



Elementary Leader Guide

July 5 –The Clubhouse 1st-3rd

Monthly Theme: I Am Broken

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: I Need God Every Day

Bible Story Reference: God Was with Israel (Exodus 13–40)

**Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each “pod” will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

Small Group Leaders: Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is one thing that made you smile today?*
- *If you could open your own store or business, what would you sell?*
- *What is your favorite thing to do on a regular summer day?*
- *What would you do with your toys if they could come to life for one day?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Hi, everyone! My name is _____, and it is great to see you all here! This month we are diving into the Theme *SOS*. It used to be that ships at sea used Morse code, which allowed them to send short messages using dots and dashes for letters which spelled words. Signaling “SOS” meant the ship was in trouble and needed help. While we are not on ships at sea, today we will learn that the Bible says we are broken and need help. Say, “Oh no!” (*Oh no!*) Say, “SOS.” (*SOS.*) And no, I do not mean our bones are broken. We are broken because we *sin*, which is when we choose to do what *we* think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. But the good news is that God loves us, and He has always had a plan to rescue us. Say, “That is good news!” (*That is good news!*) Let me hear you say, “Let’s go!” (*Let’s go!*)

Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

**Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

Stage Game:

Supplies:

Inflated balloons 30 per group
Hula hoops 3 per group
Masking or painter’s tape 3 per group
Tables 3 per group
Trash can 1 per group

Leader Prep: Place 3 hula hoops in the back of the room (across from the front) and place 10 inflated balloons in each hula hoop. Set up three tables at the front and place a roll of tape on each table. Consider keeping a few extra balloons to the side in case any pop.

Game Rules:

1. Invite one player from each team to the front, placing the players in teams: Red and Blue, Green and Purple, and Yellow and Orange.
2. Assign each team a table and a roll of tape.
3. Start the video.
4. Direct one player from each team to take one balloon at a time from the back and bring it to the front while their teammates use tape to make a balloon tower (10 balloons max).
5. Declare the team with the tallest tower standing on its own at the end of the video as the winner!

Script: Let's get ready to play a game! It is called "Sticky Stackers!" What is it called? (*Sticky Stackers!*) First, we need to make three teams. (*Invite one player from each team to the front and place them in pairs: Red and Blue, Green and Purple, and Yellow and Orange.*) The balloons for each team will be in a hula hoop in the back of the room. One player from each team will hurry to the back, grab one balloon from your team's pile, and bring it to your team's table. After each player brings a balloon to the front, another player will tape the balloons together, one at a time, to make a tower!

If you have a latex allergy, you can sit this one out and cheer on your team! How tall do you think you can get your balloon towers? We are about to find out. Your team will have three minutes to make your balloon tower as tall and as sturdy as you can. The team with the tallest balloon tower standing on its own at the end of three minutes wins! Everyone else, be sure you are cheering on your teammates! If you are ready say, "Let's get stacking!" (*Let's get stacking!*)

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: (*Keep the energy high, cheering on kids as they play. Allow kids to see the completed towers as you declare the winners.*) Congratulations to the ____ and ____ Teams! Let's cheer for all our players! (*Invite players to place the balloons in the trash can.*)

You did a great job working together to build these towers. What were the towers made of? (*Balloons!*) Right! They are made of balloons. Are balloon towers super strong? (*No!*) The balloon towers were a bit wobbly, right? Sometimes, our lives can feel a bit wobbly too. We try to build our lives with good things—like being kind or saying nice things, obeying, and doing our best—but even our best intentions do not stack up perfectly. We make wrong choices. That is because we are broken—not because we are bad at stacking balloons, but because of our sin. Sin is when we do what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. Sin is bad news, and it means we are broken. But the good news is that God comes to our rescue!

Everyone, say, “SOS!” (*SOS!*) While SOS is a signal boats can use when they need help, it is also the name of a competition show called *SOS: Surviving Out at Sea!* Get our show started by saying, “Let’s sail!” (*Let’s sail!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: Lilly won some sunscreen, which will be very helpful as she continues to compete on the show. There are things we all need every day, but our biggest need is God. Our biggest need is who? (*God!*) That’s right! The brokenness in our world and the brokenness in our lives is not something we can ignore or fix on our own. But there is good news! Let me hear you say, “Good news!” (*Good news!*) The good news is that God can fix our brokenness. He sees what we need, and He provides for us because He loves and cares for us. We need God every day, and He gives us what we need every day—His love! Everyone, say, “**I need God every day!**” (***I need God every day!***)

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Bible 1 per group
Bottle of water 1 per group
Piece of bread 1 per group
Empty jar 1 per group
House key 1 per group

Script: What are some things people need to survive? (*Allow responses. Hold up the bread.*) We need food! What do we need? (*Food!*) (*Hold up the bottle of water.*) We need water! What do we need? (*Water!*) (*Hold up the glass jar.*) We need air! What do we need? (*Air!*) (*Hold up the house key.*) And we need shelter! What do we need? (*Shelter!*) All of these are important things we need every day. When you put them together, you make a basic needs kit. If we do not have one or more of these items, life can become challenging.

But did you know there is an even deeper, greater need we all have? Our greatest need is for God! And we need God every day! Say, “**I need God every day!**” (***I need God every day!***) We are broken because we make broken choices, and we live in a broken world. No matter how much we might try, we cannot fix this brokenness on our own. We need God to rescue us and help us follow Him—not just once, but every day! So when we think about these basic things we need every day, like food, water, air, and shelter, we can remember that we need God every day. Say, “**I need God every day!**” (***I need God every day!***)

Bible Story Video:

Script: (*Open the Bible.*) The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. In it, God shows us who He is and how He is at work in the world He has made. We can learn about our brokenness, God's goodness, and the fact that we need God every day. Say, **"I need God every day!"** (*I need God every day!*) We are going to hear a story from the Bible about a time God took care of His people when they were desperate for help. Say, "SOS!" to get our Bible story started! (*SOS!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: The Israelites had just escaped Egypt after being slaves for hundreds of years. But even after their big rescue, they still faced scary stuff—angry armies, no food, no water. But guess what? Say, "What?" (*What?*) God never left them! He led them with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. That cloud and fire showed everyone that God was with them—right there, every step of the way. God was with His people. Where was God? (*With His people!*) Why? Because they were *His* people—and He never left them alone.

