

## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** as many personal flotation devices as you can gather—like inflated tube floats, arm floaties, water wings, life jackets, etc.; timer or smartphone timer app

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Jesus Is Alive

John 18–21:14

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**You can trust Jesus with your life.**

## KEY QUESTION

**What does it mean to trust Jesus?**

## 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.**

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of three.
- Give each team the same number of flotation devices.
- Direct the kids to get as many flotation devices on their whole team in three minutes as they can.
- Share the rules:
  - no holding anything in their hands or standing/sitting on anything
  - devices must be on their bodies, limbs, etc.
- Time the kids for three minutes.
- Take pictures of the group that wins!
- When a winning group has been determined, ask the following discussion questions:
  - How many of these flotation devices do you need in a kiddie pool?
  - What about a pool with a deep end?
  - What about in the middle of the ocean while you're waiting for the lifeguard to reach you?
  - We talked in Large Group about Jesus being our Life Saver. How is Jesus like these devices?

## MADE TO IMAGINE

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



## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** roll of Life Savers candy for every other kid, or one large bag of Life Savers candy (gummy or regular); "Directions Story" Activity Page—one per group

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
  - Give out the Life Saver candies—either one roll for every other kid, or a big bag to one kid for the entire group.
  - Direct the kids to listen carefully to the story you're about to read and to pass the candy accordingly when they hear the words RIGHT, LEFT, BACK, ACROSS.
    - "BACK" indicates sending the candy back in the opposite direction
    - "ACROSS" indicates passing the candy to a kid across from you in the circle
  - Read the story in a clear voice—emphasizing the directional words.
  - At the end of the story, share the candy with the whole group—let two kids split a roll or pass out the candy from the large bag.
  - When the story is over, ask the following discussion questions:
    - How many of you have heard this story before? What does it make you think about?
    - What questions or thoughts do you have about this story? *(If possible, let kids who are experienced with this story talk with their friends who have questions—be ready to step in and provide guidance.)*
    - In the beginning of our game, there were just Life Savers for a few people (or one bag if you used a big bag). But at the end, we shared the candy with everyone!
      - Jesus didn't come just to save some people—people who are really "good," or who go to church all the time, or kids who know all the answers—Jesus came to save everyone! Anyone can decide to trust Jesus.
      - If you decide to trust Jesus with your life, it means that you agree that Jesus can save people from sin—from the choices we make that go against God's ways—so that we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever!
      - You can pray and tell Jesus that you want to follow Him, be forgiven for the wrong things you've done, and to live a life that shows the world that God loves everyone!
- Note: For kids who have questions or seem ready to take a step of faith, follow your church's plan and policy about introducing kids to salvation. If you know a kid's parents are believers and would want to be part of the moment when their child takes a step of faith, be sure to follow up with that family and give them the chance to have this conversation themselves.*

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## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## 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:

- Yesterday we talked about following Jesus and today we're talking about trusting Jesus—what do you think the difference is?
- Have you ever had questions about having faith in Jesus? It's okay—most adults have questions too.
- Who do you talk to when you have questions about having faith in Jesus?
- How is Jesus like a Life Saver, or the ultimate Lifeguard?

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## 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:** a Bible prepared with the “Verse Bookmarks” Activity Page; bubbles—a container per kid

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the group to stand in a circle.
- Place the Bible with the Verse Bookmarks in the middle of the circle.
- Give each kid a container of bubbles.
- Direct one kid to blow a bubble and hold it on their bubble wand.
- Instruct the kid to pass the bubble to the kid on their right, wand-to-wand, without the bubble breaking.
- Direct the next kid to pass the bubble to the next kid, and on around the circle.
- When the bubble pops, instruct the kid who was receiving the bubble to look up the next verse in the Bible and read it out loud.
- Play until all of the verses have been looked up and read.
- When all of the verses have been looked up and read, ask the following discussion questions:
  - No matter how hard we tried, eventually the bubble burst! We can work really hard at being “good” but sometimes, we’re going to do the wrong thing. *(If someone on your team deliberately burst a bubble, allude to it, but don’t point the kid out by name.)* How does Jesus save us from the wrong things we do?
  - What does it mean to trust Jesus?
  - When we trust Jesus with our lives, what happens to the wrong things we do? Do we stop doing them? *(Jesus paid the price for the sin in our lives. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are forgiven—now and forever. We can have a relationship with God now and forever. We’ll still do wrong things because we’re human, but we’ll have God’s forgiveness.)*

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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 3" Activity Page, pencils, Swag Bracelet with today's symbol (if providing)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, and a Swag Bracelet (if providing).
- Direct the kids' attention to the Life Preserver icon on the prayer card and Swag Bracelet.
- Invite the kids to turn over their prayer card and write one way they're trusting Jesus this year— maybe for the first time, to start a relationship with Him; maybe trusting Jesus to help them make better choices; or by being brave enough to share about Him with others.
- Once kids are finished, close your group time in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us from sin, and to show us how to live in friendship with You. Please help us to trust Jesus with our whole lives—in our thoughts and emotions and actions. 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:

- Have you ever needed help or rescue while swimming, or in deep water? What happened?
- What would you eat for breakfast on the beach with Jesus if you were there?

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DAY  
**THREE**  
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:

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- Timer or smartphone timer app

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Roll of Life Savers candy for every other kid, or one large bag of Life Savers candy (gummy or regular)
- "Directions Story" Activity Page—one per group

#### 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:

- Bible
- Bubbles—a container per kid
- "Verse Bookmarks" Activity Page—one set per group
- *Beforehand, prepare a Bible by putting the "Verse Bookmarks" at the proper verses.*

#### 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 Bracelets with today's symbol—one per kid
- "Prayer Card: Day 3" Activity Page—one per kid
- pencils