

BIBLE STORY

Seeing God in Creation
Romans 1:20

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith."
Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

FOCUS on what you can see.

1. CREATIONARY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Thumbtortionary Cards" (Activity Page attached), water-based inkpads, fine-tipped markers, paper, magnifying glasses

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a variation of Pictionary®.
- Show kids how they can use their thumbprints or fingerprints—plus a marker—to draw pictures. You might illustrate a flower, a snail, or a spider.
- Guide kids to take turns drawing a card from the "deck" of cards and using their thumb and/or fingertips and markers to create the item shown while everyone else guesses.
- When everyone finishes, invite them to use the magnifying glasses to examine and compare their fingerprints. You can even ask kids to describe their prints, such as: "One of mine kind of makes a U," "One of mine is swirly," or, "Mine curve round and round."
- Emphasize that no two people have exactly the same fingerprints. Each person's fingerprints are unique!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What were some of the things you drew? (*a cat, a cloud, a sun, etc.*) They're all things made by God! The Bible tells us that EVERYTHING God made points to Him. So, when you on what you can see, you can see how amazing and wonderful God is! God called everything that He made good, but when He made His final creation—His masterpiece—He said it was VERY good. Do you know what God called very good? When God made people, He said His last creation was VERY GOOD. If God called people very good, what do you think God thinks about YOU? The Bible tells us that you are amazingly and wonderfully made! And God loves you more than you could ever imagine! So **FOCUS on what you can see.** When you do, you'll see an amazing God!"

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2. CREATION'S CREATIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "What Do You See?" Activity Pages (attached), pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each participant a "What Do You See?" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Challenge kids to find as many of the items as possible and write each thing they find on the corresponding line on the Activity Page.
- After the scavenger hunt is done, allow time for kids to share what they found.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! Look at all the different things you found! When you **FOCUS on what you can see**, you notice the variety in God's creation. When you look at all God created, you see how much He loves us. God created food to feed us. Imagine if the only food He created was lima beans and that was all we could eat. Blech! God loves us so much He generously created all kinds of food for us to enjoy: carrots, apples, watermelon, rice, beans, and even broccoli! God created colors. Imagine if God only created the color orange and everything we saw was orange. But God loves us so much He generously created so many different colors for us to enjoy. What are other things God created to show us He loves us?"

[Make It Personal] (Share something in creation that points you to God. For example, when you see all the stars at night you are reminded how big God is. Or when you watch fireflies flitting around at night you are reminded how creative God is. Or when you hear the ocean waves crash you are reminded how powerful God is. Or when the sun comes up each day you are reminded how faithful God is.)

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PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards; markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each child a Focus Notebook. Guide them to open it to page three.
- Set out the markers, and invite younger kids to draw their favorite thing that God made.
- Ask older kids to write “God, I see You when I focus on . . .” on the top of page three or their index cards.
- Encourage kids to list and/or draw things they can see in creation that point them to God.
- If time allows, invite kids to share their drawings.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Today you learned that it’s important to **FOCUS on what you can see**. So, what are some things God made that you can see? (flowers, trees, animals, people, the sun, stars, etc.) Yes! And you know what? The God who made the ENTIRE universe—the God who made (name things the kids named)—loves YOU! He loves [kid’s name] and [kid’s name] and (repeat with each child’s name). In fact, He loves you so much that you can’t even imagine how much He loves you! He loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, just for you! Now THAT’s a lot of love!

“So, remember: **FOCUS on what you can see**. Because when you **FOCUS on what you can see**, you can see how amazing and wonderful and powerful and kind and good and loving God is! So, remember: **FOCUS on what you can see!**!”

