

3-5's | W5

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 5

Bible Story: Matthew's Dinner • Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32

Jesus never stops caring.

Key Question: Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line: Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse: *How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.* • Ephesians 3:18 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Seat at the Table

Set the Table

Heart STEAM

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Verse Up High

Order of the Story

What Foods Do You Eat?

All the Helpers

Jesus Cares about Everyone

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

Matthew's Dinner • Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32

Jesus never stops caring.

Key Question

Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line

Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse

How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. • Ephesians 3:18 NIV

11 min

Worship

3 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed



- To include children with physical limitations, consider an alternative to jumping, such as clapping, wiggling, making silly faces, etc.

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

(Worship Leader enters.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name]. I am SO happy to see you today!

"Okay, friends, when I say 'Go!' I want you to jump as many times as you can. Ready? Go!

(Jump with the children.)

"And ... stop!

(Smile and freeze, as a visual cue for children to stop.)

"And let's go again! Jump, jump, jump!

(Jump with the children.)

"And ... stop!

(Smile and freeze.)

"But we're not finished. Let's jump again ... go!

(Jump with the children.)

"And ... stop!

(Freeze and then relax after the children have stopped jumping.)

"Wow, that was a lot of jumping! I think some of you could have kept going. You would NEVER STOP jumping if you could, right? Well, I know someone who never stops loving you. It's Jesus! Jesus will never, ever stop loving you or me or anyone else in the world. **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

Amazing Music is available in APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's time to stand up and celebrate because Jesus cares about you!

SONG: "Come and Go with Me" Preschool Video is available from Amazing Music.

5 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"Great singing, friends! Now, let's learn some of God's words from the Bible. (*Open hands like a book.*) Are you ready? Watch me say the words from the Bible and do the motions, and then you can do them with me!

(Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, and on Pinterest.)

"How wide (*hold arms out wide*) and long (*hold arms up and down*) and high (*jump high*) and deep (*crouch low*) is the love of Christ (*cross arms over chest*). Ephesians 3:18 (*open hands like a book*).

"Can you do that with me?"

(Lead children to say the Memory Verse with Hand Motions once or twice.)

"Great job, friends! 'Christ' is a special name for Jesus, because Jesus is God's Son! And Jesus cares about everyone—including a man named Zacchaeus who climbed up a tree just to see Jesus. Sing this song with me, friends!

SONG: "Zacchaeus" Preschool Video is available from Amazing Music.

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Now, let's stand up, and let's celebrate Jesus!"

SONG: "Jesus Loves Everybody" is available on store.thinkorange.com.

"Great singing, friends! Let's sing one more song together.

SONG: "Everyone Everywhere" is available on store.thinkorange.com.

"Thanks for celebrating Jesus with me! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around (*spin around*) ... sit down (*sit down*) ... shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) ... so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

27 min

Bible Story Section (Stage)

3 min

Intro Sketch

What You Need

👤	Construction paper	1
👤	Markers	Several

What You Do:

- Fold the construction paper in half like a greeting card.
- Decorate the front of the cards with the following images, one image per card: a smiley face, a birthday cake or party hat, and a heart.

(Host enters as Worship Leader exits. Host carries the three prepared cards.)

HOST: "Hi, friends! My name is [your name]. Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]!"

"Have you ever made a card for someone?"

(Hold up the card with the smiley face.)

"I drew a big smiley face on this card because I wanted to cheer up a friend.

(Hold up the card with the birthday cake or party hat.)

"Can you guess why I drew this card? *(Listen.)* Yes, I drew it for a friend's birthday!"

(Hold up the card with the heart.)

"What about this card? What do you see on the front? *(Listen.)* Yes, it's a heart! I drew a heart because I wanted to tell someone I love them.

"I like making cards for my friends and neighbors. I love finding little ways to tell people that I care about them. And then maybe I can invite them to church so they can learn that Jesus cares about them too. Everyone needs to hear how much Jesus cares about them.

"In today's Bible story, Jesus shows someone that He cares about him ... even though this person had done some wrong things! But **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

8 min


Wonder Bible Story (Video)

What You Need


No supplies needed

10 min

Bible Story (live)**What You Need**

 Bible

1

 Option: Cardstock

1

What You Do:

- Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

(Storyteller enters as Host exits. Storyteller carries a Bible.)

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! My name is [your name]."

(Open the Bible for children to see, then set it down.)

"Today's true story from the Bible is found in the book of Mark, and it begins with a man named Matthew.

SLIDE: Story Image W5 01 (Matthew at his tax booth)

"Matthew was a tax collector, and no one liked tax collectors! They took money from people for the rulers who were in charge. And they also took extra money to pay themselves. Some tax collectors took too much money, and it was unfair!

"Everyone, say: *(Shaking head and hands 'no.')* 'Too much! Too much! That's unfair!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: *(Shaking head and hands 'no.')* "Too much! Too much! That's unfair!"

STORYTELLER: "Most people *(hold palms up as if keeping someone away)* stayed away from tax collectors. But not Jesus!

