



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Lights Up**  
You Are the Light  
of the World  
Matthew 5:14-16

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you be a light?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can shine God's light.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others  
can see it. Then they will see  
the good things you do. And they  
will bring glory to your Father  
who is in heaven."  
Matthew 5:16, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to  
do something about someone  
else's needs

### BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.

### PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSzi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

#### WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and  
Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for your Small Group. Pray for each of your kids by name and ask God to give you insight into how you can pray specifically for each one.

**1. JUST FOR FUN**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

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**MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

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**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

**BASIC TRUTH**

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids as they arrive.
- Invite them to place their offering in the offering container.
- Ask for a volunteer to stand at one end of your group space. Explain that they will be the announcer.
- Invite everyone else in the group to stand in a straight line, facing the announcer, as far away as possible.
- Encourage the kids in line to spread out from each other as much as possible.
- Explain that when the announcer shouts, "Green light!" everyone in line should start racing toward them.
  - The announcer can choose at any moment to shout, "Red light!" When they do, everyone must stop immediately.
  - Any kid who does not stop immediately must go back to the starting line.
- Explain the announcer can choose to shout, "Red light!" or "Green light!" as quickly as they want.
  - They can even choose to shout, "Red light!" twice in a row to try to make kids flinch. If they do, they must go back to the starting line.
- Start the game once the kids understand all the directions.
- The first kid to reach the announcer wins the round and can become the next announcer.
- Continue playing rounds as time allows.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic disposable cups, small bouncy ball

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite everyone to gather around in a circle.
- Set out the cups (facedown) in the middle.
- Ask kids to watch as you place the bouncy ball underneath one of the cups.
- Explain that you are going to mix the cups around, keeping the ball hidden under one.
- Tell kids they should try to keep track of the cup that is hiding the ball.
- Mix the cups around to make it challenging for kids to follow the one with the ball.
- Invite kids to guess which cup the ball is under.
- Reveal the ball and congratulate those who guessed correctly.
- Play again, allowing a kid to mix the cups around.

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

### BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"It was challenging to know where the ball was when it was hidden underneath the cup, wasn't it? **[Transition]** Today, in Large Group, we're going to hear about something we should not keep hidden. Let's go check it out now!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



WEEK  
**ONE**  
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Dry erase board, yellow dry erase marker, dry eraser, prepared strips of yellow or orange paper, tape, pens or pencils

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle near a dry erase board.
- Ask for a volunteer who likes to draw.
- Give them the yellow dry erase marker and instruct them to draw a large circle on the board and color it in.
- Set out the prepared strips of paper in the middle.
- Give each kid a pen or pencil.
- Explain that there are so many ways we can shine God's light to those around us.
  - It could be something big, such as helping someone in need. But sometimes, it can include simple ways such as giving someone our attention or smiling at someone.
- Ask kids to think of ways they can shine God's light and write their ideas on a strip of paper.
  - Kids can create as many "sun rays" as they would like—one idea per strip of paper.
- When most kids are done, give each kid a turn to share what they wrote.
- After kids share, give them pieces of tape to attach their strips of paper around the yellow circle to look like sun rays.
- Point out how the sun grows brighter as its rays grow. Likewise, as we continue to do things that shine God's light, we become a brighter message that brightens the world with the love of Jesus.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Plastic disposable cups, small toy house, battery-operated tea light candle, bowl, headlamp, small mirror

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose one kid to build a pyramid-style tower using the cups.
- Once they have built the tower, place the small toy house on the very top.
- Pause and ask the group:
  - What did we learn today about a town on a hill? (*A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Cities and towns were built on high ground so they could be easily seen.*)
  - What does this mean for us? (*There can be darkness in our world, but those who follow Jesus can shine or help people see the light of Jesus.*)
- Place the battery-operated tea light candle on the floor (away from the cup tower).
- Give the bowl to one kid; tell them to place it, face down, over the candle.
- Pause and ask the group:
  - What did we learn today about a lamp? (*People don't light a lamp and put it under a bowl. They set it out to give light to everyone in the house.*)
  - What does this mean for us? (*We all have gifts that God has given us and ways to share those things with others. When we don't, it's like placing a bowl over a lamp. When we choose to share what God has given us, it reflects the light of Jesus.*)
- Choose one kid to put the headlamp on their forehead with the light turned on. Explain that they represent Jesus.
- Choose another kid to position the mirror so that it reflects light from the headlamp.
- Pause and ask the group:
  - Who is our source of light? (*Jesus*)
  - What does the mirror represent? (*When we reflect Jesus' light to the world around us.*)
  - What happens when others see Jesus' light through us? (*They will see our good deeds and give glory to God.*)
- **[Make it Personal] Share with the group about a time where you were able to shine the light of Jesus to someone else and you could see how it affected them.**

