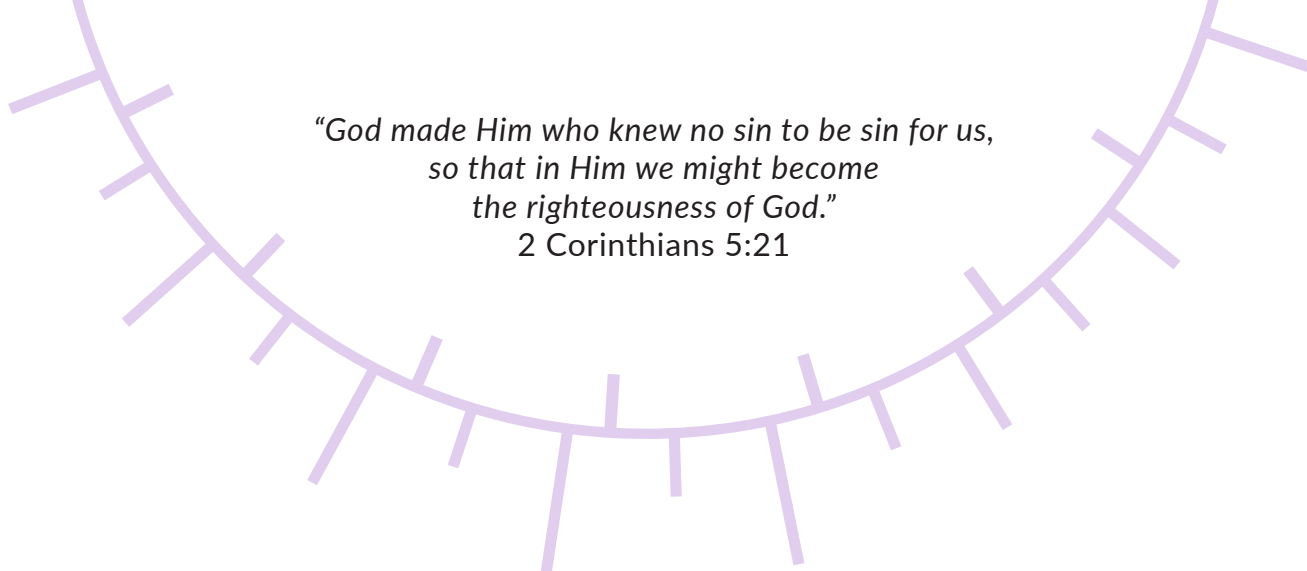




d dare 2 share

WALK TO THE CROSS

leader's guide



*“God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,
so that in Him we might become
the righteousness of God.”
2 Corinthians 5:21*

The Gospel is the best news ever. It reveals the truth that God created all humans to live in intimate, joyful relationship with Him and that even after we messed up that plan by going our own way, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve and restore our relationship with Him—if we simply trust in Jesus and what He’s done for us.

This one-lesson, 60-minute curriculum clearly and compellingly reveals that life-giving message to students. It includes activities, illustrations, Scripture, teaching, discussion, and a gripping video that combine to enable students to understand first the bad news—that their sin separates them from God—and then the amazing news: When they put their faith in Jesus, that relationship is eternally restored.

/// HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM ///

Walk to the Cross is designed as both an outreach for students who don’t know the Gospel, as well as an encouragement for those who already follow Christ—reminding them of what He’s done for them and how amazing the Gospel is. The curriculum is relevant any time of the year, but it’s especially ideal to be used in conjunction with **Good Friday** or the **Easter** season, and it includes optional references to those observances.

The lesson includes the following elements:

- ◆ An opening activity to get students thinking about how God made them unique and wonderful—and how they’ve fallen short of perfection.
- ◆ A loosely scripted teaching session that helps you walk students through what God says about sin and points to our need for a Savior. It includes notes about sections you can cut or modify if time is a concern.

- ◆ An engaging video that describes what Jesus went through to bear our sin and invites students to accept His gift of forgiveness and eternal life.
- ◆ A discussion session (optional) to help students process the video.
- ◆ An invitation to trust Christ.

It's our prayer that this engaging lesson will open many students' eyes to their need for a Savior and to the marvelous way Christ—and Christ alone—fills that need.

The Dare 2 Share Team





Activity: Cross the Line (5–10 minutes)

Put a line of masking tape on the floor, long enough for everyone in your group to stand single file, facing the front (so the line is to the right of them). Ask students to step over the line if the things on the list below are true of them. **Note:** *Feel free to reduce the list, based on how much time you have.* Pause after each statement to give them time to decide, move, and look around at who else moved. Then ask them to move back to where they started.

