

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Made in the Image" from *Little Praise Party*:
Ready Set Go and "Your Way" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

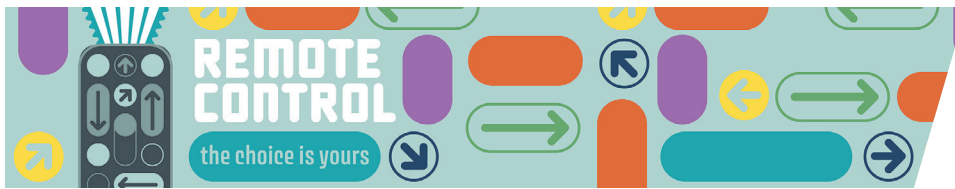
25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Temptation Corners
Application Activity: Control Your Cards
Memory Verse Activity: Right Choice Remotes
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids understand that their choices have consequences. Pray that they have courage to make good choices that can help keep them safe. Ask God to help kids understand that the things they do today can help them be ready to do the right thing tomorrow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and a few *Choose Your Own Adventure* books

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Encourage each kid to grab a *Choose Your Own Adventure* book when they arrive or join with another kid who is reading.
- Encourage the kids to make a choice together to choose the direction they want their adventure to go.
- Ask, "If you could choose your own adventure, where would you go and what would it look like?"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Read from the "Would You Rather" options below and invite the kids to choose which option they would rather

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

- take part in.
- Direct the kids to stay standing if they'd like to do option A and sit down if they would rather do option B.
- After each round, invite a couple of kids to explain why they made the choice they did.
- Continue until all of the "Would You Rather" questions are asked.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

Would You Rather Questions:

1. Would you rather a) have to give up fruity candy (Skittles®, Starburst®, Twizzlers®, etc.) for the rest of your life or b) give up anything chocolate for the rest of your life?
2. Would you rather a) walk through a desert in a ski suit or b) walk through a snow storm in summer clothes?
3. Would you rather a) have the ability to fly or b) have the power to read people's minds?
4. Would you rather: a) be a world-class athlete or b) be an award-winning actor?
5. Would you rather: a) be the funniest person or b) be the smartest person?
6. Would you rather: a) be able to talk to animals or b) speak five languages?
7. Would you rather: a) wear shoes that are too big or b) wear shoes too small?
8. Would you rather: a) have 100 spiders in your room or b) eat five spiders?
9. Would you rather: a) live on the moon or b) live under water?
10. Would you rather: a) have hands for feet or b) have feet for hands?

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Seeing the different choices you each made was fun! Hopefully you will never be in a position where you have to choose to never eat either fruity candy or chocolate again! But if you are, I think our game helped you get ready.

[Transition] Today in Large Group, we'll learn how we have the power to make choices and what this means for us every day. Will we make the best choices? How can we know if they are the right choices? Let's go find out!"

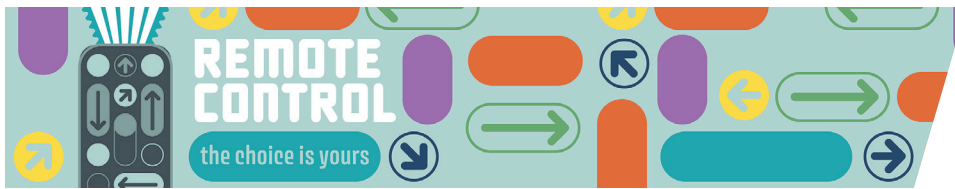
MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. TEMPTATION CORNERS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Temptation Corners" Activity Pages and tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape each picture on the wall in a separate corner or in three separate locations on the floor throughout your space.
- Instruct the kids to stand in the middle of the space, away from the Activity Pages.
- Tell the kids that you will count down from five, and they should quickly choose one of the corners displaying the locations Jesus was tempted—stone, mountaintop, top of the Temple—and run to it as you count.
- Once the kids make their choice, ask one of the review questions from the list below and prompt the kids standing in the corresponding location to work together to answer the question.
- After they answer, let them know if they got the answer correct. If they didn't, call on another corner to try to answer.
- Continue counting down again and prompting kids to move to a different corner.
- Play until all questions are answered.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

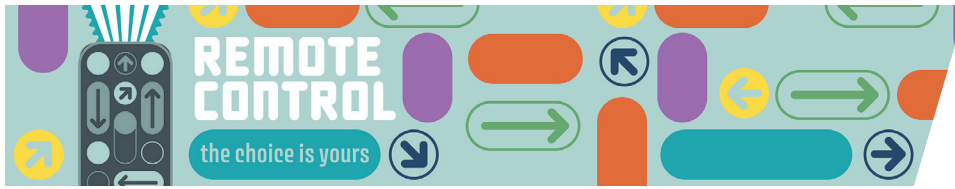
Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

Review Questions:

1. **(Stones)** Which of these locations is the very first place the devil decided to tempt Jesus in the desert? (*near the stones*)
2. **(Mountaintop)** What did the devil promise to give Jesus if Jesus chose to worship him? (*everything Jesus could see from the top of the mountain: palaces, treasures, all authority and glory in the world*)
3. **(Temple)** Where did the devil have Jesus stand at the Temple? (*the very top*)
4. **(Temple)** What did the devil tempt Jesus to do at the top of the Temple? (*jump off*)
5. **(Stones)** The devil told Jesus to turn the stones into food for Himself. What kind of food did the devil tell Jesus to make? (*bread*)
6. **(Mountaintop)** When Jesus was tempted by the devil on the mountaintop, he recited a verse saying, "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should ____." (*Luke 4:8, NIV*). What is that missing word in the verse? (*serve*)
7. **(Temple)** When Jesus was at the top of the temple, the devil used a Bible verse to try to trick Jesus. Who did the devil say would protect Jesus if He made the choice to jump off of the Temple? (*angels*)
8. **(Stones)** When Jesus was super-hungry and being tempted by the devil, how did He respond? What did He say? (*He responded with a verse from the Bible. He said, "Man must not live only on bread." Luke 4:4, NIV*)
9. **(Temple)** Instead of being tricked to jump off of the Temple, Jesus replied with another Bible verse saying, "Do not ____ the Lord your God." (*Luke 4:12, NIV*) What is the missing word that we are not supposed to do to God? (*test*)



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. TEMPTATION CORNERS, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“No matter where or how Jesus was tempted, did you notice He always responded using the Bible to talk about the truth God has given us? The devil sometimes quoted from the Bible, too, but the difference was that Jesus knew God’s heart. Jesus knows who His Father is and what His heart is like. Jesus could have made the choice to give into what He felt like He wanted in those challenging moments, but instead He made the right choice to trust His Father and not give into temptation. Because Jesus read the Scriptures, He knew what God wanted Him to do and He was ready to do the right thing.

“What has God given us to help us be ready to do the right thing? *(Allow time for kids to respond.)* Those are all great answers! God has given us wise people in our lives like parents, coaches, and teachers. If we are believers, He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right choices. God has also given us the Bible full of the same truths Jesus used to combat the devil’s temptations and to teach us who God is. When you find yourself needing to make the right choice, don’t forget that God has given you what you need to **Be ready to do the right thing.**”

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



***2. CONTROL YOUR CARDS**
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Control Your Cards" Activity Page sets, "Control Your Cards Situation Strips" Activity Page, (optional) sandwich bags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid one trading card from the "Control Your Cards" Activity Page.
- Make sure at least one of all six of the different cards are given out.
- Encourage the kids to discuss and show off their trading cards so they are familiar with all of the cards.
- Place the strips from the "Control Your Cards Situation Strips" Activity Page in the middle of the circle.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Instruct the kid to draw a slip of paper from the middle of the circle.
- Direct the kid to read the scenario on the strip of paper and see if their card fits the scenario on the strip of paper.
- If their card does not fit with the scenario, they can trade with another kid for a better solution.
- Take time to discuss each strip and possible trading card solution.
- Ask questions like:
 - When could this card come in handy throughout your week?
 - Have you ever been [tempted by your friends] or [wonder what God thinks about something] or [whatever applies to the card they drew]?
- Continue until all of the kids have had a chance to draw a slip of paper.
- If you have more cards than slips of paper, shuffle the strips after the first round and put them back in the middle of the group. Then play until every kid has had a chance to draw a scenario.
- After you finish, give each kid an entire set of cards to take home with them.
- Remind the kids to pull out their cards throughout the week to help them be ready to do the right thing in their own real-life situations.
- Tell kids that they can also give cards out to their friends if they see someone who needs to be encouraged with one of the messages on the cards.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Which card do you think could be most helpful for you this week? (Allow time for answers and share what card you think is most helpful for your week.)

"Whether we are at school, around our friends in the neighborhood, or at home, there are plenty of opportunities to make the right choice or the wrong choice. Sometimes we can be tempted by our friends—like when they're not doing the right thing, but we want to keep playing or hanging out with them. Other times we can be tempted by our own feelings—like when you don't want



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
2-3

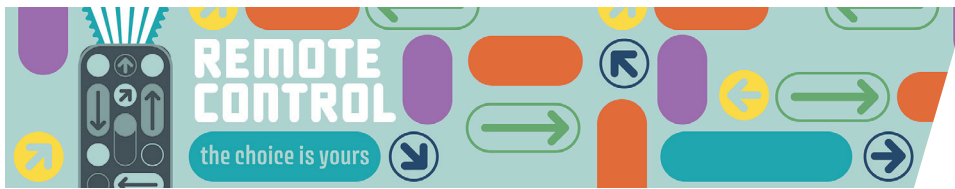
PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(*2. CONTROL YOUR CARDS, CONTINUED)

to stop playing your game even though your dad has told you it's time for dinner. These challenges can pop up at any time so that's why it's important to **Be ready to do the right thing.**

"You can make yourselves ready by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you, by reading and knowing what God has to say in the Bible, and by reminding yourselves of these very truths on the cards you'll take home with you. Don't let temptation catch you off your game! Do the work ahead of time so you can **be ready to do the right thing.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



3. RIGHT CHOICE REMOTES
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, paper, markers, craft supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- As a group, look up and read this month’s memory verse using the Bible navigation tips below.
- Recite the verse a few times as a group.
- Keep the Bibles open to use during the activity.
- Place the paper, markers, and craft supplies in the middle of the group.
- Invite the kids to design their own remote controls—video game remotes, TV remotes, remote controls for a toy or machine they dream up, or anything they imagine!
- Instruct the kids to write the memory verse on the back of their remote controls.
- Invite the kids to show off their remotes to the group when they finish.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 2 Peter in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find 2 Peter, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 2 Peter. Help the kids find the page. When they find 2 Peter, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 1.

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“We have such a creative group! I love all of the remote control designs! What our memory verse says is true. Just like our remotes give power to TVs and video games, God gives us even greater power to **be ready to do the right thing.**”

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.”
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

“There may be times when facing temptation is extra hard for us. Maybe you want someone at school to like you, so you’re willing to do whatever that person asks—even if it puts you in a bad situation. Maybe you’re tired from a full day of basketball camp and don’t want to help clean up after dinner when your dad says it’s your turn.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don’t want to

“These are the moments when we need to press the ‘ON’ button to the power God has given us and power through the right decisions. **[Make it Personal]** (Share about a time when it was hard for you to do the right thing but you were reminded of the power God has given you.)

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

“This week, hang your remote controls somewhere you can be reminded of the power God has given you! That way, no matter what comes your way you can **Be ready to do the right thing.**”

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Cards from "Control Your Cards" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct each kid to grab one card from their stack to focus on during prayer.
- Remind the kids that everyone has been tempted—even Jesus.
 - That's why it's important to pray so we can **be ready to do the right thing**.
 - We can always stop and pray whenever we need help from God.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You that You never leave us to face temptations and hard choices on our own. You've not only given us the Bible and the ability to have a conversation with You through prayer, but if we believe in You, You've also given us Your Holy Spirit to help us navigate the choices we have each and every day. Help us remember to lean on You so we can always **be ready to do the right thing**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their playing cards and prompt them to share what one of their cards says. Remind the kids to use their cards this week to help them **be ready to do the right thing**.

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

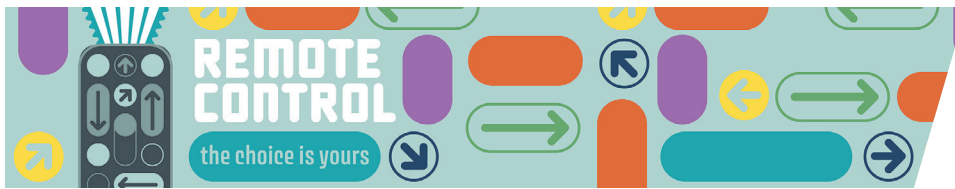
"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.
(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Selection of *Choose Your Own Adventure* books, *What Should Danny Do?* books or *Choose Your Own Adventure* by Dragonlark are both great for this age group (can be purchased on Amazon.com)—one book for every two or three kids to share

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. TEMPTATION CORNERS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Temptation Corner" Activity Pages on cardstock; one set for each small group
- Tape

- Tape one picture on the wall in three separate corners or in three separate locations on the floor throughout your space.