And God did not stop there! He gave them water when they were thirsty. He gave them food every day, including a special food called *manna* (MAN uh). He gave them strength when they faced enemies. When they camped at Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh), God's presence came down in a thick cloud and fire. That is how serious God was about being close to His people. He even gave Moses instructions to build a special portable tent called the *tabernacle* (TAB uhr nak uhl) where God would meet with His people.

God helped them—and He helps us—when we face challenges. But what if life feels okay? What if we are *not* scared, sad, or facing challenges? Do we still need God then? The answer is yes! Say, "Yes!" (*Yes!*) Just because things *feel* fine doesn't mean we are *not* broken and in need of God. We *all* are broken and need God. We need God to rescue us from sin, and we need God to help us follow Him every day. Even when life seems good, we still sin. In the good times and the hard times, the Israelites still needed God *every day*. Our greatest need is for God! Say, **"I need God every day!"** (*I need God every day!*)

(*Circle 1*) From the very beginning, God made people and people needed Him every day. He designed people to have a relationship with Him—to know and love Him. When God made all things, He declared that it was good. Give me a thumbs-up and say, "It was good!" (*It was*

good!) God created people to be His special people, His treasured possession. God gave people everything they needed, and it was good!

(Circle 2) The bad news is that things did not stay good for long. The first people God made turned away from Him. They wanted to do things their way instead of God's way. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best instead of following what *God* says is best. The Israelites disobeyed God in the wilderness. Though He provided for them, they struggled to trust Him and do what He said. They were broken because of their sin, and we are broken because of our sin too. This means our relationship with God is broken, and our relationships with other people are broken. Our sin deserves punishment. That is bad news. Give me a thumbs-down and say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)*

(Circle 3) The Israelites faced problems in the wilderness they could not solve on their own. They needed food, water, and a home to call their own. Like the Israelites, we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. The good news is that God gives us exactly what we need! Let me hear you say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)* God sent His own Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned. But He died on a cross, taking the punishment we deserved because of sin. But Jesus did not stay dead! Jesus came back to life, showing that He is more powerful than both sin and death. This is how He made the way for us to have a relationship with God. We can *repent*, which means turning away from and saying no to sin, and ask Jesus to forgive us. Then we can believe, trust, and follow Him.

And He gives us new life with God now and forever. Though we are broken because of sin, God rescues us! What does God do? *(Rescues us!)*

Sometimes we feel broken and sometimes we do not. But like the Israelites needed God, we also need God every day. Even when we experience forgiveness from Jesus, we are still tempted to sin and choose what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. The good news is that God rescues us from sin, and He is with us every day. He helps us love, trust, and follow Him—and we need that help!

Repeat after me: **"I need God every day!"** *(I need God every day!)* If you have questions about how God rescues us from sin or want to know more about following Jesus, talk with me or your Team Leader. We know we need God every day and we are more than happy to talk with you about it.

Team Game:

Kids will try to be the first to grab a cup.

Big Goal: Remember that we need God to guide and help us.

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

Supplies:

Cups 3–6 per group

Script: Are you ready to play a super fun, super silly game? *(Let kids cheer.)* It is called “Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup!” Head, shoulders, knees, what? *(Cup!)*

Here is how we play. We will form two teams. *(Form two even teams.)* Face someone from the other team—like you are looking in a mirror! I will place a cup on the floor between you. Do not touch it yet! *(Allow time and set out the cups.)*

Now when I say a certain word, you will put your hands there. Let’s practice! If I say, “Head!” you say, “Head” and touch your head. Let’s try it. “Head!” *(Head!)* “Shoulders!” *(Shoulders!)* “Knees!” *(Knees!)*

Great job! Now if I say, “Cup!” that is your chance to grab the cup before your teammate does! If you grab it first, show a victory dance! Then place the cup back on the floor and get ready for the next round. If you are ready say, “Let’s go!” *(Let’s go!)*

Keep It Going: Add in “elbows,” “forehead,” “hips,” and “back” for an extra challenge.

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, *(Start with fists at your shoulders. Bring your fists down in front of you, stopping at your waist.)*

so that we may receive mercy and find grace *(Pull your fists toward you.)*

to help us in time of need. *(Clasp your hands in front of your chest.)*

Hebrews 4:16 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

Script: We are going to learn a verse from the Bible that reminds us how much God loves us. We are broken because of our sin, but God rescues us and made the way for us close to Him. Say, “SOS!” (SOS!) Let’s get ready to learn our Theme verse. What are we going to learn? (Our Theme verse!)

Play Theme Verse Video.

Theme Song:

Script: Even though we are broken and need God’s help, He loves us and makes the way for us to be rescued. Say, “SOS!” (SOS!) Let’s sing about God’s love for us with our Theme song!

Play Theme Song Video.

Small Groups:

*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the “Big Deal” for today’s lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

Pick Up Time:

During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as they exit the room.



Elementary Leader Guide

July 12 –The Clubhouse 1st-3rd

Monthly Theme: I Am Broken

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: I Need God's Forgiveness

Bible Story Reference: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42)

**Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each "pod" will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

Small Group Leaders: Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is one thing that makes you feel really happy?*
- *Would you rather be able to control the weather or talk to animals?*
- *If you had \$100, how would you spend it?*
- *If you could make up a new holiday, what would it celebrate?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. It is great to see you all today! Turn to someone next to you and give that person a high five. Then say, "I am glad you are here!" (*Allow response.*) This month our Theme is SOS. SOS is a way of saying, "I need help!" Say, "I need help!" (*I need help!*) We all need help sometimes. And today, we are going to learn that the biggest help we need is God's help. Ask, "Why?" (*Why?*) I am so glad you asked!

We need God's help because of our sin—when we choose to do what we think is best instead of following what *God* says is best. Sin is bad news because it messes up our friendship with God. The Bible tells us that we are all broken because of our sin, but the good news is that God helps us and rescues us when we ask Him. Everybody say, "SOS!" (*SOS!*) Awesome! We are going to learn more about how God helps us today. Are you ready? Say, "I am ready!" (*I am ready!*)

Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

**Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

Stage Game:

Supplies:

Large bins or baskets 6 per group
Blindfolds 6 per group
Sunglasses 6 per group
Beach towels 6 per group
Sunscreen 6 per group
Deflated beach balls 6 per group
Sandals 6 per group
Sandcastle buckets 6 per group
Tables 2 per group

Leader Prep: Place the beach-themed items in large bins or baskets. Place three buckets on each table.

