



Session 2
SALVATION

KEY CONCEPT: When I do something wrong, I should run back to God. He is waiting for me to restore me.

MEMORY VERSE: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

BIBLE STORY: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)

FORMAT: The **Large Group** section may be used for children grades K-5 together. Then, divide into groups according to age (grades K-1, 2-3 and 4-5) for **Small Group** time. Or, the curriculum may be done separately for each age group.

SECTION

ACTIVITY

LARGE GROUP

Arrival

Try Out Hiding Places

Opening Activity

The Great Worm Toss

Introduce Theme

Eating Worms

Tell the Story

The Prodigal Son Video

Story Response

Memory Verse (Slide 1)

Worship

"Run to the Father"
"You Never Let Go"

SMALL GROUPS

Grades 4-5

Jesus Cleans Our Hearts
Right-Side-Outfit Race

Grades 2-3

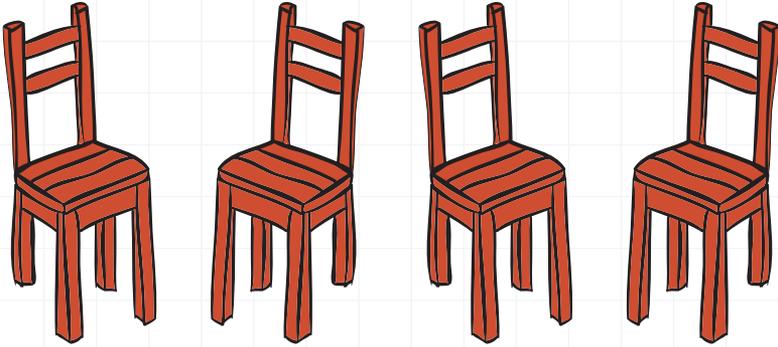
Jesus Cleans Our Hearts
The Hiding Box

Grades K-1

Dance & Hide
"Don't Hide! Run to God!"
Paper Craft

Take Home

"Gummy Worms"
"Cross Walk, All Week"
handout



ROOM SETUP

Supplies:

- Sheets
- Beach towels
- Large cardboard boxes
- Kid's tents/tunnels if available.)

Create various “hiding spots” around the room with open cardboard boxes, cardboard propped against a wall with space behind it, sheets and beach towels draped over chairs, or children's tents/tunnels if available.

ARRIVAL

Have the “Walk, Walk, Walk” theme song playing on loop in the background. Greet each child and encourage them to try out various “hiding spots” in the room. Caution them to be careful; have helpers ready to assist getting in and out. Ask them what their favorite hiding spot in the room is.



LARGE GROUP



OPENING ACTIVITY: THE GREAT WORM TOSS

SUPPLIES:

- Large gummy worms
 - Whistle
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LEADER:

“Time to carefully come out of your hiding spots for an awesome game—The Great Worm Toss! Later we will find out what HIDING and WORMS have to do with each other.”

DIRECTIONS:

1. Have each child choose a partner. If there’s an odd number, have a helper play.
2. Line children up in two lines facing each other. Each child should be directly across from their partner. Be sure there is room for children to take several steps back. The two lines should start close together—about a foot apart.
3. Give each child in ONE of the lines a large gummy worm. Make sure to tell them NOT to eat the worm!
4. When you blow the whistle, the child with the worm tosses it to their partner. The goal is for the partner to catch it without dropping it.
5. When you blow the whistle again, the child tosses it back to the partner.
6. Then, have one line of children take ONE step back. Repeat the toss and return.

7. Continue having children take ONE step back each time the worm is tossed and returned.
8. Once a pair is out of the game, they need to throw their worm in the trash can and have a seat.
9. The two partners able to continue catching the worm the longest win!

LEADER:

Have the children throw the worms away. Assure them they will take home some worms to eat (after checking with their parents if they may have them).

“Super job in The Great Worm Toss! Give yourselves a round of applause. Now let’s move to our story area and have a seat.”



INTRODUCE THEME: SALVATION

SUPPLIES:

- Small flowerpot filled with chocolate pudding
 - Crushed chocolate cookies
 - Green gummy worms
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TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

Fill a small clean flowerpot with chocolate pudding. Put green gummy worms into the top of it, and then top with crushed chocolate cookies to look like dirt. Eat with a trowel for added effect.

LEADER:

“How did you like The Great Worm Toss? How did that worm feel in your hand?”

(Let children respond.)

