

SMALL GROUP | DAY 1

GOD MADE ME AMAZING AND WONDERFUL



I can trust God no
matter what



Bible

Psalm 139:14 NIRV “How You made me is amazing and wonderful.”

SUPPLIES

- A large piece foam board with the title “I am amazing and wonderful” with an outline of each VISTO Section Icon (one per Crew)
- Permanent Markers (colour specific to section)
- Fine tip permanent markers
- Inkpad (colour specific to section)
- baby wipes for Campers to wipe the ink off their thumbs
- a Bible, marked with today’s scripture
- Who Am I? Take Action inserts
- wristband for leaders & campers

Prepare In Advance

- Think of something you like about yourself to share with campers.
- Think of something you don’t like about yourself (ie: not being a fast runner or always being late) to share with Campers.
- Share how you are improving in this area or stopped being hard on yourself because you learned that you are amazing and wonderful, made by God.
- Mark in Bible “How You made me is amazing and wonderful.” Psalm 139:14 NIRV

Digging Deeper

In our Opening Session earlier today, we asked important questions. Who remembers what they are?

- Who is amazing and wonderful? (Let Campers share)
- What is a masterpiece? (Let Campers share)

MASTERPIECE

An outstanding piece of work made by a craftsman showing great skill and artistry



What have you seen in the world around you that is a masterpiece?



When you saw it, you thought it was amazing and beautiful and crafted with care.

Everything you shared is a masterpiece. So are you!
You are amazing and wonderful.

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SMALL GROUP | DAY 1

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What are some things you like about yourself?

- while campers share, write down what campers like about themselves inside the outlined VISTO Section logo (Olio, Parlando, Bombershay)
- leave room around the perimeter of the board for Campers' thumbprints which will be the next activity
- after Small Group, hang posters at the front of stage & for Showcase



- Crew Leaders share 1-2 things you like about yourself to get the discussion going
- When Campers are done sharing, Crew Leaders read over the list or invite a Camper to read them out loud
- Encourage campers to see the amazing & wonderful things about each other

Thumbprints

Hey! Did you know that each of us have our own unique thumbprint?

Not one of us has the same thumbprint. Isn't that cool?

Let's prove it! Get your thumbs ready.

Here's an inepad. Let's,

- put our thumbprints around the outer edge of our board
- write our name beside our fingerprint



What do you think? Do you see any thumbprints that look exactly the same?

There are other things that make us unique and unlike anyone else.

Iris: The intricate pattern and colours in your eyes are unique to you.

Ear shape: We each have our own special-to-us ear shape.

Lips: The ridges and bumps on our lips are as unique to each of us as our thumbprints are.

Isn't that cool?

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Connection to Bible Story Time



We are amazing and wonderfully made. Anyone know by who?
(Let Campers shout “God!”)

Yes! In our morning session, we learned that God made everything, including you and me.

What did He make people from? (the dirt)
What did He breathe into you? (breath of life)
What were the names of the first man and woman God made?

At VISTO, we learn about God and what He says about us by reading the Bible.

What is the Bible? The Bible is (Wait for the Campers to shout, TRUTH!)

(Use Bible) In the Bible, it says right here (point to it), “How You made me is amazing and wonderful.”
Psalm 139:14 NIRV

OLIO: pretend to come alive just like Adam and Eve did in the Opening Session. Curl up into a ball and unroll as if to come to life. Take a deep breath and the Crew Leader will sing like the angels, “Ahhh!”

Deeper Questions

Now, I have a question for you. We just shared the things we like about ourselves, but...

What if there is something about us that we don't like?

(Crew Leader shares something from their life as an example.)
(Be sensitive as some may want to share and others may not.)

Does that mean we are no longer amazing and wonderful? (Let Campers share, “No!”)

That reminds me of selfies. Who likes to take selfies?
(Crew Leader raises their hand)

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Deeper Questions

The last time you took a selfie, did you look at it and say,
“O, my! Look at my hair! O, my! I don’t like.....”

(Crew Leader pretends to take a selfie and poses lots of funny ways. Crew Leader can invite Campers to act that out as well)

What can we do about the things we don’t like? What should we think or say about the things we don’t like about ourselves?

(Let Campers share)

Remember, we are all learning and growing.

We are amazing and wonderful even as we practice to become better at things.

What are some things you are practicing or working to become better at?

(Let Campers share)

Wow! I’m so proud of you, Campers. I know I said it already, but I just want you to remember that

- we are all learning and growing
- we are amazing and wonderful even as we practice to become better at things.

