

## IDENTITY & SELF ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 6

### LEADERS GOAL

Help students recognize the value of celebrating and their role in doing so.

### SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:15  
Matthew 10:1-4  
John 11:28-35

### ACTIVITIES

Hula Hoop Challenge  
Story dice

### PRAY

### SUPPLIES

- 1 hula hoop per Small Group, for the Hula Hoop Challenge
- 1 dice per Small Group, for the Story Dice Game
- Animal/number handout
- Bible marked to Romans 12:15, Matthew 10:1-4, John 11:28-35
- Create welcoming space by engaging with students as they enter the space

### BOTTOM LINE

I can help make our community a place of celebration and joy.

## AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

Invite students to share about their favourite family holidays and parties. What traditions do they have with family or friends? What do they enjoy most?

## STORY CONNECTION

Celebration takes place at the beginning of our Lion King story. Rafiki gathers the animals of the Pride Land to welcome the newborn cub of King Mufasa and Queen Sarabi. It's a wonderful party with all the animals cheering and celebrating his birth. Today, we are talking about community and how special it is to belong together. All of the animals belonged together in community in the Pride Land.

## OUR STORIES

- What communities or groups are you part of?
- Where do you feel most comfortable? Where do you feel you belong?
- How do you show support, encouragement, and care for others?

## TRUTH & TREASURE

God created us to belong together in community. He doesn't want anyone to feel alone. We are meant to have great friends and to be a good friend to others. We are meant to celebrate with others and support, encourage, and care for each other. The Bible tells us to, Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Romans 12:15 NIV

Jesus belonged in community with His twelve disciples.

Matthew 10:1-4 The disciples were Jesus' friends and students who followed Him and learned His teachings. Jesus cares for Lazarus

John 11:28-35 Besides His disciples, Jesus showed care to His friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha when Lazarus died. Jesus saw how sad Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and the others mourning were. He cried with them even though He knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus knows and understands when we are sad and hurting. Video link for Jesus healing Lazarus: <https://youtu.be/1FT04jjh3Q8?si=PT1vliZmBQLTkXSX>

## DISCOVERY TIME

### GAME | Hula Hoop Challenge

Supplies: 1 hula hoop per Small Group

Students stand in a circle and join hands making a chain of hands. The group must work together to move a hula hoop around the circle without breaking the chain of hands. To add a sense of competition/teamwork have them do it a few times with a timer to see if they can work together to beat their best time.

### GAME | Story Dice

Supplies: 1 dice per Small Group & hand out

One student starts by rolling the dice and beginning the story with a sentence that includes the chosen animal which coordinates with the number on handout. Continue around the circle, each student rolling the dice and adding to the story, always including the number/animal rolled in their sentence.

Encourage students to use their creativity to expand the story in wild and strange ways!

## PRAYER

God, thank you for being our keeper, watching over us, caring for us, and comforting us. Thank you for the family, friends, and communities we belong in. Help us to celebrate, encourage, and care for each other well. Amen.

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Look for an opportunity this week to celebrate, encourage, and care for a sibling or friend.



