



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



2. WHAT'S IN YOUR SUITCASE? [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Suitcase" Activity Pages, brown paper lunch bags, markers, glue sticks, scissors, construction paper, and adhesive hook and loop; *Optional: additional craft supplies like pom-poms, stickers, etc.*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Are You Ready?
Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness
Luke 4:1-13

(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.

2 Peter 1:3a, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a brown paper lunch bag.
- Show kids how to fold their bags into thirds.
- Inform kids that they'll be making a mini suitcase to fill with things to help them remember how to grow in self-control.
- Ask kids to share some ways they can be ready to do the right thing (*read the Bible, memorize verses, talk with grown-ups, pray, etc.*).
- Set out the markers.
- Give each kid a card from the "Suitcase" Activity Page.
- Read the directions at the top: "Circle two ways you will prepare to do the right thing."
- Invite kids to circle their favorites.
- Read the first part of the [Bottom Line] (**be ready to . . .**) that's on the card.
- Ask if anyone knows the missing words.
- Invite kids to write in the missing words in the blank on their card from the "Suitcase" Activity Page. (**do the right thing**)
- Direct kids to unfold their lunch bag suitcases, revealing the three sections.
- Set out the glue sticks.
- Direct kids to glue their card into the first section of their suitcase and leave the other two sections blank. (Those will be filled in during later activities.)
- Set out the scissors, construction paper, and optional craft supplies.
- Invite the kids to use what you set out to decorate the outside of their suitcases, including making a handle.
- Instruct kids to write their name on the back of their suitcase.
- Help kids attach adhesive hook and loop stickers to the flap and inside as a latch.
- Set kids' suitcases aside for the next activities.
- For a visual example click this link or scan the QR Code below:
<https://bit.ly/45zXx5O>



WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are so many ways we can spend time with God and prepare our hearts and minds so we are ready to make wise choices. [**Make It Personal**] (**Share 1-2**)"



WEEK
ONE
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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(2. WHAT'S IN YOUR SUITCASE?, CONTINUED)

of your favorite ways to spend time with God whether listening to a podcast, music, or reading the Bible.) Spending time with God isn't about checking off something on a to-do list. It's about getting to know God. Jesus faced some incredibly difficult choices. But He knew God and He knew what the Scriptures said. God's words were ready in His heart and in His mind, so He was able to show self-control. Which two ways did you circle inside your suitcase? (*Invite responses.*) Those are great ways to **be ready to do the right thing."**



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MADE TO IMAGINE

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



3. CARRY GOD'S WORD

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, index cards, glue sticks, markers, and kids' prepared lunch-bag suitcases from the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together look up the Memory Verse, 2 Peter 1:3a, using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***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 2 Peter in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find 2 Peter, lead them to look at the page number beside the words. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 2 Peter. Help the kids find the page. When they find 2 Peter, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 1.*

- Read the first part of the verse out loud to the group.
- Invite any kids who would like to read the first part of the verse out loud.
- Give each kid an index card, a marker, and their prepared lunch-bag suitcases from the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity.
- Set out the glue sticks.
- Direct kids to write the Memory Verse on their index cards, decorate it however they would like, and glue it in the second section of their suitcase.
 - Instruct the kids to leave the third section of their suitcase blank for the following activity.
 - *NOTE: If you did not do the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity, kids can simply write down the verse on their index card and decorate their index card.*
- Encourage kids to think of a situation where they may need God's help to show self-control.
- If needed, ask some of the leading questions, like:
 - What might happen at school that could cause you to feel rushed?
 - What has happened at home where you've felt impatient?
 - What might happen with friends where you might be pressured to make an unwise choice?
- Each time a kid shares an idea, lead the rest of the group to hold up their suitcases and recite the Memory Verse together.
 - *NOTE: If you did not do the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity, instruct the kids to simply hold up their decorated index card.*
- Set kids' suitcases aside for the next activity.

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(3. CARRY GOD'S WORD, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God's Word (the Bible) is one of the things God has given us to help guide us to live a godly life, so we should carry it with us—in our hearts and minds. What else has God given us to help guide us to live a godly life? (*Invite responses.*) You can ask lots of questions to the grown-ups you trust when you're not sure about something. When you feel frustrated, stop and ask God to help you stay in control. This week, you can use your suitcase as a reminder of the different ways you can connect with God so you can always **be ready to do the right thing.**"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards, glue sticks, markers, and kids' prepared lunch-bag suitcases from the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an index card, a marker, and their prepared lunch-bag suitcases from the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity.
- Encourage kids to spend a few minutes writing down a prayer on their index card asking God for help in being ready to do the right thing.
- Prompt kids with examples as needed, like:
 - You can ask God to help you make time to pray.
 - You can ask God to give you the strength to make wise choices, etc.
- Set out the glue sticks.
- Invite kids to glue their index card prayers in the remaining section of their suitcases.
 - *NOTE: If you did not do the "What's in Your Suitcase?" Activity, instruct the kids to simply hold up their index card as you pray.*
- Close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for helping us **be ready to do the right thing**. We know Your Holy Spirit can help us so we are always ready to have self-control and do what's right. Thank You for the many ways we can learn more about You, so we can follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to unfold their suitcases to show off what is inside! Encourage each kid as they leave to remember to spend time this week preparing their hearts with God's truth.

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