“Who wanted to eat the gummy worm?”

(Let children raise hands.)

“A lot of you! Now, let me ask you: If that had been a real worm, who would have wanted to eat it?”

(Let children call out answers.)

As children are responding, an adult HELPER (dressed “hip” like a teen) walks onto stage area behind the LEADER (the LEADER pretends not to notice) and begins eating “dirt and worms” from prepared flowerpot. He/she pulls out worms from the dirt covered in “mud” and “dirt” and drops them in their mouth. He/she grimaces like the worms don’t taste good, but they must eat them.

LEADER:

“What’s going on?”

(Turns around to see HELPER.)

“What ARE you doing?”

HELPER:

(Looking down/sad)

“Well, I’m just eating some dirt here. And a few worms too.”

LEADER:

“That’s gross! Why are you doing that?”

HELPER:

“Well, you see, I did something bad, and I feel really ashamed of myself, so I’m just going to eat this dirt and worms here.

(Keeps eating the ‘dirt/worms.’)

“Maybe it will make me feel better.”

LEADER:

(To children) *“What do you think? Do you think our friend here should keep eating dirt and worms?”*

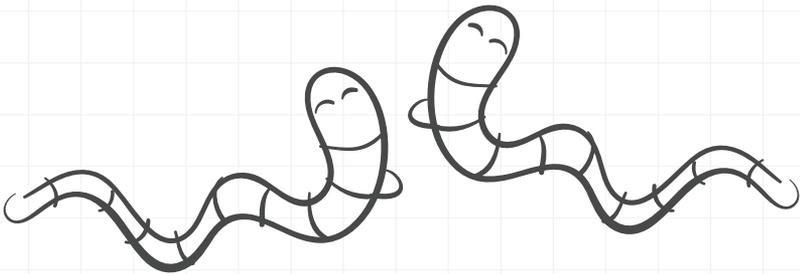
(Let children respond.)

“Will it make him/her feel better?”

“All of us do things we shouldn’t. That’s called SIN. And when we SIN, we feel GUILTY and even ASHAMED of ourselves. What should we do when we feel ashamed of something we’ve done?”

(Let children call out answers.)

“Well, the Bible has something to say about this. In fact, right now we’re going to see a story that Jesus told about someone who was ashamed of what he had done. And guess what? Just like (name of HELPER), he was about to eat something gross.”



TELLING THE STORY: THE PRODIGAL SON

SUPPLIES:

- Computer/projector/screen
- Session 2, Bible Story Video—The Prodigal Son, downloaded from <https://christianlifetrilogy.com/crosswalk-resources/>

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Play the video of The Prodigal Son. (If you don't have video capability, you can tell the story using drama or paper bag puppets. Get creative!) Watch the video before class to be familiar with the content.

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STORY RESPONSE

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LEADER:

“Let me ask you: How did the boy feel when he had sinned and spent all his father's money?”

(Let children respond.)

“What did he do when he got hungry?”

(Let children answer.)

“When we do something wrong—and we all do, even ME—does God want us to hide out with the pigs or eat dirt and worms like (HELPER'S name)?”

(Let children respond.)

‘What does He want us to do instead?’

(Let children respond.)

“That’s right. Run back to him. He is waiting for us to forgive us, and even throw a big party because we came back and admitted what we did wrong. Isn’t that awesome? He loves us!”

HELPER:

(Pumps fist in the air in victory)

“Yaah, man. No more worms!”

LEADER:

“Remember when you came in today and you found a good hiding place? How many of you have places at home where you like to hide sometimes?”

(Let children answer.)

“When I was a kid, I liked to hide in (LEADER’S favorite place). Hiding can be fun, like in Hide-n-Seek. But if we are feeling ashamed of something we’ve done, should we hide from our parents and God?”

(Let children respond.)

“What should we do instead?”

(Let children respond.)

“That’s right. Go talk to our parents about it tell them we are sorry. Ask them to forgive us and ask God too by praying to Him. God always forgives us and welcomes us back! (Hopefully, our parents will, too.)”

Put on screen Session 2, Slide 1—Memory Verse

“Our memory verse for today talks about this. Let’s say it together:

‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.’ 1 John 1:9”

“What does ‘confess’ mean?”

(Let children answer.)