*2. CONTROL YOUR CARDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Control Your Cards" Activity Page in full color on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each kid
- Print the "Control Your Cards Situation Strips" Activity Page and cut apart; one set for each small group
- (Optional) Plastic sandwich bags—one for each kid to put their deck of cards in to take home

3. RIGHT CHOICE REMOTES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- Paper; one or two pages for each kid
- Markers
- Various craft supplies such as stickers, pom poms, popsicle sticks, etc.

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cards from "Control Your Cards" Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2022, Week 1

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Exile (Jesus Tempted in the Desert) • *Luke 4:1-13 (Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)*

Today's Bottom Line: Be ready to do the right thing.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (25 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Your Way" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Closer / Bottom Line

Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Desert Path

Application Activity: Get Ready

Memory Verse Activity: Super Fuel

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (20 minutes) • Worship (5 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: Exile (Jesus Tempted in the Desert) • *Luke 4:1-13 (Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)*

Today's Bottom Line: Be ready to do the right thing.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

AUDIO: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

VIDEO: *Theme Loop*

Leader enters.

OPENER

LEADER: "Hello, everyone, and Happy New Year! I can't believe it's the year 2022! It seems like someone must have hit fast-forward on the remote control, doesn't it?"

"I have to say, though, sometimes I wish I could press pause on life. Especially when something really awesome is happening—like you're at your best friend's house for a sleepover or it's Christmas morning!"

"We may not be able to control time like that, but we DO have control over some things in life. We can choose to do what we should . . . even when we FEEL like doing something else. Remember, [**Basic Truth**] we need to make the wise choice. And we never have to make that choice alone. God can help us stay in control in any situation!"

"Sometimes, don't you wish someone could just TELL you what the wise choice is? Well you're in luck, because I've got a fun game for us today. I'll tell you exactly what to do . . . and you just have to be ready to do it!"

SLIDE: *Remote Control*

"Today's game is based on the remote control function of . . ."

SLIDE: *Remote Control: Fast Forward*

"Fast forward! I call it 'Foot Forward'! As you can see, we've got little stations set up around the room with four different colors taped on the ground. (*Point to the stations.*) Everyone needs to find their own station of four colors.

Each station will have four pieces of construction paper with the same four colors at each station. As the kids walk to the stations, continue explaining the game.

“I’ll call out colors, and you’ll hop on each color as I call it. Easy-peasy, right? But at a certain point, I’ll fast-forward, and you’ll need to be ready to keep up! As it gets faster and faster, if you mess up, you need to be honest and sit down. We’ll keep playing until we get to one person who will be our winner.

“All right, let’s play!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Begin calling out colors fairly slowly, but at a decent pace. Occasionally pick up your speed and get faster and faster until you see kids start messing up. Then slow down (or even pause) to give kids a chance to either sit down because they’re out or catch their breath. Then resume play.

Make sure kids are honest and sit down if they’re out. If you get down to one kid quickly and time allows, have everyone stand back up and play another round.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

“Nice job playing ‘Foot Forward,’ everyone! You were ready to jump to the right spot even though it got really tricky when I fast-forwarded on you. You can all get back on your feet. Let’s move and sing as we worship God together!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Before we get started, let’s check out this video.

VIDEO: Live Loud Video from Get Reel!

“Sometimes, it’s really tough to have self-control. It can be hard to choose what’s right and do what we SHOULD do instead of what we WANT to do. But remember, God is always there to help us. God can guide us to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. Our memory verse reminds us of that truth. It’s 2 Peter 1:3.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. (2 Peter 1:3a, NIV)”

“With God’s help, we can choose self-control. Let’s sing this song together and tell God that we want to live HIS way. Sing this with me.

VIDEO: “Your Way” Dance Moves Music Video

“I love to worship God with all of you! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: Host Intro

VIDEO: 252 Story

VIDEO: Host Outro

CLOSER

SLIDE: Theme Background

LEADER: “God can help us stay strong . . . self-controlled . . . and ready to do the right thing.

“Here’s what we need to remember.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

LEADER: **[Bottom Line]** “Be ready to do the right thing. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Be ready to do the right thing.”

LEADER: “Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need to live Your way. We want to **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.** And we know that starts from our relationship with You. We can read the Bible and see how good and faithful You are. We can see how much You love us. Help each of us to spend time with You so we can be ready to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and stay in control. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS

LEADER: “Let’s **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.** Right now, the ‘right thing’ is to head to Small Group where you’ll get to talk about this some more with your friends!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (5 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Several sets of four different colored sheets of construction paper (one set of four sheets per kid; all sets should have the same four colors)
- Masking tape

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun instrumental music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Loop Video
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Remote Control Slide
- Remote Control: Fast Forward Slide

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides and videos and have them ready to use.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services. We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you wish to play. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. For a list of PROs in your part of the world: www.iamusic.com. Look at the copyright on the CD or sheet music to discover the PRO or publisher of the song. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song.*
- Set up "stations" of construction paper taped to the ground around your room. You'll need one station per kid. Each station should have four sheets in the same four colors as all the other stations.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Large Group Visuals:

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel*
- Memory Verse Slide
- "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

- Download the videos and slide and have them ready to use. *Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:
"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000*

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

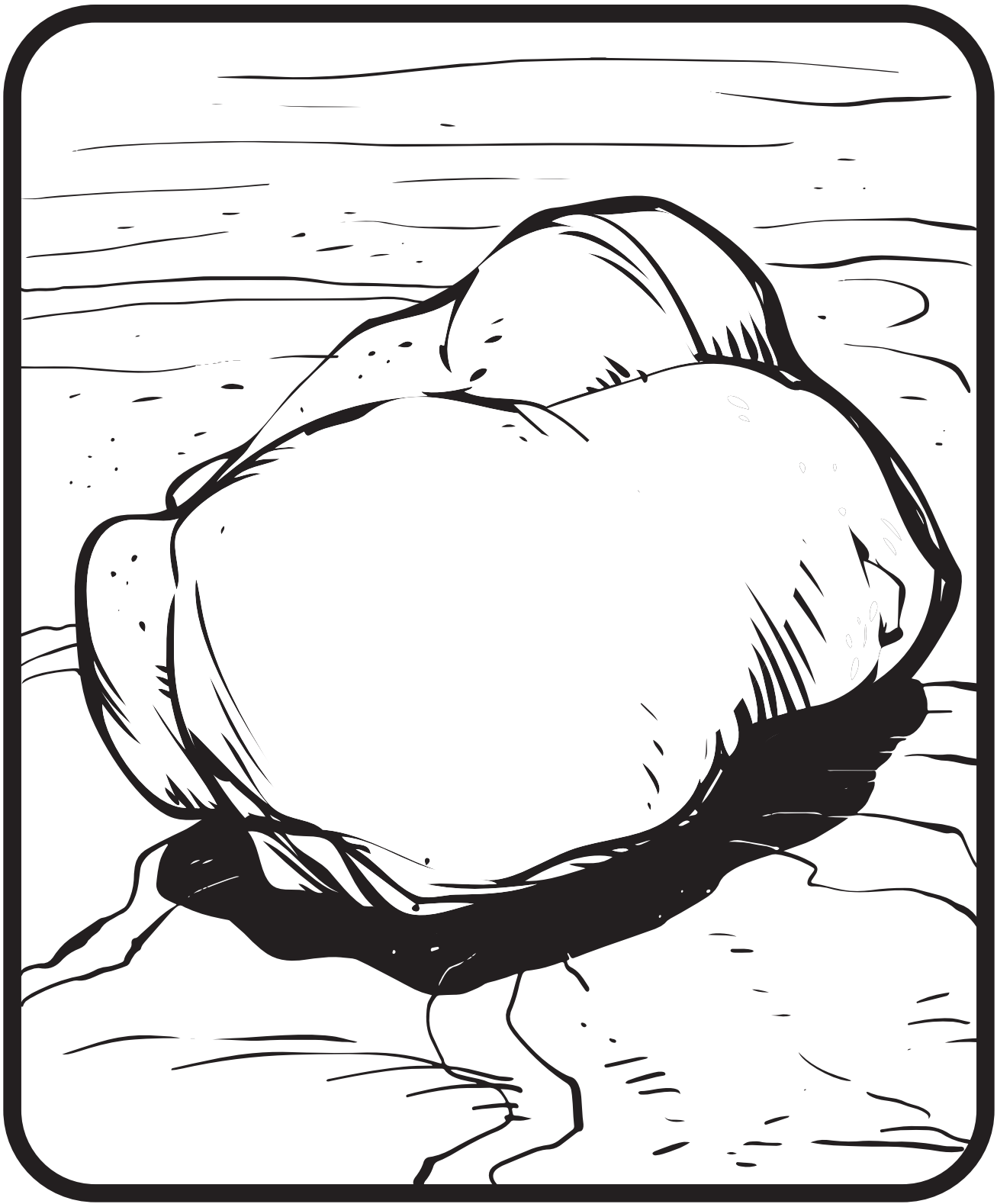
- Leader

Large Group Visuals:

- Host Intro Video
- 252 Story Video
- Host Outro Video

What You Do:

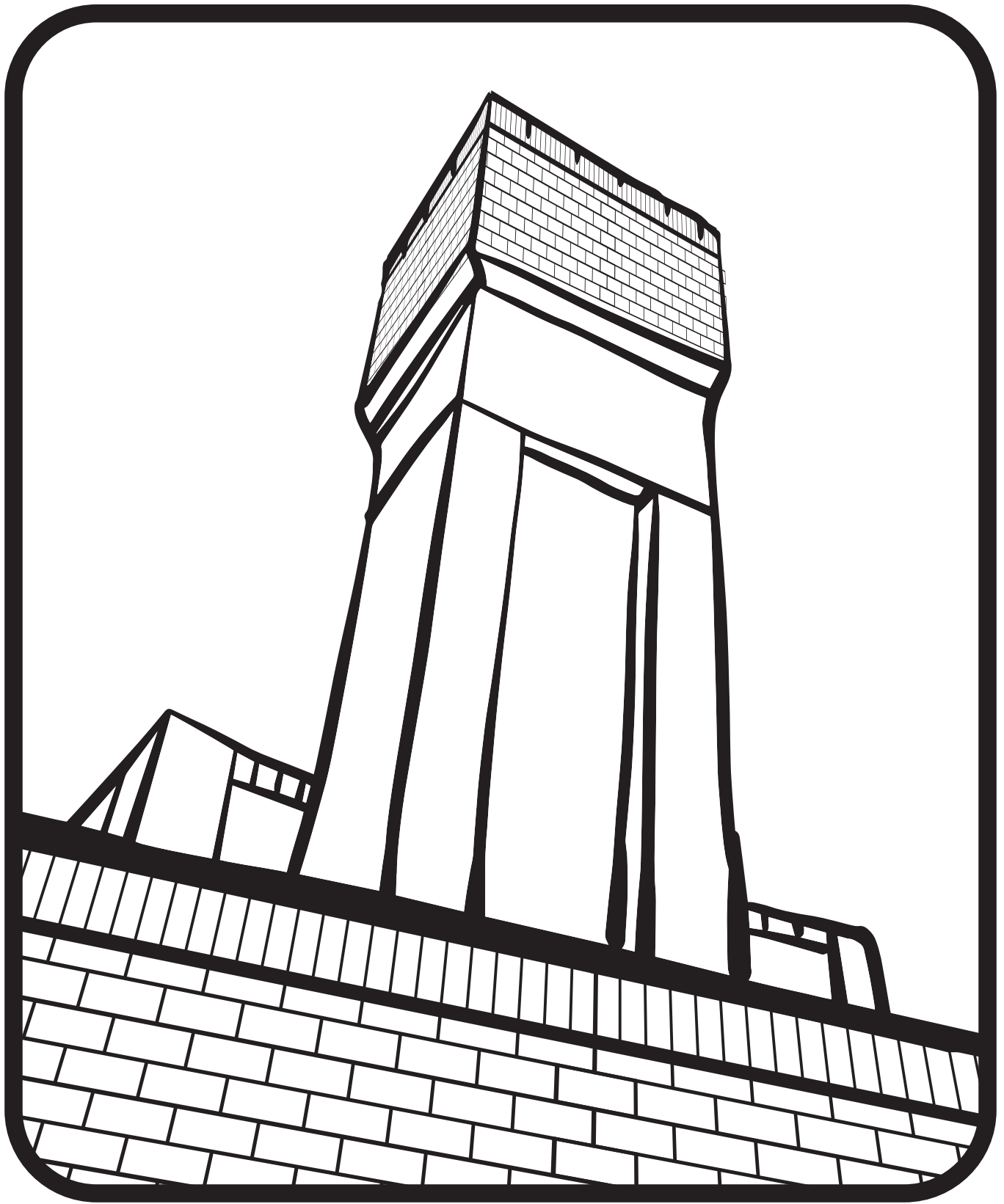
- Download the videos and have them ready to use.



