



WEEK  
**THREE**  
MAY 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Speak Now**

Peter Says That Jesus  
Is the Messiah  
Matthew 16:13-20

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who do you talk to about God?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about 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

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan  
and putting it into practice

### 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 <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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**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



*Before kids arrive, take a few moments by yourself to ask God for patience as you seek to lead your kids in conversations. Pray for patience and wisdom and insight into how to help your kids connect with each other and with you as you talk about life and how to have a relationship with God and others.*

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Commitment—Making a plan  
and putting it into practice**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, Craft pompoms, bowl or bag

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Welcome kids as they arrive.
- Invite them to place their offering in the offering container.
- Invite kids to sit in a circle and hand the bowl of pompoms to someone.
- Tell the kid with the bowl to reach in and grab a handful of pompoms. Then, they will pass the bowl to the kid sitting next to them so they can do the same.
  - Kids can make it as large or small of a handful as they would like.
- Continue passing the bowl around the circle until everyone has had a chance to grab a handful of pompoms.
- Explain that you will now go around the circle—beginning with the kid who had the bowl first—and each person must tell the group something about themselves for every pompom they grabbed. (*ie: If they grabbed 15 pompoms, they will have to share 15 facts!*)
- Help kids by explaining that these facts can be anything about themselves! They can be unique details, such as, *"I'm taking a trip to the beach this summer,"* or as basic as, *"I'm in 5th grade."*
- Continue going around the circle until everyone has had a chance to share.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Blindfold or bandana, dry erase board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Choose one kid to stand up in front of the group. Place a blindfold over the kid's eyes so they cannot see anything.
- Explain that the rest of the group will give the blindfolded kid instructions to draw a piece of sports equipment on the dry erase board without saying what it is or giving any clues that would reveal it.
  - For example, for baseball kids might say: Draw a circle. Draw two curved lines inside the circle. Add notches to the lines inside the circle.
- Make sure the blindfolded kid cannot see, then write a word from the list below on the dry erase board for the rest of the group to see.
  - Baseball
  - Hockey stick
  - Soccer ball
  - Basketball hoop
  - Football field goal
  - Tennis racket
  - Swim goggles
  - Balance beam
- Make sure the rest of the group has seen the word and then erase it from the board.
- Hand the marker to the blindfolded kid.
- Ask the group to raise their hands and call on them to take turns providing instructions for drawing the piece of equipment.
- Once the kid has finished drawing, let them take off their blindfold so they can see what they drew. Give them a chance to guess what the piece of equipment is. The group can reveal the answer if they are unable to figure out what it is.
- Continue playing, allowing more kids to take turns drawing.

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### 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

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"It was not easy to draw these pieces of sports equipment! Just like it takes commitment and a teamwork effort to play any of these sports, it also required you all to work together to draw each item. You did a great job talking about what the blindfolded person should draw each round. **[Transition] Today, we'll learn about something very important we should practice talking about.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



## 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: "Talk Time" Activity Page

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the group to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first and let them pick one of the "Talk Time" Activity Page cards. Ask them to read what's written on the card out loud for the group.
- Once they have read the scenario, give them a chance to answer the question about how they can talk about God in that scenario.
  - If they are having trouble thinking of an answer, they can choose another kid in the group to help them. Allow the group to contribute to the discussion for each scenario.
- Continue passing the stack of cards around the circle until everyone has had a chance to read a scenario or you have gone through the entire stack.
- Remind kids that the way we live our lives and our interactions with those around us can lead to conversations about God. Sometimes just choosing to be a good listener is what helps others trust us and become more receptive to what we have to say.
- *[Make it Personal] Share a story about a time where you talked to someone else about God. Be sure to explain how you felt. Were you nervous or apprehensive? Allow kids to see that even adults find it challenging sometimes to talk to others about God. But when we do, we are helping someone else see and understand who God is.*

