

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: a large, clear aquarium or plastic tub ³/₄ filled with water; several clear glasses or containers to put inside the tank—like a small measuring glass, a juice glass, a narrow-mouth jar; multiple coins of different sizes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the glasses and jars out on a table or on the floor.
- Give each kid a few coins.
- Invite the kids to try to toss a few of their coins into the glasses or jars.
- Set the glasses inside the aquarium or plastic tub of water.
- Challenge the kids to get the coins into the containers by dropping them from above the water—this is harder than it looks!
- When all the kids have had enough time to try, discuss the following:
 - Why do you think dropping the coins into the container was more difficult when the container was in the water? (*The ripple effect doesn't just happen on the surface—the water actually moves in waves all along from the top of the aquarium to the bottom.*)
 - What did we learn about the ripple effect in Large Group? (*It starts small, and then moves outward.*)
 - How is a ripple effect like the way God works in the world? (*God's goodness has spread throughout everything everywhere!*)
 - Since God sends out waves of love and goodness into the world, and we were made to be like God, how can we do the same? (*by showing love to people who need it, changing the problems we see in our world*)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you change the world around you.

KEY QUESTION

What needs to change in the world around you?

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them."
John 7:38, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

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

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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: small bowls of water, finely ground pepper, spoons, dish soap

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to get in pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a small bowl of water.
- Sprinkle an even layer of ground pepper on top of the layer of water.
- Give each pair of kids two spoons and an empty bowl.
- Challenge each pair of kids to get all of the pepper out of the middle of the bowl. (Some pepper touching the outside rim is okay, but the middle should be clear.)
- After the kids have tried for a few minutes, set out the container of dish soap.
- Ask the kids if they know what dish soap has to do with their challenge.
- Let the kids experiment with the dish soap, or you can demonstrate if you're short on time.
- Add a drop of dish soap to your finger and touch the center of a pepper-covered water surface. The pepper will move away to the sides.
- Invite the kids to "chase" the pepper away to the edges of their bowls with drops of soap.
- After a few minutes, discuss the following:
 - How did it feel to try to move the pepper with just the spoon? (*maybe a little frustrating*)
 - How did it feel when you used the soap? (*it felt easier, cool to try, etc.*)
 - When we have a relationship with God, who can help make hard things—like showing love to everyone—easier? (*the Holy Spirit*)
 - What is one problem in your life, or in the whole world, that you'd like to see changed? (*Invite sharing.*)
 - What are some ways you can work on those problems, and how can the Holy Spirit make what you do even more effective? (*For example: If I'm smart and want to solve world hunger, the Holy Spirit can guide my mind to show me what to do. He can even work in the hearts of other people to work with me and help. If I want to help kids in my school feel less lonely, I have the ability to be friendly and the Holy Spirit can guide me to kids who need friends.*)

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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 could change one thing in the world, what would it be?
- How would you start changing that thing?
- What attribute of the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, etc.—do you think you'd need God to grow more in you to make this change?
- What aspect of the fruit of the Spirit have you seen most clearly in someone else this summer?

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: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Look up Galatians 5:22-23 together and read it out loud.
- Assign each kid a characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Make sure there are several kids assigned to each characteristic, so when a characteristic is called out, three or four kids stand up.
 - If you don't have enough kids to do all of the characteristics at once, assign the kids to three or four characteristics for each round (like love, joy, peace, and patience) and repeat those as you need to in other rounds.
 - For subsequent rounds, assign kids the characteristics you haven't called out like kindness, gentleness, goodness, and self-control.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose one kid to stand in the center.
- Tell them there is not a "seat" in the middle of the circle, but they will be trying to find a seat in the circle.
- Direct that kid to call out one of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. (Or of the characteristics you've assigned for that round.)
- Instruct the kids who have been assigned to that characteristic to run around the circle and try to find a new seat.
- Direct the kid in the middle to try to get into one of the empty seats during the scramble.
- Instruct the kid who is left without a seat to be the new "caller."
- Play as long as time allows, using the rest of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit in subsequent rounds.
- After playing several rounds, discuss the following:
 - How is the fruit of the Spirit like a ripple effect? (*God does something in one person and that helps change someone else, and it keeps moving out like a ripple.*)
 - What is one way you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life? How about someone else's—a friend or parent? (*If time allows, take a few minutes to affirm the way you've seen the Spirit work in their lives over the week. Say things like: "[Child's name] has grown in kindness because _____. [Child's name] has shown faithfulness by being here early every day."*)
 - In what ways do you need the Spirit to grow more of His fruit in your own life?
- **[Make It Personal] Share what you are asking God to grow in your life this season—maybe you need the characteristic of faithfulness because you are facing a difficult high school year, or maybe you need the attribute of patience because you're annoyed at your family and want to have better relationships, etc.]**

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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 5" Activity Page, pencils, Swag Bracelet with today's symbol (if provided)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, and a Swag Bracelet (if provided).
- Point out the ripple on today's card and on the Swag Bracelet.
- Instruct kids to turn over their prayer card and write one thing they want to see changed by the ripple of God's love in the world, and how they might participate in that.
- When they're finished, close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You that You are working all the time, everywhere, in the world. Thank You that Your love never stops and goes on and on and on. Please help us be part of joining that wave and showing Your love to the world. 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 was the best part of this week?
- Which game would you do again? What song do you want to keep singing?

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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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- Several clear glasses or containers to put inside the tank—like a small measuring glass, a juice glass, a narrow-mouth jar
- Multiple coins of different sizes

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small bowls of water—one for every two kids
- Finely ground pepper
- Spoons—one per kid
- Dish soap

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

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 5" Activity Page—one card per kid
- Swag Bracelet with today's symbol (if providing)—one per kid
- Pencils