

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, large marshmallows, wet wipes, disposable cups and/or blocks, *(optional)* construction paper, wax paper, or another surface kids can build on

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids pair up. If possible, pair older kids with younger ones.
- Guide kids to apply hand sanitizer.
- Give each team about 20 marshmallows.
- Challenge kids to build the tallest marshmallow wall that they can by stacking them. Praise teams for their cooperation, creativity, and problem-solving skills!
- Provide wet wipes when the kids finish—they'll likely need them!
- If you have extra, untouched marshmallows, you might choose to give kids a small treat!
- Next, provide other building materials such as disposable cups or blocks.
- Challenge teams to build the tallest wall they can with the new items.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys did a great job of working together to build your walls! Which wall was the tallest? Which wall was the STRONGEST? Why do you think so? *(Pause for ideas.)* Good thinking! **[Transition]** In Large Group, we'll hear what a **VERY strong wall and God's plan have in common. Let's go learn more.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Cities in Dust

Israel Captures Jericho
Joshua 5:13–6:20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God's plan is the best plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the
Lord in the land of the living.**
Psalm 27:13, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see
yourself the way God sees you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



1. GOD'S PLAN IS THE BEST PLAN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Blow Your Horn" Activity Page, scissors, markers, crayons and/or stickers, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite each kid to choose an Activity Page.
- Lead kids to point to each word as you read the Bottom Line aloud.
- Next, show kids where to cut along the lines.
- Set out scissors and guide kids to cut where shown. Provide assistance as needed.
- Invite kids to decorate their pages with the markers, crayons, and/or stickers.
- When each kid finishes, show them how they can roll their page and overlap the ends and tape them together to make a trumpet.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What do you remember about trumpets from our Bible story today? (*The Israelite priests blew trumpets when they marched around Jericho.*) Even though God's plan for the Israelites to march around Jericho, blow trumpets, and shout didn't make sense, Joshua and the Israelites obeyed. They had **CONFIDENCE** that God's plan was the **BEST** plan.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time in your life when God's plan was the best plan, even though you may not have understood it at first. You might tell kids about when you moved to a new city, learned to do something that was challenging at first, or experienced something that you didn't understand. Tell kids how God grew your confidence in Him through the experience.)

"You can have confidence that **God's plan is the best plan**, too. You can have confidence that **God's plan is the best plan** when you move to a new home and have to make new friends. You can have confidence that **God's plan is the best plan** when you don't get the teacher you want at school. And you can have confidence that **God's plan is the best plan** when something seems confusing or hard to do. No matter what, **God's plan is the best plan!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Cities in Dust

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Joshua 5:13–6:20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God's plan is the best plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



*2. MARCH!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Joshua 6; (optional) "trumpets" kids made in "God's Plan Is the Best Plan" Activity #1

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible where marked. Read verses 2 through 5 aloud.
- Lead kids to dramatize the story.
 - If your group is large enough, choose one kid to be Joshua, two or more kids to be the "walls of Jericho," and the remaining kids to be the "priests" and "Israelites."
 - If your group is smaller, designate a table or other object to be "Jericho."
- Direct "Joshua" to lead the "priests" and the "Israelites" to walk around the city once, with the priests blowing their trumpets. (Kids can use the trumpets they made in "God's Plan Is the Best Plan.")
- Guide kids to "return to camp and go to sleep." Do this for six "days," designating a new "Joshua" for each day.
- On the seventh day, lead kids to march around Jericho seven times. Excitedly count each lap!
- After the seventh lap, direct "Joshua" to tell the people to give a loud shout. At this shout, the "walls" of Jericho will fall.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Did Joshua and the Israelites follow God's plan? Yes, they did! Even though they didn't know WHY God wanted them to march around the city for SEVEN days, they knew that **God's plan is the best plan**, so they obeyed.

"Is it always good to obey God? Yes! You know, sometimes God's plans are easy to follow, and sometimes they don't make sense. **[Make It Personal]** (Share about a time when you obeyed God and later saw that His plan was best. It might be a time when something didn't go the way you expected, a time when God told you to do something that didn't make sense, or a time when God used a challenging situation for good.)

