

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. THE BEST SHEPHERD OF ALL [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: hand sanitizer, 4 hula hoops, cotton balls, craft sticks, "Shepherd the Sheep" Activity Page, "Spinner" Activity Page—metal brad, paperclip, and tape/glue to make the spinner

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the hula hoops on the floor, scattering them around your environment.
- Set a "Shepherd the Sheep" Activity Page in each hula hoop.
- Guide kids to line up at one end of your area.
- Help kids apply hand sanitizer.
- Give each kid "shepherd" a cotton ball "sheep," and a craft stick "staff." Hold up the printed picture or symbol of the sheep as you explain what the cotton balls represent.
- Spin the spinner.
- Based on the spin, call out where the kids (shepherds) must take their "sheep", stand near the hula hoop each kid needs to walk to, and hold up the matching picture near eye-level as they're walking towards the hoop.
- To move their "sheep," instruct the "shepherds" to set them on the floor and gently use their craft stick "staffs" to lead them to the location you called.
- If you spin and call "wolf!" or "lion!" or "bear!"—the "shepherds" must quickly, yet carefully, guide their "sheep" to the safety of the sheep pen.

NOTE: if movement is a concern, seat the children in a circle (floor or tabletop) with the Activity Pages set out in the middle (without the hula hoops) within arm's reach. With each spin, prompt the kids to move their sheep to the correct location. For an additional challenge, have them close their eyes or only use one hand.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Does a shepherd take care of their sheep? (Yes!) Yes, shepherds lead their sheep to good grass and fresh, clean water. Does a shepherd protect their sheep? (Yes!) Yes! Shepherds fight off wolves and lions and bears to keep their sheep safe!

“Jesus said, ‘I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me’ (John 10:14, NIV). Wow! When you know Jesus and He knows you, it’s like you’re one of His sheep, and He’s your shepherd! Jesus takes care of you and protects you! He loves you, and He KNOWS you! How does it feel to know that Jesus knows you and loves you? (*good, happy*) Can you be confident knowing that Jesus—the BEST SHEPHERD OF ALL—knows you and loves you? (*Pause.*) You can say it this way: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.** Say it with me. **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known!”**

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

**2. JESUS' FLOCK**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: picture of sheep, completed example of sheep mask, prepared paper plates, "ears" from the "Ears Template" Activity Page, cotton balls, glue, craft sticks or brushes, hand wipes

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.**

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show the kids the printed picture or symbol of a sheep.
- Show them the completed example and leave it displayed for reference.
- Give each kid a prepared paper plate (a plate with a 6" hole cut out of the middle).
- Direct the kids to turn the plate "upside down" so that the middle is higher than the edges.
- Break the following steps into one-at-a-time directions, pausing for the group to finish before moving on with the next set of directions. (Provide hand-over-hand help, if needed.)
 - Guide kids to squeeze a line of glue around the rim of the plate
 - Spread it with the craft sticks or brushes
 - Then attach cotton balls. They can add more glue as needed.
- When kids finish, show them how they can glue ears to the back of the plate. Have the ears stick out slightly to the side.
- Show the kids how to wear their sheep mask!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The Bible calls Jesus the good shepherd. And just like a shepherd knows each and every one of his sheep, Jesus knows each and every one of YOU! He knows [kid's name] and [kid's name] and *(repeat with each child's name)*! He knows the things you like and don't like; He knows the things you do well and the things that are hard for you; and He knows the things that make you sad and the things that make you happy. Jesus knows everything about you, and He loves you!

"How does it feel to know that Jesus KNOWS YOU? *(good, happy, special)* Can knowing that Jesus knows you help you be brave and confident? *(Yes!)* Yes, it can! When you know that Jesus knows you and loves you, you can be confident! We can say it this way: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when knowing that Jesus knows you helped you be brave, whether it was telling someone about Him, speaking up for someone else, or making the wise choice even when it was hard.)

"And you know what? When you have CONFIDENCE that Jesus knows and loves you, you can be brave and love and serve others too! So the thing to remember today is this: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known."**

MADE TO PLAY

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

**3. GATHER THE FLOCK**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Dry erase board or chart paper with dry erase or washable marker, Bibles, hula hoops, "Memory Verse Sheep" Activity Page, craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids look up and "read" the Memory Verse using the Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *John* at the top of the page as you say "John" aloud. Then guide kids to find the big number 15 (1-5) on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 15 for the little 12—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 kids 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 they find the table of contents, lead them to find *John* in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that *John* starts with the letters J-O. 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 aloud together.

- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Emphasize the truth that Jesus loves us more than we can imagine.
- Write the verse out on the dry erase board or chart paper for reference later.
- Lead kids to get into teams of 2 to 3 and gather at one end of your environment.
- Set a hula hoop "sheep pen" by each team and assign each team one of the sheep's colors. Hold up the construction paper as you assign each team their color.
- Scatter the "Memory Verse Sheep" around the environment.
- Explain the game directions (listed below) while modeling. Once everyone understands how the game works, continue the activity as described below.
- At your signal, instruct kids to take turns heel walking to one of their team's sheep, gathering it with their "staff," carefully walking it back to their team, and gently placing it in the "pen."
 - Be ready to hold up the construction paper to remind kids of their color or to correct them if gathering a different color.
- When a team gathers all its sheep, direct the kids to work together to put them in order.
- Remind the kids to reference the dry erase board/chart paper, if needed.
- When every team finishes, lead kids to "read" the verse aloud with you.

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Jesus knows EACH and EVERY ONE of you just like a shepherd knows his sheep. He knows what you like and what you don’t like. He knows the things you’re good at and the things that are hard for you. He knows the things that make you sad and the things that make you happy. Jesus knows EVERYTHING about you—He loves you! And because Jesus loves you, He wants you to love and serve others so that the world will look a little bit more like the world God wants for us. So remember: **[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am known.**”

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 Case with today's Press Play card or index cards, thin markers in various colors

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.**

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to name some of their favorite activities. List their responses in simple picture form on the dry erase board or chart paper.
- Give each kid a Press Play Case and "read" today's card with them.
- If you chose not to purchase Press Play Cases, hand out index cards.
- Set out the markers and invite kids to draw something to represent one of their favorite activities, (i.e., a soccer ball, a piano, a game controller, a bike) referencing the list as needed.
- If time allows, invite kids to share their drawings.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in a responsive prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus knows YOU! He knows [kid's name] and [kid's name] and *(repeat with each child's name)*. Not only does Jesus know you, but He also loves you MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE! Let's pray."

(Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Good Shepherd. Be sure to mention each child by name.)

(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:

- What does it mean to be confident? 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?
- Show me with your body what confidence looks like. *(Pause.)*
- What does it look like when you're NOT confident? *(Pause.)* *(Alternately call out "confident" and "not confident," leading kids to pose accordingly. Linger on each "confident" pose, but don't spend a lot of time posing in the "not confident" stance.)*
- **[Bottom Line] I can have _____ (lead kids to say, "confidence") because I am known!**

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.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. THE BEST SHEPHERD OF ALL [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:

- Printed image or symbol of a sheep (considering searching on <https://www.opensymbols.org/>)
- Hand sanitizer
- Hula hoops—4 for each group
- Print the "Shepherd the Sheep" Activity Page—1 set for each group
- Print the "Spinner" Activity Page on cardstock and prepare according to the instructions—1 for each group. To make the spinner, you will need:
 - Metal brad
 - Paperclip the size of the arrow
 - Tape/glue
- Cotton balls—1 for each kid
- Craft sticks—1 for each kid

2. JESUS' FLOCK

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Printed image or symbol of a sheep (considering searching on <https://www.opensymbols.org/>)
- Sturdy 9" or 10" white paper plates—1 for each kid
- Print the "Ears Template." Use the "Ears Template" prepare one paper plate for each kid. To prepare a plate:
 - Following the "Ears Template," cut a 6" circle out of the middle of each paper plate.
 - Following the "Ears Template," trace two "ears" out of each 6" circle.
 - Give each kid a paper plate with a hole cut out of the middle of it, and a pair of "ears."
- Cotton balls—about 30 for each kid
- Liquid glue
- Craft sticks or brushes (for spreading the glue)
- Hand wipes

3. GATHER THE FLOCK

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry erase board or chart paper with dry erase or washable marker
- Bibles—for Kindergarteners, mark Bibles at John 15
- Hula hoops—1 for every 2 to 3 kids
- Print the "Memory Verse Sheep" Activity Page and cut apart—1 set for every 2 to 3 kids
- Round color-coding labels—1 color for every 2 to 3 kids (12 of each color)
 - Fold the "Memory Verse Sheep" as shown on the Activity Page.
 - For each set of sheep, use one color of dot sticker to secure the tops of the cards together.
- Sheets of construction paper that match the colors used for the dot stickers.
- Craft sticks—1 for each kid

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

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 Case with cards or index cards
- Thin markers in various colors

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- 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.