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25 MINUTES

### 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:** Prepared "Commit or Split" Activity Pages, bowl or bucket

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Invite teams to sit together on opposite sides of your group space, facing each other.
- Place the prepared bucket centered between the two teams.
- Explain they are going to play a game called "Commit or Split."
  - Teams will take turns picking a card from the bucket to read out loud.
  - It will either be a scene from the Bible story or a prompt to monologue about something. *Explain that a monologue is typically a long, dramatic, side speech an actor gives during a conversation in a play.*
- Once they read it, their team will then have the choice to *Commit or Split*.
  - If they commit, their team will follow the prompt on their card. They can select what person or combination of people on their team are going to be involved. They will receive a point after.
  - If they split (preferring to wait for a different prompt but risk getting stuck with a more difficult or perhaps the same one again), they choose to pass up the opportunity, place the card back in the bucket, and do not get a point.
- Continue alternating turns between each team until the entire bucket of prompts has been used. At that time, the team with the most points is the winning team.
- After the game ends, ask:
  - How do you think Peter decided what to say about Jesus? (*He used the miraculous things he had witnessed to form his own belief in who Jesus is. Jesus tells Peter, "... this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven."*)
  - How can you decide what you believe about Jesus?
- Remind kids that we all have our own set of unique experiences that will reveal to us who Jesus is. Assure them that you, as their Small Group Leader, are here for them to ask questions as they learn about Jesus and explore what they believe.

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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:**

- Who do you talk to about God?
- What kinds of things can you say about God?
- Is it difficult for you to talk to others about God? Why or why not?
- How can you overcome a fear of talking to others about God?
- Why does talking about God take practice?

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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:** Bible, "Free Throw Verses" Activity Page, bucket, small plush basketball or other ball, masking tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the bucket on one end of your group space and place the "Free Throw Verses" Activity Page cards inside.
- Place the Bible on the floor next to the bucket.
- Use the tape to make a line on the floor roughly 8-10 feet away from the bucket (or as much as your group space allows).
- Invite kids to line up behind the taped line.
- Explain to kids that in the game of basketball, there is a shot called a free throw. In order for basketball players to consistently make their free throws, they have to spend a lot of time practicing. That takes commitment!
- Tell kids that they will be practicing their free throws in this game. They will take turns shooting the ball into the bucket.
- If they make their shot, they will pick one of the cards out of the bucket. On the paper will be a Bible verse reference. They should use the Bible to look up the verse, and then they should read it out loud for the group.
- If they miss their shot, they should go to the end of the line, and it becomes the next person's turn to shoot.
- Continue rotating through the line until all Bible verses have been read.
- Assure kids that just like it takes practice to improve our free throw skills, it also takes practice talking to others about God. The more we do it, the more comfortable we will feel when it comes to telling others about things God has done.

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### 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:**

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain to kids that one of the purposes of being in a

Small Group is to have people you can feel safe and comfortable with when it comes to talking about God. You can be there to encourage, build each other up, and give confidence to tells others outside of the group about God as well.

- Ask:
  - What is something you know about God?
  - What is something that God has done?
  - What questions do you have about God? *(Ask this question without the purpose of answering kids' questions. Simply give them a safe place to voice questions they may have about God and reassure them that it's absolutely normal to have questions!)*
- Encourage kids to think of one person in their life, outside of church, that they can tell about God. If they feel comfortable sharing with the group, invite them to do so.
- Say a prayer for the group. Reserve some time during the prayer where kids can pray silently about the person whose name came to their mind. Close the prayer time by thanking God for the 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 Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container
- Craft pompoms, 1 large package for each Small Group
  - *NOTE:* Although any size pompoms will work for this activity, an assortment of sizes will add to the variety in how many each kid can grab with one hand.
- Bowl or bag
- Before group time: Place all the pompoms in the bowl or bag.

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Blindfold or bandana, 1 for each Small Group
- Dry erase board, 1 for each Small Group
- Dry erase marker, 1 for each Small Group
- Dry eraser, 1 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 Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Talk Time" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, 1 set 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:**

- Print "Commit or Split" Activity Pages on paper and cut apart, 1 set for each Small Group
- Bucket or bowl, 1 for each Small Group
- Before group time: Place the cut cards into the bucket or bowl.

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on 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:**

- Bucket, 1 for each Small Group
- Print "Free Throw Verses" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, 1 set for each Small Group
- Bible, 1 for each Small Group
- Small plush basketball or other ball, 1 for each Small Group
- Masking tape, 1 long piece for each Small Group

#### 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.



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## GETTING READY

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

- Tell parents about our additional family resource:  
**Parent Cue app.**