



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

See Yourself
Speck and Plank
Matthew 7:1-5

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you learning
about yourself?

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, NIRV

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

Just for Fun
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 (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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

DIVE DEEP

There's Always More to Explore

WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



Before kids arrive, pray for a few moments and allow God to search your heart for anything you may need to work on or ask forgiveness for, modeling for your group what it means to remove the "plank" before anything else.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, pennies, jar, bucket, towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, let them know you're glad to see them.
- If any kids brought an offering, point out the offering container and where they can place it.
- Set out the bucket of water on top of a towel then submerge the small jar or glass under water.
 - Make sure the jar is at least twice as deep as the water.
- Challenge kids to take turns dropping a penny into the water from a standing position. The goal is to land it in the jar.
 - *NOTE: Normally, a coin would drop straight down but when it falls through water, the trajectory can be uncertain.*
- Let kids keep track of the number of pennies they successfully drop into the jar. The kid with the highest score is the winner.
- Use additional towels as needed to dry hands and pennies.

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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that kids will go around the circle stating things they know about themselves and repeating what others said

before them.

- Follow this pattern:
 - **First Kid** - I know that I like . . . (something that begins with "A")
 - **Second Kid** - I know that I like . . . (something that begins with "B") and you (pointing to first kid) like (whatever that kid named that began with "A").
 - **Third Kid** - I know that I like . . . (something that begins with "C") and you (pointing to second kid) like (whatever that kid named that began with "B"), and you (pointing to first kid) like (whatever that kid named that began with "A").
- Continue around the circle progressing through the alphabet until someone forgets a previous kid's answer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This activity helped us get to know one another better and OURSELVES better. Maybe there were things about others that were not at all true of you. Maybe there were other things that were exactly the same. Sometimes, it's easy to point out all the stuff and notice what's different or what we think needs to change in someone else, but we forget to take a look at what needs to change in US. **[Transition] Let's keep diving deeper into the topic of wisdom and hear what Jesus has to say about how we view others.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils; "Self Portrait" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons.
- Give each kid a "Self-Portrait" Activity Page.
- Invite kids to fill in each section of the Activity Page with something they know about themselves. They can write words describing them or draw pictures of things that make them unique. If needed, prompt them with a few questions:
 - When do you feel the most excited?
 - What makes you sad?
 - What is one thing you wish everyone knew about you?
 - What makes you angry?
 - What is something you're really good at?
 - What is really hard for you to do?
- Challenge kids to do more than simply write words but to draw or get creative, and fill in all of the white space in each section by using a variety of letter sizes, font styles, colors, and designs.
- **[Make it Personal] Join the kids in creating your own self-portrait.**
- If time allows, you can invite the children to add hair, a hat, etc. to their Self-Portrait.
- When finished, let kids share their Self-Portraits with the group.
- Connect with the importance of knowing ourselves as well as knowing others. Every person has their own story, and every story is important.
- Expand the discussion by going a step further with the prompts used earlier:
 - When do you feel the most excited? How should you react when someone is excited about something you don't find exciting?
 - What makes you sad? How can that sadness help you relate to others?
 - What is one thing you wish everyone knew about you? What's something that's good to keep in mind about every person you meet?
 - What makes you angry? How do you sometimes make people angry?
 - What is something you're really good at? What's a wise thing to remember when you meet others who are not as talented at the stuff you're great at?
 - What is really hard for you to do? How might that help you be patient or sympathize with others?
- Invite kids to share some things they are learning about themselves.
 - Maybe they tried something new for the first time this year and discovered that they are really good (or really bad) at it. They can share both the good things they are finding out about themselves as well as the stuff they see that they don't like and want to change.
- Encourage kids to keep being curious about themselves—why they think, feel, and do what they do. Remind them when they see ways they need to change, let them know they can always talk to God about whatever they are facing.

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MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, markers, "Eye" Activity Page, and blue plastic tablecloth or sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

