

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- Yarn pieces
- Masking tape
- Permanent marker

MADE TO
↓
Connect



Inclusive Pro Tips

If any kids aren't comfortable over their shoulders, they can toss underhanded while facing forward. Celebrate every kid's attempt to toss the stuffed animals, so all kid feel included and engaged.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind every kid that God is with them, even when they don't feel ready. Pray that the kids would find the courage to try new things. Ask God to help the kids remember that even when it feels big or scary, God's plan is perfect!

1. Before you begin, place the pieces of yarn in a pile on the floor. Ensure the ends of each piece of yarn are visible around the edges of the pile.
2. Encourage the kids to get into pairs.
3. Invite the pairs to sit down around the pile of yarn.

Explain the goal

1. Each pair of kids is to find the ends of the same piece of yarn without touching or moving the pile.
2. Once they think they've found it, the pair is to pick up the ends to reveal if they identified the same piece of yarn.

Play Together

1. Show a visual example of how the game works as you explain the goal.
2. Encourage the pairs of kids to communicate and agree on which two ends belong to the same strand.
3. Emphasize that once the pair decides, they can't change their minds.
4. Tape the pair's chosen ends to the floor, and write their initials on the tape with a permanent marker.
5. Invite the next pair to make their choice, then mark the ends with tape and initial. *Note: It's okay if multiple teams choose the same piece. If another team picks the same ends, mark them with another piece of tape.*
6. Continue until all of the pairs have selected a piece of yarn.
7. Once everyone is ready, invite the pairs to pull their ends to see if they're correct.

Gather the entire group to discuss

1. How did you and your partner decide which ends to pick?
2. Was it easy or difficult to agree? Why?
3. If time allows, rearrange the yarn, direct the kids to partner up with another kid, and play again.

② What You Say

"Wow! You all had some great guesses about which tangled piece of yarn would match. This game reminds me of how God's good plan for us got all tangled up after what happened in the Garden of Eden. But there's more to the story! **[TRANSITION]** Because even from the beginning, our good God had a rescue plan to 'untangle' it all. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Kaboom" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer a seated option for this activity. Instead of moving to a sign, allow kids to point to or call out the sound effects ("Pfft", "Yikes", "Kaboom") instead of moving.

① What You Do

1. Place the "Kaboom" Activity Pages on the floor in three different areas of your group space.
2. Ask the kids: "What does it mean to you to trust God?"
3. Share with the kids that when God created the universe and EVERYTHING in it, it was good because He is good. God is always good, so we can trust Him. We can trust God loves us no matter what and wants to guide us in the right direction, toward more goodness.

Explain the goal

1. The group will discuss various scenarios where the kids will indicate how easy or hard that situation would be for them to trust God by moving to one of the "Kaboom" Activity Pages.
2. Direct the kids' attention to each "Kaboom" Activity Page and explain what each stands for.
3. Instruct the kids to stand by the:
 - "Pfft" sign if kids think trusting God would be easy.
 - "Yikes" sign if kids think trusting God would be a little difficult.
 - "Kaboom" sign if kids think trusting God would be very difficult.

Imagine Together

1. Read the scenarios below one at a time.
2. After each scenario is read, give kids a chance to share why they chose that specific sound effect.
3. If kids faced something similar to a scenario read, invite them to tell their stories by asking:
 - What made it easy or hard to trust God in that situation?
 - How did God help you?

Pfft, Yikes, Kaboom Scenarios (*Adjust scenarios based on your few and what applies more directly to them.*)

1. Your parents don't want you to see a movie that all your friends are going to.
2. Your birthday party got canceled because you are sick.
3. You just found out that your family is moving to another state.
4. You didn't get invited to a classmate's birthday party.
5. Someone you love is sick and not getting better.
6. A friend made fun of you for following Jesus.
7. Your grown-ups are arguing a lot lately, and things aren't good at home.
8. Your sports team counted on you, and you missed the game-winning point.
9. All of your friends have their own cell phones except for you.
10. You really wanted to be picked for a role in the school play, but another kid got the part.

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GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

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What You Need

- "Kaboom" Activity Page



(Continued)

[MAKE IT PERSONAL] Share an age-appropriate time when you or someone you know had to trust God in a significant way. How did God show up in that situation?

Talk Together

1. Share with kids that it can feel hard to trust God when they can't see what's next or when they think they know what's best.
2. Explain that even though people disobeyed God, sinned, and ushered in a curse that infected everyone's hearts and did awful things to the world, God never left us alone. He loves us and He wants to be close to us! God sent Jesus to rescue us, to break that awful curse, and make a way for us to be friends with God again!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Offer a seated option for this activity. Instead of moving to a sign, allow kids to point to or call out the sound effects ("Pfft", "Yikes", "Kaboom") instead of moving.

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 1

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed

① What You Do

Ask

- How do you know you can trust God?
- What do you think it means to trust God with something you can't see or control?
- When you're having a hard time trusting God, what can you do? Who can you talk to?
- What would you tell someone who doesn't believe God exists?

Inclusive Pro-Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

Preteen

Small Group

August — Week 1

GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to stand in a circle, arm's length apart.
2. Instruct the kids to take a step forward into the circle each time you pause to indicate they are praying along with you.
3. Close the group in a prayer similar to the following, pausing for kids to add their own words:

Dear God, thank You for the amazing world You've created and all the ways it shows us Your goodness, Your creativity, and Your love. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO WHISPER OR SAY ONE THING THEY'RE THANKFUL FOR THAT GOD CREATED.)

Help us to trust You this week no matter what comes our way. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SILENTLY THINK OF ONE THING THEY NEED TO TRUST GOD WITH.)

Thank You for the plan You had from the very beginning to show Your love by sending Jesus to make a way for us to be close to You again. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SILENTLY OR QUIETLY THANK GOD FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC ABOUT JESUS.)

We love You and want to follow You. Help us see ways we can trust You more every day. (PAUSE. INVITE KIDS TO SAY, "GOD, I TRUST YOU," IF THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE.)

We pray these things In Jesus' name. Amen.