

TWO

WEEK

SMALL GROUP

YEAR

D-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I can trust God's plan, even when it's hard. JOSEPH IN JAIL GENESIS 39-40

MEMORY VERSE

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD." JEREMIAH 29:11, NLT

KEY QUESTION

Who has a plan for you?

BOTTOM LINE

God has a plan for me.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

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** Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive. In charge Planned Stacking Hard Puzzle

LARGE GROUP



WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways "Really Awesome Plan"; "God Loves Me Specially" Bible Story Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25 MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. All In! What Happened Next? Ice Cream Toss Moving Plans Sundae Scoop Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home Parent Cue Card (print or email) Parent Cue App



WORSHIP **PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES**

SOCIAL

MADE TO MOVE

PRELUDE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

> TODAY'S **BIBLE STORY**

I can trust God's plan, even when it's hard. JOSEPH IN JAIL **GENESIS 39–40**

MEMORY VERSE

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1. IN CHARGE

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO: **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Have the children line up in a single file line behind you.

GROUPS

HOME

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Tell the children that you are "in charge," and they must follow you as the leader and mimic what you do. Lead the children around the room while marching. Choose a child to be the new leader and "in charge." Continue with the activity by allowing all of the children a turn to be "in charge."

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's march around the room! I am your leader, and I am IN CHARGE! Let's Go!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Follow me. I am in charge! (*Do activity.*) Great job! Keep marching! (Continue the activity.) Let's have a new leader who is IN CHARGE! (Choose a child.) [Child's name] will be our leader now! (Child's name) is IN CHARGE." (Finish activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You are all awesome at being in charge! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about someone who was IN CHARGE! Our Bible story sounds so exciting! I cannot wait!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by telling the children that you are in charge and lead them to the story area.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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2. PLANNED STACKING

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic eggs and mittens or socks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Give the children a pair of mittens or socks to wear. Separate the plastic eggs and put them on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to stack the egg halves, flat side on the table top, one on top of the other like stacked ice cream scoops. They may need to help each other. As they work, explain that you have a plan for stacking, even though it's hard. Make sure they take turns so everyone has a chance to stack the egg pieces. Be sure each child has a clean pair of mittens or socks.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Collect all the mittens/socks and plastic eggs for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let's gather around the table. Do you see these egg pieces? Let's pretend these are scoops of ice cream. And because ice cream is cold, let's protect our hands with these." (Hold up the mittens.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Okay, let's stack! I have a plan, but I need your help. Let's stack one scoop at a time. It might be hard, but we can help each other and stack them together. Make sure you take turns, so everyone has a chance to stack!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was hard, but you followed the plan. Great job, friends! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a very important plan, and it was hard, too."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out some challenging ways to travel. Examples include: very, very small baby steps, knees as high as you can get them, side steps, sliding one foot to the other; walk backward VERY slowly.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. HARD PUZZLE

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool puzzles with template boards

NOTE: Be sure the puzzles are different with different colors and shapes. If possible, try to have puzzles that are about three different subjects, for example: transportation, food, and animals.

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BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Remove all of the pieces from the puzzles and place them in a pile together. Place the three puzzle templates near the pile.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Challenge the children to work together to sort the pieces and decide what pieces go with what puzzle.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to then put the three puzzles together. Sanitize puzzles before passing to new group of children.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We get to play with puzzles today, but it looks like it might be a hard job! We will have to work together!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Oh, no! It looks like all of our pieces are mixed together! (*Point.*) We will have to sort the pieces before we can put our puzzles together. It looks hard, but I know we can do it!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Way to go! You did a great job! You did a hard job. We'll hear a Bible story, today, about how God always has a plan, even if it's hard!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story time by naming hard things as you walk to the story area. Examples include: learning numbers, taking care of pets, cleaning your room.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

