

# Bright Side: Find the Light in the Dark

WEEK  
**ONE**

APRIL 2019

GRADES  
**2-3**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 KIDS

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**PRELUDE**

**SOCIAL**

**STORY**

**WORSHIP**

**GROUPS**

**HOME**

## BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

## MEMORY VERSE

**"In this world you will have trouble.  
But be encouraged! I have won  
the battle over the world."**  
John 16:33b, NIV

## LIFE APP

**Hope—Believing that  
something good can come  
out of something bad**

## BOTTOM LINE

**Whatever happens, remember  
how powerful God is.**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only  
Create the Environment  
Monthly Overview

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arrivers  
Overreaction

**25**  
MIN

### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Opener  
Bible Story  
Worship  
Prayer  
Closer

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"You Are My Hope" from *Every Beat*  
"Good Always" from *Every Beat*

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

It Can't Be Done  
If You Build It  
Jesus Is the Rock  
Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

## GETTING READY

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

**EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- An offering container
- Clear glass jar
- Pitcher of water
- Print the "Early Arriver" Activity Pages on cardstock; one set for each small group

**OVERREACTION**

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Overreaction" Activity Page; one for each small group

**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 #1.

**\* 1. IT CAN'T BE DONE****[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Paper
- Scissors

**2. IF YOU BUILD IT****[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:**

- Plastic cups; ten for every three or four kids

**3. JESUS IS THE ROCK****[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles
- A rock
- Upbeat music

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

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Picture of a mountain (optional)

**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**.

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## EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

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 that the abstract concept of God's power would start to make sense in kids' hearts. Ask God to help kids understand that they can take comfort in His ultimate power and in the knowledge that no matter what happens, He is always there for them. Pray that God would continue to put people in your kids' lives who can guide them to His presence.*

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, clear glass jar, pitcher of water, "Early Arriver" Activity Pages

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Hold the colored stripes page behind the jar and guide the kids to sit in front of it.
- Slowly fill the jar with water and watch as the colors change places.
- Try it again with the arrows page and watch them change direction.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.

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## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and  
build on their understanding

## 2. OVERREACTION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Overreaction" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Read the situations listed on the Activity Page one at a time.
- After each scenario, pause and ask kids to silently act out the reactions they might have in each situation.
- Do this for as long as time and interest allow.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Each day is full of situations that cause big reactions and strong emotions in us. Some are normal, regular reactions, and some are over the top! **[Transition]** In Large Group today, we are going to hear about a situation that caused a pretty big reaction."

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

**TALK  
ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



## EXPLORE

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### \* 1. IT CAN'T BE DONE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper, scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Guide the kids to review the story, letting them provide as many details as they can.
- Ask a few questions to get them started, if needed:
  - Who were the main people in our story today? (*Jesus, Lazarus, Mary, and Martha*)
  - Why did Lazarus's sisters feel sad and hopeless? (*Their brother, Lazarus, was dead*)
  - What did Jesus do to help? (*He rose Lazarus from the dead*)
  - What did today's story prove? (*How powerful God is*)
- Give each kid a piece of paper and scissors and challenge them to the "Impossible Paper Challenge."
- The steps are as follows:
  - Fold the paper in half lengthwise.
  - Open the paper.
  - Cut one side of the paper in the middle to the center crease.
  - Cut the opposite side in thirds to the center crease.
  - With the two-cut side facing toward you, re-crease the smaller folds facing away from you on the left and right both ways.
  - With the two-cut side still facing toward you, flip the top right third towards you. Then flip the bottom right half under into place.
  - You should now be able to flip the center flap back and forth to reveal the seemingly impossible extra flap that doesn't fit on either side.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Lazarus's sisters must have felt helpless watching him struggle when he was sick and even more so after he died. It must have felt like there was no possibility of everything being okay again. They were in an impossible situation. **[Make It Personal]** (*Talk about a kid-appropriate time when you thought all hope was lost, like when you were lost, your dog was lost, etc.*) There are often times in our lives when we feel like nothing is going right and like nothing will ever be okay again, but **whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**"

## LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



## CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

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### 2. IF YOU BUILD IT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic cups

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Arrange kids into groups of three or four and hand out about ten cups to each group.
- Challenge groups to use the cups to create a structure that goes as high as possible without it falling down.
- If the structures fall down, encourage them to try again.
- Then challenge kids to try to build the tower using only one hand per person or with their eyes closed.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Great job building those structures with just a few slippery cups! You were really creative with that. It was hard enough to build a tower out of cups, but can you imagine if someone asked you to build a whole house? You'd have to start by digging a foundation and then figure out how much wood and other materials you would need and how to move those materials. It would be a big job! Even bigger than that would be building the Great Pyramids in Egypt. The biggest one of those is about 455 feet high—that's as tall as 15 two-story houses stacked on top of each other! Plus, they didn't have cranes and trucks like we have. They had to move the bricks on their own, and each brick weighed as much as a big car! Whew!

"And you know what's even bigger and taller and heavier than those pyramids? The mountains and the ocean and the desert! And who built those? God did—by himself. If He can do that, He must be pretty powerful! **Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.** Because if God is powerful enough to build the mountains by Himself, He is powerful enough for anything we might need Him for."

## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



## PLAY

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

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### 3. JESUS IS THE ROCK

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, rock, upbeat music

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Look up the verse John 16:33b as a group and read it aloud together.

*Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd 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 John in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 16. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 33 in chapter 16.

- Ask the group to stand in a circle.
- Pass a rock around the circle while you play music in the background.
- As a group, say the first word of the verse and then whoever has the rock passes it to the next child.
- Say the next word, and the kid with the rock passes it again.
- Pause the music periodically.
- When you pause the music, kids stop saying the verse and spin in a circle one time before you resume the music.
- Play until the verse is finished, and repeat a few times, as kids learn the verse.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"This rock reminds us of strength and the stone that was removed from Lazarus's grave. Pick up a rock outside today and let it remind you of this verse. Lazarus faced the ultimate trouble when he died. But Jesus showed him that even in that situation, He is powerful. **Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**"

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

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### PRAY AND DISMISS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Picture of a mountain (*optional*)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask kids to close their eyes and think of the biggest thing they can imagine in nature—a mountain, the ocean, a desert, the biggest bear they've ever seen, etc. If you have a picture of a mountain, show it to the kids.
- Pray together and thank God for creating those things.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Father, we thank You that You have given us so many instructions and directions about how to live. Help us to always remember to turn to You when we need to know what to do, and remind us what You have told us through the Bible and through the people around us. Thank You that You are powerful enough to protect us. This week, remind us of Your power when we feel uncertain. Amen. **Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**"

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to show parents their best "excited" face and tell them what Lazarus's sisters were excited about in the story today.