STONE

What to Do:

Print one on cardstock for each small group.



TOP of TEMPLE

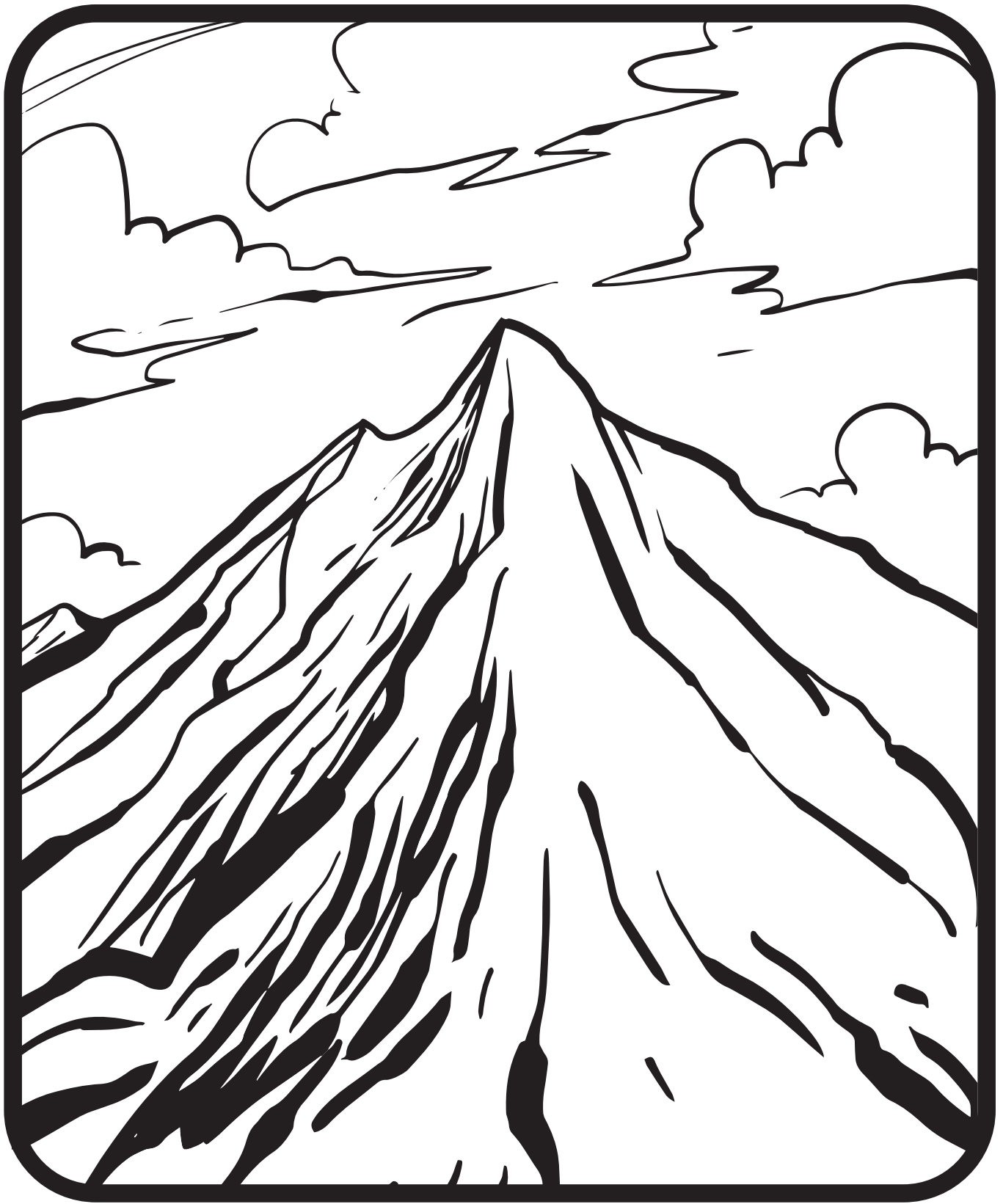
What to Do:

Print one on cardstock for each small group.

"Temptation Corners" Activity Page 2/3

January 2022, Week 1, Small Group 2-3

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MOUNTAIN TOP

What to Do:

Print one on cardstock for each small group.

"Temptation Corners" Activity Page 3/3

January 2022, Week 1, Small Group 2-3
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I will think
FAST-FORWARD
and prepare
myself by reading
the Bible and
spending some
time with God.

I will press
PAUSE and
think about
my actions
before doing
them.

I will press
PLAY and
make the right
choice when I
see something
I can help with.

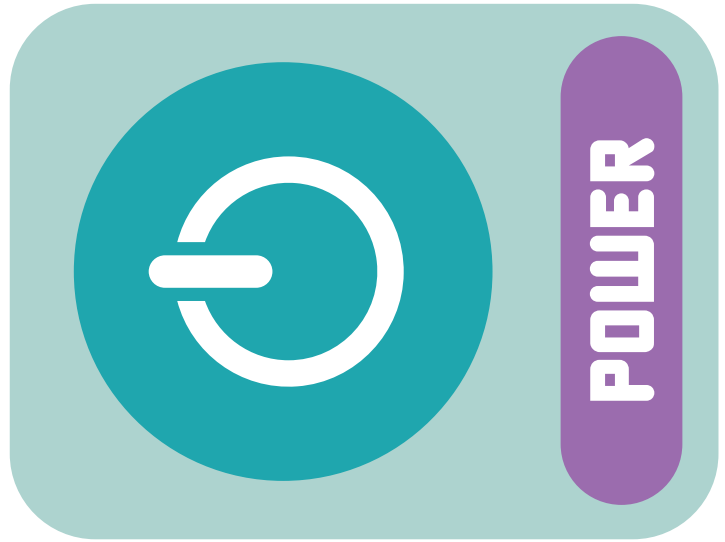
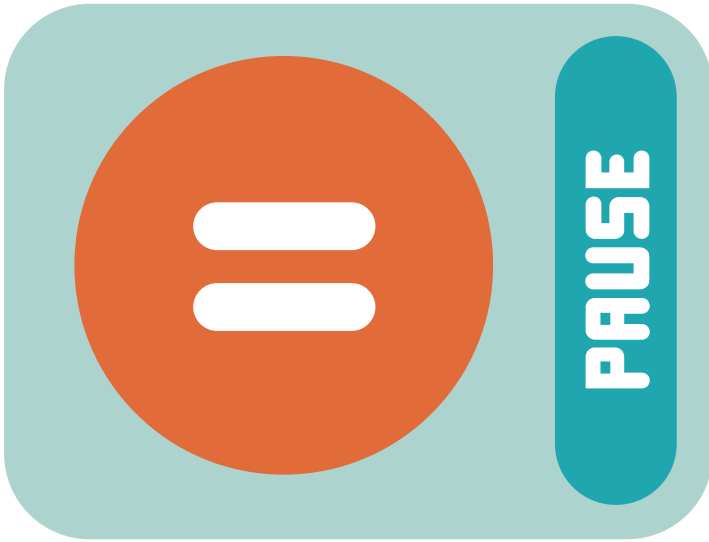
I will turn the
VOLUME down on
what others tempt
me to do and turn
the volume up on
what God says is
the right choice.

I will **POWER**
up and remind
myself of God's
Holy Spirit within
me who will
help me give it
my best.

I will **REWIND**
to the Bible
and play back
all the times
God shows His
love for me.

What to Do:

Print this page and the following page front-to-back, in full color on cardstock and cut part. Provide one set of cards for each kid.



What to Do:

Print this page and the previous page front-to-back, in full color on cardstock and cut part. Provide one set of cards for each kid.

My mom looks like she can really use some help cleaning up after dinner, but I would rather just watch TV and rest.

My neighbor who's in middle school built a ramp for his bike, and I want to try it out.

I know that reading the Bible and knowing God's truths can help me when I'm tempted, but I would rather spend ALL of my time playing video games.

My neighbor doesn't believe in God, and now I wonder if God really loves me.

I'm trying to do my math homework, but I can't figure out how to do this one section.

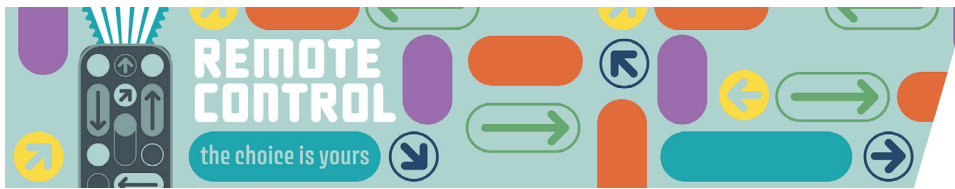
There is a girl at school who wants me to join in on making fun of a classmate for the way they dress.

What to Do:

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

"Control Your Cards Situation Strips" Activity Page

January 2022, Week 1, Small Group 2-3
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TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you lose control,
it can cause trouble.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do
what you should even when
you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("This Little Light" from *Living Inside Out* and
"Your Way" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Protect Your City!
Application Activity: Don't Lose Control
Memory Verse Activity: Just Pause
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids learn the importance of staying in control of their bodies and their minds. Pray they will be aware of the things that make them lose control, and ask God to help kids keep their self-control in those situations.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you lose control,
it can cause trouble.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."**
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Self-control—Choosing to do
what you should even when
you don't want to**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, large piece of paper, copy paper, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Write #1-5 down the side of the large piece of paper.
- Leave enough room under each number to write in the kids' answers to the questions below.
- As kids arrive, let them use paper and markers to draw their favorite thing to do when they have screen time (video games, shows, music videos, etc.).
- As kids draw, ask them the questions and write their answers below the corresponding numbers on your page.
 - If a kid shares the same answer as another, put a tally mark next to that answer.
- Point out the most popular answers.

Questions:

1. What is your favorite show to watch?
2. How many of you have to share screen time with siblings?
3. How long are you allowed to have screen time?
4. If you could star in any movie, what would it be?
5. What remote control do you use most during the week? (video controller, phone, TV, etc.)

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Yarn lengths, yarn game instructions with phone or tablet if needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of yarn.
- Instruct the kids to tie the ends together with a strong knot to create a large yarn circle to play with.
- Divide kids into groups of four or five and give each group an instruction book OR look up "Kidspot yarn finger games" on a phone or tablet.
- Encourage the kids to try out the different games!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Some of those yarn games were simple while others were more challenging! It was easy to lose control of the yarn at times, wasn't it? What was your favorite yarn trick? (Allow time for responses.) **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we'll learn how when we lose control it doesn't always lead to fun and games like our yarn here.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



*** 1. PROTECT YOUR CITY!**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Posterboard, markers, building blocks, Bibles, stopwatch or phone timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a piece of posterboard, markers, building blocks, and a Bible.
- Instruct the teams to design and draw their own "city walls" on their posterboard.
- Direct the kids to look up Proverbs 25:28 in their Bible and write it on their posterboard wall.
- Once the walls are complete, instruct the kids to build a city using their blocks.
- Tell the teams to assign two team members to hold up the city walls (posterboard) to block the other team from seeing what they build.
- Once the cities are built, tell the kids that the teams will take turns breaking into the other team's city.
 - For ten seconds, one team will drop their posterboard city walls while one kid from the other team takes whatever blocks they want from the city.
 - Only the kid from the invading team can take blocks while following their team's instructions.
 - The kid will bring the stolen blocks back to their city and add them to their city.
 - Then the other team will get a chance to invade the other team's city.
- Using your timer, continue switching back and forth between teams as time and interest allow.
- Once you finish the game, use the questions below to review today's Scripture.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you lose control,
it can cause trouble.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."**
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

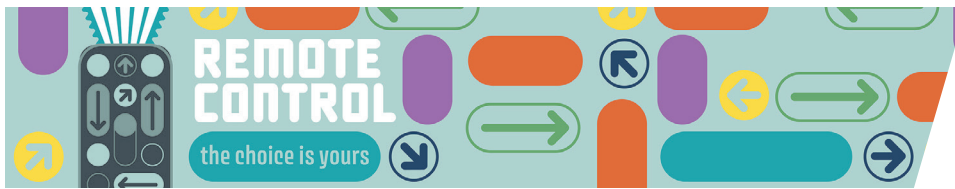
**Self-control—Choosing to do
what you should even when
you don't want to**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

Review Questions:

