

Act.
love.
walk.

SAMPLE
DO NOT REPRODUCE



Micah 6:8

*Large Group
Leader's Guide*

SAMPLE
DO NOT REPRODUCE

ACT, LOVE, WALK.
MICAH 6:8
LARGE GROUP RESOURCE BOOK

GEMS Girls' Clubs

A division of Dynamic Youth Ministries
Bringing girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mailing Address

US: 1333 Alger St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Canada: 261 Woodall Way, Woodstock, ON N4T 0K9

gemsgc.org

Content & Curriculum Director: Lenae Bulthuis
Content Editor: Meaghan Minkus
Graphic Design: Abby Van Haren
Page design and layout: CrosslinCreative.net
Executive Director: Cindy Bultema

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Letter From The Executive Director



Hi, Friend!

Welcome to GEMS. Whether this is your first year or you mark your GEMS years by decades, you are part of an authentic sisterhood and life-changing ministry. Together, we strive to reach *all* girls and help them know they are truly loved and known by God. YOU make a difference!

Though GEMS started in 1958, this year marks the 50th year since GEMS Girls' Clubs adopted Micah 6:8 as the organization's theme verse and aim. Since 1972, leaders have been asking their GEMS, "*What does the LORD require of you?*" And GEMS girls have responded, "*To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" Micah 6:8."

It's something that never leaves a girl. When women tell me they were part of GEMS, I'll ask the Micah 6:8 question and they recite the aim with 100% accuracy. Even those who can't remember where they put their cell phone or what they ate for dinner last night can recite this aim from over fifty years ago.

In honor of the 50th GEMS-iversary of Micah 6:8, we've selected this power-packed verse as the theme verse for the *Act. Love. Walk.* study. Let's spend a ministry season together unpacking Micah 6:8 so that this generation of girls—and their leaders—can be hearers and doers of this transformational Word.

Friend, you get to be the one who helps your GEMS girls understand what it means to *act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8). You get to introduce them to world changers in Scripture and then launch them into their own world-changing "Micah Missions," where they will put their faith into action. And you get to remind each girl she was

created with a purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10).

Imagine a world where girls believe they can make a significant difference in their homes, schools, community, and world—not just someday, but today.

Let's not just imagine it; let's pray for it! May God raise up a generation of girls who are strong, secure, and confident in Christ. May they experience Truth-filled flourishing in the welcoming, safe, and fun environment created at your GEMS Club. And as girls dig deeper into God's holy Truth, may they rise up to *act, love, and walk* in Jesus' Name.

Friend, as you share God's invitation for girls to *act, love, and walk*, the GEMS team and I will be praying for *you*. You are never alone. Reach out anytime. The sisterhood of GEMS is a beautiful thing!

Serving Him Together,

Cindy Bultema
GEMS Executive Director

Meet the Act. Love. Walk. Curriculum Team



Cindy Bultema is the Executive Director of GEMS. Prior to GEMS, Cindy served as the Children's Director at a West Michigan megachurch; as a children's curriculum writer for Zondervan Publishers; as an international women's speaker; and as the author of the women's Bible studies *Red Hot Faith* and *Live Full Walk Free: Set Apart in a Sin-Soaked World*.

Cindy lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband and their four children. When she's not running a full household, you can find Cindy meeting a friend for coffee, walking her two dogs, or hosting a house full of teenagers.

Lenae Bulthuis is the GEMS Program and Content Director and has served on staff since 2003. For almost 20 years, Lenae has written life-changing curriculum for GEMS. She was eight years old when her life intersected with the GEMS ministry for the first time. Today, she counts it grace to write curriculum and train leaders within a ministry that has radically changed her life.

Lenae lives with her husband, Mike, on a Minnesota grain and livestock farm. She enjoys reading, watching her grandchildren, and seeing God's grace on gravel roads and other dusty places.

Lee Nienhuis is an author and passionate Bible teacher. Her books *Brave Moms*, *Brave Kids* and *Countercultural Parenting* have helped countless parents gain a biblical perspective on parenting a godly and countercultural generation. Lee's writing and speaking have been featured on Focus on the Family, Moms in Prayer International, True Woman, Proverbs 31 Ministries, Hearts at Home, Iron Sharpens Iron conferences, and GEMS Girls' Clubs.

Lee and her husband, Mike, have four great kids and live at Grace Adventures, a Christian Camp and Conference Center in West Michigan. Lee loves hot cups of coffee, laughing till her sides ache, and Jesus.

Kamarah Bayard is a Content Writer for GEMS. Kamarah has had a passion for writing and storytelling since she was small. She also has a love for education and, of course, girls! Her passion for education took her overseas to South Korea, where she taught English to children as a private tutor and co-coordinated her church's Sunday children's program.

Kamarah lives in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and enjoys watching science shows, cooking, and sipping a hot cup of tea while listening to music.

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Why Act. Love. Walk.?

While a girl's grown-up may look back at simpler times and wish for a return to "normal," that's not a girl's story. A global pandemic, mass school shootings, loneliness, and cultural unrest have always been her "normal." It's all she knows.

Sadly, our tumultuous world has only escalated girls' fear, anxiety, and depression and impacted their outlook on the future. Over half (56%) of those in Gen Z (ages 10-25) expect the worst to happen.¹

But when the worst happens, this generation is ready to do something about it. Another study reported that "Gen Z is driven by purpose and world change. An impressive 65% wants to personally create something world-changing."²

This sounds like great news (and it is!), but it's not the Good News. Here's why.

The outcry in our culture for kindness, justice, freedom, and world change is not anchored to the Truth of God and His Word. The cries of our culture are like a cut bouquet of flowers. It looks good initially, but then it quickly wilts and dies. It doesn't last. It can't! Because it's not rooted in a relationship with God and anchored to the Truth-filled soil of His Word.³ The culture's justice plan, while helpful, will never bear fruit that lasts.

But when a girl understands who God is—the *One who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth* (Jeremiah 9:24)—and who she is—

created on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10)—she can live out her purpose on a mission that matters. When she gets involved in what God is doing in the world, she can make a difference for eternity.

It's been God's plan for world change from the beginning.

What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

When our girls walk humbly with God, their megaphone will be the Gospel and the platform on which they stand will be His grace and truth. Compelled by His love, they'll make a difference in the world.

As they act, love, and walk, it'll change our girls, and they will change our world for eternity.

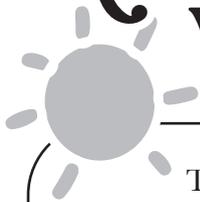
Watch the ReFresh Message "Act. Love. Walk." at gemsrefresh.org for more inspiration.

1 *Gen Z, Vol. 2: Caring for Young Souls and Cultivating Resilience*. United States: Barna Group, 2021.

2 "2019-2020 Annual Report," Girls with Impact, updated October 27, 2020, <https://www.girlswithimpact.org/hidden-registration-items/download-2019-2020-annual-report>

3 Matt Markins, "Naming Our Cultural Moment," Resilient Disciples, October 15, 2021, video, 1:00:46, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idcHN22PpNI>.

How *Act. Love. Walk.* Works



The *Act. Love. Walk.* curriculum will help girls understand that they were created on purpose for a purpose—to make a difference in God’s world. Girls will grow in their relationship with God and understand who they are becoming in Him through prayer, worship, Bible study, and spending time with others.

As girls understand who God is and that He gave them their purpose, it’ll make all the difference—in their own lives and in the world. It will change the way they respond to tough stuff in their homes, communities, and our world.

OUR GOD is our Creator, Redeemer, and Lord. He exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these things He delights (Jeremiah 9:24).

OUR GIRLS have a God-given purpose. God created them to do good and make a difference today (Ephesians 2:10).

HIS “MICAH MISSION.” God loves this broken world and sent His Son to save it (John 3:16). He invites His people to step into what He is doing by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Breakdown Of Lessons

The *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit curriculum contains enough material for eight weeks of club gatherings, plus eight “Micah Missions” (putting their faith into action).

Through God’s Word and caring club mentors, girls will:

- ★ Understand what Micah 6:8 is and why it matters so much
- ★ Hear the Gospel, which changes everything for them (and our world)
- ★ Learn lessons from five world-changing women in the Bible
- ★ Celebrate their unique purpose and that they can be world changers today
- ★ Put their faith into action through interactive “Micah Missions” . . . and more.

Through worship, Large Group Bible teachings, Small Group application, memorizing God’s Word, prayer, crafts, and fun friendship-building activities, girls will grow in their relationship with God. Changed by God, girls will then change the world by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him. (See Leader Guide, Page 12, for an overview of how to schedule your club meeting.)

When girls understand who God is and that He gave them their purpose, it makes all the difference. It will change our girls and our world.

How To Use *Act. Love. Walk.*: Three Options



GEMS Girls' Clubs come in all shapes and sizes—from big to small clubs, from city to rural clubs. There is no one-size-fits-all. However, the one consistency among all GEMS Clubs is they use GEMS curriculum. Based on how frequently your club meets, you'll want to select one of the options below for using the *Act. Love. Walk.* resources. Once you've chosen the option that best fits your club, set your schedule for the year and begin praying, planning, and preparing.

~~~~ Option 1: ~~~~

Act. Love. Walk. Alone

Works great for clubs that meet monthly or for a shortened season: October-December, January-March, or June-August.

Use *Act. Love. Walk.* as a stand-alone resource for up to sixteen weeks. You will have everything you need for a complete club gathering.

~~~~ Option 2: ~~~~

Act. Love. Walk. + Badges

Works great for clubs that meet two or more times a month or who desire to lead a fall semester of *Act. Love. Walk.* and a spring semester of badgework, or vice versa.

