

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Activity 1: Moses's Journey

Activity 2: Courage Stick

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Jonah

Jonah 1-3

Bottom Line

God knows what's best.

Memory Verse

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.

Isaiah 40:31 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro tips.

Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

②

What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

Which Way Will I Go?

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Pick a Door" Activity Page
- ☐ "God's Way Q&A" Activity Page
- ☐ Floor tape

① What You Do

Before you begin:

1. Use floor tape to mark a start line.
2. A few feet from the start line, tape down Set 1 of the "Pick a Door" Activity Page cards side by side like doorways. (There will be three doors, and all will be numbered 1 for Set 1.
3. Repeat this for Sets 2-7, placing each set one foot step away from the last to form a straight line.
4. Mark a finish line at the end of all seven sets of three doors.

Play Together:

1. Gather the kids behind the start line.
2. Say, "This game is called Pick a Door! At each set of doors, I will ask a question about Jonah's story, and you have to decide which door he chose in the Bible Story to move forward."
3. As the kids get to each set of three doors, first read the question, and then read the three door choices from the "God's Way Q&A" Activity Page. Be sure to follow the order of the door choices that you placed the doors on the floor so the correct answer is included randomly.
4. Invite the kids to point to the door of their choice.
5. Once the kids agree on the correct door, invite everyone to step over that set of doors and move to the next set.
→ NOTE: Encourage discussion by asking, "Why do you think that's the right door?"
6. Once you reach the finish line, celebrate the kids and gather them to discuss!

Continued on the next page. ->

Inclusive Pro Tips



For an option with less movement, perform this activity seated and have kids point to their door choice instead of walking.

ACTIVITY ONE

GROUPS 1/4

Which Way
Will I Go?Bible Story Review
Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Pick a Door" Activity Page
- ☐ "God's Way Q&A" Activity Page
- ☐ Floor tape

Inclusive Pro Tips



For an option with less movement, perform this activity seated and have kids point to their door choice instead of walking.

②

What You Say

"What an adventure! Jonah's journey to Nineveh was one wild ride. God gave Jonah a mission to go to the city of Nineveh and tell them to turn from their sins, but Jonah went the opposite way. LITERALLY! He jumped on a boat, and God brought a giant storm. When Jonah was thrown into the sea by the people on the boat, God sent a big fish to rescue him! And after three days, Jonah finally listened to God. He traveled to Nineveh and shared God's message. And the people of Nineveh actually listened and changed!"

"Why did Jonah not want to tell the Ninevites to turn from their sins? Well, the Bible tells us. Jonah said this to God:

"I knew that you are gracious. You are tender and kind. You are slow to get angry. You are full of love. You are a God who takes pity on people."
(JONAH 4:2 NIRV)

"Jonah knew that God is kind. He knew that God would forgive the Ninevites if they turned from their sins. And that's exactly what happened!"

"Do you know what Jonah's journey tells us about God? Well, God knows what's best! We should always follow God's direction. God wanted to give an entire group of people the chance to live better if they just turned from their ways! And God wanted to give Jonah a chance to share that message with them.

"But even when Jonah decided he himself didn't want to follow God's ways, God didn't give up on him—and God won't give up on you either! Even when Jonah wasn't listening, God was still patient and kind in saving him and redirecting him.

"Even when things feel confusing or you feel like you don't understand what God is asking you to do, you can always be confident that God knows what's best! You might not see the full picture, but you can take a deep breath and trust God. He is good. His ways are good. He is always working for your good. So even if you don't understand, you can always hold His hand and trust His heart. He is doing something good, that is the only thing He can do! Remember: God knows what's best. Always!"

ACTIVITY TWO

God Our Compass

Application Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Signs for direction
- ☐ "Confidence Prompts" Activity Page
- ☐ Device for Playing Worship Music (Leader's phone)



Inclusive Pro Tips

For a version with less movement, invite the kids to point to the direction seated in a chair or on the floor.

① What You Do

Explore Together:

1. Explain how to play:
→ Say, "Each direction in the room represents a different choice.
Like Jonah, we sometimes follow other things or our feelings, but we want to grow in confidence by following God's way! God's ways are best because God knows what's best.
2. Play upbeat worship music and invite the kids to dance around as they hear the music.
3. At random, stop the music and call out "Freeze!"
4. Read a scenario from the "Confidence Prompts" Activity Page and discuss it.
→ Ask: "Would this be tough for you to do?"
Tell the kids to move in the direction you share for that prompt.
6. Once the kids have moved in the direction of the prompt, start the music again.
Stop the music randomly, direct the kids to "freeze!," call out the next
5. scenario from the "Confidence Prompts" Activity Page, and discuss it.
8. Continue in the same manner until you've read all of the "Confidence
7. Prompts" on the Activity Page.

After the game:

② What You Say

"Do you remember what Jonah did when God told him to go to Nineveh? He went in the *complete opposite direction*! God gave Jonah a very clear direction, and Jonah didn't want to go. He ran away on a boat, tried to hide, and ended up in the belly of a big fish! But even then, God gave Jonah another chance. That's how patient and loving God is.

"Today, we pretended to travel with our compasses to wherever God was leading us. Not running away, but choosing to have confidence in God's way!