- Turn the Bible to Matthew 7:1-5 and ask a few kids who want to read a few of the verses as a way to review today's Bible story.
- Discuss the passage as a group:
 - What point do you think Jesus was trying to make when He used the examples of a speck of sawdust and a plank of wood in someone's eye?
 - Make up some examples of situations when one person made a big deal of a speck-sized problem in SOMEONE ELSE while ignoring their OWN log-sized problems.
 - Why is it important to take an honest look at ourselves before pointing out a problem in someone else?
 - Jesus called those who quickly judge others "pretenders." (NirV) or "hypocrites" (NIV). What do you think He meant by that?
- Touch on these points when reviewing the story:
 - Jesus wasn't saying we should never help others grow by pointing out a bad choice they are making.
 - Jesus made it clear that we should ask God to help us look at ourselves FIRST to see where WE might need to change.
 - As God changes us from the inside out to be more like Jesus, we're in a better place to help others change.
- Give each kid an "Eye" Activity Page and set out markers.
- Invite kids to pair up with a partner (It's okay if there is a group of three.).
- Tell each pair to come up with exaggerated and contrasting images similar to the "log" and "speck" examples Jesus used.
 - If needed, give some suggestions such as a flea and elephant or dust and boulder.
- Tell one kid on each team to draw the small image they come up with within the "eye" on the Activity Page, and the other kid to draw the large image on theirs.
- Collect all of the drawings when kids are done drawing and bring everyone back together.
- Divide the whole group into two teams.
- Ask a volunteer from each team to hold up an end of the "ocean wave" (blue tablecloth/sheet).
- Invite a remaining kid from each team to stand side-by-side facing the "ocean wave" then position yourself on the opposite side of the "ocean wave" facing them.
- Explain that you will hold up one of the images. When you say, "DIVE!" the kids holding the "ocean wave" will quickly lower it to the floor revealing the image.
- Explain that you will hold up one of the images kids drew earlier. When you say, "DIVE!" the kids holding the edges of the "ocean wave" will quickly lower it to the floor, revealing the image you're holding.

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DIVE DEEP



There's Always More to Explore

WEEK
TWO
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- The first kid to correctly identify the image wins a point for their team.
- Switch out the wave holders and those who are guessing, and then repeat.
- Continue until all the drawings have been correctly guessed.
- Point out that in the game, kids had to make a quick decision about what they saw. Sometimes those calls were correct, and other times they weren't.
- Remind kids that sometimes taking a moment to stop and think about what we might need to change in ourselves will help us not to judge others too quickly.
- Close by encouraging kids to remember that God loves them, no matter what they struggle with. God's love goes so deep and wants to help them become more like Jesus in the way they think of themselves as well as others.
- Save the "Eye" drawings to use later in "Make it Personal with Prayer."

DIVE DEEP

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PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Have you ever felt bothered by something another kid does? Do you think it might be because it reminds you of something about yourself?
- Have you ever been disrespectful or rude to someone else? What might have caused you to act that way?
- Have you ever been mean to another person? How did you feel afterward? Did it make you think about how you treat others?
- When do you get angry or feel anxious? What triggers those big emotions? How does that clue you in on something you might need God's help to change?
- Who can you talk to who will give you wise insight about some of the things you can work on to be more like Jesus?
- What are you learning about yourself?

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MADE TO PLAY

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, spiral notepads or notebooks, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to look up and read John 7:24 using the Bible

Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Say the verse together several times to help kids remember it.
 - You might invite half of the group to say the first part and the other half to say the second part in response.
- Switch and repeat or let kids take turns leading the others in echoing the words.
- Ask:
 - When we judge others based only on what we see or how we feel, what might we miss?
 - Is there a right way to judge others?
 - What are some things that are important to think about before we make a decision about someone else's actions?
 - What are some situations where John 7:24 would be a helpful reminder for you?
- Form teams of 2-3 kids.
- Give each team a notepad, pens or markers, and a Bible.
- Help each team locate John 7:24 in their Bible, if needed.
- Challenge teams to write the words of John 7:24—each word on a separate page throughout the notebook.
 - They can write the words in large or small print anywhere on the front or back of a page anywhere in the notebook, but should copy words in the correct order to keep track.
- When finished, let teams exchange notebooks then race to search and find each word.
- As they find the words, they can tear the pages from the notebook and place them in order on the floor.
- If time allows, repeat but tell kids to leave out one word then play again so teams can discover and fill in the missing word.

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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pens and “Eye” drawings from “Bible Story Extension” activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a pen and one of the “Eye” drawings they created earlier. (It’s okay if they don’t have their own drawing.)
- Remind kids that learning to see themselves clearly—the good as well as the bad—is one of the ways we show that we’re growing in wisdom.
- Encourage kids to write a short prayer on the back of their papers asking for God’s help to see the things they need to change in themselves.
 - Suggest that those with drawings of something *small*, write a prayer asking for God’s help not to be overly critical or judgmental about the little things others do that bug them.
 - If their drawing is of something *large*, encourage them to ask God to help them see ways they can change to be more like Jesus.
- Close in prayer.

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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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. JUST FOR FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Pennies, several for each Small Group
- Small glass jar, one for each Small Group
- Large bucket of water, one for each Small Group
- Towel, 1-2 for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

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.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Self Portrait" Activity Page on paper, one copy for each kid.
- Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils, enough for the group to share

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[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 "Eye" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Bible (marked at Matthew 7:1-5), one for each Small Group
- Markers, enough for the group to share
- Blue tablecloth or sheet, one for each Small Group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for every 2-3 kids
- Notepad or notebook (with easily tear-able pages like spiral), one for every 2-3 kids
- Pens or markers, enough for the group to share

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pens
- Completed "Eye" Activity Pages from "Bible Story Extension" activity

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.**