



WEEK
THREE
MAY 2025

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Use Somebody

Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you use what
you've been given?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to use
what you've been given.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look
out just for your own good.
Each of you should also look
out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wide choice.

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



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



Before kids arrive, pray for patience and wisdom as you seek to lead your students in the middle of an exciting time for them—the end of the school year! Pray that they would be able to discover ways that they can use what they've been given and use it to serve others.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, dry-erase board and dry-erase marker;
Optional: paper and marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name and let them know you're glad to see them!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather the kids together.
- Share with kids that spies and detectives look for clues that lead them to important information.
- Explain the game:
 - Kids must carefully observe the Leader as they draw a simple picture.
 - The Leader will select a kid to draw the picture like they did.
 - The secret that kids must figure out is not what you draw but how you draw it!
- Pick up the marker and board (or paper and marker) and casually say, "Okay, here I go."
- Start the first round by drawing with your dominant hand.
- Then, ask a kid to try replicating what you did.
- If they mirror your hand choice, celebrate their success and tell them they've cracked the secret (don't reveal it yet).
- If they don't mirror your hand choice, compliment their drawing but tell them they must try again.
- Gradually make your hand choice more noticeable if no one catches on. For example, switch hands or announce, "I'll draw this with my left hand."
- Continue drawing new, simple pictures, repeating the subtle hand switch before drawing.
- Play until every kid has figured out the secret.
- Switch the secret code and play again for as long as time allows.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning
through hands on experimentation
and discovery



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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, pens, clipboards, *Optional:*
mobile device calculators

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into teams of 3-4 and have the teams sit in a circle.
- Give one kid on each team a clipboard with paper and a pen.
- Instruct each team to pick a kid to go first and direct them to:
 - Write a number between 1-10 at the top of the paper.
 - Pass the clipboard to the left.
- *NOTE: Ensure that each team has chosen a different number.*
- Direct the next kid to write a dollar sign (\$) in front of the number on the paper.
- Explain the game:
 - Invite kids to imagine their team as a group of spies, and the headquarters (HQ) gives each team a small amount of money to complete a mission.
 - The challenge is to use the money wisely to gain more.
- *Optional: Consider allowing kids to use mobile device calculators to solve the problem.*
- Read each step aloud, giving teams time to calculate and write their answers before passing the clipboard to the left after each turn.
 - *HQ doubles your money.* Multiply your original number by 2.
 - *An agent donates \$6 to your team.* Add 6 to the previous number.
 - *Half your team wants trench coats; the other half wants binoculars.* Divide the previous number by 2.
 - *You buy cool sunglasses on sale.* Subtract the original number from the current total.
 - *HQ rewards you for stellar work.* Multiply your final number by 100.
- Each team should end up with \$300.
- *Note: No matter the number (1-10) kids start with, the final answer will always be 300. See below for an example.*
- Point out how each team began with a different number and ended up with the same now!
- Ask:
 - What would you buy for yourself if you had \$300 to spend?
 - What would you buy for your family or someone else?
 - What do you think is the best way to spend \$300? Share your ideas and why they would be helpful or meaningful with your team.

Example (A team picks the number 7)

1. Original Number: 7
2. $7 \times 2 = 14$
3. $14 + 6 = 20$
4. $20 \div 2 = 10$
5. $10 - 7$ (the original number) = 3
6. $3 \times 100 = 300$



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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

(2. OPENING ACTIVITY, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job working together, friends! Did you know no matter which number (1-10) you plug into that equation, the answer would be 300? (*Invite responses.*) There are many ways to spend \$300, aren't there? Each of us might use that money differently [*Transition*] **Today, we'll hear a story Jesus told His followers about some men who were given different amounts of money. Let's go find out what they did with it. Come with me!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, markers, blanket

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a marker and a sheet of paper.
- Instruct kids to write a gift or talent they think they have in large letters, using only three words.
 - If kids aren't sure, offer some suggestions based on what you know about them. If they still can't come up with something, they can write a skill that comes to mind.
- **[Make it Personal]** Play along with the kids by including a gift or talent you have.
- Collect the papers from the kids and shuffle them together.
- Take a moment to have the kids introduce themselves. Encourage them to pay attention to the names of others; they will be used in today's game!
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Select one kid from each team to each hold the top corner of the blanket.
- Explain that they will hold the blanket up to create a "wall." The blanket should be held as high as possible.
- Designate a side of the blanket for each team and instruct them to stand on their side of the blanket "wall."
- Explain how to play:
 - The Leader will invite one kid from each team to stand facing the blanket on their side.
 - Hand each kid who is standing in front of the blanket one of the papers that was written on earlier.
 - The kids will hold the paper in front of them so that the paper is between them and the blanket and the words are facing the blanket.
 - Once both players are in position, the Leader will shout, "Drop it!" the kids holding the blanket should quickly let go of it, revealing the kid on the other side.
 - The first kid to correctly shout the name of the kid in front of them and the word(s) on the paper that kid is holding wins that round for their team.
- Call on new blanket holders and raise the wall again.
- Select two new kids to stand facing their team's side of the blanket, give them a paper, and repeat the process.
- Continue until every kid gets a turn to stand behind the blanket.
- At the end of the game, the team that scores the most points wins.
- Gather kids together and hold up each paper as you ask the kids to guess who wrote it.
- Allow kids to share about the gift or talent they wrote down if they would like to.
- Invite kids to name some ways that skill could be used to serve God and help others.
- If time allows, play again with new rules.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Matthew 25:14-30

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you use what you've been given?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to use what you've been given.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wide choice.