Use the sixteen weeks of *Act. Love. Walk.* with GEMS Girls' Clubs badges. Go to gemsgc.org for more information on our wide variety of girl-friendly badges.

~~~~ Option 3: ~~~~

Act. Love. Walk. + Badges + Other GEMS Supplemental Curriculum

Works great for any club, no matter the length of their season.

Use the sixteen weeks of *Act. Love. Walk.* with other GEMS curricula like *LOVED.*, *Friended.*, or *Unshakeable*, plus badges. Go to gemsgc.org for more information on these curricula and badges.

How To Maximize the *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey

You are a difference-maker. What you do for this generation of girls matters! But on our most challenging days, we may wonder:

- ★ Is it worth it?
- ★ Have the girls heard *anything* we said?
- ★ Are lives *really* changing at GEMS?

These are questions asked by church decision-makers (“should we continue the GEMS program?”), parents (“should I sign my girl up for club?”), and volunteers (“should I serve in GEMS another year?”). And on the days when we’re tired, discouraged, and ready to quit, we may ask these questions in our own hearts.

What if the answers to all those questions could be a resounding “YES”?

The *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey is an essential tool to help you measure what matters so you can strengthen your club’s eternal impact on girls’ lives. You will have real-life information to share with your church and community about how GEMS makes a difference.

Imagine being able to share on GEMS Sunday or with your parents and volunteers, “This is where the girls were at the beginning of the season, and this is where they are now. At the beginning of the season, 10% of the girls in our club didn’t believe they had a purpose. Now 92% of them know that God gave them a purpose, and they believe they can make a difference—not someday, but today.”

Measure What Matters by Following Three Easy Steps

1. **GIVE THE SURVEY.** Download the survey from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources and have each girl take it during Small Group on Lessons One *and* Eight (your before *and* after). It only takes a minute to complete, and the answers are anonymous, giving the girls freedom to share honestly.
2. **RECORD THE ANSWERS.** After Lessons One and Eight, Small Group Leaders give the surveys to the Club Coordinator, who will ensure that the club’s answers are compiled and recorded at <http://bit.ly/ActLoveWalkSurvey>. An automatic report will be generated for your club.
3. **SHARE YOUR RESULTS.** Share what you discovered with church decision-makers, parents, your leadership team, and your congregation on GEMS Sunday. Celebrate where you see God at work. Take note of where girls are struggling to see who God is or questioning how they can make a difference so you can intentionally pray for and mentor them.

Measuring what matters maximizes your opportunity to make an eternal difference in the life of every girl entrusted to your club.

Give the survey, record the answers, and share the results. Be reminded that what you do is more than worth it. You’re changing the world—one girl at a time.

What You Need

The *Act. Love. Walk.* curriculum provides all the necessary components to help your girls understand that they have a God-given purpose of making a difference in our world today.

LARGE GROUP RESOURCE BOOK—

There are eight lessons with an overview, Large Group arrival activities (called Icebreakers), scripted lesson openers and Bible teachings, craft activities, and meaningful dismissals. Plus, there are eight “Micah Missions” (putting faith into action) with a Large Group devotional and service project options for your girls to work on together.

SMALL GROUP LEADER’S GUIDE—

There are eight Small Group welcomes, memory verse games, relationship-building activities, questions for application of God’s Word, prayer prompts, and craft instructions contained within this guide for girls in grades 1-8. The application questions and activities range from a girl learning about God for the first time to a girl who’s ready to dig deeper. Leaders should base what questions and activities they choose primarily on their group’s knowledge of God and His Word rather than on their girls’ ages. It’s a must-have resource that will connect every leader to every girl, no matter her age or where she is on her faith walk.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. KEYCHAIN—This *Act. Love. Walk.* Keychain contains eight beautiful tags with the theme verse, Micah 6:8, plus other verses and key statements every girl needs to know as she lives out her purpose today. You will want to get one for every girl and leader. Distribute the beautiful tags at the beginning of the season, at the conclusion of your last lesson, or one by one as you study each lesson. There is one *Act. Love. Walk.* Keychain in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit. They are also available from gemsgc.org/store.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. JOURNAL—Purchase one inspirational journal for each girl and leader. They are a must-have during Small Group. The coloring pages, dotted grid, and journal pages with each lesson’s Bible verse are the perfect place for girls to record application thoughts, memory verses, and prayer requests. There is one *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal included in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, and they are also available from gemsgc.org/store. **NOTE:** You may want to keep the *Act. Love. Walk.* Journals at club for the duration of the study since girls use the same journal each time.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. STICKERS & WASHABLE TATTOOS—

Girls can decorate water bottles, mirrors, helmets, and more with their *Act. Love. Walk.* stickers or remind themselves of Truth with a fun and temporary tattoo. It washes off of their skin, but it sticks to their memory. There is one *Act. Love. Walk.* sticker sheet and tattoo included in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, and they are also available from gemsgc.org.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. THEME SONG—

“This Is the Way” by Doorpost Songs, as well as side-by-side hand motion and tutorial video downloads, are available in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.

“REAL TALK” VIDEOS—

An intro video to meet the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* “Real Talk” teaching team and eight “Real Talk” videos provide fun and inspiring challenges to close each lesson, helping your girls live out what they learned in club. All videos are available in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources, and a corresponding bookmark for each lesson contains a link to each video. The bookmarks make it possible for girls to watch these girl-friendly videos at club and at home.

Act. Love. Walk.

Online Resources

If you purchased an *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, you received access to a digital library that contains items such as printables, Theme Song Motion and Tutorial Videos, Craft and “Real Talk” videos, and presentation slides. If you did not purchase an *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, these digital resources are available for purchase at gemsgc.org/store or by calling (616) 241-5616, ext. 3032.

CONNECT WITH GEMS GROWN-UPS

The parents/grandparents/caregivers are the primary faith-nurturers of your GEMS girls. See Lesson 1 for ways to connect with GEMS Grown-ups and be intentional all season in building relationships with them.

Optional Resources

You may purchase these additional resources from gemsgc.org/store or by calling (616) 241-5616, ext. 3032.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. VERSE POSTER

This beautiful poster displays the key verse,

Micah 6:8, which girls will memorize. The digital download includes a high-resolution file and a license to print one copy at the printer of your choosing.

MICAH 6:8 POSTER—This poster displays the GEMS Girls’ Clubs Aim, which is Micah 6:8. Girls and leaders recite this aim each time they meet at club.

GEMS GOSPEL TREASURE BOX

Use to share the Gospel message with your GEMS girls. See “The Joy of Sharing Jesus: Leading a Child to Christ” on page 14 for more information.

You may also want to incorporate other GEMS curricula like *LOVED.*, *Friended*, or *Unshakeable* or badges from the *Discovery Place Badge Book*. See “How to Use *Act. Love. Walk.*” Options 2 and 3 on page 7.

AND MORE! Find more resources at gemsgc.org/store.

NOTE: All *Act. Love. Walk.* materials are protected under copyright. Photocopying is not allowed with the exception of the printables in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.



Leader Guide

The *Act. Love. Walk.* curriculum is designed to lessen your planning and prep time so leaders have more time to pray and focus on building relationships with their girls. It contains everything needed to guide your girls to understand who God is—*the one who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth* (Jeremiah 9:24)—and who she is—created on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). Here is the structure of each lesson.

Lesson Overview

Purpose—Each lesson has a short statement with the primary focus of the lesson. This is your main aim and prayer.

Bible/Memory Verse—The Bible verse will be memorized and studied throughout the lesson. Additional Scripture passages and Bible teachings are woven into each lesson.

Preparation

A chart at the beginning of each lesson lists the materials you need to prepare for each club meeting. Advance preparation includes praying for your girls, gathering needed supplies, and, if necessary, printing materials from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.

Lesson Elements

The lessons are broken into four elements to make it easy for you to lead your girls. While some clubs have the luxury of two-hour meetings, this study is structured for a 1½-hour club meeting.

ARRIVAL—GIRLS MATTER. Arrival is the time frame between when girls arrive until club officially starts. When girls open the club doors, the first people they should meet are their leaders. The whole team is waiting for them, welcoming them, and letting them know they matter!

During Arrival, warmly welcome girls by name. As you distribute the world-changer name tags, look each girl in the eye and say, “_____ [*girl’s name*], you

matter to God and us. We are so glad you are here.” Then direct girls into the Large Group space to play the Arrival activity.

LARGE GROUP—GOD’S WORD

MATTERS. Large Group is the 20- to 30-minute time frame to gather all girls and leaders into one space. Begin with a warm welcome and prayer. Recite the GEMS Girls’ Clubs Aim. Then worship together—sing praises to God.

After worship, you’ll open God’s Word. From God’s Word of Truth, you’ll teach girls who God is and what He says about them. You will unpack Micah 6:8, help girls discover how the Gospel message changes everything for everyone, and teach them life-changing lessons from five world-changing women in the Bible.

SMALL GROUP—RELATIONSHIPS

MATTER. Small Group is a 60-minute time frame when six to eight girls meet with their Small Group leader. GEMS is a relationship-building ministry, and it’s within Small Groups that relationships are built and lives are transformed.

During the first 30 minutes of Small Group, a leader will guide her small group into God’s Truth through Scripture and the Small Group Leader’s Guide. The Leader’s Guide is key to building relationships, teaching the memory verse, and digging into Scripture—it has questions *and* answers. Discipleship takes place as she guides girls in prayer and helps them apply God’s Truth and understand what it means to act, love, and walk today.

The *Act. Love. Walk.* Journals contain coloring pages, dotted grids, and journal pages with each lesson's Bible verse that are the perfect place for girls to record application thoughts, what they are learning from Scripture, memory verses, and prayer requests. Be sure each girl has a Bible, an *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal and an *Act. Love. Walk.* Keychain.

During the last 30 minutes of Small Group, grow relationships with hands-on activities. This is the time to craft, earn badges, or participate in "Micah Missions" (putting their faith into action).

DISMISSAL—LEAVING LOVED

MATTERS. Dismissal is the last 5-10 minutes of club. Gather all girls into the Large Group space to reiterate the focus of the club meeting and pray. Send the girls home with high fives, hugs, and words of encouragement.

Gather all girls and leaders into the Large Group space. Show a "Real Talk" video from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources and then send girls home with the lesson's bookmark (from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources) so they have the video link and can watch it again at home. Then speak life-giving words. Remind them that they were created on purpose for a purpose. When they leave club, may they remember those last words.

Leaders Needed

In addition to the Club Coordinator, you will need one leader for each Small Group of six to eight girls. The leader should stay with her Small Group throughout the year. You may also choose to have additional helpers for sound and video, worship, snacks, and crafts.

Spaces Needed

You will need one space to host the Large Group activities for each lesson and separate Small Group activities and crafts areas.

Decor (Optional)

LARGE GROUP SPACE. Decorate with anything that will make your space feel like a girl-friendly roller rink. Think retro with a disco ball and lights, colorful fringe or silver streamer backdrop/curtains, colorful paper chains looped from the ceiling to the floor or across walls, vinyl records, a snack bar and skate rental signs, glow-in-the-dark accessories, and sequined anything. Visit gemsgc.org to see fun ideas on the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* Pinterest board.

SMALL GROUP SPACE. Create a Small Group space that invites girls into the world change that happens when they know that God made them on purpose for a purpose—that they can make a difference today. Use colorful tablecloths, lights, and a globe or maps of your city, country, and world.

CENTERPIECE OPTIONS:

- ★ Pencil holders decorated with sequins and Micah 6:8 stickers
- ★ Laminated maps to serve as placemats that girls can personalize with their names and write memory verses on with dry-erase markers
- ★ Butcher paper tablecloth (you can also hang this on the wall) where girls can write their names, trace their hands (act), draw a heart (love), and trace their feet (walk).

If possible, keep décor up all season. For more fun decorating ideas, visit gemsgc.org to find the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* Pinterest board.

Act. Love. Walk. Club Guide



~ ~ ~ Arrival ~ ~ ~

Icebreaker Activity

~ ~ ~ Large Group ~ ~ ~

Praise & Worship

Lesson Opener

Bible Teaching

Closing Prayer

~ ~ ~ Small Group ~ ~ ~

Bible Application & Activities

Craft, Badgework, or “Micah Mission”

~ ~ ~ Dismissal ~ ~ ~

Return to Large Group

Closing Prayer

Watch the ReFresh Message “Four Essential Pieces to Structuring Your Club Meeting” at gemsrefresh.org for more details about each part of your club meeting.

GEMS **ReFresh**

Equip • Encourage • Engage

The Joy of Sharing Jesus: Leading a Child to Christ

At GEMS, we are on a mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. The GEMS acronym—Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior—is our name and passion. GEMS is committed to speaking the life-changing Truth that girls are loved and known by God, and they matter to Him and us.

Think about this generation of girls. Think about the girls in your sphere of influence.

Girls have questions about God. Who is God? Do I have to be good for God to love me? Does He love me when I'm bad? Can He be powerful *and* personal, and a God who exercises love *and* justice?

Girls have questions about themselves. Who am I, anyway? Where do I belong? Do I matter? What's my purpose?

Friend, you know the Truth. You know the good news that girls' questioning hearts need to hear. His name is Jesus! His love is eternal and unstoppable. In Jesus are love, strength, life, forgiveness, purpose, and our true identity.

Jesus made our mission clear. *Go and make disciples* (Matthew 28:19). You get to tell this generation of girls about Jesus and His love. You get to help them discover who Jesus is, all He says about them, and that He is inviting them into a relationship with Himself. It's why you're holding this resource.

The time is now. Girls must know they have a friend in God. A survey by the International Bible Society reported that 83% of Americans commit to following Jesus between the ages of four and fourteen.¹ And George Barna reports,

“What you believe by your thirteenth birthday is generally what you die believing.”²

As you experience the joy of sharing Jesus, remember that you don't go alone. You're part of a growing sisterhood that is on a mission to bring girls to Jesus. Above all else, God is our Guide who calls and equips us to lead girls to Christ.

Sharing The Gospel Reminders

Sharing Jesus is not a one-time conversation. Every time you meet with your girls, share more about who Jesus is and all He says about them.

Sharing Jesus is more often caught than taught. Girls are observing your life and relationship with Jesus.

