

# TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

# **TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**All I Ask** Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20:19-29

# **TODAY'S KEY QUESTION**

What questions do you have for God?

## **TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

### **MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE**

"In this world you will have trouble. But, be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world." John 16:33b, NIrV

## **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 <u>https://bit.ly/447HSZi</u> for a visual on some of the activities.

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

# 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** 

**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

STORY

WORSHIP

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

SOCIAL

## MADE TO PLAY

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

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Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray that you will be able to walk through any difficult questions well with your group today. Pray that your kids will feel comfortable asking hard questions and that you willhave the wisdom to know how and when to answer and point them toward Jesus.

# **1. JUST FOR FUN**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, floor tape, red construction paper (or a color of choice), and yellow construction paper (or a color of choice)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name and with a smile as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Use floor tape to create a large, three-by-three frame for Tic-Tac-Toe on the floor.
  - Make sure the squares on the grid are big enough for a piece of construction paper.
- Split the group into two teams: one will be "X," and the other will be "O."
- Give each team at least five pieces of paper in different colors.
- For example: The "X" team will get red, and the "O" team will get yellow.
  Explain to the kids that teams will take turns placing one of their colored construction paper pieces in an empty square on the grid.
- The goal is for a team to get three of their colored papers in a row, either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.
- If neither team achieves three in a row after all squares are filled, the game ends in a tie.
- Play as many rounds as time and interest allow for.



#### PRELUDE

STORY

WORSHIP

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

SOCIAL

#### MADE TO MOVE

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

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# 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Small playground ball and timer

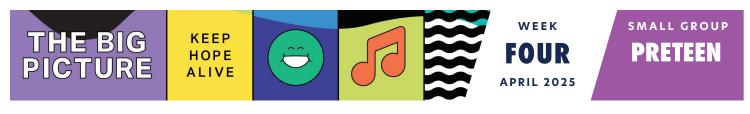
#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the group to form a circle.
- Explain the game.
- Kids will take turns asking 21 questions.
- One kid will start with the ball and toss it to any kid of their choosing in the circle.
- Each time a kid catches the ball, they must ask a question before throwing it.
- The kid who catches the ball should answer that kid's question then ask another.
- Select a kid to start by handing them the ball and inviting them to toss it to another kid.
- Direct the kids to continue passing the ball at random.
- After a few rounds, add a challenge by selecting a topic that the questions should be focused on.
  - For example, 21 questions about flying a kite.
- Encourage the kids to ask and answer the questions without pausing until you reach 21 questions.
- For each round, time how quickly you get to 21 questions.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! That was a whole lot of questions, friends! We didn't know all of the answers to the questions that people asked, but that's okay! **[Transition]** We also might not love when people ask us a ton of questions, but today we'll hear a story about someone who doesn't mind and can handle any questions we have!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



## PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

GROUPS

## MADE TO IMAGINE

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

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STORY

# **1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards, pens, box with a top

## WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite your group to sit in a circle.
- Place the box in the center of the circle.
- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Direct the kids to quietly think of a doubt or question they have and write it down on their index card.
- Lead a group discussion:
  - What might be holding you back from asking God your questions?
- After some time, invite the kids to place their index cards into the box.
- Share with kids that Jesus met Thomas right in the middle of his questions. Even though Thomas had questions, he still trusted Jesus!
- As kids place their index cards in the box, encourage them to silently say, "Jesus, I trust You with my questions."

[Make it Personal] Share a time when you had a doubt or question. Share with the group how you invited God to help you with your doubt or question and what the result was.



# PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

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#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

• Set up two designated areas in your group space: one for "True" and the other for "False.

- Explain to the kids that you will read a series of Bible Story review statements.
  - If the statement is true, the kids should quickly run to the "True" side.
     If the statement is false, kids should quickly run to the "False" side.
- After each statement, reveal whether it was true or false and briefly discuss why.
- Continue reading all the statements, allowing the kids to move between the "True" and "False" sides.
- Gather the group together to discuss.

