



WEEK  
**THREE**  
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP

**2-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Various kid-friendly games

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Encourage kids to sit in groups of two to four and choose a game to play. Monitor kids and when necessary, remind them to spread out and keep physical space between themselves.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.
- Go around to groups and ask what the best part of the game is and what the most challenging part is.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"I love playing games, but sometimes they can be challenging! What is your favorite game to play? *(Allow time for responses and share your favorite game.)* Those sound awesome! What is the hardest game you ever played? *(Allow time for responses and share a game you think is challenging, too.)* **[Transition]**

**Today in Large Group, we'll learn how God wants us to work hard and stick with things that are a challenge."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Ants Marching

Ant and Sluggard  
Proverbs 6:6-8

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work hard.

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted  
with something very little.  
Then you can also be trusted  
with something very large.

Luke 16:10a, NIV

## MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you  
can be trusted with what is  
expected of you

## BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 1. STORE THE GOODS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Hand sanitizer, grocery bags, canned goods, paper, marker, tape

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer as they return to Small Group time.
- Divide kids into two teams.
- Give each kid a paper or plastic grocery bag.
- Instruct the kids to work in teams like the ants and store up food to share with people who need it.
- Explain that canned goods are hidden around the room. Kids work with their teams to find the cans and fill their bags.
- Direct the kids that when they find a can, it might be wrapped in a review question.
- Once a team finds a review can, the team must stop, unwrap the review question, and tell you the answer before they move on to find the next can.
- The team with the most cans in their bags wins!
- When all of the cans have been found, add up the cans to determine the winner.
- For added fun, pick a local food bank or missions partner to donate the goods to. You can even hold a food drive to help restock the food bank after the holiday! Help kids understand that their hard work can benefit others.

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### Review Questions:

1. Who was the young ruler of Israel? (*Solomon*)
2. Out of everything he could have had, what did Solomon ask God for? (*wisdom*)
3. What did Solomon become known for? (*He became known as one of the wisest men to ever live*)
4. What is the book of the Bible that holds many of Solomon's wise sayings? (*Proverbs*)
5. What insect did we talk about today? (*ant*)
6. What did we learn today that makes the ant stand out? (*They are hard-working*)
7. How do the ants work hard? (*They store up their food*)
8. Do ants have a leader or ruler who keeps them focused on their work? (*no*)
9. What can we learn from the ants? (*We can be hard workers, too*)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job stocking up on supplies, teams! You all worked hard. That hard work will pay off when we get to give these canned goods to people who could really use them. Today, we learned that ants are pretty incredible at working hard. And God built you to work hard, too! You can work hard in order make



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## (1. STORE THE GOODS, CONTINUED)

the world around you a better place. Can you believe that? How have you worked hard before to help others around you? *(Allow time for responses.)* **[Make it Personal]** **(Tell about a time when you worked hard to make the world around you better.)** Don't forget how special God made you to be. Every unique quality about you and every passion He placed within you can be used to **work hard** and change the world for the better!"



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## MADE TO IMAGINE

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



## \*2. GAME OF LIFE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Game of Life" Activity Pages, markers, glue sticks, plastic sandwich bags, and scissors

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out "Game of Life" gameboard and blue squares page to every kid.
- Encourage kids to choose four blue squares to fill their blue spaces on their gameboard. They cut those squares out and glue them to the blue spaces on the gameboard.
- Instruct the kids to write down ways they can work hard this week in the green squares on their gameboard. Give them examples of places where they can work hard (the park, home, school, neighborhood, at a friend's house).
- Instruct them to leave the orange spaces free to use later.
- Once the kids have completed their gameboards, hand out a numbered squares page to every kid.
- Give a pair of scissors to each kid and instruct them to cut out the numbers and place them in a plastic sandwich bag.
- Explain that every day they can pull out a number and move that many places on their gameboard. Whatever space they land on is their "work hard" challenge for that day!
- Let kids practice pulling out a number to see where they land.
- Engage kids in a conversation about a way they can work hard based on the gameboard space they landed on.
- If they land on an orange space, explain that you will fill those spaces in later.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are probably the coolest looking gameboards I've ever seen! As our amazing game shows, there are so many different ways to **work hard** and use what God has given us. God didn't make us to stand still in the game of life. He created us strong, unique, and full of passion to do big things in this world! Let's go out and **work hard** this week!"

