

MADE TO MOVE

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



Note: This leader guide is designed for a small group including one or more children with a disability who attends group with his/her peers but may struggle with some components of the activities as written in the standard Small Group plan. We suggest providing this version to the Small Group Leader. More here: <http://bit.ly/OrangeKidsSpecialNeeds>

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**Who is Jesus?**

John 10:14 and John 14:6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

I can have confidence because I am known.

MEMORY VERSE

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12, NIV

LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself as God sees you.

1. GREEN PASTURES RELAY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: prepared shepherd's hooks, four prepared white sheep balloons, painter's tape, wolf ears (*optional*)

Optional: ping pong balls instead of balloons and pencils for prepare shepherd hooks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Explain the game directions (listed below) while modeling. Once everyone understands how the game works, continue the activity as described below.
- Give each team a shepherd's hook and a white balloon sheep. Have two additional balloons ready in case a sheep balloon pops.
- Using painter's tape, create two starting lines.
- Ask each team to line up behind a starting line.
- About 10' to 15' away from each starting line, depending on the size of your environment, use masking tape to create a 3' x 3' foot square. This will be the "green pastures" that the sheep will be guided to.
- Inform the teams that the goal is for each "kid shepherd" to guide their team's "balloon sheep" to the "green pastures" and back again using just the hook.
 - The catch is that the kids need to keep their sheep safe by making sure the sheep is close to them at all times.
 - If the sheep strays, the wolf will tag the sheep.
- Tell kids that you will play the part of the "wolf."
- The first team to finish with the least amount of "tags" wins.

NOTE: if movement is a concern, seat the children, replace the balloons with pin pong balls (with sheep faces), and the staff with something smaller (like a pencil). Give each kid a construction paper square to try to get their "sheep" safely into. Go around as the "wolf" looking to tag their "sheep".

WHAT YOU SAY:

“According to our Bible Story, who is our Good Shepherd? *(pause for responses)* That’s right! Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Who are the sheep? *(pause for responses)* That’s right, we are! Some of you used your hooks to guide the sheep gently, while some of you hit the sheep hard expecting the balloon to move faster. Which method do you think got you to the green pastures sooner safely? When you whacked or pushed the sheep too hard you lost control, which put the sheep in danger of getting tagged by the wolf. It was easier and safer to get to and from the green pastures when you gently guided the sheep.

“In the same way, Jesus our Good Shepherd wants to guide you with gentle nudges and keep you safe from danger. One way He can do that is when you learn to hear His voice. Since He knows everything about you, He knows what’s good and what’s bad for you. When you learn to hear His voice, He can help you make good choices and stay away from bad ones. Can you think of some ways you can learn to hear God’s voice? *(pause for responses)* Those are some great ideas to practice! God knows you completely and He loves you, and He wants to guide you to the best ways and keep you safe from danger. That means that you can be bold and brave because He will lead you in the right way. **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application


***2. THE SOUNDTRACK TO MY LIFE**
 [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Who I Am Playlist" Activity Page,
pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand each kid a "Who I Am Playlist" Activity Page.
- Read through each "track".
 - You can either read through the entire list together or pause after each one, giving kids time to fill in their answer before moving on to the next one.
 - If you suspect your group will lose interest or struggle to fill in each blank, do every other "track" for now and invite them to take the Activity Page to finish at home.
- Give kids a few minutes to create their unique playlist by filling in the blanks.
- Ask the kids to take turns sharing a few of their playlist answers with the group.
- If you know some of the songs, characters, shows, etc. that they mention, engage in a quick conversation about those things.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"I loved hearing your playlists and getting to know more about you. It's what makes you, you! The cool thing about your playlist is that even though some of the stuff surprised me, nothing surprises God! That's because God created you and knows every single detail about you. He not only knows your eye and hair color, He also knows your likes and dislikes. Psalm 139 tells us that He knows your thoughts before you think them and your words before you speak them. That is incredible! Nothing is hidden from God. Have you ever had someone misunderstand your words or actions? How does being misunderstood make you feel? (*Allow kids to share.*) The good news is that God knows you so perfectly that He will never misunderstand you and that should make you feel safe and bold. That means that **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**"

[Make it Personal] (Share how it makes you feel that God knows everything about you, or how He has given you the confidence to live life more boldly. Remember to keep your example age-appropriate.)

