

## WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

God made us different on purpose.

### BIBLE

**Cain and Abel:**

Genesis 4:1-16; Romans 5:1-8

## LARGE GROUP TIME

We made it to week three of *Make it or Break it!* So far, we've learned about how God built a perfect world, but things fell apart once sin came into the picture. Today we'll talk about how important it is that God built each of us differently.

### WHAT? What are we talking about today?

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "The World Needs You" (Westwood Kids Worship feat. Yancy)
  - "Build My Life on You" (Lifeway Worship)
  - "This Could Change Everything" (Worship Together Kids)
  - "All Creatures" (Kings Kaleidoscope)

#### ACTIVITY | Make It or Break It?

- We're back with another game of *Make It or Break It*. It's the game that shows us the "wow!" of success and the "oops!" of failure.
- We'll watch people doing some crazy stunts, but can you guess whether they're going to *Make It or Break It*? Let's see!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a few of [these videos](#) that the kids have not seen yet in previous weeks, or film new ones with your volunteer team. You can have the kids vote whether they think the person will make it or break it by raising their hands, running to opposite sides of the room, or any fun way you can think of.
  - ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Now that preteens have seen a few videos, direct them to act out a skit of the same concept or create their own [stop motion video](#) which pauses at the critical point of "make it or break it." Preteens will need a cell phone for this, but no special apps. They can continue this project next week and share their videos with the whole group.

- **Do you think that you would ever attempt stunts like the ones in today's videos? Why or why not?**
- We should try our best to not put ourselves in harm's way on purpose, but I know we are all different. Some people love trying new things, and some people are more comfortable sticking to what we know.
- That doesn't make one better than the other, though, and we'll talk a lot about that today!

### ACTIVITY | Building on a Roll

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need LEGOs or LEGO Duplo building bricks and divided trays with six sections. You can also use six individual containers per group if you prefer. Before your program, label each section of the tray with a number one through six following [these instructions](#). Sort the building bricks by shape into the sections of the tray. To play, split kids into small groups, and give each group a tray of building bricks and one dice. Have kids take turns rolling the dice. Whichever number they roll on their turn, they can take one building brick from the corresponding numbered section of the tray and add it to their build. Continue taking turns until all pieces are gone!
- Each brick is different on purpose and is useful in its own way. Not to mention that you were all so creative in how you put your pieces together!
- **How did you think to make your creations?**
- Wow hearing all your answers makes me so amazed to see the different ways we each think.
- Today, we are going to talk more about why being different can be a very good thing.

### QUESTION | What is something you like to make with your family?

- **What is something you like to make with your family?**
- Whether it's building a LEGO kit, baking cookies, putting together furniture, or . . . making a mess, do you see how wonderfully different everyone's answers are?
- We all have different skills and interests — different but equally great!
- Let's check out our Bible story to see how awful things can get when we forget that God loves and values us all the same.

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### SCRIPTURE | Genesis 4:1-16 (Cain and Abel)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you tell the story from Genesis 4:1-16, play instrumental music in the background, such as [this option](#). Divide the kids into four smaller groups, and give each group a container of building bricks. Assign each group an item — Cain's altar, Cain's fruit, Abel's altar, Abel's sheep — to build out of the building bricks as you tell the story.
- So Adam and Eve had two children, Cain and Abel. Abel watched over the animals, and Cain took care of the crops. Both were very important jobs, and they did them well. That was until . . .
- [Read Genesis 4:3-7.]
  - God accepted Abel's offering and not Cain's because God could see both their hearts. It wasn't about *what* they brought to God but *how* they brought it.
  - In the book of Hebrews, they describe Abel's offering as one that was given in faith. He trusted God and gave God the best, while Cain's heart was not in the right place at all. We can tell because of the way Cain became angry afterward.

- [Read Genesis 4:8-12.]
  - In his anger, Cain decided to do something terrible. He attacked and killed Abel. Then Cain made another terrible decision . . . he lied to God about what he did. God, of course, knew everything. Because of his decisions, life was going to be much harder for Cain now.
- [Read Genesis 4:13-16 as kids return the building bricks to their original containers.]
  - God still loved Cain, and even though Cain had to leave the place he called home, God made it so he wouldn't get hurt.
- Instead of fighting with his brother, **what do you think would have been a better choice for Cain to make?** Cain could have chosen to be happy for Abel and learn from their differences. God made Abel and Cain different, and that was a good thing!

### BIG IDEA | God made us different on purpose.

- Can you help me unbreak this week's Big Idea?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *To prepare, make six sets of smaller boxes of different sizes, and stack each sets' boxes together. Lightly secure the boxes in each set by taping them with painter's tape in the back. Then use a thick marker to write one word of the Big Idea across one set of boxes. Then remove the painter's tape and scramble the boxes in a pile, keeping each set separate from the other sets. To unbreak the Big Idea this week, form six teams of two or three kids each. Give each team one set of boxes that make one word of the Big Idea, and invite them to stack the "blocks" together correctly. Then, see if the kids can work together to line up the words in the correct order to form the Big Idea.*
- The Big Idea is . . . **God made us different on purpose.**
- Thank you, Big Idea builders!