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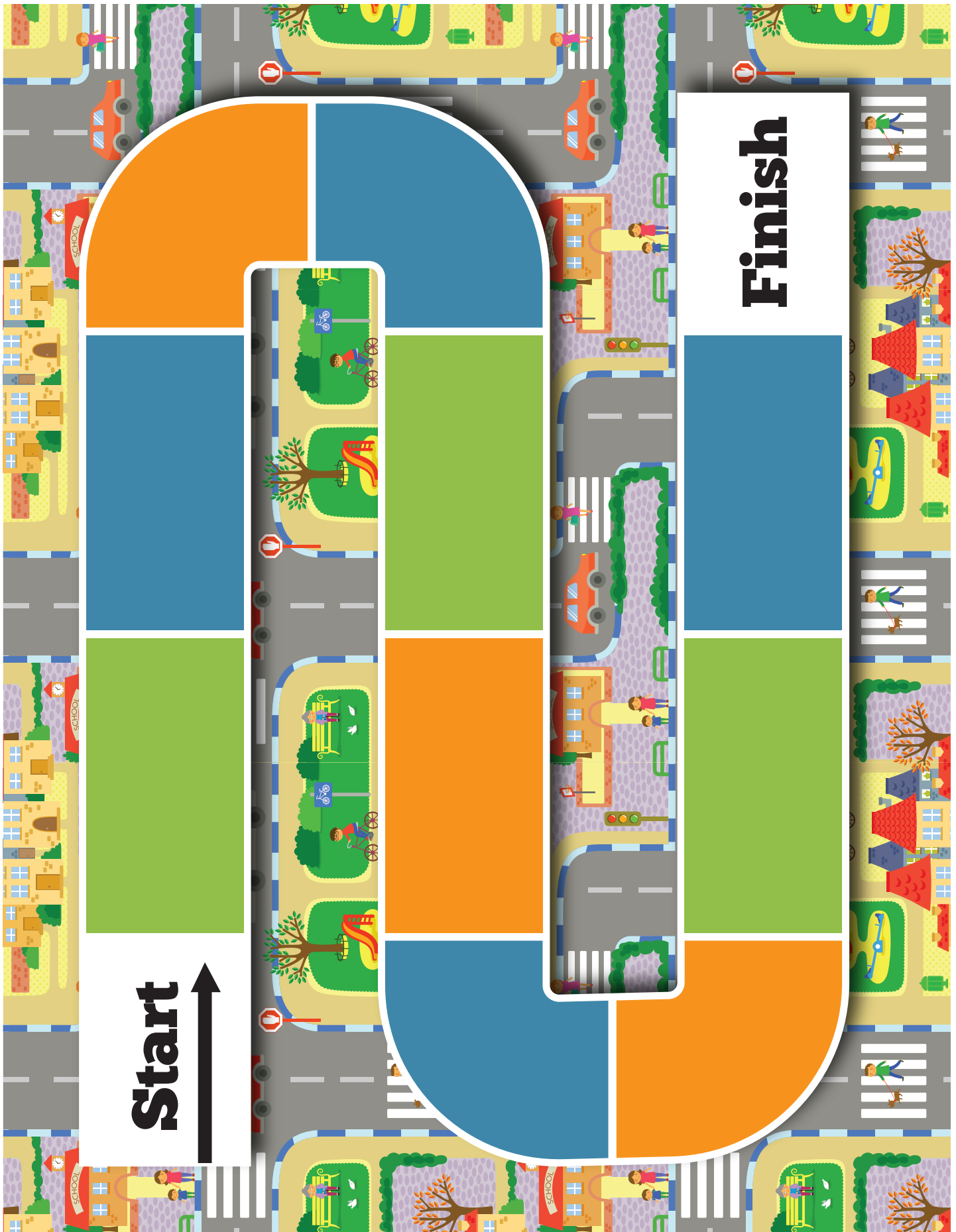
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**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock. Provide one for each kid.