How might knowing that you are amazing and wonderful & made by God help the next time you look in the mirror or take a selfie and catch yourself saying, “I don’t like....”?

Bible Remember what God says about us in the Bible, “How You made me is amazing and wonderful.” Psalm 139:14 NIRV

This is who you are, your identity.

God loves you, just as you are.

He makes no mistakes. You are important to Him.

He wanted your hair to be the colour it is.

He wanted your eyes to be the colour they are.

He wants you to grow up to be as tall or short as He designed you to be.

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You may look in the mirror now and not like your curly hair or your height or your nose, but as you keep reminding yourself that you are amazing and wonderful, made by God who loves you very much, I hope you can begin to appreciate your hair, height, and nose, etc.

Who Am I? Activity Stickers

Objective: to teach Campers that part of their identity is their character, not appearance

Remember all of the things we like about ourselves?

Crew Leader holds up foam board.

Lay out all stickers in the centre of a table or room in piles based on their words

Did anyone notice that much of what you love about yourself has nothing to do with your looks, and has everything to do with your character?

Look over all the stickers, and ask campers to choose 1-2 stickers that describe themselves best.

Share among each other.

Example:



These things about you shine just as brightly, if not more, than your looks.

What makes you amazing and wonderful goes far beyond what you look like.

Do you really believe that?

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- Leader & Camper Playbill
- Leader & Camper Wristband

Hand out Playbills

When you go to a theatre performance, you may be given a Playbill that tells about the play and the actors.

At VISTO, we are giving you a Playbill, too, that will contain information about you. You are invited to take it home each day and add to it all the things you are learning.

We call this our TAKE ACTION Playbill! because we are going to ask you to take action on the things you learn at VISTO everyday! Sometimes we can get so caught up in what we are learning that we don't always take the time to notice what others are doing, or put into action what we've learned. Teach "Take Action" hand motion.

Each day at VISTO there will be an activity to do and when you bring it back to camp the next day we want to celebrate what you have done! In addition, **VISTO VERA has a special video for you to watch each day** & this wristband is going to be your reminder all week long!

Attach Wristband on self and each camper.

Make sure each camper has their name on their Playbill.

Attach today's Take Action insert and encourage campers to keep other items from their week inside their playbill, or consider journalling about these things throughout the week.



Now, pick two stickers that describe someone in your family.

Your Take Action for this evening is to share the two stickers with someone in your family and tell them that they are amazing and wonderful.

Then ask for their autograph! Have them sign their name in your Playbill.

When you bring your Playbill back to Camp tomorrow, we will share celebrate!

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Parlando and Bombershay

Going Deeper | Made in God's Image

Bible, Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13-16

God says in His Bible that we were created in His image. We were made to look like Him.

What does it mean to be made in God's image? and
How can we look like God when we all look different?

Ask both questions and then let the Campers share

When God says we were made in His image, He wasn't talking about hair colour, eye colour, height, weight, all of which are outward appearances.

He was talking about how we can talk, think and reason, problem solve, and create things. Animals can't do any of those things, but we can.

He was talking about being loving, kind, full of joy, diligent, telling the truth, and being patient, the same character traits you choose from on the cards. We are like God when we have all of these character traits in us.

Which of these character traits do you feel you do best?
Being loving, kind, full of joy, diligent, telling the truth, and being patient?

Let Campers share which 1-2 cards they selected and why

- What times do we need to be patient?
- Tell us a time when it's hard to be kind?
- Is there a character trait you want to focus more on (keep it top-of-mind), to have more of in your life?

Invite Campers to share something they want to work on

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SMALL GROUP | DAY 1

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Introduce Prayer

Prayer is talking to God. Did you know that God hears you when you talk to Him? Your thoughts, your words, any day, any time and any where!

Some people like to close their eyes when they pray. Some people pray and talk to God as they go about their day.

Talking to God in prayer is like talking to your best friend. Tell Him anything, when you are happy or sad. He loves to hear your prayers, and He loves to talk to you. Prayer is a quiet moment to listen to God, too.

Let's pray to God now.

Hey God,

Thank you for my crew at VISTO! You made each one of us amazing and wonderful. Some of us may know you more than others, but today God I want to thank you for being with each of us, no matter what.

Thank you for how You made each of us amazing and wonderful. We know you make no mistakes with Your creations. We want to believe this when we look in the mirror or take our next selfie. God help us to see ourselves the way you do!

Thank You that You love us.

Help us to grow in areas that we want to get better at, like being kind to others and full of joy so we can make others smile. Help us to grow in diligence, patience, and telling the truth.

Thank you. Amen.

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