



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2022

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and
Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you felt alone?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."

Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

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.

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 ("I Trust In You" from *Every Beat*, "Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move*, and "We Believe" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 4*)
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 Review 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 PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take some time to pray and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and working in your life. Pray for guidance as you work to lead conversation with your kids about the Great Commission and the help of the Holy Spirit in your kids' lives.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, bouncy balls, beads

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Give each kid 10 beads and a bouncy ball.
- Holding the beads in one hand, kids drop their beads onto a hard surface, e.g., a table or uncarpeted floor.
- Using only one hand, kids toss their ball into the air, pick up one bead, and catch their ball after it bounces only once.
- If their ball bounces more than once, kids must put the bead back where it was and try again.
- Once kids have successfully picked up all the beads, challenge them to repeat the activity picking up two beads at a time instead of one.
- After each round, continue to challenge kids to increase the number of beads they pick up in a single bounce of their ball.



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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bouncy balls

WHAT YOU DO:

- Line up kids about six feet away from a wall and instruct them to face the wall.
- Give each kid a bouncy ball.
- Tell kids to toss the ball so it bounces once on the floor, then hits the wall.
- Challenge them to catch the ball off the wall before it bounces on the ground again.
- Be prepared to encourage kids; this may take a bit of practice for some or all of them.
- Encourage kids who do this well to help others.
- If kids successfully catch the ball, tell them to take a giant step back and do it again.
- If kids miss the ball, tell them to try again.
- Challenge kids to see how far they can be from the wall and still catch the ball.
- To increase the degree of difficulty, pair kids up.
- One kid tosses the ball so it bounces off the wall and their teammate catches it off the wall before it bounces on the ground again.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Catching these bouncy balls as they bounced back from the wall was no easy task! *[Transition]* **Let's head to Large Group to hear a story about a group of people who hit a wall and how Jesus helped them bounce back.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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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 and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, pencils or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask: When are some times people might feel lonely?
- Give kids a piece of paper.
- Ask: When have you felt alone? Encourage kids to write their answers on the paper.
- Give kids a few moments share their answers.
 - *[Make it Personal] (To prompt discussion, share about some times you have felt alone and ask kids if they have had a similar experience.)*
 - Maybe you felt alone when a group of friends didn't invite you to join them in a fun activity, or when your family fights, or when you can't do something well, etc.

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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: Bouncy balls, containers, lids or aluminum foil, tape, index cards from the Take a Snapshot Activity, washable paints, poster board, cup of water

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask:
 - Do you think there were times when the disciples felt alone? (Encourage kids to explain their answers.)
 - Do you think the disciples could relate to any of the examples we discussed in the Take a Snapshot Activity? Which ones and why?
- Give each kid a container with a lid and tell them to tape their paper from the Take a Snapshot Activity to the bottom of the container.
- Tell kids to put a blob of paint on each of the examples they wrote.
- Give kids a ball.
- Instruct kids to put the ball in the container and put the lid on the container.
- If the container doesn't have a matching lid, cover the container with a large piece of aluminum foil; be sure the foil fully covers the opening of the container.
- Instruct kids to gently bounce and roll the ball inside the container. Start out slowly to make sure the lid is on tightly.
- Then open the containers.
- Remove the balls and put them in a container of water to be cleaned.
- Help kids remove their papers.
- Set the papers on a posterboard to dry.
- While kids are sharing their artwork with each other, ask: How did the paint spread all over the paper?
- Tell kids that even though we didn't see the ball moving, we are confident the ball was at work spreading paint and creating our artwork.
 - Just like the ball spread paint all over the paper, the Spirit affects all areas of our lives.
 - We cannot see the Spirit, but we can be confident the Spirit is at work because we can see the results of God working.
- To review the Bible story, ask:
 - How did the Spirit affect Peter?
 - What was the result of Peter being led by the Spirit?
 - What is something you learned about the Spirit in the story today?
 - How does this story encourage you to get back up when something gets you down, to show resilience?
 - Often, we feel alone because we are worried or unsure about what might happen next or simply things are out of our control. **[Make it Personal]** (Share about a time when something was out of your control but knowing God is with you gave you the push to bounce back.)

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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- How do we know God is always with us?
- When is it hard to feel like God is with you? How do you know He is still with you?
- When have you seen or heard about something happening that you just knew was a "God thing"? (Give a couple examples, such as a family needing some help making rent and a friend just happening to give them the exact amount they need, or someone moving to a new area but they meet their new best friend.)
- Is there something that is getting you down in your life right now where you need God's power to help you show resilience? Allow kids the opportunity to share.
 - Depending on the discussion, consider leading the group in prayer for the situations the kids share before moving on to another activity.

