



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reason to Believe
God Will Give Us Joy
Habakkuk 3:17-18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What can you celebrate today?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

There's always a reason to celebrate.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up."
Proverbs 17:22, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

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



Start the Party

Celebrate the Good News

WEEK
FIVE
JUNE 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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 your kids will understand or catch a glimpse of what it may look like in their lives to see joy even when they're experiencing things or situations in which it may be difficult to do so.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Direct them to place their offerings in the container.
- Ask kids to describe their favorite party.
- When enough kids have arrived, invite them to form a circle.
- Explain that you will designate one kid each round to be the "Life of the Party" by pointing to them.
- Let them know that everyone except one person will know who it is.
- Choose a kid to stand in the middle of the circle with their eyes closed.
- Discreetly designate one kid as the "Life of the Party" by pointing to them. Make sure they know you have chosen them by having them nod their head.
- Explain that once you direct the kid in the middle to open their eyes, the "Life of the Party's" job is to make eye contact with one of the kids in the circle then blink twice at them (without the kid in the middle seeing it happen). The kid who is blinked at must immediately shout out, "PARTY HEARTY!"
- Tell the kid in the middle to open their eyes then lead the "Life of the Party" to start the round.
- After eye contact is made and a kid shouts, "Party Hearty!" give the kid in the middle two tries to guess who is the "Life of the Party" (the one giving the signal).
- Repeat the game several times by giving each kid a chance to be the "Life of the Party" and a different kid to be in the middle.

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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: Sticky notes, pen, balloon (or similar for passing)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to form a circle.
- Write a number between 1-100 on a sticky note without the kids seeing.
- Ask each kid to share a number between 1-100.
- Show them the number you wrote on the sticky note. The kid who came the closest takes the first turn in a guessing game.
- Explain the guessing game to the group as described below:
 - You will choose one kid ("the guesser") to sit in the middle of the circle.
 - You will call out a topic. (See below for suggestions.)
 - You will give the kids forming the circle a balloon to pass around.
 - The "guesser" will name as many things as they can think of related to that topic in the time it takes the balloon to go around the circle twice (*adjust based on the size of your group*).
 - For example: If the topic is candy, they might say "chocolate, M&Ms, jellybeans, Skittles®," etc.
 - You'll keep track of the number of items named, write that number on a sticky note, and give it to that kid as their score.
- After each round, choose another kid to be in the middle using the same selection method as earlier. (Kids who have already taken a turn do not choose a number.)
- Repeat so everyone gets a chance to be in the middle. The kid who lists the most items wins.
- Let kids choose a topic or use ones from the list below:
 - Fruit
 - Sports
 - Items found in a backpack
 - Types of trees
 - Animals on a farm
 - Flavors of ice cream
 - Pizza toppings
 - Things found in a kitchen
 - Party supplies
 - Furniture
 - Things that are soft
 - Things that are loud

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those were a random selection of topics, but everyone did a great job coming up with different things for each one. **[Transition]** Today we'll hear about a situation that seemed hopeless, but a random selection of things turned into



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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

(2. OPENING ACTIVITY, CONTINUED)

a joyful reminder. Figs, cattle, and olives probably sound like random reasons, but let's head to Large Group to find out more!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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FIVE
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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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: Party blowers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a party blower.
- Explain that you will read a short scenario for them to

imagine then they will use their party horn to indicate if that situation would be easy or hard for them to find something to celebrate—push the party horn out a small amount if the situation seems easy to find joy and more if it'd be difficult to find joy.

- Read the scenarios listed below, one at a time, and pause for responses.
- Invite kids to share why they answered the way they did each time.
- Remind kids that sometimes things that happen are out of our control, but one thing we CAN control is the way we respond.
- Ask:
 - When you can't seem to find anything worth celebrating, what can you do to get out of a celebration funk?
 - Is there ever a time when there's absolutely NOTHING to celebrate? Why or why not?
 - When things go from good to bad or from bad to worse, what are some things about God that NEVER change?
- **[Make it Personal] Tell kids an appropriate example of a frustrating, discouraging, or otherwise difficult situation you faced that they could relate to. Share something you knew to be true about God that helped you find something to celebrate even in a tough time.**

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Scenarios:

