

POWER UP

RAISE YOUR GAME

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GETTING READY

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

1. YES!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Yes!" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each kid
- On the back of each speech bubble card, draw a 1.5-inch vertical line that extends from the middle of the bottom edge straight up toward the center.
- Unsharpened pencils, 6x.25-inch dowel rods (such as Multicraft Imports Wood Craft Dowels 6" on amazon.com), or sturdy straws; one for each kid
- Tape
- Glue sticks

2. PAC PEEPS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Pac Peeps Game Board" Activity Pages on cardstock and tape together to assemble; one for each small group
- Print the "Pac Power" Activity Pages back-to-back and cut out; two sets for each small group
- Print the "Pac Peeps" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one set for each small group
- Dice; one pair for each small group
- *Note: Oversized dice, such as three-inch foam dice (available online or at some dollar stores) are optional, but awesome!*

3. VERSE RACE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles; for Kindergarteners, mark Bibles at 2 Peter 1:3
- Jumbo or mega pool noodles (the larger the center

hole, the better); use a sharp utility knife to cut in half lengthwise and widthwise; two sections for each small group

- *Alternatively:* Cut cardboard into 8x24-inch strips. (If corrugated, be sure the grain runs lengthwise.) Use a straight edge and a scoring tool (a toothpick or fork tine works great) to score two lines, each two inches from the edge of the long sides. Fold upward along the lines. Provide two for each small group.
- Matchbox®-style cars; one for every two kids
- Print the "Verse Race" Activity Pages; two sets for each small group
- Print the "Verse Race Mini Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each kid
- Clear tape
- Optional: Toy car road tape (available online and at some big box stores)
- *NOTE: If your environment is carpeted, you'll also need an eight-foot piece of art paper*

PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Game Map (available at OrangeVBS.com); one for each kid
- Game Map Stickers (available at orangevbs.com); one set for each kid
- Markers

**TALK
ABOUT GOD**

**BIBLE STORY
REVIEW**



CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through drawing and making things

BIBLE STORY

God Calls Abram
Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, Nlrv

BOTTOM LINE

God wants you to know Him.

1. YES!

WHAT YOU NEED: "Yes!" Activity Pages; dowel rods, unsharpened pencils, or straws; tape; glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids to make thaumatropes [THAW-muh-trohps]: cards with different pictures on opposite sides, which seem to combine and move when the cards are spun quickly.
- Distribute the speech bubble cards from the "Yes!" Activity Pages and ask kids to identify what the picture shows.
- Invite them to recall some of the things God told Abram.
- Give each kid a pencil, dowel, or straw. Guide kids to use the line on the back of the card as a guide for where to tape it.
- Lead kids in a Bible story review. Use the key points below as a guide. Direct kids to hold up their speech bubbles whenever God "says" something to Abram.
 - God chose to have a special relationship with a man named Abram. God said to Abram: "Go to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1 Nlrv).
 - God's command came with a promise. He said: "I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. . . . All nations on earth will be blessed because of you" (Genesis 12:2-3 Nlrv).
 - God also said: "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can. . . . That's how many children will be born into your family" (Genesis 15:5 Nlrv).
 - Abram believed God's promises, and his faith gave him a closer relationship with God.
 - Abram and Sarai had a son named Isaac. Isaac had children, and his children had children, and his children's children had children, and so on and so on, until one day, one of Abram's great-great-great-great-great-many-more-great-grandchildren was born in Bethlehem—a baby boy named Jesus!
 - Through Jesus, God blessed all nations on earth, just like He promised Abram. God made a way for EVERYONE, through faith, to have a close relationship with Him.
- Briefly talk about God's promises to Abram. Unpack the truth that God keeps ALL the promises He makes.
- Next, distribute the "Yes!" cards and invite kids to read the word. Tell kids that whenever God makes a promise, we can count it as a "yes," because God ALWAYS keeps His promises.
- Direct kids to glue the card to the back of the first and press them together.
- Show kids how they can hold the pencils between their palms (with fingers

TALK ABOUT GOD

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straight!) and rub their hands quickly back and forth. As they do, the images will "merge" and Abram will "dance"!
• Unpack the truth that Jesus was the greatest "Yes!" of all God's promises.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God had a special relationship with Abram. What do you think made God's relationship with Abram special? (God talked with Abram, God made him a promise, God visited Abram, Abram believed God, Abram obeyed God, etc.)

MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

"Did you know that God wants to have a special relationship with YOU, too? (Pause.) He does! God wants you to know Him. In fact, God chose Abram to be the great-great-great-great-great-many-more-great-grandfather of Jesus so that He could have a special relationship with (make eye contact with each child) you and you and you and YOU! God's promise to bless all nations through Abram's children means that you and I can have a forever relationship with God! Wow. So never forget: God wants you to know Him."

BOTTOM LINE

God wants you to know Him.

LIVE FOR GOD

APPLICATION
ACTIVITY



PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working together

BIBLE STORY

God Calls Abram
Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

God wants you to know Him.