"Remember, God's way is always best. It's always best to be honest because you show you're a trustworthy person. It's always best to be kind because God loves and values everyone, and they'll feel that love and value when you are kind. It's always best to forgive others, because unforgiveness does bad stuff to your heart.

"And when we live out God's ways, we're doing something even more amazing—we are being like Him! God is kind! God is truthful! God is loving! And God is fair. When we follow God's ways, not only does our life go better, and the world around us is better, but the people in our lives see Jesus!

"You don't have to get it right every time. But remember, you don't have to do it alone. When you choose to follow Jesus, His very Spirit moves inside of you to help you follow His ways. Pause and ask God to help you follow His ways and do what's right! Remember, God knows what's best!"

Pray and Dismiss



Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Say

"God, we are so thankful that You know what's best even when we don't understand. Help each of us to trust You and follow Your ways no matter what. Thank You for sending Jesus so we can be close to You forever! Fill us with confidence through the Holy Spirit so that we can soar like eagles this week! We love You so much, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

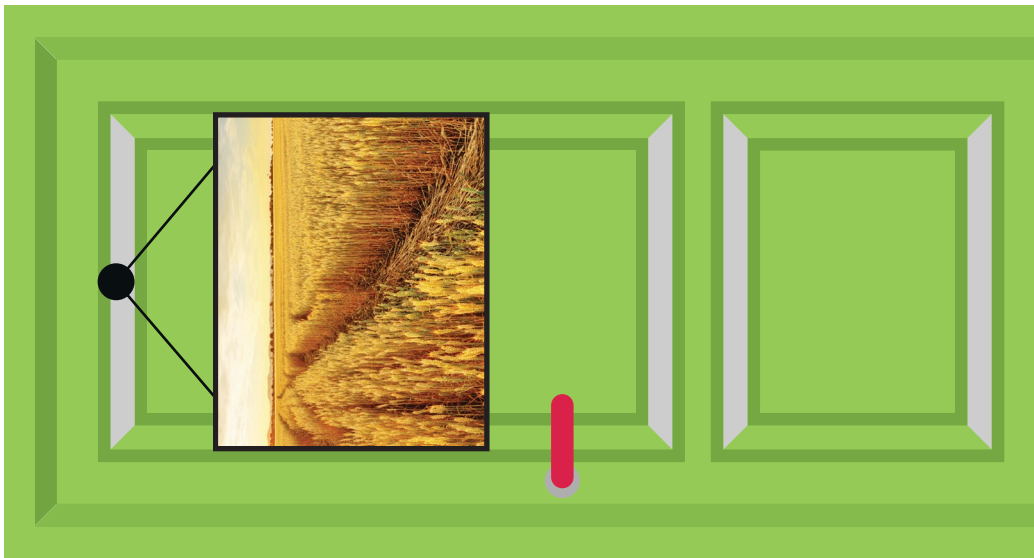
Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their Wisdomland Fast Pass and recite the Memory Verse on it to their grown-up!

Inclusive Pro Tips



As kids think about what they need wisdom for this week, make sure they don't feel the pressure to share! Give them the opportunity to process quietly.

