

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Bag of gummy candy, "Directions Story" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

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.

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
 - Give the bag of gummy candy to one kid in your 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. Or if you would like to wait until the end of group you can do that also.
 - 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.*

Jesus had been traveling RIGHT around the area of Jerusalem in Judea. Many people LEFT their normal schedules to follow Him. The disciples had LEFT their homes and businesses to follow Him too. Wherever Jesus went, people followed Him RIGHT and LEFT.

Jesus showed the world God's love—He healed many people. When the people who had seen and heard Jesus went BACK to their homes, they talked about what He had done. He walked ACROSS towns and cities, telling people about God's love and His desire for everyone to have a relationship with Him.

There were religious leaders who didn't like this and wanted to get rid of Jesus RIGHT away. They LEFT their scheme in the hands of one of His friends who would betray Jesus. After a special dinner where Jesus went RIGHT around the table washing His friends' feet to show His love, they all LEFT that room. They walked to the Mount of Olives, going RIGHT and LEFT and RIGHT again, BACK and LEFT and ACROSS until Jesus found a quiet place to pray.

While Jesus was praying, a big crowd came RIGHT towards Him. Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to die. ACROSS the whole countryside, everything went dark. Jesus died, but God used the plans of evil people to save all of the world from sin.

Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. The tomb was LEFT empty. Some of Jesus' friends, some women, LEFT early in the morning to come to the tomb. Jesus appeared to them! Jesus was alive! So they ran RIGHT away to tell the disciples. The disciple John ran BACK to the tomb to see where Jesus had been buried, but all that was LEFT there were the burial cloths.

Later, Jesus appeared to His friends on the beach. They were fishing in boats. But when they knew it was Him, they LEFT their boats, swam RIGHT through the water, and ran ACROSS the shore. Jesus was waiting RIGHT next to a fire where He had LEFT some fish cooking while they talked. He brought His friends close, to His LEFT and His RIGHT, to tell them important things about God's love.

Jesus proved that He is alive and God's plan can be trusted. You can make a RIGHT choice to trust Jesus. When you do, you won't be LEFT wondering how you can be RIGHT with God. Jesus gave His life so you can have a relationship with Him that will last forever!

What to Do:

Provide one copy for each group.



DAY

TWO

SUMMER 2022

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

ROTATIONS

HOME

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:

- 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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BASIC TRUTH

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MADE TO PLAY

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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: a Bible prepared with the “Verse Bookmarks” Activity Page; bubbles, bubble wands

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 one kid a container of bubbles and bubble wands for everyone else.
- 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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John 3:16

Luke 9:24

Psalms 6:4

Luke 19:10

Isaiah 33:22

Matthew 1:21

1 Timothy 1:15

Hebrews 7:25

What to Do:

Copy on bright paper and cut apart. Provide one set per group.

"Verses Bookmarks" Activity Page

VBS, DAY 3, PT

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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 3" Activity Page, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is Alive
John 18–21:14

- Direct the kids' attention to the Life Preserver icon on the prayer card
- 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.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can trust Jesus with your life.

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."

KEY QUESTION

What does it mean to trust Jesus?

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!

MEMORY VERSE

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

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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What to Do:

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