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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



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, scissors, straws, strips of cardstock, staplers, markers, rulers, "Helicopter" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up this month's memory verse, Isaiah 40:31 and read it together.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News
Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Isaiah. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (Old) So we know it's not toward the back of the Bible. When they find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 40. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 31 in chapter 40.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you felt alone?

- Ask: Who is Isaiah? (Isaiah was a prophet, a messenger of God, who listened to God and then told people what God wanted them to know. The book of Isaiah was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born; Isaiah wrote about God's promise to send a rescuer, a Messiah who would provide a way for us to be with God now and forever.)
- Lead kids to make a "Flying Verse Helicopter."
 - Give each kid a straw.
 - Instruct kids to cut the straw so it is about five or six inches long.
 - Then ask them to cut two slits on one the end of the straw. The slits should be directly across from each other and about three quarters of an inch long.
 - Give each kid a strip of cardstock.
 - Fold the cardstock in half and slide in into the slit on the end of the straw.
 - Help kids staple the strip of paper into the slit to the end of the straw.
 - Write the verse on the strip of cardstock.
 - Gently fold down the ends of the cardstock at a slight angle. Refer to the "Helicopter" Activity Page for a visual.
- To fly the helicopter, follow the instructions below:
 - Place the straw between your palms, cardstock above your hands.
 - Spin the helicopter by sliding your hands together, your right hand moves away from you.
 - As your right hand leaves your left, gently lift the helicopter in the air by moving your hands upward.
- Explain that you can't see the forces at work keeping the helicopter in the air, but you know they are at work because you can see the helicopter fly.
- Ask:
 - Isaiah 40:31 starts: *But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength.* What does it look like to "trust in the Lord"?
 - What does that mean to "receive new strength"?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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25 MINUTES

(4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- What are ways we might see the Spirit at work in us? (Encourage kids to think of how the Spirit affected the disciples and how they were able to bounce back and continue to grow the early church.)
- How does trusting God help us to be resilient?



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Ball"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids in a circle.
 - Bounce the ball to a kid in the circle.
 - Ask that kid to read the words closest to their left thumb and then pray a one-sentence prayer using the words their thumb is pointing to as a guide.
- Potential "Prayer Ball" topics with sample prayers:
 - Trust: God, I am thankful I can trust You no matter what. God, help me to trust that Your Spirit is at work always in and around me.
 - Resilience: God, help me to bounce back. God, help me to be resilient, even when I am unsure what will happen.
 - Strength: God, give me strength to get back up when I feel alone.
 - Power of God's Spirit: God thank You for giving me Your Spirit to guide me.
 - Family/Friends: God, I trust You are with me and my family even when I don't feel like You are there.
 - Wise choice: God, give me Your wisdom. God, give me wise words to talk to my friend this week.
 - God's Truth: God, You are always with me. God, You give me strength.

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Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Bouncy balls; one for each kid
- Beads; about 10 for each kid

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bouncy balls; one for each kid

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 and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Index cards (preferably unlined); one for each kid
- Pencils or markers

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:

- Bouncy balls; one for each kid

- Opaque containers; one for each kid
 - The container should be able to fit an index card taped to the bottom of it. Containers could include:
 - Recycled food containers, e.g., large sour cream containers, produce containers, pie tins, takeout food containers, etc.
 - Recycled shoe boxes
 - Aluminum foil trays
 - Plastic containers
- Lids for the containers or aluminum foil
- Index cards from the Take a Snapshot Activity
- Water-based paints; several colors for each small group
- Tape
- Poster board or large piece of paper to set the artwork on to dry
- Container of water; one for each small group
 - Collect the bouncy balls after this activity and wash them to be re-used in the following weeks.

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. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Straws; one for each kid
- Staplers
- Strips of cardstock; one for each kid
 - Strip width: three quarter inches to one inch, strip length; eight inches.
- Scissors
- Bibles
- Markers
- Print the "Helicopter" Activity Page; one for each group
- Rulers; one to three for each group



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW 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:

- A beach ball or rubber ball to create a "Prayer Ball;" one for each group
 - To make a "Prayer Ball," spread around the ball different prayer prompts. For example:
 - Write the prayer prompts directly on the ball
 - Write the prayer prompts on sticky notes and tape the notes to the ball
 - Write the prayer prompts on masking tape and adhere the tape to the ball
 - Prayer prompts examples: Trust, Resilience, Strength, Power of God's Spirit, Family/Friends, God's Truths, Wise Choice

Note: The "Prayer Ball" will be modified to be used in weeks 2, 3, and 5.

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.**