Sharing Jesus happens best as we listen to the Holy Spirit and the child. What do they need to hear about Jesus first?

- ★ The unloved need to hear that God accepts and loves them no matter what.
- ★ The lonely need to hear that God is near. He is with them and they are not alone.
- ★ The weak and insecure need to hear that in Him, they are strong.
- ★ The ones who feel ashamed need to know that God forgives everything.
- ★ The anxious need to hear that God cares about them and is bigger than their fears.
- ★ The ones wondering if they have a purpose need to hear that God wants to use them to change the world.

¹ home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ages.htm

² barna.com/research/research-shows-that-spiritual-maturity-process-should-start-at-a-young-age/

Sharing Jesus requires heart prep. Always be prepared to share your faith story within the context of God's story. Pray that He would prepare the girls' hearts to receive His good news.

Resources

GEMS has resources to help you share the Gospel with the child/children in your care.

GEMS Gospel Treasure Box. This box is a beautiful, tangible resource that aids leaders

in walking girls through the Gospel message. Use the treasure box in Large Group, Small Group, or one-on-one settings throughout the season. To order, go to gemsgc.org/store or call the GEMS Global Office at (616) 241-5616, ext. 3032.

Gospel Message Series. Watch the three-part **Gospel Message Series** videos at gemsgc.org/gospel for specific training and equipping for sharing the life-changing Good News of Jesus. They are also available on GEMS ReFresh at gemsrefresh.org.

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- 1 "At what age do Americans become Christian?", Southern Nazarene University, modified February 21, 2022, <https://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ages.htm>.
 - 2 "Research Shows That Spiritual Maturity Process Should Start at a Young Age," Barna Research Group, November 17, 2003, <https://www.barna.com/research/research-shows-that-spiritual-maturity-process-should-start-at-a-young-age/>.

SAMPLE
DO NOT REPRODUCE

Seven Scripture Verses for World Changers

THEME VERSE: *What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).*

In *Act. Love. Walk.*, girls will learn who God is—the *One who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth (Jeremiah 9:24)*—and who she is—created on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). God invites girls to step into what He is doing by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).

Challenge girls to memorize Micah 6:8. For extra heart-strengthening, encourage girls to memorize some or all of the corresponding Bible verses.

Seven Scripture Verses for World Changers

1. **I am loved.** *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 (John 3:16).*
2. **Act justly.** *Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right (Psalm 106:3).*
3. **Love mercy.** *Serve one another humbly in love (Galatians 5:13).*
4. **Walk humbly with God.** *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2).*
5. **I have a story.** *I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1).*
6. **I have a purpose.** *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).*
7. **I am a world changer.** *What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).*

Lesson

1



Date of Lesson _____

WHAT IS MICAH 6:8?

PURPOSE: To introduce GEMS girls and their grown-ups to this season's curriculum, *Act. Love. Walk.*

BIBLE/MEMORY VERSE: *What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8).

~ ~ ~ Arrival ~ ~ ~

- Name tags—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- Icebreakers: All My Friends or Sit & Chat questions
 - All My Friends supplies: paper plates
 - Sit & Chat supplies: pens/pencils and World-Changer Questionnaire—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- OPTIONAL:** Create a photo booth. Supplies: any prop that looks like it could come from a roller rink, like a retro disco ball or lights, colorful fringe or a silver streamer backdrop/curtains, vinyl records, or a big frame for girls to hold that reads “Act. Love. Walk.” or “I am a world changer!”
NOTE: Ask parents to sign photo release forms—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources. Never post pictures of girls unless you have parental permission.

~ ~ ~ Large Group ~ ~ ~

FOR GIRLS:

- ★ Select worship songs, including the *Act. Love. Walk.* theme song “This Is the Way” by Doorpost Songs, and provide the means to play them. Suggested songs and lyrics are here: <http://bit.ly/ActLoveWalkSongs>

- ★ Micah 6:8 Presentation Slide—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources or display using the Micah 6:8 poster available at gemsgc.org/store

- ★ A Bible

- ★ **OPTIONAL:** Have the leader teaching the Lesson Opener and Bible Teaching do so on roller skates

- ★ **DÉCOR:** Decorate with anything that will make your space feel like a girl-friendly roller rink. Think retro with a disco ball and lights, colorful fringe or silver streamer backdrop/curtains, colorful paper chains looped from the ceiling to the floor or across walls, vinyl records, a snack bar and skate rental signs, glow-in-the-dark accessories, and sequined anything. Visit gemsgc.org to see fun ideas on the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* Pinterest board.

FOR GEMS GROWN-UPS: (*Choose a time at the beginning or end of club to meet with the GEMS Grown-Ups.*)

- A club schedule
- Club registration form—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- GEMS Grown-Up Letter—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- Use the “Connect with GEMS Grown-Ups” text within this lesson to guide your meeting
- Share the short, encouraging message titled “GEMS Grown-Ups: You’re Not Alone” with your girls’ grown-ups. **NOTE:** This is a short message of encouragement that can be shared at your club meeting, on your club’s social media pages, via email (<http://bit.ly/GEMSGrown-Ups>), or as a

QR code on the GEMS Grown-Up letter that is available on the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources. It's also on GEMS ReFresh for easy access.

Small Group

- ★ *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal for each girl
- ★ *Small Group Leader's Guide* for each leader
- ★ Bibles
- ★ One *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey for each girl—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources (See page 8 for details)
- ★ Pencils or pens, sticky notes, crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ★ Step In supplies: World-Changer Questionnaire—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- ★ Memory Verse supplies: one *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal for each girl and a set of index cards with Micah 6:8 spelled out with one word of the verse on each card
- ★ Create supplies: A Bible and a rope or thick string
- ★ Walk It Out supplies: glow-in-the-dark stars (optional)
- ★ **OPTIONAL DÉCOR:** Create a Small Group space that invites girls into the world change that happens when they know that God made them on purpose for a purpose—that they can make a difference today. Use colorful tablecloths, lights, and a globe or maps of your city, country, and world.

Centerpiece Options:

- Pencil holders decorated with sequins and Micah 6:8 stickers
- Laminated maps to serve as placemats that girls can personalize with their names and write memory verses on with dry-erase markers
- Butcher paper tablecloth (you can also hang it on the wall) where girls can write their names, trace their hands (act), draw a heart (love), and trace their feet (walk).

Craft Supplies

Micah 6:8 Flowers

- ★ 2-in (5-cm) flower hole puncher
- ★ 1-in (2.5-cm) circle hole puncher
- ★ White cardstock
- ★ Yellow cardstock with Micah 6:8 verse printed on it (download the Micah 6:8 template from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources)
- ★ 1/8-in (.3-cm) hole puncher (smaller than standard size)
- ★ 1/8-in (.3-cm) ribbon—two 15-in (38-cm)-long pieces per girl
- ★ Glue stick
- ★ Sharp scissors
- ★ Liquid glue (optional)

NOTE: For a step-by-step tutorial of this craft, go to the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources and view the L1-Micah 6:8 Flowers video.

Dismissal

- ★ Videos: “Meet the Real Talk Team” and Lesson One “Real Talk” and the means to play them—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- ★ Bookmarks: Distribute the Lesson One *Act. Love. Walk.* Bookmark, which contains the “Real Talk” video links so girls can watch the videos again at home—download L1-Bookmark from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- ★ **OPTIONAL:** Give your girls the GEMS Club Invite to help them invite their friends to your next club meeting—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources



Arrival ~~~~~

[Time: When girls arrive until club begins]

LEADER NOTE: Our girls have big questions about their lives. They wonder, “Do I matter? Does anyone see me? Do I have a purpose?”

Today, they’ll discover that God made them on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). In Micah 6:8, the theme verse for this study, girls see God’s invitation to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. They can live out their purpose and make a big difference not just someday, but right where they are today.

Greet each girl at the door with a warm welcome. Introduce yourself, smile, and call her by name. As you distribute the world-changer name tags, look each girl in the eye and **SAY** “_____ [girl’s name], you matter to God and us. We are so glad you are here.”

Until club starts, direct girls into the Large Group space. You may want to engage your younger girls in the Icebreaker game All My Friends. Engage girls who are older or maybe reserved and shy with the Sit & Chat questions.

All My Friends

SUPPLIES: Paper plates (one for every girl)

All My Friends Instructions

1. Have all of the participating girls stand in a circle and put a paper plate under their feet, except for one girl (or one GEMS leader), who will stand in the middle of the circle without a paper plate.
2. The person in the middle will make a statement (loudly, for everyone to hear) that fills in the blank, “All my friends who _____.” Examples: “All my friends who have a pet,” “all my friends who are wearing shoes,” “all my friends who have a sister,” etc. But whatever the person says must be true about herself.
3. When the person in the middle finishes her sentence, the others in the circle move if that statement is true for them. They must find an

empty paper plate to go to, and they cannot go to the paper plate directly to the left or right of where they were. The person in the middle goes to one of the empty paper plates, leaving someone else in the middle, and the sequence repeats.

4. The activity continues until the leader ends it to start Large Group.

As more girls arrive, add them to the circle with a paper plate, expanding the size of the circle as necessary.

Sit & Chat Questions

SUPPLIES: Colored pencils, **World-Changer Questionnaires** (download one questionnaire from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources for each girl)

LEADER NOTE: Most girls (even adult girls) love answering questions about themselves. Today’s **World-Changer Questionnaire** will open up great opportunities for a girl to share essential details about her life and interests. Ask her about her answers to her favorite things and take a glance at the way she’s feeling about being at club today. While she’s taking time to draw her dream room, ask some questions about her choices. Questions like:

1. Would you like a big room or a smaller, cozier room?
2. Would you have pictures on the wall? What kind of pictures?
3. Do you like it when your room is clean and organized, or do you have difficulty keeping it clean?

OPTIONAL: Photo Booth

As girls arrive and get comfortable, give them a chance to be silly with a photo booth. Grab any prop that looks like it belongs in a roller rink, like a retro disco ball or lights, colorful fringe or a silver streamer backdrop/curtains, vinyl records, or a big frame for girls to hold that reads “Act. Love. Walk.” or “I am a world changer!” Make sure the leader taking the pictures is engaged, welcoming girls, and ready for some fun.

LEADER NOTE: Ask parents to sign photo release forms—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources. Never post pictures of girls unless you have parental permission.

(When it's time for club to begin, start Large Group.)

Large Group ~~~~~ **Welcome & Prayer**

[Time: 2 minutes]

SAY Welcome to _____ [name of your club] GEMS Girls' Club. We are so excited and grateful you are here. We love new beginnings, and this year's club is going to be terrific. We will laugh and learn, sing and craft, serve others, spend time with one another, and get to know more about God and all that He says about you. I'm glad you're here. Let's bow our heads together for the first time and thank God for the gift of a new year and our club. **Will you please stand with me and pray?**

Pray

GEMS Girls' Clubs Aim

SAY GEMS started in 1958. Since 1972 (fifty years ago), one of the ways we've begun each club gathering is by reciting our GEMS Girls' Clubs Aim. Girls all over the United States, Canada, and the world have learned and recited this aim each time they have met for club. The verse is Micah 6:8, and this year we will dig in and know what it means to act, love, and walk humbly with God. Would you recite Micah 6:8 aloud with me?

MICAH 6:8 PRESENTATION SLIDE:

Download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources or display using the Micah 6:8 poster available at gemsgc.org/store.

ASK _____ [name of your club] GEMS and GEMS leaders, what does the Lord require of us?

(Leaders and girls respond): To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God Micah 6:8.

GEMS started in 1958. In 1972, GEMS Girls' Clubs adopted Micah 6:8 as the organization's theme verse and aim. Many girls and leaders worldwide recite this aim in unison at the start of each club gathering to remind ourselves of the type of women and girls God desires us to be.

Praise & Worship



[Time: You decide!]

About 4 minutes per song

SAY GEMS stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. Who is the Savior of the world? *(Listen.)* That's right! His name is Jesus. Whether you've known about Jesus your whole life or this is the very first time you've heard His name—or maybe you're somewhere in between—I want you to know we are so glad you are here with us.

One of the ways we spend our time at club is by singing to God. God's Word, the Bible, tells us to *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music* (Psalm 98:4).

I love that, don't you? We are SUPPOSED to break out in a praise party when we think about who God is and all He has done for us. Even if a song is new to you, listen to the words and join when you can. Let's worship together.

SING one or more songs as a whole group.

SAY Wow! Hearing you sing to the Lord is amazing. I know that God loves to listen to you worship even more than I do. You may take a seat.

NOTE: Any supplies or people needed for the Lesson Opener or Bible Teaching are found under the Large Group list at the beginning of the lesson.

Lesson Opener: Act. Love. Walk.

[Time: 7 minutes]

ASK Welcome to the GEMS Roller Rink! It's a fun place where we're going to learn how to act, love, and walk humbly with God. It'll make a big difference in your life, and as we'll discover, it'll make a difference in our world, too.

Have you ever been to a roller-skating rink? Roller rinks are so much fun. There's music and colored lights, a snack bar, arcade games, and people on the floor skating away.

ASK How many of you have laced up a pair of skates and tried roller skating? (*Watch for hands.*)

ASK (*Call girls by name to answer.*) So how did it go? Were you a natural? Did you put on those skates and immediately go zooming around the rink? Probably not. Roller skating takes practice! And while it can be tempting to sit off to the side and just cheer everyone else on while they skate, the reason you are there is so **you** can skate.

Let's imagine that our skates are all laced up and we are getting ready to head out onto the floor, but we hear the deejay give new instructions. But no one is listening! Instead of skating in the same direction, everyone starts doing their own thing on the floor. People are zooming around at top speed in every direction. They are barely missing each other and heading straight for a skating disaster. The deejay is trying to regain control and get everyone's attention, but no one listens.

ASK How do you think everyone who is skating is feeling? (*Listen to responses.*)

SAY I agree. These skaters would feel confused, scared, and even like they might get hurt.

ASK What would it take to fix the problem? (*Listen.*)

SAY That's right. Everyone would need to stop and listen to the deejay for the directions on getting started again. Listening matters, but it's not always easy. Let me prove it to you.

Everyone get on your feet for a Say What I Say Game.

Say What I Say Game Instructions

SUPPLIES: None

This activity has four rounds with four simple, directional commands. Directional commands are: Jump right. Jump left. Jump in. Jump out.

1. Introduce the four directional commands and have girls follow them by making short jumps just as instructed.
