

Optional Opening Activity

Brain Teaser: Codebreakers

SUPPLIES: markers, pens, or pencils; scissors (prep only, optional); glue (optional)

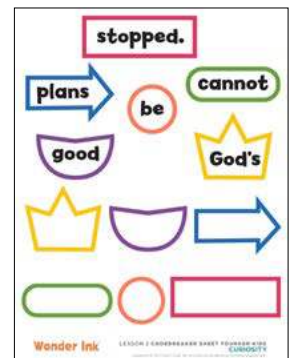
RESOURCES: [Codebreaker Sheet Older Kids \(1 per older kid\)](#), [Codebreaker Sheet Younger Kids \(1 per younger kid\)](#)

Ahead of time, print copies of the Codebreaker Sheet Older Kids, one per older kid, and the Codebreaker Sheet Younger Kids, one per younger kid. Both sheets include a cipher kids will use to decode a message that reveals today's Wonder Truth: God's Good Plans Cannot Be Stopped. The ciphers vary in difficulty, so look them over ahead of time to decide which ages will use the Older Kids Sheet and which will use the Younger Kids Sheet.

Gather kids. Hand a Codebreaker Sheet to each kid and set out markers, pens, or pencils. **Each of you has a very special message on your sheets, but there's a problem! It's not written plainly. You must use the codebreaker to decode the message. Let's work together to figure out what it says!**

Encourage kids to work together in pairs or small groups to decode the message. Explain to younger kids that each shape on their sheets represents a word. They must write the corresponding word on each blank shape to decode the message. Explain to older kids that every letter in the alphabet is represented by a symbol.

They must write the corresponding letter above each symbol to decode the message. When all the kids have successfully decoded the message, invite everyone to read it together: **God's Good Plans Cannot Be Stopped.**



Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Invite volunteers to come alongside younger kids to assist any who need help decoding or writing their messages. For beginning readers, consider cutting out the symbols with words on them ahead of time so kids can glue them over the blank symbols.

Make It Inclusive! Kids with learning differences might not be excited to decode written messages. That's OK. Give kids the option of writing on their own sheets or sharing a sheet with a partner who does the writing.



S



P



A



B



L



O



G



N



C



T



D



E

/



.

stopped.

plans

cannot

be

good

God's

