



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Change Your Mind
Matthew
Matthew 9:9-13

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Knowing Jesus changes
how you see yourself.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

How you made me is amazing and
wonderful. I praise you for that.
What you have done is wonderful.
I know that very well.
Psalm 139:14, NIRV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Individuality—Discovering who
you're meant to be so you
can make a difference

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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 ("Look at Me" from *Walk This Way* and
"Gloriously Free" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Jesus Said
Application Activity: Reflection Art
Memory Verse Activity: Sprinkle Dig
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 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 remind you and the kids that He wants to have a relationship with each of us. Pray that God will show them ways to be in a relationship with Him. Ask God to help you show the kids how their relationship with Jesus can change how they see themselves.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Change Your Mind
Matthew
Matthew 9:9-13

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- As the kids arrive, ask these questions, and share your answers, too!
 - What is something your best friend is really good at?
 - What is something your best friend is not so good at?
 - What is something an adult in your life is really good at?
 - What is something your school teacher is really good at?
 - What is something you are really good at?
 - What is something you are not so good at?

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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: "Hand sanitizer or sink, paper plates, Starbursts®; (optional) Play-Doh® instead of candy

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to wash or sanitize their hands.
- Give each kid a paper plate and six to eight candies.
- Direct the kids to unwrap their candy and use it to make a sculpture of themselves.
- They can warm the candy in their hands to make it more pliable, then stretch and shape it however they like.
- When finished, allow each kid to show off their sculpture.
- Invite the kids to eat their creations.
- Instruct the kids to wash or sanitize their hands again.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Change Your Mind
Matthew
Matthew 9:9-13

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your self-sculptures look awesome! But I bet they tasted even better!
[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear how we can see ourselves one way but God sees us a different way."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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MADE TO PLAY

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



1. JESUS SAID
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Look up Matthew 9:9-13 as a group.
- Invite kids who want to read out loud to take turns reading one verse at a time until the entire passage has been read.
- Help kids review the story by asking the following questions.
 - What was the name of the man Jesus saw at the beginning of the story? (*Matthew*)
 - What two words did Jesus say to Matthew when He saw him? (*Follow me.*)
 - Where did Jesus have dinner that night? (*Matthew's house*)
 - Who did Jesus have dinner with? (*tax collectors and sinners*)
 - Who did Jesus say He came for? (*sinners*)
 - Why was it surprising that Jesus wanted to eat dinner at Matthew's house? (*Because he was a tax collector which meant that people didn't like him or trust him; but by eating with Him, Jesus was saying to everyone that Matthew and people like him are valuable*)
- Direct the kids to stand in front of you.
- Play a game similar to Simon Says.
- Be the leader the first round.
- Tell kids that you will give instructions, but they should only do the action if you say, "Jesus said," before it.
- Give directions like Jesus said to do five jumping jacks; Clap your hands twice; Jesus said to march in place; etc.
- Direct the kids to sit if they do the action without "Jesus said" before it.
- Play several rounds and invite a different kid to be the leader each round. (*Encourage self-control and participation by telling kids you can only pick those who have "earned" the right to be the leader.*)

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"We know that the people who lived during this time did NOT like tax collectors. They especially didn't like Matthew because he was Jewish and a tax collector. That meant he collected money from his own people to give to the Roman government. They REALLY didn't like Matthew. Which meant Matthew probably didn't like himself much either. Have you ever done something that made you not like yourself very much? I know I have.

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time in your life when you didn't like yourself because of something you did. This could be a time when you were a bully, weren't kind to someone, or were disrespectful to your parents. Talk about how you knew it was wrong but you did it anyway and how badly you felt. Share how even though Jesus knows you've done wrong things, He loves you.)



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. JESUS SAID, CONTINUED)

“When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, I bet Matthew couldn’t believe that Jesus wanted him as a follower. Did Jesus know what Matthew did as a job? Of course He did. He’s Jesus. Jesus showed Matthew that He loved him even though a lot of other people didn’t. Jesus LOVED Matthew, even when he didn’t love himself. That changed Matthew forever. He learned to love himself because of how Jesus loved him. Don’t ever forget that **knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**”

