

City SG - March 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: Faith My Eyes (Samuel and David) • 1 Samuel 16:7

Bottom Line: God wants me to see what really matters.

Memory Verse: “How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” Psalm 139:14, NIV

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Explain that you will play another game this week to help the kids share about themselves and what makes them an individual.
- Using the five fingers on one hand, let each kid share five things about themselves. They can count them off on their fingers as they share. For example:
 - Thumb: I was born in Colorado.
 - Index finger: My favorite place is home.
 - Middle finger: I have a brother and a sister.
 - Ring finger: My favorite food is fruit snacks.
 - Pinky: I've never been to Boston.

3. Verse Plates

What You Need: Prepared plates with “Verse Phrases” (1 set of 12 per group)

Note: These plates also have numbers on the lower right hand side of the phrase to help get them in proper order.

What You Do:

- Place the plates verse side hidden at one end of your space and line up kids at the other end.
- The first kid runs to the plates, turns one over, and sees if it's the first phrase of the verse. (*Remember, it has a number 1 on the right hand corner of the verse phrase*)
- If it is, he takes it back with him and sits down. If it's not, he runs back and goes to the end of the line.
- The next kid runs to the plates, turns one over, and sees if it's the next phrase (or the first phrase if the first kid didn't find it). If it is, he takes it back with him and sits down next to the first kid. If it's not, he runs back and goes to the end of the line.
- Continue in this way until all phrases have been found in order.
- *Alternate play: If the game above proves to be too difficult, or if you're crunched for time or space, kids can simply run and pick up a plate, or you can pass the plates out to kids in your small group circle – kids can then flip over the plates and work together to put them in order.*

What You Say:

“Our verse was on the hidden side of the plates, because today we're learning that **[Bottom Line] God wants me to see what really matters**, which is what's on the inside of people, not what's showing on the outside. God made us each to be amazing and wonderful. Tell me one amazing and wonderful thing about you. (*Pause for responses. Share your own.*) Those were great! I love learning amazing and wonderful things about you!”

3. Where Is It?

What You Need: Cups (3 per group), ping pong ball (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Explain that you'll be playing a "shell game" with the cups and ping pong ball.
- Turn three cups upside down in front of you, and hold up the ping pong ball.
- Put the ping pong ball under one of the cups.
- Tell the kids to watch carefully while you mix up the cups. Their job is to keep their eyes on the cup with the ping pong ball under it.
- Scoot the cups around and mix them up as quickly as possible for 15-20 seconds.
- Ask the kids to guess which cup the ball is under.
- Play as many times as you wish.

What You Say:

"In this game, you had to keep track of which cup had something on the inside. It's not about what's on the outside, God looks on the inside! He cares more about how we treat others, than how we look on the outside!"

4. Where the Heart Is

What You Need: Heart keychain (1 per group), ball of yarn (1 per group), Bible

What You Do:

- Look up and read Psalm 139:14 to review with the group.
- Once you've read the verse through for review, have the kids stand and circle up, facing the center of the circle. Then select one kid to stand in the center.
- Thread the heart keychain onto the end of the yarn.
- Keeping the heart keychain on the yarn, ask the kids to hold out their hands. Walk around the circle and instruct the kids to grab the yarn with both hands and hold it taut. You should end up with a circle of yarn, with every kid holding onto it with both hands.
- Squeeze into the circle at the beginning, holding the yarn with the keychain in your hand. Explain that you will repeat the verse as they pass the keychain around the yarn circle **WITHOUT** letting the kid in the center see who actually has the keychain. The kids all around the circle should all move their hands as if they are holding and passing the keychain to keep the person in the center guessing as to where it is.
- When you finish the verse (including the reference), instruct the kids to stop passing, and allow the kid in the center to guess who has the keychain. If correct, he will stay in the center. If incorrect, he must switch places with the kid holding the keychain.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"That was fun! You really had to pay attention to figure out where the heart was in each round. Remember, the way God made you is amazing and wonderful. But the way He made you isn't just about your hair color or how tall or short you are. God wants you to pay attention to the things He pays attention to, and He pays attention to what's on the inside. So remember: **[Bottom Line] God wants me to see what really matters.**"

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Remind kids that when you pray, you can do it in many ways. You can pray out loud or silently. You can pray Scripture, or you can make up your own prayer. You can close your eyes or leave them open. You can sit, stand, kneel, or lie down.
- Tell kids that today you are going to pray aloud while kids echo the prayer silently. They can close their eyes or leave them open. They can sit, stand, kneel, or lie down.
- Give kids time to get into position, and then pray the prayer below, pausing after each phrase so kids can silently echo it.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for making us all amazing and wonderful. Thank You for making us beautiful on the inside, no matter what our outside looks like. Only an amazing, awesome, and wonderful God could do that! Help us to remember to look at what’s on the inside of others instead of the outside. Help us remember what really matters. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

**BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”
HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN
WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!