



Elementary Leader Guide

November 2 –The Warehouse 4th-5th

Monthly Theme: I Am Made for Community

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Welcomes Us

Bible Story Reference: The Story of the Party Banquet (Luke 14:15-24)

**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 food to eat at a party?*
- *If you could be famous for something, what would you choose?*
- *What would make the holidays the best celebration ever?*
- *What famous person would you like at your birthday party?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Hey there, everyone! My name is _____, and I am pumped to be with you today. Without each other, we would be alone. We were made for community, and each of you is welcome here. A *community* is a group that shares the same interests. Our group is like a big *huddle*, similar to what you might see at a sporting event when a group of athletes gather closely together to get excited about a game. When I say, "Huddle up!" I want you to say, "I am made for community!" "Huddle up!" (*I am made for community!*) Today we will learn more about what it means to be part of a community!

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:

Game Rules:

1. Start the video.
2. Challenge kids to carefully study the picture for 10 seconds.
3. Direct kids to follow the prompt when they spot the missing object on the next screen.
4. Continue playing till the end of the video.

Script: When I say, "Huddle up!" you say, "I am made for community!" Let's try! "Huddle up!" (*I am made for community!*) We are made for community. A *community* is a group of people who come together because they share the same interest. People at sporting events are considered a community because they all share a common interest in that sport. I will show you a picture of a sporting event. Carefully study the picture for 10 seconds. For how long? (*10 seconds!*) After 10 seconds, you will see the same picture but something that was in the first picture will be missing. When you know what is missing, you will follow the directions on the screen. Ready? "Huddle up!" (*I am made for community!*)

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: When I say, “Huddle Up!” you call back with, “I am made for community!” “Huddle up!” (*I am made for community!*) You did a great job spotting what was missing at those games. Could they have played those games the same way if they played by themselves? (*Allow responses.*) Those games were made to be played in community. A *community* is a group of people who are connected by something in common. It is so awesome to remember that God made us for community. “Huddle up!” (*I am made for community!*)

Everyone, stand up, pretend to hold a bat, and call out, “Batter up!” (*Batter up!*) Awesome! Sit back down. (*Allow time.*) In just a minute, we will virtually visit a sports museum where some pretty cool things happen when no one is around. Say, “Play ball!” to get our video started in 3-2-1! (*Play ball!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: Ruby was worried because she was new to the team. She wondered if she would hit a home run or strike out. But Bobbie was a great friend. He helped Ruby know she was welcome at the museum. Today, we will learn that God welcomes all of us. Point to yourself and say, “Who, me?” (*Who, me?*) Yes, you! All of you! God loves us, and He welcomes us into a relationship with Him and with others who love and follow Him. God made us for community and welcomes everyone into His family. Let me hear you say, “**God welcomes us!**” (*God welcomes us!*)

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Goody bags 7 per group
Bible 1 per group

Script: When you go to a party and see a goody bag with your name on it, you know that someone planned for you to be there. Goody bags at parties are pretty cool, especially when they are packed with your favorite candy! I want you to call out your favorite candy in 3-2-1! (*Allow responses.*) Awesome! My favorite candy is ____!

Some people use goody bags to help their guests feel welcome. **God welcomes us** in an even better way! He welcomes everyone into a relationship with Him so they can become a part of His family. God invites and welcomes *everyone*. Who does God welcome? (*Everyone!*) That’s

right! It doesn't matter what we look like, where we live, or how old we are. And the best part is that we don't have to try to be perfect to have a relationship with Him! **God welcomes us** because He loves us. In the same way that a goody bag filled with your favorite treats lets you know that someone cares about you, God shows His love for us by accepting us into His family. Let me hear you say, "**God welcomes us!**" (*God welcomes us!*)

Bible Story Video:

Script: (*Open the Bible.*) Today we will learn from the Bible. What is this book called? (*The Bible!*) That's right! The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Today's Bible story comes from a part of the Bible called the book of Luke. The book of Luke is in the New Testament. The what? (*New Testament!*) You got it! This Bible story is called a parable. A *parable* is a simple story Jesus told to help people understand something important about God. Jesus told a parable about a man and his invitation to a party banquet. Let's see what happens. Get things started by saying, "Huddle up!" in 3-2-1! (*Huddle up!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: Well, that was a plot twist! Everyone, say, "Plot twist!" (*Plot twist!*) This man was having a big party, but the people rejected his invitation. Can you imagine being invited to a big feast and saying you do not want to go? Well, the man did not give up! He sent his servant to tell the people that the party was ready, and that they should come. But the people made excuses not to go. Still the man did not give up! He sent his servant to invite the poor, blind, and lame (those who could not walk) to his party. Guess what? Say, "What?" (*What?*) They all came! The people who were usually looked down on or not invited to most parties were invited to this party, and they came! This parable teaches that God invites everyone to have a relationship with Him. Say, "**God welcomes us!**" (*God welcomes us!*) This story shows that God invites and welcomes everyone, but some people reject Him and His invitation.

I wonder what group I would fall into? Would I make excuses and pretend to be too busy for the party? Or would I run to the feast when I received the invitation? What about you? (*Allow responses.*)

(*Circle two*) The Bible helps us see that we have all rejected God because we are broken people. We sin and do what we think is best instead of following what *God* says is best. And our sin breaks our relationship with God. No matter how much we try to do good or hide our sin, we

cannot get into God's party on our own. One day, there is going to be a perfect party forever in heaven. Jesus is going to come back to earth and make things right. But not everyone will be at that party.

(Circle one) But we need to remember that God created each one of us. He knows us, and He loves us. God created a perfect and good world, and He wants us to be in a relationship with Him. But God is also holy and perfect, and He cannot ignore sin. So how do we get to be with God forever? How can we be part of God's team?