Game Rules:

1. Select one player from each team to come to the front.
2. Blindfold players and direct them to stand behind their bins of items.
3. Read a clue about one item in the basket and show an image of an item on the slide. Encourage kids to call out the answers. The players will feel for the items to find the correct one.
4. Continue playing until all items are found, awarding a point to each player who finds the correct item first each time.

5. Declare the player with the most points at the end the winner.

Script: This game is called “Blindfold Beach Hunt.” What is it called? (*Blindfold Beach Hunt!*) One player from each team will come to the front, but this is a game we all get to participate in! (*Select players.*) Our players will stand behind one of these bins filled with items. Each item is beach themed. I will read a clue about each item. The players will have to figure out what the item is, then find it in their basket. But wait! This is where it gets tricky. Say, “Tricky!” (*Tricky!*) The players will be blindfolded!

That is where you come in. Once I read the clue, the correct item will show up on the screen. You can shout the answer for your teammates to help them find the right item. The first player to hold up the correct item gets a point for your team. Are you ready? Say, “Let’s go to the beach!” (*Let’s go to the beach!*)

(*Help players put on their blindfolds and feel the bins with their hands.*)

Ready for the first clue? Say, “First clue!” (*First clue!*) Before you have a fun day in the sand, you will want to use this item to protect your skin. Ready?

Shout it out and cheer on your player! (*Allow time and announce the winner.*)

Show Stage Game Slide 1.

Script: Great job! It was sunscreen! OK, clue number 2. Say “Clue number 2!” (*Clue number 2!*) Wow, it is bright out there in the sun! I have to squint my eyes to see. I bet this item would be helpful. Ready?

Say it loud! Who will find it first? (*Allow time and announce the winner.*)

Show Stage Game Slide 2.

Script: Awesome! The answer was sunglasses! Ready for the third clue? Say, “We are ready!” (*We are ready!*) You want to build a sandcastle, but you have to bring a lot of sand to your building site. I bet this item will help you move all that sand!

Cheer loudly for your team, and let’s see who gets the item first! (*Allow time and announce the winner.*) It is a bucket! You are doing great! Say, “Next clue!” (*Next clue!*) Ouch! The sand is hot on your feet! I hope you brought a pair of these to protect your toes! Check it out!

Let's cheer as loud as we can! *(Allow time and announce the winner.)*

Play Stage Game Slide 3.

Script: You are all on a roll! The correct answer is sandals! Time for clue number 4. Say, "Clue number 4!" *(Clue number 4!)* After swimming in the waves, it is time to dry off. I hope you brought this with you!

All right! *(Allow time and announce the winner.)*

Show Stage Game Slide 4.

Script: The answer was beach towel! One last clue. Say, "Last clue!" *(Last clue!)* Time for a fun game of beach volleyball, but we need something to play with!

Show Stage Game Slide 5.

Script: Cheer on your teammates! *(Kids will pull out the deflated beach balls.)* Oh no! Say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)* Players, take off your blindfolds. *(Allow time.)* There is something wrong with all our beach balls. They are all deflated! This is a problem! We cannot use deflated beach balls to play volleyball. But wait! I bet our players can get those deflated beach balls ready to go! Let's see who can blow up a beach ball the fastest! Ready? Go!

(Allow time and announce the winner.)

And with all the points added together, our winner is the ____ Team! Let's cheer for all our players as they return to their seats. *(Allow time.)*

Great job, everyone! It would have been so disappointing trying to play with a deflated beach ball. Or imagine trying to build a sandcastle with a broken bucket. Or trying to protect your eyes with broken sunglasses. The truth is that we are broken. Our brokenness is not because we are deflated, but because we sin. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than following what *God* says is best. Sin breaks our relationship with God, and we need to be rescued. Let me hear you say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)* We need Someone to rescue us from sin and brokenness, and that this the good news we get to talk about today.

It is time for *SOS: Surviving Out at Sea!* This is a competition show where contestants leave as “Conquerors” or “Coconuts.” Say, “Conquerors!” (*Conquerors!*) Say, “Coconuts!” (*Coconuts!*) To get the show started, say, “SOS!” (*SOS!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: Slippery sabotage is *not* the way to win a competition. But Lilly was so kind to forgive Jim. And they both got to enjoy that coconut cake together because of Lilly’s kindness and forgiveness. It is a great reminder that we also need forgiveness. While we may not sabotage someone to win a challenge, we all make wrong choices, and that is called sin. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. The bad news is that our sin separates us from God.

But there is good news! Say, “Good news!” (*Good news!*) God loves us so much that He forgives us even when we sin. When we confess our sin to God and ask Him to forgive us, He always says yes! Let me hear you say, “**I need God’s forgiveness!**” (***I need God’s forgiveness!***) When God forgives us, we get to enjoy a relationship with Him—which is even better than coconut cake!

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Bible 1 per group
Empty water bottle 1 per group
Pitcher of water 1 per group
Large clear container 1 per group

Script: (*Hold up the empty water bottle.*) This water bottle looks great on the outside—it is sturdy, has a lid, and looks useful. But when I open it, it is empty! If I were thirsty, this bottle would not help at all.

We can be like this water bottle. On the outside, we may look fine. We go to school, we smile, and we try to be good. But inside, something is missing. You see, we are all broken because of our *sin*. No matter how hard we try, we cannot fix that brokenness by ourselves.

We need help. Say, “SOS!” (*SOS!*) We need God’s forgiveness. Just like the water bottle is not able to fill itself up with water, we need Someone to fill us and fix our brokenness.

(Lift the pitcher.) That is why God sent His Son, Jesus for us. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and we choose to follow Him, He gives us exactly what we need—His love and forgiveness.

(Begin pouring water into the bottle until it overflows into the container.) And here is the best part—the love God shows us through Jesus does not just fill us up a little. It overflows! His forgiveness never runs out. We need God’s forgiveness, and He loves to give it to us, rescuing us from our brokenness. Say, **“I need God’s forgiveness!”** *(I need God’s forgiveness!)*

(Hold up the filled water bottle.) So the next time you see an empty water bottle, you can remember that we need to be filled with God’s forgiveness and love—and He loves to give it to us!

