



WEEK
THREE
JULY 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

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Empathy Party
Application Activity: A Day in the Life
Memory Verse Activity: Human Verse Scramble
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 CONNECT

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



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 the people God has placed in your life who have been present with you in times of happiness and in times of sadness. Ask God to help the kids in your group develop empathy like Jesus was empathetic.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Emotions Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page, pens or pencils, and timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group with a high five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, ask them to share what makes them feel joy when they're at a party.
- When enough kids have gathered, give each one an "Emotions Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page and a pencil or pen.
 - If you have mostly younger kids, you may want to read the questions on the "Emotions Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page (one at a time) or pair them with older kids to work together.
 - If you have mostly older kids, hand out the "Emotions Scavenger Hunt" Activity Pages face down and do not let them see the questions until the game begins.
- Instruct the kids to go on a special scavenger hunt to find kids who fit the categories on their "Emotions Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page.
- When kids find a match, direct them to write down the kid's name on the line provided next to each question.
 - Be ready to help younger kids, as needed.
- Challenge the kids to try not to use the same kid more than twice.
- Set a timer for three to five minutes (depending on your group size).
- Play for five minutes to see how many names can be collected.
- When the game is over, invite the kids to circle the categories that also apply to themselves.
 - If you have mostly younger kids, read through each question again.



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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: Timer; *Optional: Device for playing calm or ambient music*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- It's okay to have a group of three.
- Say: "Let's play a game called Sculpture."
- Ask:
 - Have you ever seen a sculpture in a museum?
 - What is it like to work with clay, putty, or playdough?
- Direct each pair to choose one of the kids in the pair to be the "artist" and the other to be the "clay."
 - A group of three can have two artists.
- Say: "You have now been transported to the *International Museum of Emotions* where there is no talking, only sculpting."
- Instruct the "artists" that they have three minutes to *quietly* mold their "clay" into the secret character sculpture that you will whisper to each pair.
- Direct the "clay" to stand completely relaxed and allow the "artist" to move and shape their head, hands, and legs into the secret character the "artist" has been assigned.
 - Emphasize that "artists" need to be gentle and should only touch their partner's head, arms/hands, and legs/feet with their permission, and should not touch their partner's face, but can ask them to mirror a facial expression, if needed.
- Quietly assign a sculpture character to each team.
- List of Character Titles:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ The Sleepy Lizard ▫ The Angry Princess ▫ The Scared Dragon ▫ The Joyful Baby ▫ The Sneezing Hippopotamus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ The Anxious Opera Singer ▫ The Disappointed Magician ▫ The Excited Sloth ▫ The Confused Ballerina ▫ The Surprised Llama
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- Start the timer to start the round.
 - *Optional: Play calm or ambient music as the artist sculpts.*
- Remind the "artists" to be respectful and gentle.
- Challenge artists to think about where the body hinges (elbows, knees, neck, etc.) to create their sculpture.
- Stop the timer once three minutes are over.
- Once the sculpting is over, direct each pair to stand together around your group space.
 - *Optional: Direct each pair to agree on a short phrase that hints at what their character title is.*
- When all the artists are done, encourage them to walk around and admire each sculpture.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

(2. OPENING ACTIVITY, CONTINUED)

- *Optional: Kids can turn an imaginary key at each "sculpture" to hear the "clay" share the short phrase.*
- Ask the "artists" to guess what each secret character might be before revealing their titles.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"All of you are such talented artists. Great job at using your imaginations and sculpting all of these different emotions for these fun characters! **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to discover what the Bible says about using our imaginations to understand others!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



1. EMPATHY PARTY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: marked Bible; party hats; markers; dry-erase board and dry-erase marker (or poster board and washable marker)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a party hat, and set out the markers.
- Choose one kid to read Romans 12:15 from the marked Bible.
- Instruct the kids to use the markers to decorate their party hats with fun colors and an encouraging message.
 - For example, suggest phrases like: "Be kind!" "Smile!" "You got this!" "God loves you!" "Don't give up!" "Great job!" "Follow your dreams!" "Choose joy!" "Stay strong!" etc.
 - For younger kids, write the phrases on a dry-erase board or poster board for them to copy from.
- As the kids decorate their hats, encourage them to share why they chose the phrase they did.
 - After they share, invite each kid to share a time when they needed to hear that message.
- Once all the party hats have been decorated, instruct the kids to place their hat in the middle.
- Choose one kid to be the "party guest" and stand in the middle of the circle.
- Instruct the "party guest" to close their eyes.
- Choose another kid to gently place one of the party hats on the head of the "party guest."
- Instruct the "party guest" to open their eyes.
- Challenge the group to work together to think of different scenarios where someone might need to hear the phrase on the hat of the "party guest."
- Assist the group as needed with coming up with scenarios like:
 - "Your classmate might need to hear this if they're being a bully at school." (*Be kind!*)
 - "Your neighbor might need to hear this if they're sick in the hospital." (*Stay strong!*)
 - "Your best friend might need to hear this if they're sad they didn't place in their soccer tournament." (*Don't give up!*)
- Direct the "party guest" to try to guess the encouraging message written on the party hat because of the scenario "clues" the rest of the group gives.
- When the "party guest" guesses the phrase correctly, choose another kid, and repeat the game until everyone has had a chance to be the "party guest."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! All of you really know how to be a good friend. All of those scenarios you came up with showed me that you have what it takes to show empathy. Does

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. EMPATHY PARTY, CONTINUED)

anyone know what empathy is? (*Invite responses.*) Empathy is being able to ‘put yourself in someone else’s shoes’ and see things how they see them. It’s being able to know how someone is feeling even if you’re not in the same situation.”

