

252[®] Groups

Group Experiences for K-5th Grades

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Statement of Faith

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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Send Me on My Way

Bible Story: Send Me on My Way (Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it seems impossible.

Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NirV)

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for kindergarten–1st grade Small Groups this week:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (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

- An offering container

2. Possible or Impossible?

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

- Create two signs for the kids to reference
 - Possible sign with a picture of thumbs up
 - Impossible sign with a picture of thumbs down
- Small bean bag (*optional if movement is a concern*)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (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. Up in the Air

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

- Print the "Jesus Cutouts" Activity Page and cut out; one for each kid
- Print the "Disciples Cutouts" Activity Page and cut out; one for each kid
- Paper clips; two for each kid
- Thin metal cookie sheets; one for every three to five kids
- Magnets; two for each cookie sheet
- Crayons or markers
- Tape
- Zip-top baggies; one for each kid
- Bible
- Visual timer
- **NOTE:** Make sure to test all cookie sheets and magnets to make sure they will work. See activity instructions.

*** 2. That Seems Impossible!****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

- Bandanas with a knot tied in them; one for every two or three kids
- Two decks of cards
- Three or four preschool puzzles (with 15 or fewer pieces)
- Timer

3. You've Got to Move It**[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

- Bibles

Prayer**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

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

- No supplies needed

Additional Resources:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

Send Me on My Way

Bible Story: Send Me on My Way (Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it seems impossible.

Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 (NirV)*

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

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

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray especially for kids who might be in hard situations where it seems like resolution and peace are impossible. Ask God to give them strength to keep moving forward, and to help them figure out what that means for them. Pray that God would use you to encourage those kids today. Pray for all kids to begin to understand the importance of determination and why God wants us to finish what we start.

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

What You Do:

- Welcome kids, and show them where to place their offerings.
- Tell kids that throughout this activity they have to constantly be moving some part of their body while staying in one spot.
 - They can walk in place, pump their arms, wiggle a finger, nod their head, or whatever they wish.
 - If they get tired of one movement, they can start doing another.
- While kids move, ask questions about their week, about last month's Life App, etc.:
 - What was the best thing that happened to you last week?
 - What's the silliest thing you saw or did last week?
 - How were you a good friend last week?
 - Last month we learned about humility. How have you put others first lately?
- As needed, encourage kids to keep moving.

2. Possible or Impossible?

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

What You Need: “possible” (thumbs up) and “impossible” (thumbs down) signs, small bean bag (optional if movement is a concern)

What You Do:

- Designate one side of your area as “possible” and the other side as “impossible” by placing signs labeled “Possible” with a thumbs up and “Impossible” with a thumbs down.
 - Ask kids what each word means and check for understanding.
- Tell kids to gather in the middle of your space.
- Read an item from the list below.
 - You can touch your elbow with the hand on the same arm. Possible or impossible?
 - You can stay up past midnight. Possible or impossible?
 - A person can run faster than a car. Possible or impossible?
 - God can make a sick person healthy again. Possible or impossible?
 - An eagle can fly to the moon. Possible or impossible?
 - You can touch your nose with your tongue. Possible or impossible?
 - Some trees can grow taller than the Empire State Building [or the tallest structure in your town/city]. Possible or impossible?
 - Snails can sleep for three years. Possible or impossible? *(This one is actually possible!)*
 - Jesus came back from the dead. Possible or impossible?
 - *NOTE: Feel free to add some of your own that relate to things your kids are interested in.*
- Kids run to the possible or impossible side, based on their answer. *(Note: If movement is a concern, provide each child with a small beanbag to toss in one direction of the other. Gather and return them after each question.)*
- Kids will likely end up on both sides. Briefly discuss why they chose the side they did but you don’t have to convince them that either side is correct.

What You Say:

“Some of those things were possible—they could really happen. And some of them were impossible. And still others were possible, but they SEEMED impossible. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear more about things that seem impossible.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 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.

