



# FOCUS

DAY  
**ONE**

FOCUS VBS

ELEMENTARY  
**PRETEEN**

SMALL GROUP



# FOCUS

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

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## GETTING READY

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Index cards; one for each kid
- Pens

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print the "Blind Guess" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Bible
- One pair of sunglasses

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible
- Hair dryer with round (not flat) opening
- Extension cord (if needed)
- One ping-pong ball
- Optional: Bendable straws; one for each kid
- Optional: Ping-pong balls; one for each kid

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

- Focus Notebooks with 3D glasses (see "Additional Resources" below); one for each kid
- If you choose not to purchase notebooks, provide index cards; one for each kid
- Pens

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

- Focus Notebooks can be found in the Orange Store in packs of 10. This is a great tool to enhance your Small Group time. Find them at: [store.thinkorange.com](http://store.thinkorange.com).
- Your Orange VBS downloads include GodTime cards for kids to take home, as well as Parent Cue cards to send home to parents. These are designed to go hand in hand with today's Bible story.

**LIVE  
FOR GOD****APPLICATION  
ACTIVITY****CONNECT**

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

**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 (NIRV)

**BOTTOM LINE**

**FOCUS on what you can see.**

*Note about Preteen Small Group: Within the activities, you'll find discussion questions. There are more questions than you'll actually need. Follow the cues of your group as you get to know them. Choose questions based on the group dynamic and the types of concepts that resonate with your particular kids. And if conversations are happening naturally, feel free to follow the direction of the group instead of trying to make sure all the questions get asked and answered.*

**1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Index cards, pens

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Give** each kid a pen and index card.
- **Ask** them to think of (but not say out loud) their favorite thing in all of God's creation.
  - It might be a beautiful or fun place they've visited, a person or pet they love, a delicious fruit or vegetable, an amazing animal, a planet, or anything they feel excited and grateful for.
- **Tell** them to write their answer on the index card but to rearrange the letters of the word(s).
- **Invite** them to trade cards with someone in the group, unscramble the letters, and write their answer on the index card.
- **Allow** time for each person to share about the thing they wrote and why it's a favorite.
- **Ask** what they learn about God by observing that particular part of His creation.

**WRAP UP AND SAY:**

"The world we live in is full of amazing creatures, beautiful places, and interesting things created by a great and powerful God. But all of that wonder and beauty isn't there simply to give us fun vacation destinations or pretty pictures to take. Everything God created is there to point us to HIM. From the tiniest atom to the largest galaxy, we can see evidence of God—if we look. His fingerprints are everywhere for us to find. The more we LOOK, the more we will discover; and the more we discover, the more proof we'll find of God's care, love, and power."

**TALK**  
**ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW



**PLAY**

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working together

**BIBLE STORY**

**Seeing God in Creation**  
Romans 1:20

**MEMORY VERSE**

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**BOTTOM LINE**

**FOCUS** on what you can see.

**2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, sunglasses, "Blind Guess" cards (Activity Page)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Choose** a volunteer to wear the sunglasses.
- **Fold** the tabs of one of the cards and attach it to the sunglasses without the volunteer seeing what is written on it.
- **Explain** that the card contains a word related to something from today's Bible story.
  - The group will take turns giving up to 10 clues to the kid wearing the glasses in order to help him guess the word he can't see.
- **Switch** volunteers and repeat until all of the cards have been guessed.
- **Distribute** the cards so that each kid has at least one.
- **Read** Romans 1:20 from the NIV translation (or from below) and pause before each bolded word in order for kids to share their word if they think it fits in that part of the verse.
  - *Ever since the **world** was **created** it has been possible to see the qualities of **God** that are **not seen**. I'm talking about his **eternal power** and about the **fact** that he is God. Those things can be **seen** in what he has made. So **people** have no **excuse** for what they do.* Romans 1:20 (NIV)
- **Ask:**
  - How does creation help us figure out that God is real?
  - What are some characteristics of God we can see when we look at the things He's made?
  - If someone said, "I don't know if there is a God," what would you say to help them take a closer look?
  - How does creation take away any excuse someone gives for not believing God exists?
- **Challenge** kids to keep looking, searching, and taking a closer look at the things they CAN see that help them trust in God for what they CAN'T see.

