



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Look Up Child

Keep Looking to Jesus
Hebrews 12:1-3

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to focus on Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens, keep looking to Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"In this world you will have trouble. But, be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."

John 16:33b, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUg>

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



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for your kids who you know are currently going through difficulty. Pray that they would be encouraged after being with you and their friends today and knowing that Jesus is cheering them on too!

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Mosaic Charades" Activity Page, timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids with a smile as they arrive!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Make sure the card pieces from the "Mosaic Charades" Activity Page are separated.
- When enough kids arrive, explain charades but with a twist:
 - When the game begins, hand three kids each a piece of the same card.
 - The goal is for the selected kids to identify what's on their card and act out what they think it is to the group without speaking.
 - Give the group 60 seconds to guess the charade.
 - Once the group has a chance to guess, invite the three kids to bring their card pieces together to reveal the charade.
- The cards will feature spring-themed actions like "jumping in puddles," "planting flowers," or "splashing in rain."
- **Mosaic Charades Answers:**
 - Splashing in the rain
 - Flying a kite
 - Riding a bike
 - Watering plants
 - Chasing butterflies
 - Having a picnic
 - Climbing a tree
 - Blowing bubbles
 - Feeding ducks at a pond
 - Playing baseball or catch
- Set a 60-second timer for each round.
- Continue taking turns until every kid has had a chance to act out several charades.



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: Trophy, cotton balls, and timer;
Optional: use costumes or props to make the distractions more fun

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the trophy at the front of your group area as the focus point.
- Pick a kid to go first.
- Explain the challenge:
 - On their turn, each kid must keep their eyes on the trophy while doing a task.
- Announce the first task.
 - For example, walking a straight line, balancing a book on their head, or tossing a ball to a teammate.
- Direct the rest of the group to distract the kid by tossing cotton balls, making silly faces, or using harmless actions to make them laugh or look away.
 - *Optional: use costumes or props to add some fun to the distractions!*
- Remind the selected kid to stay focused on the trophy. If they look away, they must start the task again.
- Set a two-minute timer for each task.
- Congratulate each kid as they complete the task.
- Select another kid and repeat the process with a new task.
- Continue until all kids have had a turn.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, everyone! Staying focused was tricky with distractions all around. **[Transition]** Today, we'll hear all about someone we can keep looking to no matter what. Come with me!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



MADE TO CONNECT

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared bag or backpack filled with various items, sticky notes, pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together.
- Explain to the kids that they'll be sorting items.
 - Share that some items represent things that help in a race, while others represent things that would not be helpful in a race.
- Pick a kid to select an item from the bag and show it to the group.
- Discuss whether the item would be helpful or not for a runner in a race.
- If the item is helpful, direct the kid to label the item with a sticky note indicating a faith-building action.
 - For example: If the kid draws a shoe, they might label it "Reading the Bible" to show how it helps you get prepared.
- If the kids need help, mention one of the suggestions below.
 - Talking to God.
 - Reading the Bible.
 - Talking with others about Jesus.
 - Memorizing Bible verses.
 - Helping others.
- If the item isn't helpful, direct the kid to label it with a sticky note indicating a distraction.
 - For example: If the kid draws a remote, they might label it "Focusing on yourself" to show how it doesn't help you get prepared.
- If the kid needs help, mention one of the suggestions below.
 - Following a friend who isn't kind.
 - Focusing only on yourself.
 - Spending too much time playing video games.
 - Getting stuck in your own thoughts.
 - Spending too much time on YouTube.
- Encourage kids to talk about what each item represents based on the labels they assigned.
- Continue giving kids a turn to label the items until the bag is empty.
- After sorting, ask:
 - Why is it important to recognize distractions?
 - How can replacing distractions with positive actions help us stay focused on Jesus?

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[Make it Personal] Share about a time in your life when you were distracted or it was tough to focus on Jesus. Once you identified what was a distraction, how did you correct it?



