

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: large bin of water; several items that can be put in the water without being damaged—markers, pencils, snacks, toys, canned sodas, ice cubes, etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the large tub of water.
- Ask: “What makes something float?” (*If something is less dense than the water/or has air pockets in it.*)
- One at a time, put each object into the water (or let kid volunteers place the items).
- Before an item is placed in the water:
 - Ask the kids to give a thumbs up/thumbs down as to whether or not it will float.
 - Invite the kids to explain why they think that object will/will not float.
- After all items have been put in the water, guide kids in conversation with the following questions and statements:
 - What is the job of each of these items? (*Invite responses.*) Some of these things also have a different important scientific property: they float.
 - Just like all of the unexpectedly floating objects, you have an undeniable quality that you get from how you’re made. You were created by God to show the world who He is. He gave you characteristics and abilities—some of them are surprising—but He gave all of them to you to do one thing: to show the world who He is. What are some of the gifts and abilities God has given you? (*Invite responses—some of us are creative, some of us are athletic, some of us are hilariously funny, some of us are good noticers of other people’s feelings.*)
 - God is loving and kind and good. How can you use the gifts and abilities and characteristics God has given you to show the world who He is?

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Creation

Genesis 1 & 2

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

God made people with a purpose.

KEY QUESTION

What do you enjoy doing?

MEMORY VERSE

“Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

John 7:38, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Use It Cards" Activity Page—one set per group; masking tape; black, permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose one kid to go first.
- Tape a "Use It Card" on their back so they can't see it, but the rest of the group can.
- Invite the first kid to try to guess what's on their back by asking the rest of the group yes/no questions.
- When the kid guesses correctly, instruct them to choose the next kid to wear a card.
- Tape a card on the next kid.
- Continue playing until everyone has had a turn.
- Talk about the game and review today's Bible story:
 - How did you find out what the object was that was taped on your back? *(by asking questions about it—about what it was made for and what it was made from)*
 - We usually define things by what they were made from and what they were made for. People were made in the image of God, with a common purpose. What is that purpose? *(showing who God is to everyone around)*
 - What do you think it looks like for us to fulfill our purpose? *(sharing God's love for others, being responsible with everything that's been given to us, using what you're good at to help someone else)*

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MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: no supplies necessary

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What do you love to do? If you were given a day to do anything, how would you spend it?
 - What is the best part about *(insert an activity that someone has mentioned—playing video games, sports, building LEGO, playing an instrument, etc.)*?
- How can the things you love doing show a little about how God has made you?
- Why do you think God made people so differently than one another?
- What does it say about humans that God specifically made us in His image to show the world who He is, but not the animals?
- How could you use what you love doing to help show the world who God is?

** Note: many of these questions might feel like dead-ends if kids mention that their favorite activity is computer/phone games, texting, or some other type of technology play. But consider this: most of those things require connecting with other people online, and some use cooperation to achieve a goal. Talk about “people skills” that your preteens might already be using online—cooperating in a goal-oriented task, taking turns, following others’ lead, etc. Also talk about the “brain skills” they’re using—adapting to new situations, planning routes and actions, problem solving, gathering information, and downloading apps and upgrades.*

There are plenty of ways a problem-solving, tech-savvy kid—who is good at collaboration and cooperation with others—could MAKE WAVES in the world!

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MADE TO MOVE

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: two prepared beach balls, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse—John 7:38—using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
- Read the verse out loud as a group.

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Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from John. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. The book of John is the last of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 7. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 38 in chapter 7.

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to lie down shoulder-to-shoulder in a line.
- Give each team a ball; a black, permanent marker; and a Bible.
- Direct the team to give the beach ball to a kid on one end of the line, and give the kid on the other end of the line the Bible and the permanent marker.
- Instruct each team to move the beach ball from one end of the line to the other, using only their feet. (It should look like a wave as feet rise to pass the ball and then fall back down.)
- Once a team has gotten the ball to the end, direct the kid on the end to use the Bible to look up one of the verses written on the ball, read it aloud to the group, and check it off on the ball with the permanent marker.
- Direct the kid to take the ball, run to the other end of the line, lie down, and start the ball rolling again.
- The first team to check off all the verses wins!
- After the teams have looked up all of the verses, ask the following questions:
 - What do all of these verses have in common? (They talk about our purpose in life, or God's purpose in creating us.)
 - Why do you think there are so many verses about purpose in the Bible? (It must be important. God wanted us to know why people were created.)
 - What can you do if you feel like you don't have a purpose, or if you feel like you're failing or losing in general? (look up these verses, talk to a friend about it, do something that reminds you of why and how God made you)

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Card: Day 1" Activity Page, Swag Bracelet with today's symbol (if provided), pencils, a beach ball from "Verses to Take With You," Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, and a Swag Bracelet (if using).
- Set out the Bibles.
- Point out the world image on the bracelet or on the prayer card.
- Ask kids how that symbol fits into today's conversation.
- Say: "God made us with a purpose: to reflect His image to the world."
- Invite the kids to turn over their prayer card and write one of the verses from the beach ball on it. (They can use the Bibles as reference.)
- Encourage them also to write a short one-sentence prayer, thanking God for something specific about how they were made, or asking God to help them discover more of what they were made for.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for creating us for a purpose! We know that Your purpose is good, for the good of the whole world, and for the good of us who follow You. Help us learn more about how and why You made each of us and the ways we can live out our purpose so the world can see how good You are. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- What would you have named the platypus? The porcupine? The hippo?
- What is your favorite outside game? Inside game? Video game?
- If you had \$100 to spend, would you spend it at a craft store or a music store? Why?

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GETTING READY

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

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Prepare ahead of time for Small Group Rotation for VBS:

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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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- "Use It Cards" Activity Page—one set per group
- Masking tape
- Black, permanent marker

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and learning as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[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:

- Beach balls—two
- Black, permanent marker
- Bibles
- *Beforehand, use a permanent marker to write these verse references on both beach balls:*
 - Romans 9:21
 - Ephesians 1:11
 - Ephesians 2:10

- *Philippians 2:13*
- *1 Corinthians 3:8*
- *2 Corinthians 5:5*
- *John 7:38*

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Prayer Card: Day 1" Activity Page—one card per kid
- Swag Bracelet with today's symbol—one per kid (if providing)
- Pencils
- Bibles
- A beach ball from the "Verses to Take with You" Activity