



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You

Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show
someone you care?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the
way God comforts you.

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



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for God's comfort in your own life with something difficult that's currently happening, big or small! Pray that you would be able to provide the same kind of comfort to the kids that are in your Small Group.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain that you will call out different ways for the kids to arrange themselves.
 - They will need to talk with each other to get in the correct order.
- Share the following commands, and give them time to arrange themselves with each one:
 - Line up in alphabetical order by your first names.
 - Gather with those who have the same favorite video game as you.
 - Line up in order according to your birthday.
 - Gather with those who share the same favorite season as you.
 - Beach or Mountains? Stand with those who have the same answer.
 - Based on the colors of the rainbow, stand in order, representing the color that is your favorite.
 - Books or Movies? Stand with those who have the same answer.



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

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: Paper, pens or pencils, bowl, dry erase board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a small piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Ask kids to think of something that brings them comfort

and write it down on their piece of paper. (i.e.: blanket, chocolate chip cookies, a hug from Mom, etc.)

- Set out the bowl in front of the group.
- Tell them to fold their paper and place it in the bowl.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Tell them to choose a piece of paper from the bowl and draw what it says on the dry erase board.
- Direct the rest of the group to guess what that kid is drawing.
- Whoever guesses correctly can be the next person to draw.
- Continue to play as time allows, giving as many kids as possible a turn to draw.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys did a great job of drawing the things that bring us comfort! **[Transition]** Today, we're going to discover just how important comfort really is and the source of where it ALL comes from!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Comfort Stations" Activity Page, battery operated tea lights, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to share some ways they can feel God's comfort.
- Highlight the following three ways God shows us comfort as you tape each sign from the "Comfort Stations" Activity Page to different walls in your group space:
 - The Bible
 - Prayer
 - People
- *NOTE: If using wall space is not an option, set the signs out on the floor in different parts of your group space.*
- Place a tea light near each sign.
- Explain that after you read a scenario, kids should stand near the sign that shows how they would prefer to feel God's comfort if that happened to them.
 - Emphasize kids may have different responses, and that is expected!
- **Scenarios:**
 - You tried out for the soccer team but didn't make the cut.
 - There's a kid at school who keeps teasing you.
 - Your cat runs away, and you don't think you're going to find it.
 - You failed a big science test, and it's a huge portion of your grade.
 - You auditioned for the school play but didn't get the lead role like you were hoping.
 - Your parents are arguing—a lot.
 - Your best friend moves away.
 - You have to switch to a new school, and you're nervous about not knowing anyone.
 - You break your ankle jumping on a trampoline.
 - You're in an argument with your friends and you feel lonely.
- Repeat until every scenario card has been read.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Why do you think we sometimes want to experience comfort in different ways?
 - Is it difficult to know how someone else may want to be comforted? Why or why not?
- Remind kids that we can comfort others because God comforts us.
 - They can offer to help by simply being WITH them—even if they aren't sure what to say or do.
 - Showing compassion like this to someone else—even in a small way—can shine Jesus' light.
- **[Make it Personal] Tell the kids about a time when you felt God's comfort in some way. Share what happened and explain how you knew God was comforting you.**

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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: Flashlight, paper plate, small mirror, magnifying glass, Bible