“God, You are amazing! You are so creative! We just have to look at the number of colors in the world to see Your creativity. You love us so much! We just have to look at all the ways You feed us and all the wonderful things You created for us to enjoy. Thank You for showing us who You are in Your creation. Amen!”



sun



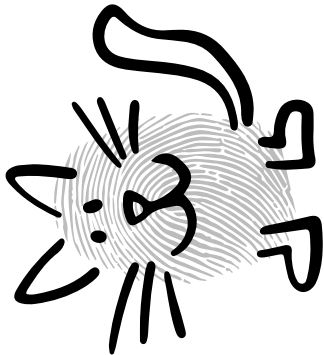
fish



cloud



dog



cat



tree

What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one set for every two kids.

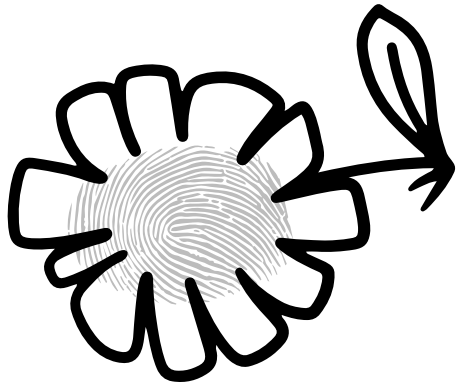
Thumbtationary

VBS, DAY 1, Small Group K-1

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bird



flower



caterpillar



turtle



spider

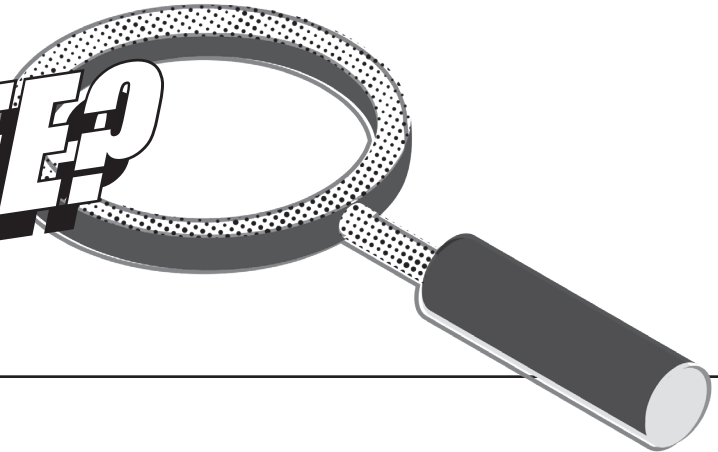


elephant

What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one set for every two kids.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?



Something colorful	
Something flat	
Something rough	
Something orange	
Something shiny	
Something small	
Something big	
Something alive	
Something squishy	
Something hard	

What to Do:

Print one copy for every two kids.

What Do You See?

VBS, DAY 1, Small Group 2-3

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WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic cups, balloons, ping-pong balls, duct tape, scissors, permanent markers, "Target" Activity Pages, painter's tape lines on the floor (*optional*), tape measures (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- If the bottoms have not yet been cut off the cups, guide kids to cut them off. Instruct kids to use duct tape to wrap around the cut edges of the cups.
- Tell kids to tie off the end of an un-inflated balloon.
- Guide them to cut off a small piece of the top of the balloon.
- Help them stretch the balloon over the end of the cup and tape it in place.
- Give each kid a ping-pong ball, and instruct them to use the permanent markers to write their name on their ball and their launcher.
- Allow kids to use their launchers!
- They can shoot for distance and use a tape measure or tape marks on the floor to see who can launch the farthest.
- They can shoot at targets and add up their points.



WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who knew you can create something this fun from cups and balloons? You need to use your laser focus to hit the targets or to shoot straight and far. You can also use your laser focus to **[Bottom Line]** **FOCUS** on what you can see that will point you to God!"





What to Do:

Print multiple targets for each station.

Target

VBS, DAY 1, Crafts

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What to Do:

Print multiple targets for each station.

Target

VBS, DAY 1, Crafts

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BIBLE STORY

The Wise and Foolish Builders
Matthew 7:24-27

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith."

Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You can HEAR from God.