2. After girls have learned the moves, progress through the rounds, introducing each one before you begin. Have the girls repeat the round commands back to you before they start, to check for comprehension.
 - Round 1: Say what I say, do what I say.
 - Round 2: Say what I say, do the opposite.
 - Round 3: Say the opposite, do what I say.
 - Round 4: Say the opposite, do the opposite.

LEADER NOTE: It's up to the leader to give a string of directional commands. Rounds 2 and 4 will be more complicated than Round 1, and Round 3 will be very challenging and full of laughter.

SAY Girls, would you please stand up and spread out just a little bit? (*Not possible? Then ask girls to turn to the right or the left and stand up or sit down instead of jump in and jump out.*) We are going to test your listening skills. I am about to give you four directional commands, and all you need to remember right now is to listen, repeat the directions back to me, and do what I say. Let's practice.

SAY Jump right. (*Make sure they repeat the direction and do the direction.*)

Continue with directional commands: Jump left. Jump in. Jump out. Good job!

SAY That is Round One. Let's try it again. Jump left. Jump left. Jump in. Jump out. Jump right. Jump right.

(*Let girls laugh, reset their positions, and move to Round 2.*)

SAY Now it's time for Round 2. This time you will say what I say, but do the opposite. Repeat that direction back to me. (*Wait for responses.*)

SAY Let's begin. Jump out. (*Girls should say, "Jump out!" but jump in. If there is confusion, quickly restate the directions until they get it. Then run any directional sequence.*)

SAY Phew! Nice work. Now it's time for Round 3. This time, you will say the opposite, but do what I say. Repeat that back to me.

(*Pause and allow them to repeat the directions back to you. Then run a simple directional sequence. This round will be the most difficult, so give the girls an extra beat to discern their next move. Example: If you say, "Jump out!" girls will say, "Jump in!" while they jump out.*)

SAY Time for our final round. In Round 4, you say the opposite and do the opposite. Repeat the direction back to me.

(*Run a directional sequence and be sure to laugh right along with your girls. Example: If you say, "Jump out!" girls will say, "Jump in!" while they jump in.*)

SAY You girls are so much fun. Thank you for playing along and following directions. You can go ahead and sit down.

Bible Teaching: Meet Micah



[*Time: 8 minutes*]

SAY Think back with me to the roller rink we talked about a few minutes ago. Remember when everybody was skating their own way, and no one was watching out for each other? Does that sound like the kind of place you'd want to skate? (*Listen for responses.*)

Not at all! Sadly, this crazy scene where no one is listening or caring about each other doesn't just happen in roller rinks. We see big problems in our world when people don't care about each other, don't we? Maybe you see big problems in your own life or our community, when your family fights, girls are mean, kids have no lunch on the table, or there's no room at the lunch table for them.

Girls, things are not the way they should be. Would you agree? (*Pause.*)

I wonder, if you could change the world and make it a better place, would you do it? (*Raise your hand so girls know how to respond.*)

I see you, I see you, I see you (*acknowledge the girls raising their hands*). You want the world to be a better place. Are you ready for some good news? (*Ask the girls to give a drumroll.*)

God invites you to be the girl He will use to make this world a better place. Yes, you! And you, and you, and you. (*Acknowledge every girl, look them in the eyes, and help them feel seen.*) God invites YOU to make a difference in the world.

Does that seem impossible? Maybe you wonder if you're too small or too much. Perhaps you think that the only people who can be world changers are people like your older sister, your best friend, the girls who never get in trouble, or the girls who have a lot of friends.

If that's what you think, I'm so glad you are here. In the Bible, God tells us that He gave you a purpose when He created you. He planned for you to do good in our world (Ephesians 2:10). Think about that. God made you on purpose for a purpose.

GIRLS REPEAT. Let's personalize this and say it together. Repeat after me: "God made me on purpose for a purpose." Whether you're wearing roller skates, tennis shoes, or your favorite flip-flops, God can use you **today** to make a difference in the lives of others. Wow!

Let's learn more by opening the Bible to the book of Micah, where we meet a man named Micah.

(*Open your Bible to Micah 6:8.*)

SAY Micah lived during a time that looked a lot like an out-of-control roller rink. God's people were not listening to Him. There were problems everywhere.

But God didn't give up on His people. Even when they were hurting each other and making a mess of His world, God never stopped loving them. God loved them no matter what and wanted them to love Him back and to love others, too. So He chose Micah to give His message to the people.

Micah was just an ordinary guy from an ordinary town like ours. Micah told the people how much God loved them. God also loves you!

Then, in Micah 6:8, he told the people how God wanted them to love one another. It would make a big difference. It would change their world. Listen as I read Micah 6:8.

(Read from your Bible.) What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

God knew the difference it would make if people would listen to Him and act, love, and walk. It's still how we can change the world today. Here's how.

The first word is **“Act.”** Hold your hands straight up and down in front of your bodies with your palms out and say, **“Act.”** *(Demonstrate with the girls.)*

To act justly means to always do what is right. We often do what is right using our hands, don't we? We act justly when we give a helping hand with homework or housework or when we invite people into our friend group instead of pushing them away.

Our second word is **“Love.”** Please take your hands and make a heart in front of your chest. Push the heart back and forth in front of your chest twice like it's beating. *(Demonstrate with the girls.)*

To love mercy is to serve others in love. We love mercy when we treat people with kindness, do what is good, and choose to be loving even when we don't feel like it.

Our last word is **“Walk.”** Hold both hands in front of you with your palms down and shuffle them a little side to side. Right, left, right. It looks a little bit like a roller-skate glide, doesn't it? *(Demonstrate with the girls.)*

Have you ever taken a walk with a friend? *(Listen to responses.)* Walks with friends are the best. But the only way to walk with a friend is to walk in the same direction. If you go one way and your friend goes another, you're not walking together.

To walk humbly with God is to say yes to Him. We say yes when we go where God leads and do what He says. We choose to trust and obey God.

Girls, God invites us to act, love, and walk. Let's say that with our words and actions. Say, “God invites us to act (*hands straight up and down*), love (*hands make a heart*), and walk (*palms down and shuffle hands*).” Let's do that again. *(Girls repeat.)*

Girls, we don't act, love, and walk so God will love us. He already loves you and me, too! Because of His love for us, He invites us to make a big difference by the way we act, love, and walk.

If you've ever wondered if you matter, if you've ever wondered if anyone sees you or if you have a purpose, the answer is yes, yes, yes. God made you—yes, *YOU*—on *purpose, for a purpose. You are just the girl God can use to make a difference—not just someday, but today. I'm excited to see what God will do in you and our club this year.

***LEADER NOTE:** Although the girls may be young in age or faith, let them know that what God requires of them, He also gives the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish. They are not alone in living out God's purpose.

Wrap-Up & Prayer

[Time: 1 minute]



SAY The message God gave Micah will be a game-changer for all of us. I can't wait for us to learn more about Micah and five more world changers in the Bible who chose to act, love, and walk humbly with God.

If you have some tough stuff happening in your life or want to learn more about what it means to belong to God, please stay. After I pray, please meet with *me (*or say the name of another leader*) or talk to your Small Group leader.

Will you pray with me, girls?

(PRAY your own prayer or conclude with this one.)

PRAY Heavenly Father, we see what a mess we can make when we live without listening to You or loving others. God, we want to be girls who show You our love by the way we act, love, and walk. Thank You for what You will teach us this

year and how You invite us to make a difference in our world. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

***LISTEN** carefully to each girl. Acknowledge her feelings. Answer her questions as you are able. If she asks questions you do not have answers for, let her know you don't know but will look for answers. Ask your pastor or Club Coordinator for help if you need it. Share your faith story as appropriate and pray. Pray with anxious and afraid girls about what's happening in their world. Pray with girls who want to belong to God's family.

Need resources to help you lead a child to Christ? See page 14 and watch the **GOSPEL MESSAGE SERIES** videos at gemsgc.org/gospel. They are also available on GEMS ReFresh at gemsrefresh.org.

(Dismiss to Small Groups.)

Connect With GEMS Grown-Ups



[Time: 15-20 minutes, depending on Q&A time]

Hold a brief grown-ups (parents/grandparents/caregivers) meeting at the beginning or end of your first club gathering.

COLLECT REGISTRATION FORMS.

Ask the GEMS Grown-Ups to complete a club registration form for their girls. A form is available in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.

DISTRIBUTE A GEMS SCHEDULE AND GEMS GROWN-UP LETTER.

Distribute a personalized club schedule with dates and details for meetings, special events, and GEMS Sunday. You can personalize the GEMS Grown-Up Letter (available in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources) for your club. You'll find a QR code to a video message just for them called "GEMS Grown-Ups: You're Not Alone." **NOTE:** This short, encouraging message is also on GEMS ReFresh (gemsrefresh.org). If you choose, you can show it to your grown-ups at this meeting, send it in an email (<http://bit.ly/GEMSGrown-Ups>), or share it on your club's social media pages.

THANK GROWN-UPS. *You may want to say . . .* Thank you so much for sharing your girls with our club this season. Our time together will be even more special for us because she is here with us. Your girl matters—to God, to YOU, and to us. As GEMS Leaders, we are committed to praying for her, connecting and building a relationship with her, and reminding her of who God says she is. We remind her that she has a place to belong here and that we see who she is becoming.

We are deeply committed to sharing the Truth of God's Word with your girl in a way that is engaging and fun. We are also committed to building an environment and culture that is loving and encouraging. We hope that GEMS will be her favorite day of the week. As we get to know your girls, we want to know you, too. So thank you so much for being here.

SHARE THE MESSAGE OF ACT. LOVE. WALK. WITH GROWN-UPS.

You may want to say . . . The theme for this club season is *Act. Love. Walk.* taken from our theme verse, Micah 6:8.

What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

I wonder if you have noticed that our world seems to be spinning a little faster these days. In the middle of these confusing times, it is natural for our girls to wonder if what they do matters at all.

We've all noticed that the trends for flashy and fake things get all the air time. The world bombards our girls with messages that they need to be more or less to be memorable.

Prettier, thinner, cooler, trendier, edgier, more active on social media or even at school.

Or less judgy, less articulate about their faith, less themselves and more like others.

This tension and the messages all around them have girls questioning whether they can make a difference in the world today. Some of them are even asking the question, "Do I matter?" Here at GEMS and together with YOU, we want to help our girls learn that not only do they matter, but

God loves them and wants to use them to make a difference in the lives of others.

We want to help them learn to ask the question, “What does God want from me?”

We want the resounding answer to be that He wants us to believe and trust in Him. He invites us into His family. In response to His love, God can use us to act, love, and walk our faith out in this world.

At GEMS this season, your girls will learn Micah 6:8 and build a deeper understanding of how God plans to use each one to make a difference.

- ★ Tonight (today), we talked about what it means to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.
- ★ Next week, we’ll hear the Good News of Jesus.
- ★ In the following weeks, we’ll meet five women in the Bible who God used to change the world. World changers like Hannah, Dorcas, Mary the Mother of Jesus, a Samaritan Woman, and Queen Esther.

By the time we wrap up, your girls will know what it means to *act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God*. We hope you will, too.

Wow! We will keep reminding your girl that God loves her and wants to use her not someday—but today. She doesn’t have to do anything to be loved by God. He loves her no matter what. BUT He invites her and us to live a life full of purpose, walking humbly with Him.

So what are our goals? We have two for this season.

Goal #1: We want to grow in our relationship with God.

Maybe you want that for you and your family, too. You are very welcome here wherever you are in your relationship with God. God always meets us right where we are and invites us into a closer relationship with Himself.

At GEMS, we’re helping girls and their grown-ups grow in their faith, so if you’re not sure how to pray, don’t know what it means to be a Christian, are looking for a church home, or don’t

have a Bible or wonder where to begin reading, please reach out. You’re among friends, and this may be precisely why you’re here. Belonging to God’s family is the best decision you could ever make. If you have questions, please talk to one of the GEMS Staff at gemsgc.org or to me. We care about you and your girls.

Our first goal is to grow together in our relationship with God.

Goal #2: We want our girls to know the Truth about how they can change the world.

The *Act. Love. Walk.* theme verse girls will be memorizing is Micah 6:8. It has been our GEMS Girls’ Clubs Aim that girls and leaders across the world have said every week in club for over 50 years. This year, we are unpacking what this verse means.

Sometimes, we try to make following God complicated, when for God, it is simple: Act. Love. Walk. That’s what we will learn together, because people who act, love, and walk will make a difference today.

After each club meeting, ask your girl what she learned. If you want her faith to stick, ask about her memory work and memorize it with her.

When our girls discover their God-given purpose, they will blow us all away. That’s what we are praying will happen this year. We are praying that they will know that they can make a big difference right where they are today.

I’m eager to grow with your girls, as is this team.

INTRODUCE YOUR GEMS CLUB TEAM.

Introduce each leader by name and role within your club.

Communicate Expectations

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF TIMES & EXPECTATIONS. Do you require grown-ups to come into the building to check their girls in and out? If so, what is the process? If your club needs to cancel, how does that work? Would you transition to an online club, and if so, what can parents expect?

GEMS SCHEDULE/PLANS. Direct their attention to the club schedule and highlight the

events that specifically involve them—GEMS & Gals Night, GEMS & Gents Night, GEMS Sunday, fundraisers, etc. Encourage them to add these dates to their phones and calendars.

CLUB SPECIFICS. What do you expect of the girls and their grown-ups? What can they anticipate from you and your club? How will you regularly communicate with them? Will you use print or emailed newsletters, a club Facebook page, or text messages?

TECHNOLOGY PLAN. Technology is native to our kids, so it's important to communicate what that looks like at your club. Tell the GEMS and their grown-ups the technology expectations at club.

Close With Q&A And Prayer



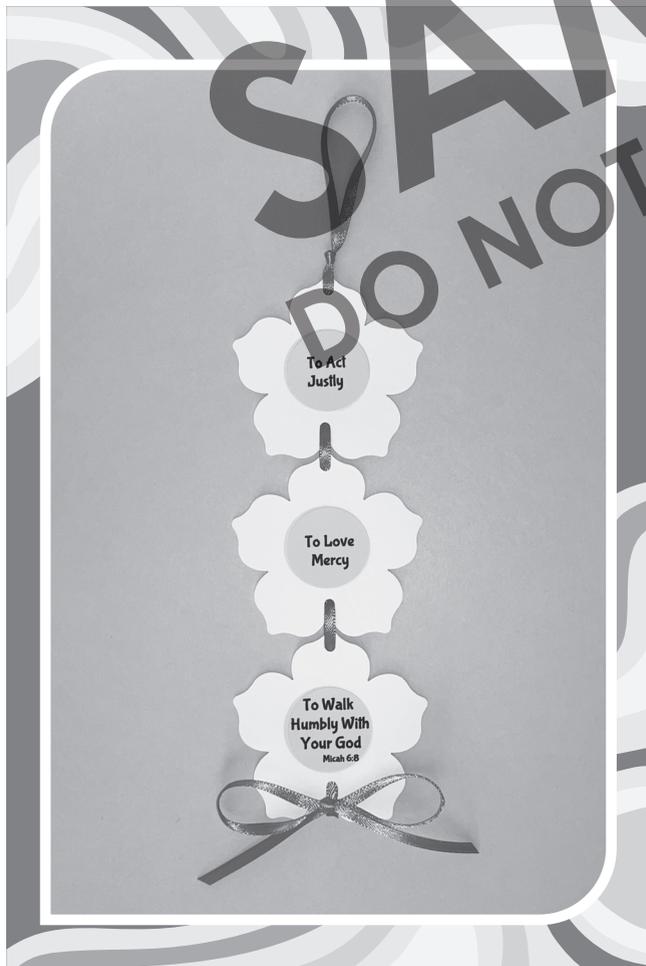
Dismiss with enthusiasm and anticipation!



Craft

Micah 6:8 Flowers

[Time: 20-30 minutes]



LEADER TIP: The time required for any craft depends on how much prep work is done in advance, how many helping hands are available to the girls, and a girl's age and individual abilities. **To see a step-by-step video tutorial of this craft, go to the ACT. LOVE. WALK. ONLINE RESOURCES and view the L1-MICAH 6:8 FLOWERS video.** For an inspiring overview of the importance of crafts at club, be sure to watch “Crafting with a Purpose” on GEMS ReFresh. Visit gemsrefresh.org for more information. **NOTE:** If you have extra time and supplies, have girls make extras to gift to others.