1. How did it feel to lose control of your city when the other team was able to break in?
2. Today's verse compared a person without self-control to a city with broken-through walls. How would losing self-control be the same as a city with broken-through walls? *(This may be a tough question for kids. Prompt them with the answers they gave for question #1 to help get them going.)*
3. How did it feel when your city walls were up and the other team was not allowed to invade?
4. What are some rules you have at home that keep things from getting out of control? *(No running or throwing balls inside; look before crossing the street; ask an adult to go outside or to a friend's)*



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP

2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 1. PROTECT YOUR CITY!, CONTINUED)

5. What barriers do you have in your life to help you not lose control like the city in our story today? (*Prompt them with additional questions: Does anyone's parent set a time limit for screen time? What about a fence in your yard so your dog doesn't run away? Does anyone play a sport with rules to help you play the best way? Does anyone have a set bed time?*)
6. We saw what happened to the city who let their walls down and had no barriers. Can you see how some of the barriers your parents set for you are actually helpful?
7. What do you think would have happened to our city if their walls were never broken down?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"It never feels good to lose self-control, even when we wish we didn't have to have all of the barriers in place that we have every day. But in today's story, we learned how it felt to have those barriers removed and saw first-hand that **when you lose control, it can cause trouble.** [Make it Personal] (*Share an age-appropriate story about a time you lost self-control then built "walls" afterwards to help you stay in control next time.*)

"Self-control is something everyone needs and everyone needs help with. If we are a believer in Jesus, He has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us have self-control in whatever challenges we face! Whether it's staying focused on our really long math test, not talking to our neighbor when the teacher has asked us to work solo, or listening to our parents even when we would rather do things our own way, the Holy Spirit can help us. Let's turn up the volume this week and be thankful for the 'walls' that help us have self-control! No matter what temptations come our way, we can be reminded that **when you lose control, it can cause trouble.**"

MADE TO MOVE

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



2. DON'T LOSE CONTROL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking tape, balls, wooden cooking spoons, index cards, and pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a ball and wooden spoon.
- Tape starting lines for each team and direct teams to form a line.
- Mark a finish line about ten feet away from each starting line.
- Guide kids to take turns running to the finish line and back while carrying their ball on the spoon.
- If a kid drops the ball, instruct them to go back to the starting line and begin again.
- The first team to have every kid run down and back successfully, wins!
- Talk about the game with the following questions and prompts:
 - How did it feel to lose control of the ball? If you didn't lose control, how did it feel to see your team member lose control? A ball isn't something important. It's not a big deal if you lost the ball in our game.
 - There are things that are a big deal to lose control of, though. I will read a list of examples. If you've ever lost control of any of these things, raise your hand so we can see how everyone struggles with self-control! (Make sure you raise your hand too so kids see that even adults need help with self-control.)
 - Losing control of your body when playing with friends or walking down the hall at school.
 - Losing control of your toys and clothes, leading to a very messy bedroom.
 - Losing your focus during school work.
 - Losing your patience with a sibling or friend.
- What are the not-so-great things that happen when we lose self-control? (Prompt the kids by asking questions like: What happens when our bedroom gets too messy? What happens when we lose our focus during school work?)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you lose self-control, it doesn't only feel bad for you. **When you lose control, it can cause trouble** for the people and things around you, too.

The barriers and walls of control we have in place keep us from the troubling consequences that can come our way. What are some things in everyday life that help keep us from losing control? (Rules at school and at home, people who remind us to use good behavior, paying attention to things around us)

"When you face a tough choice or have a hard time with self-control, remember that you get the power to decide how to act and respond. You can always stop and ask God for help anytime you struggle with this. God wants us to live safe and healthy lives. Whenever we ask, we have the help of God's Spirit."

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



3. JUST PAUSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft elastic cords, white beads, permanent markers, scissors, and Bibles, (optional) colorful or decorative beads

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- As a group, look up and read the memory verse from the Bible.
- Give each kid a white bead.
- *Option: Kids can use colorful beads their bracelets to make them more interesting.*
- Set out the elastic cord, scissors, and the permanent markers.
- Guide the kids to help each other cut long enough strings of cord to create a bracelet for themselves.
- Direct the kids to use the permanent markers to make pause signs (two perpendicular lines) on their white beads.
- Instruct the kids to blow on their pause signs for a few seconds so the marker doesn't smear.
- Show the kids how to string the bead on the cord.
- Invite the kids to help their friends tie their bracelets on their wrists or ankles.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse tells us that God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. One of the things God gives us is self-control: the ability to press pause and stay in control of ourselves.

"We learned today that **when you lose control, it can cause trouble**. So having this gift to press pause is key to us staying out of trouble! This week, wear your bracelet or anklet and press pause anytime you feel like you need to increase self-control. Share about your victories with your friends and family and encourage them to press pause during their week, too!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you lose control,
it can cause trouble.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bracelets from "Just Pause" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to put a finger on their "Pause" bead and focus on it as you pray.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for Your gift of the Holy Spirit who helps us have self-control in all of our unique situations. We know that there is nothing too big or too small for You to help us with! Remind us that **when you lose control, it can cause trouble** but You have called us and helped us to be people who have the ability to stay in control of ourselves. Help us honor You through self-control this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their bracelets and prompt them to share what their bracelets will help them remember this week. Remind them that although **when you lose control, it can cause trouble**, you believe they will have a week full of self-control victories!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Need to Calm Down
Broken-Down Walls
Proverbs 25:28

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

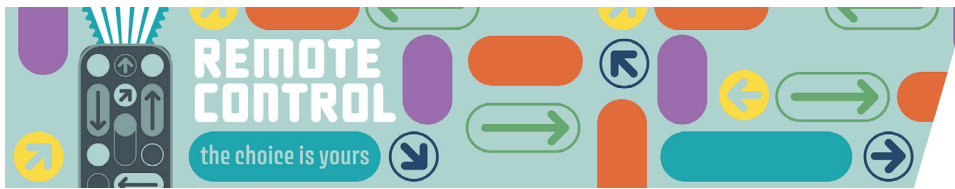
"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Large piece of paper (at least 11" x 14")
- Paper; one piece for each kid
- Markers

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Yarn cut into 18-inch lengths; one for each kid
- Instructions for different yarn finger games
 - The Cat's Cradle book is available on Amazon.com (<https://amzn.to/2Xa820E>); one book for every four five kids to share
 - Or look up and play "Kidspot yarn finger games" on a phone or tablet

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. PROTECT YOUR CITY!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two pieces of white posterboard

- Markers
- Building blocks; enough for two teams to build a large city
- Stopwatch or phone timer

2. DON'T LOSE CONTROL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two wooden cooking spoons
- Two balls that can fit on the wooden cooking spoon (ping pong balls, bouncy balls, etc.)
- Index cards
- Pens

3. JUST PAUSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Craft elastic cord; enough for each kid to have ten inches (but kids will cut)
- Scissors to share
- White craft beads; one for each kid with extras for mistakes
- Permanent markers
- Bibles
- (Optional) Colorful or decorative beads

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bracelets from "Just Pause" Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2022, Week 2

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: You Need to Calm Down (Broken-Down Walls) • *Proverbs 25:28*

Today's Bottom Line: When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (25 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Your Way" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Closer / Bottom Line

Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Rewind

Application Activity: Tiny Walls

Memory Verse Activity: Verse Slaps

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (20 minutes) • Worship (5 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: You Need to Calm Down (Broken-Down Walls) • *Proverbs 25:28*

Today's Bottom Line: When you lose control, it can cause trouble.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

AUDIO: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

VIDEO: *Theme Loop*

Leader enters, running in slow motion while the music plays.

OPENER

LEADER: "Whew—I made it just in the nick of time! Okay, I wasn't REALLY running late . . . but I wanted to demonstrate what might be my favorite button on the remote control.

SLIDE: *Remote Control*

"See, some people like to rewind or fast-forward; but for me, there's nothing better than slow motion!

SLIDE: *Remote Control: Slow Motion*

Run in place in slow motion.

"Wouldn't it be cool if we had a remote control for ourselves? Wouldn't it be great if we could press a button and have SELF-control? We may not have a remote that can do that, but with God's help, we CAN make the choice to stay in control.

"Sometimes self-control looks a little bit like taking things in slow motion. If you keep calm and take time to think instead of just speaking or acting right away, you'll probably avoid a lot of trouble.

"So what better way to practice our self-control than with a slow-motion race? I know . . . it's hard to imagine how that could be possible. But don't worry—I've got a plan!

"Let me get two volunteers to come up and compete.

Bring up two volunteers. Have them line up behind the starting line. Give each of them a speed-monitoring headband, such as the ones from The Slow-Motion Race Game.

Note: If you choose not to use those headbands, you could have each contestant hold a plastic spoon in their mouth and try to carry a feather to the finish line without dropping it, instead. You could even do this version as a relay, where the kids take turns and try to be the first team to have all players successfully carry the feather across to the finish line.

(to the contestants) “[Kid’s name] and [kid’s name], each of you is wearing a special headband that will buzz if you move too quickly. The trick is to be the first to cross the finish line while running in slow motion. If you go too fast, it will buzz. If it buzzes, you have to take five steps backward, then start again. Got it?”

“First, let’s test those buzzers.

Let the kids move quickly and set off the buzzers, then restart, so everyone knows how they work.

(to contestants) “[Kid’s name] and [kid’s name], we’ll all cheer you on. On your mark, get set, GO!”

AUDIO: “Chariots of Fire” by Vangelis

Comment on the action and make sure the kids are playing fairly (i.e. they must move back five steps if their headband buzzes).

The finish line should be at a decent distance so that the race takes some time. Don’t play multiple rounds with different kids to avoid sharing headbands.

Collect the headbands. Congratulate both kids and dismiss them to their seats.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

“That was hilarious! [Contestants’ names], you have some amazing slow-motion moves. Let’s all get on our feet and get back to normal speed so we can sing, dance, and worship God!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Before we sing together, let’s check out this video.

VIDEO: Live Loud Video from Get Reel

“I’m so thankful to know that God knows what’s best for us. God is there to help us do what we should and stay in control. Let’s sing and thank God for being so good to us.

VIDEO: “Your Way” Dance Moves Music Video

“Yes! I love it. Every day, we can choose God’s way. You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: *Host Intro*

VIDEO: *252 Story*

VIDEO: *Host Outro*

CLOSER

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

LEADER: “When we trust God to help us, we can protect ourselves with self-control.

“That’s important because . . .

SLIDE: *Bottom Line*

LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* “When you lose control, it can cause trouble. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: “When you lose control, it can cause trouble.”

LEADER: “Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose self-control.”

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need to have self-control. Thank You for always being with us, and for giving us Your strength and wisdom so that we can stay out of trouble. Help each of us in this room to trust You so we can keep from losing control. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS

LEADER: “Let’s slow-motion run to Small Group and talk some more about how we can choose self-control.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: *Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*

VIDEO: *Theme Loop*

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (5 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Masking tape
- Two headbands from [The Slow-Motion Race Game](#), OR two plastic spoons and two feathers (see "What You Do")

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- "Chariots of Fire" by Vangelis

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Loop Video
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Remote Control Slide
- Remote Control: Slow Motion Slide

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides and videos and have them ready to use.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- Tape a starting line and finish line.
- The Slow-Motion Race Game (<https://amzn.to/3nMRp6o>) is available from most major retailers for less than \$20. However, if you would prefer to make your own version of a slow-motion race game, you can use two plastic spoons and two feathers or other lightweight objects that could easily be dropped from the spoon, which will force the contestants to move slowly and carefully.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Large Group Visuals:

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel*
- "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

- Download the videos and have them ready to use.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader

Large Group Visuals:

- Host Intro Video
- *252 Story Video*
- Host Outro Video

What You Do:

- Download the videos and have them ready to use.