(Circle three) Let me hear you say, "Jesus!" (*Jesus!*) Jesus is our Rescuer! God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. Because of Jesus, our broken relationship with God could be made new, and we can be with Him forever. Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment we deserved because of sin. He came back to life and promises to give new life now and forever to everyone who turns from sin and follows Him. Like the people first invited to the wedding feast, some people today ignore Jesus or make excuses not to come to Him.

Through Jesus, **God welcomes us** to be with Him! When we believe in Jesus and follow Him, we can live with God forever.

Jesus told this parable to help people know that everyone is invited into His kingdom—to be part of His team—but to do that, they must first receive His invitation. God sent Jesus so all people who put their faith in Him can have a relationship with Him. When we wonder if we are wanted, we can know that God welcomes and invites everyone to trust and follow Jesus and live life with Him forever. We find community with God and with others who love and follow Him. A *community* is a group of people who are connected by something in common, and God welcomes us into His community. Say, "**God welcomes us!**" (*God welcomes us!*)

God made us for community, and that is why He welcomes us to be a part of His family. He invites all of us to live in community with Him and with others who love and follow Him. If you have questions about how to be welcomed into God's family, you can talk to me or your Team Leader. We would love to share with you how **God welcomes us** into His family.

Team Game:

Kids will add cotton balls one by one to a plate as they play an over/under game.

Big Goal: Work together and learn that **God welcomes us**.

Leader Prep: None

Supplies:

Cotton balls 10–15 per group

Paper plates 2–3 per group

Script: Let's all work together to form groups of four or five players. *(Allow time.)* Each group will receive a paper plate and five cotton balls. How many cotton balls? *(Five!)* Yes! Then each group will create a single-file line, with one person standing in front of the other. The five cotton balls and paper plate will be on the ground in front of the first person in each line. When I say, "Go," the first person in line will place one cotton ball on the plate, then pass the plate with the cotton ball on the plate "over" to the person behind him. That person will then pass the plate with the cotton ball on it "under" to the next person. Continue passing the items "over" and "under" all the way down the line.

When the plate reaches the last person in line, that person will run to the front of the line carrying the plate and cotton ball and add another cotton ball to the plate. You will pass over and under again. After you have passed all five cotton balls, sit down!

Each time the group drops a cotton ball, they must cheer aloud, "I am made for community! **God welcomes us!**" before they can pick up the cotton ball and continue. Let's see which group welcomes each cotton ball best. If you're ready, say, "I'm ready!" *(I'm ready!)*

Was that game easy to play? Why or why not? What was difficult about it? *(Allow responses.)* Was it difficult to keep all the cotton balls on the plate? *(Allow responses.)* Each cotton ball was important in the game. In the same way, each person in a community is important! You added the cotton balls to the plate one by one, and we build community one by one. **God welcomes us** one by one into His family when we choose to respond to Jesus as our Savior. One by one, people choose to either accept His invitation for a relationship with Him or they choose to turn away from Him. God welcomes all who respond to His invitation!

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Encourage one another *(Scoop your right hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.)* and build each other up *(Scoop your left hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.)* as you are already doing. *(Bring both hands together in front of your chest.)*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (*Hold both your hands out like a book.*)

Script: Let's learn our Theme verse that is all about encouraging and building each other up. When I say, "Huddle up!" you say, "I am made for community!" Ready? "Huddle up!" (*I am made for community!*)

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: When you encourage one another, you build each other up, making each other stronger. Encouraging each other builds a strong community, and we are made for community. Negative words tear down or tear apart, but positive words build up. Say, "I am made for community!" (*I am made for community!*) **God welcomes us**, and we can encourage others in our community.

Theme Song:

Script: Let's join together in singing our Theme song. A community of voices is way better than just one voice. When I say, "Huddle up!" you say, "I am made for community!" Ready? "Huddle up!" (*I am made for community!*)

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

November 9 –**The Warehouse 4th-5th**

Monthly Theme: I Am Made for Community

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Connects Us

Bible Story Reference: Saul and Barnabas (Acts 9:26-31; 13:42-52)

**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 board game to play?*
- *If you had a choice between doing something alone or with someone else, which would you choose and why?*
- *What are different things that make someone a good friend?*
- *What super amazing gift would you like to give the people in your family or people in your community?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Hey there! My name is _____, and I am pumped to be with you today as we huddle up and see what God has for us to learn. Left side, you say, “Huddle,” and right side, you say, “Up!” Again, left side, say, “Huddle!” and right side, say, “Up!” I think you are ready to learn more about how God made us for community. God made us for what? *(Community.)* OK, then! *(Point to the left and right to lead the cheer.)* Let’s *(Huddle!) (Up!)*

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:

Game Rules:

1. Start the video and walk around the room while the music is playing.
2. Follow the command shown on the slide to create huddles when the music stops.
3. Continue playing videos and following the commands.

Script: Let’s get out of our seats and create some huddles! Can you say, “Huddle up”? *(Huddle up!)* To get the game started, you will walk freely around the room as the music plays. But pay close attention because when the music stops, you will need to get into a huddle with the same number people listed on the screen and connect by the body part listed. For example, if the slide says, “2, back,” then you must find two people and stand with your backs together before the music begins again. Are you ready? Stand up and let’s “Huddle Up!”

Play Stage Game Video 1.

Script: *(Begin after the music stops.)* First up, “3, elbows!” Move fast! Find two other people, and connect those elbows! *(Allow time.)* Awesome! Start walking again.

Play Stage Game Video 2.

Script: *(Begin after the music stops.)* Next up, it is “4, heads!” Find three other people, and connect your heads! Remember, two heads are better than one, but four heads are better than three in this round! Hurry! You can do it! *(Allow time.)* Great job! Now, it is back to walking.

Play Stage Game Video 3.

Script: *(Begin after the music stops.)* This one is “2, backs!” Let’s see you find a friend and stand back to back. *(Allow time.)* Way to go! Start walking around again.

Play Stage Game Video 4.