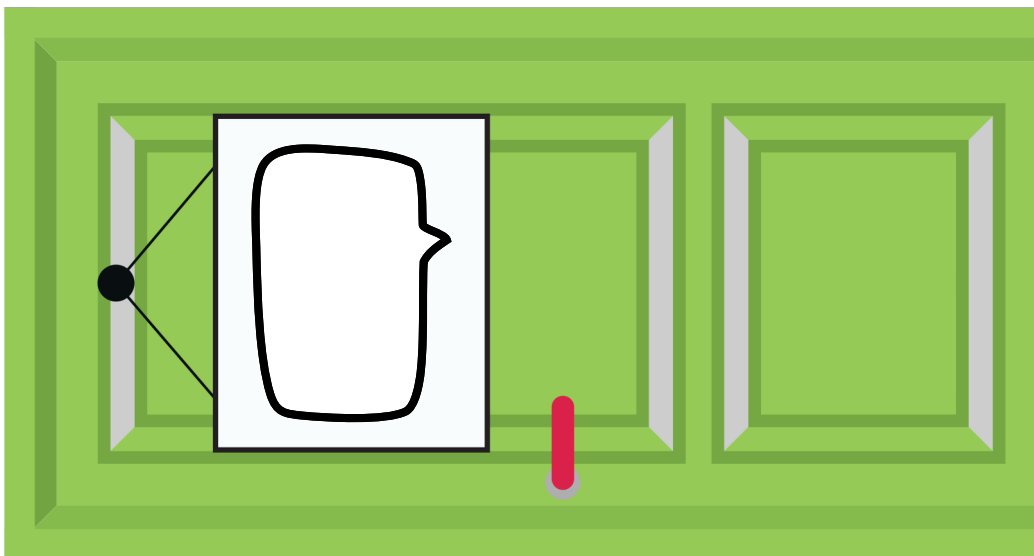
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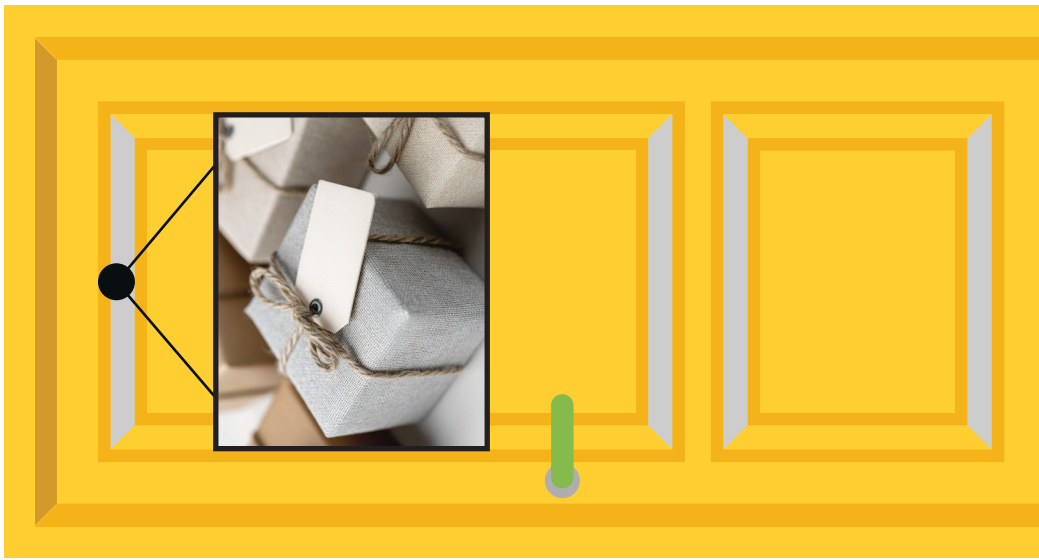
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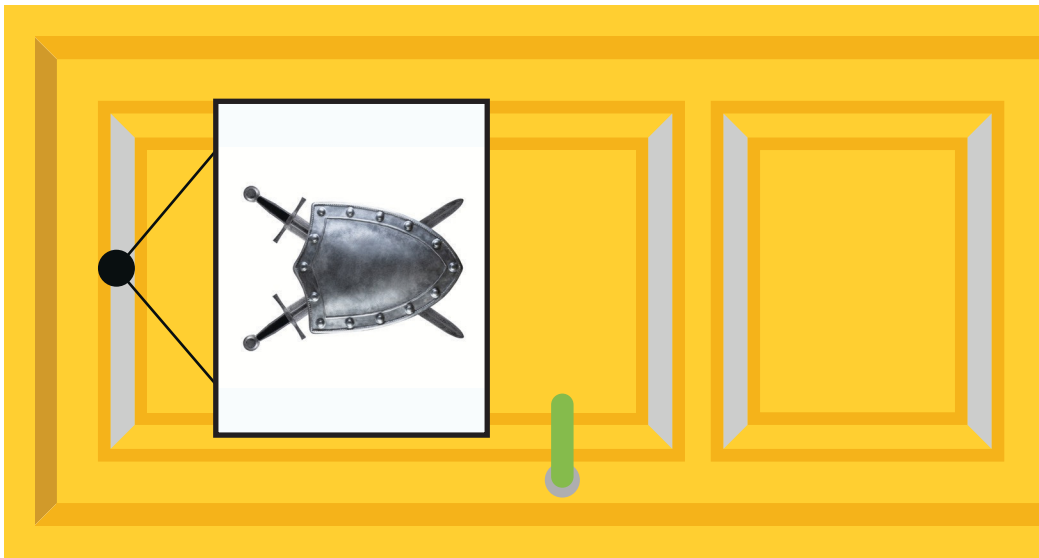
What to Do:
Print on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group.