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- Who do you know that needs light in their life?
- How can you be a light?
- Do you ever want to hide your light?
- What can sometimes stand in your way of shining?
- Do we have to be perfect to shine God's light?

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, "Verse Lights" Activity Page, "Verse Lights Key" Activity Page, string, die, hole punches

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams and ask each team to line up on one side of your group space.
- Place a set of the prepared "Verse Lights" Activity Page across from each team, on the other side of your group space.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Ask each team to work together to look up Matthew 5:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Matthew. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's the first of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 16 in chapter 5.*

- Ask for a volunteer to read Matthew 5:16 out loud for the entire group.
- Give each team a piece of string, a "Verse Lights Key" Activity Page, a hole punch, and a dice.
- Explain that teams will work together to collect a set of light bulbs across from their team.
  - The first kid from each team's line will roll their dice, then check their "Verse Lights Key" Activity Page to see what color light bulb they should retrieve from their team's pile.
  - Next, have kids run to their team's set of light bulbs, find one in that color, and return to the back of their team's line so the next kid in line can do the same.
- Direct each team to repeat this until they have gathered all their light bulbs.
- Kids may need to keep re-rolling to retrieve the remaining colors they need.
- Once a team has gathered their entire set of bulbs, instruct them to work together to punch holes in each light bulb and string them together in verse order (referencing their Bibles as needed).
- The first team to correctly string their lights is the winning team!
- Ask:
  - Who loves looking at lights at Christmas time?
  - What do you love about looking at lights?
  - Why do you think most of us are drawn to light?
- Hold a discussion about light.
  - Explain that we are naturally drawn to light because it provides us with warmth, comfort, safety, and energy! Plus, lights are usually pretty to gaze at when they're on display like during the holidays. Because we are attracted to light, people tend to notice when we shine God's light! They will see our good deeds and bring glory to God!

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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** CDs, permanent markers, string, scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Ask kids to think of ways they can shine God’s light throughout the week.
  - Give suggestions if needed. *(For example: sit in the cafeteria with someone who needs a friend, help parents with household chores, etc.)*
- Give each kid a CD and a permanent marker.
- Explain they should write the different ways they plan to shine God’s light on the CD and decorate it however they want.
- Let each kid cut a piece of string as they finish decorating their CD.
- Show them how to tie the string to the middle of their CD so that they can hang it near a window in their home.
- Explain that the CD will reflect the sunlight that shines through their window to remind them to pray for ways to shine God’s light.
- Lead the group in a prayer, allowing each kid to say one way they want to ask God to help them shine this week.

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SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

**(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

#### 1. JUST FOR FUN

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container, one for each Small Group

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Plastic disposable cups, 3 for each Small Group
- Small bouncy ball (Optional: light-up bouncy ball), one for each Small Group

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Dry erase board, one for each Small Group
- Yellow dry erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry eraser, one for each Small Group
- Yellow or orange paper (cut into strips), 20-30 strips for each Small Group
- Pens or pencils, one for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Plastic disposable cups, 15-20 for each Small Group
- Small toy house (like from Monopoly, for example), one for each Small Group
- Battery-operated tea light candle (save for Week 4), one for each Small Group
- Small bowl (kid-friendly), one for each Small Group
- Headlamp, one for each Small Group
- Small hand mirror, one for each Small Group

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles, two for each Small Group
- Print "Verse Lights" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Print "Verse Lights Key" Activity Page on paper, two for each Small Group
- String (cut to about 50-inch length), two for each Small Group
- Die, two for each Small Group
- Hole punches, two for each Small Group

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- CDs, one for each kid
- Permanent markers, one for each kid
- String/yarn, one spool for each Small Group
- Scissors, enough for each group to share



WEEK  
**ONE**  
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app**.