1. DING DONG

WHAT YOU NEED: metal spoons, string or yarn, craft sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell one kid to hold the spoon in his hand, and instruct everyone in the group to try tapping the spoon with a craft stick.
- Encourage kids to listen closely to the sound they hear.
- Have one person double a length of string and tie the spoon in the middle. Wrap each end of the string around each index finger (just a couple times), let the spoon hang from the strings, and plug their ears with the fingers holding the string ends.
- Direct others who aren't holding the strings to gently strike the hanging spoon with a craft stick.
- Ask them:
 - How is the sound different from when you tapped the spoon when it wasn't on the string?
 - What happens to the sound when you change the spoon size?
 - What if you shorten the string by grabbing it closer to the spoon?
 - What if you strike the spoon with a different object?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Just like you hear the sound as it travels up the string to our ears, **you can HEAR from God**, too. Reading the Bible is one way we can hear from God. What if you had a question about something you read in the Bible? You could talk to someone you know is a follower of Jesus and ask them to help you understand what God is saying. Sometimes **you can HEAR from God** when you talk to other people who know Him.

"Yesterday we talked about how creation points us to God. **you can HEAR from God** when you take a closer look at what God has created; you can hear how much God loves you by the things He created to take care of you and by the things He created for you to enjoy. What are some examples of those things? (Give kids a few moments to respond and share.) God wants you to know Him, and He gives you many ways to hear what He has to say."

[Make It Personal] (Share a way you hear from God. Maybe you hear God as you do a daily devotion each morning or memorize verses. Or maybe you have a friend who is a follower of Jesus and you hear God when you pray for each other and help each other know God's Word better.)

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BOTTOM LINE

You can HEAR from God.

2. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, ping-pong ball, hair dryer, extension cord (if needed)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Hebrews 12:2 in a Bible.
- Read the verse together.
- NOTE: Try this experiment ahead of time to work out any bugs.
- With a hair dryer set on the cool setting, turn it up to high. Point the hair dryer toward the ceiling and carefully put the ping-pong ball into the air stream. When done correctly, the ball will float in mid-air.
- Look up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2deFgyj3XQ> or similar YouTube® videos by searching "how to float a ping-pong ball on air."
- Demonstrate how to use the hair dryer (cool setting only) to keep the ball afloat in midair.
- Pass the hair dryer around while still keeping the ball floating in the air.
- Challenge kids to keep the ball afloat as you guide them in reciting Hebrews 12:2 and then, without dropping the ball, pass the hair dryer to the next kid who will also say the verse.
- Continue around the circle until everyone has said the verse.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. So, in Hebrews 12:2, Let us keep looking to Jesus is a way to say we can keep looking to know God.

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BOTTOM LINE

You can HEAR from God.

PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards; markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to write on the top of page seven (or on the top of their index cards), “God, I HEAR You when . . .” Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.
- Encourage kids to finish the sentence with a way they can hear from God.
- Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.
- If time allows, challenge kids to write (in their Focus Notebook) a prayer to God asking for help to hear what He has to say.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“What are some of the ways **you can HEAR from God?** (Allow kids to answer. Be prepared to offer an example or two, such as: through the Bible, from the stories of Jesus, by focusing on what God has created). Let’s pray and thank God for all the ways He communicates with us.

“God, You are everywhere! You are with us no matter what! You want us to know You! You are communicating to us through the Bible and the stories of Jesus. Even the sounds around us point to Your creativity—the singing of the birds, the crashing of waves, the barking of a dog. Thank You for listening to us, and thank You for (fill in here with some examples of ways kids said they hear from God). We love You! Amen!”