(Make the ASL sign for 'love by crossing your arms over your chest.)

Jesus *(ASL for 'love')* loves and cares about everyone, so Jesus went right up to Matthew and said:

(Wave hands toward yourself as if inviting someone to join you.)

"Follow me" *(Mark 2:14 NIV).*

"Everyone, say: *(Waving hands toward yourself.)* 'Follow, follow, follow me!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: *(Waving hands toward yourself.)* "Follow, follow, follow me!"

SLIDE: Story Image W5 02 (Matthew follows Jesus)

STORYTELLER: "Wow! Jesus was kind to Matthew, and Jesus asked Matthew to come with Him and be a close friend!"

"Do you think Matthew went with Jesus? Yes! Matthew got up right away and left everything behind!

(Make the ASL sign for 'hooray' by raising open palms and twisting at the wrists.)

"Everybody, say: (ASL for 'hooray') 'Yay! Yay! He's my friend!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: (ASL for 'hooray.') "Yay! Yay! He's my friend!"

SLIDE: Story Image W5 03 (Jesus at Matthew's dinner)

STORYTELLER: "Matthew went home and prepared a big meal for Jesus. Matthew was so excited that he even invited other tax collectors and friends, so they could meet Jesus too! It was a big party!"

SLIDE: Story Image W5 04 (Religious leaders watching Jesus)

"All of Matthew's friends got to spend time with Jesus, but some of the religious leaders did not think that Jesus should spend time with people who had done wrong things. The leaders asked why Jesus was eating with tax collectors and people who don't do what God wants them to do.

"Everybody, say: (Shaking finger 'no.') 'No! No! That's not right!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: (Shaking finger 'no.') "No! No! That's not right!"

STORYTELLER: "Jesus heard what the leaders were saying, and He told them that He wants everyone to follow Him! **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

"Everybody, say: (ASL for 'love.') 'Yes! Yes! I care for them!'"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: (ASL for 'love.') "Yes! Yes! I care for them!"

SLIDE: Story Image W5 05 (Jesus with Matthew and friends)

STORYTELLER: "And Jesus DID care for Matthew and his friends, even though they had done wrong things. Jesus loves us too, no matter what. He will never stop caring for us! Tell me: **Who does Jesus care about?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus cares about everyone."**

STORYTELLER: "Yes, **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.**"

(Pick up and close Bible.)

3 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Outro Sketch

What You Need

No supplies needed

[Transition] "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, it is so amazing that Jesus cares about everyone and wants to be their friend forever. Help us to care about everyone like You want us to. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

(Host enters as Storyteller exits.)

HOST: "Wow! Some people didn't think that Jesus should be eating with tax collectors like Matthew. They thought Jesus should stay away from people who had done wrong things. But Jesus NEVER stops caring for people! **[Bottom Line]** **Jesus cares about everyone. Who does Jesus care about?"**

CHILDREN AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus cares about everyone."

HOST: "I think I *(point to self)* got the story. Did you *(point to children)* get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" *(Cup one hand behind ear.)*

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: *(Give two thumbs-up.)* "Good!"

Getting Ready | 3-5's Stage Large Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive Worship and the Bible Story. The Rug Script is written for those who pull their children to a rug (or area) to one side of their preschool space to tell the Bible Story. If you gather your preschoolers together from multiple rooms and have a larger space on which to present the Bible Story, you may benefit from using the Stage Script.

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with **APlay! JoinAPlay.com** is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters—more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

A leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (10 minutes)

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible Story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advance preparation is necessary.

1. Worship

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Come and Go with Me"—available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Zacchaeus"—available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Jesus Loves Everybody"—available on store.thinkorange.com
- "Everyone Everywhere"—available on store.thinkorange.com

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- "Jesus Loves Everybody" Dance Moves Music Video or Live Lyric Video—available on store.thinkorange.com
- "Everyone Everywhere" Dance Moves Music Video or Live Lyric Video—available on store.thinkorange.com

What You Do:

- Prepare all songs and have them ready to use.
- Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

2. Intro/Outro

What You Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers

What You Do:

- Fold the construction paper in half like a greeting card.
- Decorate the front of the cards with the following images, one image per card: a smiley face, a birthday cake or party hat, and a heart.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Bible
- *Option: Cardstock*

Large Group Visuals:

- Story Image W5 01
- Story Image W5 02
- Story Image W5 03
- Story Image W5 04
- Story Image W5 05

What You Do:

- Download the Large Group Visuals to display on a device or screen or copy on cardstock.

Supplemental Resources

WONDER! LOOK AT GOD'S STORY: First Look offers weekly videos to engage preschoolers with the Bible Story. Join our Bible storytellers, Treehouse friends, and, of course, Ollie the Owl to discover the wonder in God's story. Available in your media files and APlay.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
bit.ly/FL_HatsOff

Supplies

Intro Sketch

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|---------|
| 1. | Construction paper | 1 |
| 2. | Markers | Several |

Bible Story (live)

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 1. | Bible | 1 |
| 2. | Option: Cardstock | 1 |