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't be controlled
by your anger.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do
what you should even when
you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Make a Move" from *Make a Move* and "Even When" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Rewind the Show!
Application Activity: Work Out the Anger
Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Focus
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids understand that anger in and of itself is not bad. But what we do with it is the important part. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be with kids in their anger and help them control their reactions to their anger. Pray that kids would walk away from today's group time with some helpful ways to respond to anger.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood
David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, beanbag or potato, phone or music player

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to form a circle.
- Give one kid the beanbag or potato.
- Lead the kids to play a game of hot potato as you play music (like Orange Kids music!) on your phone or music player.
 - As the music plays, instruct the kids to pass the "hot potato" to the person sitting to the right of them quickly so it goes around the circle.
 - When the music stops, the kid holding the "hot potato" is out.
- As you play, encourage the kids who are "out" to cheer on the rest of the players.
- Play until there is one kid left or as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't be controlled by your anger.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Angry Face" Activity Pages, jumbo craft sticks, glue sticks, scissors, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a set of "Angry Face" Activity Pages, and a craft stick.
- Set out the scissors, glue sticks, and markers.
- Instruct the kids to cut out their face and the other parts of the face that they want to use.
- Direct the kids to decorate and design their face by gluing on the parts they chose.
- Tell the kids they can also draw extra details and give the face some color.
- Once the kids complete their faces, instruct them to glue it to a craft stick so they can hold it up like a mask.
- Allow kids time to show their friends the angry masks they created!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These angry faces look pretty goofy, but being angry in real life doesn't feel goofy. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we'll learn more about how we can make a wise choice when we feel anger start to take over.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Don't be controlled
by your anger.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"God's power has given
us everything we need
to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV**

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Self-control—Choosing to do
what you should even when
you don't want to**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



1. REWIND THE SHOW!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic cup or bag with paper strips inside

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into four teams.
- Instruct each team to draw a genre from the cup and take turns reenacting today's Bible story in the type of TV show written on the strip of paper. For example:
 - News would re-tell the story like a newscaster give the day's news in their best formal "news" voice.
 - Soap opera re-telling would be overly dramatic and ridiculous.
 - Cartoon might be funny or do things that can't be done in real life.
 - Comedy would be a generally funny re-telling.
- After each team draws their genre, make sure each group understands the type of television show they drew.
- Give kids about five minutes to plan out their TV shows.
- Invite the kids to take turns pressing play on their own re-telling of today's story.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't be controlled by your anger.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! I think we need to call the local TV channels and let them know we have some TALENTED kids who should join their team! What part of today's Bible story show was your favorite? *(Allow time for answers.)*

"The part that surprised me most was also my favorite part. Although David was angry, he didn't allow himself to lose his self-control. He pressed the pause button on himself and didn't let his emotions take over. **[Make it Personal]** *(Share about a time you didn't show self-control with your anger but you wished you had. If time allows, share about a separate time you did show self-control in your anger and how it turned out better.)*

"David made the wise choice. And what happened as a result? *(Allow time for answers. Make sure they recall that David didn't kill Saul and it moved Saul to a heart of gratitude.)* It may have been difficult. It may have not been what David initially felt like doing; but when David made the choice to have self-control with his anger, it showed everyone—even Saul—how he was the bigger person. It showed them how he was worthy to be king!

"I don't think any of us will be crowned kings or queens, but when we choose not to allow our anger to control us, we show everyone around us the love and mercy of Jesus. We show others we are strong, courageous, and can be the bigger and wiser person in the situations we face. When you hear the volume of your anger turning up, remember David's example and **don't be controlled by your anger.**"

MADE TO CONNECT

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



***2. WORK OUT THE ANGER**
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Work Out the Anger" Activity Pages and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Let kids choose a "Work Out the Anger" Activity Page and a marker.
- Instruct kids to think of something that makes them angry.
- Allow a few kids to share, but make sure the conversation doesn't derail into negativity.
- Point out the list of "anger solutions" at the bottom of the page.
- Instruct kids to choose five things from the list and write one in each thought bubble.
- As they write, engage them in conversation about which anger solutions they chose and why.
- Ask if anyone has ever used one of the solutions they're writing.
- As they finish, let them hold up their pages and show each other which solutions they chose.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"A lot of times, we think of anger as a bad emotion. But anger isn't always something bad. Sometimes things should make us angry. Like when a friend is treated unkindly by other kids or you see someone who doesn't have a place to live or when something hard happens to your family.

"And sometimes, other things make us angry, like what you all shared earlier. (List a few of the examples kids shared earlier in the activity.) When we make healthy choices in response to our anger, we are in control of our anger. We are showing self-control. When we allow our anger to cause us to make bad choices, we are BEING controlled by our anger. Do you see the difference? This week, pause any time you feel anger rise up. Use this worksheet. Write what you are angry about on it somewhere. And do one of the actions you wrote in the bubbles. **Don't be controlled by your anger.** Remember these steps and ask God to help you make a wise choice when you're angry."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't be controlled by your anger.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. MEMORY VERSE FOCUS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Aluminum foil, paper, markers, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up the memory verse, 2 Peter 1:3a, together in a Bible and read it out loud.
- Divide your kids into two teams.
- Instruct the teams to stand close together.
- Wrap each team together with foil. Wrap them a few times around, in the middle of their bodies so their faces are still visible, their hands are free, and they can still use their legs and feet.
- Stand on the opposite side of your space from where the teams stand, and hold the Bible open to the memory verse.
- Instruct each team to move down to you and the Bible, read or recite the verse together, and move back to the original starting point.
- Remind kids that they, collectively, are in control of their foil.
- If the foil breaks completely, the other team automatically wins.
- As they move, continue to remind the kids that they are in control of the foil! Encourage them to figure out a way to move together with control so the foil stays intact.
- The first team to complete the task, wins!

NOTE: The foil will most likely break in some parts. But if the foil completely breaks off of the team, give the win to the other team.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You did an amazing job staying in control of your foil! What was the most challenging part of controlling the foil? (*Allow time for responses.*) Showing self-control in the real world is harder than walking across a room with a group of friends while you're wrapped up in foil! But this verse reminds us that God's power has given us everything we need. We can have self-control for whatever we face because God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit when we believe in Him.

"Don't be controlled by your anger. This week, when you find yourself getting angry and you're tempted to make a bad choice, remind yourself that you have the power to keep your cool and be in control of that emotion. You can stay in control, just like you were in control of the foil in the game today!"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't be controlled by your anger.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Activity Pages from "Work Out the Anger" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to focus on the anger example they wrote on the "Work Out the Anger" Activity Page.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for the emotions You have given us! We know that You gave us these emotions so we can feel, become passionate, and change the world around us for the better. Please forgive us for the times we have allowed our anger to control us instead of showing self-control! Teach us to use our anger to help and not hurt. Please guide us with Your Holy Spirit and remind us, **don't be controlled by your anger.** We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their "Work Out the Anger" Activity Pages. Prompt them to share the action steps they chose to use when they are angry.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Bad Blood

David Spares Saul's Life
1 Samuel 24

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't be controlled by your anger.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

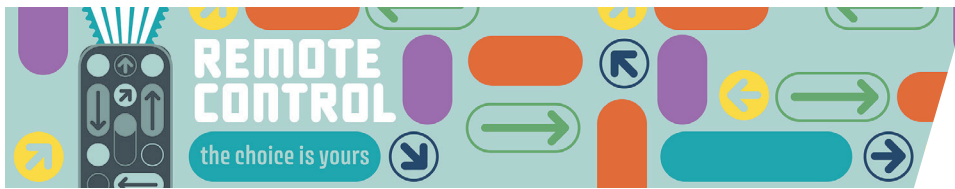
"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Potato or beanbag
- Music player or phone to play music (we recommend Orange Kids music)

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Angry Face" Activity Pages on cardstock; one set for each kid
- Scissors
- Markers
- Jumbo craft sticks; one for each kid
- Glue sticks

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. REWIND THE SHOW!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Four scraps of paper

- Plastic cup or bag
- Marker
 - Write four TV genres, each on a separate piece of paper: News, Soap Opera, Comedy, and Cartoon. Fold the papers and put them in the cup or bag.

*2. WORK OUT THE ANGER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Work Out the Anger" Activity Page; enough for each kid to choose one
- Markers

3. MEMORY VERSE FOCUS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Aluminum foil; two full rolls for each small group
- Paper; two pieces for each small group
- Markers
- Bibles

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Activity Pages from "Work Out the Anger" Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2022, Week 3

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Bad Blood (David Spares Saul's Life) • 1 Samuel 24

Today's Bottom Line: Don't be controlled by your anger.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (25 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Your Way" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Closer / Bottom Line

Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Robe Robber Review

Application Activity: Angry Dice

Memory Verse Activity: Red Light, Green Light

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (20 minutes) • Worship (5 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: Bad Blood (David Spares Saul's Life) • 1 Samuel 24

Today's Bottom Line: Don't be controlled by your anger.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

Leader enters, walking backward into the room.

OPENER

LEADER: "Oooollleh, enoyreve! (*Stop.*) Oh, wait. (*Turn around.*) Sorry. I mean, Heilllooooo, everyone!"

SLIDE: Remote Control

"I forgot I had pressed the rewind button on our remote control.

SLIDE: Remote Control: Rewind

"It would be great if we had our own personal remote control. That way we could press pause when things go great in our lives . . . skip ahead past the times that are tough or frustrating . . . or rewind and do something over when we messed up. We don't have a remote control like that, but we do know that God is always there to help us! God can help us choose self-control.

"As we kick things off today, what do you say we play a game to practice our rewind skills? (*Take a couple of steps backward.*) As you can see around the room, there are a few different hopscotch stations. At each station are some spots you do NOT want to step on: the angry faces. You'll take turns jumping through the squares going forward, then you have to rewind and do it backwards. (*Demonstrate.*) You need to pay close attention as you go forward, because you won't be able to see the faces when you 'rewind.'

"If you step on an angry face, you're out for that round. Anyone who makes it successfully through both forward and rewind will move on to the next round when you rotate to the next hopscotch board. We'll keep eliminating and rotating until we have a winner!

Divide the kids into equal groups and assign each group to a hopscotch station to start. Group size will depend upon the number of hopscotch stations you created.

"Let's play!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Note: Depending on the time you have and the number of kids, consider starting with a practice round so kids aren't eliminated right away.

Comment on the action as the kids play. Once everyone in each group has a chance to go, have all groups rotate to the next station. Keep playing until you have a winner. Or if time is running short, just stop the game and congratulate those who are still "in."

VIDEO: Theme Loop

"Nice job, everyone! That wasn't easy, but you got better at 'rewinding' as you went along. Let's put a pause on rewinding—see what I did there? Let's press play on worshipping God together! Everyone on your feet!"

WORSHIP

LEADER: "When you're not sure which way to turn in life, remember that God is always there. God will always lead you to the next right thing. With God's help, you can choose to do what you should even when you don't want to! Let's sing!"

VIDEO: "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

"That's right! We can choose to follow God and **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. You can have a seat."

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: Host Intro

VIDEO: 252 Story

VIDEO: Host Outro

CLOSER

SLIDE: Theme Background

LEADER: "All of us will get angry from time to time. But we need to do what David did. We need to keep control of our anger so that it doesn't control us."

SLIDE: Bottom Line

LEADER: [Bottom Line] "Don't be controlled by your anger. Say that with me."

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] "Don't be controlled by your anger."

LEADER: “Let’s talk to God about that together.”

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, it’s amazing how David treated King Saul that day! David spared Saul’s life, even though he had every right to be angry. Please show us how we can have the same kind of self-control that David did. Show us how we can stay calm and **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** instead of giving in to our anger. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS

LEADER: “In Small Group, we’ll talk some more about how God can help us control our anger. So let’s head on over!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: *Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*

VIDEO: *Theme Loop*

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (5 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Lots of different colored construction paper (see "What You Do" to determine quantity)
- "Angry Emoji Sheets" printed from the LG Assets PDF (see "What You Do" to determine quantity)
- Masking tape

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Loop Video
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Remote Control Slide
- Remote Control: Rewind Slide
- Angry Emoji Sheets (printable)

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides and videos and have them ready to use.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- Think through how many kids you typically have and how big you want the groups to be. (Ideally, you'll want no more than ten kids per group.) You need one hopscotch station per group.
- Create the hopscotch stations by taping construction paper and printed Angry Emoji Sheets on the floor, in hopscotch patterns. (Only the pieces of paper need to be visible, not the tape. You can just use tape loops to tape the pieces of paper to the floor.) Each station should have at least ten spaces, and at least three of the spaces should be the angry emojis.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Large Group Visuals:

- "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

- Download the video and have it ready to use.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