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask for a volunteer who feels comfortable reading aloud to the group and give them the marked Bible to read.
- Ask them to turn to 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 and hold their place.
- Choose two kids to stand in front of the group. Give the flashlight to one kid and the paper plate to the other; ask them to hold it out in front of them, like a shield.
- Direct the kid with the flashlight to turn it on and shine it at the plate.
- Ask the kid with the marked Bible to read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, stopping after "trouble(s)."
- Explain that the plate represents inevitable troubles we all face in life. Just like Paul faced troubles during his travels, we face them, too. Sometimes it feels like those troubles block us from light, like the plate. The light does not shine through.
- Invite kids to share any troubles they have faced.
 - Be sensitive to kids who are facing hard things and be prepared to follow up privately with the kid, their grownup, or your leader for any serious concerns.
- Collect the flashlight and plate and ask those kids to sit down.
- Choose two new kids to give the flashlight and magnifying glass to.
- Ask the kid with the flashlight to turn it on and shine it through the magnifying glass so that it's shining toward the floor.
- Explain that the magnifying glass represents the comfort God provides us when we face troubles. When God gives us comfort, light shines through to us.
- Invite kids to share any times they have felt God's comfort.
- Collect the flashlight and magnifying glass and ask those kids to sit down.
- Choose two new kids to give the flashlight and mirror to.
- Ask the kid with the marked Bible to read all of 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
- Direct the kid with the flashlight to turn it on and shine it toward the mirror.
- Explain that we can take the comfort we have been given by God and use that to motivate us to provide comfort to others. The mirror represents what it's like when we reflect God's light to the world around us.
- Invite kids to share how they can comfort someone else.
- Remind kids that compassion requires action. Compassion means "caring enough to do something about someone else's needs."

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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:

- When do you need comfort?
- How does God comfort you?
- What does comfort have to do with compassion?
- How did Jesus set an example for showing compassion to others?
- How can you show someone you care?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Lantern Light" Activity Page, scissors, markers, tape, Bibles, battery-operated tea lights, dry erase board with dry erase marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose 5 kids who do not mind reading aloud to the group and give each one a Bible.
- Assign each one of the following verses to look up. Allow kids to help each other.
 - Isaiah 41:10
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - Psalm 121:1-2
 - 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - Matthew 5:16
- Write out each verse reference listed on the dry erase board as kids read them.
- Have kids take turns reading their assigned verse out loud to the group.
- Explain that God's Word can comfort us, but it may feel difficult to know how to find the right verses to help us with what we're going through.
- Give each kid a "Lantern Light" Activity Page, and a battery-operated tea light.
- Set out the scissors, markers, and tape for the kids to share.
- Tell kids to copy the references from the dry erase board on any 5 strips of their Activity Page and decorate/color the remaining strips however they'd like.
- Direct kids to follow directions on their Activity Page to cut, fold, and assemble their lanterns.
- Provide help as needed.
- As kids finish assembling, give them a battery-operated tea light candle.
- Encourage kids to place their lanterns somewhere at home as a reminder of God's comfort.
 - When they are going through a tough time, they can be reminded of some verses to look up that will help them remember God is with them.

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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: Paper, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Invite kids to spread out in your group.
- Encourage kids to take some quiet time to write a letter to God about something going on in their lives—something difficult or challenging. It might be something at school, at home, with friends, etc.
- Explain to the group that sometimes writing down our prayers can bring us comfort.
- Remind the kids that God really does listen and care about how we are feeling.
- Invite kids to share with the group something they wrote about if they feel comfortable. Do not pressure anyone to share.
- Encourage kids to take their letters home to one day to remember how God answered their prayer.
- Say a prayer for the entire group, making sure to mention anything that was shared during your discussion.

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2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small pieces of paper, one for each kid
- Pens or pencils, one for each kid
- Dry erase board, one for each Small Group
- Dry erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry eraser, 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 Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Comfort Stations" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each Small Group
- Battery operated tea lights, three for each Small Group (these will also be used in Verses to Take with You)
- 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:

- Flashlight, one for each Small Group
- Paper plate, one for each Small Group
- Small mirror, one for each Small Group
- Magnifying glass, one for each Small Group
- Bible, one for each Small Group
 - Before group time: Mark the Bible at 2 Corinthians 1: 3 - 4

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 Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Lantern Light" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Bibles, five for each group
- Dry erase board with dry erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, enough for the Small Group to share
- Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- Tape, enough for the Small Group to share
- Battery-operated tea lights, one for each kid (can use some from the Take a Snapshot Activity)

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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



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GETTING READY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper, one piece for each kid
- Pens or pencils, one for each kid

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.