Yes, it means to admit that we’ve done something wrong. Can anyone think of someone who confessed to Jesus while Jesus was on the cross? (Let children answer.) One of the thieves did. He admitted that he had stolen and done bad things. He told Jesus he believed in Him and wanted to be with Him. What did Jesus say to him? (Let children guess.) That’s right. Jesus said, ‘You will be with me in Paradise!’ Jesus promised the thief that He would be in Heaven with Him because he was not hiding, but running back to God just like the Prodigal Son.”

WORSHIP:***Run to the Father***

(Encourage children to run in place during chorus.)

You Never Let Go**SUPPLIES:**

- Song videos found online at <http://christianlifetriology.com/crosswalk-music>

LEADER:

“Let’s all stand up and do some lively worshiping! We have a song today that talks about running back to God. Let’s do some motions as we sing.”

(You may choose to do your own worship with your own music, or use these recommended songs with lyric videos that can be downloaded from <https://christianlifetriology.com/crosswalk-music/>.)

“That was some great singing! We are going to go to our small groups for a cool activity about how God forgives us. But first, let’s pray.

(Compose prayer or use this one):

“Thank You, Father, that You are like the Dad in today’s story. When we do wrong, You are waiting to welcome us back. When we pray and ask Your forgiveness, You run to us and throw Your arms around us. Thank You that You love us so much! In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

SMALL GROUPS

DIVIDE THE CHILDREN INTO SMALL GROUPS. GRADES K-1 SHOULD GO TOGETHER, GRADES 2-3 TOGETHER, AND GRADES 4-5 TOGETHER. SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR EACH GROUP.



GRADES 4-5 SMALL GROUP

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY 1: JESUS CLEANS OUR HEARTS

SUPPLIES:

- Clear drinking glass labeled “You” for each group
- Blue food coloring labeled “Sin” for each group
- Small bowl labeled “Blood Of Christ” for each group
- Small clear glass labeled “Faith” for each group
- Cool water
- Red food coloring
- Chlorine bleach
- Baking soda
- Spoon
- 1 tbsp. measuring spoons and measuring cup

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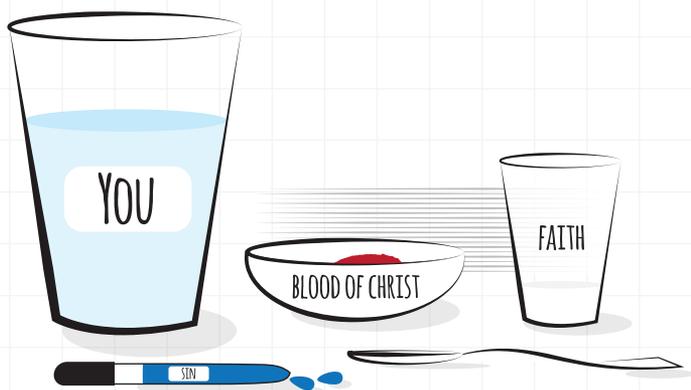
(This first activity is the same for grades 2-3 and 4-5, but children may be able to observe better in smaller groups rather than in the large group setting.)

Because bleach is being used, set up a safe work station where children will be able to see the experiment clearly but not touch it. You could use a high table or a table set apart from the children and guarded by a helper.

TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

Mix 5 drops of red food coloring into 1 tbsp. of baking soda in a bowl. (Keep mixing; it will eventually color evenly.) This is enough to perform the experiment 4 times, so multiply out for the number of 2-3 grade and 4-5 grade groups you will have (2 tbsp + 10 drops = 8 groups, etc.). Set the experiment up at each group's station in the following way:

- Fill the drinking glass labeled "You" two-thirds full with cool tap water. Place it on the table.
- Place the blue food coloring dropper "Sin," on the table next to the glass.
- Put 1 tsp of the red baking soda into the small bowl labeled "Blood of Christ." Leave it on the table next to the "Sin" dropper.
- Fill the small glass labeled "Faith" with 1/4 cup bleach. (Note: Never leave the bleach unattended! You may prefer to keep the bleach in a safe area and distribute it to your groups at the time of the experiment.)
- Place a spoon on the table with the other ingredients. Now you are all ready!
- Have paper towels handy in case of spills or splatters.



LEADER:

Hold up the water glass that says “You,” and say:

“When God created the world, it was pure. There was no sin in it. But then, Adam and Eve sinned, and each of us has sinned too, doing things that aren’t what God wants us to do.

“When we do something wrong, like tell a lie or think an unkind thought about someone, our heart is no longer clean, is it?”

