



WEEK  
**THREE**  
SEPTEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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



*Before kids arrive, take some time to lift your time together with your students up to God in prayer. Pray that today's time with your kids would be rewarding in a way that you're not expecting. Ask Him for opportunities to connect with your kids and help them understand how they can find encouragement and be an encouragement in their friendships.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Friend Like Me

Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 19:14-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**When has someone encouraged you?**

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Friends encourage one another.**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

A friend loves at all times, a  
brother is born for adversity.  
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

## MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.**

## 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** paper plates, markers, scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

- We're still party planning to get ready for the block party . . . everyone's invited! Today we must figure out the menu.
- **Give** everyone a paper plate and markers and ask them to draw and cut out the "BEST" party food.
- **Instruct** kids to make enough of each item for everybody to have one. (i.e., if the food is chips and you have 10 small group members, draw and cut out 10 chips)
- **Put** all the plates out in your group's area, buffet-style.
- **Let** kids set out the food they've created and pretend to enjoy it.
- **Invite** them to serve each other by passing the plates around and letting everyone take an item.



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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Chairs or pieces of paper to mark spots, music (try Orange Kids Music on Spotify or Apple Music)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Set** the chairs or the pieces of paper in a circle (You need one fewer chairs than the number of kids present today).
- **Explain** that you are going to play musical chairs.
  - When you start the music, kids walk in a circle around the chairs.
  - When the music stops, everyone races to find a spot.
  - The kid who is left without a spot shares something cool or nice a friend has done for them recently (or something encouraging they've done for a friend recently).
  - Then play again.

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### WHAT YOU SAY:

"I loved your stories—you guys have some really encouraging friends!

**[Transition] The Bible has a cool story of an encouraging friendship as well. Can you guess who I'm talking about? Let's go find out who it is!"**

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Strips of fabric or scarves and a start/  
finish line

### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Divide** the group into same-gender pairs.
- **Mark** a start line at one side of the room and a finish line at the other end of the room, using the tape.
- **Explain** that kids are going to be competing in a 3-legged race.
- **Pass** out one strip of fabric to each pair.
- **Instruct** pairs to stand side by side.
  - The partners' inside legs (the right leg of the partner on the left and the left leg of the partner on the right) should be touching.
  - Tie the partners' inside legs together just below the knee.
- **Tell** the players to line up at the starting line.
  - Position yourself at the finish line so you can clearly see which pair wins.
  - At your signal, pairs walk or run as fast as they can to the finish line, BUT they may NOT talk at all!
  - Declare a winner.
- **Instruct** kids to come back to the start line.
  - For the second round, they may only talk/strategize for 10 seconds before the race begins, but no talking during the race.
  - Declare a winner.
- **Direct** kids back to the start line and tell them that for round three they may talk and encourage each other as much as they'd like throughout the race.
  - Declare a winner.
- **Discuss:**
  - Which race was the most successful? Why?
  - Did you all get faster each time? Why?
  - *Note: Someone will probably say "We got faster because we practiced." While that is most likely true, we want them to see that being able to talk and encourage each other when they're working together is really important!*

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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 Story Strips" (Activity Page), blind folds, tape, "Elijah and "Elisha" Activity Pages

### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Explain** that you will be playing a spin on "pin the tail on the donkey," except you'll be playing pin the story line on Elijah or Elisha.
- **Hang** the "Elijah" sign on the wall, and then hang the "Elisha" sign a couple feet to the right or left, on the same wall.
  - As you do this, instruct kids to put tape loops on the back of each story strip.
- **Ask** for a volunteer to go first.
- **Blindfold** the first kid, read them their strip, and then spin them three times and point them toward the wall.
- **Instruct** them to aim for the sign that corresponds to the person their strip is referring to.
- **Continue** taking turns until all the strips are hung on the wall.
- **Work** together to tape the strips correctly under the right person. (Correct answers below)
- **Discuss** how Elijah and Elisha were encouraging to each other.
  - How was Elisha there for Elijah when God called him away?
  - How did Elijah serve his friend and put his needs ahead of his own?

Answers:

- He was very zealous for the Lord, and was sent to anoint the other. (*Elijah*)
- He was plowing a field when the other came to find him. (*Elisha*)
- He kissed his father and mother goodbye and followed the other. (*Elisha*)
- He told the other to "stay here" because the LORD had called him to Bethel. (*Elijah*)
- He said- no way! I'm not staying here—I'm coming with you. (This happened several times) (*Elisha*)
- He took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. (*Elijah*)
- He said the other was like a Father to him. (*Elisha*)
- God took him up to heaven in a chariot of fire. (*Elijah*)
- After his friend had been taken to heaven, he rolled up his cloak and struck the water with it again, and the water divided and he walked on dry ground again- but this time he was alone. (*Elisha*)

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**What to Do:**

Print and provide one set for each group.

