

252® Groups

Group Experiences for K-5th Grades

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Statement of Faith

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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The Shepherd Kid

Bible Story: The Shepherd Kid (Samuel anoints David) • *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

Bottom Line: Honor those who are overlooked.

Memory Verse: "Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves." *Romans 12:10, NIV*

Virtue: Honor—Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **HONOR** and God's character,
as shown through God's big story

Stop and think about someone you admire.

Are you thinking of someone? Whether that person is a teacher, coach, friend, or family member, he or she is valuable to you. You recognize that this person is important because what they do impacts your life. But did you know that *everyone* is valuable? That's right. Your principal, your mailman, your babysitter, and your bus driver—they are all valuable.

Every person has value, not because of what they do, but because each and every person has been put together by God. When God created people, He made them in His image. That means every person alive today has been put together in the likeness of God. So every person has value. And it's our job to help everyone feel like they are valuable.

When we show other people how valuable they really are, we are showing them honor. There are many ways to honor someone. Moses gave us the Ten Commandments to teach us to honor our mother and father (Exodus 20:12). Paul taught us to honor the authorities who have been placed over us on earth (Romans 13:1). When Jesus was on earth, He taught us to honor everyone—even those who are overlooked and unpopular.

Jesus showed other people how valuable they really were by spending time with them. He ate dinner with people who usually ate alone. He served people who were used to doing the serving. He paid attention to people who normally didn't get a lot of attention. If Jesus thought it was important to honor *everyone*, then we should follow His example. This month look for ways to show others how valuable they really are.

This month, let's think about how:

(1) *We can show honor as a response to God.*

(2) *God empowers us with honor to respond to others.*

(3) *God uses the honor we show to influence our families, friends, and neighbors.*

Remember: A virtue is something God does in us to change the world around us.

As others notice the virtue being lived out in our lives, we have more opportunities to tell them about God.

As they come to trust God, they'll influence others as well. See the cycle?

This week, we're discovering:

What it looks like to show the highest degree of honor to others. We're focusing this February on 1 and 2 Samuel and stories from the life of David. In week 1, we're looking at how an unexpected young boy from out in the fields is chosen by God to be king (**1 Samuel 16:1-13**).

The prophet Samuel can hardly believe when God doesn't make an obvious choice from the oldest and handsome sons of Jesse. We'll notice that God doesn't see as the world sees; He looks at the heart instead. So they keep looking until David, the shepherd boy, arrives and God says he is the one. Bottom Line: **Honor those who are overlooked.**

This Bible story sets up the month and God's pattern to honor people in unexpected ways and encouraging us to do the same. To do this, it will help to memorize our monthly verse: "**Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.**" **Romans 12:10, NIV**

The Shepherd Kid

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Catch On: Make the Connection (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)

Make the connection of how today's Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

*** 1. Outside vs. Inside (*application activity / review the Bible story*)**

What You Need: whiteboard or chalkboard, tape, “Outside vs. Inside” (Activity Page), whiteboard marker or chalk

What You Do:

Start by drawing a large T on your board or paper. Then tape the two headers on either side of the line to show the categories. Explain that it's easy for us to see the things on the outside of a person—like how they look, what they wear, or how they act. But God sees what's on the inside and how people treat others.

Tell kids they have a chance to decide whether they think certain things show what's on the outside or what's on the inside. Read each of the cutout words out loud and ask the kids to help you decide which side of the board it goes on. *(Note: If you have extra time after all the words have been put on the chart, help kids brainstorm other words and write them on the correct side.)*

TO ADAPT FOR OLDER KIDS: Share just a few examples from the Activity page so the kids get the idea, then have them brainstorm additional words on index cards. Mix the cards up and have them race to draw one and tape it to the right side of the chart.

What You Say:

[Apply] “Remember that what’s important is what God sees—and what’s in every person’s heart, not all the things we listed under ‘outside’ things. **[Personalize]** *(Tell kids about a time you wanted to be like someone else just because of what you saw on the outside.)* Because we don’t know what’s in a person’s heart, we need to **[Impress]** honor those who are overlooked.”

*** 2. Four Corners (application activity / great for boys)**

What You Need: four prepared pieces of paper with numbers, tape

What You Do:

Hang up numbers, one in each corner. If you do not have four corners, just hang the signs in four different areas of the room or on the backs of four different chairs placed around the room. Call out different questions from below and have the kids go stand by the number that best matches their answer.