Script: *(Begin after the music stops.)* Looks like this time it is “7, hands!” You can use one hand with seven people! Huddle up, and lend a hand! *(Allow time.)* I want to give you a hand for all those hands! *(Clap.)* Now, it is back to walking.

Play Stage Game Video 5.

Script: *(Begin after the music stops.)* The last one is “10, feet!” If we have 10 feet, that is 5 people, right? Or 10 people putting in 1 foot each, or a combination of 1 and 2 feet! Let’s see you quickly form a huddle with 10 feet. OK, let’s move those feet!

Great huddling, everyone! Go ahead and find your seats. *(Allow time.)* When I say, “Huddle,” you say, “up!” “Huddle!” *(Up!)* “Huddle!” *(Up!)* Wow, that was a fast-moving game, and you had to be ready to find just the right number of people for your huddle, didn’t you? How did it feel not to be included in a huddle? *(Allow responses.)*

We all need each other, don’t we? God made us for community. Look at your neighbor and say in slow motion, “I am made for community.” *(I am made for community.)* Community is a group of people coming together for a purpose. When you’re in community, you have a place where you belong. Each of you matter, each of you belongs here, and we are glad you are part of our community!

People enjoy playing all sorts of sports! Everyone, call out one of your favorite sports in 3-2-1! *(Allow response.)* Those all sound so fun! Right now, we get to check out two *(make finger quotes)* “players” from two different teams. Why did I make finger quotes? Watch the video and you will see!

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: If I was a poster hanging in a museum, I would be so happy to have someone else to talk to—just like Ruby and Bobbie. But we are not posters—we are real people! And the real truth is that God made us to have a relationship with Him and with friends. Say, **“God connects us!”** *(God connects us!)* God made us for community. He gives us friends so we can encourage each other, grow together, and help one another as we live in community with one another. Say, “I am made for community!” *(I am made for community!)*

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Two-way radio 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

Script: Say, “Huddle up!” if you have ever used one of these. *(Hold up the two-way radio, and allow kids to respond.)* Looks like many of you have used one of these before! This is a two-way radio, or you may call it a “walkie-talkie.” Two-way radios make a way for us to talk with people even when they are far away. As long as someone has the other radio, we can stay connected. One of my favorite things to do with two-way radios is to play hide-and-seek. Even though you are separated, the radios let you stay connected to the person you are seeking. Pretty cool, huh?

Did you know that God made us to connect with others who love Him? God knows we are better together, and we need each other. When we trust and follow Jesus, we can get connected with others who trust and follow Him. Like two-way radios connect us with others, God connects us with others too! Let me hear you say, **“God connects us!”** *(God connects us!)* These connections strengthen and encourage us. God knows we need community, and He made us for community. Say, “I am made for community.” *(I am made for community.)*

Bible Story Video:

Script: *(Open the Bible.)* Today we will learn about a story from the Bible. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Our Bible story comes from the book of Acts, which is in the second half of the Bible called the New Testament. In this story, we will hear about two people that God connected, and how they helped each other tell people about Jesus. We are made for community, and these two people were a great team. Their names were Saul (who was later called Paul) and Barnabas. Listen closely to how they helped one another.

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: What a team Saul and Barnabas made! Barnabas helped those who did not believe in Jesus, and Paul told of the amazing way he met Jesus. Together, the two men were able to tell all who would listen about Jesus. Because of Saul and Barnabas, the news of Jesus spread through the whole town.

God connects us, and He connected Saul and Barnabas too. Everyone, say, **"God connects us!"** *(God connects us!)* God knew Saul would need a helper, and He chose Barnabas to be Saul's helper. Barnabas did a great job encouraging and helping Saul (later called Paul) share the good news of Jesus. Jesus changed Paul's life, and he could not wait to share that good news with others.

(Circle two) So what changed for Paul? Before Paul trusted in Jesus, he made a lot of wrong choices to do what he thought was best instead of following what God said was best. That is called sin, and all people sin. Sin creates brokenness all around us and within us. And sin keeps us from a right relationship with God and with others. Even when we try hard to do what we think is right, we can never fix our brokenness on our own. Our sin deserves punishment.

(Circle three) In His love, God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus died on a cross and came back to life on the third day, showing that He is more powerful than both sin and death. When we confess our sin and ask Jesus to forgive us, we can turn from sin and start to trust and follow Him. When we do, we get to have a forever relationship with God and get connected with others who love and follow Him.

(Circle one) God created us to have a relationship with Him and with others. When we trust and follow Jesus, we get to enjoy the relationships and community God created us for. One day, Jesus will return and sin will no longer be a problem. God will make everything new and we will get to enjoy community with God and others forever. Until then, we can know that, through

Jesus, we get to enjoy community and connection with others *right now!* When Saul trusted Jesus, God connected him with Barnabas, and together, they got to share Jesus with others.

God made us to connect with Him and with others. Sometimes we may wonder, *What can be different with friends at church?* Like Saul and Barnabas, we can find friends at church who follow Jesus like we do and want to share His love with others. Let me hear you say, “I am made for community!” (*I am made for community!*) Say, “**God connects us!**” (***God connects us!***)

Team Game:

Kids try to connect three in a row while the other team tries to block.

Big Goal: See that we can encourage one another to connect to God.

Leader Prep: Use masking or painter’s tape to create a tic-tac-toe grid on the floor. Use tape to create a team starting line on the opposite side of the room from the grid. Place beanbags (six in one color and six in a different color) at the starting line.