Bible Story Video:

Script: *(Open the Bible.)* We are going to learn about how God helps us the Bible. The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself. The Bible shows us who God is and what He is like. It shows us how God is working in the world He has made. The Bible helps us understand that we need help. Say, “SOS!” *(SOS!)* We need God’s forgiveness. No matter how good we try to be, we do not obey God perfectly. We need Him to help us. God helped us by sending His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue us from our sin and disobedience. Count down with me and say, “Go!” to get our Bible story started. Ready? 3-2-1! Go!

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: Jesus stopped at a well in the middle of the day. He was tired and thirsty. Jesus was what? *(Tired and thirsty!)* A Samaritan (suh MEHR ih tuhn) woman came to the well to get water. When Jesus asked the woman to get Him a drink of water from the well, she was surprised. Why was this surprising? Back then, Jews and Samaritans did not get along and men did not usually speak to women they did not know. But Jesus did. He told the Samaritan woman that if she knew who He really was, she would ask Him for *living water*.

Living water was not water from a well; it was something much greater. Jesus was offering her forgiveness, a fresh start, and a relationship with God. Living water is a relationship with God

and His help to live the way He created us to live. The same way she needed God's forgiveness, we need God's forgiveness too. Say, **"I need God's forgiveness!"** (***I need God's forgiveness!***)

(Circle 2) The Samaritan woman was broken because of her sin. She had chosen to follow her own way instead of God's way. We *all* sin, and sin breaks our relationship with God, relationships with each other, and even the way we think about ourselves. In today's Bible story, Jesus knew the woman's past, and He knew the wrong choices she had made.

But even if she had made a lot of good and right choices, would she still have been broken? If we make right choices, do we still need God? Let me hear you say, "Yes!" (*Yes!*) Even when we try our best to do what is right, we still fail sometimes. We all sin. Whether by lying, being unkind, or choosing our own way instead of God's, we all make wrong choices. The Samaritan woman was searching for something more, and so are we. What we need most is God's forgiveness. What do we need? (*God's forgiveness!*)

(Circle 3) The woman felt hopeless until she met Jesus. Her sin had wrecked her life, her friendships, and her relationship with God. Have you ever felt that way? Jesus came to help her discover that she could have a relationship with God. He talked to her with kindness and respect. Jesus helped her see that He was the Savior—the One who could rescue her from sin, heal her brokenness, and make her whole again.

The same is true for us. Jesus came to rescue us by dying on the cross and taking the punishment we deserve for our sins. But Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again and now offers us *living water*—a new life with Him! He is more powerful than sin and death. When we turn from our sin to trust and follow Jesus, God gives us what we need most—His forgiveness. What a wonderful gift! Say, **"I need God's forgiveness!"** (***I need God's forgiveness!***)

(Circle 1) From the very beginning, God created all people for a relationship with Him. When the first people sinned, it broke their relationship with God and brought brokenness into God's perfect world. But God's amazing forgiveness rescues us from brokenness. One day Jesus will return and make everything new, removing sin and brokenness forever! Until then, we can enjoy a relationship with God through the forgiveness we have by trusting and follow Jesus. The living water Jesus gives fills our lives with love and joy! We get to have a close relationship with God where we talk with Him, trust Him, and live in ways that show we love Him.

It does not matter if we "feel" like we are broken because of sin or if we make a lot of good choices and do the right thing. We are all broken and need God's forgiveness. God knows this, and He rescues us through Jesus. If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus,

talk with me or your Team leader. You do not have to stay in brokenness. You can receive the living water Jesus offers.

Team Game:

Teams compete to complete a series of silly, challenging tasks that are almost impossible to complete perfectly.

Big Goal: Know that, even when we feel like we are good, we still need God.

Leader Prep: Use masking or painter's tape to create a starting line. Place 2 cones 15–20 feet away from the line. Cut 2 12-inch strands of yarn. Place the beanbags, table tennis balls, paper plates, cups, and string near the starting line.

Supplies:

Masking or painter's tape 1 per group

Beanbags 6 per group

Cones 1 per group

Yarn 1 per group

Paper plates 18 per group

Table tennis balls 6 per group

Cups 6 per group

Script: We are going to play a game called "Not-So-Perfect Performance!" What kind of performance? (*Not-so-perfect!*) You and your teammates will try to complete three tasks that are trickier than they look. In fact, it will take some extra effort because it will be very difficult to try and do the challenges perfectly! You will work together, laugh together, and probably get a little frustrated—and that is the point! Are you ready? Say, "Woo-hoo!" (*Woo-hoo!*)

First, we will make two teams. For this game, your team will pick two players to complete each challenge. (*Allow time for kids to complete this step. Assist kids in getting into teams.*)

For your first challenge, two players from your team will stand at the starting line. Hold the beanbag between you with your elbows. No hands! Keep the beanbag in place as you walk together to the cone, walk around it, and come back to the starting line. If you drop the beanbag, no worries! Just pick it up and keep going!

Once you get back to the starting line, move on to the next challenge! Two more players will grab a piece of string and the beanbag. They will tie the string around the beanbag. But here is the trick: Each player can only use one hand. How many hands can each player use? *(One!)*

When the players have tied the string to the beanbag, your teams are ready for the third challenge. The next two players will grab three paper plates and place them on the floor. How many plates will they grab? *(Three!)* The players will stand together at the starting line, putting their outside feet on one plate and putting both of their inside feet on the same paper plate in the middle. Players will keep their feet on the plates, carry the beanbag on the string, shuffle down to the cones, go around them, and come back to the starting line.

For the final challenge, two players from your team will grab two cups and one table tennis ball. One of you will bounce the ball and the other must catch it in your cup. Keep going until you have bounced the ball back and forth and caught it 10 times. Then, done! Whew! Think you are ready to get started? Let's go!

Keep It Going: Allow teams to create their own silly "Not-So-Perfect Performance" challenges to add to the course for bonus rounds.

Which of the challenges was hardest for you and your teammates to complete? Which was easiest? *(Allow kids to respond.)* Some of those challenges were really difficult! Even when you got close, it might not have been perfect. That reminds us of real life. No matter how "good" we are or how hard we try, we are not perfect—and we cannot fix our brokenness on our own. We need help! Say, "SOS!" *(SOS!)* Say, **"I need God's forgiveness!"** *(I need God's forgiveness!)* We do not have to be perfect as a way to earn His forgiveness—He invites us to trust Him. Can we save ourselves by being good enough? No! But Jesus can! He loves us so much, and He gave up His life for us. We can trust Him to forgive our sins and bring us new life with God!

