

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: cornstarch—in bowls; water—in large pitchers; measuring cups; small bowls; plastic forks; LEGO minifigures or other small action figures; “Recipe Roundup Cards” Activity Page—one set per group

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the cornstarch and water.
- Give each kid a bowl, fork, and measuring cups.
- Instruct the kids that they’re going to choose a fictitious internet influencer to “follow” and make that person’s version of slime.
- Read the titles on the “Recipe Roundup Cards” and quickly show the kids each picture.
 - *Don’t read the recipes themselves—just the people who are giving them.*
 - Share that the goal is to make a substance that is liquid when you try to hold it, but is firm enough for an action figure to stand on.
 - Let kids choose which “influencer” they want to follow.
 - Divide the kids into groups if more than one kid wants to follow a certain recipe.
- As kids work on and experiment with their slime, observe which kids chose the right recipe (the one from ScienceGeek1665) and which kids chose other recipes.
- As the kids notice their slime isn’t working correctly, allow them to change course and try following the correct recipe.
- Give kids an action figure if/when they feel that they’ve hit the right ratios in their cornstarch goop.
- Consider taking pictures of this activity and sending them to parents and/or post on your VBS’s social media channels!
- When the kids have settled on their goop, ask the following discussion questions:
 - Which character’s recipe ended up to be the most trustworthy? What made that person’s recipe worth following? (*Invite answers—the person who had the most experience with making the recipe, their measurements were correct, etc.*)
 - Who are some people we follow these days? (*famous YouTubers, celebrities, influencers, athletes, actors; teachers, leaders, experts; friends or family*)
 - Have you ever followed someone and discovered that they weren’t so great? (*a YouTuber who started making videos that weren’t as wholesome as their original ones, a friend who suggested doing something dangerous, etc.*)
 - What are some ways we decide who to follow?
 - How do we know we’re following someone who’s worth being followed?

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Peter Walks on Water
Matthaew 14:22-33

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus invited people to follow Him.

KEY QUESTION

What makes Jesus worth following?

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 CREATE

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: large, flat bedsheet in white or light blue; tape; several tubes of poster or acrylic paint; shallow tubs; flip-flops—a few different pairs (or you could get each kid their own pair of disposable pedicure flip-flops); wipes; paint markers or fabric markers

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the bedsheet on the floor.
- If possible, tape down the corners to keep the bedsheet from moving around.
- Pour the paint into the shallow tubs.
- Place the tubs at either long end of the sheet.
- Ask kids to take off their shoes and socks and set them aside.
- Give kids flip-flops.
- Invite the kids to choose which color paint they'd like to use.
- Instruct the kids to carefully step into the paint tub while wearing the flip-flops.
- Guide the kids to walk across the sheet—lifting each foot up and placing it down slowly and carefully.
- When the kids reach the other side of the sheet, direct them to take off the flip-flops. (If you have individual ones, they can throw them away. Otherwise, they can put the flip-flops into the paint tub on the other side.)
- Give the kids wipes to wipe off any paint on their feet before putting their shoes and socks back on.
- When all the kids have made footprints across the sheet, remove the tubs of paint.
- Give kids the fabric or paint markers.
- Ask the kids to work together to write "Jesus is worth following!" around the edges of the sheet.
- Set the sheet to the side to dry.
- Once the sheet is dry, add it to your VBS decorations or stage area if you'd like.
- When the sheet is set aside, ask the following discussion questions:
 - How did you decide where to put your footprints on the sheet? Was it easier or harder once more kids had walked on it?
 - We want to follow Jesus, but we also want to follow our friends and be part of a group. Sometimes those two things can't happen at the same time—like when your friends want to do something you're not allowed to, or when they don't act kindly towards other people. What does a situation like that feel like? How do you figure out what to do?
 - What makes Jesus worth following? (*He loves people, He is kind, He helps others, He showed the world who God is, He's God's Son, etc.*)

MADE TO CONNECT

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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: no supplies necessary

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- If you had to guess, why do you think Jesus chose to walk across the lake to get to the boat with His friends?
 - Say: "He could have taken another boat, or just appeared with them like He did at other times in the Bible. Or He could have met them on the other side of the lake after the storm. But He chose to be with His friends."
- How would you have felt if you were Peter—scared, excited, brave?
- What do you think the other disciples felt when they saw Peter standing on the water near Jesus? (*They might have been jealous, or relieved that it wasn't them out there.*)
- What's one way you have chosen to follow Jesus in your life?
 - Have you been kind to someone when it wasn't popular?
 - Have you helped someone who couldn't do the same for you?
 - Have you put others first, even if it was hard?

MADE TO PLAY

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verses Cards" Activity Page—one set per group; Bibles; phone or music player

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Verses Card," but tell them to keep it secret.
- Begin playing the music and prompt kids to say the verse on their card over and over again.
- Direct the kids to find the other kid saying the same verse as they are.
- After the kids have found the other kids saying their verse, stop the music, and gather the cards.
- Shuffle and re-deal the cards.
- Instruct the kids to find the other kids who are saying their verse even faster.
- When the kids have found the other kids saying the same verses, ask the following discussion questions:
 - How did you find the person saying the same verse?
 - Did the music help or was it a distraction?
 - Was it easier the second time?
 - Jesus invites people to follow Him—to act like He does and go where He is going. How can you find other people who have chosen to follow Jesus? (*Watch how they act, listen to the way they speak to people, ask them about their relationship with Jesus, etc.*)
 - Who are those people in your life?

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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 2" Activity Page, pencils, Swag Bracelet with today's symbol (if providing), music player or phone with ocean wave sounds

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, and a Swag Bracelet (if providing).
- Ask: Why do you think there is a wave on today's prayer card and Swag Bracelet? (*Waves remind us of the water Jesus walked on, the water Peter stepped out of the boat onto.*)
- Say: "Waves follow each other—you never see one wave without another following right behind it! Jesus started this great ripple movement in the way we treat others and show God's love. We can follow Him and continue the movement of waves that He started."
- Invite the kids to turn over their prayer cards and write down one reason they know Jesus is worth following.
- As they think, play wave or ocean sounds in the background.
- Close your group time in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us who You are. Please help us to follow Jesus and make waves in our families, schools, and communities. 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 is your favorite place to go swimming—a lake, a pool, the ocean, or somewhere else?
- Have you ever been on a boat? What is it like?
- Play Follow the Leader as you walk!



DAY
TWO
SUMMER 2022

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

ROTATIONS

HOME

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:

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cornstarch—in bowls
- Water—in large pitchers
- Measuring cups
- Small bowls
- Plastic forks
- LEGO minifigures or other action figures
- "Recipe Roundup Cards" Activity Page—one set per small group

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A large, flat bedsheet in white or light blue
- Masking tape
- Several tubes of poster or acrylic paint
- Shallow tubs
- Flip-flops—a few different pairs you don't mind getting paint on (or you could get each kid their own pair of disposable pedicure flip-flops)
- Wipes
- Paint markers or fabric markers

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Verses Cards" Activity Page—one set per group
- Bibles
- Phone or music player

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:

- Swag Bracelet with today's symbol—one per kid (if providing)
- "Prayer Card: Day 2" Activity Page—one card per kid
- Pencils
- Music player or phone with ocean wave sounds