Supplies:

Beanbags 12 per group

Masking or painter’s tape 1 per group

Script: Are you ready to try to make a 1, 2, 3 connection? Let’s work together to create two teams. Each team will line up at the starting line across from the tic-tac-toe board. One at a time, a member from each team will hop down to the board and place a beanbag on the tic-tac-toe grid. Each team will try to make three in a row or block the other team from getting three in a row. Be sure to encourage your teammates as they hop down to make a play! Are you ready? If you are ready, say, “Tic-Tac-Toe, Go!” (*Tic-Tac-Toe, Go!*)

: You worked so hard to make connections. As you know, to win this game, you needed three beanbags connected in a row. While you were trying to make those connections, the other team was trying to block you. Connecting with others is not always easy. Things don’t always go the way we hoped they would. The important thing is to remember that we were made for community, and **God connects us** to Himself and others. High-five three people, and say, “**God connects us!**” (***God connects us!***)

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Encourage one another (*Scoop your right hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.*) and build each other up (*Scoop your left hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.*) as you are already doing. (*Bring both hands together in front of your chest.*)
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (*Hold both your hands out like a book.*)

Script: Barnabas was a great encouragement to Saul, and the good news they shared was encouraging to all who believed. Let's learn our Theme verse that talks about encouraging others.

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: A *community* is a group of people coming together for a common purpose. God gives us community at church when we love and follow Jesus together. One thing community does is encourage us. Who in your life do you know that might need to be encouraged? Go and encourage that person this week!

Theme Song:

Script: God made us for community! What are we made for? (*Community!*) That's right! God created us, and He wants us connected to Him and each other. Let's all stand together now and learn 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

November 16 – **The Warehouse 4th-5th**

Monthly Theme: I Am Made for Community

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Values Us

Bible Story Reference: The Story of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin (Luke 15:1-10)

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Arrival & Small Groups

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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?*
- *Where would you consider a good place to hide something in your house?*
- *If you could spend the day at a museum or a park, which would you choose and why?*
- *If you could have any pet, which animal would you pick and why?*
- *What would be the greatest combination of two animals?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Hey there, kids! My name is _____, and I am so excited to see you today. Today we are going to learn all about community. God created us for community. A *community* is a group of people who come together for a purpose. When we find community with others, we feel like we belong. We are made for community! What are we made for? (*Community!*) That's right!

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:

Playground balls 6 per group

Table tennis balls 6 per group (optional)

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

Game Rules:

1. Invite two players from each team to the front.
2. Direct players to stand back to back, giving one player in each pair a playground ball.
3. Start the video.
4. Instruct players to play catch while standing back to back and tossing the ball over their heads for their partners to catch. They will earn one point for each successful catch. Declare the pair with the most points at the end of the countdown as the winners.

Script: As we learn the truth that we are made for community, we will play a game that involves teamwork! Let me hear you say, "Back-to-Back Ball!" (*Back-to-Back Ball!*) For this game, I will

need two players from each team to join me at the front. (*Invite players to come forward and give a ball to each pair.*) You and your teammate will have one minute to play catch. How long? (*One minute!*) But there is a twist! Say, “Ooo, a twist!” (*Ooo, a twist!*) You and your teammate will have to stand back to back, which means that you will play catch by tossing your ball over your head for your teammate to catch! You will earn one point for each successful catch. At the end, the team with the most points wins! (*Direct players to stand back to back.*) Players, are you ready? (*Yes!*) Teams, are you ready to cheer on your teammates? (*Yes!*) Count down with me to start the game! Ready? 3-2-1!

Play Stage Game Video.

Script: And the winner is the ____ Team! Let’s give all our players a hand as they return to their seats. (*Allow time.*) Those players had to work together to play the game. We *all* work together with others because we are all made for community. What are you made for? (*Community!*) That’s right! God didn’t create us to live this life alone. We need each other, and we are better together. Look to your neighbor, and say, “I am made for community!” (*I am made for community!*) Nice job!

When I count to three, I want everyone to pretend to throw a baseball my way and I will try to hit it with my pretend bat. (*Pretend to hold a baseball bat.*) Ready? 3-2-1, throw! (*Allow kids to throw while you swing.*) That looks like a home run! Let’s watch a video featuring some very ... unique baseball and softball players. Say, “Play ball!” in 3-2-1! (*Play ball!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: How cool would it be to have your very own baseball card featuring *you*? Say, “So cool!” (*So cool!*) The truth is, we don’t need cards, trophies, awards, or anything else to know that we are valuable. We can know we are valuable because God values us! God says that we are likeable and worthy of having a relationship, or community, with Him and others. No matter what anyone else says and no matter how we may think or feel, the truth is that God loves and values us. Say, “**God values us!**” (*God values us!*)

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Coin 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

Script: Hey, everyone, I need your help! I lost something very important, and I am wondering if you can help me find it. I had it in this room, but I don't know where it went. It is a coin, and I have no clue where it is. Can you help me look for it? *(Allow time for kids to search. When someone finds the coin, lead the whole group in celebrating.)*

I am so glad you helped me find this coin! When you lose something that is valuable to you, like a coin, you will look and look until you find it. Good thing we didn't have to look all day, right? *(Right!)* Did you know that God places more value on each one of us than we place on any kind of coin we might value? God loves everyone, and He invites all people to know and love Him too.

We don't have to do anything special to earn God's love. **God values us** because He made us, and He wants us to be with Him forever. That should make us feel pretty special! Think about that! The one and only God of the entire universe values us! Who does God value? *(Us!)* Huddle up as a team and cheer, **"God values us!"** three times. *(Allow teams to cheer.)* Great job! Never forget that God not only created you and loves you, but He also values you!

Bible Story Video:

Script: *(Open the Bible.)* Today we are going to open the Bible, which is God's true message to us about Himself. Our story comes from the book of Luke in the second part of the Bible, which is called the New Testament. In this Bible story, Jesus talked to some religious leaders and told them stories called parables. *Parables* are stories Jesus told to help people understand important things about God. Today, we will learn through these important stories just how much **God values us**. Say, **"God values us!"** *(God values us!)* Listen closely to see what Jesus was trying to teach those who came to Him.

