruct the rest of the kids to guess what the animal is.
- Once an animal has been guessed, allow another kid to have turn.
- As time allows, play more rounds with food, sports, and things in nature.

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Individuality—Discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Draw My Picture" Activity Page, clipboard, paper, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the "Draw My Picture" Activity Page on the clipboard so the kids can't see through the paper.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Tell the kids that you will describe how to draw the picture on your paper without revealing what the completed picture looks like.
- Read the instructions from the "Draw My Picture" Activity page, pausing after each one.
- Instruct the kids to draw what you describe.
- When you're done reading the instructions, count down from three and turn the clipboard around so the kids can see the actual picture.
- Instruct the kids to show everyone their drawings.
- Make this a light-hearted moment so the kids won't feel like they "messed up" on their picture.
- If there is another leader in your group, have them make a silly version of the picture so kids don't feel badly if their picture doesn't look like the one you described.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so much fun! Your pictures turned out very interesting. They made me laugh in the best way! I think if I had been the one drawing, I would have ended up drawing a dog or something. Great job of listening as I described the picture. **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear how we are made in God's image.**"

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Individuality—Discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



*** 1. MIRROR STRING PAINTING**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Cardstock or construction paper, washable paint in various colors, yarn pieces, paper or polystyrene plates, (optional) latex-free gloves

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of cardstock, a paper plate, and a piece of yarn.
- Direct the kids to choose one to three colors of washable paint.
- Put a glob of each color they chose on their plates—a little goes a long way!
- Instruct the kids to fold their piece of cardstock in half, horizontally or vertically.
- Direct the kids to open their cardstock so the folding seam shows.
- *Optional: To avoid messy hands, give each kid a pair of latex-free gloves and direct them to put them on.*
- Instruct the kids to dip their yarn in the paint on their plate to cover it—in the single color or various colors they chose.
- Direct the kids to place their yarn on one side of the seam of their piece of cardstock, leaving the other half empty.
- Instruct the kids to arrange their yarn on one side of the paper to create any type of design they want.
- Have the kids fold the other side of the cardstock on top of the yarn to sandwich it between the two sides then press down on the outside of the cardstock, imprinting the image of the yarn on both sides.
- Direct the kids to open their cardstock.
- Point out that the image they made with the yarn is mirrored on both sides of the paper.
- Have kids throw their yarn and paper plate away.
- Direct the kids to wash their hands or wipe them off.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Someone Like You
Image of God
Genesis 1:26-28

WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our Bible story today, we heard about God making all of creation. But who remembers the most amazing thing God made? (Pause for responses.) That's right! It was US! People were made in God's image. This means we reflect Him in our character, like when we treat others with kindness or show patience.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You were made in God's image.

"Just like our string art made a reflection from one side of the paper to another, we can reflect God's character. What are some ways you've seen someone else reflect the image of God in how they treat others? (Pause for responses. Give some prompts if needed, like your mom patiently waiting for your little brother to learn to tie his shoes; an awesome teacher at school who shows love to ALL her students no matter how they're behaving, etc.) I love seeing ways other people reflect God's image! The amazing thing is that each and every one of you are created in God's image. No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you have done, God created you to bear His image. Don't ever forget that **you were made in God's image.**"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 1. MIRROR STRING PAINTING, CONTINUED)

[Make it Personal] (Share a time when you realized you were made in God's image—not just physically but able to reflect His character. Was there someone in your life who pointed that character quality out to you? It could be how you served someone in your family by doing their chores and that reflected God's desire to serve us and how He gives us good things even when we don't deserve them. Or it could be how you were able to stand up for someone who wasn't treated well.)

MADE TO CREATE

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



2. DOUGH PLAYGROUND
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Dough Playground" Activity Pages in containers, craft supplies in containers, Play-Doh® or modeling clay, cardboard or cardstock

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the containers with the "Dough Playground" Activity Pages inside around the room.
- Place the containers of the craft supplies around the room.
- Give each kid some dough or clay and a piece of cardboard or cardstock.
- Direct the kids to choose three pictures from a bin around the room and three craft supplies—they can all be the same item or all different—to use to build a playground.
- Instruct the kids to replicate playground items with the dough and craft supplies.
- Inform the kids that they'll have five minutes to build their playgrounds.
- As the kids build, encourage each kid by talking about how unique their creations are.
- Once time is up, invite each kid to present their playground creation.
- Once each kid has shown their creation, hold up each picture from the "Dough Playground" Activity Page.
- Ask:
 - Does your playground look EXACTLY like the picture?
 - Does it REFLECT or look similar to the picture?
 - Can we be EXACTLY like God? Why or why not?
 - What are some ways we can REFLECT or look similar to God and His character?
 - When was a time you reflected God's character (acted like Jesus or showed some characteristic of God) to someone else?
 - When was a time someone else reflected God's character to you?

