



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Over and Over
Training to Win the Prize
1 Corinthians 9:24-25
(supporting: Matthew 22:36-40)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep practicing
what matters most.

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 LIFE APP

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love* and "You Are Faithful" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Hear Talk Pray Live
Application Activity: Laced Up
Memory Verse Activity: Training Day One
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
GodTime Devotional for Kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



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15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for His commitment to us, to being so committed to us that He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him forever. Ask God to give kids encouragement today, that they would be spurred on to practice and do the things that matter most. Ask Him to help kids process what they'll learn today and to be listening for how His Spirit might be moving in their hearts.

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, offering container, paper slips, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought offerings to put them in the offering container.
- Instruct each kid to use a pump of hand sanitizer.
- Ask the group to complete this sentence on their slips of paper: Practice makes . . .
 - Give them a hint. Practice doesn't make perfect! Ask them to fill in the blank with whatever first comes to mind.
- Collect the slips of paper from the kids and read them out loud to everyone.
- If time allows, ask the group to guess who wrote each sentence.
- Talk for a few minutes together about practice. Ask:
 - What sort of things do we practice?
 - Why do people practice at all?



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MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Rhythm instruments or items, (optional) cell phone or tablet

WHAT YOU DO:

- If time allows, or as an option, start by watching this video (<https://bit.ly/39SBxXt>) together on your cell phone or tablet. It talks about making rhythm and beat with common objects.
- Divide your group into four smaller groups.
 - Group #1 will be responsible for the "1-2-3-4" rhythm, keeping a simple, steady beat. They can clap their hands, open and close books, shake boxes with small objects inside, etc. These should be your younger kids.
 - Group #2 will create the "1-2-and 3-and 4" rhythm. They can clap their hands, snap their fingers, or use shakers.
 - Group #3 will produce the "1-and 2-and 3-and 4-and" beats. They can hit sticks together, use a shaker, or tap overturned cups or buckets with their fingers or sticks.
 - Group #4 is to make the "1-2-3-and-4" rhythm with whatever works best! They can even say the rhythm out loud: TAH TAH TITI TAH.
- *Optional: This would make a fun video to share with families. if you have the capabilities, record the kids on your phone or tablet and email to families. Be sure you have parent/guardian permission if you choose to post on social media.*

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That took a TON of practice! How did we work on this piece of music together? (*tried it many times; paid close attention; encouraged each other; made small adjustments*) Those are all great ways to practice a skill. **[Transition] Let's go hear about something else we can practice together!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Commitment—Making a plan
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25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



* 1. HEAR TALK PRAY LIVE [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "HTPL Console" Activity Page, crayons or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out the crayons or markers and an "HTPL Console" Activity Page to each kid.
- Encourage the kids to color their "HTPL Console" with the crayons according to the colors on the console.
- Explain that you will play a game together.
 - Kids will try to touch the colors in order, according to their labels, as you call them out: Hear, Talk, Pray, and Live.
 - Call out different sequences quickly. (For example: Live, Talk, Live; Pray, Live, Talk, Live; Pray, Pray, Hear, Talk.)
 - Start with a few words in a sequence and add more.
- If a kid misses touching the "console" in order, instruct them to sit out until the next round.
- Start new rounds often, so that kids have as many chances to play as possible.
- Let the kids who are "out" watch for others who might need called out.
- Older kids can also call the sequences.
- Play as long as time allows.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"What did you notice the more and more you played the game? (You got better with practice.) You didn't start out an expert at playing this, but all of you improved the more you played.

"No one gave up! You all showed commitment! Who remembers what commitment means? (making a plan and putting it into practice) We sure practiced!

"We don't start out as experts at our relationship with God either. We need to practice—to plan for it and work at it every day. What were the four things we can practice to grow closer to God? (hear, talk, pray, live) Yes! We will learn more about each one this month, but we need all four pieces to grow strong in our relationship with God. Remember, **keep practicing what matters most.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share how you practice one of those elements: Hear, Talk, Pray, or Live. What do you do to practice? When do you do it? Why or when did you start?)