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: In each of the parables we heard, the lost things had great value. The people put on a great search for the lost sheep and the lost coin, and they rejoiced when each item was found. Now you may be thinking, *What does that have to do with me? I am not a coin or a sheep. I am a person.* That's right, you are! God created you, and He loves and values you—more than a sheep, more than a coin, and more than anything! God values you! Everyone, say, **"God values us!"** *(God values us!)*

(Circle one) From the very beginning, God valued people. He created a perfect world so people could have a perfect relationship with Him. Did you know that when God created the world, He knew He would create you? God knows everything about you because He made you, and He loves you very much. God created you to have a perfect relationship with Him.

(Circle two) But sin breaks our perfect relationship with God. *Sin* is when we do what we think is best instead of following what *God* says is best. When Adam and Eve (the first people God created) chose to disobey God, sin entered the world, and God's perfect world was broken. No matter how hard we may try to be good or fix our sin problem ourselves, we cannot do it. Our sin separates us from God. We are part of the same broken world as Adam and Eve were, and we need help.

(Circle three) The punishment for our sin is death. In the same way that parents punish their children when they disobey, God must punish our sins. But because God is a loving and perfect God, He gave us the only way we could be rescued from the punishment for our sin. God values you so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for your sins. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on a cross, which is how He took the punishment for sin. But Jesus rose again and is alive today! Jesus showed that He is more powerful than sin and death and is the true King of the world.

When we believe in Jesus, turning away from our sin and asking Him for forgiveness, He rescues us from that punishment and fixes our broken relationship with God so we can live in community with Him forever.

The coin and sheep in the parables today were lost, and we are also lost. However, we are lost in a different way. We are lost because our sin leads to brokenness, which separates us from God. This brokenness can lead to us feeling alone and separate, even when we are with other people. But when we trust in Jesus, there is an even bigger celebration in heaven than when the coin or the sheep was found. That celebration is because when we trust in Jesus, we live in community with God and His people forever. God values us so much, He made the way for us to go from lost to found, and from alone to having community with Him. Say, **"God values us!"**
(*God values us!*)

If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, please ask me or your one of your leaders. We would love to tell you more about what it means to be found in Him!

Team Game:

Kids will try to guess who is hiding the lost coin.

Big Goal: Remember how the Bible story teaches that God seeks after us and celebrates us because we are valuable to Him.

Leader Prep: None

Supplies:

Coin 1 per group

Script: Let's all sit in a circle and see if we can find the lost coin. *(Allow time.)* First, put both hands out in front of you (palms up), then close your eyes. While your eyes are closed and your palms are up, I will walk around the circle and put the coin in one person's hand. After I put the coin in one person's hand. I will give a signal for everyone to close your fists, then give another signal for everyone to open your eyes. Then, we will guess who has the coin.

If you do not have the coin, you cannot say that you do not have it. And if you do have the coin, you cannot say that you do have it. You can say things like, "I think _____ has (or doesn't have) the coin because ..." and then share your reason. Once the majority of us agree who has the coin, we will see if we are right. When the coin is found, we will all rejoice. Then the person who had the coin will hide it for the next round. Say, "Huddle up!" if you are ready to find the coin. *(Huddle up!)*

The coin was hard to find because it could have been in anyone's palm! A coin is usually very small and easy to lose, but that didn't stop us from looking for it! When the coin was found, we cheered. Why? Because when we lose something valuable, we celebrate when it is found. In the Bible story today, the woman called people over to help her look for the coin. This coin was valuable to her, but **God values us** even more. God celebrates when we turn away from our sin and connect with Him. And we can celebrate when we follow God and see others follow Him as well. Say, "**God values us!**" *(God values us!)*

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Encourage one another *(Scoop your right hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.)* and build each other up *(Scoop your left hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.)* as you are already doing. *(Bring both hands together in front of your chest.)*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *(Hold both your hands out like a book.)*

Script: Point to the friends sitting beside you and say, “You are valued by God.” (*You are valued by God.*) Now let’s learn our Theme verse.

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: Great job! We are made for community, and we can encourage each other and remind everyone that God values them. Think about who you can encourage here today and later on this week as well!

Theme Song:

Script: OK, teams, let’s huddle up and sing our Theme song. We are made for community. What are we made for? (*Community!*) You got it! Let’s have fun by singing together and celebrating this 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

November 23 –**The Warehouse 4th-5th**

Monthly Theme: I Am Made for Community

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Includes Us

Bible Story Reference: Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz (Ruth 1–4)

**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 the best trip you have ever been on, and where did you go?*
- *If you could choose between a week at the beach or a week in the mountains, which would you choose and why?*
- *If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?*
- *If you could put a theme park in your backyard, what ride would you build first?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Tweens arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Hey everyone, I am ____, and it is so great that you are here! Today we will huddle up and learn together that we are made for community. What are we made for? (*Community!*) That's right! A *community* is a group of people who come together for a purpose. God made us for community. Give someone next to you a high five and say, "You are made for community!" (*You are made for community!*)

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:

Game Rules:

1. Invite two players from each team to the front of the room.
2. Explain the three "shapes" they can make with their body: hands on hips and feet spread apart, like a triangle; arms straight by side and legs together, like a line; arms up and out to the side and legs apart, like an X.
3. Guide players to practice each shape.
4. Count to three, and each person on stage will choose to make one of those shapes.
5. Give a point to each team that made the same shape.
6. Play several rounds.

Script: When I say, "Copy," you say "cat!" "Copy!" (*cat!*) "Copy!" (*cat!*) Now let's whisper it, "Copy!" (*cat!*) Great job! I think you are all ready and warmed up!