Add (or have a responsible child add) drops of blue food coloring as you describe various sins, 3 or 4 drops. Stir with a spoon. Water will turn blue.

“What did Jesus do to make us clean again?”

(Let children answer.)

“That’s right. Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood.

Pour the contents of the small bowl containing 1 tsp. of red baking soda into the glass and stir. You may allow a child to add it and stir it in, or do it yourself.

“But the water still isn’t clear, is it? For our hearts to become clean again, we have to confess our sins and put our trust in Jesus. Now, let’s see what happens when we add this cup of ‘Faith in Jesus.’

Pour in the small glass containing ¼ cup bleach. (Keep

bleach away from children.) The water should turn completely clear.

“How do our hearts look now?”

(Let children respond.)

“And do you know what? Every time we sin or do something wrong and our hearts turn dark again, we need to pray and tell the Lord we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us. And the blood of Jesus will make our hearts clean again every time! Isn’t that amazing?”



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY 2: THE RIGHT-SIDE- OUTFIT RACE

SUPPLIES:

- One grocery bag for every 5 children containing a complete outfit turned inside-out
- Whistle

TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

Gather several complete outfits of 5 items (2 socks, pants, shirt, and coat or sweater) so that there is one outfit for every 5 children maximum. Try to match the clothing in each bag as closely as possible to make the game fair. In other words, if using shirts with buttons, use ones with the same number of buttons in each bag. Turn each item inside-out. Toss the 5 items into plastic grocery bags, so that there is a complete outfit in each bag.

LEADER:

“Have you ever accidentally put your clothes on inside-out? I did that once and had a tag sticking out all day. I felt pretty dumb. What if you put a shirt with buttons on inside out? How would that feel? (Weird, uncomfortable.) Would it be hard to zip a jacket you had on inside out? That’s what it feels like when we do something we shouldn’t, when we sin. God made it so we would feel uncomfortable and things wouldn’t feel right inside. Why did He do that?”

(Let children answer.)

“That’s right. So we would come back to Him and let Him put things back the right way for us.

“Now we’re going to try to put something back together the right way.”

DIRECTIONS:

- 1.** Divide the children into equal teams—maximum of 5 children per team. Fewer on each team is okay. Each team should gather around a table (round, if possible). If there aren’t enough tables, children can sit on the floor to do this activity.
- 2.** Hold up your prepared grocery bags with the inside-out outfits in them. Explain that in each bag is a complete set of clothes—socks, pants, shirt, and coat or sweater. But everything is inside out!
- 3.** Set one bag in the middle of each table.
- 4.** Explain that, when you blow the whistle, the teams will open their bags and dump out the clothes. They will work together to turn everything “right side out” and lay it out as a complete outfit. The shirt needs to go inside the coat or sweater. Everything needs to be zipped or buttoned completely. The outfit needs to be laid out like it would be on a person, with shirt and coat at the top, then pants, then a sock inside each pant leg.
- 5.** The first team to “restore” the outfit to the way it’s supposed to be wins!

LEADER:

“Great job putting those outfits back together the right way. That’s what God does to our hearts when we come to Him and allow Him to restore us!”



WRAP UP: GUMMY WORM TAKE HOME

SUPPLIES:

- Snack-size, plastic zipper bags with 2-3 large gummy worms (or a handful of small ones) for each child

DIRECTIONS:

Hand out plastic zipper bag with gummy worms to each child (prepared beforehand).

LEADER:

Dismissal

“Ask your parents before you eat these gummy worms. And remember this week, when we’ve done something wrong, we don’t need to hide from God (or our parents) and eat worms or pig food! We just need to pray to the Lord, confess our sins, and let Him cleanse our hearts. Have a great week.”

Give “Cross Walk, All Week” handout to each child on their way out.

GRADES 2-3 SMALL GROUP

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY 1: JESUS CLEANS OUR HEARTS

SUPPLIES:

- Clear drinking glass labeled “You” for each group
- Blue food coloring labeled “Sin” for each group
- Small bowl labeled “Blood Of Christ” for each group
- Small clear glass labeled “Faith” for each group
- Cool water
- Red food coloring
- Chlorine bleach
- Baking soda
- Spoon
- 1 tbsp. measuring spoons and measuring cup

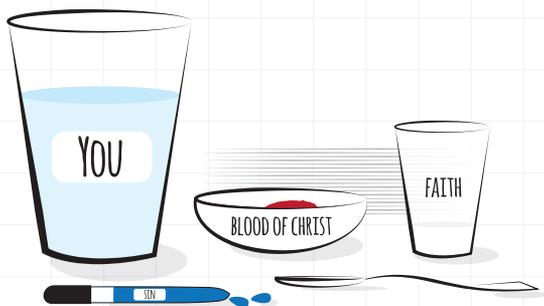
(This first activity is the same for grades 2-3 and 4-5, but children may be able to observe better in smaller groups rather than in the large group setting.)

TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

Prepare a safe work station where children will be able to see the experiment clearly but will not be able to touch it. Maybe use a high table or just set up a separate table that will be guarded by a helper.

Mix 5 drops of red food coloring into 1 tbsp. of baking soda in a bowl. (Keep mixing; it will eventually color evenly.) This is enough to perform the experiment 4 times, so multiply out for the number of 2-3 grade and 4-5 grade groups you will have (2 tbsp + 10 drops = 8 groups, etc.). Set the experiment up at each group's station in the following way:

- Fill the drinking glass labeled "You" two-thirds full with cool tap water. Place it on the table.
- Place the blue food coloring dropper "Sin," on the table next to the glass.
- Put 1 tsp of the red baking soda into the small bowl labeled "Blood of Christ. Leave it on the table next to the "Sin" dropper.
- Fill the small glass labeled "Faith" with 1/4 cup bleach. (Note: Never leave the bleach unattended! You may prefer to keep the bleach in a safe area and distribute it to your groups at the time of the experiment.)
- Place a spoon on the table with the other ingredients. Now you are all ready!
- Have paper towels handy in case of spills or splatters.



LEADER:

Hold up the water glass that says “You,” and say:

“When God created the world, it was pure. There was no sin in it. But then, Adam and Eve sinned, and each of us has sinned too, doing things that aren’t what God wants us to do.

“When we do something wrong, like tell a lie or think an unkind thought about someone, our heart is no longer clean, is it?”

Add (or have a responsible child add) drops of blue food coloring as you describe various sins, 3 or 4 drops. Stir with a spoon. Water will turn blue.

“What did Jesus do to make us clean again?”

(Let children answer.)

“That’s right. Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood.

Pour the contents of the small bowl containing 1 tsp. of red baking soda into the

glass and stir. You may allow a child to add it and stir it in, or do it yourself.

“But the water still isn’t clear, is it? For our hearts to become clean again, we have to confess our sins and put our trust in Jesus. Now, let’s see what happens when we add this cup of ‘Faith in Jesus.’”

Pour in the small glass containing $\frac{1}{4}$ cup bleach. (Keep bleach away from children.) The water should turn completely clear.

“How do our hearts look now?”

(Let children respond.)

“And do you know what? Every time we sin or do something wrong and our hearts turn dark again, we need to pray and tell the Lord we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us. And the blood of Jesus will make our hearts clean again every time! Isn’t that amazing?”

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY 2: THE HIDING BOX

SUPPLIES:

- Small empty matchboxes or craft boxes covered with paper
- Pens/colored pencils/fine-tip washable markers
- Cut pieces of yarn or felt
- Liquid glue

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Visit <https://christianlifetrilogy.com/crosswalk-resources/> to see a picture of what the completed box looks like.

TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

Collect as many empty small matchboxes as you have children in your Grade 2-3 groups. (Craft matchboxes are readily available at craft stores, dollar stores, and online retailers.) Cut strips of light-colored construction paper to wrap around the outside. (If your boxes are the size of regular small matchboxes, the strips of paper will need to be 2 inches by 4 inches.) Tape one strip of paper around the outside of each matchbox so that the design on the box is completely covered, but the inner box can still slide in and out.

DIRECTIONS:

- Give each child a matchbox that was previously covered with construction paper.
- Have the children slide out the inner box and draw a smiling face on the inside with a pen, colored pencil, or fine-tip markers. Encourage them to add eyebrows, eyelashes, glasses if they wear them—make it look like them.