1. Up in the Air**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

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

What You Need: “Jesus Cutouts” and “Disciples Cutouts” (Activity Pages), paper clips, cookie sheets, magnets, markers or crayons, tape, zip-top baggies, Bible, visual timer

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Jesus cutout and a disciples cutout to color.
- Help kids tape a paper clip to the back of each cutout.
- Divide kids into groups, depending on the amount of cookie sheets you have.
- Show kids how to re-enact the story on the cookie sheet:
 - Place the disciples cutout in the bottom right corner of the cookie sheet, and stick a magnet on the back of the cookie sheet to hold it in place.
 - Repeat with the Jesus cutout in the bottom left corner.
 - Move the magnet on the back of the Jesus cutout so Jesus “walks” toward the disciples.
 - Move the magnet so Jesus goes up into the “air.”
 - Provide hand-over-hand help with reenactment, as needed.
- Designate one kid from each group to re-enact the story first.
- Read Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8, and Luke 24:50-52.
- Repeat as many times as needed so each kid gets a turn with the cookie sheet.
- After a few times through, if you want to, let the kids retell the story themselves. Set a visual timer to countdown the time to clean up and move on to the next activity.
- Give each kid a baggie to put their cutouts in so they can take them home.

What You Say:

“This was a fun way to retell the story of how Jesus talked to His disciples and then went up in the air to heaven! Take your cutouts home with you so you can retell the story to your family this week.

“It had to have been AMAZING for the disciples to see Jesus go up toward heaven! But they were probably also wondering how they would be able to carry out the task He gave them to tell the whole world about Him. It would have seemed impossible! But you know what? They kept going. They told as many people as they could about Jesus.

“God wants us to keep going, too, even when something seems absolutely impossible. Maybe there’s somebody at school who’s mean to you, and it seems impossible to keep going back to school and dealing with them day after day. Or maybe your grandma is really sick, and it seems impossible to keep going back to the hospital to see her when she’s so sick. But we can show determination and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**”

*** 2. That Seems Impossible!****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

What You Need: Knotted bandanas, decks of cards, preschool puzzles, timer

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to do some seemingly impossible tasks.
- You can have each kid do all of the tasks one at a time, or you can have all tasks going at once with different kids doing different tasks.
- Kids can work individually or in teams. Set it up any way you wish, depending on your time and space.
 - Knotted bandanas: Kids will untie the knot.
 - Decks of cards: Kids will pick up an entire deck of scattered cards.
 - Preschool puzzles: Kids will put together a puzzle.
- If kids have trouble doing the tasks, provide hand-over-hand help and/or let them try again until they can accomplish it.
- If kids can easily do the tasks, challenge them to do it with their eyes closed or time them to see if they can do it in a challenging amount of time. The point is to make it seem impossible, though it's actually doable if they just keep going and trying.

What You Say:

“Wow! Those things might have seemed impossible, but you kept going, and that’s what matters! Sometimes there are things in life like that. Maybe you think you will NEVER be able to tie your shoes! But you know what? If you keep trying, one of these days, you’ll get it! Or some of you might think that reading is absolutely impossible. It’s not! God can help you have determination and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about something you did that seemed impossible at the time, but you kept going, and God helped you do it. Make sure to keep it kid friendly.)

3. You've Got to Move It

[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: Bibles

What You Do:

- Help kids look up Galatians 6:9 in their Bibles using the following tips:

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Galatians* at the top of the page as you say "Galatians" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 6 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 6 for the little 9; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st 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 Galatians in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Galatians starts with the letters G-A-L. When the kids find Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Help the kids find the page. When they find it, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 6.

- Say the verse together a few times.
- Help kids come up with appropriate motions for the verse.
- Point out key words such as "not," "tired," and "time," that can easily be translated into motions.
- Say the verse with the motions several times.

What You Say:

"You kept going and didn't give up when you were finding the verse, coming up with the motions, and REMEMBERING the motions! God wants us to keep going no matter what. But you know what? We don't have to do it all on our own. God will help us! He helps us **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**"

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Kids take turns praying the Bottom Line for the person on their left: “God, help [kid’s name] keep going even when it seems impossible.”
- Prompt kids with the words as needed, or say a phrase and let them repeat it.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“God, thank You so much for helping us. We know You can do anything, and You can help us **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.** You’re so awesome, God! Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about their Jesus and disciples cutouts and what they can do with them at home.