**"Elijah and Elisha" Activity Page**

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elijah

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**What to Do:**

Print and provide one set for each group.

**"Elijah and Elisha" Activity Page**

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**He was very zealous for the Lord, and was sent to anoint the other.**

---

**He was plowing a field when the other came to find him.**

---

**He kissed his father and mother goodbye and followed the other.**

---

**He told the other to "stay here" because the Lord had called him to Bethel.**

---

**He said "No way! I'm not staying here—I'm coming with you." (This happened several times.)**

---

**He took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.**

---

**He asked for a double portion of the other.**

---

**He said the other was like a father to him.**

---

**God took him up to heaven in a chariot of fire.**

---

**After his friend had been taken to heaven, he rolled up his cloak and struck the water with it again, and the water divided and he walked on dry ground again, but this time he was alone.**

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**WHAT TO DO:**

Print and cut apart. Provide one set for every group.



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### MADE TO CONNECT

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



### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- When has someone encouraged you? What did they do?
- When is the last time you encouraged someone else? What did you do?
- Are all your friends your age? How could you benefit from having friends that are older than you? What about younger friends?
- Why does it sometimes feel awkward to use our words to encourage our friends?
- What would make it easier to encourage our friends?

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### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, notecards, pens, markers, dry erase board and marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Ask** for four volunteers to each read one of the following verses aloud.
- **Discuss** with the group what they mean. What can you learn from these verses?
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
  - Proverbs 27:17
  - Ephesians 4:29
  - Proverbs 17:17
- **Hand** each a notecard and ask them to write down five encouraging phrases on their notecard.
  - These can be phrases directly inspired by the verses the group just read or any other encouraging phrases they come up with.
  - Examples: You can do it! You're doing great. What a wonderful idea. That's awesome! I really appreciate you. Way to go!
- **Collect** the cards and (secretly) pick a phrase from any card to use to play hangman on the dry erase board.
- Hangman directions:
  - Draw a number of blanks equal to the number of letters in the phrase at the bottom of the play area (include spaces between blanks for a new word).
  - For example, if you chose the phrase "way to go," you would draw three blanks, a space, two blanks, a space, and two more blanks.
  - Let kids take turns trying to guess a letter that appears in the secret phrase.
  - If they guess a letter that DOES appear in the phrase, fill it in the correct blank/s.
  - If they guess a letter that does NOT appear in the phrase, draw a part of a stick figure image of a man being hanged.
  - This picture usually consists of 11 parts: the arms, body, head and legs, as well as the rope, upright, crossbar and angle of the gallows.
  - as kids guess, write down any guessed letters that don't appear in the word as a reminder for future turns.
  - The first kid to guess the correct answer, before running out of stick figure parts, gets to pick the next phrase from the notecards.
  - Play a few rounds as a group or break kids up into groups of three and let them play their own games.
- **Ask** kids to share some ideas for how they can put these phrases to use this week.
- **Close** the activity by letting each kid choose a verse from earlier to write on a notecard and take home as a reminder of what God says about encouraging others.

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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:** "Encouragement in Action" Activity  
Page, paper, pens/ pencils, Bibles, notecards

### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Ask** kids to circle up on together.
- **Place** the supplies and the "Encouragement in Action" page in the middle of your group.
- **Read** through the page together and talk briefly about all the different ways they can put encouragement into action.
- **Give** everyone a few minutes of silence to do one or more of the options listed on the page.
- **Close** by praying aloud for your group:
  - "Dear God, we praise You for the friends in our lives! Thank You for blessing us with people who love us and care for us. Will You help us to be friends who encourage? Show us how to be kind and show love, show us how to build up and encourage others with our actions and our words and our time. Thank You, Lord, for building us up and encouraging us—help us to love like You love! Amen!"

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# **Encouragement in Action**

## **OPTION 1:**

**Pray for your friend.**

## **OPTION 2:**

**Write your friends a letter about what you admire about them.**

## **OPTION 3:**

**Write out a Bible verse on a notecard to encourage your friend and show them that you care AND that God cares the most!**

## **OPTION 4:**

**Give—your time, yourself, your resources—does your friend need something? Make a list of what you can give to encourage them.**

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### **What to Do:**

Print on cardstock. Provide two for each group.