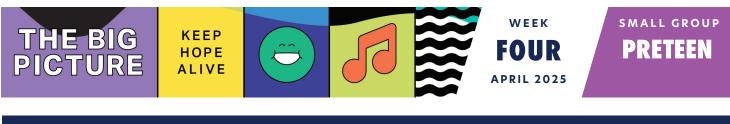
#### **Review Questions:**

- 1. John, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote his Gospel so that others could believe that Jesus was God's Son. (*True*)
- 2. Mary Magdalene never saw the risen Jesus. (False) Mary Magdalene did see the risen Jesus and ran to tell the disciples.
- 3. The disciples locked the doors because they were afraid of the Roman soldiers. (False) - The disciples locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.
- 4. Jesus appeared to the disciples in a locked room and greeted them with, "May peace be with you!" (*True*)
- 5. Thomas was with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection. (False) Thomas was not with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared to them.
- 6. Thomas said he would believe Jesus was alive only if he could see and touch the nail marks in His hands. (*True*)
- 7. Jesus appeared to the disciples again, but Thomas was still not there. (False) -Thomas was present during Jesus' second appearance to the disciples.
- 8. Jesus asked Thomas to put his finger in the nail marks and his hand into His side. (*True*)
- 9. Thomas refused to believe even after seeing Jesus face to face. (False) Thomas believed and declared, "My Lord and my God!"
- 10. Thomas is sometimes called "Doubting Thomas" because he initially had questions about Jesus' resurrection. (*True*)
- 11. Thomas was one of the first disciples to boldly declare Jesus as both "Lord" and "God." (*True*)
- 12. Historical accounts suggest that Thomas traveled to places like modern-day India to share the good news about Jesus. (*True*)
- 13. Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (*True*)



# (2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- 14. Jesus never addressed Thomas' questions or doubts directly. (False) Jesus addressed Thomas' questions directly by inviting him to see and touch His wounds.
- 15. Thomas' questions led him away from Jesus. (False) Thomas' questions ultimately led him to believe in Jesus.



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:

• Have you ever felt like Thomas, unsure about something?

How did it feel?

- What questions do you have for God?
- How does knowing God can handle all of your questions give you hope?
- What can you do when you have doubts? Who can you talk to?

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# 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "I've Got Questions" Activity Page

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a Bible and a set of cards from the "I've Got Questions" Activity Page.
- Share with kids that each person in the group will look through the cards and select one question they have for God.
- Prompt the groups to work together to look up the verses that correlate with their questions.
- Once the groups are finished, bring them together to discuss.
- Share with them how the Bible, which is God's Word, can help us with our questions!
- Ask:
- Who else can we talk to when we have questions?
- After the discussion, encourage the kids that God loves them and wants to hear from them—we can trust God with our questions!
- Invite the kids to keep the verse card they chose and set it aside to take it home.



PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME	
			CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT			

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: No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

• Share with kids that even though we may have doubts or questions, we can always bring them to God because God is worth trusting even when we don't understand.

- Encourage kids to talk with a trusted adult about their questions, too. Remind them that a parent, Small Group Leader, or other trusted grownup will listen and pray with them!
- Invite the kids to form groups of two or three.
- Give the kids a few minutes to share a prayer request within their group.
- Then instruct the kids to pray for each other silently or aloud.
- Bring everybody together then close the group in prayer.

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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 working as a group WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Red construction paper (or a color of choice), five pieces for each Small Group
- Yellow construction paper (or a color of choice), five pieces for each Small Group

# 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:

- Small playground ball, one for each Small Group
- Timer, 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:

- Box with a top, one for each Small Group
- Index cards, one for each kid
- Pens, one for each kid

## **2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

No supplies needed

#### 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 Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for every 2-3 kids
- Print "I've Got Questions" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for every 2-3 kids

## 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:

No supplies needed

# 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.**