



WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 2024

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

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly,
you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom,
you should ask God for it. He will
give it to you. God gives freely to
everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you
should do and doing it

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

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Speck and Plank Relay
Application Activity: Perspective Walk
Memory Verse Activity: Self-Inspection
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

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 PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on both the good and the struggles in your life. Take time to thank God for the ways you've changed and grown to become more and more like Jesus. Ask God to help the kids in your group learn to treat others with kindness rather than judgment.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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you can make the wise choice.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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give it to you. God gives freely to
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MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Wisdom—Finding out what you
should do and doing it**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, invite them to show you how they like to dive or swim.
- When enough kids have gathered, direct them to form a circle and lead them in the following game:
 - Clap to a 1-2-3-4 beat.
 - Lead the first kid to say: "Hi, my name is [first name], and I like [something that begins with the same letter as their first name]."
 • For example: "Hi, my name is Alex, and I like apricots."
 - Direct the next kid to repeat the sentence with their own name and thing.
 - Instruct any kid who doesn't keep the beat or can't think of something they like that starts with their first initial to be out.
 - If you have older kids, consider these variations: No one can repeat things in any round, assign a category (food, superheroes, school supplies, etc.) each round, etc.
- Play as long as time allows.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Self-Portraits" Activity Page, markers, and crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Optional: If you created your own "Self-Portraits" Activity Page before group time, show it to the kids and explain the things that you drew/wrote in.*
- Give each kid a "Self-Portraits" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers and crayons.
- Direct older kids to use a marker to write the names of things/people they like/love on each line, then use the crayons to color in each section around each word.
- Direct younger kids to draw pictures of things/people they like/love on each line, then use the crayons to color in each section around each drawing.
- Challenge the kids to fill in the entire space in each section with words, drawings, or colors.
- If time allows, invite kids to add hair, a hat, etc., to their self-portrait.
- When finished, invite kids to share their self-portraits with the group.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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you can make the wise choice.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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you should ask God for it. He will
give it to you. God gives freely to
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MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Wisdom—Finding out what you
should do and doing it**

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We all look different and like different things. Can you imagine if we were all the same? That would sure be boring! Most of the time, our differences are great! They make us better friends and better followers of Jesus. Sometimes we might have different ideas than someone else. What happens if we have different ideas of making the wise choice? Who is really right? **[Transition] Today, we'll discover the most important thing to keep in mind when talking about wisdom in our relationships."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

NOTE: If today is promotion week and you have a new group of kindergartners, take a moment to explain what is about to happen. They will handle change better if they know what's coming. For instance, you might say, "Friends, we're going to sing and learn a Bible Story together before coming back to talk through what we learned."



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



1. SPECK AND PLANK RELAY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft sticks, prepared bowls of "specks," prepared clear cups, and a drop cloth or tablecloth

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out a drop cloth or tablecloth.
- Place the bowls of "specks" beside each other in the center of the drop cloth or tablecloth.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign each team to one of the bowls on the cloth.
- Instruct both teams to sit on the side of the cloth their team's bowl is on.
- Set each team's cup on the edge of their side of the cloth, next to where they are sitting.
- Give each kid a "plank" (craft stick).
- Direct the teams to send one kid at a time to their team's "specks" bowl, scoop some "specks" onto their "plank," carefully return to their side, and transfer the "specks" into their team's cup.
 - Instruct the kids to keep taking turns until one team fills their cup to the line.
- Celebrate the team who filled their cup up first as the winners.
- Ask older kids to help clean up the drop cloth or tablecloth.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those specks sure get everywhere! In the word picture that Jesus used, He said it's easy to see the 'specks' in other people—what they're doing wrong or need to get better at. Maybe you wish your parents were more patient, or your sibling needs to be faster at getting ready, or your teacher should show more compassion, or your friend can work harder at something. But we're not always great at seeing our 'plank'—things we need to change in our own lives.

"It's easy to get defensive and point to what others are doing wrong, but **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.** When you allow God to change you from the inside out, then you're in a much better place to make wise choices. As followers of Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of our faults and flaws. God loves us and forgives us. God wants us to follow Jesus more and more closely by becoming more like Him."

[Make It Personal] (Share something minor that you struggle with—patience, compassion, devotion, etc. Share how you are aware you need help in that area. Maybe a spouse, close friend, or family member told you that you don't listen well or a coworker has been upset with your tone of voice. Share how you have been working on getting wiser in this area. Invite kids to share as well, simply by saying, "I know that I need to grow in _____, and I'm going to ask for God's help.")