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"Pick a Door" Activity Page
November 2025, Week 2, Small Group 2-3
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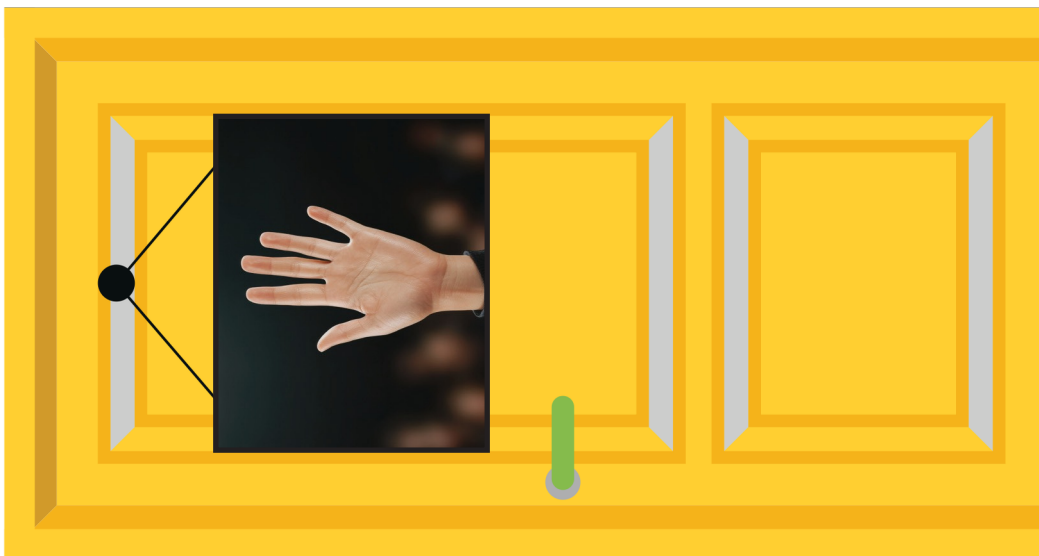
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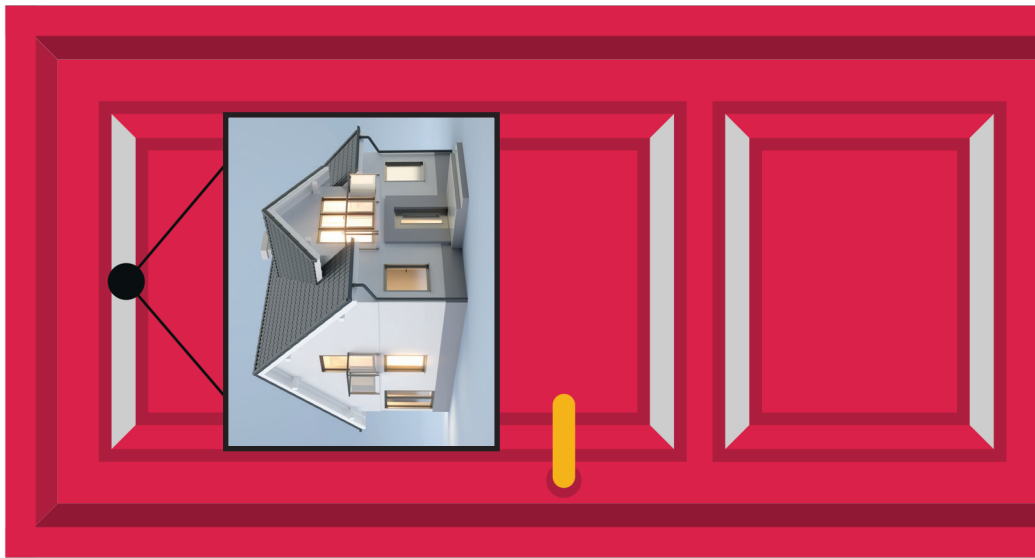
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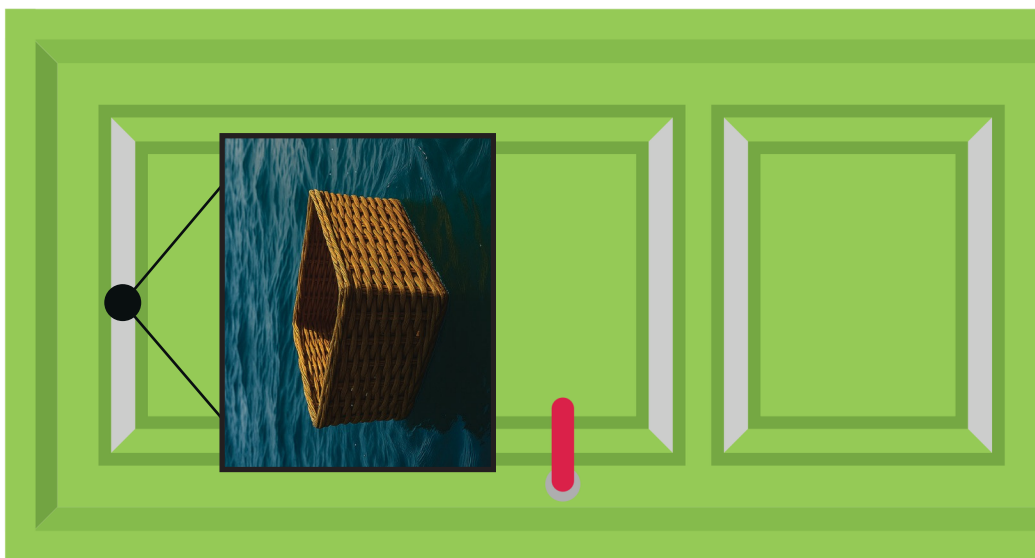
