



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light My Way
God's Word Is a Light
Psalm 119:105

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you hear from God?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice hearing from God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Training the body has some value.
But being godly has value in every
way. It promises help for the life
you are now living and the
life to come."
1 Timothy 4:8, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan
and putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise 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.

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



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SMALL GROUP
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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 working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray that you would be able to have meaningful conversation with them in Small Group today. Pray that your kids would be able to focus and stay committed to growing, even though the end of the school year is getting closer (or you're already there).

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light My Way
God's Word Is a Light
Psalm 119:105

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container; large box, small bell, retractable pen, plastic candy wrapper, can of soda, scissors, stapler, keys on a key ring, 2 attached pieces of paper towel; *Optional:* device to play a video instead of the items

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you hear from God?

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive and invite them to place their offering in the offering container.
- Set out the box containing all the items without letting kids see what's inside.
- Explain that you will be reaching into the box to make noises with items inside the box.
- Each time you make a noise, give kids a chance to guess what item is making the noise. See below for specific instruction on noise making:
 - Bell: ring the bell
 - Pen: click the top a few times
 - Candy wrapper: crinkle the plastic
 - Soda: open the can
 - Scissors: open and close the scissors a few times
 - Stapler: press down until it produces a staple
 - Keys: jingle the keys
 - Paper towels: slowly tear the two attached pieces apart
- *Optional:* Use the following video to play sounds for kids to guess in place of using physical items.
 - <https://bit.ly/42auCDS>

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice hearing from God.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."
1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

- Play until each item has been guessed.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

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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: Prepared bags of assorted items

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams and direct them to gather with space between each team.
- Instruct each team to select one person to be their captain (someone comfortable getting dressed up with props).
- Place a prepared bag next to each team but direct them not to open or look inside it yet.
- Explain that you will read a series of instructions one time through, and then once you have finished, you will say, "Go!" so each team can work together to remember and follow the instructions to dress up their captain, in order.
 - Caution kids to listen carefully as they'll only hear the instructions once.
- Read the instructions below then say, "Go!"
 1. Hand the jersey to your captain and tell them to put it on.
 2. Place the ball cap on your captain's head.
 3. Come up with a fun team name.
 4. Use the marker to write your team's name on the piece of paper.
 5. Use the tape to attach the team's name to the back of your captain's jersey.
 6. Give the socks to your captain. Tell them to put the socks on.
 7. Tell them to pull the sock on their left leg up and push the sock on their right leg down.
 8. Place the baseball inside the gym bag, and hand it to your captain.
 9. Tell your captain to wear the gym bag with the strap over their right
 10. shoulder.
 11. Give your captain the water bottle and tell them to hold it in their left hand. Give your captain the towel and tell them to drape it around their neck.
- Once teams have finished, re-read the list of instructions and see which team did the best job remembering everything.
- The team that completed the instructions most accurately is the winning team.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a lot to have to listen for! You had to listen well so that you could hear the instructions and remember what to do. **[Transition] Today, we will discover how God has provided us with instructions and guidance for how we should live.**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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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: "Bible Verse or Song Lyric?" Activity Page, Bible or smart phone Bible app; *Optional: Printed Devotional from the Home folder*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you will be reading a list of quotes out loud for kids to decide whether each quote is a Bible verse or a popular song lyric.
- Read a quote from the "Bible Verse or Song Lyric" Activity Page.
- Pause for kids to discuss; encourage them to come up with a consensus.
- Once the group decides, let them know whether they gave the correct answer.
 - Recruit a kid to keep track of how many the group guessed correctly.
- Repeat for each quote from the "Bible Verse or Song Lyric?" Activity Page.
- After going through the entire list, see how many the group guessed correctly.
- Lead a group discussion on the importance of learning to hear God's voice by asking the following questions:
 - Is it difficult to distinguish between God's voice and another?
 - How can you know when it's God's words, and not someone else's? (*God will never be the one leading you to do something wrong; When you have a relationship with God, you have the Holy Spirit to guide you; God's words will lead us to love others.*)
 - What are some ways you can practice hearing God's voice? (*Reading God's Word, learning from people who have a relationship with God, making space for quiet time of reflection, etc.*)
- **[Make it Personal] Use the Bible or a Bible app on your smartphone to show kids how you like to spend time in God's Word.**
- *Optional: If your church uses the provided weekly devotionals show kids how to use one and encourage them to utilize these devotionals as a structure for their time spent reading their Bible.*