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, *(Start with fists at your shoulders. Bring your fists down in front of you, stopping at your waist.)*

so that we may receive mercy and find grace *(Pull your fists toward you.)*

to help us in time of need. *(Clasp your hands in front of your chest.)*

Hebrews 4:16 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

Script: We are broken because of our sin. But there is good news! Jesus came into the world to rescue us from our sin and heal our brokenness because He loves us so much. Our Theme verse helps us remember that we can have a relationship with God when we trust in Jesus. Let's learn our Theme verse together.

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: God gives us *mercy*, which means He does not punish us for sin even though we deserve it. God also gives us *grace*, which is His undeserved love. God gives us these when He forgives us. Say, **"I need God's forgiveness!"** (*I need God's forgiveness!*) God rescues us from brokenness and forgives our sin, even though we have not done anything to deserve it! Now we can approach God with confidence knowing that He loves us, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

Theme Song:

Script: We need God's help. Say, "SOS!" (*SOS!*) We are broken, and we need God's forgiveness. Through Jesus, we find the forgiveness we need, and He gives us a new heart that wants to know and love God! Let's stand together and sing our Theme song to help us remember this important truth.

Play Theme Song Video.

Small Groups:

***Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time**

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the "Big Deal" for today's lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

Pick Up Time:

During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as the exit the room.



Elementary Leader Guide

July 19 –The Clubhouse 1st-3rd

Monthly Theme: I Am Broken

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: I Need God's Compassion

Bible Story Reference: Jesus Provided Bread from Heaven (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14)

**Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each "pod" will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

Small Group Leaders: Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is one word you would use to describe yourself? What word do you think your friends would use to describe you?*
- *Would you rather have a robot that cleans your room or does your homework?*
- *If you had to eat one thing every day for the rest of your life, what would you choose?*
- *If you could shrink down to the size of an ant, what would you do all day?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Hello everybody, and thanks for joining us today! Turn to the person next to you and give that friend a high five. Say, "I'm glad you are here!" (*I'm glad you are here!*) We are going to have a blast getting to know each other and exploring the Bible together. Our Theme today is SOS, and it is a way of saying, "I need help!" SOS is a way of saying what? (*I need help!*) Today we will discover more about how we are broken because of our sin, but there is good news because God helps us!

Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

**Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

Stage Game:

Supplies:

Sticky note pads 3 per group

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

Game Rules:

1. Invite one player from each team to the front and place them in three groups: Red and Purple; Orange and Blue; or Yellow and Green.
2. Give each team a pad of sticky notes.
3. Choose one player from each team to be the "sticky person."
4. Start the video. Challenge players to attach sticky notes one at a time on the "sticky person" during the two-minute video. Players may only place sticky notes on the other players' arms and heads.
5. Remove and count sticky notes from the sticky person, declaring the winner as the team with the most sticky notes.

Script: We are going to play “Stick It to Win It.” What are we playing? (*Stick it to Win it!*) This game is fast-paced and fun. Let’s have one player from each team come to the front, and I will put you into three teams. When you get on your team, you and your teammate will need to choose one player to be the “sticky person.” Who are players choosing? (*A sticky person!*) (*Allow teams to complete this step, making teams with players from Red and Purple, Orange and Blue, and Yellow and Green teams.*)

Now that teams have chosen their sticky people, the other players on each team will race to put as many sticky notes on your team’s sticky person before the timer runs out. You may only place one sticky note at a time! But here is the trick—you can *only* put sticky notes on the sticky person’s arms and head. No sticky notes on legs, stomachs, or backs! Where can you put the sticky notes? (*Arms and head!*)

Are you ready to cheer for your team? Let’s get that countdown going! Say, “Ready, Set, Go!” (*Ready, Set, Go!*)

Play Stage Game Video.

(*Encourage players as they play and prompt kids to cheer on their teams. Start the Host Script when the video ends.*) That was fun! Look at our sticky people! They are covered in sticky notes! But now, we have to get all the sticky notes off! Your new challenge is to be the first team to remove all the sticky notes from your sticky person. What are they going to do? (*Remove the sticky notes!*) Be sure to count them so we can see which teams have the most! Let’s get to it!

(*Allow teams to complete this step.*)

Congrats to the ____ and ____ Teams! You are our winners! Let’s cheer for all our players as they throw away the sticky notes and return to their seats.

Great job! “Stick It to Win It” is a silly game, but we can take away an important idea from it. In this game, the sticky people were covered in sticky notes. Sometimes we can feel like we are covered in a mess much worse than sticky notes. Have you ever made a mess of a good situation by making the wrong choice? Do you ever feel like you have made a mess of a friendship by saying something unkind? Have you ever made a mess of your time with family by refusing to share with your siblings? Those wrong choices are called sin. *Sin* is when we do what we think is best rather than following what *God* says is best. We are broken because of our sin.

Sometimes it feels like our wrong choices are stuck to us like those sticky notes. Let me hear you say, “SOS!” (*SOS!*) But the good news is that God always helps us get unstuck. No wrong choice we make is too big or too bad for God to forgive. God loves us so much! How much? (*So much!*) He loves us so much; He rescues us from our sin problem. We need help, and God loves to help us!

Now we get to watch a show where contestants will need skills and smarts to win. High-five a neighbor and say, “I think you could win!” (*I think you could win!*) I am sure we have a room full of winners here! Today’s competition is between Lilly and Jim. Get the show started by saying, “SOS!” in 3-2-1! (*SOS!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: Raise your hand if you would like the sour snack. (*Allow response.*) Raise your hand if you would like the spicy snack. (*Allow response.*) Raise your hand if you would like the extra-dry snack. (*Allow response.*)

Jim *really* needed that coconut water after that spicy snack. Derek providing that coconut water was a way to help and show care. We call that *compassion*. Everyone, say, “Compassion!” (*Compassion!*) Showing compassion means seeing a need and taking action to help. God shows us compassion when He cares for and loves us, even though we are broken because of sin. *Sin* is when we do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. We all sin, and none of us can fix our sin problem on our own. But God shows us compassion because He gives us what is needed to fix our sin problem. Say, “**I need God’s compassion!**” (*I need God’s compassion!*)

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Bible 1 per group

Sunscreen 1 per group

Script: I have this bottle of sunscreen. What is it? (*Sunscreen!*) Maybe you have seen adults put sunscreen on their kids at the beach. Many times, kids are in a hurry to play in the sand and splash in the water. They may want to get right to the fun, but adults take the time to put this special lotion on them. Why would someone do that? What does sunscreen do? (*Allow kids to respond.*) Sunscreen protects our skin from getting sunburned. When adults put sunscreen on their kids, it is a way of showing love and compassion—especially when the kids are too little to

do it themselves. *Compassion* means recognizing the needs of others and then taking action to help. Everyone, say, “Compassion!” (*Compassion!*)

Like how adults using sunscreen to protect their kids shows love and compassion, God shows compassion and love toward us. Ask, “Why?” (*Why?*) God shows compassion and love because we are His children! God loves us more than we can imagine, and He takes care of us. He gives us life and breath in our bodies. He keeps our hearts beating and our lungs pumping. God provides what we need each day, and He watches over us.

