



Made For This

Note to Speaker: The Today's Truth is the central message to be communicated to the kids. We definitely God to pour His message through your personality as you help kids clearly understand each truth and the scriptures upon which they are based. These summaries are to be used as guidelines to develop your own presentation. If we were to wake a kid up at 2:15 AM and ask them what they learned that day, having this Today's Truth clear in their minds would be a big win!

You may choose to use videos or picture slides to help younger kids picture the different aspects of a theater production. Develop your message to be as clear and concrete as possible for the youngest kids.

Overview of Summaries

Our time at camp this year will be spent in the world of theater. God is writing an amazing story full of creativity and love, in our world. He has created each of us to play a specially crafted part of this bigger story. Just like it takes many people filling many roles to pull off a successful theater production, it takes many people playing many roles to live out God's bigger story for the world.

Each Today's Truth will be explored using two scripture passages. One is a teaching passage and the other will be biographical/narrative. You'll notice there won't be specific verses given for the biographical texts. Instead, a book or specific chapter will be supplied. This is to provide freedom to explore the story in proper context and key in on specific, pivotal moments.



DAY ONE

Today's Truth: I am made for a bigger story.

Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Acts 9 (story of Paul’s conversion)

Motif Image: Script (signifying “bigger story”)

Objective:

Help kids understand that a script is the entire story with all the lights, sound, music, costumes, etc. made clear. God has a special story He wants to “write” with our lives—not like a script that tells us what to say and when, but an overall story He wants to incorporate into His bigger story—His story about His limitless love and all He has done to help us be reconnected to Him through Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10 is our Theme Verse. It explains that we are God’s handiwork—a piece of art designed and formed by God’s own hands. We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works that God prepared in advance specifically for each one of us. There is a special story God wants to develop with each of our lives and each of us is made to be a special part of His bigger story. We’re going to explore this truth not only today, but all week.

Life can be confusing and filled with things that we don’t understand or know how to handle. Trouble can happen or things just don’t turn out the way we expect. We can feel so upset by some of the things that happen in life. But when we realize our own life story is actually part of a larger story—God’s story--, our whole way of seeing and reacting to life can change.

Paul’s story in Acts 9 shows us a perfect picture of someone whose story turned out much differently than he expected. Paul’s name used to be Saul. He was out to stop Christians from telling others about Jesus. He thought Jesus was not God’s Son and tried hard to stop anyone from believing He was; he arrested Christians and punished them for telling others about Jesus. Saul thought he was doing what God wanted. But Jesus met Saul on the road while he was traveling to hunt Christians and arrest them.



Jesus told Him to stop killing and arresting Christians. A man named Ananias helped Saul understand about Jesus; Saul became a Christian and his name was changed to Paul. Paul thought he was living the right story for his life, but God created Him for a completely different story. Paul ended up writing letters to churches that became a large portion of the New Testament part of the Bible. God had a much bigger role for Paul than he ever dreamed.

Our lives aren't only about us. There is so much more going on than what we see right in front of us. How exciting that we can choose to follow Jesus and step right into that role He's designed just for us! We often can't see all the parts of the bigger story going on, but we know we can trust God that He knows every part of the story.

Let excitement build within you as you start this exploration of the theater and use that world to learn along with the kids that we really are Made For This.



DAY TWO

Today's Truth: I am made on purpose.

Scriptures:

Psalms 139:14

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

1 Samuel 16 (story of David)

Motif Image: Roles

Objective:

Help kids understand that God chose every single part of who they are because He wanted to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art. Each person was made on purpose with a special plan designed by God.

The Roles Motif Image is to help them understand that each person has a special "role" God has chosen; no role is more important than another. Roles signify a one-of-a-kind purpose within the story being portrayed.

Why was I born? What is my life all about?

These are questions we all ask at some point. There is just something inside of us that really wants to know what our lives mean. God created each of us for a reason; He has a plan for each of our lives; each of our lives has a special, one-of-a-kind purpose. Not one kid out there is "an accident." The God of the universe loves every single one of us and He decided everything about us—He is the One who created us and He loves us more than we can imagine.

Our last Today's Truth told us that we "are made for a bigger story." We know God has already planned all the good things He wants us to do. These good things are a part of the bigger story He is writing through every person throughout history. He has planned our own stories into His bigger story. Each of us is needed to complete God's story.

