



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### 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> or 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: Scenario Review  
Application Activity: Let's Dive In!  
Memory Verse Activity: Create the Pearl of Wisdom  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



WEEK  
**TWO**  
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



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

See Yourself  
Speck and Plank  
Matthew 7:1-5

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who have 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, choose one kid to name their favorite underwater creature or plant.
- Direct the whole group to act like that creature or plant.
  - Invite the kid who named the sea creature or plant to act it out or lead the group in some actions they can copy.
- Repeat for each kid.
- Some ideas for sea creatures and plants, if needed:
  - octopus
  - blowfish
  - coral
  - starfish
  - anglerfish
  - seaweed
  - turtle
  - shark
  - eel
  - tubeworm

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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



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Button

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Instruct the kids to clasp their hands together behind them.
- Show the kids the button, then clasp it between your hands.
- Explain that you'll give the button to one kid, but that they should keep it a secret so the rest of the group can try to guess who has it.
- Walk around the circle, placing your clasped hands (holding the button) in each child's hands.
- Choose one kid's hands to discreetly drop the button into, but keep going all the way around the circle, placing your hands in every kid's hands.
- When you've gone all the way around, stop and lead everyone to say, "Button, button, who's got the button?"
- Invite the kids to guess who is holding the button.
  - Be sure kids keep their hands clasped together behind them.
- When a kid guesses correctly, direct that kid to become the next kid to go around placing the button in someone's hands (or you can start the game again).
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

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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:

"That was fun! Sometimes it was hard not to tell when you got the button, and sometimes it was hard to figure out who had the button! Buttons are round and sort of shaped like an eye. (Point to your eyes.) **[Transition] Today, we're going to discover something Jesus warned us about when it comes to wisdom, and it has something to do with your eyes. Let's find out what!**"

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 walk together as a group to our Large Group room. Once we arrive, we'll sit together with all the other small groups to sing in worship and listen to our Bible Story. Then we'll travel together right back here to our Small Group spot."*



WEEK  
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**K-1**

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. SCENARIO REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Scenarios" Activity Page, paper towel tube, prepared plate with construction paper piece, and Bible

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Speck and Plank  
Matthew 7:1-5

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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 DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask kids if they know what sawdust is. (*a very, very tiny piece of wood from cutting*)
- Walk around the circle, showing kids the small piece of construction paper adhered to the paper plate.
- As you walk, compare the tiny piece of construction paper to a piece of sawdust.
  - Inform them that sawdust is so much smaller than the tiny brown piece of construction paper, but you will use the construction paper to represent sawdust.
- Ask kids if a piece of wood is bigger or smaller than a piece of sawdust. (*bigger*)
- Hold up the paper towel tube.
- Ask kids if a piece of wood is bigger or smaller than a paper towel tube?" (*bigger*)
- Explain that a piece of wood is bigger than a paper towel tube, but that you're going to use the paper towel tube to represent a piece of wood as you talk about the Bible Story.
- Pass the paper towel tube around the circle for kids to hold for a moment.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 7.
- Read Matthew 7:3-5 to the group, referencing the small piece of brown construction paper and paper towel tube as you read about the sawdust and plank or piece of wood.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Direct both teams to line up on opposite sides of your group area.
- Set out the tube and the prepared paper plate in the middle, between the two groups.
- Direct the first two kids in each team's line to come to join you in the middle.
- Explain that the kids will listen to you read out a scenario.
  - If the kid in the scenario is paying attention to what's wrong with someone else and judging someone else, encourage the kids to reach for the paper towel tube.
  - If the kid in the scenario is focusing on themselves and the choices they should be making, encourage the kids to reach for the plate with the small piece of construction paper.
- Instruct them to wait to reach for anything until you say, "Go."
- Read a scenario from the "Scenarios" Activity Page.
- Remind kids of the directions by asking:



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PRELUDE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (\* 1. SCENARIO REVIEW, CONTINUED)