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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



2. PERSPECTIVE WALK [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Perspective Walk" Activity Page, "Perspective Walk Leader Guide" Activity Page, painter's tape, index cards, pencils, and a timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hang the pictures from the "Perspective Walk" Activity Page around your group area at eye level, using the tape.
 - *NOTE: If using wall space is not possible, lay the pictures out on the floor around your group space.*
- Give each kid an index card and a pencil.
- Explain kids will have 5 minutes to walk around the group space, look at each picture, and write a guess as to what the picture is on their index card.
 - Instruct kids to include the number from the picture on their index card beside each guess.
 - Consider pairing younger kids with older kids, or keeping younger kids in a group with you so you can write down their guesses for them.
- Set a timer for five minutes.
- Start the timer, and direct kids to get started.
- When the time is up, walk around to each picture, invite kids to share their guesses, then reveal what the picture is using the "Perspective Walk Leader Guide" Activity Page.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Which of these do you think were the easiest to guess? (*Invite responses.*) Which were the hardest? (*Invite responses.*) These pictures are taken from different perspectives than we're used to. *Perspective* means the way we look at things. We have different perspectives when we look at ourselves than when we look at other people.

"We tend to see other people's wrong choices and mistakes as HUGE and our own as very, very small. (*Demonstrate with your hands, bringing them from wide open to the tiniest pinch between your fingers.*) We can't really trust our own perspective all the time. Who can we trust to help us see things the right way? (*God*)

"God wants to help us learn to look at ourselves clearly to see both the good and the bad. When we focus on ourselves, it helps us treat others with kindness instead of judging them. We can ask God to help us see ourselves clearly and make wise choices. God might even lead us to ask a parent or trusted adult to help us see ourselves more clearly too.

"God's perspective is always wisdom. You can look at things from God's perspective and make wise choices. We know that we can ask God for help.
When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice."



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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



* 3. SELF-INSPECTION

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles; small, compact mirrors (or prepared cutouts from mirror paper); and permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, James 1:5, using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

***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 James in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds James, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it aloud, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find James. Ask older elementary kids (4th-5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 1, 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 5 in chapter 1. Then, read the verse slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

- Read the verse to the group.
- Invite other kids who would like to read the Memory Verse out loud to do the same.
- Instruct the kids to leave the Bibles open for reference.
- Give each kid a small compact mirror (or cutout from mirror paper) and a permanent marker.
- Direct the kids to copy the verse from the Bible onto their mirror, then decorate it however they'd like.
 - If the verse is too long, instruct them to paraphrase it, for example, "God gives wisdom," or to pick keywords from the verse.
 - For younger kids, consider writing the verse for them, leaving a space or two for them to fill in keywords, or direct them to write a paraphrase of the verse.
- Help kids write their names somewhere on the mirrors, then set the mirrors aside.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our Memory Verse reminds us that God is the source of all wisdom! We don't need to always worry about what others are doing or saying, just that we are following what Jesus does.

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

"When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice. Ask God to help you be aware of the things in your own life you need to work on to be more like Jesus. Ask trusted grown-ups for help and ask God for wisdom."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 3. SELF-INSPECTION, CONTINUED)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- What is your biggest “pet peeve”—something small that people do that drives you crazy?
- What do you think is your biggest “plank”—something in your character that you’re working on?
- How can God’s perspective of you help you become more like Jesus in that area?
- What are you learning about yourself?



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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



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft stick

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Pass the craft stick from one kid to the next, each time reminding them: “[Kid’s first name], remember that **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.**”
- When the stick gets back to you, close in prayer.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for making all of us different. Thank You that we can use those differences to follow Jesus more closely and not to bicker about who is right or wrong. Help us to see where we have our own ‘planks’ to work on and to give grace to those around us for their ‘specks.’ Show us Your perspective so we can make the wise choice every time we need to this week. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

As adults arrive to pick up, send kids home with their “Self-Portraits” Activity Page and mirrors. Invite them to read the Memory Verse to a grown-up.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED 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 Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Self-Portraits" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Crayons, enough for each Small Group to share
- *Optional:* Before group time, complete your own "Self-Portraits" Activity Page by writing or drawing things/people you enjoy/love in each section with marker, then coloring around it with crayons.

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 #3.

1. SPECK AND PLANK RELAY [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Craft sticks (thick/large), one for each kid
- Bowls, two for each Small Group

- Something to represent "specks" (pet bedding shavings, confetti, lentils, etc.), enough to fill each bowl
- Clear cups, two for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Drop cloth or tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Fill each bowl with the selected material for "specks."
 - Use the permanent marker to draw a line around each cup, near the top, in the same spot on both cups.

2. PERSPECTIVE WALK [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 "Perspective Walk" Activity Pages on paper, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Perspective Walk Leader Guide" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Index cards, one for each kid
- Pencils, one for each kid
- Timer, one for each Small Group

* 3. SELF-INSPECTION [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Small, compact mirrors; one for each kid
 - Or cut sheets of mirror paper into squares, one cutout for each kid
- Permanent markers, one for each kid

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

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Craft stick (from Speck and Plank Relay Activity), one for each Small Group



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PRELUDE

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HOME

GETTING READY

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

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.**