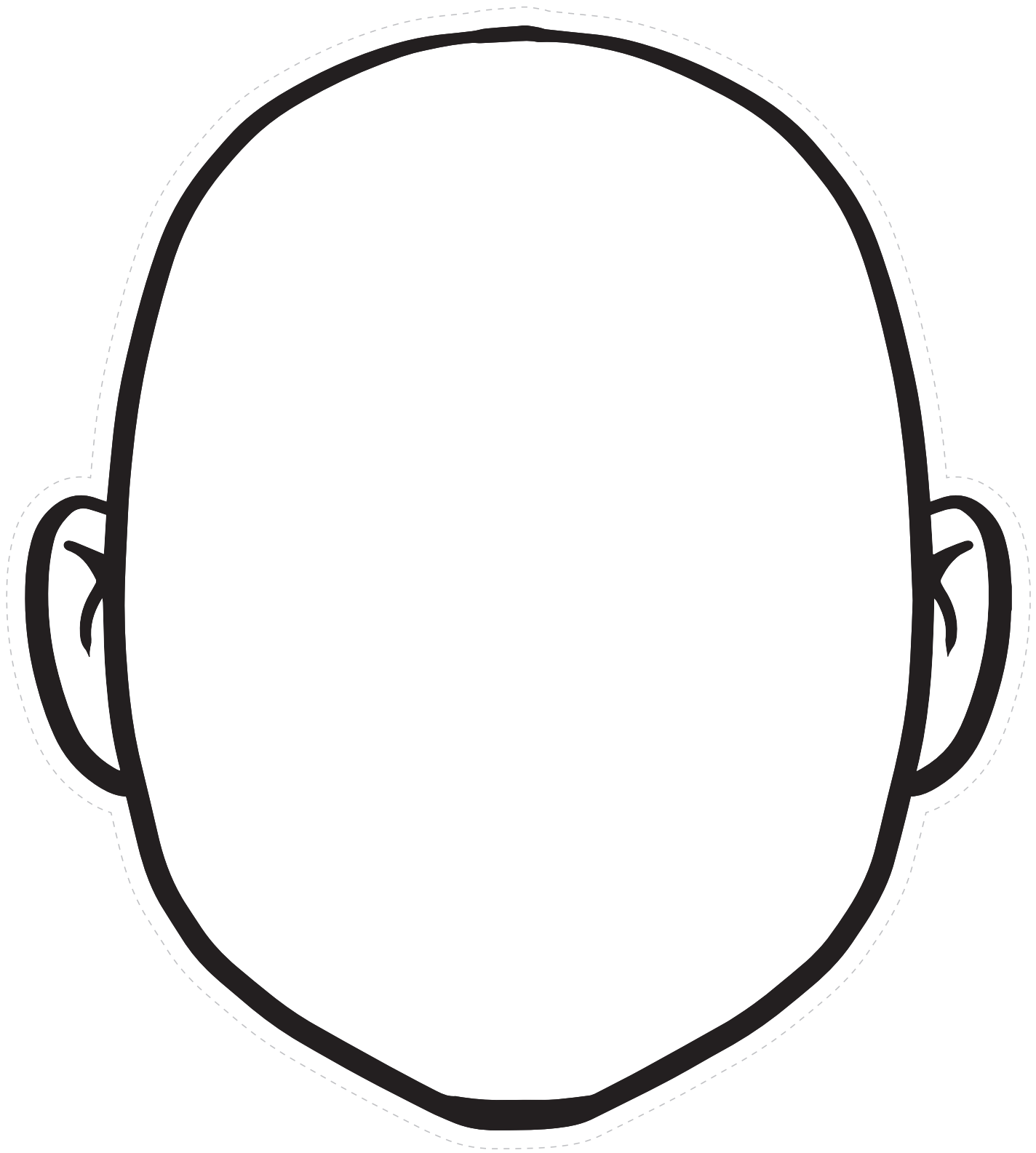
- Leader

Large Group Visuals:

- Host Intro Video
- 252 Story Video
- Host Outro Video

What You Do:

- Download the videos and have them ready to use.



What to Do:

Print one set on cardstock for each kid.

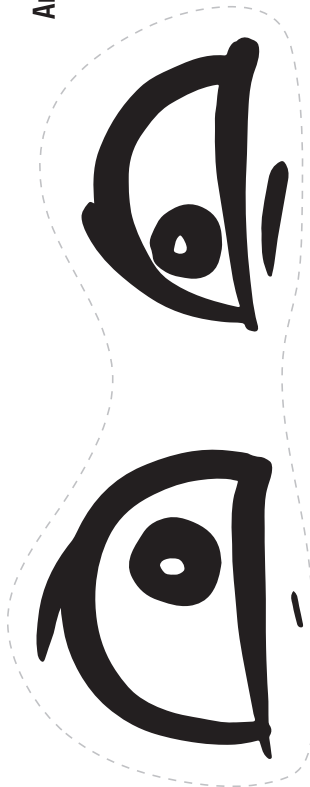
"Angry Face" Activity Page 1/2

January 2022, Week 3, Small Group 2-3
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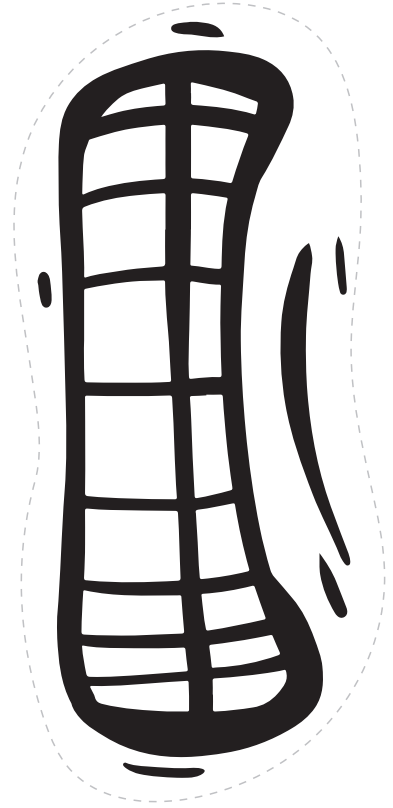
Angry Eyebrows



Angry Eyes



Angry Mouths



What to Do:
Print one set on cardstock for each kid.



Take four deep breaths in and out.

Eat a healthy snack.

Ask someone to give you a big hug.

Write down three things you love about yourself.

Write down five things you're thankful for.

Find a stuffed animal or squishy ball to squeeze.

Run laps outside (with adult's permission).

Say "Grrrrr" as loudly as you can (without bothering anyone else).

What to Do:

Print on paper. Provide enough for each kid to choose one page.



Take four deep breaths in and out.

Eat a healthy snack.

Ask someone to give you a big hug.

Write down three things you love about yourself.

Write down five things you're thankful for.

Find a stuffed animal or squishy ball to squeeze.

Run laps outside (with adult's permission).

Say "Grrrrr" as loudly as you can (without bothering anyone else).

What to Do:

Print on paper. Provide enough for each kid to choose one page.



Take four deep breaths in and out.

Eat a healthy snack.

Ask someone to give you a big hug.

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Write down five things you're thankful for.

Find a stuffed animal or squishy ball to squeeze.

Run laps outside (with adult's permission).

Say "Grrrrr" as loudly as you can (without bothering anyone else).

What to Do:

Print on paper. Provide enough for each kid to choose one page.



Take four deep breaths in and out.

Eat a healthy snack.

Ask someone to give you a big hug.

Write down three things you love about yourself.

Write down five things you're thankful for.

Find a stuffed animal or squishy ball to squeeze.

Run laps outside (with adult's permission).

Say "Grrrrr" as loudly as you can (without bothering anyone else).

What to Do:

Print on paper. Provide enough for each kid to choose one page.



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Everywhere I Go" from *Every Beat* and "Your Way" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Think Before You Speak
Application Activity: Spell It Out
Memory Verse Activity: Telephone Talk
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids understand the consequences of not choosing their words carefully. Pray that they would have hearts to build up relationships with others not tear them down. Ask God to provide opportunities for kids to choose their words carefully and give them the self-control to act on what they learn today.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, (optional) phone or device with Google translate

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, instruct them to join you in a circle.
- Ask:
 - If you could speak any language, what would it be?
 - Do you speak more than one language?
- Explain that you will read (or play the translations on your phone), "I really love my church" in various languages. (Do the best you can with the pronunciation. If you come across a language that one of the kids speaks, let them say the sentence in that language.)
- After you read each sentence, share the two possible language options the sentence could be.
- Let kids guess which language the sentence is in.
- After allowing the kids to discuss the answer among themselves, reveal the answer.
- When you've gone through the entire list, ask kids which of the languages they would choose to speak that they don't already.

Translations:

1. ¡Realmente amo a mi iglesia! (Greek or **Spanish**)
2. Wǒ zhēn de hěn ài wǒ de jiàohuì! (Portuguese or **Chinese**)
3. Eu realmente amo minha igreja! (**Portuguese** or Polish)
4. Mahal na mahal ko ang simbahan ko! (Polish or **Filipino**)
5. Amo davvero la mia chiesa! (**Italian** or French)
6. Ich liebe meine Kirche wirklich! (**German** or Russian)
7. YA ochen' lyublyu svoyu tserkov'! (Greek or **Russian**)
8. Jag älskar verkligen min kyrka! (**Swedish** or Swahili)
9. Naprawdę kocham mój kościół! (**Polish** or Norwegian)
10. Agapó poly tin ekklesiá mou! (Finnish or **Greek**)

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "New Year's Goals" Activity Pages and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group an Activity Page and a pencil.
- Instruct kids to fold the page in half and only look at the word bank.
- Encourage the kids to work together to choose words based on the description in the list.
- When they complete the list of words, instruct the kids to fill in the blanks in the story with the corresponding words they choose as a group. (Make sure they understand that the first word in the list goes in the blank labeled "1." The second word goes in the "2" blank, etc.)
- Once the stories are complete, invite each group to read their stories to the rest of the group.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

WHAT YOU SAY:

"With the choices you made, you guys created some really funny stories! You had to think hard about the words you chose to write down because some of those descriptions were super-specific! **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we'll learn another reason we should think about words carefully.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

MADE TO PLAY

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



*** 1. THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK**
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Buzzer or bell, (optional) table

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Guide the two teams to sit on either side of you. (A table would be helpful to place the buzzer on. If not, you can hold it in front of you.)
- Instruct the kids to choose one kid from their team who will try to be the first to hit the buzzer and answer the question as fast as they can.
- Warn the kids that some of the review questions may be tricky, so they should listen to the entire question and think before they speak!
- Read a review question from today's story and let the team representatives race to hit the buzzer or bell.
- Let the first kid who hit the buzzer answer the question.
- If they're right, their team gets a point.
- If they're wrong, let the other team have a chance to answer.
- The team with the most correct answers, wins!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

Review questions:

1. Which king was the wisest man to ever live? (*King Solomon*)
2. What's something a wise and kind person would say about someone? (*Answers will vary.*)
3. What book of the Bible were Solomon's wise sayings—including today's—1. written in? (*Proverbs*)
4. What's something a thoughtless person would say? (*Answers will vary.*)
5. What do many of Solomon's wise sayings remind us to be wise with? (*words*)
6. What sharp object cuts just like thoughtless people's words? (*sword*)
7. What does Solomon teach the tongue of a wise person brings? (*healing*)
8. Our Bottom Line today reminds us that we should ___ before we speak. (*think*)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When I think about how King Solomon compared our hurtful words to swords that cut people, it really puts into perspective how deeply we can hurt someone when we are careless with what we say. We've all had someone say something hurtful to us. It doesn't feel good, does it? How does it feel when someone says something positive and kind to you? (*Allow time for responses.*)"

"The fact that so many of King Solomon's wise sayings are about our words shows us how very important it is to **think before you speak**. There are times when we are tempted to allow our emotions to take over and spit out whatever words we want. But instead, God wants us to see that a wise person uses their internal mute button. They think before they speak, and they make a choice to show self-control in their responses. I want in on that kind of talk!"

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. SPELL IT OUT
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Scrabble® letters

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid five to seven letters.
- Place the rest of the letters to the side.
- Instruct kids to spell a word with the letters they were given. (They don't need to use all of their letters.)
- Once they complete their word, direct them to pass their word to the kid sitting on their right.
- Then challenge kids to create a new word using only their remaining letters and the letters they just received from the person before them. They must use at least one letter from the previous kid.
- Continue to make new words and pass them around the circle until kids make at least a few new words.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Is this final word you received the same word you spelled out in the beginning? (*most likely, no*) How many of you saw your word change when you gave it to the next person? (*Allow time for responses.*) That's right! When our words leave us, we can't take them back. They are out there, affecting the people around us.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

"Although the words we spelled were changed into other fun words, in our everyday lives our words are much more powerful. That's right! Your words hold power, just like the remote control powers our TV. With your words, you can make someone feel better when they have a hard day, and you can speak up for someone who hurts or is treated unfairly. With your words, you can change the world for the better.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

"But when we lose control of our powerful words, it can lead to some bad consequences. We can hurt people with our thoughtless words. If we don't pause and think before we speak, we end up using thoughtless, uncontrolled words. **Think before you speak.** Take time to make sure your words are helpful and kind." [Make it Personal] (*Share about a time you caught yourself before saying something hurtful. What happened as a result? How was the other person spared because you thought about your words before saying them?*)

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



3. TELEPHONE TALK

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, plastic cups, yarn pieces, clear tape, decorative supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Look up and read the memory verse aloud together.
- Give each kid two cups and a piece of yarn.
- Set out enough clear tape around your group for every two kids to share.
- Demonstrate how to thread one end of the yarn into the first cup.
- Show how to secure the yarn to the cup by placing a piece of tape over the yarn inside the cup.
- instruct kids to do the same with the other end of the yard and the other cup.
- Set out the decorative supplies.
- Invite the kids to decorate their cups.
- As kids finish, guide them to choose a partner.
- Direct the kids to use their cup telephones to say the memory verse to each other.
- Encourage kids to help each other out if one partner knows the verse better than the other.
- Allow kids to look in the Bible for help if needed.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space

Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How many of you remembered your memory verse without even thinking? (Pause for responses.) How many of you had to think before you said it? (Allow time for responses.) When you **think before you speak**, it's not only helpful for others. It's helpful for you, too! It gives us time to really think about what we will say to protect others' feelings and make sure we say what we mean.