"So, when God's plans don't seem to make sense, remember that GOD is GOOD. Remember that **God's plan is the best plan!** And remember that His plan is for you to live the way He wants us to live, even when the plan doesn't make sense, yet."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Cities in Dust

Israel Captures Jericho
Joshua 5:13–6:20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God's plan is the best plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see
yourself the way God sees you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



prayer.

PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "God's Plan" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids to gather in a circle and hold hands, if possible.
- Use the conversation below to guide kids in a responsive

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The important thing to remember today is this. *(Hold up the Activity Page and point to each word as you say it.)* **God's plan is the best plan.** Say it with me. **God's plan is the best plan.** Let's pray. *(Lead kids to echo the Bottom Line after you.)*

"Dear God, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: **"God's plan is the best plan."**

LEADER: "When we're confused, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: **"God's plan is the best plan."**

LEADER: "When things don't make sense, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: **"God's plan is the best plan."**

LEADER: "Thank You that no matter what, Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: **"God's plan is the best plan."**

LEADER: "You are SO good. Your plan is the best plan."

KIDS: **"God's plan is the best plan."**

LEADER: "We love You, Lord. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents today's **God's plan is the best plan.**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Cities in Dust

Israel Captures Jericho
Joshua 5:13–6:20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God's plan is the best plan.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

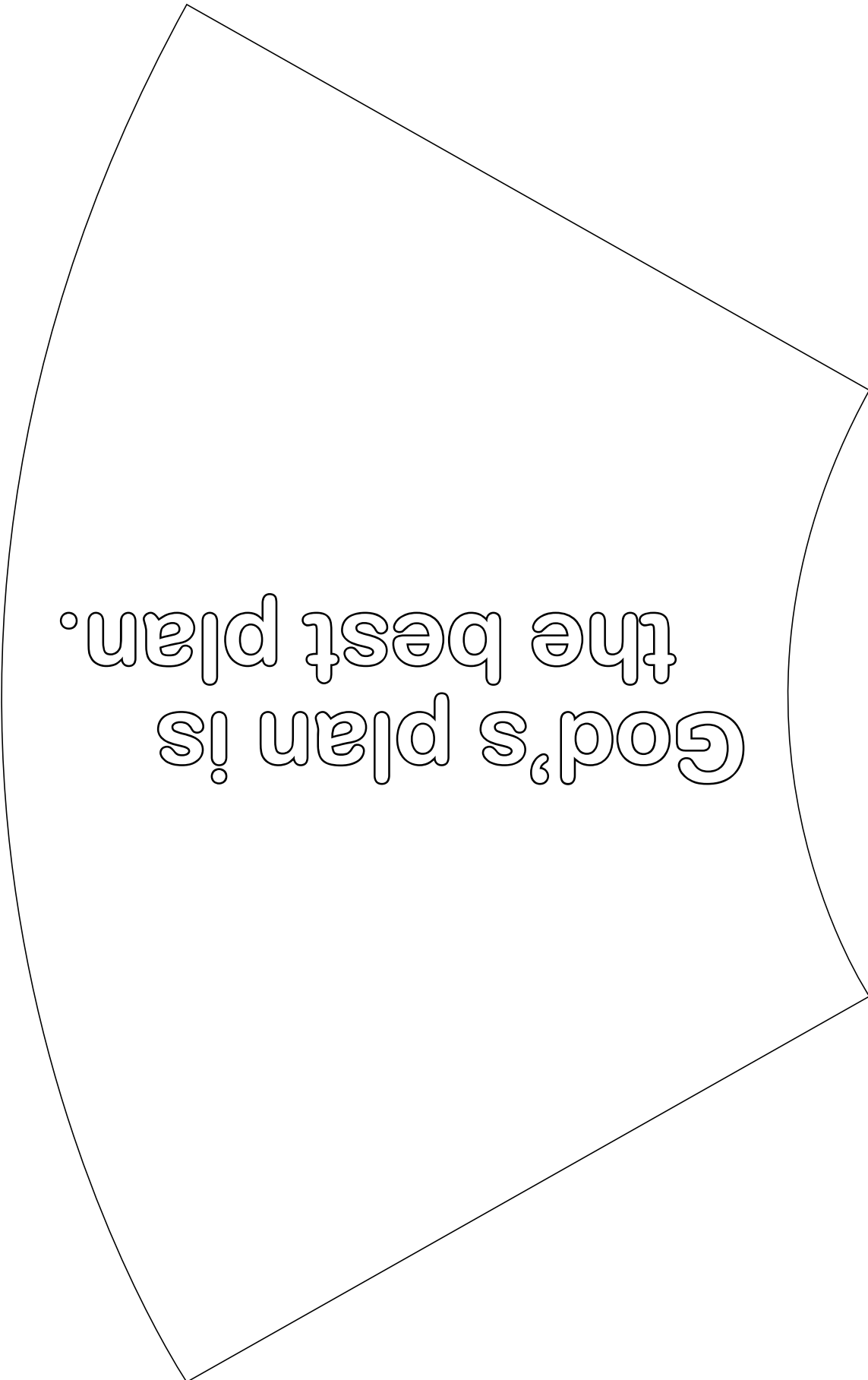
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God's plan is
the best plan.

