

Busted Stuff

Bible: Busted Stuff (City with Broken Walls) • *Proverbs 25:28*

Bottom Line: Doing what you should can keep you safe.

Memory Verse: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NIV)*

Life App: Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience

Ridiculous Resolutions

- “Ridiculous Resolutions Fill-in Sheets” Activity Page; one for each kid
- Pencils or pens

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Guidance System

- Drinking straws; one for each kid
- Index cards; one for each kid
- Scissors
- Clear tape

Prayer

- Pens or pencils

Dismiss

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.

Ridiculous Resolutions

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Ridiculous Resolutions Fill-in Sheets” Activity Pages; pencils or pens

What You Do:

- Talk to the group about New Year’s Resolutions.
- Explain that often, people decide to make a change in their lives around this time of year. They want to improve how they act, look, or think, so they make a plan to do it.
- Pass out the Activity Pages and the pencils or pens, and let kids fill in some silly resolutions.
- When they’re finished, they can read them to the group.
- If you have some beginning readers in your group, pair them with an older kid who can help them write the words they choose.
- If time allows, invite kids to share some real resolutions they might consider of ways to change what they do or how they think in order to follow Jesus more this year.

What You Say:

“Those are some pretty ridiculous resolutions! Change is hard, and it takes a lot of discipline to change how you act or think. **[Transition] Let’s go hear about what can help us keep our real resolutions!**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Guidance System

What You Need: Drinking straws, index cards, scissors, tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a drinking straw. Instruct them to try to throw the straw like a paper airplane.
- Invite them to share how it flew: straight and far, or short and wobbly.
- Let kids make a guidance system for their planes.
 - Pass out the index cards, scissors, and tape. (If you're using thin straws, give each kid two straws and let them tape those together to use as the base of their flyer.)
 - Direct kids to cut out three lengthwise strips from the index card.
 - Instruct them to tape two of the strips together to make one big circle, and then make a small circle from the remaining strip.
 - Show them how to tape the end of the straw(s) inside the large circle, and then tape the other end inside the small circle.
- Let kids fly their new “planes.”
- They should fly straighter and longer than before. You can experiment with letting them fly the planes in different ways in order to see which way the plane flies best.

What You Say:

“Without a guidance system, your straw flyers were all over the place! You couldn't count on them to do the right thing and fly correctly. With a little practice, however, you could fly your guided flyers in a straight line pretty far! Self-control is like our guidance system. It enables us to choose to do what we should even when we don't want to. Without self-control, it would be hard or even impossible to make wise choices for what we say and do and for how we react to others. We'd just do whatever we wanted, even if it was dangerous or foolish. Can you think of any ways or times that using self-control could keep you on the right track? *(Allow for discussion.)* **[Bottom Line] Doing what you should can keep you safe.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you used self-control instead of giving in to an unsafe or unwise reaction. Maybe you calmed yourself down before saying some sharp words to a police officer during a traffic stop. Emphasize that showing self-control protected you from dire or dangerous consequences. Invite kids to share times that they have—or have not—practiced self-control and what happened as a result.)

Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)

What You Need: “Missing Out Puzzle Pieces (NIV), and pens

What You Do:

- Gather the group in a circle and give them each a Puzzle Piece along with a pen.
- Encourage them to turn the pieces over and write down or draw a time when they need self-control—a situation in which **[Bottom Line] doing what you should can keep you safe**, but it’s a hard choice to make.
- Lead the group in prayer, asking God for help having self-control when we need it.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You that You promise to help us whenever we ask. We pray that You will help us with our self-control this week—that we will choose to do right even when it’s easier to do wrong. We want to have strong walls around our lives to keep us safe. Thank You for hearing us. Amen.

“Take home your flyers this week and have fun learning to fly them! Their guidance system reminds us that **[Bottom Line] doing what you should can keep you safe.**”

As adults arrive to pick up, hand out the flyers and let any interested adults have a chance to fly one. Also, be sure that kids take home their puzzles and put the missing piece somewhere special to remind them to demonstrate self-control this week. Share with families that their kid has identified a situation in which it is hard to make the wise choice, so that the adults and older siblings can encourage them when they need it.

This year, in order to improve my _____ ,
(NOUN)

I'm going to change my whole way of _____ .
(VERB)

I'm going to _____ more, and eat more
(VERB)

_____ and try that _____
(PLURAL NOUN) (ADJECTIVE)

program of working out! I also want to take more

_____ and spend time
(ADJECTIVE) (PLURAL NOUN)

with my lovely _____ . I will be a better
(PLURAL NOUN)

_____ and work _____ towards
(OCCUPATION) (ADVERB)

my ultimate goal — becoming a _____ . I have
(NOUN)

a plan and I can do it _____ if I only
(ADVERB)

_____ harder! Let's do it! This _____ is
(VERB) (NOUN)

going to be my year!

What to Do:

Print one for each kid.