Supplies

- ★ 2-in (5-cm) flower hole puncher
- ★ 1-in (2.5-cm) circle hole puncher
- ★ White cardstock
- ★ Yellow cardstock with Micah 6:8 verse printed on it (download the Micah 6:8 template from the *Act. Love. Walk. Online Resources*)
- ★ 1/8-in (.3-cm) hole puncher (smaller than standard size)
- ★ 1/8-in (.3-cm) ribbon—two 15-in (38-cm)-long pieces per girl
- ★ Glue stick
- ★ Sharp scissors
- ★ Liquid glue (optional)

Instructions

SUGGESTED PREP WORK:

1. Use a 2-in (5-cm) flower puncher (or a Cricut machine) to punch out three white cardstock flowers per girl.
2. Use a 1-in (2.5-cm) circle puncher to punch out the different words of the verse on the yellow cardstock printer—download the Micah 6:8 template from the *Act. Love. Walk. Online Resources*. Each girl should get one “To Act Justly” circle, one “To Love Mercy” circle, and one “To Walk Humbly with Your God” circle.
3. Hole punch a 1/8-in (.3-cm) circle on the top and bottom of each flower.

WITH GIRLS:

1. Girls will glue the yellow circles onto the flowers.
2. With one ribbon, tie a small loop at the top. With the other end of that same ribbon, have girls thread the ribbon through the 1/8-in (.3-cm) holes on the flowers.
3. Have girls tie a bow around the bottom ribbon with the second ribbon. Snip the ends.
4. **Optional:** Put a drop of glue at the bottom of the bow to secure it.

LEADER NOTE: As the girls work on the craft, ask the Craft & Chat questions.

Craft & Chat Questions



1. What kind of music would you like to listen to at a roller rink?
2. How do you feel when you don't know how to do something? Like the first time you went roller skating, rode a bike, or played a new sport or instrument?
3. What has been your favorite part of today's club?

(Dismiss to Large Group for Dismissal.)

LEADER NOTE: Any supplies needed are found under the Dismissal list at the beginning of this lesson.



Dismissal

[Time: 3 minutes]

LEADER NOTE: Have music playing as girls return to the Large Group room. Once everyone is in the room, close with a “Real Talk” video. Then wrap up your meeting and close in prayer. Remind them when you are going to meet again.



Real Talk

SAY Before you leave, we want you to see an important “Real Talk” message. Please turn your attention to the screen.

NOTE: *Show the Intro Video first so the girls will get to know the “Real Talk” Team they’ll be hearing from all season.*

LEADER TIP: If there are technical difficulties, please use the script below.

INTRO “REAL TALK” TEXT

KAMARAH: Hello, friend! Welcome to your first “Real Talk” video. My name is Kamarah.

KAYLA: My name is Kayla.

BETHANY: My name is Bethany, and we are your *Act. Love. Walk.* “Real Talk” Team.

KAMARAH: We’re the “Real Talk” Team because we keep it real. We aren’t afraid to talk about the questions we have and the things that make us nervous or excited. We want to be the friends you can count on to talk about following God in our real lives.

KAYLA: That’s right. This year, we are talking about how we can act, love, and walk with God in all the places we go, like school, sports games, recitals, and even in our families and homes. Sometimes I wonder what following Jesus looks like right where I am. Do you ever wonder about that, too? *(Raise hand.)*

BETHANY: *(Raises her hand.)* I wonder that all the time. That’s why being here at club matters so much to me. GEMS Club is where we show up and learn more about what following God looks like in our everyday lives. It’s where we meet friends, laugh, learn, and remind each other how much God loves every one of us.

KAMARAH: That’s right! So keep showing up. We need you here! And we will be here too—keeping it real, cheering you on, and challenging all of us to act, love, and walk. We can’t wait to share more with you this year. See you again REAL soon!

LESSON ONE “REAL TALK” TEXT

Hi, friend! I’m Kamarah. I wonder if you have ever wanted to be famous or remembered for doing something significant? *(Raise hand.)* I know that I have. When I was your age, I wanted to be a famous marine biologist who discovered a new species of dolphins. It’s true. I wonder about you?

If you have big dreams about being famous, you’re not alone. Girls everywhere try to be prettier, more popular, funnier, more daring, sportier, and even smarter than each other. Sometimes they even think that being famous on YouTube or their favorite social media app will make them super important. Maybe you’ve wondered and wished for the same things.

God invites you to make a big difference in this world, but not in the way you may think. It’s not about being prettier, more popular, or a social media sensation. Making a difference in a way that matters is to **Act, Love, and Walk.**

Girl, you were made on purpose for a purpose. But you don’t have a huge Instagram following or be known for anything special. It’s not your actions that make you special, it’s because you’re loved by God. Because of His love for you, He invites you to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. It’ll make a big difference today wherever you go—whether at your school, at soccer practice, or in your home.

We may never go viral, but with God’s help, we can be REAL world changers!

What do you think? Will you join me? If so, at the count of three, let’s say, “I’m ready to act, love, walk.” One, two, three. *(Girl smiles and says, “I’m ready to act, love, walk.”)*

Yes, you can. Girls just like us can change the world. See you next time! *(She waves.)*

(After the video is finished . . .)

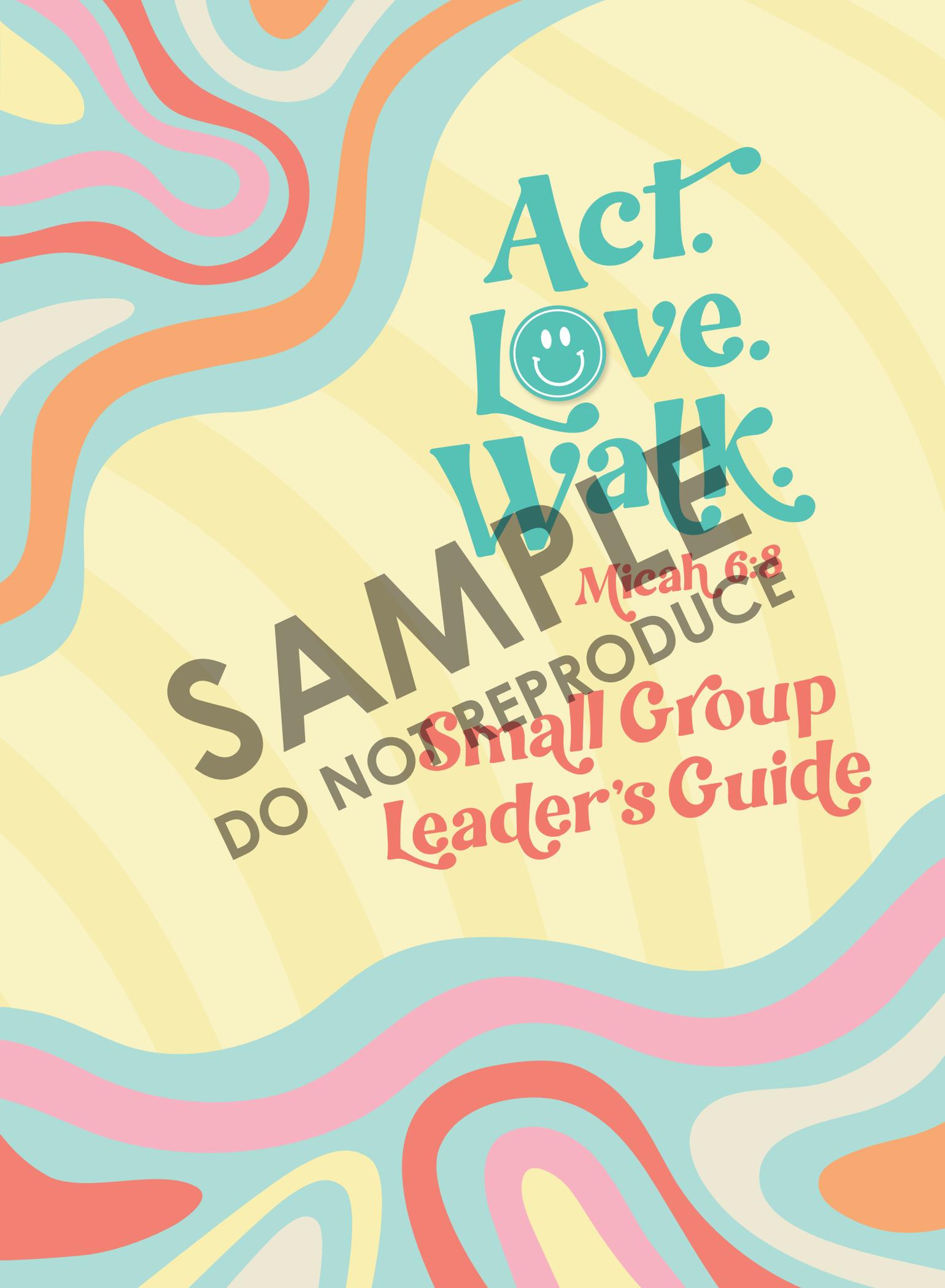
SAY Girls, we are so grateful you joined us at our first club meeting this year. We hope to see you at every club gathering, and we’d love it if you’d bring friends.

You don’t have to wait to make a big difference. Today is when we can choose to act, love, and walk. *(Do Act, Love, and Walk motions with the girls.)* Let’s pray together.

(PRAY your own prayer or use this one below.)

PRAY Dear God, thank You for all we learned about You and Micah today. Thank You for giving us a purpose. Help us love You by the ways we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. It is a joy to be Your girl! In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

LEADER NOTE: Distribute the Lesson One *Act. Love. Walk.* Bookmarks that contain the “Real Talk” video links so girls can watch the videos again at home. **OPTIONAL:** Distribute the GEMS Club Invite to help girls invite their friends to your next club meeting. Give high fives, hugs, and words of encouragement.



Act.
Love.
Walk.

Micah 6:8

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DO NOT REPRODUCE

**Small Group
Leader's Guide**

Act.
Love.
Walk.

Micah 6:8

SMALL GROUP
LEADER'S GUIDE

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MICAH 6:8
SMALL GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

GEMIS Girls' Clubs

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Mailing Address

US: 1333 Alger St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Canada: 261 Woodall Way, Woodstock, ON N4T 0K9

gemsgc.org

Content & Curriculum Director: Lenae Bulthuis
Content Editor: Meaghan Minkus
Graphic Design: Abby Van Haren
Page design and layout: CrosslinCreative.net
Executive Director: Cindy Bultema

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Letter From The Executive Director



Hi, Friend!

Welcome to GEMS. Whether this is your first year or you mark your GEMS years by decades, you are part of an authentic sisterhood and life-changing ministry. Together, we strive to reach *all* girls and help them know they are truly loved and known by God. YOU make a difference!

Though GEMS started in 1958, this year marks the 50th year since GEMS Girls' Clubs adopted Micah 6:8 as the organization's theme verse and aim. Since 1972, leaders have been asking their GEMS, "*What does the LORD require of you?*" And GEMS girls have responded, "*To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" Micah 6:8."

It's something that never leaves a girl. When women tell me they were part of GEMS, I'll ask the Micah 6:8 question and they recite the aim with 100% accuracy. Even those who can't remember where they put their cell phone or what they ate for dinner last night can recite this aim from over fifty years ago.

In honor of the 50th GEMS-iversary of Micah 6:8, we've selected this power-packed verse as the theme verse for the *Act. Love. Walk.* study. Let's spend a ministry season together unpacking Micah 6:8 so that this generation of girls—and their leaders—can be hearers and doers of this transformational Word.

Friend, you get to be the one who helps your GEMS girls understand what it means to *act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8). You get to introduce them to world changers in Scripture and then launch them into their own world-changing "Micah Missions," where they will put their faith into action. And you get to remind each girl she was

created with a purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10).

Imagine a world where girls believe they can make a significant difference in their homes, schools, community, and world—not just someday, but today.

Let's not just imagine it; let's pray for it! May God raise up a generation of girls who are strong, secure, and confident in Christ. May they experience Truth-filled flourishing in the welcoming, safe, and fun environment created at your GEMS Club. And as girls dig deeper into God's holy Truth, may they rise up to *act, love, and walk* in Jesus' Name.

Friend, as you share God's invitation for girls to *act, love, and walk*, the GEMS team and I will be praying for *you*. You are never alone. Reach out anytime. The sisterhood of GEMS is a beautiful thing!

Serving Him Together,

Cindy Bultema
GEMS Executive Director

Meet the Act. Love. Walk. Curriculum Team



Cindy Bultema is the Executive Director of GEMS. Prior to GEMS, Cindy served as the Children's Director at a West Michigan megachurch; as a children's curriculum writer for Zondervan Publishers; as an international women's speaker; and as the author of the women's Bible studies *Red Hot Faith* and *Live Full Walk Free: Set Apart in a Sin-Soaked World*.

Cindy lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband and their four children. When she's not running a full household, you can find Cindy meeting a friend for coffee, walking her two dogs, or hosting a house full of teenagers.

Lenae Bulthuis is the GEMS Program and Content Director and has served on staff since 2003. For almost 20 years, Lenae has written life-changing curriculum for GEMS. She was eight years old when her life intersected with the GEMS ministry for the first time. Today, she counts it grace to write curriculum and train leaders within a ministry that has radically changed her life.

Lenae lives with her husband, Mike, on a Minnesota grain and livestock farm. She enjoys reading, watching her grandchildren, and seeing God's grace on gravel roads and other dusty places.

Lee Nienhuis is an author and passionate Bible teacher. Her books *Brave Moms*, *Brave Kids* and *Countercultural Parenting* have helped countless parents gain a biblical perspective on parenting a godly and countercultural generation. Lee's writing and speaking have been featured on Focus on the Family, Moms in Prayer International, True Woman, Proverbs 31 Ministries, Hearts at Home, Iron Sharpens Iron conferences, and GEMS Girls' Clubs.

Lee and her husband, Mike, have four great kids and live at Grace Adventures, a Christian

Camp and Conference Center in West Michigan. Lee loves hot cups of coffee, laughing till her sides ache, and Jesus.

Kamarah Bayard is a Content Writer for GEMS. Kamarah has had a passion for writing and storytelling since she was small. She also has a love for education and, of course, girls! Her passion for education took her overseas to South Korea, where she taught English to children as a private tutor and co-coordinated her church's Sunday children's program.

Kamarah lives in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and enjoys watching science shows, cooking, and sipping a hot cup of tea while listening to music.

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Why Act. Love. Walk.?

While a girl's grown-up may look back at simpler times and wish for a return to "normal," that's not a girl's story. A global pandemic, mass school shootings, loneliness, and cultural unrest have always been her "normal." It's all she knows.

Sadly, our tumultuous world has only escalated girls' fear, anxiety, and depression and impacted their outlook on the future. Over half (56%) of those in Gen Z (ages 10-25) expect the worst to happen.¹

But when the worst happens, this generation is ready to do something about it. Another study reported that "Gen Z is driven by purpose and world change. An impressive 65% wants to personally create something world-changing."²

This sounds like great news (and it is!), but it's not the Good News. Here's why.

The outcry in our culture for kindness, justice, freedom, and world change is not anchored to the Truth of God and His Word. The cries of our culture are like a cut bouquet of flowers. It looks good initially, but then it quickly wilts and dies. It doesn't last. It can't! Because it's not rooted in a relationship with God and anchored to the Truth-filled soil of His Word.³ The culture's justice plan, while helpful, will never bear fruit that lasts.

But when a girl understands who God is—the One *who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth* (Jeremiah 9:24)—and who she is—

created on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10)—she can live out her purpose on a mission that matters. When she gets involved in what God is doing in the world, she can make a difference for eternity.

It's been God's plan for world change from the beginning.

What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

When our girls walk humbly with God, their megaphone will be the Gospel and the platform on which they stand will be His grace and truth. Compelled by His love, they'll make a difference in the world.

As they act, love, and walk, it'll change our girls, and they will change our world for eternity.

Watch the ReFresh Message "Act. Love. Walk." at [gemsrefresh.org](https://www.gemsrefresh.org) for more inspiration.

1 *Gen Z, Vol. 2: Caring for Young Souls and Cultivating Resilience*. United States: Barna Group, 2021.

2 "2019-2020 Annual Report," Girls with Impact, updated October 27, 2020, <https://www.girlswithimpact.org/hidden-registration-items/download-2019-2020-annual-report>

3 Matt Markins, "Naming Our Cultural Moment," Resilient Disciples, October 15, 2021, video, 1:00:46, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idcHN22PpNI>.

How *Act. Love. Walk.* Works



The *Act. Love. Walk.* curriculum will help girls understand that they were created on purpose for a purpose—to make a difference in God’s world. Girls will grow in their relationship with God and understand who they are becoming in Him through prayer, worship, Bible study, and spending time with others.

As girls understand who God is and that He gave them their purpose, it’ll make all the difference—in their own lives and in the world. It will change the way they respond to tough stuff in their homes, communities, and our world.

OUR GOD is our Creator, Redeemer, and Lord. He exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these things He delights (Jeremiah 9:24).

OUR GIRLS have a God-given purpose. God created them to do good and make a difference today (Ephesians 2:10).

HIS “MICAH MISSION.” God loves this broken world and sent His Son to save it (John 3:16). He invites His people to step into what He is doing by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Breakdown Of Lessons

The *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit curriculum contains enough material for eight weeks of club gatherings, plus eight “Micah Missions” (putting their faith into action).

Through God’s Word and caring club mentors, girls will:

- ★ Understand what Micah 6:8 is and why it matters so much
 - ★ Hear the Gospel, which changes everything for them (and our world)
 - ★ Learn lessons from five world-changing women in the Bible
 - ★ Celebrate their unique purpose and that they can be world changers today
 - ★ Put their faith into action through interactive “Micah Missions”
- ... and more.

Through worship, Large Group Bible teachings, Small Group application, memorizing God’s Word, prayer, crafts, and fun friendship-building activities, girls will grow in their relationship with God. Changed by God, girls will then change the world by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him. (See Leader Guide, Page 11, for an overview of how to schedule your club meeting.)

When girls understand who God is and that He gave them their purpose, it makes all the difference. It will change our girls and our world.

How To Use *Act. Love. Walk.*: Three Options



GEMS Girls' Clubs come in all shapes and sizes—from big to small clubs, from city to rural clubs. There is no one-size-fits-all. However, the one consistency among all GEMS Clubs is they use GEMS curriculum. Based on how frequently your club meets, you'll want to select one of the options below for using the *Act. Love. Walk.* resources. Once you've chosen the option that best fits your club, set your schedule for the year and begin praying, planning, and preparing.