What to Do:

Print on different colors of cardstock. Provide one for each kid.

"Blow Your Horn" Activity Page

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God's plan
is the
best plan.

What to Do:

Print one for each small group.

"God's Plan" Activity Page

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Confidence means learning to see yourself the way God sees you.



Read Jeremiah 29:11

DAY

1

Uh-Oh

Sometimes not everything goes according to plan. Even so, God is always with us. Talk with a parent about what you could do right when a situation goes wrong! (Parents: Talk through the scenarios below with your kid. Help them figure out what doing the right thing looks like.)

1. You are at school and see your friend left their tablet on the bus. Do you: keep it OR find your friend and give it back?
2. Your friend is really scared because they are moving to a new town. What could you do or say to encourage them?

Know you can always ask God to help you do the right thing.

DAY

2

That's the Plan!

In this week's Bible story God told Joshua to march around the city of Jericho seven times and the walls would fall and his people could take over the city. Joshua listened to the plans God made and it was so much better than he could have imagined! Ask God to help you this week when things don't go as planned.

"Dear God, Sometimes I think I have a really good idea and it doesn't work. I can get super disappointed and upset. Please remind me of the story of Joshua and the walls of Jericho. Thank you for having the best plan. Amen."

DAY

3

Ah, Success!

Grab an adult and look up Jeremiah 29:11. Read it together a few times. Now, look for the word "success" or "prosper" within the verse. With a parent, ask these questions: What have you done in your life that has been a success? What is something at which you want to succeed? Imagine all you can do if you make God part of your plan!

Think about something you want to do that you could ask God to help you with.

DAY

4

Plan a Walk

On the left side below are the plans for a great walk. Uh oh, the plan is all jumbled! Use the numbers in front of each sentence and put them in order on the lines on the right. Then, go for a walk!

1. Open door and step outside. _____
2. Have fun! _____
3. Ask an adult. _____
4. Put on shoes. _____

Look for ways that you can add God to your plans!

Answers: 3,4,1,2

God's plan is the best plan.



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

When it comes to confidence, we might try and base it on what we do well or what a teacher or parent might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something that lasts forever. We think that's found in understanding how God sees us. God created us, and God loves us. Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when you put your confidence in Jesus, you can truly see yourself how God sees you.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY

God So Loved the World
John 3:16 (supporting: John 3:1-21)

BOTTOM LINE

You can be confident because God loves you.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY

Israel Captures Jericho
Joshua 5:13-6:20

BOTTOM LINE

God's plan is the best plan.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY

Gideon
Judges 6-8

BOTTOM LINE

God can use you no matter what.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
1 Kings 18:16-46

BOTTOM LINE

God can do the impossible.

MEMORY VERSE

"I REMAIN CONFIDENT OF THIS: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING."

PSALM 27:13, NIV

CONFIDENCE

LEARNING TO SEE YOURSELF THE WAY GOD SEES YOU