"Sometimes, we want to talk too quickly without thinking because we're excited, angry, or in a hurry. But our verse today reminds us that God gives us the power we need to pause and think. **Think before you speak**. Remind yourself of the power you have within you and the big and awesome way God wants to use your words in this world!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "New Year's Goals" Activity Pages from "Opening Activity"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Let the kids read their stories again and laugh together about how silly they are!
- Remind them that funny words can be used to build others up and make them laugh.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we are so thankful You want to use our words to make a huge impact in the world around us! God, just like the words in our stories were what made the stories so funny, remind us that the words we choose each and every day are what make our real-life stories awesome, too! Please show us how to have self-control with our words. Let Your Holy Spirit remind us of the power we have within us and that we can always choose to **think before you speak**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their telephones. Prompt kids to explain why they made telephones this week and what is so important about their words. Encourage adults to join in on the kids' challenge this week as everyone works to **think before you speak!**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Blank Space
Choose Your Words Carefully
Proverbs 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you speak.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

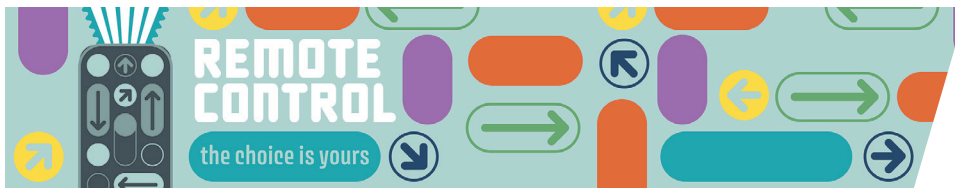
"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- (Optional) phone or device with Google translate

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "New Year's Goals" Activity Page; one for every two or three kids
- Pencils

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Buzzer or bell
- (Optional) Table

2. SPELL IT OUT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Scrabble® letters; enough for each kid to have five to seven

3. TELEPHONE TALK

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic party cups; two for each kid
- Scissors
 - Cut slits in the bottom of each cup.
- Clear tape; one dispenser for every two kids
- 12-inch lengths of Yarn; one for each kid
- Craft tape, stickers, and other decorative supplies
- Bibles

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "New Year's Goals" Activity Pages from "Opening Activity"

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2022, Week 4

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Blank Space (Choose Your Words Carefully) • *Proverbs 12:18*

Today's Bottom Line: Think before you speak.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (25 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Your Way" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Closer / Bottom Line

Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Three Gates

Application Activity: Color Words

Memory Verse Activity: This Is A . . .

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (20 minutes) • Worship (5 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: Blank Space (Choose Your Words Carefully) • *Proverbs 12:18*

Today's Bottom Line: Think before you speak.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

Leader enters.

OPENER

LEADER: "Hello. (*Hold up the remote and give a long pause, then lower the remote. Hold up the remote each time you pause.*) How (*pause*) are (*pause*) you (*pause*) today?"

"Ha! Sorry about that!"

SLIDE: Remote Control

"Just practicing my pause skills."

SLIDE: Remote Control: Pause

"I find the pause to be an important part of self-control."

"It can be tricky to press pause when you're tempted to keep going—but with God's help, you can do it! Pressing pause can really help you avoid trouble. That's especially true when it comes to our words. It's never a bad idea to give an extra pause before you speak! I thought it would be fun to get in a little extra practice with that, with a fun game I call 'Blurt-Be-Gone'!"

"We'll split into two teams, and each team will get a buzzer [*or a buzz word to shout out*]. Let's get those teams first!"

Divide the kids into two teams so that each team has an equal amount of older and younger kids if possible. Choose a captain for each team. Give each captain a buzzer OR assign a buzz word that the captain can shout out when their team is ready to answer.

"There are ten questions in this game, plus a tie-breaker if we need it. When the question pops up on the screen, I'll read it out loud. You'll want to PAUSE and discuss it as a team as quickly as possible. Captains, as soon as you think you know the answer, buzz in. You have to answer IMMEDIATELY after

I call on you. So if you buzz in then don't have the answer, you automatically give the point to the other team. You will also give the point to the other team if you get the question wrong. So you want to give just enough pause to talk it over with your team and figure out your answer . . . but don't wait too long or the other team will buzz in!

Read from the printed Game Questions Sheet.

"Here's the first question. What do cows drink?"

Use the remote to "call on" the first team captain who buzzes in—but make sure they pause and talk with their team first!

If they get the question right, they get the point. If they get it wrong or don't answer as soon as you call on them, the other team gets the point. If there's a tie on the buzzers, give one team the chance to go first, and make sure the next time there's a buzz-in tie, you call on the other team first.

Keep track of the points with a dry erase board and marker or hang a piece of posterboard where everyone can see you keep track with a marker. Go through all ten questions on the Game Questions Sheet. Use an additional question, if necessary, for a tiebreaker. Celebrate the winning team.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

"Playing Blurt-Be-Gone was a lot of fun! Nice job of using your pausing and playing skills. Let's keep the fun going as we stand up and sing songs to worship God together!"

WORSHIP

LEADER: "When we remember that God is in control of our lives, it helps us have SELF-control. God helps us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. God's love is always with us! As David wrote in Psalm 32:10, 'The Lord's faithful love is all around those who trust in him.' (NIRV) Let's sing and celebrate the freedom we have when we live God's way.

VIDEO: "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

"That's right. God's way IS the best way! You can have a seat."

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: Host Intro

VIDEO: 252 Story

VIDEO: Host Outro

CLOSER

SLIDE: Theme Background

LEADER: “If we THINK before we speak, we’ll be able to use self-control. We’ll be able to choose words that bring help and healing.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Think before you speak. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Think before you speak.”

LEADER: “Let’s pray and ask God to help us put that into action.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for loving us! Please show us how we can show Your love to other people with our words. Help us THINK before we speak. Give us the strength to ‘press pause’ before we blurt out things that might hurt others. Help us stay in control and use our words to heal not to hurt. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS

LEADER: “Let’s head to Small Group and talk about that some more.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (5 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Remote control
- Two game buzzers, squeaky toys, or other noisemakers (optional)
- Game Questions Sheet (printed from the LG Assets PDF)
- Dry erase board and marker or posterboard and marker (to keep score)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Loop Video
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Remote Control Slide
- Remote Control: Pause Slide
- Game Questions Sheet (printable)

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides and videos and have them ready to use.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Large Group Visuals:

- "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

- Download the video and have it ready to use.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader

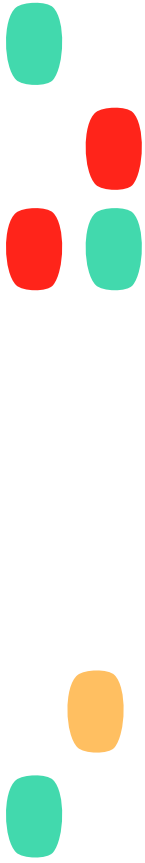
Large Group Visuals:

- Host Intro Video

- *252 Story Video*
- *Host Outro Video*

What You Do:

- Download the videos and have them ready to use.



1. Number of a year like 2022 _____
2. An age someone would turn _____
3. A thing _____
4. An action someone would do like jump! _____
5. A word that seems important _____
6. An action _____
7. A number _____
8. An awesome dance move _____
9. A hobby _____
10. An animal _____
11. Something you would say if you forgot something you would really miss! _____
12. A word that means the same thing as big _____
13. An action _____
14. Something you would name a pet _____
15. A place _____
16. An action _____
17. A funny phrase you would say if you were saying goodbye to someone _____



MY NEW YEAR'S GOALS!

I couldn't believe it! It was finally the year (1) _____. I couldn't wait for all of my biggest and craziest dreams to come true. After all, at the age of (2) _____ I had a lot of (3) _____ I wanted to complete. But before I could (4) _____ into my New Year's goals, I had to pause, think, and really be sure that I wasn't missing any (5) _____ items off of my list of goals. Let's read through them now!

1. Learn how to (6) _____ the ukulele.
2. Read (7) _____ books before February.
3. Practice my (8) _____ so I can become a professional.
4. Discover how to (9) _____ because it's the coolest thing ever.
5. Meet a (10) _____ so I can add them to my friend group.

(11) _____ Good thing I took the time to think! I almost forgot my most (12) _____ goal for this New Year! Are you ready for it?

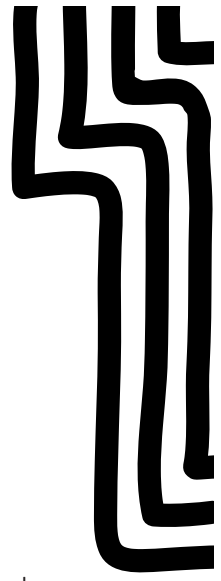
(13) _____ (14) _____ to his favorite (15) _____!!

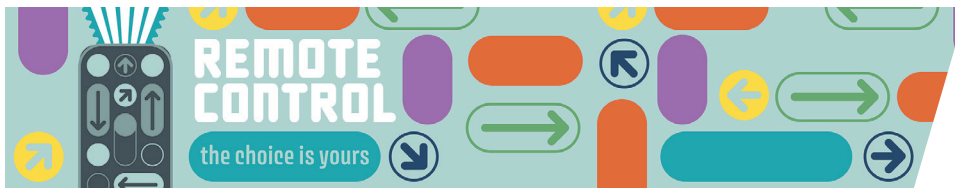
Shew! We saved the best one for last!

Well, it looks like we have read through all of my extremely important New Year's Goals! Taking the time to think helps us be more successful in what we say and do. I hope this inspires you to (16) _____, think, and write down some things you want to achieve in the year ahead!

(17) _____

THE END





TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No

Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."

2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Stop and Go" from *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* and "Even When" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Fill the Honey Pot
Application Activity: Keep the Balance
Memory Verse Activity: Know When to Stop
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to show each kid what areas of their lives they need to know when to stop. Pray that kids would understand that too much of a good thing is actually a bad thing. Pray that they would know that God wants good things for us and an unlimited supply of good things can actually be a really bad thing.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to form a circle. (Or have the earliest arriving kids tap the ball between themselves.)
- Encourage the kids to keep the ball rolling without stopping by lightly tapping it with their foot around the circle to each other.
- Direct the kids to pick up the ball and start it again if it stops rolling.
- Continually remind the kids to lightly tap the ball with their foot and not kick it.
- Ask: What do you wish you never had to stop doing? (Start by sharing your own crazy answer like, "I wish I never had to stop eating brownies!")

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Play "Simon Says" with your group.
- Tell the group that you are Simon and they obey your instructions but only when you say, "Simon says" prior to giving out the instructions.
- Kids who follow your instructions when you don't say "Simon says" before giving them, will be out.
- Say "Simon says" for most instructions, but leave it out every once in a while.
- Give the kids instructions like:
 - Jump!
 - Touch your right ear.
 - Spin around three times.
 - Hop to the right (or left).
 - High five someone.
 - Hug yourself.
- Try to get faster and faster with your instructions to make the game more challenging to follow.
- Lead the game for the first couple of rounds, then allow kids to take turns being Simon.
- Make sure every kid who would like to gets the chance to be Simon.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That game always gets me! It can be challenging to know when to stop when you are so focused on the next move Simon gives you, isn't it? **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we'll learn how it can sometimes be hard to stop in our everyday lives, too."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

MADE TO MOVE

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



*** 1. FILL THE HONEY POT**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking tapes squares on floor, ping pong balls in utility buckets

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Assign each team to one of the tape squares and instruct them to stand near their team's square.
- Dump the ping pong balls on the floor, outside of the squares.
- Hold up the utility bucket so the kids can see how big it is.
- Explain to the kids that their goal is to collect enough balls to fill their honey pot (bucket) but not so many that the bucket overflows.
- They'll gather the ping pong balls and put them in their team's square, estimating how many balls will fill the bucket without overflowing it.
- When you say, "Go," kids begin collecting the balls and gathering them in their team's square.
- After the ball-collecting is finished, give each team a bucket.
- Instruct them to put all of the ping pong balls from their team's square in their bucket.
- If the bucket overflows, their team loses.
- If both teams did not overflow their buckets, the team who has the most balls in their bucket without it overflowing, wins!
- Play another round (or two) if time allows, then review today's Bible story with the questions below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

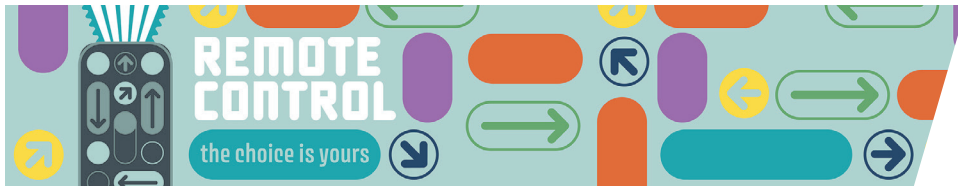
Review questions:

1. What delicious treat ended up being too much in our story today? (*honey*)
2. What do you think God wants us to learn from this verse? (*Answers will vary.*)
3. What are some ways we can know when it's the right time to stop something? (*Prompt kids with more questions: How do we know when to stop playing with a friend? How do we know when to stop eating ice cream? Answers will vary.*)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Just like too much honey turned out to be a bad thing in our story today, too many ping pong balls sent our buckets over the edge! What are some examples of things that are not necessarily bad but can turn into bad if we have too much?"