WHAT YOU NEED: “Thaumatrope Pictures” Activity Pages; colorful pens, crayons, and/or markers; dowel rods, gray tissue paper, tape, glue sticks, sand, scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a set of Activity Pages and a piece of tissue paper and have them decorate their pictures:
- Tear small pieces of gray tissue paper, roll them into tight balls, and glue them to the bottom of the A1 and A2 circles.
- Glue sand along the bottom of the B1 and B2 circles.
- Color the other parts of the pictures.
- Have kids to cut out their four pictures.
- Show kids how to tape one end of the dowel rod to the back of A1 and the other end of the dowel rod to the back of B1.
- Help them glue the back of A2 to the back of A1. Repeat with B2 and B1.
- Tell kids to place the middle of the rod between their hands and then rub their hands back and forth to make it spin. They should be able to see the wise man’s house sitting on the rock and the foolish man’s house falling on the sand as the craft moves.



WHAT YOU SAY:

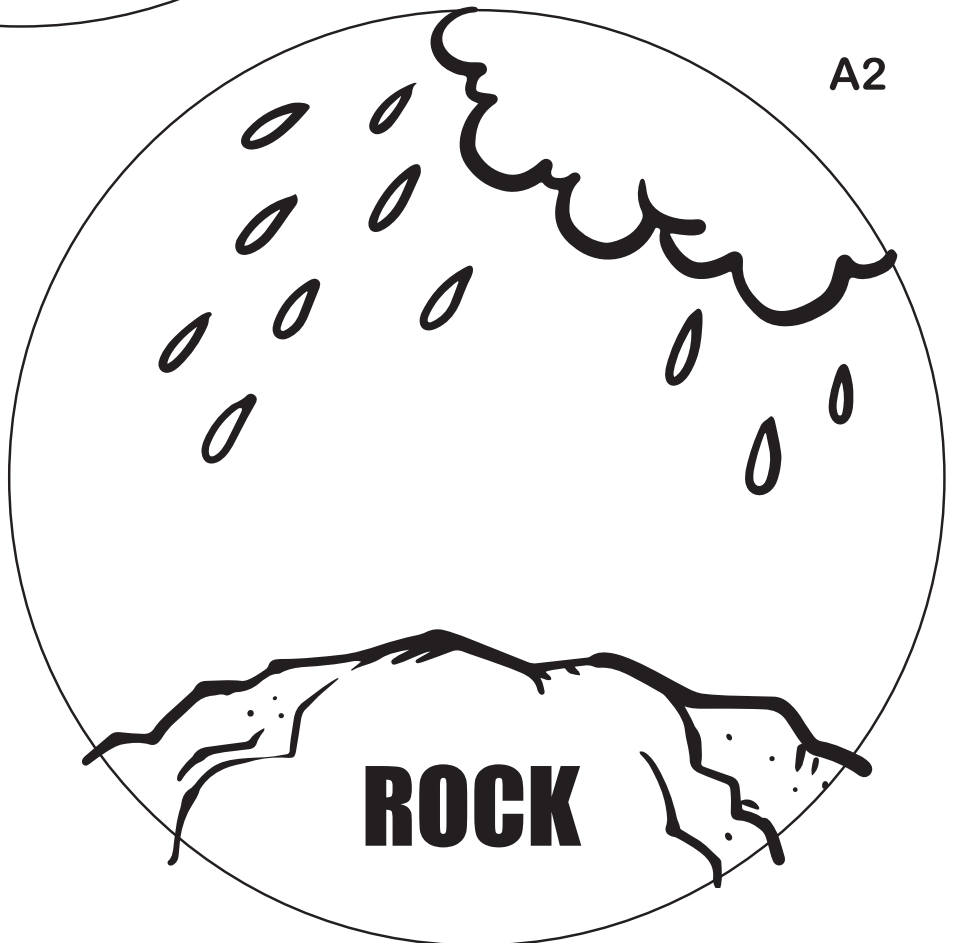
“What was Jesus trying to teach us through the parable of the wise man and the foolish man? Jesus was saying that the wise man is the one who listens to Jesus’ words and obeys them. The Bible says that God is the source of all wisdom. Foolishness is the opposite of this. Jesus’ parable encourages us to choose to be wise and build our lives on His teachings. Let’s say our Bottom Line together.