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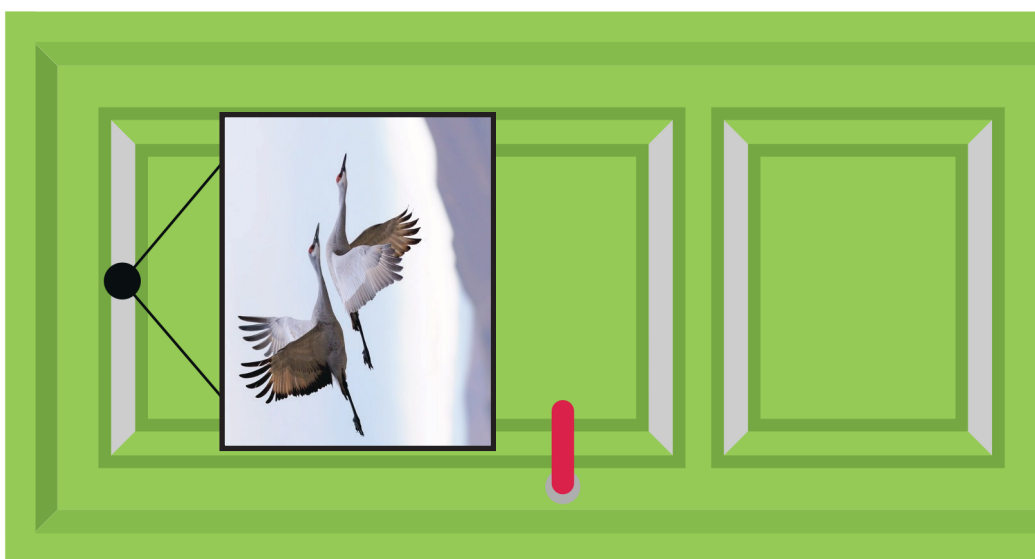
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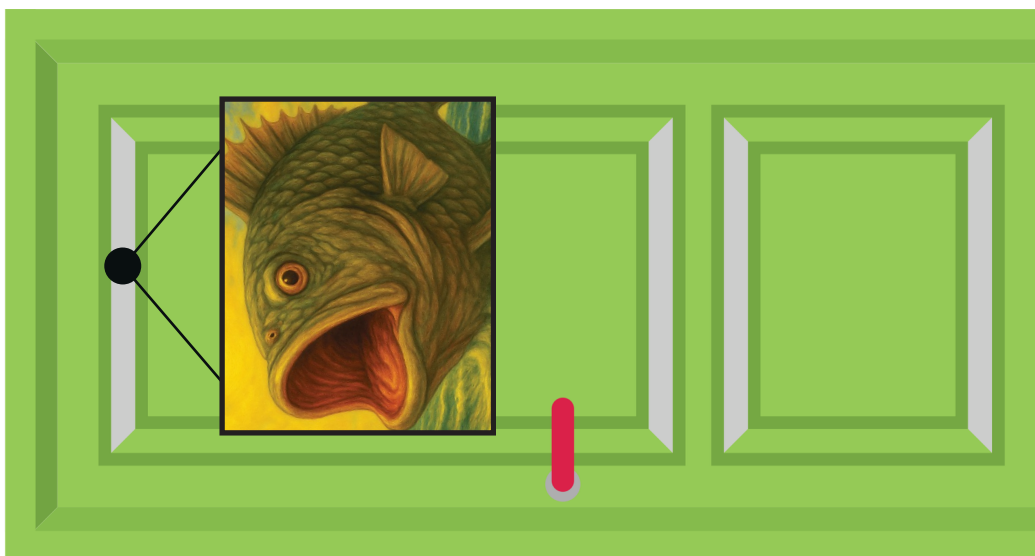
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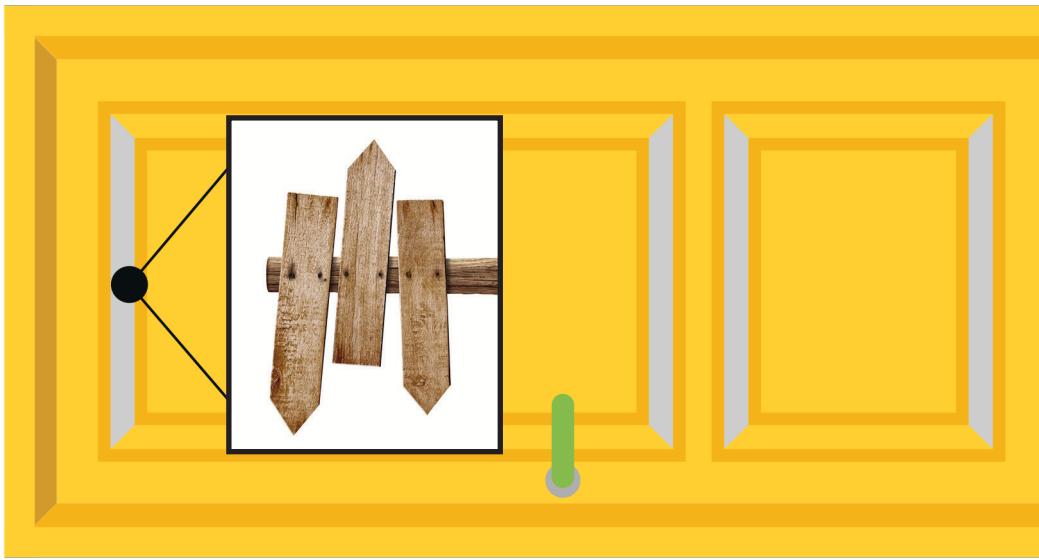