~~~~ Option 1: ~~~~

Act. Love. Walk. Alone

Works great for clubs that meet monthly or for a shortened season: October-December, January-March, or June-August.

Use *Act. Love. Walk.* as a stand-alone resource for up to sixteen weeks. You will have everything you need for a complete club gathering.

~~~~ Option 2: ~~~~

Act. Love. Walk. + Badges

Works great for clubs that meet two or more times a month or who desire to lead a fall semester of *Act. Love. Walk.* and a spring semester of badgework, or vice versa.

Use the sixteen weeks of *Act. Love. Walk.* with GEMS Girls' Clubs badges. Go to gemsgc.org for more information on our wide variety of girl-friendly badges.

~~~~ Option 3: ~~~~

Act. Love. Walk. + Badges + Other GEMS Supplemental Curriculum

Works great for any club, no matter the length of their season.

Use the sixteen weeks of *Act. Love. Walk.* with other GEMS curricula like *LOVED.*, *Friended.*, or *Unshakeable*, plus badges. Go to gemsgc.org for more information on these curricula and badges.

How To Maximize the *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey

You are a difference-maker. What you do for this generation of girls matters! But on our most challenging days, we may wonder:

- ★ Is it worth it?
- ★ Have the girls heard *anything* you said?
- ★ Are lives *really* changing at GEMS?

These are questions asked by church decision-makers (“should we continue the GEMS program?”), parents (“should I sign my girl up for club?”), and volunteers (“should I serve in GEMS another year?”). And on the days when we’re tired, discouraged, and ready to quit, we may ask these questions in our own hearts.

What if the answers to all those questions could be a resounding “YES”?

The *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey is an essential tool to help you measure what matters so you can strengthen your club’s eternal impact on girls’ lives. You will have real-life information to share with your church and community about how GEMS makes a difference.

Imagine being able to share on GEMS Sunday or with your parents and volunteers, “This is where the girls were at the beginning of the season, and this is where they are now. At the beginning of the season, 10% of the girls in our club didn’t believe they had a purpose. Now 92% of them know that God gave them a purpose, and they believe they can make a difference—not someday, but today.”

Measure What Matters by Following Three Easy Steps

1. **GIVE THE SURVEY.** Download the survey from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources and have each girl take it during Small Group on Lessons One *and* Eight (your before *and* after). It only takes a minute to complete, and the answers are anonymous, giving the girls freedom to share honestly.
2. **RECORD THE ANSWERS.** After Lessons One and Eight, Small Group Leaders give the surveys to the Club Coordinator, who will ensure that the club’s answers are compiled and recorded at <http://bit.ly/ActLoveWalkSurvey>. An automatic report will be generated for your club.
3. **SHARE YOUR RESULTS.** Share what you discovered with church decision-makers, parents, your leadership team, and your congregation on GEMS Sunday. Celebrate where you see God at work. Take note of where girls are struggling to see who God is or questioning how they can make a difference so you can intentionally pray for and mentor them.

Measuring what matters maximizes your opportunity to make an eternal difference in the life of every girl entrusted to your club.

Give the survey, record the answers, and share the results. Be reminded that what you do is more than worth it. You’re changing the world—one girl at a time.

What You Need

The *Act. Love. Walk.* curriculum provides all the necessary components to help your girls understand that they have a God-given purpose of making a difference in our world today.

LARGE GROUP RESOURCE BOOK—

There are eight lessons with an overview, Large Group arrival activities (called Icebreakers), scripted lesson openers and Bible teachings, craft activities, and meaningful dismissals. Plus, there are eight “Micah Missions” (putting faith into action) with a Large Group devotional and service project options for your girls to work on together.

SMALL GROUP LEADER’S GUIDE—

There are eight Small Group welcomes, memory verse games, relationship-building activities, questions for application of God’s Word, prayer prompts, and craft instructions contained within this guide for girls in grades 1-8. The application questions and activities range from a girl learning about God for the first time to a girl who’s ready to dig deeper. Leaders should base what questions and activities they choose primarily on their group’s knowledge of God and His Word rather than on their girls’ ages. It’s a must-have resource that will connect every leader to every girl, no matter her age or where she is on her faith walk.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. KEYCHAIN—This *Act. Love. Walk.* Keychain contains eight beautiful tags with the theme verse, Micah 6:8, plus other verses and key statements every girl needs to know as she lives out her purpose today. You will want to get one for every girl and leader. Distribute the beautiful tags at the beginning of the season, at the conclusion of your last lesson, or one by one as you study each lesson. There is one *Act. Love. Walk.* Keychain in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit. They are also available from gemsgc.org/store.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. JOURNAL—Purchase one inspirational journal for each girl and leader. They are a must-have during Small Group. The coloring pages, dotted grid, and journal pages with each lesson’s Bible verse are the perfect place for girls to record application thoughts, memory verses, and prayer requests. There is one *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal included in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, and they are also available from gemsgc.org/store. **NOTE:** You may want to keep the *Act. Love. Walk.* Journals at club for the duration of the study since girls use the same journal each time.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. STICKERS & WASHABLE TATTOOS—

Girls can decorate water bottles, mirrors, helmets, and more with their *Act. Love. Walk.* stickers or remind themselves of Truth with a fun and temporary tattoo. It washes off of their skin, but it sticks to their memory. There is one *Act. Love. Walk.* sticker sheet and tattoo included in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, and they are also available from gemsgc.org.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. THEME SONG—

“This Is the Way” by Doorpost Songs, as well as side-by-side hand motion and tutorial video downloads, are available in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.

“REAL TALK” VIDEOS—

An intro video to meet the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* “Real Talk” teaching team and eight “Real Talk” videos provide fun and inspiring challenges to close each lesson, helping your girls live out what they learned in club. All videos are available in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources, and a corresponding bookmark for each lesson contains a link to each video. The bookmarks make it possible for girls to watch these girl-friendly videos at club and at home.

Act. Love. Walk.

Online Resources

If you purchased an *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, you received access to a digital library that contains items such as printables, Theme Song Motion and Tutorial Videos, Craft and “Real Talk” videos, and presentation slides. If you did not purchase an *Act. Love. Walk.* Starter Kit, these digital resources are available for purchase at gemsgc.org/store or by calling (616) 241-5616, ext. 3032.

CONNECT WITH GEMS GROWN-UPS

The parents/grandparents/caregivers are the primary faith-nurturers of your GEMS girls. See Lesson 1 for ways to connect with GEMS Grown-ups and be intentional all season in building relationships with them.

Optional Resources

You may purchase these additional resources from gemsgc.org/store or by calling (616) 241-5616, ext. 3032.

ACT. LOVE. WALK. VERSE POSTER—This beautiful poster displays the key verse, Micah 6:8, which girls will memorize. The

digital download includes a high-resolution file and a license to print one copy at the printer of your choosing.

MICAH 6:8 POSTER—This poster displays the GEMS Girls’ Clubs Aim, which is Micah 6:8. Girls and leaders recite this aim each time they meet at club.

GEMS GOSPEL TREASURE BOX—Use to share the Gospel message with your GEMS girls. See “The Joy of Sharing Jesus: Leading a Child to Christ” on page 14 for more information.

You may also want to incorporate other GEMS curricula like *LOVED.*, *Friended*, or *Unshakeable* or badges from the *Discovery Place Badge Book*. See “How to Use *Act. Love. Walk.*” Options 2 and 3 on page 7.

AND MORE! Find more resources at gemsgc.org/store.

NOTE: All *Act. Love. Walk.* materials are protected under copyright. Photocopying is not allowed with the exception of the printables in the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.



Leader Guide

The *Act. Love. Walk.* curriculum is designed to lessen your planning and prep time so leaders have more time to pray and focus on building relationships with their girls. It contains everything needed to guide your girls to understand who God is—*the one who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth* (Jeremiah 9:24)—and who she is—created on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). Here is the structure of each lesson.

Lesson Overview

Purpose—Each lesson has a short statement with the primary focus of the lesson. This is your main aim and prayer.

