



## The Big Build

### God's Story in Our Life

**BIG IDEA:** God's story of love and redemption continues today through the lives of His children.

**BIBLE BASIS:** 1 John 3:1–10

**KEY VERSE:** "How great is the love the Father has given us so freely! Now we can be called children of God." 1 John 3:1a (NirV)

### ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

#### THAT'S BONKERS COMMUNITY BUILDER

**Say:** Today we'll be playing a game called "That's Bonkers!" that will help us review the entire Big Bible Story. But there's more! We'll also get to have a really cool story sharing time and a celebration.

**Question:** If you could create the world's greatest celebration, what would it be like?

**Question:** Who would you invite to your celebration?

**Question:** During our game today, we'll have to perform a made-up "Bonkers Action"—something a little crazy. What do you think the "Bonkers Action" should be?

#### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down." Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





## ★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### STORY QUESTIONS

#### For Younger Kids:

1. Do you have any questions about the Big Bible Story?
2. How do you think you can be a part of God's big story?

#### For Older Kids:

1. What do you think the Big Bible Story teaches us about God?
2. How do you think you can be a part of God's big story?

### BIBLE STORY CHARADE (Application Activity)

**Directions:** Tell the kids in your group to think about all of the "little" stories that make up God's Big Bible Story. Tell them to think about which of those "little" stories is their favorite. Choose a kid to go first. Instruct them to act out their favorite story without speaking. As they act it out, allow the rest of the group to guess which story it is. When someone has guessed correctly, ask the actor why that's their favorite story. For older kids, consider asking the group what that story taught them about God. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn acting a story out. When finished, ask the following question:

**Question:** God is writing a brand-new story in your life right now! It's a story of love and forgiveness. Who in your life might need to hear your story the most? Why do you think they need to hear it?

### BIBLE VERSE TIC-TAC-TOE (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Set up:** Using tape, create a tic-tac-toe board on the floor in the middle of the group. The squares should be large enough to fit an 8½ x 11 sheet of paper.

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. When everyone is ready, turn the sign over so they can no longer read it. Today's Bible verse says:

**"How great is the love the Father has given us so freely! Now we can be called children of God." 1 John 3:1a**

Divide your group into two teams. Give one team the "X" papers and the other team the "O" papers. Decide which team will go first. Choose one kid from that team to recite the verse. If they do so successfully, allow them to place their team's letter on any open square. If they are unable to recite the verse, their team may not place their letter on the board. Next, give the other team a turn. Continue playing until one team has filled three spaces in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) with their letters or until every space on the board has been filled. If there are still kids who haven't had a turn, play another round.



# May 21-22

Small Group Lesson | School Age



## **PRAYER KNOT** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Directions:** Tell your group to get in a tight circle, standing shoulder to shoulder. Tell everyone to reach into the circle with their right hand and grab the hand of someone across the circle. Next, tell everyone to reach into the circle with their left hand and grab a different person's hand. It's important that everyone is holding the hands of two different people. Challenge your group to untangle themselves and make a circle without breaking the chain of hands. Consider the age and abilities of your group when determining how much help to give them.

Once your group is in a circle and holding hands, have them take a seat. Choose a kid in the circle to share their name and a prayer request. Everyone should listen carefully to the request, but encourage the two kids on either side of them to pay special attention. Those two kids should remember their request and pray for them over the coming week. Continue around the circle sharing requests. Finish by closing in a group prayer.