- How many siblings do you have? Skip to the number.
- How many dogs do you have? Run to the number.
- How many other pets do you have? Hop to the number.
- How many teeth have you lost? Crawl to the number.
- How many cousins or best friends do you have? Walk backwards to the number.
- How many books did you read before bed last night? Tiptoe to the number.
- How many eggs did you eat for breakfast? Walk like a chicken to the number.
- How many people live in your house? Fly like an airplane to the number.

TO ADAPT FOR OLDER KIDS: Make the movements more complicated, such as crab walk, hop on one foot, spin, somersault, etc. or have them come up with additional questions.

What You Say:

“We are all different because God made every person and family special. It’s easy to think that everyone else lives the same as us. And sometimes we are tempted to only be friends with

people just like us, but today we're talking about honoring people who are different from us. Sometimes they are even ignored. So this week, let's take time to **[Impress] honor those who are overlooked. [Apply] It's hard not to notice the things that are different about other people, but we can still choose to show them honor in how we treat and talk to them.**"

3. Writing Love (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, "Writing Love" (Activity Page), markers, blank paper, pencils/pens

What You Do:

Help the kids find Romans 12:10 in their Bibles. (See the tips below.) Explain that Romans is in the New Testament and that the New Testament is in the back of the Bible. When kids have found the verse, read it aloud several times in various types of voices—underwater, bear voice, squeaky voice, holding your nose, etc., inviting the kids to participate with you once they know a few of the words. Then give kids an Activity Page and help them write the words that are missing. They can write the verse more than once by making a "rainbow" of different colors on top of each word.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Romans at the top of the page as you say "Romans" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 12 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 12 for the little 10; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Romans starts with the letters R-O. When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 10 in chapter 12.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Romans starts with the letters R-O. When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 10 in chapter 12.

Teach older kids a shortcut to the verse: Prompt kids to find the middle of their Bibles. They should be in Psalms or Proverbs. Tell them to look at the top of the page to see what book they've found. Then show them how to turn to the middle again (to the right). They should be somewhere in the Gospels. Explain that Romans is after the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and Acts. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 10 in chapter 12.

TO ADAPT FOR OLDER KIDS: See if they can create their own kind of word puzzle for other

kids to solve using the words from Romans 12:10. They could make a code and decoding key, crossword, word search, or scramble the words on a blank sheet of paper. When they finish, trade with a friend, try to complete their puzzle and give it a rating of easy, hard, or impossible to solve at the top.

What You Say:

“When you **[Impress]** honor those who are overlooked, you are showing them God’s love for them. How much does our memory verse say we should honor others? (*More than ourselves.*) Right! **[Apply]** This verse tells us that we need to honor others more than ourselves. It can be hard to show someone else more honor than you show yourself because we think of ourselves first usually, but remember that God tells us to think of and love others deeply.”

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: blank paper, crayons, hand mirror

What You Do:

Have each kid look in the mirror and talk about what he looks like. Does he have long hair or short? What color are his eyes? Make sure all kids have a chance to take a look at themselves in the mirror, or they can have a partner tell them what they see. Then pass out papers and crayons. Have kids draw a picture of a person who is the *opposite* of themselves. (For example, a girl can draw a boy, a tall person can draw a short person, etc.) Take turns sharing what they drew and why. When most kids have finished their drawings, have kids put down their crayons, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Pray out loud for the people in the pictures.

TO ADAPT FOR OLDER KIDS: Encourage them to divide their paper in half. On one side, create their self-portraits from memory. On the other, draw someone who’s the opposite of them—it could be someone made up or someone they know—no names please!

What You Say:

[Apply] “Whether you drew someone real or someone you made up, remember this week that even though people may look different from us, they still deserve our honor.

“Dear God, thank You for creating people who look different from us. Help us to **[Impress]** honor those who are overlooked and **[Recycle]** treat others the way we want to be treated. Amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up their child(ren).

Additional Discussion Questions for older kids:

- 1) Why is it easy to honor people who are popular? What will others think about us if we

honor them?

- 2) Why is it more difficult to honor those people who are overlooked? What will others think about us if we do that?
- 3) Why does God want us to honor EVERYONE and not just the cool people or the people who are like us?