In the theater, there are many roles required to make a successful production, not just actors. Productions need a: director, producer, lighting crew, make-up team, props



team, orchestra, wardrobe team, as well as, ushers, ticket-sellers . . . the list is really long of all the people needed to make a production happen. Every role is needed and every role is important.

In our lives, we may often play different roles—now you are students, one day you may be parents . . . one day you may even be grandparents! Some of the roles we will play in life might be completely unexpected, like with Paul. We could start off wanting one kind of career and end up in another. But whatever roles God calls us to play, there is a reason and a certain story He is writing at every point in our lives. All of them are important.

God has promised to guide us through life. We don't have to feel lost or alone or confused by the things that happen in life. We can decide to follow wherever God leads us and try to do what He says. This is the way we can always know our lives have real meaning, no matter what happens.

Psalms 139:14 reminds us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. The word "fearfully" doesn't mean we are scary. It means "awesomely and amazingly." We can praise God because we know for sure He doesn't make mistakes and everything He does is perfect—that means each of us is perfectly the person God meant us to be. Sometimes we look at others and think we just aren't as good. Other people may have gifts, skills, talents, or things we wish we had. But, we must remember, we have things they don't. Each of us can look in the mirror and tell the person looking back that "You are exactly the person God meant for you to be . . . and God never makes a mistake." If we compare ourselves to others and think they are better than we are, we are actually telling God He messed up. God specifically made each of us with our particular gifts, personalities, and talents. We are designed the way we are on purpose and we know His works are wonderful. So instead of asking why we don't have what someone else has, let's ask God how He wants to use what He has given us!

God has an enemy (Satan) who hates everything and everyone God loves. He tries to convince us that we are just not good enough; in this way he keeps us from trying to do what God wants us to do in our lives. Sometimes, he tries to make some people think they are just better than others; people who think this way may never even try to follow God's purpose for their lives. Either way, listening to this enemy can cause us to judge ourselves and others based on outward appearance and only what our eyes can see. But God sees what's inside; that's the part that really matters. A beautiful example of this is a story about David.

It was time to find a new king so he could take over when Saul, the king of Israel, died. So God told the prophet Samuel to visit a man named Jesse; one of his sons was to be



chosen as the next king. So Samuel met all of Jesse's older sons but not one of them was the one God had chosen to be king. David was the youngest, out taking care of the sheep. His own dad didn't even think of calling him in to see Samuel. That's how unexpected it was that God would even consider calling David. He was only about 12 years old, small, and didn't look at all the way anyone thought a king should look. But God knew David's heart and He chose the smallest, most over-looked brother to eventually become king of Israel.

Every single one of us was made on purpose. Even when the role we're called to play at a particular time isn't what we expected, we can trust that God never makes mistakes and we can trust He knows exactly what He's doing. When we're following Him, we can be sure He has a perfect reason for whatever role He points out for us; whatever it is He calls us to do is important and part of His purpose in creating us—it's why we were made. This is another way we can see how our own personal stories are a part of the bigger story God is telling. Knowing He has a purpose for every single one of us can fill us with excitement and energy to follow God into all the roles He has planned for our lives.

DAY THREE

Today's Truth: I am made for love.

Scriptures:



John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Book of John (examples of Jesus showing love)

Motif Image: Playbill

Objective:

Today is the day we want to clearly communicate the Gospel. We are not after emotional manipulations or manufactured tears. What we do want is to know that every single kid has clearly heard the Gospel and been shown the powerful love of God.

Help your kids understand that the “playbill” is a *complete* listing of everyone who is in any way involved in the production. Every person involved is accepted and acknowledged as an important part. So it is in God’s world—He loves and values each one of us enough to send His Son to die for us.

When you go to a play, you receive a playbill that includes the names of all the people who are part of the production. Every person involved is accepted as an important part and is given their own place in the playbill. The production would be incomplete without any one of the parts. All are needed, wanted, and appreciated.

This picture is a springboard that can help us present the truth that God’s story is for every single one of us. No matter who you are, where you are, or what you’ve done, you were made to be a part of God’s bigger story and His love for you is real and active. You are needed, wanted, and appreciated by the One who made you.