The truth is that we are broken. We are what? (*Broken.*) We are broken because of our sin, and like little kids who cannot put on their own sunscreen, we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. We need help, and God helps us by showing us compassion. Say, “**I need God’s compassion!**” (*I need God’s compassion!*) God is faithful to show us compassion and take care of us.

Bible Story Video:

Script: (*Open the Bible.*) When we want to discover what God is like and how He is at work in the world He has made, we can turn to the Bible. The what? (*The Bible!*) The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself. The Bible is like a mini library—it has many different books written over a long period of time. Today we will hear a story that comes from the book of Matthew. Which book? (*Matthew!*) If you are ready for our Bible story, say, “I am ready!” (*I am ready!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: What an incredible story! Say, “Incredible!” (*Incredible!*) This Bible story is not just about Jesus feeding a lot of hungry people. It is a story about the love and compassion Jesus has for people. *Compassion* is seeing a need and then taking action to help. Jesus saw the crowd’s hunger and need for food, so Jesus fed them. What did Jesus do? (*He fed them!*) Jesus took the five loaves and two fish that were given to Him, and He made that little bit more than enough to feed over five thousand people!

We need God’s compassion too! Say, “**I need God’s compassion!**” (*I need God’s compassion!*) We might not be hungry on a hillside, but we need something even greater—a relationship with God.

(Circle 1) God created us for a relationship Him! God created everything that exists, and do you know what God said when He looked at all that He had made? He said it was *good*. God said it was what? (*Good!*) God created people—you and me—in His own image. He created every person that was listening to Jesus teach in today's Bible story. Since the very first people, God has made *all* people to know, love, and follow Him.

(Circle 2) Sadly, that special relationship we were made to have with God was broken by our sin, which is when we do things our way instead of following God's way. Our sin separates us from God, and sin deserves to be punished. No matter how hard we try, we cannot live the way God created us to live on our own. In today's Bible story, the people in the crowd were hungry and Jesus fed them. But Jesus knew they had a bigger issue that needed help and compassion. He saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd, meaning they needed help, protection, and love. We are also like sheep without a shepherd because we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. SOS! We need God's compassion. Say, **"I need God's compassion!"** (*I need God's compassion!*)

(Circle 3) Jesus showed compassion by teaching and feeding the crowd. He gave all the people what they needed. And God showed *us* compassion by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from brokenness. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He died on a cross, then came back to life showing He is more powerful than both sin and death! Because of God's love and compassion, everyone can have a forever relationship with God. Anyone who believes in Jesus, asks Jesus for forgiveness, and turns away from sin to follow Him gets to have a relationship God and have the new life Jesus offers.

Sometimes we may wonder if God really cares about us. The truth is that He does! Even though we are broken because of our sin, He has so much love and compassion that He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him. No matter what we do or how we feel about what is going on, we can remember and find joy because God gives us what we need most—love, compassion, and forgiveness through Jesus! Say, **"I need God's compassion!"** (*I need God's compassion!*)

If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, talk with me or your Team Leader. We would love to tell you more about God's compassion!

Team Game:

Kids throw crumpled paper balls in a fun “food fight” to see which team can keep their side the cleanest.

Big Goal: See that God knows our need and provides for us.

Leader Prep: Tape a line down the middle of the room. Set out supplies.

Supplies:

Paper 2 per child

Markers or crayons Several per child

Masking or painter’s tape 1 per group

Stopwatch or timer 1 per group

Script: Who is ready for a food fight? Say, “Food Fight!” (*Food Fight!*) Not with real food—don’t worry! Here is how it works. Each of you will grab two pieces of paper. Draw five loaves of bread on one paper and two fish on the other. Then crumple the papers to make two paper “food” balls. Hold onto them until we start the game. (*Allow time.*)

We are going to make two teams, and each team will stand on one side of the line in the middle of the room. When I say, “Go,” your team will try to throw as much food as you can to the other side—but watch out! The other team is throwing food back at the same time! Grab the paper food that falls on your team’s side and throw it back!

I will say, “Time’s up!” after one minute. The side with the least amount of food wins! Ready? (*Ready!*) 3–2–1 Go!

Keep It Going: Challenge kids to play using their non-dominant hands to throw! Switch teams for additional rounds.

That food just kept coming! In our Bible story, the disciples kept passing out food, and it never ran out—just like we kept throwing food in our game! God knows what we need most, and He never runs out of love or help for us. He met our biggest need by sending Jesus, who showed us compassion and love by making the way for us to have a relationship with God. Is that not amazing? (*Pause for kids to respond.*) God’s compassion is the best!

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, (*Start with fists at your shoulders. Bring your fists down in front of you, stopping at your waist.*)

so that we may receive mercy and find grace (*Pull your fists toward you.*)

to help us in time of need. (*Clasp your hands in front of your chest.*)
Hebrews 4:16 (*Hold your hands out like a book.*)

Script: Say, **"I need God's compassion!"** (*I need God's compassion!*) God meets our need to have a relationship Him by offering forgiveness through His Son, Jesus! Now we can come to God knowing that He loves us and will help us in our time of need. Let's learn our Theme verse to help us remember this amazing truth.

Play Them Verse Video.

Script: We need God's compassion, which means we need His help and need Him to take care of us. We are broken because of our sin, but God has shown us compassion by forgiving us when we trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive us. We can be confident in His love and care for us, and we can trust Him to give us everything we need! What can we trust Him to do? (*Give us everything we need!*)

Theme Song:

Script: Like the people on the hillside listening to Jesus teach, we need God's help. We are broken, and we need God's compassion. Our Theme song helps us remember God's love for us and the way He shows us compassion every day. Let's stand and sing together.