1. Your parent got a new, exciting job, but it means your family will need to move to another state.
2. You sprained your wrist playing volleyball and can't play in the final tournament.
3. You studied A LOT but still got a "D" on your science test.
4. Your best friend since kindergarten is moving away.
5. Your parents are arguing a lot lately.
6. Your dog is sick and might not get better.
7. Your friends are all going to summer camp, but your family can't afford it this summer.
8. Your birthday party at the water park had to be canceled.
9. You tried out for the team but didn't make it.
10. The internet is down, and you can't play any online games or watch any of your favorite shows.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Marked Bible, "Even if . . ." Activity Page, container of water, large plastic cups, pens, paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask for a kid to read to the group, then hand that kid the marked Bible to read Habakkuk 3:17-18.
- Give each kid an "Even if . . ." Activity Page and a pen. Direct kids to write their name on it.
- Ask:
 - Habakkuk 3:17 described a very bad day. Have you ever been upset about dried up fields or no animals in the barn? If not, what would your very bad day be like? Write down five things that would be extremely hard for you to face on the "Even if . . ." lines of the Activity Page. *(Kids can brainstorm ideas together or work individually. Encourage them to give genuine answers that are real to them—even if they're not the same as others.)*
 - Habakkuk 3:18 says that Habakkuk would still be glad because of what the Lord has done for him. What are some things you could still be glad about even if a lot of things were not going well? Write it on the last lines of the Activity Page. *(Kids can once again brainstorm with others or work separately.)*
 - If everything you wrote down on the first five lines actually happened, what would it look like to trust God in all of those tough situations?
 - What can you celebrate even on your toughest day?
 - What might God use to fill you with joy in the midst of disappointment or sadness?
- Give each kid a large, plastic cup then lead them to follow the steps below:
 - Slightly crumple the Activity Page—just enough for it to fit into the cup.
 - Gently press the paper wad into the bottom of the cup, being careful to not cause the cup to lose its shape.
 - Flip the cup over to make sure the paper does not fall out.
 - Slowly submerge the cup straight down into the container of water. Do not angle the cup at all.
 - Pull the cup out of the water slowly without tilting it.
 - Shake the excess water from the cup then take the paper out. It should still be dry.
- Ask:
 - If the water in this experiment represented the tough times Habakkuk talked about in verse 17, how might the paper inside the cup demonstrate how he felt in verse 18?
 - What evidence of God's love and care can we celebrate even when everything seems to be going wrong?
 - What is one thing you can celebrate right now that will still be a reason to celebrate when you're not having a good day?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- Point out that when things are difficult, we can choose to find reasons to celebrate. The best place to start is to remember what's true about God. Think about what God has done in the past, the promises God has given in the Bible, and the ways God has shown up for others you know. We can also always remember how Jesus chose to give His life so we could live forever with God.
- Collect the Activity Pages and set aside for the Make it Personal with Prayer activity.



Start the Party

Celebrate the Good News

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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:

- If Habakkuk visited our Small Group today, what do you think he would tell us about joy?
- When you realize that you can't control a situation and make it go the way you want, how does that make you feel? What are some good things that can come out of realizing we are not in control of some things? What CAN we control?
- Even though as followers of Jesus we know God is in control and that we can trust God, why is it so hard to believe that sometimes?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, party hats, permanent markers, pens, sticky notes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to get into pairs.
- Give each kid a party hat and a permanent marker.
- Explain that when we're going through a tough time, we sometimes *react* with unhelpful thoughts or attitudes rather than *responding* in a way that's helpful. What we think about can either steal our joy or help us focus on what's true and right.
- Give kids time to share with their partners what some of those unhelpful thoughts might be then write them on their party hat. For example:
 - I'm all alone in this.
 - It seems like God is not with me.
 - This is too hard.
 - No one else has ever been through something like this.
 - I'm too afraid.
 - I'm stuck. Nothing will ever change.
 - My way is better than God's.
- Give each pair a Bible. Direct them to look up and read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 using the Navigation Tip 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.

- Give each kid 4 sticky notes and a pen.
- Say 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 together.
- Ask kids to divide the verses into four parts then write each portion on a separate sticky note.
- Ask:
 - How does 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 suggest we respond in a difficult situation?
 - Which of the actions described in the verse is one you need to work on most?
 - What would be different if instead of *reacting* to a situation you chose to *respond* with the ideas described in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18?
- Instruct the kids to place the sticky notes on their party hats to cover the reactions they wrote earlier. Prompt them to choose the portion of the verse they feel would be the best response to the negative reaction or thoughts they wrote on the hat.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU, CONTINUED)

- Say the verse together and remind kids that we can't always control what might happen to us. But we CAN control how we respond. We can admit how hard those things are, but then we can choose to remember how God has helped us in the past, and that we can truly trust God no matter what.



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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



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Completed "Even if . . ." Activity Pages from the Bible Story Extension Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid their "Even if . . ." Activity Page from the Bible Story Extension activity.
- Allow kids a moment to review what they wrote.
- Invite kids to ask for God's help to follow Habakkuk's example this week when things don't go as planned or they face a tough situation.
- Ask them to review what they wrote at the bottom of the page ("I can still have joy because . . .") then encourage them to pray those words back to God either silently or aloud.
- Pray for each kid individually, asking the Holy Spirit to help them always find something to celebrate.

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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

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:

- Sticky notes, several for each Small Group Leader
- Pen, one for each Small Group Leader
- Balloon (or similar item for passing), 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:

- Party blowers (the ones that roll out with no sound), one for each kid

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Habakkuk 3:17-18
- Print "Even if . . ." Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Plastic cups, one for each kid
- Pens, one for each kid
- Container of water (bin, bucket, or similar deep enough to fully submerge the cup), one for each Small Group
- Paper towels

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 Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for every other kid
- Party hat (solid color), one for kid
- Sticky notes, 4 for each kid
- Permanent markers, one for each kid
- Pens, one for each kid

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:

- Completed "Even if . . ." Activity Pages from the Bible Story Extension Activity

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.**