

MADE TO PLAY

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



1. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

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)*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Creation
Genesis 1 & 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God made people
with a purpose.**

KEY QUESTION

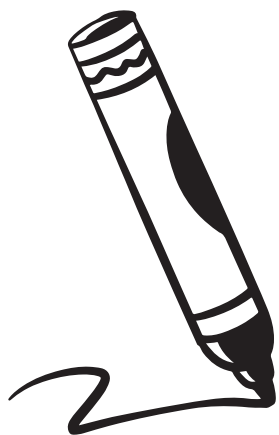
What do you enjoy doing?

MEMORY VERSE

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

BASIC TRUTH

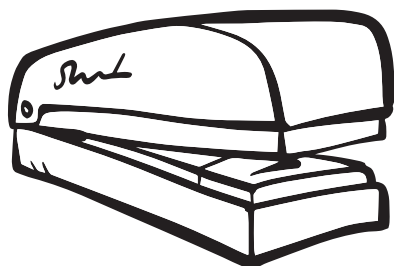
I can trust God no matter what.



Marker



Ladle



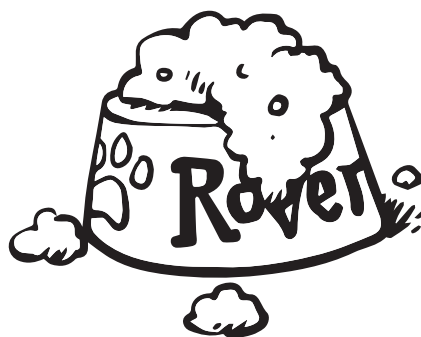
Stapler



Hammer



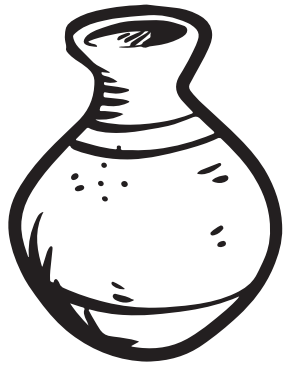
Moving Truck



Dog Bowl

What to Do:

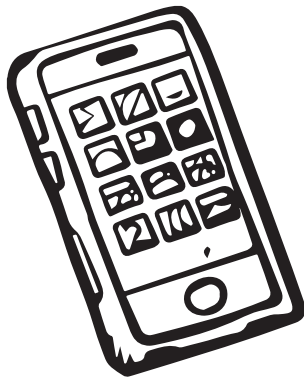
Copy and cut apart. Provide one set for each small group.



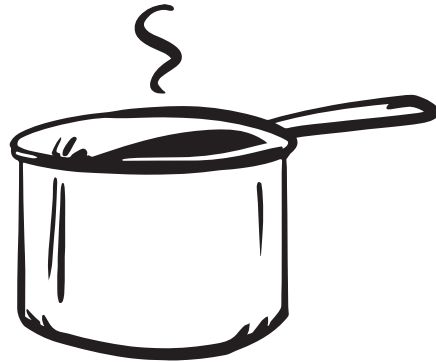
Vase



Backpack



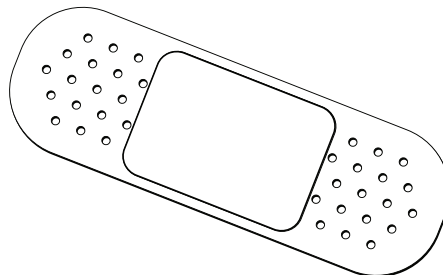
Cell Phone



Large Cooking Pot



Flashlight



Bandage

What to Do:
Copy and cut apart. Provide one set for each small group.

"Use It Cards" Activity Page
VBS, DAY 1, PT
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MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. 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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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: two prepared beach balls, Bibles, permanent marker

- look up the Memory Verse—John 7:38

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- Read the verse out loud as a group.
- 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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Card: Day 1" Activity Page, pencils, a beach ball from "Verses to Take With You," Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, and a pencil
- Set out the Bibles.
- Point out the world image 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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CREATION

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What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one for each kid.