First off, I need two players from each team to come to the front. (*Select players and invite them to the front.*) The goal of this game is the opposite of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." In this game,

you get points for making the *same* shape with your body. So, without talking to your teammates, both of you want to make the same shape with your bodies. You think you've got it? *(Allow responses.)* Here are the three shapes: *(Demonstrate each shape as you explain.)*

Hands on your hips and feet spread apart, like a triangle. Your arms straight by side and legs together, like a straight line. Finally, your arms up and out to the side and legs apart, like an X. Next, you will face your team member, I will countdown from three, and you will both make a shape.

We will play several rounds. The team that "Copycats" each other (makes the same shape) will get a point for each round. Ready to play "Copycat?"

OK, face your teammate! Remember, you cannot talk or give signals! Get ready to make your shape! Will you be copycats? Let's see! 3-2-1! *(Allow kids to make shapes.)*

Great job! Each of you that matched gets a point! Well done! *(Award points.)*

(Continue playing multiple rounds as time permits.)

Let's tally up our team points and see which team has the most points. *(Allow time.)* Looks like the ____ Team is our winner! Congratulations! Let's cheer for all our players as they return to their seats. *(Allow time.)*

There are a lot of copycats in this room! Great job! Could you play this game alone? *(No!)* To win this game, each player needed a teammate. We needed each other! Not only was it more fun playing together, but it was impossible to win the game alone. But sometimes, even in a room full of people, we can feel alone. But God made us for community. What did He make us for? *(Community!)* That's right! We are meant to live this life together, cheering one another on. Give three friends near you high fives, and tell them, "You were made for community!" *(You were made for community!)*

Guess what? *(What?)* We are going to virtually visit a sports museum! Maybe you would expect to see famous sports equipment, pictures from old games and matches, and maybe even get some popcorn and peanuts like you would at a stadium. But this museum has something, or should I say, two very special *someones*. If you are ready, let me hear you say, "I'm ready!" *(I'm ready!)*

Main Idea Video.

Script: Bobbie and Ruby really wanted to be included and enjoy the music Beck was listening to. We can be in different places like school, on a team, at a camp, or even at church and feel the same way. The good news is, no matter where we are or who is there, we can know that we *are* included. Ask, “Why?” (*Why?*) Because **God includes us!** He made us for community, and He includes all people who trust and follow Him. We don’t have to do or be anything special or specific. **God includes us** because He loves us. Say, “**God includes us!**” (*God includes us!*)

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Team Roster 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

Script: (*Hold up the team roster.*) When you are part of a sports team, club, or other special group, you may see your name on a team roster like this. Show me with your face what it feels like when you see your name on the list or hear your name called out. (*Allow kids to respond.*) If you wanted to be on the team but your name was *not* on the roster, you might feel sad or left out. We all want to be included, and it feels good when we are. Now show me with your face how it feels not to be included. (*Allow kids to respond.*) No one likes to be left out. We all want to be a part of something special.

Well, I have good news for you! **God includes us!** Point to yourself and say, “Who, me?” (*Who, me?*) Yes, you! All of you! When it comes to God, He wants to include all our names on His list. When we trust and follow Jesus, we are included, we belong with the family of God. Say, “**God includes us!**” (*God includes us!*)

But God’s “list” isn’t like other lists. We don’t have to be super talented, super smart, or try really hard. And you don’t even have to “try out” to be included. We can’t earn our way onto God’s list. We simply trust Him with our lives, and we are included in His family! If you want to know more about what it means to be a part of God’s family, please talk to one of your leaders. We would love to tell you more about how you are loved and included in God’s family.

Bible Story Video:

Script: (*Open the Bible.*) We are going to learn a story from the Bible, which is God’s true message to us about Himself. Today’s Bible story comes from the book of Ruth, which is in the first part of the Bible called the Old Testament. It is a very short book but a very incredible

story! Let's see what Ruth's story can teach us about how **God includes us**. If you are ready say, "I'm ready!" (*I'm ready!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: Ruth had a choice—return to her homeland and what was familiar or to stay with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and be an outsider. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi and to follow Naomi's God, the one true God. It is amazing that Ruth found family and belonging with Boaz and God's people. Ask, "Why?" (*Why?*) She moved from being an outsider to being included because God included her with His people. She even ended up in the family line of David, which is the family line of Jesus. Ruth was included, and **God includes us** too. Let me hear you say, "**God includes us!**" (*God includes us!*)

(*Circle two*) Like Ruth, we can feel like we outsiders too. We wonder if we have a place to belong. We experience hard things that can leave us feeling isolated and alone. All of this is because of brokenness caused by sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. Sin breaks our relationship with God and with others. Sometimes we try and do different things or act certain ways to try and belong, but nothing we do will ever fix our brokenness.

(*Circle three*) But God loved us so much, He did not leave us broken. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus took that punishment when He died on a cross. He came back to life on the third day, showing that He is more powerful than both sin and death. Jesus is the true King of everything, which makes it so incredible that He includes everyone who trust and follows Him in His family.

(*Circle one*) Through Jesus, we can be restored to a relationship with God. We are included in God's family when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, and we choose to follow Him rather than do things our way. When God created the world, He created us to have a relationship with Him. When we become God's children, we get to have that relationship forever! One day, Jesus will return and get rid of sin forever. When He does, He wants as many people as possible included in His family!

God sent Jesus because He wants everyone to be included in His family. And when you are part of God's family, you get to enjoy community with others who love and follow Him. You may

have questions about sin, brokenness, Jesus, or how to have a relationship with God. Your Team Leaders would love to talk to more about what it means to follow Jesus.

Whenever we wonder where we belong, we can remember that God loves us and includes us. Everyone, say, **“God includes us!”** (*God includes us!*)

Team Game:

Kids will work together to get as many hands and feet on the ground as the leader calls.

Big Goal: Know that we can work together with others in God’s family.