Play Theme Song Video.

Small Groups:

***Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time**

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the "Big Deal" for today's lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

Pick Up Time:

During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as the exit the room.



Elementary Leader Guide

July 26 –The Clubhouse 1st-3rd

Monthly Theme: I Am Broken

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: I Need God's Hope

Bible Story Reference: God's Blessing to Believers (Ephesians 1)

**Previews of all videos listed below can be found on the Teacher Resource Page in the corresponding digital media folder.*

Arrival & Small Groups

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each “pod” will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.

Small Group Leaders: Introduce yourself to families you don't know and use this time to welcome kids as they arrive.

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- *What was the best part of your week?*
- *What is your favorite thing to learn about at school?*
- *If you could have any animal for a pet, which would you choose and what would you do together?*
- *If you could have any talent, what would you like to be able to do and why?*
- *If you could change the grass, streets, and sky to be made of different things, what would you make them into and what do you think that would be like?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Welcome to Large Group! My name is _____, and I am excited to see you! Turn to a friend, share your name, and give each other a fist bump. *(Allow time.)* We get to talk about a special treasure today—you! Point to yourself and say, “Who, me?” *(Who, me?)* Yes, you! Each of you is uniquely designed by God, and you are priceless in His eyes. Let me hear you say, “Priceless!” *(Priceless!)*

Theme Song/Offering/Worship Song:

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

**Tweens Leave After Worship Song*

Stage Game:

Supplies:

Buckets 2 per group

Table tennis balls 30 per group

Table 1 per group

Leader Prep: Set the table at the center of the front of the room and place both buckets on the table. Fill one bucket with the table tennis balls.

Game Rules:

1. Invite one player from each Color Team to the front.
2. Start the video.
3. Instruct one player to move the table tennis balls one at a time from one bucket to the other.
4. Count the moved table tennis balls at the end of the countdown, placing them in the original bucket.
5. Repeat with the other players, six rounds total.

6. Celebrate the player who moved the most out of all the players as the winner.

Script: Today, we get to play a game called “Pack the Treasure Chest!” Everyone, say, “Pack the Treasure Chest!” (*Pack the Treasure Chest!*) To play this game, I will call on one player from each Color Team to come to the front. (*Invite players to the front.*) One at a time, each of you will have a turn to move as many table tennis balls as you can from one bucket to the other bucket in 10 seconds. How many seconds? (*10!*)

But there is a twist! Everyone, say, “Ooo, a twist!” (*Ooo, a twist!*) You can only move one ball at a time using only your hands. You cannot pick up and dump the bucket, and you cannot pick up more than one ball at a time.

While your teammate is playing, cheer! You can also count down along with the video. Once the countdown ends, we will count the total. Then the next player will have a turn. At the end, the player who moves the most table tennis balls, packing the most “treasure” in the “treasure chest,” wins! Let’s get started! First up, let’s have the Purple Team!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: (*Cheer and count down along with the kids. Announce the end of the countdown and encourage the Purple Team to count with you while you move the table tennis balls back.*) Great job, Purple Team! Next up, let’s have the Orange Team!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: (*Cheer and count down along with the kids. Announce the end of the countdown and encourage the Orange Team to count with you while you move the table tennis balls back.*) Awesome, Orange Team! Next up, let’s have the Blue Team!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: (*Cheer and count down along with the kids. Announce the end of the countdown and encourage the Blue Team to count with you while you move the table tennis balls back.*) Good work, Blue Team! Next up, let’s have the Green Team!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: *(Cheer and count down along with the kids. Announce the end of the countdown and encourage the Green Team to count with you while you move the table tennis balls back.)* Way to go, Green Team! Next up, let's have the Yellow Team!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: *(Cheer and count down along with the kids. Announce the end of the countdown and encourage the Green Team to count with you while you move the table tennis balls back.)* Way to go, Green Team! Next up, let's have the Yellow Team!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: *(Cheer and count down along with the kids. Announce the end of the countdown and encourage the Green Team to count with you while you move the table tennis balls back.)* Way to go, Green Team! Next up, let's have the Yellow Team!

That was so much fun! In real treasure chests, there are valuable items, such as gems, gold, jewelry, and coins! Those items are expensive if you want to buy them! In our lives, God says that we are worth even more than any of those things! To Him, we are priceless. Say, "Priceless!" *(Priceless!)* This is because each one of us is uniquely designed by God. Say, "I am uniquely designed!" *(I am uniquely designed!)* That is right! Each of you is a priceless treasure to God!

Repeat after me! *(Point to the kids when it is their turn to repeat.)* "Miles!" *(Mikes!)* "Mollie!" *(Mollie)* "And Stephen too!" *(And Stephen too!)* Awesome job! Miles, Mollie, and Steven are the creators of the one-of-a-kind online show, *That Show with Mollie and Miles!* And Stephen too! If you are ready to check out the latest episode, say, "I am ready!" *(I am ready!)*

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: Say, "We found the treasure!" *(We found the treasure!)* The best treasure was Stephen discovering that Mollie and Miles valued him as a friend. It is always a good thing to help our friends know they matter to us. This is why it is amazing to remember that we matter to God! Say, "I matter to God!" *(I matter to God!)* That is right, you do! God uniquely designed you. He loves you, cares about you, and values you. Everything about you matters to Him. Point to yourself and say again, "I matter to God!" *(I matter to God!)* That truth is something we can all treasure and enjoy!

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Bible 1 per group
VIP Pass 1 per group
Construction paper 1 per group (optional)
Scissors 1 per group (optional)
Hole punch 1 per group (optional)
Marker 1 per group (optional)
Lanyard 1 per group (optional)

Script: Imagine that you are at the most amazing theme park in the world and someone hands you a pass that allows you to skip every line for rides, take backstage tours of the park, and get the most amazing food! Think about how that would make you feel.

Now imagine that you get to go to a sporting event and someone gives you a pass that lets you sit right in the front, get unlimited snacks, and even go to a place where you can meet the athletes. Think about how that would make you feel.

Now image that you get to go to a concert by a musician or band you really like. You get to stand on the side of the stage during the concert and get to hang out with the musicians backstage. How would that make you feel?

