



MADE TO CREATE

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



Note: This leader guide is designed for a small group including one or more children with a disability who attends group with his/her peers but may struggle with some components of the activities as written in the standard Small Group plan. We suggest providing this version to the Small Group Leader. More here: <http://bit.ly/OrangeKidsSpecialNeeds>

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Creation
Genesis 1 & 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made people with a purpose.

KEY QUESTION

What do you enjoy doing?

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them."
John 7:38, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. MASTER CREATOR

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: butcher paper; paint; paintbrushes; tarps or tablecloths; prepared symbols

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review the main events from the Bible story and prepared symbols.
- Divide your group into four teams.
- Place the tarps/tablecloths on the floor.
- Instruct the kids to sit together in teams on the tarps/tablecloths.
- Spread out a long sheet of butcher paper in front of the kids.
- Set out the paint and paintbrushes.
- Assign each team a part of today's Bible story.
- Give each group the prepared symbols to go along with their assigned part.
- Direct each team to work together to re-create and re-tell their portion of the Bible story on their butcher paper with the paint and paintbrushes.
- When the groups are finished, invite them to show and explain their paintings to the group.
- Direct the kids to share their paintings in the order God created!

For the parts of today's story:

1. Creation of light
2. Creation of the world—including sun, moon, stars, land, trees, all of the creatures that fly and all of the creatures that live in the sea
3. Creation of people
4. Assigning people to take care of the earth

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God was (and is) the ultimate Artist and Creator, but you all have shown some amazing artistic ability today too! It's not surprising because we were all made in God's image.

"Why do you think God created these things? Why do we have the sun, animals, trees, and everything else? (Allow time for responses.) That's right! Although each of these things are beautiful pieces of art, God didn't just create trees and the sun to look at, they were created for even more of a purpose!



DAY
ONE
SUMMER 2022

SMALL GROUP

2-3

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

ROTATIONS

HOME

(1. MASTER CREATOR, CONTINUED)

“God created trees so we can have shade and so we can have yummy fruit to eat! God created the sun so we can stay warm. God not only made the sun, the animals, the light, and the sea (*point to the different works of art as you reference them*), but He made you and me too. And just like each and every single piece of the world was created with a purpose, **God made people with a purpose** too. You were made to show the world who God is.”



MADE TO CONNECT

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



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2. PEOPLE ON PURPOSE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "People on Purpose" Activity Page, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show the kids a "People on Purpose" Activity Page.
- Point to the items on the left as you name them.
- Give each kid a "People on Purpose" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to start on the front—drawing a line to match each item on the left with its purpose on the right. *(If it's a better fit for your group, complete this activity together by talking through each item on the left and its purpose on the right.)*
- When kids finish the front of the "People on Purpose" Activity Page, prompt them to turn it over and answer the questions.
- Read each question and the choices one at a time; asking kids to pause after each one so you can read and assist with each question.
- Once the kids have completed their worksheets, invite them to share some of their answers to the questions on the back.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Don't you love how our big and awesome God wants to use you and me to change the world around us? God gave each of us gifts and skills, and He wants us to use them to make the world a better place. **God made people with a purpose.**

"God gave some of you the gift of artistic creativity, so you can create things for people to enjoy and to help them feel closer to God. God made some of you really curious about science so that one day you can help invent medicine and cures for sickness. God gave some of you really big hearts so you're able to see the needs of those around you and all over the world. When we live out our purpose, we get to show people who God is. **[Make it Personal] (Share about your unique gifts, character, and skills and how you live out the purpose God has given you in the world around you.)**



MADE TO IMAGINE

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



3. I'VE GOT A RIVER OF LIFE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "I've Got a River of Life" Activity Page, pencils, scissors, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to partner up.
- Make sure each set of kids has a Bible.
- Using the Bible navigation tips below, guide each pair to work together to look up John 7:38.

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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 7. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 38 in chapter 7.

- Say the verse out loud a few times as a group.
- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Give each kid the "I've Got a River of Life" Activity Page and scissors.
 - (Note: If it's a better fit for your group, cut each Activity Page in half give each kid three cards instead of six to complete.)
- Instruct the kids to cut out their cards.
- Set out the markers for everyone to use.
- Say: "Sometimes we don't see ourselves the way others see us. We can encourage other people by sharing the good things we see in how God made them."
- Prompt the kids to think about someone they see regularly—a friend, a neighbor, a family member, etc. (Prompt them to write the names of 3-6 people they see regularly on the back of the cards.)
- Ask the kids to think about something that person is good at—making others feel welcome, playing sports, sharing toys, etc. (Ask leading questions as needed, like: "What is this person good at? How do they make people feel?")
- Encourage the kids to write what they thought of in the blank on one of their cards.
- Invite the kids to draw on and decorate the card if they choose.
- Challenge the kids to be brave and give that person the card the next time they see them.



DAY
ONE
SUMMER 2022

SMALL GROUP

2-3

STORY

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(3. I'VE GOT A RIVER OF LIFE, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You can use your cards to remind people God made them for a purpose. Our Memory Verse tells us that we have river of life flowing out of us. Now, water is not actually going to flow through our eyes or fingertips. The river of life is God's Holy Spirit. When we believe in Jesus, God comes to live inside of us through His Spirit. And God's Spirit living inside of us will help us see and know how to encourage other people with the way He made them.

"When we point out God's purpose for others, God's Spirit is flowing and working through us just like a river flows. **God made people with a purpose**, and we can help others discover their purpose. Let's help others see the beautiful and creative work God is doing through them too!"



MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Card: Day 1" Activity Page; markers; Swag Bracelet (if choosing to use); dry-erase board and dry-erase marker, or chart paper and washable marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, markers, and a Swag Bracelet.
- Explain that the world symbol on the prayer card and on the Swag Bracelet represents today's story.
- Say: "God created everything in the world and He created people with a purpose!"
- Instruct the kids to turn the prayer card over and write a one-sentence prayer, thanking God for their favorite part of creation.
- Write the following on the dry-erase board or chart paper to help kids get started: "Dear God, thank You for creating _____ because _____."
- Invite the kids to color the symbol on the prayer card.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You created every tree, mountain, and sunset with awesome beauty and purpose. Thank You for not only creating the world around us with detail and purpose, but creating us with detail and beauty too. Help us remember that You crafted us specifically so we can make a difference in the world around us. Let Your Spirit flow through us as we help people see that **God made people with a purpose**. You are amazing! We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- What's your favorite thing to do when you have free time?
- What's the strangest animal you've ever heard of?
- If you were Adam, what would you have named the hippo? What about the parrot? Or a snake?



GETTING READY

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

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Prepare ahead of time for Small Group Rotation for VBS:

1. MASTER CREATOR

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large pieces of butcher paper—four
- Paint (various colors)—four sets for four different groups
- Paintbrushes—one per kid
- Tarps or disposable tablecloths to put under the butcher paper to prevent mess
- Print a few symbols (considering searching on <https://www.opensymbols.org/>) to represent each section of the Bible story (light; sun, moon, stars, land, trees, and creatures; people; and people caring for earth—like farming, gardening, etc.)

2. PEOPLE ON PURPOSE

[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:

- “People on Purpose” Activity Page—one per kid
- Pencils—one per kid

3. I’VE GOT A RIVER OF LIFE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- “I’ve Got a River of Life” Activity Page—one per kid
- Markers

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- “Prayer Card: Day 1” Activity Page—one per kid
- Swag Bracelet (if choosing to use)—one per kid
- Markers
- Dry-erase board and dry-erase marker (or chart paper and washable marker)