### VIDEO | Make It or Break It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

### VIDEO | "The Reflection in Me"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As a teaching tool, play [this video](#) (0:00-3:06), "The Reflection in Me," about learning to love ourselves for who we are. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)*
  - ✳ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Kids with disabilities may see themselves in a negative light. Use this activity to draw attention to their positive qualities, as well as using this as a teaching opportunity that even people who are different, are not "less than."*
- God made each of us "perfectly perfect!" What is something about yourself that makes you "perfectly perfect?"
- Because God made each of us "perfectly perfect," there's no need for us to be envious of others. Those kinds of feelings just lead us to hurt others and most of all, ourselves. God wants us to love others but to also love ourselves . . . after all, **God made us different on purpose**, and God loves each of us exactly the same.

### OBJECT LESSON | Purposeful Pieces

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *To prepare, choose a LEGO Duplo build to make that uses a variety of different types of bricks, such as [this duck](#). Put it together, and take a picture of the actual final product, then deconstruct it before your program. During the object lesson, lay out the bricks you will be using.*
- *[Hold each different brick up and describe its characteristics. For example, "This piece is flat and long. This one has an eye on it," and so on.]*

- Each of these bricks is a different shape or color.
- Let's see how these different pieces fit together purposefully.
- *[Show kids the picture of what the bricks will make when you put them together. As you build it, describe how each brick's characteristics contribute to a specific purpose. For example, "The flat and long piece is perfect for the beak. The one with the eye becomes the duck's head," and so on.]*
  - Each brick needed to be different because each of them served its own specific purpose.
- God created Cain and Abel with different characteristics and skills on purpose. **God made us different on purpose**, too!
- **What do you think would happen if we were all the same?**
- Thank goodness we aren't all the same! We each have unique characteristics and skills and serve our own specific purpose when it comes to living life with God.

### SCRIPTURE | Romans 5:1-8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Romans 5:1-8 with the kids.*
- A man named Paul wrote this letter to remind followers of Jesus that God's love is for everyone, no matter what differences we might have. This is a great reminder for us, too.
- It's true that we are all different, but there is one way that we are *all* the same . . . that is that we are sinners who are saved by Jesus! God loves each of us the same, and even knowing that we would mess up over and over again, Jesus chose to die for us.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### REFLECTION | Pixels of Reflections

- Here's a thought: **God made us different on purpose**, and we were each created with a special blend of God's own characteristics. God is good, kind, patient, loving, gracious, and generous. God seeks justice, shows compassion, and forgives. We all have the capacity to reflect these characteristics, but maybe some stick out in you more than others.
  - ✳ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Give each kid a mirror and invite them to get their fingerprints all over the surface. Then as they look at their reflections, remind them that they were made directly by God and they each bear God's invisible fingerprints!*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out one adhesive mirror per kid. After they take a moment to reflect on the question below, have them come up and stick their mirror onto the foam board to build a pixelated picture or to spell "GOD."*
- Mirrors will show us how we look on the outside, but let's pretend for a moment that the mirror reflects the different parts of God in you. **What parts of you reflect who God is?**
- Together, and with our differences, we can reflect God to the world!

### RESPONSE | My Building Block

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the kids into four groups, and give each group an empty tissue box. Give kids a small piece of paper to write or draw a skill or talent they have. Have them fold and place their paper into the empty tissue box. Give it a shake, then have kids take turns pulling one paper out and guessing whose talent that is. Encourage the identified person to show or tell an example of how that skill or talent can be used to tell others about God.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have kids secretly communicate their skill or talent to a leader who will jot it down on a piece of paper. Then use a [digital spinner wheel](#) to input the responses and have the group guess!

- It's no secret that **God made us different on purpose**. God gave Abel the skills to take care of animals, and God gave Cain the skills to grow the crops.
- We are all building blocks in the world God made, and we can use all our wonderfully different skills and talents to build up others and tell them about God.

### MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 3:4 (NIV)

- **"For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** To prepare, create two sets of sticky notes with one word of the memory verse on each page. If you have a large group, feel free to create additional sets, or play multiple times with different teams. Place the sticky notes on a wall or on the floor out of order. To play, form two teams. Have the teams work together to put the verse in order.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide preteens with a box of nuts, long bolts, and permanent markers. Ask them to spell out the memory verse by writing one letter on each nut and screwing the nuts on the bolt to spell out each word. Then have them hand off their set of bolts with the words on them to another group and get them to put the verse in order.

- **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4](http://growcurriculum.org/Hebrews3-4).)**

### PRAYER

- Dear God, you are the builder of everything, and we are so thankful that you built each of us differently on purpose. Show us how we can work together and be more loving to everyone you have made, including ourselves. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **What was Abel's skill? What was Cain's skill?**
- **What did each brother give as an offering to God?**
- **What did Cain say to God when asked where Abel was?**
- **Read Romans 5:8. Based on this verse, in what ways are we all the same?**
- **Why do you think God made us all so different?**
- **What do you think "my brother's keeper" means? What is one way you can be a "brother's keeper?"**
- **Have you ever felt jealous of someone else? What do you think we should do whenever we feel this way?**

### ACTIVITY | LEGO Self-Portrait

- Today we learned about how important our differences are. No two people are the same, and that's a beautiful thing. Our differences allow us to each serve God in our own unique way. Just think of all the ways God made you you!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute a [LEGO figurine template](#) to each kid. Invite kids to draw or write things that represent themselves. This could look like a fun self-portrait or just include their interests and personality traits. Have them write the Big Idea on the page as well.
- Let these self-portraits remind you that **God made us different on purpose!**