MADE TO CREATE

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



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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: White construction paper, "Cloud of Witnesses" Activity Page, scissors, glue, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of white construction paper, scissors, a "Cloud of Witnesses" Activity Page, and a glue stick.
- Ask:
 - "What does it mean that we have a huge cloud of witnesses all around us?"
- Direct the kids to use scissors to cut a large cloud from the white construction paper.
- Point out the Bible characters on the "Cloud of Witnesses" Activity Page and see if the kids can identify what they are known for.
- Make markers available for the kids.
- Explain to the kids that they will fill their cloud cut out with people who encourage them to keep focusing on Jesus!
 - Kids can cut out the Bible characters that encourage them.
 - Kids can use markers to draw or write the name of a family member, teacher, influencer, or friend.
- Once the kids' clouds are filled, invite them to share who they added to it if they feel comfortable.



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 is it hard to focus on Jesus?
- What can you do when you're having trouble focusing on Jesus?
- When you think about having a cloud of witnesses cheering you on, how does that make you feel?
- Who can you cheer on and encourage this week?

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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, prepared bins with cotton balls and "Verse Pieces" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team 3-4 Bibles.
- Using the Bible Navigation tips below, lead the kids in finding John 16:33b.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Repeat the verse together as a group.
- Designate two starting lines and direct each team to stand behind the lines.
- Mark two finish lines and place the bins with cotton balls and the "Verse Pieces" Activity Page at each finish line.
- Explain the goal of the game:
 - Teams must race to find all the pieces of the verse hidden under the cotton balls.
- On your "Go!" one kid from each team will begin to quickly travel to the bin, grab a verse piece, and return it back to their team.
- Instruct the teams to continue in this way until all verse pieces are back with the team.
 - *NOTE: Some kids may have to travel to the finish line several times.*
- Once the kids have found all the pieces, prompt them to begin organizing the verse in the correct order.
- The first team to correctly arrange the verse wins!
- After the game, review the verse together as a group and discuss.
 - Ask, "Why does Jesus tell us to 'be encouraged' (or take heart)?"

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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: Cotton balls and a jar

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Place the jar in the center of the circle.
- Explain that distractions can keep us from focusing on Jesus and what matters most. Everyone has distractions from time to time.
- Hand each kid a cotton ball and explain that it represents a distraction they might be facing.
- Encourage the kids to think about personal distractions—things that keep them from focusing on Jesus or working together with others.
 - For example, kids might worry about what other people think of them or spend too much time on video games, etc.
- Give the kids a few moments to pray silently or aloud, asking God to remove their distractions.
- As kids finish praying, invite them to place their cotton balls into the jar.
- Close your group in prayer and encourage them to keep looking to Jesus!

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Print "Mosaic Charades" Activity Page and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
 - Before group time, separate the card pieces by card and paper clip them together
- Timer, one for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Trophy, one for each Small Group
- Cotton balls, one large bag for each Small Group
- Timer, one for each Small Group
- *Optional:* use costumes or props to add some fun to the distractions

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bag or backpack, one for each Small Group

- Before group time, fill the bag with various race items, such as a shoe, water bottle, small encouragement poster, snack, and headband. Then, add other random items that are not race-related, like a candle, large book, tablet, etc.
- Sticky Notes, one pack for each Small Group
- Pen, one for every kid

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- White construction paper, one piece for every kid
- Print "Cloud of Witnesses" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- Glue stick, one for every kid
- Scissors, one pair for every kid
- Markers, one for every kid

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, eight for each Small Group
- Cotton Balls, two bags for each Small Group
- Print "Verse Pieces" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Small 4-Liter bins, two for each Small Group
 - Before group time, place one bag of cotton balls and a set of verse pieces into each bin

THE BIG
PICTURE

KEEP
HOPE
ALIVE



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

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:

- Cotton ball, one for every kid
- Jar, one for each Small Group

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.**