“In today’s story, the apostle Paul reminded us in his letter that, as we follow Jesus, God can begin to change the way we think. He helps us see people the way Jesus would see them, and that begins to change the way we treat others around us.

“You can help others find joy. You can ask God to help you see others with Jesus’ eyes. This won’t always be easy. Sometimes, it will take being a really good listener. Sometimes it will mean being happy for someone when they got something you wanted. But remember anything is possible when you follow Jesus—even learning to put ourselves in someone else’s place.”



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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. A DAY IN THE LIFE**
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask: "Has anyone ever taken an acting class or seen a live musical or play? What might it feel like to be a professional actor whose job is to take on the emotions, characteristics, and mannerisms of someone else?"
- Encourage the kids to think of a favorite character from a TV show, book, or movie.
- Say: "We're going to play a game called 'A Day in the Life' where you'll pretend you are that character you're thinking about!"
- Encourage the kids to think about what their character's voice sounds like, how they might walk, what facial expressions they make, and how they feel most of the time.
- When each kid has selected their character, choose a kid to go first, give them a series of prompts (a few ideas are listed below), and pause for them to respond to each one in the first person—the way they think the character might respond.
- Demonstrate an example to get things started.
- Read a few of the following prompts to each kid, or come up with some of your own:
 - Describe your morning routine.
 - Share your greatest dream.
 - What is a secret you have?
 - What was your childhood like?
 - Who is your best friend?
 - What is your favorite thing to do?
- Repeat for each kid.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others find joy.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great acting skills, everyone! When we practiced taking on a different character, it helped us put ourselves in their shoes and imagine what they might be feeling, even if they're TOTALLY different than we were!"

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you had to practice empathy in order to help someone else find joy. What was the hardest part about it? How did it make the other person feel?)

"Think of someone you know who could use some empathy. Maybe it's someone who always gets picked last in gym class. Or a parent or a grandparent who is a hard worker. Imagine what a day in their life might be like. What are some ways you can help them find joy? (Invite responses.)"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

“No matter what someone might be feeling, **you can help others find joy**. The more you learn to ‘put yourself in someone else’s shoes,’ the more you can show them God’s love.”

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- How do you feel when someone you love is having a hard time?
- How can being sad with someone eventually lead them to helping them have joy?
- How did Jesus show empathy to others?



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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



3. HUMAN VERSE SCRAMBLE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, "Memory Verse Scramble" Activity Page, and tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come Rain or Come Shine
Be Joyful with Others
Romans 12:15
(Supporting Acts 2:42-47)

***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 Philippians in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds Philippians, 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 Philippians. Ask older elementary kids (4th-5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their own Bibles. When they all find Philippians, 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 4 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

You can help others find joy.

- Read the verse aloud and invite any kids who would like to read it aloud to do so.
- Tape a card from the "Memory Verse Scramble" Activity Page to each kid's back.
 - If you have more cards than kids, tape more than one word on a child's back (make sure the words are next to each other in the verse).
 - If you have more kids than cards, put the extra kids in charge of placing the kids in order.
- Once all cards have been taped, encourage the kids to run around the space for 10 seconds to "scramble" up the cards.
- Challenge the kids to work together to line up shoulder-to-shoulder in verse order.
 - Kids will have to rely on each other to read what's taped on their back.
 - If you have mostly younger kids, point out the numbers on the cards to help kids get into verse order.
- Have each kid say their word in order so the entire verse is read aloud.
 - If you have mostly younger kids, you can read the cards and invite the kids to repeat after you as you do.
- *Optional: Invite kids to repeat the verse in different ways, saying it as fast as they can, slowly, high-pitched, whisper, etc.*

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!"
Philippians 4:4, NlrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so fun! Great job helping each other find a little joy through this challenge. This verse reminds us that because we belong to Jesus, we can have a special kind of joy. And once we have it, we can share it with others! Remember: **you can help others find joy.** Maybe you can start by sharing this Memory Verse with the next friend or family member you meet!"



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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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Say: "I'm going to close us in prayer, but I need your help!"

Each time I pause, chime in by saying, 'Always!'"

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we are so thankful for You. ("Always")
 Help us to remember how much You love us. ("Always")
 We want to celebrate with Your people when they are happy. ("Always")
 We want to be present with Your people when they are sad. ("Always")
 Help us choose empathy and help others find joy." ("Always")

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to recite the Memory Verse or fill in the word, "always" as you recite it.

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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 with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Print "Emotions Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Pens or pencils, one for each kid
- Timer, one for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Timer
- *Optional:* Device for playing calm or ambient music

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 #2.*

1. EMPATHY PARTY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible (marked at Romans 12:15), one for each Small Group

- Party hats (blank/solid colors that can be drawn on by the markers), one for each kid
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share
- Dry-erase board and dry-erase marker (or poster board and washable marker), one set for each Small Group

* 2. A DAY IN THE LIFE

[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:

- No supplies needed

3. HUMAN VERSE SCRAMBLE

[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:

- Bible
- Print "Memory Verse Scramble" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group

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:

- No supplies needed

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.**