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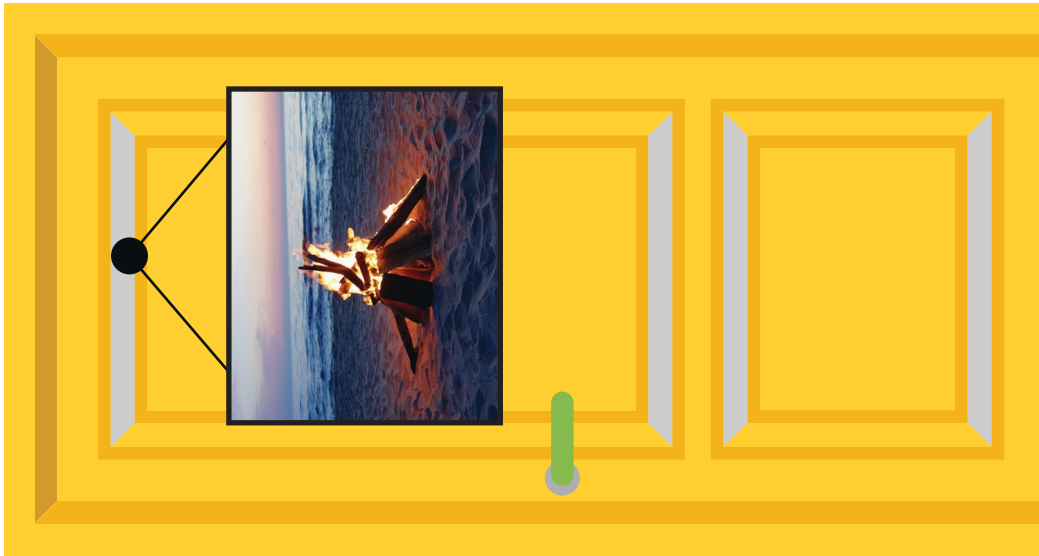
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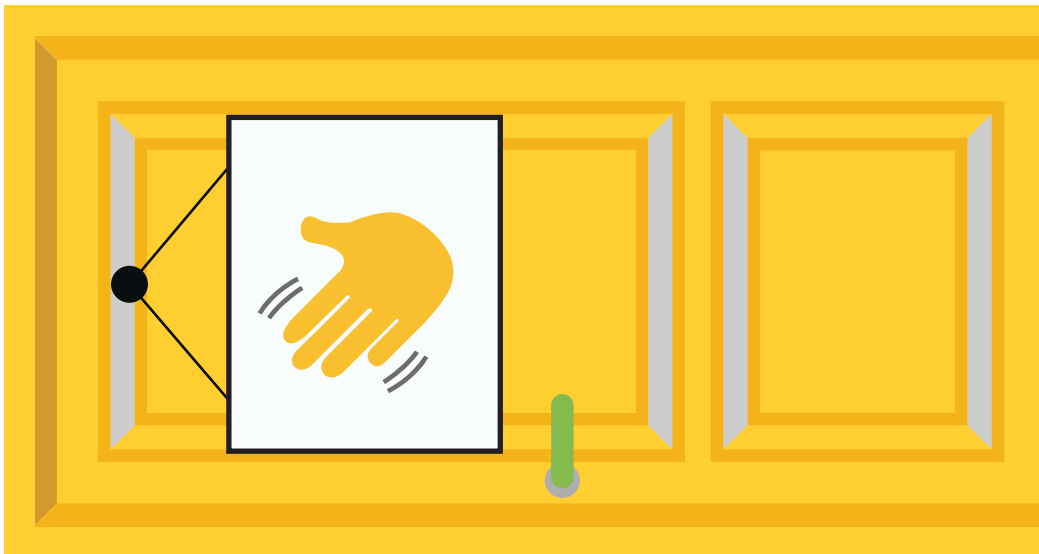
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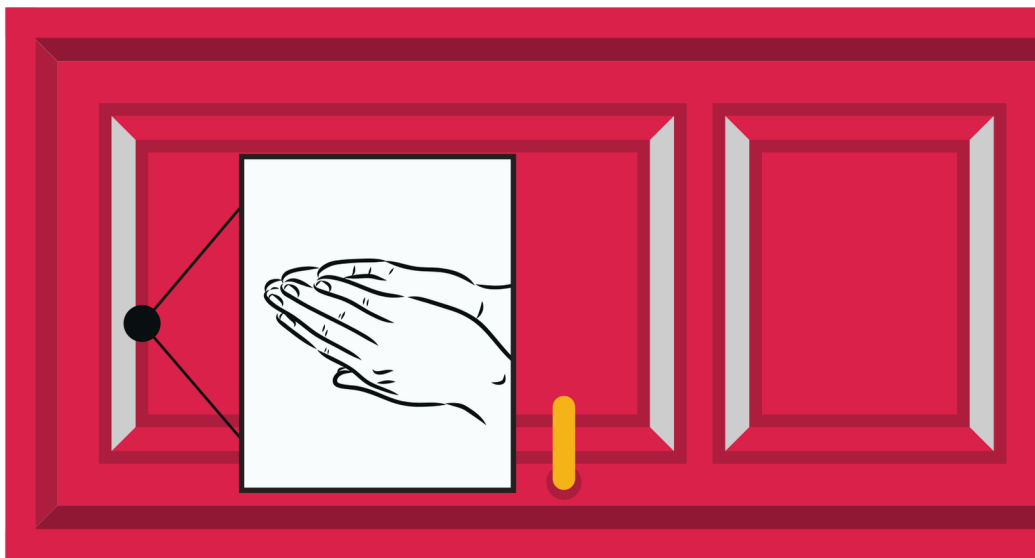
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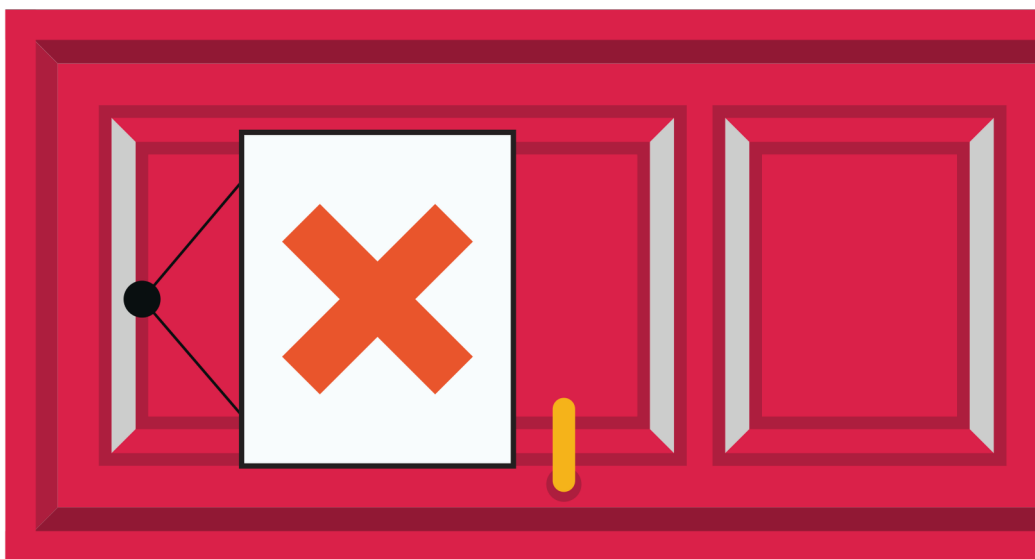
