

City SG—August 14th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: I'll Take Care of You (Creation) • *Genesis 1–2*

Today's Bottom Line: God made us to take care of each other.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

1. Things God Made Relay

What You Need: “Things God Made Cards” (1 set per Group)

What You Do:

- Divide into two equal teams.
- Divide the “Things God Made Cards” in half and set the two piles and on one side of your Small Group area. (Make sure you have a card for every kid in each group.)
- Line up the two teams opposite their pile of cards.
- When you say, “GO,” challenge the kids to run, one at a time, grab a card, and bring it back to tag the next kid in line.
- The first team to collect all of their cards, wins!
- Once the cards are collected, invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Fan out the cards on the floor in front of you and point out all of things God made.
- Use the dialogue below to review the Bible story.

What You Say:

“God made SO many incredible things. From snowy white polar bears to majestic mountains to vast oceans to sweet-faced first grades, God made a wonderful world! Does anyone remember the names of the first two people God made? (*Pause.*) Yes! God made Adam and Eve and gave them a very important job. God wanted them to take care of creation AND take care of each other! And we can, too. God made you and me to take care of the world around us. But our even BIGGER job is to take care of each other! Remember, Jesus said the number one thing we can do is love God and love others! **[Bottom Line] God made us to take care of each other.**”

[Make it Personal] (Tell your group about a time someone showed you love by taking care of you. Maybe it was a friend who brought a meal when you were sick or sent you a card when you were going through a hard time.)

2. How to Care

What You Need: “Care Scenarios” Page (1 per Group), red paper hearts (1 per kid), and floor tape

What You Do:

- Tape a line long enough for kids to stand on, shoulder to shoulder, in the center of your Small Group area.
- Instruct the kids to line up on the tape line.
- Give each kid a heart to hold in the palm of their hand.
- Stand about six feet away from the line, facing the group.
- Explain that you will call each kid by name. When their name is called, kids will slowly walk to you with the heart resting on their open hand.
- Remind them to walk slowly and carefully so they don't lose their heart!
- Once they make it to you, read one of the scenarios from the Activity Page.
- Prompt the kid in front of you to give an example of one way they could show love and care in that situation then walk slowly back to the line with their heart.

What You Say:

“There are SO many ways we can show others we care! You gave some great answers. Did you notice that walking with those hearts required you to walk slowly and carefully? You had to be very gentle with your movements. Taking care of others means being careful with our words and actions. So this week, I want you to look for ways to gently care for the people around you, because **[Bottom Line] God made us to take care of each other.**”

3. Name That Animal!

What You Need: Animal Parts sheets (2 sets per group), markers, tracing paper (2 sheets per group per service), pens/pencils **Note:** For younger kids who may find it difficult to trace, you can give them a piece of regular paper and have them use the animal parts sheets for ideas on how to create their own animal.

What You Do:

- Divide your group into pairs.
- Give each group the Animal Part sheets, tracing paper, pens/pencils and markers.
- Instruct the teams to work together to dream up their own animal, tracing the various parts on the sheets to create their own animal.
- Encourage kids to use their different skills and gifts to help their team reach their goal of creating a never-before-seen animal and naming it.
- Remind the kids that they can help take care of their teammates by being helpful and working together.
- After the teams finish their animals, let each team show their creation to everyone and explain what it is.
- Ask the questions below to review today’s story and start a conversation about how God wants us to take care of each other.
 - Before Creation, what was there? *(nothing but God)*
 - Name the things that God created. *(Because God created everything, this could be a fun way to challenge kids to see how many pieces of creation they can name in a certain amount of time. If anyone knows the names of different species of animals or bugs, let them name those, too!)*
 - What is special about how God created humans? *(We are the only creation that was made in God’s image.)*
 - What does it look like for us to take care of God’s creation? *(Allow kids to share their various ideas.)*
 - What does it look like for us to take care of each other? *(Allow kids to share their various ideas.)*

What You Say:

“I love the story of Creation! The same God who created light, painted the sky, set the most beautiful oceans in place, and gave purpose to every animal, also created you and me and gave US a purpose to fulfill in this big world.

[Bottom Line] “God made us to take care of each other. As we head into our week, you’ll have lots of chances to take care of a friend, family member, or even a stranger. I want you to remember that **[Bottom Line] God made us to take care of each other.** By helping a parent carrying groceries, picking up trash in the park, or using the different gifts God has given you to help others like you did in our activity, you are playing out God’s big purpose for you in this world!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

“Dear God, You are such an epic God. You are the God who created us and saved us and wants to use us in Your big story. Please help us realize all the opportunities we’ll have this week to carry out the job You’ve given us to do. When challenges come up or we get tired, help us remember that **[Bottom Line] God made us to take care of each other** and that we have this really cool responsibility given by You! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”