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1. ALL IN!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: A baby pool and cotton balls or pom poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the baby pool in your activity area and pour the cotton balls or pom poms into the pool

to make a "bowl of ice cream."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children to follow you as you walk around the perimeter of the baby pool, repeating the verse together. When you get to the end, say, "All In!" Let the children jump into the "bowl of ice cream" then back out. Repeat as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pull the baby pool off the side, out of reach of children for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me! Let's walk around our bowl of ice cream and say our memory verse together. Then I'll say, 'All in!' and you can jump into the ice cream bowl! But be very careful to not bump any friends. Ready?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our verse together, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, Jeremiah 29:11. Great job. Everybody ready? All in!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make sure all of our ice cream makes it back into the bowl. Thanks, friends! Our verse reminds us that God has a plan for each of us! Tell me, **who has a plan for you? God has a plan for me."**



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

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2. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: "Big Story Pictures" and "Little Story Pictures" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, and smiley face stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Big Story Pictures" onto cardstock, one set for the Leader. Copy "Little Story Pictures" onto cardstock and cut apart, one set per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: The leader will use the "Big Story Pictures" and the children will use the "Little Story Pictures" as they put the story pictures in a row as they happened in the story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey! I want everyone to come sit in front of me. I have something fun for us to do!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, each of you needs your very own story cards. (*Pass out the story cards.*) Now, we're going to put our story cards in the order they happened in the story.

(Hold up the picture where Potiphar is happy with Joseph.) "Look for this picture and lay it in front of you. This is Potiphar. He's smiling at Joseph because Joseph always worked hard and did what Potiphar told him to do. What happened next?

(Lay the picture down facing the children so they can see it left to right. Hold up the picture of angry Potiphar with Joseph.) "Look for this picture and lay it in front of you. This is Potiphar again, only this time he has an angry face. Someone told him that Joseph had done something wrong, even though he didn't do anything wrong. Potiphar got mad and sent Joseph to jail! What happened next?

(Lay the picture down beside the first picture, facing the children, so they can see it left to right. Hold up the picture of Joseph in jail.) "Now, look for this picture and lay it in front of you. This is Joseph in jail. It was a very hard time for Joseph, but he still trusted that God loved him and had a plan for him. So, instead of being mad or sad, Joseph helped everyone he could while he was in jail.

(Lay the picture down beside the second picture, facing the children, so they can see it left to right. Hold up the 'God has a plan for me' card.) "Okay, we have this card left. Do you see a picture? No. But it does have some very important words. This card says, 'God has a plan for me.' Lay it

	Ice Cream undae	WEEK TWO SEPTEMBER 2020	SMALL GROUP 3-5 YEAR -OLDS			
PRELUDE	SOCIAL	WORSHIP	STORY	GROUPS	HOME	
	CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES					

(2. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?, CONTINUED) down at the end of your row of story pictures. I have smiley face stickers for you to put on this card." (Give each child smiley face stickers to go around the words on their last card.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Look at your story pictures! You put them in the order that they happened in the story! Way to go! Joseph's story shows us that we can trust God's plan, even when it's hard. God loves you, and He has a plan for you! Who has a plan for you? God has a plan for me."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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3. ICE CREAM TOSS [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Floor tape, cardboard box, cake ice cream cones or small plastic cups, ping pong balls, and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set the flat box on the floor of your activity area. Evenly space the cones/cups inside the box. Use masking tape to secure them to the bottom. Mark an "X" on the floor about a foot away from the box.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children line up behind the "X." Hand the first child in line the ping pong balls to toss (*underhanded*) and try to land them inside a cone. After taking three tries, the first child will retrieve the ping pong balls and hand them to the next friend in line. Repeat until everyone has a turn. Be sure to sanitize ping pong balls between each use or have multiple sets so they can be washed later.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Set the box and ping pongs balls aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, do you see the ice cream cones here in the box? What's missing? (*Pause.*) Yes, the ice cream! Let's toss the ice cream into the cones. We'll line up here behind this 'X,' and each of you will have a turn to toss a scoop into the cone. It might seem hard. Give it your best try. After you toss each scoop, grab them from the box and hand them to the next friend in line."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so fun! But it was a lot harder than it looked. The plan was to toss the ice cream, and you followed the plan, even when it was hard. God has a plan for us, and we can trust Him, even when it's hard. **Who has a plan for you? God has a plan for me.**"