"I'll give an example first. My phone is a good thing. It allows me to keep in touch with friends and family. It lets me reach someone if I need help. It gives me information when I have questions I need answered. Phones are a good thing. But too much time on my phone can be bad. I could easily spend more time on my phone than with my friends and family when I get lost in time



WEEK
FIVE
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 1. FILL THE HONEY POT, CONTINUED)

playing my favorite game. So, what are some good things that you can have too much of? *(Allow time for answers.)*

“Today’s story didn’t say we shouldn’t have any honey at all. It said to eat ‘just enough.’ What are some examples of how we can have ‘just enough’ of the good things you just shared? *(Allow time for answers.)* Those are all great examples! I would challenge each one of you to try out having ‘just enough’ of one of the things we talked about today. God has created us to have fun and enjoy good things. That’s why it’s so important to **know when to stop.**”

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. KEEP THE BALANCE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Cornstarch bags, water bottles, bowl, baby wipes, trash bag, (optional) gloves for leader and hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage your group to sit in a circle.
- Hold the bowl.
- Place the trash bag under your bowl in case there is any mess.
- Give half of your kids a water bottle and the other half a bag with cornstarch.
- Tell kids that they get to make slime today! The key to making good slime is balancing the ingredients—knowing when to add and when to stop.
- Invite two kids with cornstarch to pour the contents of their bag into your bowl.
- Ask two kids with water bottles to pour a few drops of water into the bowl.
- Use your hands to mix the cornstarch and water together to create your slime. (Use gloves if you would like.)
- The slime is the right consistency when it is thick enough to pick up and form into a ball but thin enough to seep through your fingers and drip back into the bowl.
- If your slime is too thick, invite another kid with water to add a little bit at a time to your mix.
- If your slime is too thin, invite a kid with cornstarch to add a little bit of their contents to the mix.
- Keep working with the mixture, adding contents to try to find the right balance.
- Make sure you only add in a little bit of water or cornstarch at a time!
- (Optional) Once you find the right consistency, allow your kids to feel the slime in the bowl. (Use hand sanitizer first if needed.)
- Use baby wipes or a nearby sink to clean hands and any mess.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Even though both water and cornstarch are good and necessary for the recipe, you have to know when to stop adding them. Everything has its limits—even slime—and we have to learn to balance. We learned that our recipe only needs a specific amount of both cornstarch and water or it will turn too watery or too hard. It will result in slime that is not usable, and that's no fun!

"Too much of a good thing in our own lives can end up giving us a different result than what we initially desired. When we eat too many sweets, it may taste good in the moment but it will end up giving us a stomachache. When we spend too much time watching TV or playing video games, it could cause us to miss out on stuff with our siblings or friends.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

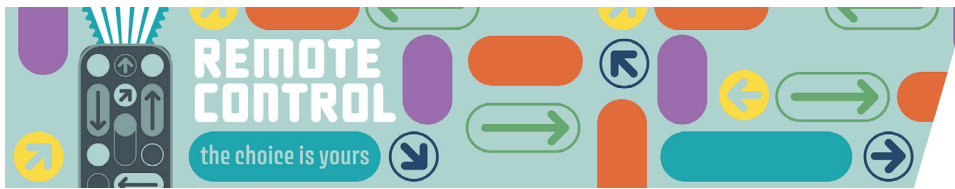
"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



WEEK
FIVE
JANUARY 2022

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. KEEP THE BALANCE, CONTINUED)

“When have you had too much of a good thing? What happened as a result? *(Allow time to share stories. If they have trouble thinking through examples, recall the ‘good things’ they talked about in the review activity. Let them talk through what could happen if they have too much of any of those things.)*”

“When we **know when to stop**, it allows us to make the most of what we do! When we figured out how to balance the ingredients and learned when to stop, it allowed us to experience the fullness of fun with our slime!” **[Make it Personal]** *(Share an age-appropriate personal story of when you decided to stop something before it turned into too much.)*

MADE TO PLAY

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



3. KNOW WHEN TO STOP
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, buzzer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Look up the memory verse, 2 Peter 1:3a, and read the verse together multiple times.
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle together.
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Instruct the first kid to start reciting the memory verse. (You may have some kids who haven't been to Small Group much this month and therefore don't know the verse as well as others. Open the Bible to the verse and set it where kids can easily move toward it and reference it if they need.)
- At some point, as the kid recites the memory verse, ring the buzzer.
- When the buzzer sounds, direct the kid talking to stop.
- Have the kid on the right pick up the memory verse where the first kid left off and keep it going.
- Sound the buzzer as frequently and infrequently as you want!
- Invite the kids to chime in and help their friends remember the words to the memory verse if they struggle.
- Continue playing the game as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Awesome job of remembering our memory verse and keeping it going! It was funny to watch everyone in suspense, not knowing when I would sound the buzzer to stop. Just like I had the power to stop someone from continuing the verse, you have the power to **know when to stop**, too."

"Our verse tells us that God's power has given us everything we need to live the life He wants us to live, which includes knowing when to stop before we have too much of a good thing. This game is a good reminder for us to press 'stop' anytime we need to change direction and show self-control. I am so glad that we got to press play on self-control this month and learn how to make wise choices!"

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Ping pong balls, permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a ping pong ball and permanent marker.
- Instruct the kids to write "stop" on their ball.
- Encourage the kids to take their ball with them to remind them that they can **know when to stop**.
- Close your group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Should've Said No
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for the time we got together this month to learn how to have self-control. We know that You want us to have self-control because ultimately You want us to get the most out of the good things You created. Please give us the power of Your Spirit to help us **know when to stop**, so we can live our lives the way You designed. Remind us that when You do ask us to stop, it's not because You're trying to keep us from fun, but You are helping us enjoy the gifts You've given. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their ping pong balls. Prompt them to share why their balls say "stop" and ask them what tasty treat they learned about in today's story (honey). Remind them to find balance and **know when to stop** the good things they get to have this week!

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

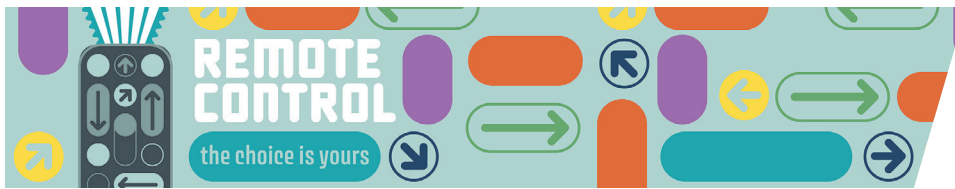
"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. **(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Ball

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. FILL THE HONEY POT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Ping pong balls; enough to fill three utility buckets
- Three utility buckets
- Masking tape
 - Tape two, four-foot squares on the floor of your space.

2. KEEP THE BALANCE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Box of cornstarch
- Five plastic zipper sandwich bags
 - Distribute the cornstarch evenly inside the sandwich bags.
- Five mini disposable water bottles (with water inside)
- Large mixing bowl
- Baby wipes
- Plastic trash bag
- (Optional) Disposable gloves for leader and hand sanitizer

3. TELEPHONE TALK

[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:

- Buzzer
- Bibles

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Ping pong balls from "Fill the Honey Pot" Activity
- Permanent markers; one for each kid

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2022, Week 5

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Should've Said No (Too Much of a Good Thing) • *Proverbs 25:16*

Today's Bottom Line: Know when to stop.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (25 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship ("Your Way" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story

Closer / Bottom Line

Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Carry Over

Application Activity: Sweet Self-Control

Memory Verse Activity: Stop Bop

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (20 minutes) • Worship (5 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Today's Bible Story: Should've Said No (Too Much of a Good Thing) • *Proverbs 25:16*

Today's Bottom Line: Know when to stop.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

Leader enters, carrying the stop sign.

OPENER

LEADER: "Hello, everyone! STOP what you're doing and listen up, because you don't want to miss out on any of the fun we have planned for today. Each week, I've pulled up our handy-dandy remote control

...

SLIDE: Remote Control

". . . and we've played a game based on something we can do with a remote. Any guesses as to what button we're pushing with today's game?

SLIDE: Remote Control: Stop

(Hold up the stop sign.) "That's right—stop! Stop is an important feature on a remote control for sure. And it's definitely something we need if we want self-control.

"If you want to [**Basic Truth**] **make the wise choice**, you can't just say or do whatever you feel like doing right there in that moment. You've got to stop *(hold up the stop sign)* and think first. THEN choose. That's not always easy. But remember, God is always there to help us choose self-control.

"I've got a great way for us to practice our stopping skills. Everyone get on your feet and get ready for a little bit of Freeze Dance!

"When the music plays, we'll all do our best moves—but keep an eye on this handy-dandy stop sign. *(Reference the stop sign.)* When it goes up, you need to stop dancing. *(Demonstrate.)* But that doesn't necessarily mean the music will stop, or that I'll stop dancing either. So you need to pay close attention! If you keep dancing even after the stop sign goes up, I'll call you out; and you'll need to sit down for that round. We'll keep playing until we have just one dancing person left.

"All right, let's do this. It's time to DANCE!

AUDIO: Super-upbeat dance music

Demonstrate some fun, silly dancing so the kids feel free to be goofy, too. From time to time, hold up the stop sign. Start out by matching it with your actions—i.e. actually stop both the music and your dancing when you hold up the sign. But then start tricking the kids a bit, sometimes keeping the music on or continuing to dance yourself, even when you hold up the stop sign. Sometimes you can keep the music going AND keep dancing when you hold up the sign.

Note: If someone else is playing the music, make sure they know the plan of when to stop (or not stop) the music.

Call kids out if they keep dancing after you hold up the sign (“[Kid’s name], you’re out for now—but those were some amazing moves!”). If you have some really attentive kids who aren’t getting out, try holding up the stop sign at faster intervals.

Alternatively, if everyone gets out pretty quickly and time allows, play another round so everyone gets another chance.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

“Nice dancing AND nice stopping, everyone! Let’s keep moving now as we sing and worship God together. This time, we won’t stop until the music stops!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “We can turn to God whenever we need strength and wisdom. As we read in Proverbs 2:6, ‘The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.’ (NIRV) With God’s help, we can choose to stay in control and stay out of trouble. Let’s sing out and tell God, ‘I want to live Your way.’”

VIDEO: “Your Way” Dance Moves Music Video

“I love to sing and dance with all of you! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

VIDEO: Host Intro

VIDEO: 252 Story

VIDEO: Host Outro

CLOSER

SLIDE: Theme Background

LEADER: “We need to learn to stop before we overdo it. And we don’t have to wait for someone to TELL us to stop. With God’s help, we can keep control in any situation.

“Here’s what we need to remember today.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

LEADER: [Bottom Line] Know when to stop. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Know when to stop.”

LEADER: “Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us all that we need to follow You and live our lives with self-control. We know that with Your help, we can have ‘just enough.’ We can keep from overdoing it. We can keep from having too much of a good thing. Please show us Your wisdom and help us to **[Bottom Line] know when to stop.** We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS

LEADER: “God’s Spirit can give us wisdom and help us stay in control of the choices we make. And of course, we’ve also got each other! We can help each other **[Bottom Line] know when to STOP.** (*Hold up the stop sign.*) Let’s talk about that some more in Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

VIDEO: Theme Loop

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (20 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (5 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Stop sign (a real handheld sign, or the "Stop Sign" symbol printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF and attached to a craft stick or ruler)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Super-upbeat dance music (ideally, more than one song)

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Loop Video
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Remote Control Slide
- Remote Control: Stop Slide
- "Stop Sign" (printable)

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides and videos and have them ready to use.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- If you'd like to make a stop sign instead of buying one, print the "Stop Sign" symbol on cardstock and mount it onto a craft stick or ruler.
- If someone other than the Leader will play music, explain the idea behind the Freeze Dance game—that sometimes the music should stop when the Leader holds up the stop sign . . . but not always.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Large Group Visuals:

- "Your Way" Dance Moves Music Video

What You Do:

- Download the video and have it ready to use.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader

Large Group Visuals:

- Host Intro Video
- *252 Story Video*
- Host Outro Video

What You Do:

- Download the videos and have them ready to use.