Bible/Memory Verse—The Bible verse will be memorized and studied throughout the lesson. Additional Scripture passages and Bible teachings are woven into each lesson.

Preparation

A chart at the beginning of each lesson lists the materials you need to prepare for each club meeting. Advance preparation includes praying for your girls, gathering needed supplies, and, if necessary, printing materials from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources.

Lesson Elements

The lessons are broken into four elements to make it easy for you to lead your girls. While some clubs have the luxury of two-hour meetings, this study is structured for a 1½-hour club meeting.

ARRIVAL—GIRLS MATTER. Arrival is the time frame between when girls arrive until club officially starts. When girls open the club doors, the first people they should meet are their leaders. The whole team is waiting for them, welcoming them, and letting them know they matter!

During Arrival, warmly welcome girls by name. As you distribute the world-changer name tags, look each girl in the eye and say,
“ _____ [girl’s name], you

matter to God and us. We are so glad you are here.” Then direct girls into the Large Group space to play the Arrival activity.

LARGE GROUP—GOD’S WORD

MATTERS. Large Group is the 20- to 30-minute time frame to gather all girls and leaders into one space. Begin with a warm welcome and prayer. Recite the GEMS Girls’ Clubs Aim. Then worship together—sing praises to God.

After worship, you’ll open God’s Word. From God’s Word of Truth, you’ll teach girls who God is and what He says about them. You will unpack Micah 6:8, help girls discover how the Gospel message changes everything for everyone, and teach them life-changing lessons from five world-changing women in the Bible.

SMALL GROUP—RELATIONSHIPS

MATTER. Small Group is a 60-minute time frame when six to eight girls meet with their Small Group leader. GEMS is a relationship-building ministry, and it’s within Small Groups that relationships are built and lives are transformed.

During the first 30 minutes of Small Group, a leader will guide her small group into God’s Truth through Scripture and the Small Group Leader’s Guide. The Leader’s Guide is key to building relationships, teaching the memory verse, and digging into Scripture—it has questions *and* answers. Discipleship takes place as she guides girls in prayer and helps them apply God’s Truth and understand what it means to act, love, and walk today.

The *Act. Love. Walk.* Journals contain coloring pages, dotted grids, and journal pages with each lesson's Bible verse that are the perfect place for girls to record application thoughts, what they are learning from Scripture, memory verses, and prayer requests. Be sure each girl has a Bible, an *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal and an *Act. Love. Walk.* Keychain.

During the last 30 minutes of Small Group, grow relationships with hands-on activities. This is the time to craft, earn badges, or participate in "Micah Missions" (putting their faith into action).

DISMISSAL—LEAVING LOVED

MATTERS. Dismissal is the last 5-10 minutes of club. Gather all girls into the Large Group space to reiterate the focus of the club meeting and pray. Send the girls home with high fives, hugs, and words of encouragement.

Gather all girls and leaders into the Large Group space. Show a "Real Talk" video from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources and then send girls home with the lesson's bookmark (from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources) so they have the video link and can watch it again at home. Then speak life-giving words. Remind them that they were created on purpose for a purpose. When they leave club, may they remember those last words.

Leaders Needed

In addition to the Club Coordinator, you will need one leader for each Small Group of six to eight girls. The leader should stay with her Small Group throughout the year. You may also choose to have additional helpers for sound and video, worship, snacks, and crafts.

Spaces Needed

You will need one space to host the Large Group activities for each lesson and separate Small Group activities and crafts areas.

Decor (Optional)

LARGE GROUP SPACE. Decorate with anything that will make your space feel like a girl-friendly roller rink. Think retro with a disco ball and lights, colorful fringe or silver streamer backdrop/curtains, colorful paper chains looped from the ceiling to the floor or across walls, vinyl records, a snack bar and skate rental signs, glow-in-the-dark accessories, and sequined anything. Visit gemsgc.org to see fun ideas on the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* Pinterest board.

SMALL GROUP SPACE. Create a Small Group space that invites girls into the world change that happens when they know that God made them on purpose for a purpose—that they can make a difference today. Use colorful tablecloths, lights, and a globe or maps of your city, country, and world.

CENTERPIECE OPTIONS:

- ★ Pencil holders decorated with sequins and Micah 6:8 stickers
- ★ Laminated maps to serve as placemats that girls can personalize with their names and write memory verses on with dry-erase markers
- ★ Butcher paper tablecloth (you can also hang this on the wall) where girls can write their names, trace their hands (act), draw a heart (love), and trace their feet (walk).

If possible, keep décor up all season. For more fun decorating ideas, visit gemsgc.org to find the GEMS *Act. Love. Walk.* Pinterest board.

Act. Love. Walk. Club Guide



~~~~ Arrival ~~~~

Icebreaker Activity

~~~~ Large Group ~~~~

Praise & Worship

Lesson Opener

Bible Teaching

Closing Prayer

~~~~ Small Group ~~~~

Bible Application & Activities

Craft, Badgework, or “Micah Mission”

~~~~ Dismissal ~~~~

Return to Large Group

Closing Prayer

Watch the ReFresh Message “Four Essential Pieces to Structuring Your Club Meeting” at gemsrefresh.org for more details about each part of your club meeting.

GEMS ReFresh

Equip • Encourage • Engage

The Joy of Sharing Jesus: Leading a Child to Christ

At GEMS, we are on a mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. The GEMS acronym—Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior—is our name and passion. GEMS is committed to speaking the life-changing Truth that girls are loved and known by God, and they matter to Him and us.

Think about this generation of girls. Think about the girls in your sphere of influence.

Girls have questions about God. Who is God? Do I have to be good for God to love me? Does He love me when I'm bad? Can He be powerful *and* personal, and a God who exercises love *and* justice?

Girls have questions about themselves. Who am I, anyway? Where do I belong? Do I matter? What's my purpose?

Friend, you know the Truth. You know the good news that girls' questioning hearts need to hear. His name is Jesus! His love is eternal and unstoppable. In Jesus are love, strength, life, forgiveness, purpose, and our true identity.

Jesus made our mission clear. *Go and make disciples* (Matthew 28:19). You get to tell this generation of girls about Jesus and His love. You get to help them discover who Jesus is, all He says about them, and that He is inviting them into a relationship with Himself. It's why you're holding this resource.

The time is now. Girls must know they have a friend in God. A survey by the International Bible Society reported that 83% of Americans commit to following Jesus between the ages of four and fourteen.¹ And George Barna reports,

“What you believe by your thirteenth birthday is generally what you die believing.”²

As you experience the joy of sharing Jesus, remember that you don't go alone. You're part of a growing sisterhood that is on a mission to bring girls to Jesus. Above all else, God is our Guide who calls and equips us to lead girls to Christ.

Sharing The Gospel Reminders

Sharing Jesus is not a one-time conversation. Every time you meet with your girls, share more about who Jesus is and all He says about them.

Sharing Jesus is more often caught than taught. Girls are observing your life and relationship with Jesus.

Sharing Jesus happens best as we listen to the Holy Spirit and the child. What do they need to hear about Jesus first?

- ★ The unloved need to hear that God accepts and loves them no matter what.
- ★ The lonely need to hear that God is near. He is with them and they are not alone.
- ★ The weak and insecure need to hear that in Him, they are strong.
- ★ The ones who feel ashamed need to know that God forgives everything.
- ★ The anxious need to hear that God cares about them and is bigger than their fears.
- ★ The ones wondering if they have a purpose need to hear that God wants to use them to change the world.

1 home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ages.htm

2 barna.com/research/research-shows-that-spiritual-maturity-process-should-start-at-a-young-age/

Sharing Jesus requires heart prep. Always be prepared to share your faith story within the context of God's story. Pray that He would prepare the girls' hearts to receive His good news.

Resources

GEMS has resources to help you share the Gospel with the child/children in your care.

GEMS Gospel Treasure Box. This box is a beautiful, tangible resource that aids leaders in

walking girls through the Gospel message. Use the treasure box in Large Group, Small Group, or one-on-one settings throughout the season. To order, go to gemsgc.org/store or call the GEMS Global Office at (616) 241-5616, ext. 3032.

Gospel Message Series. Watch the three-part **Gospel Message Series** videos at gemsgc.org/gospel for specific training and equipping for sharing the life-changing Good News of Jesus. They are also available on GEMS ReFresh at gemrefresh.org.

²“Research Shows That Spiritual Maturity Process Should Start at a Young Age,” Barna Research Group, November 17, 2003, <https://www.barna.com/research/research-shows-that-spiritual-maturity-process-should-start-at-a-young-age/>.

SAMPLE
DO NOT REPRODUCE

Seven Scripture Verses for World Changers

THEME VERSE: *What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).*

In *Act. Love. Walk.*, girls will learn who God is—the One who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth (Jeremiah 9:24)—and who she is—created on purpose for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). God invites girls to step into what He is doing by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).

Challenge girls to memorize Micah 6:8. For extra heart-strengthening, encourage girls to memorize some or all of the corresponding Bible verses.

Seven Scripture Verses for World Changers

1. **I am loved.** *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 (John 3:16).*
2. **Act justly.** *Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right (Psalm 106:3).*
3. **Love mercy.** *Serve one another humbly in love (Galatians 5:13).*
4. **Walk humbly with God.** *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2).*
5. **I have a story.** *I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1).*
6. **I have a purpose.** *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).*
7. **I am a world changer.** *What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).*

Lesson 1



Date of Lesson _____

WHAT IS MICAH 6:8?

PURPOSE: To introduce GEMS girls and their grown-ups to this season's curriculum, *Act. Love. Walk.*

BIBLE/MEMORY VERSE: *What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).*

Small Group Supply List

- Act. Love. Walk.* Journal for each girl
- Small Group Leader's Guide* for each leader
- Bibles
- One *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey for each girl—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources (See page 8 for details.)
- Pencils or pens, sticky notes, crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Step In supplies: World-Changer Questionnaire—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources
- Memory Verse supplies: one *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal for each girl and a set of index cards with Micah 6:8 spelled out with one word of the verse on each card
- Create supplies: A Bible and a rope or thick string
- Walk It Out supplies: glow-in-the-dark stars (optional)
- OPTIONAL DÉCOR:** Create a Small Group space that invites girls into the world change that happens when they connect with God and one another. Use colorful tablecloths, lights, and a globe or maps of your city, country, and world.

CENTERPIECE OPTIONS:

- Pencil holders decorated with sequins and Micah 6:8 stickers
- Laminated maps to serve as placemats that girls can personalize with their names and write memory verses on with dry-erase markers
- Butcher paper tablecloth (you can also hang it on the wall) where girls can write their names, trace their hands (act), draw a heart (love), and trace their feet (walk).

Craft Supplies

Micah 6:8 Flowers

- 2-in (5-cm) flower hole puncher
- 1-in (2.5-cm) circle hole puncher
- White cardstock
- Yellow cardstock with Micah 6:8 verse printed on it (download the Micah 6:8 template from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources)
- 1/8-in (.3-cm) hole puncher (smaller than standard size)
- 1/8-in (.3-cm) ribbon—two 15-in (38-cm) pieces per girl
- Glue stick
- Sharp scissors
- Liquid glue (optional)

NOTE: For a step-by-step tutorial of this craft, go to the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources and view the L1-Micah 6:8 Flowers video.



Small Group

Welcome

[Time: 5 minutes]

LEADER TIP: What an opportunity you have to be instrumental in the life of girls today. We are so thankful you said yes to leading a Small Group. We can't wait to see what God will do with your **YES** to mentoring this world-changer generation. This first meeting will set an important tone for the rest of the year, so consider doing the following:

Smile and greet girls enthusiastically when they arrive at Small Group.

Look them in the eye and ask their name. Repeat it back to them and make sure you pronounce their names correctly.

Take a moment to introduce yourself to them, letting them know what they can call you.

SAY Welcome to our Small Group, girls! My name is _____, and I am so excited to be your GEMS Small Group Leader. I can't wait to get to know each one of you!

Today, we will take some extra time to get to know one another. Each of you is important and valuable, so I'm going to ask that we listen when another girl is sharing when she talks. We will have so much fun together. In this Small Group, we will always show kindness and care. Can we do that? Great! Now, let's get to know each other.

LEADER NOTE: This simple icebreaker should get your girls moving without having to verbally express their preferences.

Would You Rather?

SUPPLIES: None

INSTRUCTIONS: Read each question with two options available for a response. Instruct the girls in the direction they should move based on their answer to the question.

1. For example: Would you rather be a cat or a dog? If you'd rather be a cat, move to the right. If you'd rather be a dog, move to the left.
2. Be sure to notice where the girls are moving, and feel free to interact with them about their answers depending on the time available.
3. Consider asking the following questions. Invite girls to create their own questions as well.

Would You Rather?

- Every day would be Christmas or Every day would be your birthday
- Read a book or Ride a bike
- Eat a bag of chips or Eat a bag of candy
- Go to the mall or Go for a hike
- Eat a cricket or Eat a worm
- Visit the mountains or Visit the beach
- Play sports or Play music
- Eat cookie dough or Eat baked cookies
- Do math all day or Do science all day
- Be in a large group of friends or Hang with a small group of friends

LEADER NOTE: The possibilities of this activity are endless today and into the future. Not only can you come up with questions on the fly, but you can also have the answers be more serious as well. If you ever have a hard time getting girls to talk, they will usually voice their opinions by moving their bodies instead!

SAY Girls, THANK YOU for helping us get to know you. I like you already. Now, could we take a seat, and would you share your name and one thing you enjoy doing with the group?