[Bottom Line] You can HEAR from God.”





The wise
man built his
house on the
ROCK.



What to Do:

Print on heavy cardstock. Provide one copy of each page for each kid.

Thaumatrope Pictures

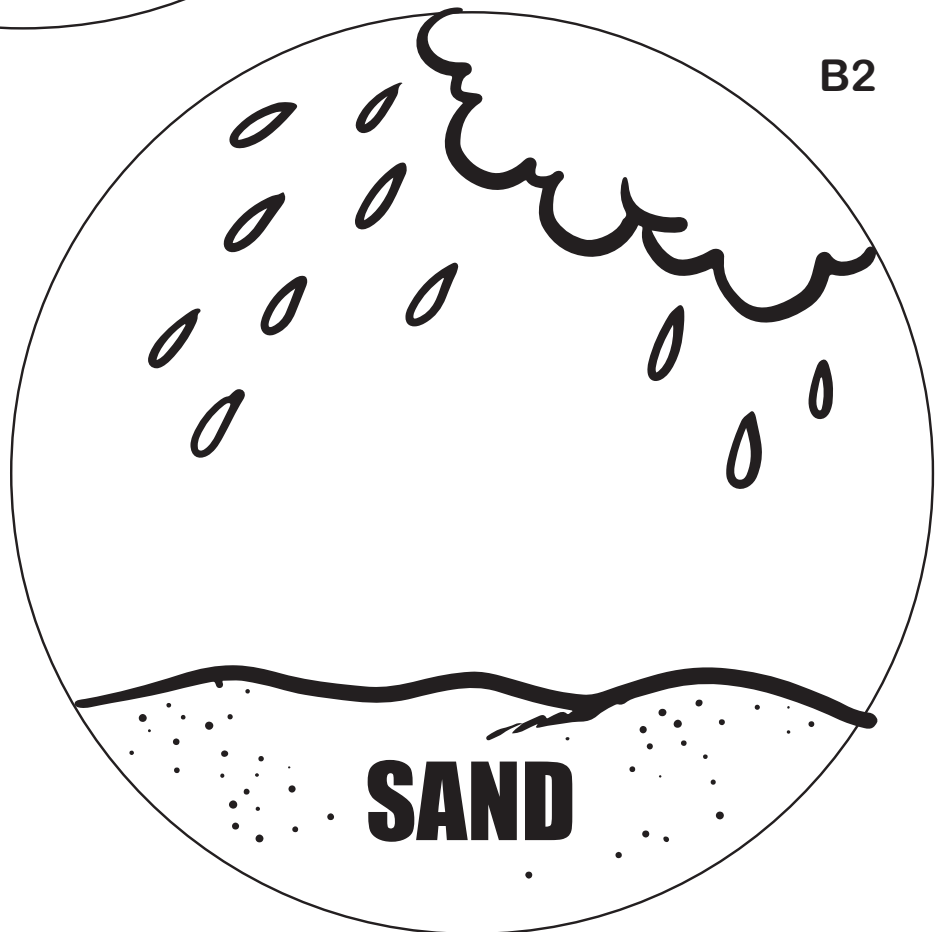
VBS, DAY 2, Crafts

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B1

The foolish
man built his
house on the
SAND.



B2

SAND

What to Do:

Print on heavy cardstock. Provide one copy of each page for each kid.

Thaumatrope Pictures

VBS, DAY 2, Crafts

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BIBLE STORY

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith."

Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You can LIVE for God by loving others.