(1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT, CONTINUED)

- Provide kids with another sheet of paper. Instead of a gift or talent, ask them to write down a possession or something they have that can be shared with others.



MADE TO IMAGINE

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, Prepared box of props

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your kids together and review today's Bible Story from Matthew 25:14-30.
- Set out the prepared box of props and instruct the kids to select one item.
 - *Note: don't tell the kids what the item is for yet!*
- Form teams of 3-4 kids.
- Share the challenge:
 - Each team must prepare a one-minute skit of today's Bible story using their props.
- Give kids a few minutes to prepare their Bible Story skit.
- Then, invite any teams who'd like to present their one-minute skit an opportunity to do so.
- Point out that, like the props they put to use in the Bible Story skits today, God wants us to take all that we've been given and put it to good use.
- Explain to kids that the Parable Jesus told about the talents isn't just about wasted money but also wasted opportunity.
- Encourage kids that God has given each of them unique abilities and experiences because God has a purpose for their lives!
- Guide kids through discussion about the Parable.
 - What should we do with the specific gifts, talents, and possessions God gives us?
 - Who have you seen use their gifts to help others?
 - Finish this sentence: "This week, using what I've been given means I can . . ."
- If you know your kids well, consider pointing out a unique ability you've observed in them.
- Challenge them to ask someone who is good at those same things to teach them more about it.
- Encourage kids to ask a parent, friend, or trusted adult to point out what they're good at.

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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:

- What do you think Jesus wanted us to learn from the Parable of the Talents?
- How does the Parable of the Talents show us what we've been given matters?
- How can you use what you've been given?
- Why do you think it's important to discover what your gifts are?
- What's one thing you could do to discover more about your gifts?

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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, "Mustache Disguise" Activity Page, craft sticks, tape, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Direct the kids to look up 1 Peter 4:10 using the Bible Navigation tips below.

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.

- Instruct the kids to read the verse quietly, then call on a kid to read the verse aloud.
- Give each kid a craft stick, a pen, and a mustache from the "Mustache Disguise" Activity Page.
- **[Make it personal] by participating in this activity with your group!**
- Depending on the number of kids in your group, assign each kid and yourself a portion of 1 Peter 4:10.
- Then, instruct each kid to write their assigned portion only on a mustache.
- Make tape available and model for the kids how to attach the top of a craft stick to the back of their mustache.
- Collect the mustaches and mix them up.
- Place the mustaches in a pile face down on the floor at one end of your group space.
- Direct the kids to form a line as far away from the pile of mustaches as possible.
- Explain to the kids that at your signal, they will take turns running to the mustaches, choosing one at random, and then running back.
- Once everyone has retrieved a mustache, challenge kids to hold them in front of their faces and arrange themselves in the order of the verse.
- Once the verse is in the correct order, recite 1 Peter 4:10 together, letting the kids say the portion on their mustaches.
- Discuss each sentence separately. If using NlrV, the verse can be broken down into three parts:
 - "God's gifts of grace come in many forms."
 - Why do you think God gives people different gifts?
 - *Note: It's easy for kids to identify specific talents, such as being intelligent and good at sports, art, or music. Help the kids think about skills that may not be as obvious but are talents God can use in unique ways. For example:*

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- *Love and care of animals*
- *Cooking*
- *Sense of humor*
- *Creativity*
- *Physical strength*
- *Writing*

- "Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others."
 - What gift(s) do you think God has given you?
- "You should use it faithfully."
 - What could be a benefit of using what you're good at to serve others?
- Repeat the mustache game and recite the verse if time and interest allow.



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: Pennies; yarn, ribbon, or string;
prepared index cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the two pieces of yarn, ribbon, or string to make an "X" on the floor.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle around the X.
- Provide each kid with a penny.
- Explain to kids that we may not have much money, but God has given each of us unique talents and experiences.
- Share with kids that we can use what we've been given to make a difference in the world around us, whether it's a lot or a little.
- Use the four prepared index cards to label each corner of the "X."
- Invite the kids to place their penny in the corner that matches how they would finish the sentence: "This week I need God's help to . . ."
- Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they'd like to about their choices.
- Encourage kids to pray silently or aloud.
- Close your 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
- Dry-erase board, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- *Optional: paper and markers if a dry-erase board isn't available*

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper, one piece for every three to four kids
- Pens, one for every three to four kids
- Clipboards, one for every three to four kids
- *Optional: Mobile devices calculators, 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 Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper, 1-2 sheets for every kid
- Markers, enough for the Small Group to share
- Blanket, one for each Small Group

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Medium-sized box or container, one for each Small Group
 - Before group time, place random items in the box. Use items you have on hand such as a pen, towel, stuffed animal, coin, Bible, clothing item, food item, box of tissues, ball, bottle of water, etc., one item 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, one for every kid
- Print "Mustache Disguise" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one mustache for every kid and Small Group Leader
- Craft sticks, one for every kid and Small Group Leader
- Tape, two 3" pieces for every kid and Small Group Leader
- Pens or pencils, one for every kid and Small Group Leader

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:

- Pennies, one for every kid



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PRELUDE

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GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

- Yarn, ribbon, or string, two 4-foot pieces for each Small Group
- Index cards, four for every Small Group
- Markers, one for every Small Group
- Before group time, use a marker to write the following sentences on index cards:
 - Card 1: Discover what gifts I have.
 - Card 2: Work at developing a gift I have.
 - Card 3: Look for ways to use what I've been given.
 - Card 4: Not be afraid to use what I have to serve God.

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.