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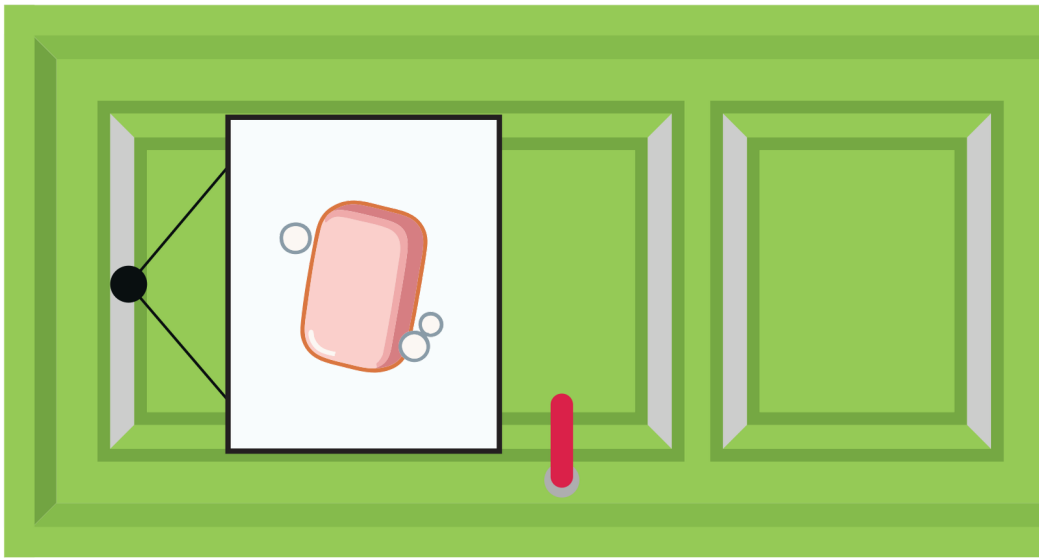
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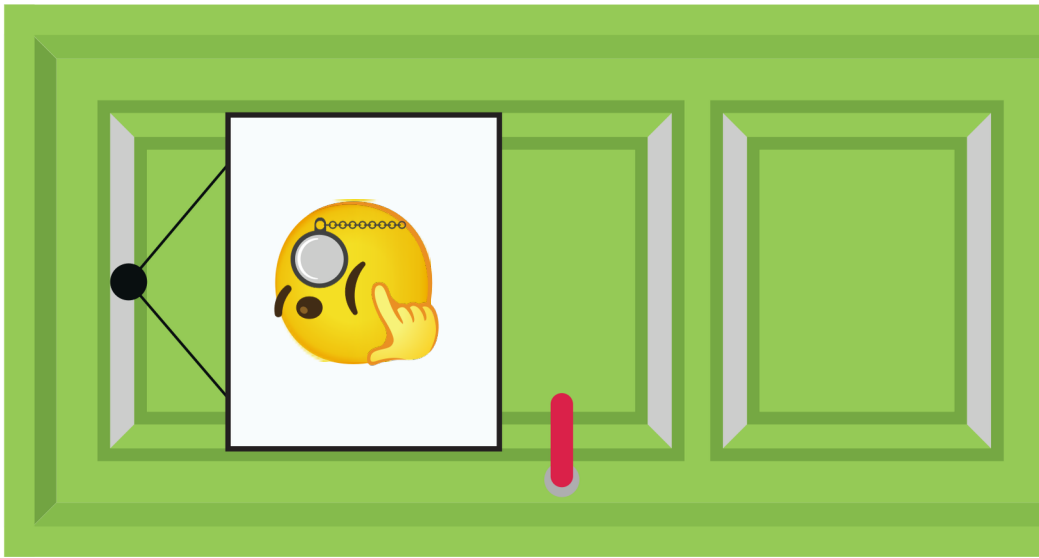
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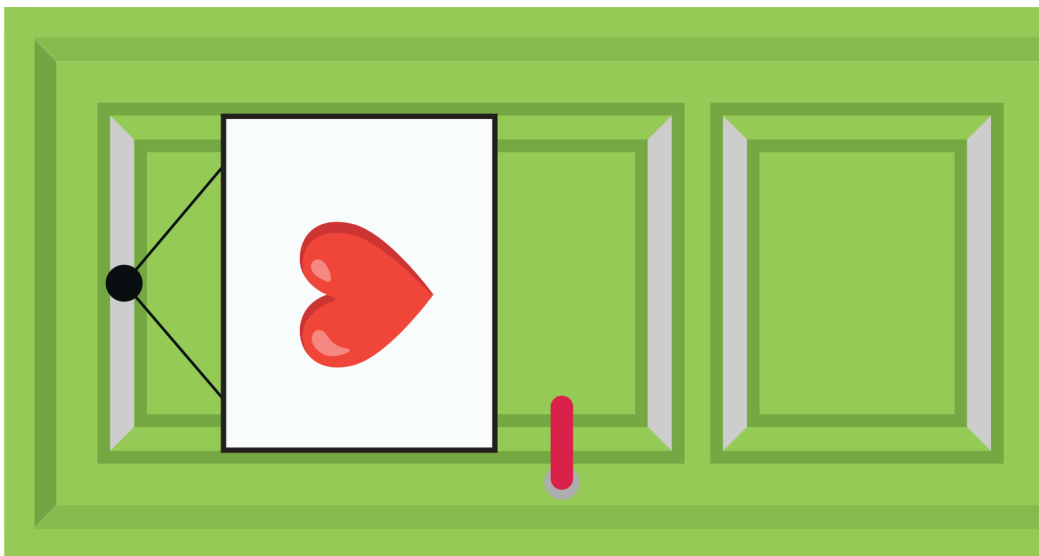
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7