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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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Acrostic Verses" Activity Page, dry erase board, dry erase marker, Bibles, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Talk with the group about the book of Psalms by asking the following questions:
 - What was unique about the way Psalm 119 was written? (*It's very long! It was written in the form of an acrostic: each chapter begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet.*)
 - Are there any well-known verses from the Book of Psalms that you can think of? (*Prompt kids with the following verses, if needed.*)
 - *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. —Psalm 23:1, KJV*
 - *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. —Psalm 34:8, NIV*
 - *Find delight in the Lord. Then he will give you everything your heart really wants. —Psalm 37:4, NIV*
 - *The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? —Psalm 27:1, NIV*
 - *Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10, NIV*
 - *He heals those who have broken hearts. He takes care of their wounds. —Psalm 147:3, NIV*
- On the dry erase board, write the letters H-E-A-R vertically.
- Using the letter, "H," write the word, "Hebrews."
- Using the letter, "E," write the word, "Ephesians."
- Using the letter, "A," write the word, "Acts."
- Using the letter, "R," write the word, "Romans."
- Divide kids into four groups and give each group a Bible, one of the "Acrostic Verses" Activity Page, and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that groups will work together to form an acrostic, like Psalms, by looking up the verses on their page and writing down what those verses say about God.
- Once each group has finished their Activity Page, invite each group to share what the verses they looked up had to say about God.
 - Write down some of the things they share next to that letter on the dry erase board.
- Remind kids that even though we may not physically be able to see God, we can hear from God through the words in the Bible.

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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 can you hear from God?
- How can you know when you are hearing from God or another voice?
- How can reading about Jesus' life help you hear from God?
- What gets in the way of spending time reading the Bible?
- Is it possible to hear from God in ways other than reading the Bible?

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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, dry erase boards, dry erase markers; *Optional: Timer or timer app*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Ask each team to choose a volunteer to look up this month's memory verse.
- Give each team's volunteer a Bible and direct them to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from 1 Timothy. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 8 in chapter 4.*

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- Direct each team to form a parallel line with plenty of space between each team.
 - The kids with the Bibles should be at one end of their team's line.
 - At the other end of each line, place a dry erase board and dry erase marker.
- Explain that when you say, "Go!" the kid on each team with the Bible will whisper the first word of 1 Timothy 4:8 into the ear of the person next to them. That person will whisper the word to the person next to them and so on. Once the word reaches the kid at the other end, they will use the dry erase marker to write the word on the board.
- After the word is written on the board, they will run to the opposite side of their line near the Bible. Everyone in the line should shift accordingly, so that a new person is now at the white board.
- The kid who is now at the Bible will look to see what the second word of the verse is to whisper it to the next person in line. The word should continue down the line until it reaches the board.
- Continue this way, shifting the lines, until every word of 1 Timothy 4:8 has been written on the board. *(The reference, 1 Timothy 4:8, can be considered one word.)*
- The team to complete the entire verse on the board first is the winning team.
- *If your group is smaller, this can be played with all kids in one single line to write the verse, rather than as a race against two teams. Race against the clock if time allows!*
- Once the game has ended, ask the following questions for discussion:
 - What does this verse have to do with commitment?
 - What is something you are committed to or would like to commit to?



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an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Scripture Prayers" Activity Page, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit together in your group space.
- Explain how prayers are written throughout scripture. Many Bible verses are prayers to God that people wrote.
 - For example, Psalm 119:105 was written as a prayer, thanking God for how God's Word brings us light.
- Give each kid a copy of the "Scripture Prayers" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Before you begin reading, encourage kids to listen to each verse and circle any of the prayers that stand out to them.
 - Explain that this could mean a verse resonates with them for some reason, and they may want to use it as guidance for their own prayer time later.
- Ask for volunteers to take turns reading each of the verses on the Activity Page out loud for the entire group.
- After all the verses have been read out loud, invite kids to spread out and find a place to pray silently.
 - Encourage them to use the verses they circled to guide what they pray about. They can also talk to God about anything in their life they may be committed to right now. They can spend time asking God for help with their commitment.
- After everyone has had several minutes to pray silently, close by saying a prayer for the entire group.

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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, 1 for each Small Group
- Large box, 1 for each Small Group
- The following items, 1 of each for each Small Group:
 - Small bell
 - Retractable pen
 - Plastic candy wrapper
 - Can of soda
 - Scissors
 - Stapler
 - Keys on a key ring
 - 2 pieces of paper towel attached with perforation
- Before kids arrive, place all the noise making items inside the box so they cannot be seen.
- *Optional:* Internet capable device to play video instead of physical items.
 - <https://bit.ly/42auCDS>

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large bags, 2 for each Small Group
- Set of the following items, 2 sets for each Small Group
 - Ball cap
 - Jersey or sports team t-shirt
 - A pair of long socks
 - Masking tape
 - Piece of paper
 - Marker
 - Small gym bag, duffel bag, or backpack
 - Baseball

- Water bottle
- Small towel
- Before group time: Place one of each of the above items in each of the 2 large bags.

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 "Bible Verse or Song Lyric?" Activity Page on paper, 1 for each Small Group
- Bible or Bible App on Smartphone
- *Optional:* Printed Devotional from the Home folder

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Acrostic Verses" Activity Page on paper, 1 set for each Small Group
- Pens or pencils, 4 for each Small Group
- Dry erase board, 1 for each Small Group
- Dry erase marker, 1 for each Small Group
- Bibles, 4 for each Small Group

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



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

GETTING READY

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

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:

- Bible, 2 for each Small Group
- Dry erase board, 2 for each Small Group
- Dry erase marker, 2 for each Small Group
- *Optional: Timer or timer app*

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:

- Print "Scripture Prayers" Activity Page on paper, 1 for each kid
- Pens or pencils, 1 for each kid

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.