 PRELUDE
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 CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

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4. MOVING PLANS

cardstock, scissors, and timer/phone

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: "Movement Cards" Activity Pages,

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Movement Cards" onto cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group. Shuffle

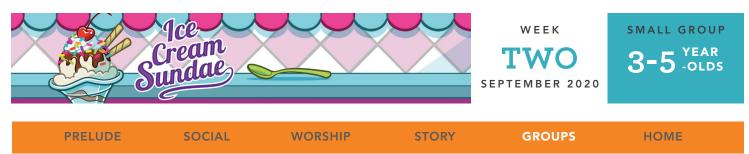
the "Movement Cards."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around your activity area. Draw a movement card from the stack and lead the group in that movement for ten seconds. Call for everyone to freeze when the ten seconds are up then select another friend to draw a card. Continue until you've drawn all of the cards and completed the movements.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me. Everyone spread out a little so you have plenty of room. I have some cards here with different movements. This is our plan to follow: I will pick a card and show us the movement, then we'll all perform that movement for ten seconds. At the end of then seconds, I'll say, 'FREEZE!' What does 'FREEZE' mean? (*Pause.*) That's right, you stop and stand completely still. Then, I'll draw another card, and we'll keep going. Are you ready? Here we go."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Whew, that was fun—and tiring! You did a great job of following the plan on each of these cards. God has a plan for each of us, and we can always trust that His plan is the best. **Who has a plan for you? God has a plan for me."**



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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5. SUNDAE SCOOP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: "The Scoop" Activity Page, cardstock,

crayons, cotton balls, red pom poms, glitter, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "The Scoop" onto cardstock, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Together, read the words on the scoops and sundae dish. Encourage children to stretch out the cotton balls a little bit and glue to the top of the ice cream for whipped cream, then glue a red pom pom to the top of the cotton for a cherry. Write child's name on their paper.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how God had a plan for Joseph and God has a plan for us.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me. We heard another story about Joseph today and how God had a plan for him. God has a plan for you and me, too!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at your paper, what do you see? (*Pause.*) That's right! It's an ice cream sundae! Can you read the words with me? (*Point* to the words on the first scoop.) God has . . . (*point to the words on the second* scoop) a plan . . . (*point to the words on the third scoop*) for me. Under the ice cream dish, it tells you where to find our story about Joseph in the Bible. Let's color in our ice cream. (*Pause.*) Wait! Ice cream sundaes usually have whipped cream on top of the ice cream. Do you see anything you can use for whipped cream? (*Pause.*) The cotton balls are white like whipped cream. Watch, when you pull them apart a little . . . (*demonstrate*) ta-dah! Do that, then glue it to the top of your ice cream scoops. (*Pause.*) Great! What about a cherry on top? Do you see anything you could use as a cherry? (*Pause.*) These red pom poms will work great! Glue a cherry to the top of the whipped cream. (*Pause.*) Super job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story, Joseph trusted God's plan. Joseph worked for a man named Potiphar and did whatever Potiphar told him to do. One day, somebody said Joseph did something very wrong! Joseph didn't do it, but he was put in jail! Joseph knew God loved him. And Joseph knew God was always with him. So, even though things were hard, Joseph trusted God's plan. We can trust God even when things are hard because God loves us, God's with us, and God's got a plan for us! Who has a plan for you? God has a plan for me."



MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, let's pretend we're holding a broom and sweep back and forth like this (*demonstrate*) while we walk to our

small group spot. I wonder if Joseph ever used a broom when he worked for Potiphar? Maybe! Get your pretend brooms ready and follow me! (*Pretend you are sweeping as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"That was some good sweeping. Okay, let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children*.)

"Things didn't go so well for Joseph in our Bible story today. He worked hard and did the right thing, but Potiphar still put him in jail. Did Joseph give up, or did he keep trusting that God had a plan for him? (*Pause.*) Yes! Joseph trusted that God had a plan for him, even when he was in jail.

