

YOUNGER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

SOCIAL DISTANCING ACTIVITY ADJUSTMENTS

Unit 32 • Session 1

A Note for Leaders: Because each volume of *The Gospel Project for Kids* is written several months in advance of its suggested use dates and because it is available for purchase for three years, the activities in the leader guides do not reflect the current social distancing guideline requirements of many kids ministries. However, we want to do all we can to help you, especially in these challenging times, so we have provided activity adjustments as needed below. Please note that we cannot anticipate the various policies and needs of every ministry, so even these adaptations and replacements may need further revision for your context.

PRESS ON REPLACEMENT FOR MAGNET MAZE

Challenge kids to complete a physical feat. Demonstrate (or describe as a volunteer demonstrates) how to do a plank: Get into an upper push-up position on the floor. Lower as you bend your elbows 90 degrees and place your forearms on the floor to rest your weight on them. Your elbows should be directly beneath your shoulders. Keep your body in a straight line from your head to your feet.

Help kids get into the plank position and challenge them to hold the position for as long as they can.

Say: That was a hard task! Were you able to press on even when it started getting uncomfortable? Did you give up when it started to hurt? Today, we are going to learn that even though Peter knew he would face some hard situations—even prison—God provided for him. Because he believed in Jesus, Peter could keep going to share the good news of the gospel.

CULTURAL CREATORS ADJUSTMENT

Form two groups while remaining properly distanced (or you may work together as one large group). Challenge each group to imagine a pretend country. Encourage them to write down some things that characterize their country's culture. Prompt them with the following questions: *How do the people in your country greet each other? What is considered bad manners? How do most people get around? What is a typical house like? What are the schools like? What kinds of foods are most popular? What language do they speak?*

Ask each group to share about its new country. Then discuss how the people of one country might struggle if they visited the other country. (Example: Bowing might be a greeting in one country, but it might be considered bad manners in another country!)

ESCAPE THE GUARDS ADJUSTMENT

Select one child to be *Peter* and at least four children to be guards to stand, spaced out, in front of *Peter*. The rest of the children should stand on the other side of the room, remaining distanced from each other, to represent the church praying for *Peter*. While the guards close their eyes, *Peter* should try to quietly walk around them to escape to the church. But if a guard hears *Peter*, the guard should point to where *Peter* is without opening his eyes. If the guard correctly points to *Peter*, *Peter* goes back to prison. If the guard opens his eyes or is incorrect, he loses his spot as guard and joins the church. Allow *Peter* to try to escape two or three times, and then switch roles so other children can try.

OLDER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

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CULTURAL BLENDS ADJUSTMENT

Form two groups (or you may work together as one large group). Challenge each group to imagine a pretend country. Encourage them to write down some things that characterize their country's culture. Prompt them with the following questions: *How do the people in your country greet each other? What is considered bad manners? How do most people get around? What is a typical house like? What are the schools like? What kinds of foods are most popular? What language do they speak?*

Ask each group to share about its new country. Then discuss how the people of one country might struggle if they visited the other country. (Example: Making eye contact in one country might show you are listening to someone, but it might be considered rude or threatening in another country!)

UNTANGLE CHALLENGE REPLACEMENT FOR HUMAN KNOT

Supplies: short pieces of yarn or string

Before the session, tie moderately tight knots in each piece of yarn or string. The knots should be tight enough to challenge kids, but not too tight so that they will not come undone. Pass out a piece of knotted yarn or string to each kid. Set a timer for 60 seconds. Instruct kids to work to untangle their pieces before time runs out. When time is up, those who have made it clear or who have made the most progress wins.

Say: That wasn't easy! Your pieces were tangled together and it may have seemed impossible to be untangled. Imagine how Peter felt chained in prison. With guards beside him and at the entrance, it would take nothing short of a miracle for him to be released. And that's just what God did. **God rescued Peter from prison.**