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your playground creations look AMAZING! They may not look EXACTLY the same as the picture, but they definitely reflect and look LIKE the object in the picture. In the same way, we can reflect God and His goodness. We can reflect how He loves others and is kind. What is one characteristic God has that you want to try to reflect this week? (Invite each kid to answer.) Those are great ways to show **you were made in God's image.**"

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. CANDY STACK VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Candy Stack Verse" Activity Page cards sets with Life Savers® taped to the backs, toothpicks, Play-Doh or modeling clay, wooden skewers, paper plates, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

Help kids look up and read the verse using the Bible navigation tips below:

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them 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 Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 139. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 139.

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- Read the memory verse out loud together.
- Let a couple of volunteers read the verse out loud, if they'd like to.
- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a ball of dough, a paper plate, a skewer, and the shuffled "Candy Stack Verse" cards with the candy taped to the back.
- Give each kid a toothpick.
- Direct each group to place their dough on their paper plate.
- Instruct each group to stick the skewer into the dough straight up like a flag pole.
- Invite the kids to put the verse in order.
- Remind the kids they can use their Bibles to reference the verse.
- Once the kids have the verse in order, direct them to take the candy off the back of the first word card. One kid uses their toothpick (and only their toothpick) to pick up the candy and place it on the skewer.
- Continue with the next piece of candy until all pieces of candy are on the skewer.
- Each group should end up with identical candy towers.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"All of our candy stacks had something in common—the colors lined up. We all have something in common, too. We were each created by God. He did an amazing and wonderful thing when He created each and every one of you!

"But, unlike our candy stacks, we aren't all the same. And that is amazing and wonderful in itself! God gave each of you specific gifts and planned out the ways in which you would reflect Him to the world. (Tell each kid one way you see them reflecting God to others. Or you can allow the kids to share ways they see each other reflecting God. Or allow them to say one way they see God in themselves.) Remember, **you were made in God's image**. And that is pretty amazing and wonderful."

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Crafts from "Mirror String Painting" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to hold their artwork as you wrap up today's content.
- Share how we reflect God the same way the image on their paper reflected the yarn.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Getting to hang out with you guys and learn alongside you today was amazing. We learned that each of us are made in God's image and we have the ability to reflect His character! I hope you each look at your artwork from today and remember how you can reflect God's love, kindness, gentleness, patience, and goodness this week. Because **you were made in God's image.**

(Close your group time in prayer) "Dear God, thank You that You are loving and good and kind! Thank You that You made us in Your image and we can reflect You. Please help us reflect You as we go throughout our week. Please help us be loving, kind, and good like You are. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, have kids show them their Mirror String Painting. Have the kids share how their artwork reflects the yarn placed on it, and how they can reflect God, too.

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Draw My Picture" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Clipboard
- Paper; one piece for each kid
- Pens or pencils; one for each kid

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. MIRROR STRING PAINTING [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cardstock or construction paper; one piece for each kid
- Washable paint in various colors
- 14-inch pieces of yarn; one for each kid
- Paper or polystyrene plates; one for each kid
- Baby wipes

- (Optional) Latex-free gloves; one pair for each kid

2. DOUGH PLAYGROUND

[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 "Dough Playground" Activity Pages and cut apart; one set for each kid
- Cardboard or cardstock; one piece for each kid
- Play-Doh® or modeling clay; two to three balls or one container for each kid
- Several random types of art supplies (more than three different options)—i.e. toothpicks, pipe cleaners, craft sticks, beads, etc.
 - Place each set of "Dough Playground" cards in a separate container.
 - Place each type of art supply in a separate container.

3. CANDY STACK 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:

- Print the "Candy Stack Verse" Activity Pages and cut apart; one set for every three kids
- Clear tape
- Toothpicks; one for each kid
- Life Savers® hard candies or similar; red, orange, yellow, green, and purple
 - Tape a different color of candy to the back of each card in the verse in the first set, then match the colors in the rest of the sets.
 - For example, if the first set has a red candy on the first card then all sets should have a red candy taped on the back of the first card, and if a green candy is on the back of the second card then all sets should have a green on the back of the second card. Continue taping candy to all of the cards then match the other sets to the first set of cards.
 - The actual order of colors does not matter as long as it is the same for each set of cards.