2. PAC PEEPS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Pac Peeps Game Board," "Pac Power," and "Pac Peeps" Activity Pages; dice

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into four teams.
- Lay a game board on the floor between the teams.
- Invite each team to choose a "Pac Peep" and set it in the START zone.
- Guide teams to take turns rolling the dice and moving their Pac Peeps one "dot" for each number rolled.
- The goal is to travel around the game board to each "power up" (colored circle) and collect a corresponding card.
- When a team collects all four cards, they cheer, "Power Up!"
- Continue play until each team "wins."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God wants you to know Him, and some of the best ways you can get to know God are to HEAR the Bible; to PRAY—or talk—to God; to TALK to people who know and love God; and to LIVE—or do—what the Bible says.

(Point to or hold up a "Hear" card.) "What are some ways that you can HEAR the Bible? (Pause.) (Point to or hold up a 'Pray' card.) When are some times that you can PRAY and talk to God? (When I wake up, when I brush my teeth, before I go to bed, when I'm in the car, when I'm at school, etc.) (Point to or hold up a 'Talk' card.) Who are some people that you can TALK to who love God and follow Him? (Pause.) (Point to or hold up a 'Live' card.) What are some things you can DO that the Bible says? (I can obey my parents, I can be kind, I can treat others the way I want to be treated, etc.)"

"Hearing the Bible, praying, talking to people who love God, and living what the Bible says are great ways to get to know God and how much He loves you. And you know what? Out of all the people in the world, **God wants YOU to know Him.** You! He wants you to know how much He loves you. He wants you to know how wonderful and powerful He is. And He wants you to be His friend. Wow!

"How does it feel knowing that **God wants you to know Him?** (Pause.) So never forget: **God wants you to know Him,** and He loves you more than you could ever imagine!"

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
ACTIVITY

BIBLE STORY

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BOTTOM LINE

God wants you to know Him.



MOVE

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

3. VERSE RACE

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, swim noodle segments (or cardboard ramps), Matchbox cars, "Verse Race" Activity Pages, "Verse Race Mini Cards" (Activity Page), tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible. Help kids look up the verse using the tips below.

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to 2 Peter at the top of the page as you say "2 Peter" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 1 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 1 for the little 3; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

***Finding verses with 1st 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." You can help by telling them that 2 Peter starts with the number 2, followed by the letters P-E. When the kids find 2 Peter, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. 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.*

- Unpack the mind-blowing concept that God gives us HIS power—the power that made the world and everything in it—to live godly lives that please Him.
- Help each kid find a partner. If you have an odd number of kids, create a team of three.
- Set down the "Verse Race" Activity Pages to create two tracks on the floor. The pages should be placed down in order from bottom to top. So when you're looking at the "track" from one end, the first page should be directly in front of you, the next page should be beyond it, and so on.
- Tape each page along the bottom edge. (This keeps cars from getting stuck as they race across the paper.)
- Set the pool noodle segments by the "God's power" pages, which are the starting lines.
- Guide teams to line up behind the noodles. Give each team a car.
- Lead teams to take turns setting one end of the noodle at the edge of

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MEMORY VERSE
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the starting line while holding the other end off the floor, then centering their car at the top of the noodle and releasing it.

HINT: Keep the game moving by giving each team four consecutive "runs" on each turn.

- If the car stops on a page, each player on the team collects that segment's "mini card." (Kids can only collect one copy of each card.)
- The goal is to position the track so that their car stops on a different page on each turn. (This becomes a great observational science lesson as teams discover how adjusting the height of their tracks affects the distances their cars travel!)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God is powerful—more powerful than ANYTHING we could ever imagine. With His power, God made the world, He made Adam and Eve, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth and to die for our sins. God's power even raised Jesus from the dead so that we can have a relationship with Him!

"And you know what's even more amazing—mind-blowing amazing? God gives us HIS power so that we can do the things that please Him. Second Peter 1:3 says it this way: *God's power has given us everything we need to live a godly life (NirV). Wow!*"

PRAY TO GOD

PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding
and application

BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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

2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

God wants you to know Him.

4. PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Game Map, Game Map Stickers, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to gather around you. Give each kid a Game Map.
- Instruct kids to write their names on their maps.
- Encourage kids to draw one way they'll seek to know God better this week (or they can use the stickers).
- Encourage—but don't force—kids to verbalize their choices.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Today you learned that **God wants you to know Him**. In fact, He sent His Son, Jesus, so that you and I can have a forever relationship with Him. So what's one thing you can do this week to know God more? (Pause.) Great ideas! Let's pray." (As you lead them in prayer, guide kids to look at what they drew on their maps and thank God that He wants us to know Him. Ask Him to help your group hear His Word, pray, talk to others about Him, and do what the Bible says so that you can know Him more.)

Collect everyone's maps and set them aside to be distributed back to kids at the end of the week.

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- What's something you know a lot about? How did you come to know so much about it?
- If you could know anything about God, what would you want to know?