- "Did the kid in the scenario focus on what the other person was doing wrong? Reach for the tube!"
- "Did the kid in the scenario focus on themselves first? Reach for the paper plate with the small piece of paper!"
- Say, "go!" to initiate the kids to make a choice.
- Talk about the scenario and the correct choice.
- Award the kid's team who reached for the correct item first one point.
- Repeat with the remaining pairs of kids from each team.
- Repeat scenarios, if needed, until everyone has had a turn.
- Celebrate the winning team.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"We all have things we have to work on! Jesus compared those things to a piece of wood sticking out of our face (*hold up the paper towel tube*), meaning it can be easy to notice if we pay attention. But sometimes we make the mistake of looking at what's wrong with what other people are doing. Jesus compared that to a small piece of sawdust (*hold up the paper plate with the tiny piece of construction paper*) because we should not be able to notice things about others without first paying attention to the things we need to work on.

"God can begin to change you from the inside out. Then you'll be ready when others need help! It takes time and practice to look at ourselves first. God can help us! God knows **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice!**"



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



**2. LET'S DIVE IN**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Let's Dive In" Activity Pages, tracing paper, drawing paper, washable markers, and painter's tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Encourage the kids to get into pairs.
- Direct one kid from each pair to sit behind their partner (close enough so they can reach the back of their partner seated in front of them).
  - If you have an uneven number of kids, pair up with a kid yourself or choose one kid to help you set up the activity, as described below.
- Tape the prepared first set of "Let's Dive In" Activity Pages (with tracing paper over it) to the back of each kid seated in the front of the pairs of kids.
- Set out a blank piece of drawing paper and a marker down in front of each kid seated at the front of each pair.
- Give each second kid in the pair a marker.
- Instruct the second kid in each pair to trace over the underwater picture on the page attached to the other kids' back.
- Instruct the kid in the front to do their best to draw what they feel is being drawn on their back on the piece of paper in front of them.
  - While kids are working, encourage them to cheer each other on.
  - Be sure to celebrate positive comments and redirect negative comments.
- After a few minutes, direct the kids to stop.
- Invite them to compare their pictures, then direct them to switch places—this time using the second prepared set of "Let's Dive In" Activity Pages.
- Give the kids a few minutes to trace their picture on the back of their friend while the other friend does their best to draw a matching picture.
- After a few minutes, stop the kids and encourage them to compare their second pictures.

**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:**

"Was it easier to trace the pictures or draw what you felt? (*Invite responses.*) The truth is, all of your pictures were good! You did the best you could depending on if you were the 'tracer' or the 'feeler.' Sometimes we get frustrated and think that someone is doing something wrong a little too quickly. We have to be careful not to call other people wrong. It's better to be patient, loving, and kind to all of those around us because God loves each one of us the same!

"Usually what bugs us about someone else is something that we struggle with too! So when you do get frustrated, the best thing to do is to treat the other person with kindness—just like you would want to be treated if someone was frustrated with you. God made us and loves us, no matter what we struggle with. That love is so deep God wants to help us become more and more like Jesus. God and the people around us can help us remember that **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.**"





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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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



### 3. CREATE THE PEARL OF WISDOM

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Pearls of Wisdom" Activity Page, paper plates, googly eyes, crayons, glue sticks, and a completed example