2021
**MADE
FOR
THIS**

EPHESIANS 2:10

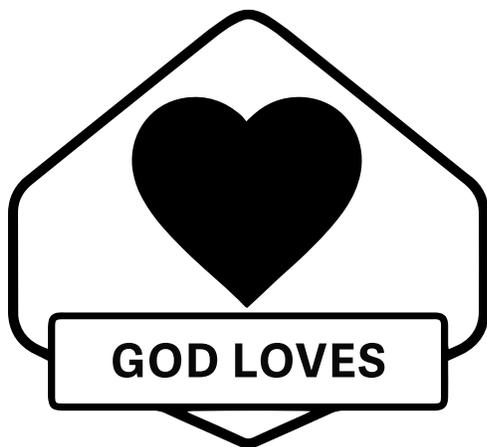
In the Book of John, we see Jesus continually reached out in love. He met people where they were. He healed, He taught, He lived in community. He loved. He chose, lived with, and loved His disciples. He gave His life for us, rose from death, and now shares His eternal life with us.

Why was it necessary for Him to do that? He did all this because sin came into the world.

God created people because He wanted someone to love who would love Him back. The first people God created were completely connected to Him; the love they had between them was constant and real. God gave Adam and Eve, the first people, one rule. Following it meant they loved God and wanted to please Him. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world. As a result, the close love connection that had existed was destroyed and sin and death entered the world. Since then, everyone is born without that connection to God and sin separates them from Him. Jesus was and is the only One who can reconnect us with God and return us to the relationship with Him that we were created for.

John 3:16 and these four images can help us remember how much God loves us and how we can be reconnected to Him in that close love relationship we were meant to have.

“For God so loved the world.”

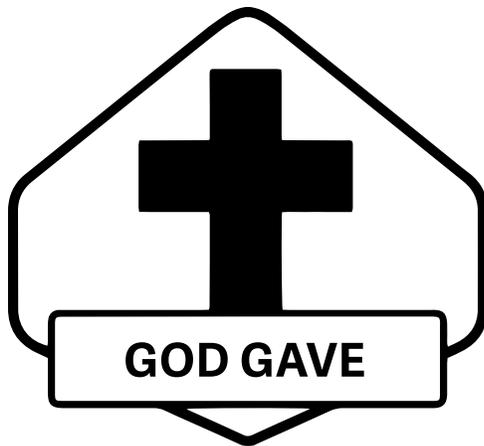


God loves the world; every single person in the whole entire world is loved by God. God loves you. He created you because He loves you. He loves you because He created

2021
**MADE
FOR
THIS**

EPHESIANS 2:10

you. Nothing in all the universe compares to God's love and nothing is big enough to hold it. God is actually made of love (1 John 4:16). This heart image reminds us that: *God Loves!*



“ . . . that he gave his one and only Son. . . ”

God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die in your place. Jesus' death paid the price for your sin. Jesus is God, the Son. He came to earth as a human baby; He was still 100% God and became 100% man. He lived totally without sin, so He was able to pay the penalty for sin for everyone. He did this when He died on the cross. Now, He has made it possible for us be reconnected to that super close relationship with God. All we need to do is: turn away from our sin, turn toward God, and ask Him to forgive us for disobeying Him. Whenever anyone asks this of Him, He always does it. When we have recognized what Jesus did for us and repent, in God's eyes, it will be just as if we had never sinned. Because of His great love, God made a way for us to be completely reconnected to Him and be a part of His bigger story. This cross reminds us that: God Gave.

2021
**MADE
FOR
THIS**

EPHESIANS 2:10



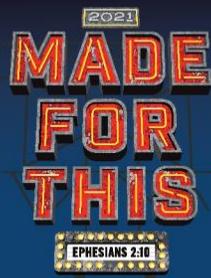
“ . . . that whoever believes in him. . . ”

Until you really trust that all God has done applies to you (He loves you and gave His Son for you), then it's only something you know, like $2+2=4$ —it's something you understand with your brain, but it doesn't change your life.

This chair can help us understand. [*Use a chair as a visual, if you choose*] If I don't believe a chair will really hold me up, I won't sit all the way down. But if I do trust the chair will hold me, I'll sit down without any hesitation. When we believe and trust in Jesus, we repent of our sins (turn around; change the way we think to be more like God wants), and invite Him to be Lord (master, the one in charge) of our lives. This chair reminds us that: We Believe.



A gift is not something you earn; it's not something you pay for. It's free—yours for the taking. You just need to reach out and grab hold of a gift and then it's yours. This is also true of God's gift of eternal life through Jesus. This eternal life starts now with our close



relationship with Him; and it continues into eternity, as we live with Him forever. We must reach out and take it. We must say to God, "I receive" all you have for me through Christ. I receive!" This gift reminds us that: We Receive.

DAY FOUR



Today's Truth: I am made to belong.

Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:19–22

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Book of Ruth (story of Ruth)

Motif Image: Rehearsal

Objective:

Help kids understand the analogy of the building from Ephesians 2:19–22. Help them understand that every single brick or stone in a building is needed for it to be finished and complete. Ruth chose to be one of the “stones” of Israel when she chose to follow Naomi away from Moab, the place of her birth. Because of her choice, she is now in the genealogy of Jesus.

The Rehearsal image helps us communicate to the kids that many parts are needed to create a full and successful production. All roles are needed, just as in Christ’s church, each of us is an irreplaceable “stone.”

No play or production or show of any kind can work out well if there are no rehearsals. For a rehearsal, every single person and part must work together. This is when every role comes together to make the story come to life on stage. The entire cast and crew must work together: the actors must know their lines and where to stand on stage; the lighting team must know which lights to use and where to shine them; the costume team must have all costumes ready and give them to the actors in the right order; the orchestra must know every note of the music . . . everyone involved is needed to put the production together in the right way.

In Ephesians 2:19–22, we learn that God’s “house”—His kingdom—is made up of lots of “stones”—the people who love and serve God. As a matter of fact, we’re all “built together” to make up this house. We were never meant to do life alone. We each have a



2021
**MADE
FOR
THIS**

EPHESIANS 2:10

personal relationship with God and that makes us all part of His family—all building blocks of His house. And we are supposed to live our lives connected to others who love and serve God. God designed each of us to be one-of-a-kind; only we can fill the space designed for us in the walls of God’s “house”—His kingdom.

The story of Ruth can help us understand how we each belong in a specific way and place. A Hebrew family (father, mother, and two sons) moved to a country named Moab. Moabites didn’t worship God. The two sons married women from Moab. When the father and two sons died, Naomi decided to return to Israel. She told her two daughters-in-law to stay in Moab, but one refused; her name was Ruth. Ruth was accepted into the Jewish community; through her faithfulness and dedication, she was able to help provide for her mother-in-law under tough circumstances. Ruth met a relative of Naomi and he provided for both women; later he married Ruth (kinsman redeemer). They had a son who is in the genealogy of Jesus. Ruth belonged; she truly and completely belonged!

At some point, all of us feel like we just don’t belong. Sometimes, it’s so bad that it can seem like no one sees us or cares about us. Maybe we feel like everyone else is popular or smart or athletic or talented. It may seem those things mean they belong . . . and we aren’t any of those things, so we feel left out or out of place. But when we are following Jesus, we belong to Him and we belong to His family. We’re accepted. Because we’re loved, people in our community can help us learn more about God’s Word and how to follow Him faithfully. Like we learned in Ephesians, we’re all part of God’s house and each “building block” is important.

You’re always seen and known by God. When you choose to follow Him, You are a member of His household. You may feel lonely, but you can be sure you are never truly alone. You belong. God made you to belong. No one else can fill the space God made just for you.



DAY FIVE

Today's Truth: I am made to do good.

Scriptures:

1 John 3:16–18

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

Story of Esther in the Book of Esther

Motif Image: Opening Night

Objective:

To help kids understand that we are responsible to put what we have learned into action. Knowing and doing are two different things. Being part of God's bigger story means we have an active part to play. If our relationship with God is real, it will show up in the way we live our lives.

The Opening Night Motif Image is to signify that we must display all we have learned and add our role to those of the rest of the family of God to show the world how great our God is. Opening Night cannot happen until all parts are in place and everyone knows their roles. At that point, the action begins!

It's opening night at the theater! This is it! It's time to put everything into action—the show must go on!

We've learned that we're created for a bigger story. We're made on purpose. We're made to belong. We're made for love. All these things are true and they all help us understand Ephesians 2:10. But there's one more part of Ephesians 2:10 we need to explore—the part that reminds us we were made to do good works God has prepared for us to do. This is our opening night—this is where we put what we learn into practice! Let's not only talk about God's bigger story, let's play our parts in it!



2021
**MADE
FOR
THIS**

EPHESIANS 2:10

1 John 3:16–18 reminds us that we should love not just with words and talk . . . but in deed and truth. This means what we say we believe should change the way we live. If we see someone who is hungry, we don't just tell them Jesus loves them, but we help them with some actual food as well. We don't just say we love God, but we do what He tells us to do. In the words of the old saying, "don't just talk the talk; walk the walk." This means we should not just say the right words; we need to do the right things.