MADE TO CREATE

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



***2. REFLECTION ART**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Reflection Art" Activity Pages, crayons, markers or colored pencils, plastic adhesive mirror sheets or locker mirrors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Reflection Art" Activity Page and some crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Instruct kids to color and decorate the panels on the "Reflection Art" Activity Page.
- Encourage them to decorate the panels elaborately because it will look even cooler in the mirrors.
- Demonstrate how to line up the two edges of the mirror with the two edges of the outer panels of the "Reflection Art" Activity Page.
 - For a visual of this idea, head to: <https://bit.ly/2Tfo0o0>
- Placing the mirrors on the edges should expand each picture.
- Encourage the kids to experiment by placing the mirror panes on different panels on the "Reflection Art" Activity Page.
- If the kids are sharing mirrors, make sure each kid gets a turn.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a really cool experiment! Did you like it better when you just saw the one small part of your design or when the mirrors expanded your design? (Give kids time to answer.) I thought it was pretty cool when the design expanded and I saw more through the mirror than what was on the paper.

"Did you know that the mirror is like how God sees us? Without Jesus, all we see is what's on the paper. But when we know Jesus, it's like holding up this mirror on the edges, and we begin to see ourselves how Jesus sees us. Instead of seeing the things we don't like about ourselves and the wrong things we've done, we see how valuable we are to God.

"When we know Jesus, our whole lives change, just like Matthew's did. Matthew's life may have been a mess, but Jesus still chose Matthew to follow Him and help Him with His ministry. With Jesus in our lives, we can still make mistakes and do wrong things, but Jesus sees past all of those things to the way God sees us.

[Make it Personal] (Share your personal kid-friendly testimony of coming to know Jesus and how He changed you.)

"I can tell you from personal experience that **knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**"

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. CANDY DIG

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bins filled with candy or shredded paper and "Candy Dig" Activity Page verse strips, plastic spoons, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Help kids look up Psalm 139:14 in their Bibles.
- Invite a volunteer to read the memory verse out loud.
- Group kids into teams of three or four and assign each group to a prepared bin.
- Give each kid a plastic spoon.
- Direct the kids to use their spoons to dig for the memory verse phrases.
- Tell them they can only use the spoons to dig out the phrases.
- Once all phrases have been found, instruct the kids to put them in order.
- Remind the kids that they can use their Bibles as a reference to put it in order.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How God made us is amazing and wonderful. Today we talked about being able to see ourselves differently because we know Jesus. God created us and sees us for who He created us to be. He doesn't just see our mess ups and bad choices, He sees ALL of us—even the parts of ourselves we can't see. We can praise Him for creating us all differently and with so much love!

"One of my favorite ways to praise God is through singing, like we do in Large Group. What are some ways you like to praise God? (Give kids time to answer. Be ready with some prompts if they get stuck: praying and talking with God, writing in a journal, dancing, singing, reading the Bible.) Remember, one of the reasons we can praise God is because **knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**"

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

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

WHAT YOU NEED: Mirrors from "Reflection Art" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to hold their artwork from the Reflection Art activity.
- Remind the kids that what they may see of themselves is like the design they hold, but knowing Jesus will help them see more of themselves.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Today was all about changing and how things are different when we know Jesus. One of the big ways our lives change when we know Jesus is how we see ourselves. We don't have to focus on all our mess-ups and bad choices because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Any punishment we deserve for our sin He took for us. When we know Jesus, we can begin to see ourselves as God sees us, because **knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**

(Close your group time in prayer.) "Heavenly Father, thank You that You sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins so we could know and follow You. Thank You that You see all of us—even our mistakes and mess-ups—and You love us completely. Please teach us to see ourselves as You see us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show them their Reflection Art. Invite the kids to share how their artwork grew and how Jesus sees more in us than we see in ourselves.



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

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Hand sanitizer or sink to wash hands
- Paper plates; one for each kid
- Starbursts®; six to eight for each kid
- (Optional) Play-Doh® instead of candy

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. JESUS SAID

[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:

- Bibles

*2. REFLECTION ART

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Reflection Art" Activity Page on cardstock; one for each kid
- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- Plastic adhesive mirror sheets folded in half; one for each kid OR magnetic locker mirrors; one for every two to three kids
 - If using plastic adhesive mirror sheets, score the back of each mirror sheet at the center folding line with a craft knife to make sure it stays in place when kids hold it on the edges.

3. CANDY DIG

[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:

- Print the "Candy Dig" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for every three to four kids
- Skittles®, M&M's®, or different-colored shredded paper
- Small shallow bins; one for every three to four kids
- Plastic spoons; one for each kid
- Bibles
 - Fill the bins with the candy or shredded paper (just enough to cover the bottom of the container) and bury a set of verse strips in each bin.

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:

- Mirrors from "Reflection Art" 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.**