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask:
  - Have you ever seen a pearl before?
  - What do they look like?
  - Where do pearls come from?
  - If needed, explain that pearls are a type of gemstone that are made by an animal called an oyster that lives in the ocean.
- Show the kids the completed example.
- Explain how oysters create pearls in their shells. Say:
  - Something uncomfortable like sand or a leftover piece of food gets inside an oyster's shell.
  - The oyster covers the thing that's stuck in their shell with this shiny stuff, called *nacre* (nay-KER).
  - As oysters add more and more layers, what started as a problem becomes round and smooth over time until it eventually becomes a beautiful pearl.
  - Pearls come in many colors, shapes, and sizes and are very rare!
- Tell the kids they are now going to create an oyster with a pearl inside with a special message inside.
- Read James 1:5 from the "Pearls of Wisdom" Activity Page inside your example.
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Show the kids how to fold their plate in half to form the oyster's shell.
- Give each kid two googly eyes and set out the glue sticks.
- Show the kids how to glue the two eyes on the outside of their oyster shell.
- Set out the crayons.
- Encourage the kids to color and decorate their oyster shell however they would like to.
- Give each kid a cutout from the "Pearls of Wisdom" Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to color their pearls too—if they'd like to.
- As kids finish coloring, instruct them to glue their "Pearls of Wisdom" Activity Page cutout inside their shell.
- Share and celebrate everyone's unique oysters and pearls!
- Read the verse one more time to the group—inviting them to repeat key words after you.

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### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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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:

"Our Memory Verse is like a pearl—a pearl of wisdom. This verse is like a treasure! When we struggle, when we feel awkward, when we're upset or annoyed by something, or are not sure what to do, we can ask God for wisdom! God will help us!"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### (3. CREATE THE PEARL OF WISDOM, CONTINUED)

God may remind us of something or give us great parents or other trusted adults who can help us. God wants us to know that **when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.**

*[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a difficult or tough situation you were in when you had to make a big decision, and how you remembered to ask God for help. If you can, share the outcome and how you saw God providing the wisdom you needed!)*





WEEK  
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**K-1**

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:** Large safety mirror

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Show the kids the safety mirror.
- Explain that you'll hold it up so each kid can take a turn seeing themselves clearly and as the amazing and special person God made.
- Invite each kid to stand in front of the mirror.
- Encourage each kid to repeat the following prayer as they stand in front of the mirror. Kids can repeat the prayer out loud or in their head.
  - Dear God, thank You for making me amazing and wonderful.
  - I know I am made in Your image.
  - Give me wisdom this week to know what to do.
  - Thank You, God. Amen.

**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.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Each time you look in the mirror this week, remember that God made you to be amazing, and special, and has given you everything you need to make the wise choice. Ask God to help you see yourself clearly and to help you 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

As adults arrive to pick up, direct kids to show the oyster they made with the verse inside. Invite kids to read the verse, or ask their grown-up to read it for them.

**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

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

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I need to make the wise choice.**



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PRELUDE

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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. EARLY ARRIVER

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

- Offering container

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Button (round, flat), 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.)

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

#### \* 1. SCENARIO REVIEW

[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 "Scenarios" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Paper towel tube, one for each Small Group
- Brown construction paper, one piece for each Small Group
- White paper plate, one for each Small Group
- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
  - Rip a tiny piece of brown construction paper, close to the size of a hole punch.

- Glue/tape/adhere the tiny piece of brown construction paper to the middle of the paper plate.
- Prepare one plate for each Small Group.

#### 2. LET'S DIVE IN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Let's Dive In" Activity Pages on paper, one set of both pages for every two kids
- Tracing paper, two sheets for each kid
- Drawing or blank paper, one sheet for each kid
- Washable markers, at least one for each kid
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Before group time:
  - Prepare each "Let's Dive In" Activity Page by taping a single sheet of tracing paper over each one.
  - Keep both sets of "Let's Dive In" Activity Pages separate.
  - Prepare a total amount so that each kid can have one of either of the "Let's Dive In" Activity Pages.

#### 3. CREATE THE PEARL OF WISDOM

[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:**

- Print "Pearls of Wisdom" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one pearl for each kid
- Paper plates, one for each kid
- Googly eyes, one pair for each kid
- Crayons, enough for each Small Group to share
- Glue sticks, enough for each Small Group to share
- Before group time:
  - Create a finished version by folding the paper plate in half, gluing eyes on the outside, coloring the outside of the plate and one of the pearl cutouts, and gluing a pearl cutout inside the paper plate. This should look like an oyster.



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## GETTING READY

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

### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Large safety mirror, one for each Small Group

#### 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.**