I know *any* of those experiences would make *me* feel like a very important person! Everyone, say, "Very Important Person!" (*Very Important Person!*) There are passes that will let you do all that and more called *VIP passes*. Say, "VIP!" (*VIP!*) *VIP* stands for "Very Important Person." (*Hold up the pass and draw attention to it.*)

When it comes to God, He loves us so much that He sees us all as VIPs. God invites us all to have something even better than a VIP pass to a theme park, sporting event, or concert. We are all important and matter to Him, so He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him. That relationship lasts way longer than a one-time VIP pass. That relationship lasts forever! He offers us this because we matter to Him. Everyone, say, "**I matter to God!**" (***I matter to God!***) In God's eyes, you already have a VIP pass with Him because He uniquely designed each of you to know, love, and follow Him.

Bible Story Video:

Script: (*Open the Bible.*) We get to learn from the most important book ever written! It is called the Bible. What is it called? (*The Bible!*) The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Our Bible story today comes from the book of Ephesians (ih FEE zhuhnzh)! What book? (*Ephesians!*) This book is in the New Testament, which is the second part of the Bible. A man named Paul wrote a letter to Christians in the city of Ephesus (EF uh suhs). We will learn that each one of us matters to God! Say, **"I matter to God!"** (*I matter to God!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: Have you ever known or are you a part of a really big family? (*Allow kids to respond.*) You may know someone who has a lot of siblings and cousins, but God has an even bigger family! And you know what else? Ask, "What?" (*What?*) God made each one of us to be a part of His family! To become a child of God and be part of His family, we must be adopted into His family by believing in Jesus and asking Him to rescue us from our sin.

In today's Bible story, Paul told the Ephesians that before God made the world, He chose them to know, love, and follow Him. He promised to give them the Holy Spirit to help them follow Him and point others to Him. In our lives today, through Jesus, we have the good news of *redemption*, which means Jesus took on the punishment for sin that we deserve and rescued us from sin by paying the price we owed. This is because each of us matter to God! Say, **"I matter to God!"** (*I matter to God!*)

(*Circle three*) God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment we deserved for sin. *Sin* is when we do what we think is best rather than following what *God* says is best. But Jesus came back to life on the third day, showing He is more powerful than both sin and death! Jesus rescued us from sin so we can become a part of God's amazing family! We can have this redemption through the forgiveness of our sin because of what Jesus did for us. When we trust in Jesus to forgive and rescue us from sin, God gives us an *inheritance*, which is a very special gift from God. When we trust in Jesus, we also receive the Holy Spirit who helps us follow God and point others to Him. God did this not because of anything we did to earn it but because He loves each one of us.

(*Circle one*) This redemption helps us live the way God created us to live. Paul reminded the Ephesians that, before God made the world, He chose for people to be able to know, love, and follow Him. When God created the world, He uniquely designed people to have a relationship with Him.

(Circle two) Sadly, sin entered the world. Sin breaks our relationship with and separates us from God. No matter how hard we try, we all sin, and our sin deserves to be punished. That is why we need redemption! In our Bible story today, we learned that even though our sin deserves punishment, there is hope because of what Jesus did for us through His death on the cross and that He rose from the dead.

Sin and brokenness can cause us to wonder why God would want a relationship with us. We may think we are not good enough or smart enough. We may think other people are more worthy of being loved. But God uniquely designed each one of us. He made us who we are, and He wants a relationship with us because we matter to Him. Everyone, say, **"I matter to God!"** (*I matter to God!*)

If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, you can talk with me or your Team Leader. Each one of us matters to God, and He wants to have a relationship with you. Everyone, say, **"I matter to God!"** (*I matter to God!*) Jesus died on a cross and rose again to rescue us from sin. You can *repent* by turning away from your sin and asking Jesus to forgive you. That is how you become a part of God's family! He uniquely designed each one of us, and He wants everyone to follow Him! Everyone, say, **"I am uniquely designed!"** (*I am uniquely designed!*)

Team Game:

Kids will repeat specific motions based on words from the Bible story.

Big Goal: Learn that we are chosen, forgiven, and adopted because of Jesus.

Script: Today, we get to play "Repeat the Motion!" To play this game, we will all stand in a circle. Then I will call out a word and point to someone. When I point at you, you and the two people on either side of you will repeat the motion that goes with that word! Practice the motions with me. If I say, "Chosen," you will point to yourself. (*Demonstrate.*) If I say, "Forgiven," you will place your hands over your heart. (*Demonstrate.*) If I say, "Adopted," you will make a roof with your hands forming a triangle above your head. (*Demonstrate.*) The longer we play, the faster I will call out the words randomly! Try to keep up! Each time you do the correct motion, give yourself a point. The player with the most points at the end wins! Let's get playing in 3-2-1!

Keep It Going: Instruct kids to sit down if they perform an incorrect motion. Play until one child is left standing. Allow kids to be the person pointing in the middle.

That game was a blast! What were the three words I called out? (*Chosen, Forgiven, Adopted!*) When we trust in Jesus to rescue us from sin, we are chosen, forgiven, and adopted into His family! That is what Paul wrote to the Ephesians, and it is true for us too. God uniquely designed each one of us. He wants to have a relationship with us because we matter to Him! Say, "I am uniquely designed!" (*I am uniquely designed!*) Say, "**I matter to God!**" (*I matter to God!*)

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Acknowledge that the Lord is God. (*Start with hands at your waist, palms facing upward. Swing them up, facing each other.*)

He made us, and we are his. (*With hands still up facing each other, bring your right hand to your chest, then your left hand to your chest.*)

Psalm 100:3a (*Hold your hands out like a book.*)

Script: In God's eyes, we are priceless to Him! Say, "Priceless!" (*Priceless!*) Our Theme verse reminds us of that truth because it shows that He uniquely designed us! Let's learn our Theme verse together!

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: God says that we are His, and He made us! This amazing truth shows us that we matter so much to God. God uniquely designed each one of us, and He cares for us. Everyone, say, "**I matter to God!**" (*I matter to God!*)

Theme Song:

Script: The Bible teaches us that God uniquely designed us. Everyone, say, "I am uniquely designed!" (*I am uniquely designed!*) Let's stand and sing about the truth that we are made by God!

Play Theme Song Video.

Small Groups:

*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the “Big Deal” for today’s lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

Pick Up Time:

During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as the exit the room.