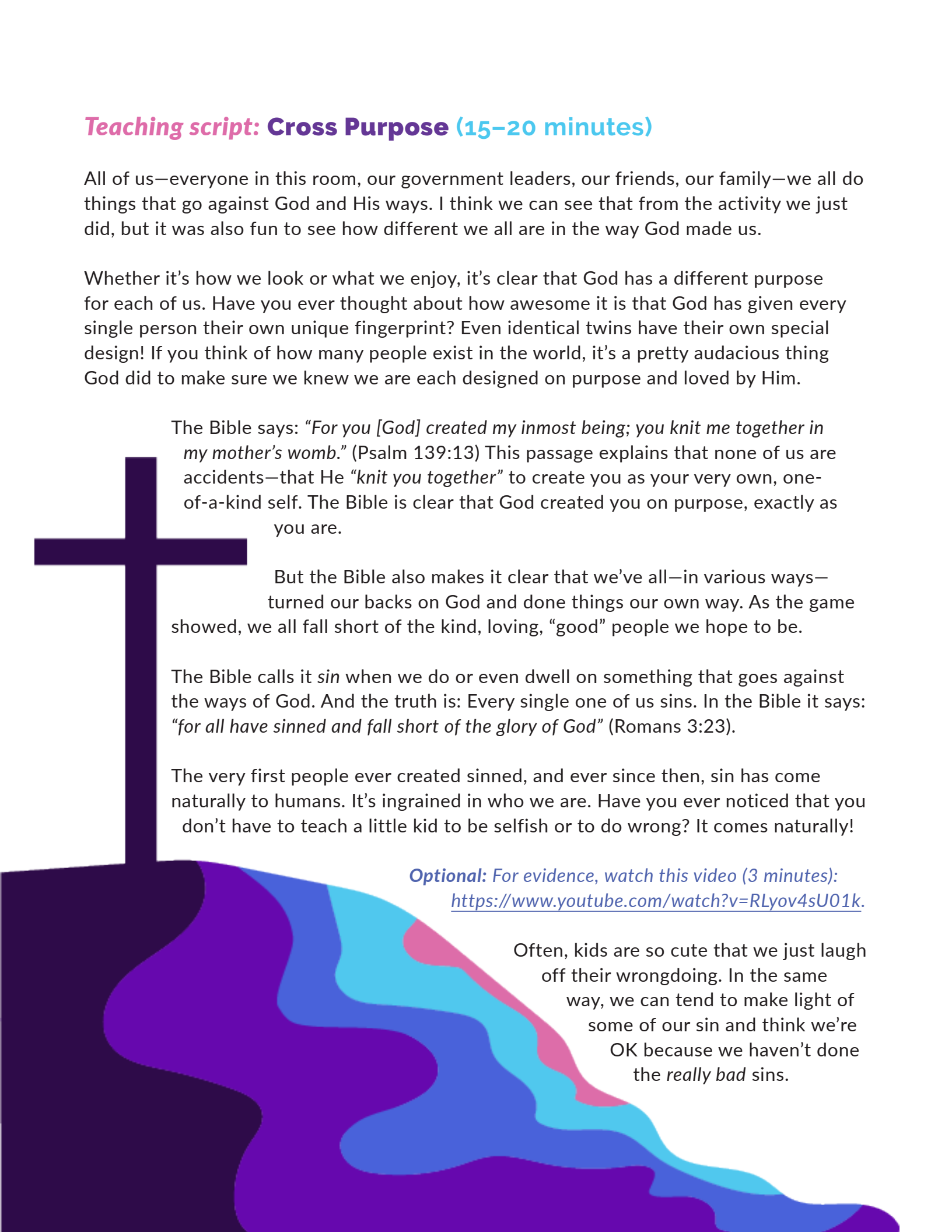
- Green is your favorite color.
- You love the beach.
- You love anime.
- You've played a sport competitively.
- You've read a book for fun in the past few days.
- You've played at least two hours of video games in the past week.
- You've done some sort of craft or art project in the past month.
- You have a pet cat.
- You have brown eyes.
- You have a sibling.
- You've been mean to that sibling in the last year.
- You've had friends who have hurt you.
- You've felt prideful about helping someone in some way.
- You've been envious about an item that a friend or family member owns.
- You've told a lie.
- You've had a teacher or coach who did something unfair.
- You've been envious about something a friend or family member has achieved.
- You've stolen something.
- In a moment of frustration, you've thought about hurting someone.

Transition: Thanks for participating and doing your best to be honest. I'm sure as the list went on it got harder to admit the truth. But we didn't do this exercise to make anybody look bad; rather, we did it to illustrate a super-important point.

Teaching script: Cross Purpose (15–20 minutes)

All of us—everyone in this room, our government leaders, our friends, our family—we all do things that go against God and His ways. I think we can see that from the activity we just did, but it was also fun to see how different we all are in the way God made us.

Whether it's how we look or what we enjoy, it's clear that God has a different purpose for each of us. Have you ever thought about how awesome it is that God has given every single person their own unique fingerprint? Even identical twins have their own special design! If you think of how many people exist in the world, it's a pretty audacious thing God did to make sure we knew we are each designed on purpose and loved by Him.



The Bible says: *“For you [God] created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”* (Psalm 139:13) This passage explains that none of us are accidents—that He *“knit you together”* to create you as your very own, one-of-a-kind self. The Bible is clear that God created you on purpose, exactly as you are.

But the Bible also makes it clear that we’ve all—in various ways—turned our backs on God and done things our own way. As the game showed, we all fall short of the kind, loving, “good” people we hope to be.

The Bible calls it *sin* when we do or even dwell on something that goes against the ways of God. And the truth is: Every single one of us sins. In the Bible it says: *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23).

The very first people ever created sinned, and ever since then, sin has come naturally to humans. It’s ingrained in who we are. Have you ever noticed that you don’t have to teach a little kid to be selfish or to do wrong? It comes naturally!

Optional: For evidence, watch this video (3 minutes):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLyov4sU01k>.

Often, kids are so cute that we just laugh off their wrongdoing. In the same way, we can tend to make light of some of our sin and think we’re OK because we haven’t done the *really bad* sins.

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