



PLAY WELL.  
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Ants Marching**  
Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had  
to work hard?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Suppose you can be trusted  
with something very little.  
Then you can also be trusted  
with something very large.**  
Luke 16:10a, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Responsibility—Showing you  
can be trusted with what is  
expected of you**

### 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 ("Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*, "Live Differently" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 5*, and "What A Beautiful Name" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 6*)  
Bible Story  
Prayer  
Bottom Line

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)  
GodTime devotional for kids  
Studio252.tv  
Parent Cue App



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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 some time to lift your group up to God in prayer. Ask God to give you the words to say and the questions to ask to help your kids recognize areas in their lives where they can work a bit harder as a way to honor Him with the way they live their lives. Pray that your kids would see that working hard is a way that they can live out their faith in Jesus.*

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## 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Ask kids to sit with an arm's distance between them in a circle.
- Choose one kid to stand in the middle.
- Direct the remaining kids to take turns asking simple questions of the kid in the middle.
- The only answer the kid in the middle can give is, "ANT" or "ANTS."
- The goal of the kids around the circle is to come up with questions that will make the kid in the middle laugh when they answer.
  - For example, kids might ask, "What did you eat for breakfast?" or, "What do you use to brush your teeth?"
  - Whoever succeeds in getting the kid in the middle to laugh switches places with them and a new round begins.
- Play several rounds, choosing other single words to use as answers.



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### MADE TO EXPLORE

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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Raisins

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a snack-size box of raisins and a squirt of hand sanitizer
- Challenge kids to compete with a partner in an “Ant Stacking” contest.
- Explain that they will have one minute to see which partner can create the tallest stack of ants (raisins).
- Let the winners compete until there is one final “Ant Champ.”
- Vary the competition by challenging partners to line up 20 ants or spell out the word, ANT in the least amount of time.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Ants Marching**  
Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Raisins may look like ants, but they certainly don’t act like them. (Or taste like them!) Ants are way more interesting than raisins. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and you’ll discover what I mean.**”

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you had to work hard?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

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



### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Hand sanitizer, note cards, pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Provide a pump of hand sanitizer to each kid before beginning this activity.
- Ask kids to secretly write down three jobs they consider hard.
- Two of the jobs should be jobs they have actually done, and one should be a job they have never done.
- Instruct them to put a star next to the job that they've never done.
- Clarify that all of the jobs must be ones that kids their age are capable of doing.
- The goal is to make it hard for the other kids to guess which jobs they've done and which they have not.
- Collect the cards and mix them together.
- Read a card and then let kids guess who they think the card belongs to and which job is the one they have never done.
- Award the following points to the guessers:
  - One point for guessing the identity of the writer
  - One point for guessing the job that was not true
- Award the following points to the kid whose card is being read.
  - One point for each incorrect guess of the writer
  - One point for each incorrect guess of the job that was not done by them

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### MADE TO IMAGINE

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



### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Origami Ant" Activity Page, pens, paper cut into an 8.5" x 8.5" square

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a sheet of origami paper and a pen.
- Instruct kids to write on one side of the paper as many words as they can think of in 30 seconds that describe a hard-working ant.
- Tell them to turn the paper over then give them another 30-seconds to write down words that describe a sluggard or lazy person.
- Invite kids to take turns saying one of their words at super-fast, ant speed or super slow, slug speed and see if the others can guess what they're saying.
- Give each kid copy of "Origami Ant" activity page.
- Lead kids in following the folding directions step-by-step.
- Read Proverbs 6:6-8 aloud.
- Take a few minutes to lead kids in reflecting on what Proverbs 6:6-8 means for them.
- Ask:
  - In what ways does hard work honor God?
  - Describe what it feels like to be lazy.
  - What's the difference between being lazy and simply taking a break for a while?
  - How does it feel to work hard?
  - What are some possible consequences of being lazy?
  - How can you tell if you're a hard worker or if you're lazy?
  - What are some lazy areas of your life that you can work on to be more responsible this week?

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### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- Describe a time when you had to work hard. What did you enjoy about that experience? What did you not enjoy?
- Why do you think some people are harder workers than others?
- If someone is super smart, does that mean they don't have to work as hard as others?
- Do you think it's possible to work TOO hard? Explain why or why not.
- What should be our motivation for working hard and not being lazy?
- When you're feeling lazy, what helps you to get going again?

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### MADE TO CREATE

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



### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, paper, pens

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Form groups of three or four kids.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Ask teams to look up and read 1 Corinthians 15:58 together.
- Challenge kids to work as a team to create a short chant, rap, cheer, poem, or song (they can add new words to a familiar tune) that encourages people to work hard.
- Instruct them to use some of the words and phrases from 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- When finished, let teams take turns sharing what they came up with.
- Ask:
  - What often makes hard work feel harder than it actually is?
  - What can make a hard job seem easy or fun?
  - When you need to work hard but don't feel like it, how might 1 Corinthians 15:58 help you face the task with a good attitude?

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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Checkers, checkerboard

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Remind kids that we were created with the ability to work. Some jobs are more fun than others but when we work hard because we are being responsible, we are pleasing God.
- Encourage them to ask God’s help to recognize laziness in themselves and to give them strength to do the work they need to do.
- Give each kid a checker piece.
- Tell kids to place their checker on the corner of the checkerboard that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence – “This week I need God’s help to work hard with everything I’ve got . . .”
  - at home (point to a corner)
  - at school (point to a corner)
  - on a team or group (point to a corner)
  - when I’m feeling lazy (point to a corner)
- Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they’d like about their choices.
- Encourage them to pray aloud or silently for themselves and others in the group.
- Close with prayer:

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Dear God, when we face a hard job this week, help us to call on You for help to do our best and not give up. Even when a job is super easy, we need Your help to not be lazy and put it off or do a bad job. Remind us that You are with us and that all that we do is seen by You. We want to honor You by being hard workers. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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## 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. JUST FOR FUN

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Snack-size box of raisins; one for each kid

### 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.)**

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**[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:**

- Note cards; one for each kid
- Pens; one for each kid

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible
- Pens

- Sheet of origami paper for each kid (or cut regular paper into an 8.5" x 8.5" square); one for each kid
- Print the "Origami Ant" Activity Page; one for each kid

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

**[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
- Pens

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

**[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Checkerboard; one for each small group
- Checker; one for each kid

#### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

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