"The Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that God has a plan for you, and **God has a plan for me**, too! It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*)

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, Jeremiah 29:11. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say that together with the motions."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'For I know (point to head) the plans I have for you,' (march) says (hands to mouth like yelling) the Lord, (Point up) Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)." (Open your hands like a book.)

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "You sound awesome! (*high fives*) I want you to always remember that God loves you, and He has a plan for you. **Who has a plan for you?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "God has a plan for me!"

SGL: "That's right! And no matter what happens, you can trust that God loves you, and He has a plan for you.

"Okay, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES					

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Sometimes things are just hard, right? Maybe we have to clean our room or learn something new. Maybe we get really sick or we don't get to do something we want to do.

"Today, we're going to make a list of hard things—things that make you sad or mad, or things that you don't like to do but you have to do. So think about it, and when I say your name, I want you to tell me one thing that is hard. I will write down what you say in our prayer journal."

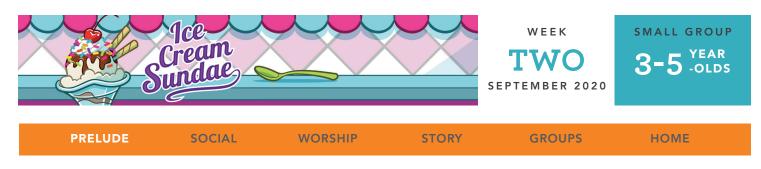
(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: "Thank you for doing this. Now, let's use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: "Dear God, thank You for (*name each child*). I know You have a plan for each of them, because you love them. I pray they will always trust that You have a plan for them. And when hard things happen like (*read the list the children made*), help them to wait on You, do the right thing, and trust in Your plan for them. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

1. IN CHARGE

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn WHAT YOU NEED:

No supplies needed.

2. PLANNED STACKING

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts **WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Plastic eggs
- Pairs of mittens or socks, one pair per child

3. HARD PUZZLE

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts **WHAT YOU NEED:**

• Three simple preschool puzzles with templates NOTE: Be sure the puzzles are different with different colors and shapes. If possible, try to have puzzles that are about three different subjects, for example: transportation, food, and animals.

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

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. ALL IN!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic baby pool
- Cotton balls and pom poms

2. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts **WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Big Story Pictures" Activity Page
- "Little Story Pictures" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Small smiley face stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Big Story Pictures" onto cardstock, one set for the Leader.
- Copy "Little Story Pictures" onto cardstock and cut apart, one set per child.

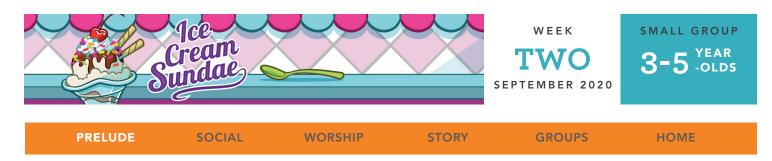
3. ICE CREAM TOSS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Flat, open carboard box (The lid to a box of copy paper works great.)
- Floor tape
- Three ping pong balls
- Three or four cake ice cream cones (flat bottoms) or small plastic cups



GETTING READY

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

• Making tape

NOTE: If you have a large class, consider offering two game set-ups—two flat boxes, two sets of cones/cups and ping pong balls.

4. MOVING PLANS [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Movement Cards" Activity Pages
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Timer or phone timer

WHAT YOU DO:

• Copy "Movement Cards" onto cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group.

5. SUNDAE SCOOP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing WHAT YOU NEED:

- "The Scoop" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Crayons
- Red pom poms
- Cotton balls
- Glitter
- Glue sticks
- WHAT YOU DO:
- Copy "The Scoop" onto cardstock, one per child.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card"
- Bible
- Fun-shaped pen, one per small group
- Journal, one per small group

WHAT YOU DO:

• Paper clip "Memory Verse Card" at Jeremiah 29:11 inside the Bible.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app.**