



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
MAY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Start Spreadin' the News**  
John's Disciples Follow Jesus  
John 1:35-45

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first  
hear about Jesus?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell  
others about Jesus.

### 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 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.

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, take a few moments of quiet to pray. Ask God to help you remember how you felt when you first discovered the story of Jesus and what His death and resurrection meant for you.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it**

## BASIC TRUTH

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## 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container

### 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.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Select one kid from each team to be the "Interrogator."
- Explain to the kids that you will give the "Interrogators" a category. Consider using some of the following:
  - Snack Food
  - Spying
  - Dogs
  - Vacation
  - Disguises
- Explain the rules:
  - The Interrogators can only ask questions related to the category given.
  - The first Interrogator will ask a question, and then the other Interrogator must respond with another question that fits the category.
  - Kids will continue in this way until a kid hesitates to ask a question or a question is asked that doesn't fit the category,
  - The winning Interrogator earns a point for their team.
- *Note: No one ever actually answers any of the questions - they simply respond with another question related to the topic.*
- For example, if the topic is "School," the Interrogation might go something like this:
  - Player #1: Do you like school?
  - Player #2: Is school good?
  - Player #1: How do you feel about math?
  - Player #2: Is math really as important as they say it is?
  - Player #1: Do you get good grades?
  - Player #2: What's your favorite subject?
- After each round, select new Interrogators and choose another category.
- Continue until every kid gets a turn to be an Interrogator.



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:** Index cards, markers (or pens), "Informant" Activity Page

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team a stack of index cards and a marker (or pen).
- Designate a place for each team to stand on opposing sides of your group area.
- Choose a kid from each team to be an "Informant."
- Explain that Informants help detectives solve problems by giving them important information.
- Share with the kids that in today's game, the Informants from each team will receive a one-word message (only they can see it).
- The Informant's job is to help their team collect all the letters for the word.
- The goal of the game is for each team to collect all the letters and reveal the message together!
- Invite the Informants from each team to stand beside you.
- Give each Informant a stack of cards from the "Informant" Activity Page and a marker (or pen).
- *NOTE: Encourage "Informants" to use a marker or pen to cross off letters as they share them.*
- Explain how to play:
  - The Informants will select a card from their pile and look at the word closely.
  - Once the Leader signals the start of the game, one kid from each team must run to their Informant.
  - The Informant will share one letter from the selected card without revealing the word.
  - *For example, if the word on the card is "SPY," the Informant could share the letter "P." They must share the letters out of order.*
  - The runner must return to their team and write the letter on an index card.
  - After the letter is written, each team will quickly send another kid to the Informant for a second letter.
  - That kid must return to their group and write the second letter on a separate index card.
  - Teams will continue repeating the process of sending runners to the informant, retrieving a letter, and returning to their team to write the letters revealed on separate index cards.
  - Once all the letters are collected, teams must work together to figure out the message.
- After the first word is guessed for each team, give another kid a chance to be the informant.
- Continue playing as time and interest allow.

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## (2. OPENING ACTIVITY, CONTINUED)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, friends! You all really worked together to solve those words quickly! Actually, each word you solved today is a clue about today's Bible Story. *[Transition]* Let's go hear about how Jesus **CALLED** some **FISHERMEN** to be His **DISCIPLES**. They chose to **FOLLOW** Him and couldn't wait to **TELL OTHERS**. 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 IMAGINE

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



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "People Clues" Activity Page, "Place Clues" Activity Page, "Object Clues" Activity Page, a coin

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Explain to kids how to play "Good News Clues":
  - Kids will use people, places, and objects to describe scenes in which someone shares or hears about Jesus.
- Place the "People Clues," "Place Clues," and "Object Clues" Activity Pages face down in separate stacks in the center of the circle.
- Select a kid to go first and direct them to draw a card from each pile.
- Instruct them to turn their selected cards face up so the group can see each one.
- Invite that kid to toss a coin and reveal if it landed on "Heads" or "Tails".
- If the coin lands on "Heads," that kid must describe a scene in which someone HEARD about Jesus.
  - For example, kids should describe a scene featuring the PERSON on one card in the PLACE on another card, using the OBJECT from the third card.
- If the coin lands on "Tails," that kid must describe a scene where someone TELLS OTHERS about Jesus.
  - For example, kids should describe a scene where the PERSON from one card is in the PLACE from another card, using the OBJECT from the third card.
- Shuffle the cards back into their respective piles, then select another kid to repeat the process.
- Continue until each kid gets a turn to share a scenario.
- Wrap up the activity by inviting any kids who would like to share their own experiences hearing about Jesus for the first time an opportunity to do so.
  - For example, "Jaylen heard about Jesus at home from a book his mom read to him."
- **[Make it Personal] Share an example of a unique or unexpected way you or someone you know heard about Jesus or shared their faith with others.**
- Share with kids that telling others about Jesus isn't just about what we say but how we act. Every day, you can share Jesus with others by loving them, being kind, and putting others before yourself.