**I won't give up  
on my homework  
when it's hard.**



**I'll help  
clean up  
after dinner.**



**I won't roll  
my eyes when  
I need to help  
my sibling.**



**I can help my  
teacher pick up  
in our classroom.**



**I can help  
someone learn  
our spelling  
words.**



**I can help  
clean up around  
my yard.**



**I can make my  
bed and tidy up  
my stuff without  
being asked.**

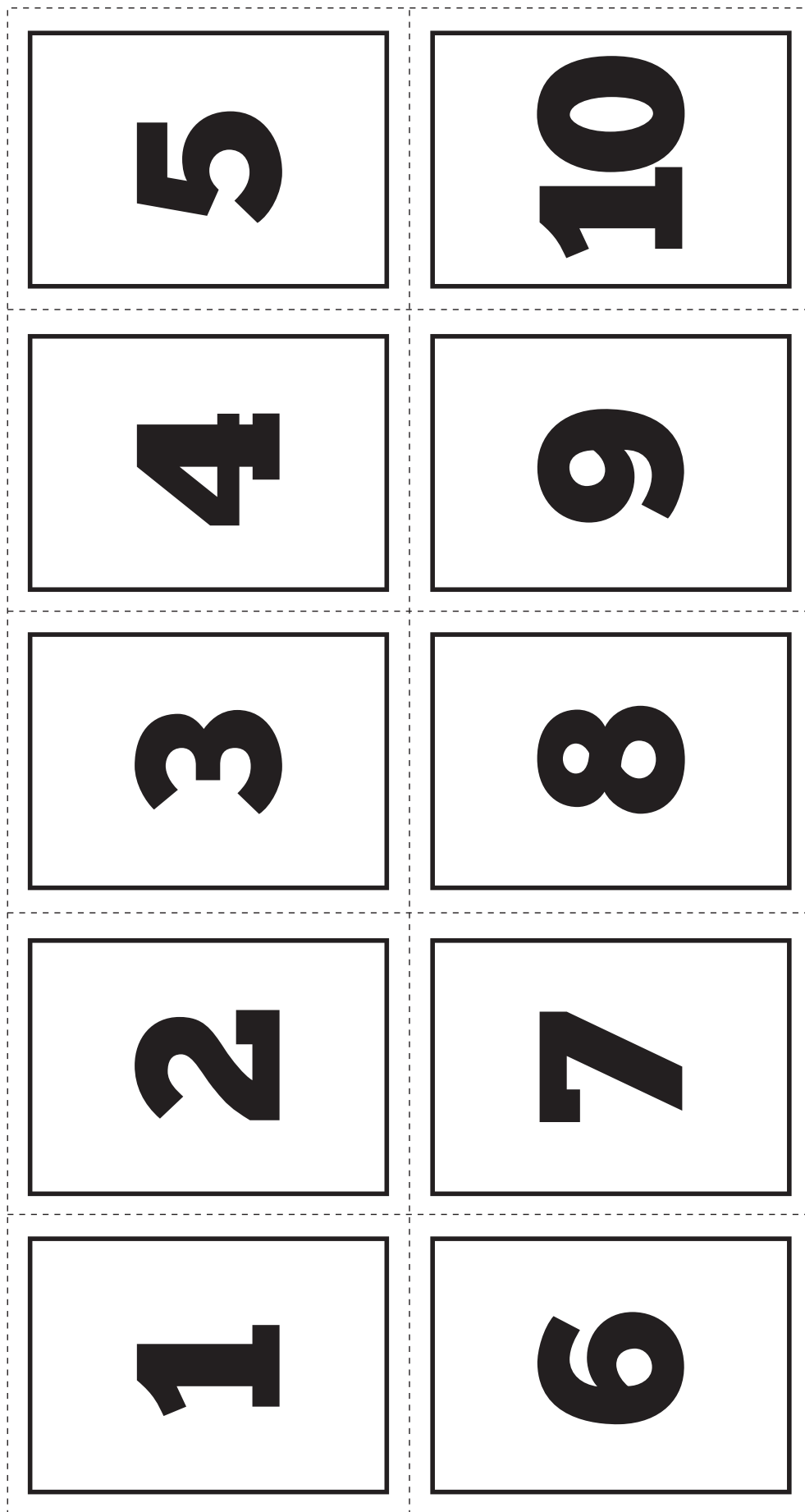


**I can help  
the first time  
someone asks  
me to.**



**What to Do:**

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**"Game of Life" Activity Page 3/3**

January 2021, Week 3, Small Group 2-3

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**“Whoever  
can be  
trusted with  
very little**

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## 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:** Gameboards from "Game of Life"  
Activity and markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to get their gameboards and a marker.
- Explain that one of the ways we can work hard is to pray big and bold prayers for people! Big prayers don't have to be long, though! Even short prayers can ask God for big things, like peace for a tough family situation or help learning a challenging subject at school.
- Encourage kids to write some big prayers for their family, friends, city, or our world in the orange squares on their board.
- Invite kids to share one of their prayer ideas from their orange squares.
- Close your group time in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for the opportunity to **work hard**. We know that every small thing we do each day can be used to show Your love to others. We ask that You help us see ways we can **work hard** this week and that we would be excited to be a part of a purpose that is bigger than ourselves! We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their gameboards. Ask them to talk about one of the ways they can **work hard** this week. Encourage adults to check in with kids throughout the week to see the progress they make!

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**What to Do:**

Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one set for each small group.

**"Memory Verse Cards, NIV" Activity Page**

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