- Have the children cut pieces of yarn or small strips of felt to glue on the top of the inside sliding box for hair. (Liquid glue will work much better for this than glue sticks.)
- Have the children write on the front of the box in marker or colored pencil: “Don’t hide! Run back to God!” Helpers can assist with this.
- Slide the inner box back inside the outer box. Show children that this is us hiding from God. When we hide from God, it is dark, just like inside the box. It’s not a happy place.
- Next, have them push on the bottom edge of the inner box. The smiling face emerges. When we stop hiding and run back to God, how do we feel? Smiling and happy.
- If there is enough time, the children can decorate the outside of the boxes with the markers or colored pencils, or fun stickers.
- Tell children to take their hiding boxes home with them, and any time they feel ashamed of something they’ve done, to push up that box and see that happy face as a reminder not to hide, but to pray. God is waiting for them!



DON'T HIDE!
RUN BACK TO GOD!

WRAP UP: GUMMY WORM TAKE HOME

SUPPLIES:

- Snack-size, plastic zipper bags with 2-3 large gummy worms (or a handful of small ones) for each child

DIRECTIONS:

Hand out plastic zipper bag with gummy worms to each child (prepared beforehand).

LEADER:

Dismissal

“Ask your parents before you eat these gummy worms. And remember this week, when we’ve done something wrong, we don’t need to hide from God (or our parents) and eat worms or pig food! We just need to pray to the Lord, confess our sins, and let Him cleanse our hearts. Have a great week.”

Give “Cross Walk, All Week” handout to each child on their way out.

GRADES K-1 SMALL GROUP

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY 1: DANCE & HIDE

SUPPLIES:

- A beach towel or sheet for each child
- Music to dance to. We recommend using the “Run to the Father” song from the Worship segment..

LEADER:

Give each child a beach towel or other large piece of fabric that they can hide under.

“Today in our large group, we talked about hiding. The Prodigal Son learned that he didn’t have to hide from his father, but instead he could run home to him. And his dad welcomed him with open arms. It’s the same with God. You don’t have to hide from God when we’ve done something wrong. Run back to Him. Pray and tell him we are sorry. He always forgives us. So the thing to remember is, ‘Don’t hide! Run to God!’ Everybody say it with me!”

Repeat “Don’t hide! Run to God!” several times with the children.

“Now everybody take your beach towel and see if you can hide under it.

(Give kids time to hide.)

“Now when I say ‘Go,’ I want you to pop out from under your towel and shout with me, ‘Don’t hide! Run to God!’ Ready? 1... 2... 3... Go! ‘Don’t hide! Run to God!’”

Now instruct the children that you’re going to start the music and they should dance. When they hear the music stop, you’ll shout **“HIDE!”** and everyone will hide under their towel. When you restart the music, they’ll pop out from under their towels and shout **“Don’t hide! Run to God!”**

Start and stop the music. Continue the dancing and hiding as long as the children are interested.



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY 2: "DON'T HIDE! RUN TO GOD!" PAPER CRAFT

SUPPLIES:

- Printed papers for each child: 1 large page and 1 insert (See Resources)
- Markers or crayons
- Safety scissors

TO PREPARE BEFOREHAND:

Cut the insert pages in half so that you can give one insert to each child. Note that there is a girl and boy version of the insert. Print enough for the amount of each you expect to have.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Give each child one of the large pages and an insert. Have them color both pages in whatever fashion they like.
2. Using safety scissors, cut slits in larger paper at dotted lines. Adults and helpers may need to assist with this.
3. Slide the insert into the larger paper. Begin by placing the left side of the insert into the largest slit and pulling it to the left. Pull the left side of the insert behind the curtain and back out through the small slit on the other side, as far as it will go. The picture of a child will go behind the curtain.

4. Place the right side of the insert into the third slit so that it goes behind the cross, then pull it back up through the slit on the far right side. The insert will be woven through the large paper so that both ends are on top of the page, but it goes behind the curtain and the cross.

LEADER:

“Just like the little person on your paper, you may be tempted to hide! Remember that you don’t ever need to hide from God! Move your little person back and forth and say the words again with me. ‘Don’t hide! Run to God!’”



WRAP UP: GUMMY WORM TAKE HOME

SUPPLIES:

- Snack-size, plastic zipper bags with 2-3 large gummy worms (or a handful of small ones) for each child

DIRECTIONS:

Hand out plastic zipper bag with gummy worms to each child (prepared beforehand).

LEADER:

Dismissal

“Ask your parents before you eat these gummy worms. And remember this week, when we’ve done something wrong, we don’t need to hide from God (or our parents) and eat worms or pig food! We just need to pray to the Lord, confess our sins, and let Him cleanse our hearts. Have a great week.”

Give “Cross Walk, All Week” handout to each child on their way out.