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Initiative—Seeing what needs  
to be done and doing it**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the  
way I want to be treated.**



## MADE TO PLAY

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



## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, pens, index cards

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of 2-3 kids and give each team a color name.
  - Select the color or allow the teams to come up with their own.
- Give each team a Bible, pen, and index card.
- Assign the team a portion of John 1:35-45 to read and look up.
  - For example, the red team might look up verses 35-37, the yellow team 2 verses 38-40, and the purple team verses 41-45.
- Consider 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 each team to choose 2-3 keywords from their verses.
- Share with the kids that a "keyword" can be the name of a person, place, or a word that sticks out to them in the verses.
- Direct the teams to write their keywords in list form on one side of the index card.
- How to play:
  - The team with the first part of the story will begin reading it from the Bible.
  - When they reach one of the keywords they chose, they must replace it with their team color and continue reading.
  - For example, if the yellow team chose "Rabbi" as one of their keywords, they would read, "They said, "Yellow" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"
- The challenge is for the other groups to figure out what the correct word should be.
- **NOTE:** Consider challenging the teams to find the answers without using their Bibles.
- After each team reads, give the others a few moments to think about the missing words.
- Lead a discussion about the Bible Story:
  - Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God?
  - What examples in the story do you see of people sharing Jesus with others?
  - What examples of taking initiative can you find in this story?
  - What makes you most excited about telling others about Jesus?

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- Tell kids that when people met Jesus and believed in Him, they were so excited that they didn't wait for someone to ask about it. They immediately looked for ways to share the story of Jesus with others.
- Encourage kids to think of ways to open a conversation about Jesus with a friend (i.e., pray for them, invite them to a church event, share what they've been learning about Jesus this month at church, etc.)



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:**

- How did you first hear about Jesus?
- Why do you think it's important to tell people about Jesus?
- How can you share Jesus with others besides just talking to them about Him?
- What are some reasons you hesitate to tell others about Jesus?

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**I should treat others the  
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## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



## 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, white paper, white crayons, water-based markers; *Optional: clipboards*

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids together and give each kid a Bible.
- Invite kids to look up and read Mark 16:15. Consider 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.

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- Ask:
  - What is the "good news" of Jesus?
  - Why is the good news of Jesus a message everyone needs to hear?
  - Jesus said, "Go into the world. Preach the good news to everyone." (Mark 16:15) What does that actually look like for a kid your age?
  - *NOTE: Explain to kids that sharing the good news starts with the people around them!*
  - Who are the people around you that you can tell about Jesus?
- Invite kids to form groups of 2-3 kids.
- Give the groups a few minutes to discover a way to learn Mark 16:15 together.
  - *For example, kids could make motions, create a tune, or say the verse in a whisper voice.*
- After the groups have had a few minutes to learn the verse, gather your group together.
- Ask any groups if they would like to say the verse aloud for the entire group.
- Provide each kid with a sheet of white paper and a white crayon.
- Invite everyone to use the crayon to create an invisible message that illustrates Mark 16:15.
- Explain to kids that they can write or draw a picture.
- Encourage the kids to fill the page and to use thick, heavy lines in their work.
- Once everyone is finished, invite the kids to trade papers with another kid.
- Make water-based markers available and direct the kids to color over the paper to reveal the picture.
- Encourage the kids to find ways to tell others about Jesus this week. Consider sharing an encouraging verse or picture with a friend or family member.



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:** Red crepe paper

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Hand a kid the red crepe paper roll.
- Instruct that kid to begin by holding onto the end of the roll and tossing the rest across the circle to another kid.
- The kid who catches the crepe paper should hold onto the paper in one hand and toss the rest of the roll to another kid with their other hand.
- Invite the kids to continue tossing the crepe paper in this way to create a "laser field."
- Once everyone is holding a piece of crepe paper, invite kids to pray for the kid on the other end of their laser.
- Tell kids they can pray silently or aloud.
- *Optional: Invite kids to share a prayer request or name a person they would like to share Jesus with this week.*
- Close the group with prayer.

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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container

#### 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:**

- Index cards, about 90 for each Small Group
  - **NOTE:** Consider cutting pieces of plain paper into 4"x9" cards to substitute index cards
- Markers (or pens), four for every Small Group
- Print "Informant" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, two sets 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:**

- Print "People Clues" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Place Clues" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Object Clues" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- A coin, one for each Small Group

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]**

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles, one for every two or three kids
- Index cards, one for every two or three kids
- Pens, one for every two or three kids

#### 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 Explore:** an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles, one for every kid
- White paper, one piece for every kid
- White crayon, one for every kid
- Water-based markers, one for every kid
- **Optional:** Use clipboards for a flat surface to complete the 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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Red crepe paper, one roll 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.**