

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



## 1. CUE THE CONFETTI

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Review Questions" Activity Page, "Review Questions Leader Guide" Activity Page, scissors, cup, bowl, or bag

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Matthew's Party

Luke 5:27-32

(Sometimes called Levi)

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus is a good reason to have a party.**

## KEY QUESTION

**What is your favorite type of party?**

## MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Set the container with the review question strips in the middle.
- Choose one kid to pull out a review question, read it aloud to the group, and answer the question.
  - Reference the "Review Questions Leader Guide" Activity Page to see if kids are correct. Invite the group to help answer specific questions, if needed.
- After each question, make sure the kid hangs on to the question strip.
- Continue until all questions have been answered.
  - If you have more than nine kids, repeat one of the questions using the "Review Questions Leader Guide" Activity Page (or invite kids to make up more questions), and give any additional kids blank strips of paper.
- Give every kid a pair of scissors and invite them to cut up their papers into tiny pieces that resemble confetti.
- Pass out more paper as time allows so kids can create more confetti.
- Gather all the confetti in a big bowl or bag and save for the Worthy Celebration activity.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"People get invited to parties for all different reasons. Maybe you were invited to a birthday party because you were friends with someone. Perhaps you received a good grade on a test and were invited to a pizza party during lunch. Matthew probably felt like there was no reason Jesus would invite him.

"Jesus knew that Matthew had messed up and not treated others fairly. Matthew must have felt like he didn't deserve Jesus' love. How many of you have also messed up before and treated others unfairly? (Raise your hand and invite kids to raise theirs.) Everyone messes up—or sins—sometimes. Just like Matthew and his friends, we've all done wrong things, but that never stops Jesus from loving us. Jesus came to show us the right way to live. He came to help us. That's why Matthew threw a party—because Jesus invited him to be one of His followers. Anyone who believes in Jesus can be forgiven. Let's cue the confetti, friends, because **Jesus is a good reason to have a party!**"

**\*Please note that Matthew and Levi are the same person. He is sometimes referred to as Levi in scripture and sometimes called Matthew. Either name that is being used is referring to the tax collector that Jesus called to be one of his disciples.**

## MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



## 2. WORTHY CELEBRATION

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] **WHAT YOU NEED:** "Celebration Card" Activity Page, small resealable bags, pens, stapler, and confetti from the Cue the Confetti activity

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Matthew's Party**  
Luke 5:27-32

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus is a good reason to have a party.**

## KEY QUESTION

**What is your favorite type of party?**

## MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."**  
Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the bowl or bag of confetti from the Cue the Confetti activity.
- Give each kid a sandwich bag.
- Lead kids to fill their bag with confetti.
- When kids have finished and sealed their bags, give each one a "Celebration Card" Activity Page.
- Set out the pens.
- Tell kids to write their names on the back of the card.
- Ask kids to think about who they can celebrate and why.
- Encourage kids to write down why the person they are thinking of is worthy of being celebrated on their card.
  - Prompt them with examples like: "you're a great parent," "Jesus loves you," "you help me be better," etc.
  - Assist younger kids with spelling and writing as needed.
- Help kids staple their cards to their bags.
- Set the bags aside for kids to take home later.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"We can have joy and celebrate because Jesus loves us and invites us to follow Him. **Jesus is a good reason to have a party.** Do you think everyone already knows that Jesus loves and accepts them? (*Pause for responses.*) Probably not. Jesus doesn't want us to keep this news to ourselves. He wants us to remind everyone we know that they're invited and are worth being celebrated." **[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you celebrated someone and they saw the love of Jesus because of it, or tell about a time someone made you feel celebrated.)**

**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space  
for personal understanding  
and application

**3. PRAY**

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY ]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Start the Party" Prayer Buttons

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY****Matthew's Party**

Luke 5:27-32

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Jesus is a good reason  
to have a party.**

**KEY QUESTION**

**What is your favorite  
type of party?**

**MEMORY VERSE**

**"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I can trust God no matter what.**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Show kids the Start the Party button of the day.
- Review the bottom line: "Jesus is a good reason to have a party".
- Ask kids to think about one way they can help someone feel invited today.
  - Prompt them with examples such as: Invite someone to sit with you at lunch, ask your sister if she wants to play with you, ask someone if they need help at the park, talk to your parent about your day, etc.
- Invite anyone who wants to share their responses to do so.
- Close in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, we thank You for inviting us! We thank You for giving us a reason to celebrate every day. We ask that You help our joy overflow to everyone we encounter and, therefore, make everyone we meet feel worthy of being a part of the celebration too! Please give us opportunities to show off our joy that comes from the truth that **Jesus is a good reason to have a party.** Amen."