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. LACED UP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared "Lacing Demo" Activity Page, white shoelaces, thin-tipped permanent pens or markers, and cell phone or tablet

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give one pair of shoelaces to each kid.
- Direct the kids to choose their marker colors.
- Encourage them to write "HEAR PRAY TALK LIVE" on each lace. They can do it several times in a row to go the whole length of the lace, or just write it toward the end of each lace.
- Give each kid a "Lacing Demo" Activity Page and let them practice lacing up the shoes.
- Watch this video (<https://bit.ly/2XWZJIR>) for different ways to tie shoelaces.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Learning something new—like a cool way to lace your shoes—takes practice.

"Some things we practice for a short time—like a cool, trendy dance move or a phone number we have to remember for a few minutes—but some things we practice so we can use them our whole lives.

"Can you think of some of those things we practice to use them our whole lives? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! And of those things, the most important things you'll ever practice are the skills you use to connect with God—learning how to hear from God, talk to God in prayer, tell others about Him, and live Jesus' way.

"Since we'll have a relationship with God that lasts forever, it's important that we take time to **keep practicing what matters most.**"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What makes you feel like quitting something important? Not having enough time? Not knowing how to start?
- How can "practicing" your relationship with God make it better?
- What is just one thing this week you could do to spend more time with God?

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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. TRAINING DAY ONE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, stopwatch

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the Bible Navigation Tips below to look up 1 Timothy 4:8 together and read it out loud.
- Start “training” together. Run laps of your small group area (or instruct kids to spread out and run in place). Stop to say the verse at the beginning of each new “lap.”

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Over and Over

Training to Win the Prize
1 Corinthians 9:24-25
(supporting: Matthew 22:36-40)

***Finding verses with a multi-age group:** Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd -3rd grade) to find 1 Timothy in the list under New Testament. When the kid finds 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Ask older elementary kids (4th-5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 4, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers, and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 8 in chapter 4. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.*

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

Keep practicing
what matters most.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“We train and practice for sports and other skills, but we also need to **keep practicing what matters most.**”

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

“This verse reminds us that not only does our relationship with God matter now, but it will matter forever. Our friendship with God will never end—we will talk with Him, hear from Him, and follow Him for all of time!

“What is one thing you’d like to hear from God? (Invite answers.) What is one thing you’d like to say to God? (Invite answers.)”

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Commitment—Making a plan
and putting it into practice

“We hear from God in lots of different ways, and we talk to Him through prayer, but someday we will hear from God and talk with Him face to face. That’s insanely amazing! And that’s worth practicing for.”

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4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Materials from Opening Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Repeat the rhythms from the Opening Activity.
- Play the rhythms a few times through.
- Ask the group to say the Bottom Line to the beat. **Keep practicing what matters most.**
- Affirm each kid, saying to the rhythm, "(Kid's name), I know you can **keep practicing what matters most.**"
- When everyone has been affirmed, set the instruments aside and close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us so many ways to connect with You. Please help us keep practicing so we can grow a stronger and stronger friendship with You. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, if time allows, demonstrate your awesome rhythm section! And make sure kids take home their HTPL Consoles and shoelaces.

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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. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Hand sanitizer
- Offering container
- Paper slips
- Pencils

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Items that can make noise in a rhythm—books; plastic boxes with pencils or crayons inside; craft or paint sticks to tap together; or musical instruments like shakers, maracas, tambourines, or whistles—one item or instrument for each kid
- (Optional) Cell phone or tablet

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.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. HEAR TALK PRAY LIVE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "HTPL Console" Activity Page on cardstock; one for each kid

- Green, Yellow, Red, and Blue crayons or markers

2. LACED UP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Lacing Demo" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one for each kid
 - Punch holes and fold where indicated
- Plain white shoelaces; ideally a pair for each kid
- Thin-tipped permanent pens or markers
- Cell phone or tablet

3. TRAINING DAY ONE

[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
- Stopwatch

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Materials from Opening Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.