1. REFLECTION

WHAT YOU NEED: Mirrors, "Reflect Cards" (Activity Page attached)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Select one person to be the actor.
- Give everyone a mirror, except for the actor.
- Explain the game of charades. To play:
 - Have your back facing the actor.
 - Use the mirror to see the actor.
 - Actors will act out words from the "Reflect Cards" without making a sound.
 - Guess the "word"
 - Switch actors each round, making sure everyone gets a chance to be an actor.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you look in a mirror, what do you see? You see yourself, right? But in our game of charades, if you focused on yourself, you couldn't see the actor. It is like that when we want to LIVE for God. We have to look past ourselves and focus on ways to love others. When you look beyond yourselves, **you can LIVE for God by loving others.** But what does it look like to love others? Can anyone remember some of the ways Paul described love in our story today? (option - open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 13 and read verses 4-8a. Love is patient, kind, not selfish, not boastful, looks out for others, treats others with respect.) When we love others and put others before ourselves, we are actually reflecting God's love to them."

BIBLE STORY

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.”

Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You can LIVE for God by loving others.

2. LOOKING, LOOKING

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, “Looking, Looking Cards” (Activity Pages attached), mirrors, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a set of “Looking, Looking Cards,” and a pencil.
- Lead kids to hold the cards up to the mirrors to “decode” the words and then write them on the bottom half of the card.
- When they finish, challenge them to put the cards in order. They can use their Bibles to help.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Hebrews 12:2 NIV says: *Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.* God sent Jesus to show us how to have faith in God—how to trust Him. God also sent Jesus to show us how He wants us to live.

“One way God wants us to live is by loving others. We say it this way: you can LIVE for God by loving others. So, what are some ways that you can show God’s love to others? (Pause.) Great ideas! So, remember: **you can LIVE for God by loving others.**”

BIBLE STORY

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.”

Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You can LIVE for God by loving others.

PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards; markers/pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook or index card.
- Encourage kids to use the 3D glasses and look on page 18 to read the Bottom Line for today.
- Ask kids to turn to page 19 in their Focus Notebooks.
- Ask kids to write on the top of page 19, “One way I can show love to someone this week is . . .”
Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.
- Encourage kids to think of something they can do this week to love others.
- Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“When you take a closer look at the people around you, you see ways **you can LIVE for God by loving others**. Maybe you love others by encouraging them with a kind note, or you love others by baking them cookies to let them know you were thinking of them. Maybe you show love to a friend by helping them with homework or show love to your sibling by spending time with them. Spend time this week looking for ways **you can LIVE for God by loving others**. Let’s pray.

“God, You love us so much! Every one of us is important to You! Help us to see ways we can love others. Open our eyes to ways we can show people they matter to us and—more importantly—that they matter to You. Amen!”

“Let us keep

looking to Jesus.

He is the one

who started

this journey

of faith.

What to Do:
Print one copy for each kid.

Looking, Looking Cards
VBS, DAY 3, Small Group K-1
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And he is

the one

who completes

the journey

“of faith.”

Hebrews 12:2 NIV

church

***watering
flowers***

***doing
push-ups***

kangaroo

pillow

grass

stairs

scared

What to Do:

Print and cut apart. Provide one set for each small group.

Reflect Cards

VBS, DAY 3, Small Group 2-3

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WHAT YOU NEED: Bendy straws; bowls or cups; paper; scissors; pencils; tape; small balls or pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to use a bowl or cup to trace a circle onto a piece of paper.
- Tell them to cut out the circle and then make a cut into the circle, stopping in the middle.
- Show them how to create a funnel shape out of the circle and secure it with tape.
- Guide kids to cut a small hole in the tip of the funnel and insert the short end of a bendy straw into the hole (from the outside of the funnel). They may need to tape the straw in place.
- Tell kids to place a ball into the funnel, put the long end of the straw into their mouth, and blow.
- If the ball doesn't float, kids may need to add more tape to the funnel to make it airtight.
- Challenge kids to see how high they can get their balls to float and to see how far they can walk without the ball falling. You might also want to create a walking obstacle course they can traverse while keeping their ball afloat.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Life can be full of ups and downs, like this floating ball challenge. But when you keep your focus on Jesus, you can get through it. I think today's focus is a pretty great one. Loving others is important, because we all need to be loved. Let's say today's Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line]** **You can LIVE for God by loving others."**