*NOTE: Give the small group leader one button for each kid to take home. Encourage kids to come back every night to collect more buttons!*

## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



## 1. PUNCH BOX REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Punch Box Review Questions" Activity Page, and prepared box of cups

### WHAT YOU DO:

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Hold up the Bible as you remind kids today's story is found in the book of Matthew.
- Remind the kids it's a true story about a time when Jesus helped people understand that EVERYONE should be invited to follow Him.
- Set out the prepared box of cups containing the review questions and small prizes.
- Tell kids that inside each cup is a gift and slip of paper with a question about today's Bible story.
- Explain that they will take turns choosing a cup, punching through the tissue paper, and removing the slip of paper.
- Read the question from the "Punch Box Review Questions" Activity Page to each kid during their turn.
- After kids answer the question, they can take the prize.
- NOTE: If you have less than 10 kids, allow kids to take another turn. If you have more than 10 kids, invite kids to work together in pairs.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of  
the Wedding Feast**  
Matthew 22:1-14

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Everyone is invited to the party.**

## KEY QUESTION

**How does it feel to be invited?**

## MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.**

#### Review Questions and possible answers:

1. What kind of special party did Jesus talk about in the story He told? (*wedding feast*)
2. Who has God invited to be part of His family? (*everyone*)
3. Who does Jesus want us to tell about Him? (*friends, family, anyone we know*)
4. Who did the religious leaders think were invited into God's family? (*only people like them, not everyone*)
5. How has God shown His love for us? (*sent Jesus, cares and provides for us*)
6. Who does God love? (*everyone*)
7. What is the name of the special book that tells us about Jesus? (*Bible*)
8. In the story Jesus told, what were the servants inviting people to? (*a wedding feast or dinner*)
9. Who should we show God's love to? (*everyone*)
10. Who is important to God? (*everyone*)

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"When Jesus told the story about the king inviting anyone he could find to come to the wedding feast, He was helping us understand that **everyone is invited to the party**—the VERY BEST party where knowing Jesus is the reason we celebrate. Jesus wants people to know that God's love is for everyone. **[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids about a time someone helped you feel included or valuable by treating you kindly or inviting you to join them in some way.) When we choose to follow Jesus, our words and the way we act can show people the joy we have because Jesus makes our lives better!"

## MADE TO OR MOVE IT

an activity that creates space for gears in the understanding into the energetic body



## 2. MEMORY VERSE RELAY

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY ]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Ping-pong balls with memory verse words written on them, plastic spoons, painter's tape, and buckets or similar

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast**  
Matthew 22:1-14

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Everyone is invited to the party.

### KEY QUESTION

How does it feel to be invited?

### MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

### BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the painter's tape to create a finish line on one side of your small group area.
- Divide kids into two teams.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Lead teams to look up Acts: 2:28
- When finished, tell each team to line up on the opposite side of the finish line.
- Place each team's container of balls in front of their line.
- Give the first kid in each line a spoon.
- Instruct those kids to scoop one ball from the container, carefully walk it to the finish line, drop it into the other container, return to their team to hand off the spoon to the next kid in line, and go to the end of their team's line.
  - Kids cannot use their hands while walking with the ping-pong ball.
  - If they drop the ball while walking, they can scoop it back up (using one hand) but then must continue walking without using their hand on the ball.
  - The next kid in line cannot start until the previous kid hands them the spoon.
- Once a team has gotten all their balls to the finish line, the team can begin assembling the memory verse in order.
- The first team to have the memory verse finished in order is the winner!

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job following the path to put our verse together! Our memory verse reminds us that the invitation to follow Jesus leads to life, joy, and a relationship with God that lasts forever! And the best part is everyone is invited to follow Jesus. **Everyone is invited to the party.** How does it feel to be invited?" (Help kids arrive at the joy that comes from knowing we are loved, welcomed, and invited to be a part of God's family.)

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 3. PRAY

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Start the Party" Prayer Buttons

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of  
the Wedding Feast  
Matthew 22:1-14

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Everyone is invited to the party.

## KEY QUESTION

How does it feel to be invited?

## MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you."

Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids the Start the Party button of the day.
- Review the bottom line: "Everyone is invited to the party."
- Invite them to think about one way they can show someone the joy they have because of Jesus.
  - Prompt kids with examples like: Invite a friend to VBS or elsewhere, tell someone why Jesus gives you joy, cheer someone up if they are feeling down, etc.
- Invite anyone who wants to share their responses to do so.
- Close in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we thank You for the joy You've given us deep down in our hearts that we can overflow to others. We thank You for the great responsibility You've given us to help the world around us feel invited and included. Help us be excited with smiles on our faces as we look for people around us we can invite and make smile because of the joy You bring to our lives. Remind us that **everyone is invited to the party**. In Jesus' name, amen!"

*NOTE: Give the small group leader one button for each kid to take home. Encourage kids to come back every night to collect more buttons*

### MADE TO PLAY

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



## 1. BINGO BASH

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Bingo Bash" Activity Pages, "Bingo Bash Leader Pieces" Activity Page, "Bingo Bash Review Questions" Activity Page, and game chips

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of  
the Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-32

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

### KEY QUESTION

What's the best news  
you've ever heard?

### MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you."  
Acts 2:28, NIV

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Bingo Bash" Activity Page, and set out the game chips for kids to share.
- Draw a card from the "Bingo Bash Leader Pieces" Activity Page.
  - If it's simply an image, show it to the kids and invite them to place a game chip on top of the matching image on their "Bingo Bash" Activity Page.
  - If it's an image with a question mark, read a review question (in order) from the "Bingo Bash Review Questions" Activity Page. Kids must answer the review question before everyone can place a game chip on the matching image on their "Bingo Bash" Activity Page. (You can choose a kid to answer each question or allow the entire group to work together.)
- Make sure kids know once they have five chips in a row in any direction, they should yell out "Bingo Bash" to win that round.
- After each round, ask kids to clear off their boards. Collect and shuffle the "Bingo Bash" Activity Pages and redistribute them to the kids.
- Play additional rounds until all 10 review questions have been answered.
- If time allows, play even more rounds so more kids have an opportunity to win.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Congratulations to all our Bingo Bash winners! Our story today reminds us that Jesus made a way for all of us to win. He made a way for us to win at life. On the cross, Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven for our sins. Just like the son in our story, all of us have messed up, whether we've told a little lie, were mean to our brother, or ignored our mom when she asked us to do something. But because of what Jesus did for us, God will always welcome us home, like the father did in the story. THAT is the good news about following Jesus! He loves us so much that He came to be our Savior so we can **celebrate the good news.**" *[Make It Personal] (Share your personal story about how God's love and forgiveness has impacted your life.)*

### MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



## 2. FOUND IT!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, party hat or small party item, and balloon

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of  
the Lost Son**  
Luke 15:11-32

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Celebrate the good news.**

### KEY QUESTION

**What's the best news  
you've ever heard?**

### MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you."**  
Acts 2:28, NIV

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Read Acts 2:28 to the kids to refresh their memory.
- Invite any kids who have memorized the verse to share it with the group. Assist kids who want to try by inviting them to repeat it after you.
- After reviewing the verse, choose two kids to turn away from the group with eyes closed.
- Hide the party hat somewhere in the small group area. If your meeting space is small, consider hiding something a smaller party item instead.
- Ask the two kids to open their eyes and stand back-to-back.
- Place a balloon between their backs and ask them to lock arms to hold the balloon in place.
- Lead the remaining kids to direct the path of the partners to help them find the party item by saying Acts 2:28 together in a soft voice then getting gradually louder as the kids with the balloon get closer to where the party item is hidden. Lead kids to repeat the verse after you, if needed.
- Switch kids and hide the party item again.
- Play several times or until everyone has had a turn to find the party item.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Listening to the words of our memory verse helped us go in the right direction to find the party item. We don't hear God's voice out loud, but God does lead us. God's words that we read about or listen to in the Bible help us know what God is like, how we should live, and how to treat others.

**[Make It Personal] (Share one of your favorite verses with the kids.)** "God helps us know the right path to follow or choices we should make. When we listen and follow God, it brings us joy. One of the most important things God shows is how to follow Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to make a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. That is why we can **celebrate the good news.**"



## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 3. PRAY

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Start the Party" Prayer Buttons

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of  
the Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-32

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

## KEY QUESTION

What's the best news  
you've ever heard?

## MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you."  
Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids Start the Party button of the day.
- Review the bottom line: "Celebrate the good news."
- Invite kids to think of one way they can share the good news of what Jesus did for all of us.
  - Prompt kids with ideas like: tell someone about Jesus, show people Jesus' love by helping/inviting them, etc.
- Tell kids to remember the ways they can loudly share the good news of Jesus whenever they see their microphone.
- Invite anyone who wants to share their responses to do so.
- Close in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, today we think about the ultimate sacrifice You made so we can **celebrate the good news**. Instead of leaving us in our sin, You sent Jesus to die on the cross to take our sin, leaving us with freedom and forgiveness. We ask that this good news sinks deep down in our hearts today and bursts out of us like confetti to everyone we know! May we remind everyone that this good news isn't just for us, but for everybody. In Jesus' name, amen!"

*NOTE: Give the small group leader one button for each kid to take home. Encourage kids to come back every night to collect more buttons*

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



## 1. OVERFLOWING JOY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Cookie sheet, clear plastic cups, small bottle of water, scrap pieces of paper, pens or pencils, and Alka-Seltzer® tablets

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### The Woman at the Well

John 4:1-26, 39-42

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

## KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

## MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of scrap paper and a pen or pencil.
- Ask them to write down something that fills them up (or makes them feel happy, joyful, purposeful, etc.).
  - Prompt them with examples such as: doing good schoolwork, being a great soccer player, spending time with friends, playing video games, etc.
- Direct kids to fold and put their papers in the plastic cup.
- Point out the empty spaces you can still see through the cup and how the papers can't ultimately fill the cup completely.
- Place a new plastic cup on the cookie sheet (or tablecloth). With the Alka-Seltzer tablet at the bottom, slowly pour water into the cup, and watch it overflow.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"The woman at the well was surprised to find that Jesus knew all about her life and that He was—and is—the Savior God had promised. Like the woman at the well, there are times we try to fill ourselves up with different things—even good things—but those things alone will leave us feeling unfulfilled. We need something more to fill up our lives! Jesus is the only thing that will completely fill us with joy. As a matter of fact, the joy Jesus gives us is overflowing just like the water from the second cup. The woman couldn't help but tell everyone about Jesus by sharing the amazing things He told her. **Jesus is the life of the party** because we can find eternal life by putting our faith in Him. That's some good news that will leave you with overflowing joy!"

## MADE TO PLAY

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



## 2. WHAT'S MISSING?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY ]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Assortment of party related items

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### The Woman at the Well

John 4:1-26, 39-42

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus is the life of the party.**

## KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

## MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the assortment of party items.
- Give kids time to look at the items. Choose one kid to turn around and close their eyes as you remove one of the party items and hide or conceal it from view.
- Challenge the kid whose back is turned to look at the items and try to guess what's missing.
- If they don't get it in a few seconds, invite the group to provide one or two clues.
- Repeat until all the kids have had at least one turn to guess.
- For a greater challenge, allow kids to remove more than one item.
- Ask kids how each of the party items helps make the party better. Which ones do they think are most important?

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**"Jesus is the life of the party.** That means that Jesus is most important and without Him, we would not have a reason to celebrate. When we put our faith in Jesus, we have the promise that He is with us every day and will continue to be with us forever and ever. Jesus invites us to live the life God planned—a life full of joy that stays with us no matter what is happening around us. That is some really, really good news and something to celebrate. By following Jesus, we can live the life God created for us to live."

## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 3. PRAY

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Start the Party" Prayer Buttons

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### The Woman at the Well

John 4:1-26, 39-42

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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## KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

## MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."

Acts 2:28, NIV

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Show kids Start the Party button of the day.
- Review the bottom line: "Jesus is the life of the party."
- Invite them to think about something that fills up time during their week that they can swap out for time with Jesus.
  - Prompt them with examples such as: playing 10 minutes less of video games to read the Bible instead, spending time with Mom asking questions about Jesus instead of watching TV, talking to God in prayer instead of worrying about something, etc.
- Invite anyone who wants to share their responses to do so.
- Close in prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we thank You that You never leave us needing more. In a world where there are many good things that bring us happiness, You bring us complete joy even when things get hard. This week, we ask that Your Holy Spirit will remind us that we have everything we need when we follow You because **Jesus is the life of the party**. Amen."

*NOTE: Give the small group leader one button for each kid to take home. Encourage kids to come back every night to collect more buttons*