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



3. CREATE A RHYTHM [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a Bible and look up John 15:12.

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Confidence—Learning to see yourself as God sees you.

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 John in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 15. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 12 in chapter 15.

- Read the verse together a few times.
- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Encourage kids to create a rhythm by clapping once, followed by two snaps.
- Tell the kids to clap as they say each word of the verse, and snap twice after they say each word of the verse, until the entire verse is recited.
 - For example: "My" (while clapping once), snap, snap; "commandment" (while clapping once), snap, snap; "is" (while clapping once), snap, snap . . .
- Repeat the verse a few more times by substituting the clap for a different action (like jumping, blinking, or hopping).

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse tells us that God wants us to love one another how He loves us. That's a pretty big thing to do, don't you think? Do you think it's even possible? Truthfully, the answer is no. We all mess up, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Learning to say the verse using a rhythm took time and practice—and learning to love someone like God does takes time too! The more time you spend getting to know someone, the more you will learn to see them the way God sees them, and the easier it will be to love them the way God asks us to."

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application

**4. PRAYER**
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board or chart paper with dry erase or washable marker, Press Play Cases, Press Play cards or index cards, pencils, colored markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out a Press Play Case and a Press Play card to everyone.
- If you've decided not to purchase a Press Play Case or cards, an index card will work fine as a replacement for a Press Play card.
- Write out the word "known" in heavy lettering on the dry erase board or chart paper. Instruct the kids to copy the same on today's card, using different colored markers.
- Ask the kids to think of one word that describes them and write that word on the card as well.
- Invite the kids to take turns thanking God that He knows the "word" that describes them as you close in the following prayer.

NOTE: For the sake of guests or kids who aren't regular church attendees, share some examples of what the prayer might include. Something like: "God, thank You that You know that I am creative." "God, thank You that You know that I am fun." "God, thank You that You know that I am kind."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, You are amazing! It is mind-blowing that You know every single detail about us. We are thankful You know all the words that describe us. Thank You that You know that (*pause to let kids interject the word they chose that describes them*). Help us to see ourselves the way You see us so we can have confidence. Help us to know and trust You more so we can love and live boldly for You and others! Thank You God, that **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**"

(Help kids put their Press Play cards in their Press Play Cases. Collect the Press Play Cases before transitioning to the next track. Kids can keep their index cards.)

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 YOU SAY:

- When do you feel confident? Do you feel confident riding your bike? Playing a sport? Playing an instrument? Drawing or painting a picture? Being with a friend?
- **[Bottom Line] I can have _____ (lead kids to say, "confidence") because I am known!**

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (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.

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. GREEN PASTURES RELAY [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Shepherd's hook made out of a rolled newspaper or pool noodle—two for each small group. (Make sure the hook is made out of soft material.)
- White balloons with a sheep face pre-drawn on them—two per small group for the game, and two extras in case they pop (four total)
- Painter's tape
- Wolf's ears (optional)
- Optional: ping pong balls instead of balloons and pencils for prepare shepherd hooks

* 2. THE SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Who I Am Playlist" Activity Page—provide one for each kid
- Pencils

3. CREATE A RHYTHM [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles

4. PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry erase board or chart paper with dry erase or washable marker
- Press Play Cases and cards or index cards
- Pencils
- Markers

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Press Play Cases and cards can be found in the Orange Store in packs of 12. This is a great tool to enhance your Small Group time. Find them at: store.thinkorange.com.
- Your Orange VBS downloads include GodTime cards for kids to take home, as well as Parent Cue cards to send home to parents. These are designed to go hand in hand with today's Bible story.