1. What did God ask Jonah to do?

God spoke to Jonah with clear directions to go to Nineveh and preach against their sins. ART: TALKING BUBBLE (CORRECT)

God told Jonah to build a giant boat to escape a flood. ART: GIANT BOAT

God sent Jonah to teach the Israelites how to plant crops. ART: CROP FIELD

2. Why did God want Jonah to go to Nineveh?

God chose Jonah to share His message to the people of Nineveh. ART: HAND RAISED (CORRECT)

God needed Jonah to defeat the king of Nineveh in battle. ART: SHIELD AND SWORD

God asked Jonah to bring gifts to the people of Nineveh. ART: GIFTS

3. What did Jonah decide to do instead of heading towards Nineveh?

Jonah decided to run away from God. Instead of heading in the total opposite direction to Tarshish. ART: WRONG WAY SIGN W/ ARROW (CORRECT)

Jonah immediately obeyed and flew on a magic carpet to Nineveh. ART: MAGIC CARPET

Jonah stayed home and prayed instead. ART: HOUSE

4. When the storm hit and the sailors threw Jonah overboard, what did God send?

God sent a giant fish to swallow Jonah and give him another chance. ART: GIANT FISH (CORRECT)

God sent a basket to carry Jonah safely to shore. ART: FLOATING BASKET IN THE OCEAN

God sent birds to rescue Jonah and fly him to shore. ART: BIRDS

5. After three days, God made the fish swim to shore, spit out Jonah on dry land, and God spoke to Jonah again! What did Jonah do?

Jonah finally chose to obey God and go the right way, to Nineveh! ART: ROAD SIGN (CORRECT)

Jonah built a campfire and stayed by the sea that the fish spit him out on. ART: CAMPFIRE NEAR THE SEA

Jonah went to a different city to take a break first. ART: WAVING HAND

6. What did the people do when they heard Jonah's message?

The people of Nineveh turned from their wrong choices, and God showed them mercy! ART: PRAYER HANDS (CORRECT)

The people of Nineveh ignored Jonah and continued doing wrong. ART: "X"

The king of Nineveh threw Jonah into prison. ART: PRISON GATES/WALLS

7. How does Jonah's story help us understand more about God?

God is kind, patient, and full of mercy, even when we make wrong choices. God always forgives when we ask. ART: HEART (CORRECT)

God only loves people who always make the right choices. ART: Thinking emoji

God only speaks through people who never mess up. ART: Soap

- God tells you to forgive someone who hurt your feelings.
Go west!
- You feel God nudging you to help a classmate, but you're nervous. **Go north!**
- You know God wants you to be honest, but you might get in trouble. **Go east!**
- You feel like God is telling you to be kind to someone who isn't kind to you. **Go east!**
- You want to share something you love with someone who has less. **Go north!**
- God wants you to say sorry first, even though the other person started it. **Go south!**
- You're in a situation where you could lie to protect yourself from getting in trouble, but you remember God wants us to be honest. **Go north!**
- You sense God wants you to stand up for someone, but you don't want to stand out. **Go east!**
- You feel like giving up, but you remember that God wants you to keep going. **Go north!**
- You feel like hiding your faith, but you remember that God wants you to be bold and tell people He loves them. **Go south!**
- You feel like you're not good enough, but you remember that God made you on purpose and for a purpose. **Go west!**
- You want to copy what someone else is doing to fit in, but God made you unique for a reason. **Go east!**

NORTH

SOUTH

EAST

WEST