Step In

[Time: 5 minutes]



Name And Activity

SUPPLIES: None

LEADER TIP: Always make sure each girl has a chance to share. Thank her by name and affirm each response with genuine interest. It lets her know she matters. If a girl gets stuck thinking of an answer or feels too shy to share, let her pass and then come back to her. Be sure to share your answers too.

INSTRUCTIONS: Have girls share their name and one thing they enjoy doing.

SAY Wow, girls. It is going to be so much fun getting to know you. I can already see that God has made you unique with an extraordinary personality and interests. God made you with a purpose you can live out today. Isn't that amazing? Let's get to know you even more.

World-Changer Questionnaire

SUPPLIES: A World-Changer Questionnaire for each girl. Download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources

One of the icebreakers during Arrival was the World-Changer Questionnaire. If your girls worked on this during Arrival, have them share their answers. Let them show off their Dream Rooms and then ask some simple follow-up questions. Or work on them together as another option to get to know your girls. Girls want to be seen and understood, and these enfolding activities let them know they have a place to belong.

WHY TAKE THE ACT. LOVE. WALK. SURVEY? The *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey is an essential tool to help you measure what matters so that you can strengthen your club's eternal impact on the lives of girls. You will have real-life information to share with your church and community about how GEMS makes a difference in your girls' lives.

Act. Love. Walk. Survey

SUPPLIES: One *Act. Love. Walk.* Survey for each girl—download from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources

SAY Before I distribute this super easy survey, we're going to make a commitment to one another. My promise to you is that your survey will remain anonymous. There's no need to add your name, and no one will see your responses.

What I'm asking from you is that you will commit to being honest. Please don't circle responses that you think you should be or wish you were. Circle what is true for you today. I'll keep it your secret. You keep it honest. Agree? Great!

1. Distribute the surveys, which should only take a minute to complete.
2. Collect the surveys and fold them in half so no one sees the responses.
3. Give the surveys to your Club Coordinator, who will report the results by following the instructions on page 8 of the *Large Group Resource Book.*



Memory Verse

[Time: 2 minutes]

Memorize Micah 6:8 by playing the memory verse game Unscramble.

Unscramble

SUPPLIES: One *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal for each girl and a set of index cards with Micah 6:8 spelled out with one word of the verse on each card

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute the *Act. Love. Walk.* Journal to each girl and ask them to turn to the journal page titled "Act. Love. Walk." Micah 6:8 is on the bottom of the page. Have them rewrite the verse on this page. (They should save at least half this page for an activity in God's Word Is Truth.)

2. While they are writing, prepare the index cards. Write each word of the verse on a separate index card.
3. Place the scrambled slips of paper on the floor or the table. Invite girls to work together to unscramble the verse.
4. When finished, if time permits, reshuffle the words and see if they can do the activity from memory. (*Offer help if needed.*)

God's Word is Truth



[Time: 6 minutes]

LEADER NOTE: Distribute Bibles and pens or pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or markers to the girls. While you ask questions, encourage girls to answer the questions or color in the appropriate *Act. Love. Walk.* journaling pages for this lesson.

You may or may not be able to get through all of these questions. That's okay. What matters is that girls understand and can apply God's Truth to their lives. While all girls (young and young in the faith) will be able to engage with the first questions, the Digging Deeper questions require looking up Scripture and will challenge girls who are further along in their faith journey and Bible knowledge.

Key Passage: The book of Micah, specifically Micah 6:8

ASK "What did you learn about Micah?"

LEADER NOTE: For comprehension, ask the girls to retell the Bible teaching. Fill in the missing or forgotten pieces and invite girls to ask questions if they don't understand something. **Optional:** As girls retell the story, have them use building blocks or play dough, draw it, sing it, or even act the story out themselves.

SAY Today, we learned that the people in Micah's day were not listening to what God told them to do. People were proud and selfish. They hated good and loved evil, and there were big problems everywhere.

But God didn't give up on His people; He loved them! So He sent Micah to give them an important message. Micah told them that God loved them and wanted them to have a relationship with Him. Then Micah shared how they could show God they loved Him too. He made them on purpose for a purpose. They could make a big difference in how they acted, loved, and walked. Girls, so can you. Let's open God's Word to learn more.

LEADER NOTE: Girls can record their answers in their journals with words or pictures or answer the questions while coloring. Answers flow when their hands are busy, and it feels less "school-like" and more relational as they learn and apply God's Word to their lives.

1. Imagine with me: what was the world like when Micah lived? What are some of the big problems that come up when people don't listen to God? Draw or write this scene in your journals. **There is fighting and hate; people who need help are ignored or forgotten; people are proud and mean.**
2. Open your Bibles to Micah 6:8 and read it aloud together. What three things does God require of us, and what does each thing mean? **"Act justly" means to always do what is right. "Love mercy" means to serve others in love. And "walk humbly with God" means to say yes to God, go where He goes, and do what He says. We choose to trust and obey God.**
3. Give some examples of what these three things could look like in your home, online, in your club, in your city, and in your country today. **Examples: Being kind to your siblings; always encouraging others online; offering to help clean up at club; praying for people in your city; listening to people's stories; seeing what you can do to serve the people in your country with love.**
4. Finish this sentence: God can use me to change the world at _____ (choose a place where girls go often) by _____ (a way they can act, love, and walk).

Digging Deeper Questions

1. Read Micah 1:2 and Psalm 46:10. God wants us to pay attention to Him and His Word. What's the most challenging part of paying attention when reading God's Word and praying? **We can be distracted, busy, and rush through our Bible reading or skip it altogether. Talk with the girls about reading God's Word (if they need a place to begin, suggest they start reading in the book of John). Encourage them to slow down and think about what they are reading and what it looks like to obey. Encourage them to pause as they pray to listen to God. Listening matters. And if they have questions, they should jot them down and ask an adult. Make yourself available. You can help your girls grow in their relationships with God.**
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What two things does Jesus say a wise person will do? Why is it challenging to apply God's Truth to our lives? Talk especially about using Micah 6:8 in your everyday life. **Matthew 7:24 says we are wise if we listen and follow God. It's not enough to read or even memorize Micah 6:8. Authentic listening is doing what God says. Girls share personal responses to why it is challenging to act, love, and walk.**
3. Read Philippians 2:14-16. How can we shine like stars? Where is one place that you think needs more "shining star" girls like you, and why? **We shine like stars when we hold firmly (listen and obey) to God's Word. Encourage girls to think through places that need "shining star" girls to change the world. What can they do? How can they help each other bring change to these situations?**

Create

[Time: 6 minutes]



LEADER NOTE: This is a fun, collaborative activity that helps girls understand what they learned and create ownership.

Rope Shapes

SUPPLIES: A Bible and a rope or thick string

Read *Philippians 2:15-16* to your girls. **SAY** When we act, love, and walk, we shine like stars in our world. When we listen to God's Word and obey it, we make a difference today. You are the girls God can use to shine brightly and change the world. Let's think about this with a Rope Shapes activity.

ROPE SHAPES INSTRUCTIONS

1. All the girls must be holding the rope with at least one hand. Encourage them to gently (this isn't tug-a-war) work together to make the shape you give them. We recommend the following forms in this order: One (she is the one God invites to make a difference), a Circle (the shape of the world), then a Star (they can shine brightly).
2. Then invite girls to collaborate. Have them work as a group to talk through some of the places where God's love would change the world today. They should work together to create a shape representing where they could go and what they could do. Have them share what they made and why.

Walk It Out

[Time: 3 minutes]



SUPPLIES: A glow-in-the-dark star to pass and one star for each girl (or go outside and look at real stars if it is dark)

Hold the glow-in-the-dark star while you **SAY** Today/tonight we learned that you can make a difference when you act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Think about the week ahead. Is anything coming up that has you feeling a little nervous, worried, or afraid? (Pass the star around the circle as girls share. Be sure you share too.)

Thank you for sharing. (Give the girls a star or go outside and look at the stars.)

SAY When I'm worried, I remind myself who God is. God is powerful. He made the stars. God hangs them in place and knows them by name. He also knows you by name, and He knows all the things that may have you worried, nervous, and sad. God knows you, and He loves you.

Being God's girl doesn't mean that we never face tough stuff. We do! But it does mean that you are never alone. God is always with you, and our Small Group cares about you too.

Girls, when I wonder if I have a purpose or if God can use me to make a difference today, I remind myself who God is. It's God who gave us our purpose, and He invites us to make a big difference in the world with His help.

Just like stars light up the sky, think about what could happen in our homes and schools, online and in everyday conversations, when each one of us chooses to act, love, and walk. One small word of encouragement, one invite for a girl to sit at your table or come to GEMS, one choice to take a stand against a bully may not seem like much, but it's precisely the way you can shine like a star and the world can change.

I hope you'll come back again next time. You are the girl God invites to change the world, and you are loved.

Let's Pray

[Time: 3 minutes]



LEADER TIP: Before you pray, direct the girls to the things you talked about together. What can they praise God for? Maybe they want to thank Him for being powerful and personal or for giving them a purpose. Perhaps they want to ask for God's help to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

(Invite the girls to pray, pray your own prayer, or use the one below.)

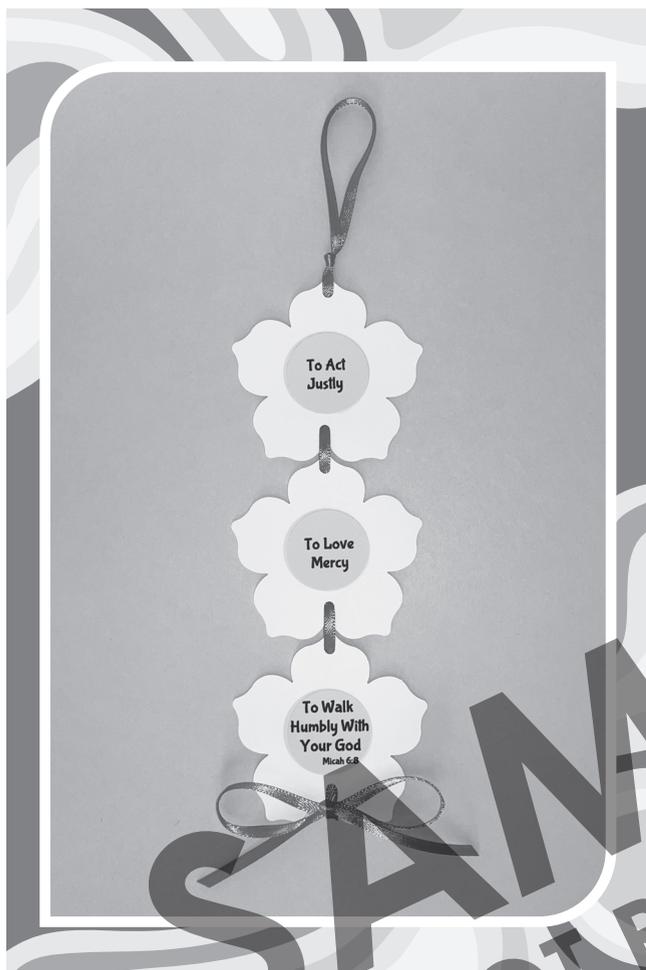
PRAY Dear God, thank You for sending a message through Micah. Thank You for Micah's example of listening and obeying. May we be girls who shine like stars and hold fast to Your Truth this week. Help us act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. In Jesus' name, amen.



Craft

Micah 6:8 Flowers

[Time: 20-30 minutes]



LEADER TIP: The time required for any craft depends on how much prep work is done in advance, how many helping hands are available to the girls, and a girl's age and individual abilities. **To see a step-by-step video tutorial of this craft, go to the ACT. LOVE. WALK. ONLINE RESOURCES and view the L1-MICAH 6:8 FLOWERS video.** For an inspiring overview of the importance of crafts at club, be sure to watch "Crafting with a Purpose" on GEMS ReFresh. Visit gemsrefresh.org for more information. **NOTE:** If you have extra time and supplies, have girls make extras to gift to others.

Supplies

- ★ 2-in (5-cm) flower hole puncher
- ★ 1-in (2.5-cm) circle hole puncher
- ★ White cardstock
- ★ Yellow cardstock with Micah 6:8 verse printed on it (download the Micah 6:8 template from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources)
- ★ 1/8-in (.3-cm) hole puncher (smaller than standard size)
- ★ 1/8-in (.3-cm) ribbon—two 15-in (38-cm)-long pieces per girl
- ★ Glue stick
- ★ Sharp scissors
- ★ Liquid glue (optional)

Instructions

SUGGESTED PREP WORK:

1. Use a 2-in (5-cm) flower puncher (or a Cricut machine) to punch out three white cardstock flowers per girl.
2. Use a 1-in (2.5-cm) circle puncher to punch out the different words of the verse on the yellow cardstock printer—download the Micah 6:8 template from the *Act. Love. Walk.* Online Resources. Each girl should get one "To Act Justly" circle, one "To Love Mercy" circle, and one "To Walk Humbly with your God" circle.
3. Hole punch a 1/8-in (.3-cm) circle on the top and bottom of each flower.

WITH GIRLS:

1. Girls will glue the yellow circles onto the flowers.
2. With one ribbon, tie a small loop at the top. With the other end of that same ribbon, have girls thread the ribbon through the 1/8-in (.3-cm) holes on the flowers.
3. Have girls tie a bow around the bottom ribbon with the second ribbon. Snip the ends.
4. **Optional:** Put a drop of glue at the bottom of the bow to secure it.

LEADER NOTE: As the girls work on the craft, ask the Craft & Chat questions.