Leader Prep: None

Supplies:

Timer or stopwatch 1 per group

Script: Let’s all play a game called “Hands and Feet!” To play this game, we will need to form groups of three or four players. (*Allow time.*) The first number I will call out is for hands, and the second number is for feet. So, if I call “Five–Six,” your group will need to put five hands on the ground and keep six feet on the ground. You will have to work together to make sure you are using the right number *and* the right body parts in your group. You may have to get creative! Be sure to include everyone in your group in each round. I want to hear how encouraging you can be to each other in this tricky game. Let’s huddle up in our groups and see how we do!

You all did a great job working together! You definitely could not have completed your tasks without each other. You really worked together as a community! Remember that *community* is people who come together for a common purpose. God created us for community, and you certainly needed community in this game! God wants everyone to be included in His family. He does not want anyone to be left out. God provided the way for us to be in community with Him when He sent Jesus to take away our sin, so we are no longer separated from God. We can work together with others who are in our community *and* we can include others in that community too. That is great news!

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Encourage one another (*Scoop your right hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.*) and build each other up (*Scoop your left hand from the outside in, ending by pushing up.*) as you are already doing. (*Bring both hands together in front of your chest.*)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (*Hold both your hands out like a book.*)

Script: When we are part of God's family, we can help others know they are included by encouraging them. And that is what our Theme verse is about! Let's learn our Theme verse together.

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: Great job with the Theme verse! Sometimes we can feel lonely even though we are surrounded by people. But you are not alone, you were made for community. God loves and includes you. When we encourage and build each other up, we remember that God loves us, includes us, and helps us follow Him.

Theme Song:

Script: It is exciting to know that **God includes us**. It is so exciting that we can sing about it! We are made for community, so let's sing this truth together now and remind ourselves of what God is teaching us.

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

November 30 –**The Warehouse 4th-5th**

Monthly Theme: I Am Made for Community

Today's "Big Deal" Theme Tie: God Leads Me to Friends

Bible Story Reference: David and Jonathan Became Friends (1 Samuel 18:1-11; 19:1-7; 20:1-42)

**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?*
- *Who is your favorite person to be around and why?*
- *If you had to have 1 best friend or 50 friends you barely know, which would you choose and why?*
- *If you could be the best at one thing, what would it be and why?*
- *Would you rather have a swing set that takes you on a roller coaster ride or a flying bike that can do tricks?*

Countdown Video/ Leader Welcome:

**Twins arrive as countdown video begins.*

Play Countdown Video.

Script: Welcome, friends! Gather around because today is the most special day! It's Game Changer! And we are going to have so much fun! My name is _____. I am so glad you are here! Let me hear you call your name in 3-2-1! *(Allow responses.)* Awesome! Now, to get us ready for our first game, let's get a little Game Changer cheer going! When I say, "Game," you say, "Changer!" "Game" *(Changer!)* "Game" *(Changer!)* "Game" *(Changer!)*

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.

**Twins Leave After Worship Song*

Stage Game:

Game Rules:

1. Display a slide, inviting kids to make a choice between two holiday-themed food items.
2. Direct kids to follow your prompt and group up with others who make the same choice.

Script: It is officially the holiday season! We just celebrated Thanksgiving, and now we are looking forward to Christmas. Let's find some things we have in common by playing, "This or That: Holiday Edition!" If you are ready to learn how to play, say, "I'm ready!" *(I'm ready!)*

In this game, I will show you two images on the screen. How many images? *(Two!)* You will choose which one you like best by following the action under the item. Say, "But wait, there's more!" *(But wait, there's more!)* Once you make your choice and start performing the action, you will gather with everyone else in the room who has made the same choice and is doing the same action. Let's see which group will be able to gather first. Everyone, stand up and let's play!

Show Stage Game Slide 1.

Script: Green beans or corn? If you prefer green beans, clap your hands. If you prefer corn, snap your fingers! Find your people! (*Allow time.*) Great job, everyone! Looks like the people who like ____ gathered first! Come back to the middle, and let's see the next one.

Show Stage Game Slide 2.

Script: Fall football or winter ice skating? If you prefer football, pretend to throw a football. If you prefer ice skating, pretend to ice skate! Find your people! (*Allow time.*) OK, looks like the people who like ____ gathered first! Join in the middle, and let's see the next one.

Show Stage Game Slide 3.

Script: Hot apple cider or hot chocolate? If you prefer hot apple cider, pretend to pick apples. If you prefer hot chocolate, pretend to stir some hot chocolate mix in a cup! Find your people! (*Allow time.*) And the people who like ____ gathered first! Come together, and let's see the next one.

Show Stage Game Slide 4.

Script: Go to a parade or go caroling? If you prefer a parade, march with high knees. If you prefer caroling, sing "Jingle Bells!" Find your people! (*Allow time.*) I see that the people who like ____ gathered first! Go back to the middle, and let's see the next one.

Show Stage Game Slide 5.

Script: Pumpkin patch or looking at Christmas lights? If you prefer a pumpkin patch, walk in a low squat like you are picking pumpkins. If you prefer Christmas lights, walk on your tiptoes with your hands up high like you are hanging up lights! Find your people! (*Allow time.*) The people who like ____ gathered first! Head back to the middle, and let's see the next one.

Show Stage Game Slide 6.

Script: Mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes (which are a lot like yams)? If you prefer mashed potatoes, say, "Potatoes" in a low voice. If you prefer sweet potatoes, say, "Potatoes" in a high voice! Find your people! (*Allow time.*) I see that the people who like ____ gathered first! Get together in the middle so we can see the last one.

Show Stage Game Slide 7.

Script: Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas dinner? If you prefer Thanksgiving dinner, gobble like a turkey and flap your arms like wings. If you prefer Christmas dinner, spin your fists in the air and say, “Rolls!” Find your people! (*Allow time.*) And it's the people who like ____ who gathered first! Awesome job, everyone! Go ahead and find your seats.

