

More Than This

Bible Story: More Than This (On the Road to Emmaus) • *Luke 24:13-35*

Bottom Line: There's always more to discover about God's plan.

Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

Life App: Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

1. Early Arriver

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Give kids a chance to discover more about each other as they take turns sharing answers to the following questions:
 - Would you rather have a lifetime supply of ice cream or a lifetime supply of pizza?
 - If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
 - What's your favorite animal?
 - Describe your room at home.
 - What's the best gift you've ever been given?
 - What's the best gift you've ever given to someone else?
 - What would you like to do when you grow up?
 - What is your middle name?
 - What did you most recently watch on a screen (TV, computer, phone, etc.)?
- Add more questions if needed or have kids pose questions of their own for one another.

2. Cross the Road

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

What You Need: Shoeboxes or bins

What You Do:

- Form two teams.
- Give each team two shoeboxes.
- Ask teams to stand at one end of your small group's space.
- Tell them to imagine that the floor between the spot where they are standing and the opposite wall (or other designated spot about 20 feet away) is a gooey, muddy road they need to cross.
- Challenge each team to come up with a plan to move their entire group from one side of the "road" to the other without their feet getting muddy by touching the floor.
- They can use the shoeboxes in any way they can think of to help them solve the problem.
- Give teams a few minutes to come up with their strategy then a few more to carry it out.
- Congratulate teams on their problem-solving skills and ingenuity.

What You Say:

"In today's story, some friends were walking together down a road. It was most likely a dusty road rather than a muddy one, but they saw something along the way that changed their lives forever.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 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.

1. Cup Up, Cup Down

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bible, plastic cups

What You Do:

- Give each kid three plastic cups.
- Form two teams, and designate one as the "Up" team and the other as the Down" team.
- Tell the Ups to place their cups right-side up around the room and the Downs to place theirs upside-down around the room.
- Explain that you will read today's story to them from Luke 24:13-35.
 - Whenever you pause the story, that's their cue to begin turning over any cups that don't match their team's direction.
 - They will have 10 seconds to flip over as many cups as they can and when you say, "STOP!" they must immediately sit down and listen as you continue reading.
 - The goal is for their team to have the most cups facing in their team's direction by the time you finish the entire story.
 - Continue reading and pausing several times until you've finished the passage.
 - Count the cups and declare a winner, congratulating both teams for their cup-flipping and listening skills.
- Ask kids what they think was the most important thing the men on road to Emmaus discovered.

- Ask what THEY (the kids) discovered from this story.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share something you recently discovered about God as you listened to a sermon or podcast, read your Bible, discussed your faith with someone, or another way God opened your eyes to something new.)**

What You Say:

“It’s a good thing our Bible story ended when it did, otherwise the game of ‘Cup Up, Cup Down’ could go on FOREVER. Just when you think you’ve turned over every cup, you discover there are more. It’s never ending. That’s also true when it comes to learning important stuff. **[Bottom Line] There’s always more to discover about God’s plan.** We’re always learning and finding new ways to live for Him. Just like Jesus helped the men in the story better understand God’s plan, He’s doing that for us, too. As followers of Jesus, we never quit discovering more about God and the plans He has for our lives. So keep listening, reading, praying, and talking to those who love God. Like the men on the road to Emmaus, you’ll be amazed at what you learn.”

* 2. Discovery Ball

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Prepared “Discovery Ball”

- 10 paper lunch bags
- Candy or small prizes
- One roll of plastic food wrap
- Print the “Discovery Ball” Activity Page and cut apart; one set for each small group
 - Place one of the “Discovery Ball” cards in each paper lunch bag along with some candy or a small prize and fold the top of the bag.
 - Cover a lunch bag with several continuous layers of plastic wrap. It’s okay if the bag gets scrunched up.
 - Continue adding more layers of plastic wrap with each bag until you have wrapped up all 10 bags like a big, plastic snowball or, in this case, a “Discovery Ball.”

What You Do:

- Ask the group to sit in a circle.
- Show kids the “Discovery Ball” you prepared earlier and tell them it contains bags with prizes and a card that names something we can always discover more about.
 - Explain that they will take turns passing the “Discovery Ball” and unwrapping the plastic wrap until they reach one of the bags.
 - Then they can open the bag and take out the card without letting others see what’s printed on it.
 - They should give clues for everyone to guess what’s on the card.
 - When someone guesses correctly, the kid giving the clues can keep the prize in the bag and pass the ball to the next person to unwrap.
- Continue around the circle until everyone has had at least one turn.
- If there are still bags left to unwrap, choose a player by letting kids guess a number between 1-25.
- Write down a number and let the kid (or kids) who comes the closest take an extra turn.

What You Say:

“When you opened the bags in the ‘Discovery Ball,’ you found a surprise and also a challenge. That’s how it is every time we open the Bible—we keep discovering surprising and cool things about God, and we’re challenged to live for Him. Learning about God is like the roll of plastic—**[Bottom Line] there’s always more to discover about God’s plan.** How do we learn more about something? (*Research it, read about it, pray to learn more about God and a relationship with Him, ask questions*) There are lots of ways to learn more, but if we don’t have an attitude that’s open and willing to learn, we’ll miss all the great things that come our way! Even as a grownup, I’m still learning new stuff every day!”

[Make It Personal] (Share something you’ve recently learned. It can be something about faith, but it could also be something about how to be more productive or how to get tough stains out of your favorite shirt. If it’s something new you’ve learned, it counts!)

3. Missing Word**[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: Bible

What You Do:

- Gather the group together in a circle.
- Briefly review the concept of humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.
- Direct someone to look up and read Philippians 2:3 to the group, just to review the verse.
- Ask the person with the Bible to recite (or read) the verse again, but replace one word with a handclap.
- The rest of the group must guess the missing word.
- Pass the Bible and repeat the process until everyone has had a turn.
- For an extra challenge, ask kids to hold the Bible upside down as they read.
- If your group has memorized the verse, increase the challenge by having them choosing more than one word to leave out.

What You Say:

“You’ve done a great job learning an important verse. The Bible is full of promises, commands, and encouragement. **[Bottom Line] There’s always more to discover about God’s plan** and how to follow Him in the Bible. As we wrap up the month and our study of humility, let’s say Philippians 2:3 together one more time as a final challenge.” (*Lead kids in reciting the verse as they stand and face one another.*)

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper clips

What You Do:

- Set out the paper clips and show kids how to link them together to make a chain that fits on their wrist like a bracelet.
- As kids work, ask them to share one thing they have discovered this month about humility or something they learned about God.
- When finished, let kids put on their chain bracelets.
- Use the conversation below to guide them in prayer.

What You Say:

“Take your bracelet home with you as a reminder that **[Bottom Line]** there’s always more to **discover about God’s plan**. Just like the circle of paper clips has no end, the things we can discover about life and God go on and on as well. Let’s pray and ask God to help us choose to put others first and to keep discovering more about how to live for Jesus.

“Dear God, like the men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, we want to always be eager to learn more. They knew a lot about You, and so do we, but none of us know everything. Help us to discover more about You every day. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Like the circle of paper clips has no end, the things we can discover about life and God goes on and on as well.