The story of Esther is a great example of this. She was a Jewish orphan girl raised by her cousin, Mordecai, in a foreign city named Babylon. Esther was a beautiful woman and the king saw her. He wanted her to be his wife, but he didn't know she was Jewish. So Esther moved into the palace with the king. Being the king's wife didn't give her a lot of rights or privileges, though. She couldn't even go see him without an invitation. If she did, the king could actually have her killed. When Esther learned a man named Haman had made up a plan to kill all the Jews in Babylon, she had a decision to make. Would she put her faith into action, risk her life, visit the king, admit she was Jewish, and beg for his help to save her people? Or would she keep quiet and hope that somehow she and Mordecai would be okay? Mordecai reminded Esther that God would help her and she may have become queen just so she could help during this important time. Esther (and others she asked) prayed. And Esther chose to put her faith into action, even at the risk of her life, saying "if I perish, I perish."

She didn't perish. The Jews were saved and still remember these events today in a special celebration called "Purim." By choosing to do the good works God had designed for her, she got to play a part in God's story to save the Jews from Haman's evil plot. That was her story of putting her faith into "good works" action. We each will have our own.

God has designed each of us for a purpose and has designed good works for each of us to do. How exciting is that?!



CLOSING SESSION

Today's Truth: I am made for a bigger story.

Scripture:

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Hebrews 11 (the stories of faith)

Motif Image: Script

Objective:

This is a review of everything taught during the lessons of Made For This. It is designed to send the kids out realizing their story. . . and God’s bigger story. . . is ongoing. It started the day they were born, continues throughout their lives, and will never end. Help kids connect the Made For This teachings to their daily lives. Help them see they can live what they’ve learned every day for the rest of their lives.

Again, the script represents the story God is writing in the world and in our lives.

God is writing an amazing story in the world and in each of our lives. Our stories don’t always look the way we expect them to, but we can trust that the God who made the world has also designed each of us and knows the best way for our stories to fit into the bigger story He’s telling in the world. Never forget that you are a special piece of art created by God Himself. God created you to do some amazing things—good works—that He already has set up and waiting for you. Each of us has a special story to live that God will make a part of His bigger story—His story of love for the world.

I am made on purpose. Every single one of us is amazingly and wonderfully made by God. Not one of us is an accident; God has never made a mistake. God made each one of us with His own hands to live a life that absolutely no one else can live. All we need to do is love God with all we are and love others as ourselves. If we do that and follow Him every day, we will find our purpose and live out our very own story.



2021
**MADE
FOR
THIS**

EPHESIANS 2:10

I am made to belong. When we follow Jesus, we are part of His family. We belong. We're all working together as parts of His house just like all the bricks that make up a nice, big mansion. It can be easy to feel left out or unseen or unimportant when we compare ourselves to others. But none of us is left out of God's story and not one of us is unimportant. God's story wouldn't be complete without each one of you. All of you are needed by God and by God's entire family. God is always with you and always loves you. And He can bring you a community—a group of people to love you and help you grow!

I am made for love. Jesus loves us so much that He allowed Himself to be killed on a cross for us. When we were disconnected from God by sin, Jesus laid down His life so we could be reconnected to God. Jesus' love and willingness to die for each of us opened up the way for us to know God, love Him, and receive His love for us. Because of this, we can live connected to God today, tomorrow, and every single day for eternity. What amazing love—and we're made for it!

I am made to do good. God planned and made the world. He planned and created each of us. Then, He planned out all the good works that we were created to do in this world. He knows everything about us and He knows exactly the best ways for us to do good in the world. So He set it all up for us. We only need to follow Him to get to do the things He's planned for us. We get to put our faith into action and share His love with others. We get to do the good things the God of the universe made us to do! There's no way to be bored when we're following Jesus! We're made not just to say the right things, but to do the right things! So, let's take everything we've learned and put it into practice!

I am made for a bigger story. God started His story on this earth in Genesis. The Bible is filled with individual stories that played a part in His bigger story. Hebrews 11 talks about Noah who built the ark, Moses who freed millions of people from slavery to Egypt, and David who was chosen by God to be king of Israel. Everyone of these amazing people is part of God's story. The story that is written about in the Bible (it's all really one long story about God's love for the world) is still going and we get to be a part of it! We are in the same story as Noah, Moses, and David. How amazing is that?!

As our time together comes to an end for now, let's all remember we are made for this bigger story! We belong to God, so His story is our story and our story is His!