That was so much fun! Let's do an air high five in 3-2-1! (*Air high five.*) You all did so great, each team gets 500 points! That game was so fun, and it was awesome seeing you all group up with friends—some old friends and some new friends. Today, we will see that we are made for community, everyone, say, “I am” (*I am*) “made for” (*made for*) “community!” (*community!*) A *community* is a group of people who gather together for a purpose. God made us for community, which means we are made to have friendships that encourage and build each other up. Let me hear you say, “I am made for community!” (*I am made for community!*)

We are made to be together, we are made to belong, and that is a Game Changer! Speaking of Game Changers, we have a video of the one and only Game Changer Game Show! Let's count this down and call, “Game Changer!” on 1. The video will begin in 3-2-1! (*Game Changer!*)

Play Main Idea Video.

Script: Lyle and Kyle are brothers *and* friends, and they sure did work well together! God made us for community, and He leads us to friends! That's a Game Changer! Everyone, say, “**God leads me to friends!**” (*God leads me to friends!*) God leads us to friends who love and follow Him, and those friends become our community!

Object Lesson:

Supplies:

Phone used for a selfie 1 per group

Bible 1 per group

Script: Before we go any further, I'm going to take a selfie. A *selfie* is a picture that you take of yourself, but it can also include friends! Today, I want to take a selfie with you—my friends! (*Take a selfie with kids in the background if your church permits, a selfie of yourself, or invite leaders to the front for a selfie.*)

Pretend to take a selfie and let me see your best selfie smile! (*Allow time.*) It is fun to take selfies with friends. It helps us remember the fun we had, and it is a way we can celebrate our friendships. Selfies can help us remember the awesome friends that God has brought into our lives. When we look at our selfies, we can remember that God leads us to each friend that we have. Everyone, say, **“God leads me to friends!”** (*God leads me to friends!*) God made us for community, and He does not leave us on our own to find that community. He leads us to it! When we have friends that God leads us to, we can help each other know and love Him more. That is a Game Changer! Everyone, say, **“Game Changer!”** (*Game Changer!*)

Bible Story Video:

Script: Today, we will read from the Bible—God’s true Word, or message, to us about Himself. The Bible shows us who God is, who we are, and how God wants us to live. Today, we will see that we are made for community. Everyone, say, **“I am made for community!”** (*I am made for community!*) God led two people in the Bible to become friends. They really needed each other, and God leads us to have friends too. Let’s see what happens in our Bible story today. Let me hear you say **“Game Changer!”** to get our Bible story started in 3-2-1. (*Game Changer!*)

Play Bible Story Video.

Make the Connection:

Script: (*Open the Bible.*) Say, **“God leads me to friends!”** (*God leads me to friends!*) How cool is it that David and Jonathan could be good friends to each other even in the midst of really difficult moments? King Saul wanted to harm David, and King Saul was Jonathan’s dad! But Jonathan stayed loyal to David. God worked through Jonathan to protect David. Jonathan gave up a great deal for David: he risked his own life for David and gave up his own chance to be king. Jonathan was a good friend to David, and David was a good friend to Jonathan. Neither of them forgot their friendship.

God made us for community and God leads us to friends who will love us, help us, encourage us, and point us to God. He leads us to do the same things for our friends. These friendships can be Game Changers for us.

Jesus said, **“No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.”** (John 15:13) A friendship like this points to our greatest friend: Jesus. Say, **“Jesus changes the game!”** (*Jesus changes the game!*) Jesus changes the game because He came to make the way for us to have a relationship with God. You see, our sin separates us from God. No matter how hard we try, we

cannot fix our sin problem on our own. Our sin deserves to be punished, which means that without help, we can never have a relationship with God. But God's Son, Jesus, lived the perfect life we could not live. Jesus never sinned, died the death we deserved because of sin, and then He rose again. Jesus defeated sin and death, creating the only way for us to have a forever friendship with God! Jesus laid down His life for us because He loves us. His example of friendship shows us what kind of a friend we can be to others. This changes the game for us!

Now, let's watch a video to learn more about how Jesus changes the game!

Play 3 Circles Video.

Script: Jesus changes the game for us by being our friend forever and by leading us to friends that can help us follow Him more closely. Let me hear you say, "Jesus changes the game!" (*Jesus changes the game!*) If you want to know more about who Jesus is and the way He loves us, talk to me or your Team Time Leader. We would love to talk more with you about this!

Team Game:

Kids will give each other high fives to stay in the game.

Big Goal: Remember that God leads us to friends, like David and Jonathan.

Script: Are you ready for an awesome Team Time game? Today, we are playing "Friendship Tag!" What's it called? (*Friendship Tag!*) To begin, I will choose one player to be the "Tagger." When I say "Go," the Tagger will chase the rest of the team, trying to tag you! If you are tagged, you must freeze. Let me see everyone freeze! (*Allow responses.*) Very good! The only way you can start to play again is if another friend gives you a high five! If you get it, say, "I've got it!" (*I've got it!*) Let's play!

What a fun game! Those were some great high fives! High fives are something we like to give to our friends. In today's Bible story, we learned that David and Jonathan were good friends to each other, promising to help out and show that they cared. We are made for community—made to run to each other and help each other as we seek to follow God.

Theme Verse Video:

Theme Verse Motions:

Search me, God, (*Hold your right hand above your eyes while looking side to side.*)

and know my heart ... *(Place both hands over your heart.)*

lead me in the everlasting way. *(Present both arms out in front of you, making circles going out.)*

Psalm 139:23-24 *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

Script: Since we are made for community, let's learn our Game Changer Theme verse together! This verse comes from the Bible—God's true Word, or message, to us about Himself. Let's begin in 3-2-1!

Play Theme Verse Video.

Script: This Theme verse helps us know we can ask God to search us and to know our hearts. He is a God who knows us, loves us, and cares for us. He leads us to friends so we can know and love Him more. What a Game Changer!

Theme Song:

Script: How cool is it that we get to be here with God together as friends? It is extra fun when we sing together about how good He is. Let's sing in 3-2-1!

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.