

5 min

Opener

5 min

Opening Activity

What You Need

👤 Offering Container 1

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Explain to the group that you're going to play a game called "Say or Do." It's a bit like Truth or Dare, but with a twist.
- Ask for a volunteer to go first. Ask them, "Say or Do?"
- If they choose "Say," direct them to say something nice to someone else in the group. (e.g., "You are an awesome friend" or "I like your smile.")
- If they choose "Do," instruct them to do something kind for someone else. (e.g., "Give a high-five" or "Give someone a thumbs-up.")
- The kid who received the kind word or action gets to go next.
- Continue until everyone has had a turn to either say or do something kind.

- *Provide a visual list of kind "Say" and "Do" options that kids can point to if they have trouble thinking of one on the spot.*
- *For a kid who is shy, allow them to whisper their "Say" choice to you, and you can repeat it for the group.*

5 min

Application Activity

"That was so great! It feels good to say and do kind things for each other. Being kind is a big part of living for God. **[Transition]** In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus shows kindness to someone whom other people weren't very kind to. Let's go see what happens!"

What You Say:

5 min

What Does It Look Like? | Made to Connect

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids.
- Ask the group, "What does living for God look like?"
- Share that living for God is doing the things that Jesus would do and not doing the things that Jesus wouldn't do!
- Use prompts to help them think of ideas:
 - "When your little brother takes your toy, what does living for God look like?" (*Being patient, sharing*)
 - "When your mom asks you to clean up your room, what does living for God look like?" (*Obeying with a happy heart*)
 - "When you see a new kid at school who is all alone, what does living for God look like?" (*Being a friend, being kind*)
 - "When your friend is sad, what does living for God look like?" (*Giving a hug, being generous with your time*)
- Celebrate their wonderful ideas.

"Those were amazing ways to live for God! Living for God is doing the things that Jesus loves and not doing the things that Jesus doesn't love. Jesus loves being patient, kind, generous, and a good friend. Matthew showed everyone what living for God looked like when he invited them to meet Jesus. We can do that too! Every day, as we go throughout our lives, we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Race to the Verse | Made to Play

What You Need

 Bibles

1

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each kid a Bible.
- Explain that you're going to have a race to find a verse. This is sometimes called a "Sword Drill" because the Bible is also called the Sword of the Spirit.

What You Say:

"Great job racing to find those verses! The Bible is our game plan for how to live. It teaches us that being godly—or living for God—is the most valuable thing we can do. And we get better at it when we practice. Let's all **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

- Say, "The verse we are looking for is 1 Timothy 4:8."
- On "Go," the teams will race to find the verse in their Bible.
- The first team to find it and stand up, wins that round.
- Instruct the kid who found the verse first to read the verse out loud. Help as needed.
- Play again, but this time have them race to find another verse about living for God, like Romans 12:1.

5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Prayer Squeeze | Made to Play

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle and hold hands with you.
- Start by saying, "God, please help [kid's name to your right] live for You this week."
- Then gently squeeze that kid's hand.
- Then, instruct that kid to say, "God, please help [kid's name to their right] live for You this week."
- Then instruct them to gently squeeze that kid's hand, and have the next kid repeat the phrase.
- Continue until the squeeze (and the prayer) makes it back to you.

What You Say:

"Look at this amazing circle! It connects all of us together. We can pray for each other and help each other live for God. Let's pray one more time."

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You invite us to follow You, just like You invited Matthew. Help us to be brave and **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** every day by being kind, sharing, and helping others. We want to live like You would. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Opening Activity

1. Offering Container

Quantity

1

23 – Race to the Verse | Made to Play

1. Bibles

Quantity

1