

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



### \*2. NO MATTER WHAT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "God Can Use You" Activity Page

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a variation of "Mother, May I?"
- Guide kids to line up at one end of your environment

while you stand at the opposite end.

- Call out a kid's name and read a scenario from the "God Can Use You" Activity Page.
- After each scenario, encourage the kid to say the Bottom Line.
- After they do, guide them to move forward with a soldier-style move: march three steps, do two jumping jacks, "climb a wall" four steps, etc.
- The game ends when every kid reaches you.

*Variation: If possible, allow kids to play in pairs. This can help shy or reluctant kids enjoy the game more.*

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Gideon wasn't sure he was the right guy for the job. He felt small and unimportant. But God used Gideon and his small army to do big things. God can use you to do big things, too! He can use you to be kind to someone who needs to know that God loves them. He can use you to be a friend to someone who needs a friend. He can use you to share with someone who needs help.

**God can use you no matter what!**

*[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time God used you to do something for Him, even though you weren't confident. You may have told someone about Jesus, helped in a new way at church, or made a friend even though you were shy.)*

"So remember, just like God used Gideon and God used me, **God can use you no matter what, too!**"

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Use Somebody

Gideon  
Judges 6–8

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can use you no matter what.

### 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.

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### MADE TO EXPLORE

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



### 3. PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic straws, scissors, tape, rulers,

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give eight straws, a ruler, and a pair of scissors to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to leave the first straw alone.
- Instruct the kids to snip a ½ inch off the next straw, 1 inch from the second, 1½ inches from the third, and two inches from the fourth, continuing to cut an additional ½ inch from each straw in this pattern until the rest are cut.
- Instruct the kids to line their straws next to each other, tallest to shortest, making sure the tops of the straws line up flush in a line.
- Give each kid five inches of tape to line across their straws. Explain that they can carefully wrap any extra tape around to the backs of their straws. Be ready to help as needed.
- Give each kid another five inches of tape to put on the back of their straws to secure them together.
- Encourage kids to blow into their pan flute using the straight side of the flute. The uneven side should point out.
- Prompt the kids to listen to the different pitches the various lengths of the straws produce.
- Ask:
  - Which straw gives a high pitch?
  - Which straw gives a low pitch?
- Challenge kids to attempt to play a familiar song!

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- Let kids to play their flutes as time allows.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who knew you could use straws to make an instrument with this cool of a sound? You took something that didn't appear to be much of anything and created something pretty awesome. Our verse reminds us that despite what is in front of us, we can be confident that we will see God's goodness. Stay confident of what God has given you and know that **God can use you no matter what.**"

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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.
- If you did the “Small but Mighty” Activity, prompt kids to hold their duct tape “army” papers as you pray.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“The important thing to remember today is that: **God can use you no matter what.** God can use [kid’s name], no matter what; God can use [kid’s name], no matter what; and God can use [kid’s name], no matter what! *(Repeat with each kid.)* Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You, SO much, that You can use us, no matter what. Thank You for the example of Gideon. Thank You for giving him confidence and using him even though he was scared and felt small. Thank You that You are good to us and give us confidence when we’re scared, too. We love you, SO much, God. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents today’s **God can use you no matter what.**

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Even though you're scared, you follow your coach's instructions and try a new move.

You sit with someone new at lunch even though it feels a bit weird at first.

You audition for the talent show even though you're really nervous.

You and your family don't have a lot of extra food, but you make dinner for a family who's struggling.

You're scared, but you tell someone that Jesus loves them.

You see someone playing by themselves at the park. Even though you feel shy, you invite them to play with you.

You donate one toy to a local toy drive.

Your mom is on a work call, and you notice the kitchen table is messy. You clean it up.

A friend seems sad all the time. You're nervous, but you decide to ask him what's wrong and tell him you will pray for him.

(Add other examples that are relevant for your kids and community.)

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**What to Do:**

Print one for each small group.

**"God Can Use You" Activity Page**

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