**TALK  
ABOUT GOD**  
BIBLE STORY  
REVIEW**CONNECT**

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

**BIBLE STORY**

**Seeing God in Creation**  
Romans 1:20

**MEMORY VERSE**

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**BOTTOM LINE**

**FOCUS on what you can see.**

**3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:****Ask:**

- Imagine if all of creation could speak. What might the following tell us about God?
  - Mountains
  - Ants
  - Wind
  - Sand
  - Planets and stars
  - Snow
  - Horses
  - Jesus
  - Molecules
  - You
- What would be a good name for a detective agency that looks for God? What evidence would be in their files?
- What are some important reasons for looking around to find evidence of God?

## HEAR FROM GOD VERSE ACTIVITY



## EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

### BIBLE STORY

**Seeing God in Creation**  
Romans 1:20

### MEMORY VERSE

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Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)

### BOTTOM LINE

**FOCUS** on what you can see.

### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, ping-pong ball, hair dryer, extension cord (if needed), ping-pong ball for each kid (*optional*), bendable straws (*optional*)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

*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."
- **Form** a circle in an area that allows kids room to pass the hair dryer while it is plugged in. (If needed, use an extension cord to make this possible.)
  - If your meeting space isn't large enough for a circle, choose one kid to stand near the wall where the hair dryer is plugged in and have the remaining kids line up behind him.
- **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 11:1 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.
- **Discuss** the activity.
  - Explain how this experiment illustrates the kind of faith talked about in Hebrews 11:1.
  - What do you see around you that helps you believe in God even though you can't actually see Him?
  - If we could SEE God, do you think everyone would believe in Him? Why or why not?
  - Why do you think God made it so that we need faith to believe in Him?
- **Share** your excitement about the week ahead and all the cool things in store for them that will help them take a closer look at faith, Jesus, and how we can know and follow God.

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## HEAR FROM GOD VERSE ACTIVITY



## EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on  
experimentation and discovery

### *Optional: Straw and Ping-Pong Ball Experiment*

- Give each kid a bendable straw and a ping-pong ball.
- Bend the short end of the straw upward to make an "L" shape.
- Hold the long end of the straw in your mouth.
- Place the ball on top of the short end.
- Blow air through the straw to raise the ball in the air while Hebrews 11:1 is being read or for as long as possible.

**PRAY  
TO GOD**  
PRAYER  
ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding  
and application

### BIBLE STORY

**Seeing God in Creation**  
Romans 1:20

### MEMORY VERSE

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### BOTTOM LINE

**FOCUS** on what you can see.

### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

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

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Give** each of the kids a Focus Notebook and a pen.
- **Ask** them to find page three in the notebook. (If you haven't provided Focus Notebooks, kids can use an index card.)
- **Invite** them to write the word "CREATION" vertically on the blank page and use the letters to form other words that remind them of what they learned today.
- **Encourage** kids to be creative but to choose meaningful words that form a list of thoughts, a sentence, or even a poem.
  - Anything goes as long as there is a connection with something they are taking away from today's content.
  - For example:  
 Take a **C**loser look  
       **R**omans 1:20  
       **sE**en  
 investig**A**te  
       **faiTh**  
       **e**vidence  
       **O**bserve  
       **N**o excuses
- **Allow** kids to work individually, with a partner, or as a group.
- **Offer** suggestions as needed.
- **Invite** those who are willing to share what they wrote.
- **Collect** the notebooks for use again tomorrow.
- **Close** in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for the amazing world we live in. Everywhere we look there is evidence of Your love and power. When we focus on what we can see in nature and all of Your creation, we realize that we have no excuse for not believing in You. Help us this week to take a closer look at how we can know and follow You. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Travel Time:**

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- If you could tame any animal and make it a pet, what would you choose?
- There are a lot of unnamed stars in the sky. If you could name one, what would you call it?