



WEEK  
**ONE**  
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

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

### 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 can trust God no matter what.

### 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: Search and Rescue  
Application Activity: Pearls of Wisdom  
Memory Verse Activity: Treasure Search  
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. Pray for insight to keep learning from your mistakes and from the people around you. Ask God to help the kids of your group discover what to do with the wisdom they gain from your time together.*

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Wisdom is worth searching for.**

**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 can trust God no matter what.**

**1. EARLY ARRIVER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, and a small object

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Ask kids to share the coolest underwater sea animal they've seen before - either in the wild or at an aquarium or something.
- When enough kids have arrived, lead a game of Hot and Cold.
  - Choose one kid to step a short distance away from the group or close their eyes.
  - Hide the small object so the group can see where it's hidden, but the kid who has stepped away can't see or hear where it is.
  - Invite the guesser to rejoin the group or to open their eyes.
  - Instruct the rest of the group to coach the guesser as they search for the object.
  - Explain that "'Hot' means the guesser is moving towards the hidden object and 'Cold' means the guesser is moving away from it.
  - Once the guesser has found the object, direct them to choose another kid to be the next guesser or the one to hide the object for the next round.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.



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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



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should do and doing it

### BASIC TRUTH

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## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** String or yarn, scissors, and a toy ring

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the group to stand up and form a circle.
- Choose one kid to stand in the center of the circle.
- Give one kid in the circle the end of the yarn.
- Walk around the circle, placing the yarn in each kid's hands as you move.
- After every kid is holding a part of the yarn, and you get back to the kid holding the end of the yarn, cut it.
- Thread the ring onto the yarn and tie the yarn circle closed, forming a large circle with a free-floating ring.
- Ask the kid in the middle of the circle to close their eyes, count to ten, and spin around a few times.
- While they're counting and spinning, direct the kids in the circle to slide the ring along the yarn using their closed hands, hiding the ring so it can't be seen as it moves.
- When the kid in the middle reaches ten and opens their eyes, ask them to guess who in the circle is hiding the ring.
  - They get three guesses.
  - If the kid guesses correctly, direct the kid who is guessing to join the circle, and instruct the kid holding the ring to be the next kid in the middle of the circle.
  - If the kid doesn't guess correctly after three chances, direct them to close their eyes and direct everyone to repeat the game.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"How did you feel when it was your turn to hide the ring? (*Invite responses.*) How did you try to guess who was hiding the ring—what clues did you look for? (*Invite responses.*)

"We search for stuff all the time! There are some things that are worth going to the trouble to search for. We search for things that have value to us. **[Transition] Let's go hear about what is the most valuable thing we could search for—more than missing keys or even lost treasure!**"

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 CREATE**

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



**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

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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 can trust God no matter what.

**1. SEARCH AND RESCUE**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Search and Rescue Maze" Activity Page, and pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a "Search and Rescue Maze" Activity Page (using the version that's appropriate to their age) and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to use their pencils to find out how to get from the start of the maze (Mary and Joseph) to the end of the maze (Jesus at the temple).
- Encourage kids to complete the maze independently.
- As kids finish, congratulate them, then direct them to draw a picture on the back of their Activity Page that shows the end of this Bible Story:
  - *Then [Jesus] went back to Nazareth with them, and he obeyed them. . . . Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people (Luke 2:51-52, NIV).*
  - *Then [Jesus] went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. . . . And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:51-52, NIV).*
- When everyone has completed the maze and drawn their picture, invite them to share their drawings.
- Ask: "How do you think Jesus acted as He grew up?"
- Help kids write their names and set their papers aside for later.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"In our Bible Story today, who was searching? (*Invite responses. Most kids will say Joseph and Mary; some might say Jesus was searching for wisdom.*) Joseph and Mary were searching for Jesus, and Jesus was at the temple, talking to the leaders and asking questions. What kind of questions do you think Jesus asked? (*Invite responses. This might be a great opportunity to hear what questions your own group has about faith.*)

"Mary and Joseph didn't find Jesus in a classroom or a laboratory, not in a kitchen or at a library. Those are places to learn a lot of great facts, but not necessarily wisdom. Wisdom is more than just knowing a lot of stuff—wisdom is knowing what to do with those facts. This month, we're saying that wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it. Jesus showed us that **wisdom is worth searching for.**

"Jesus is God's own Son, and even He looked for and grew in wisdom. Jesus knew exactly where to go to find more wisdom. Jesus understood even then that **wisdom is worth searching for.**"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



## \* 2. PEARLS OF WISDOM

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared "Shells and Pearls" Activity Page, and goggles

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign each team one of the shell colors.
- Instruct both teams to line up on one side of your group space.
- Give each team a pair of goggles.
- Scatter all the cutouts from the "Shells and Pearls" Activity Page face down on the opposite side of your group space.
- Instruct the first kid in each line to put on their team's goggles.
- Direct the kid wearing the goggles to "swim" by moving their arms as they walk to the opposite side of the group space to pick up one shell in their team's color and "swim" back to their group.
  - Instruct the kids to keep the shell face down until they rejoin their group, then they can flip it over.
  - If the shell has a pearl of wisdom, direct the first kid to take off the goggles and hand them to the next kid, who can "swim" and gather another shell for their team.
  - If the shell does not have a pearl of wisdom, direct the first kid to leave the shell with their group and "swim" back and get another shell to try again.
- Repeat until both teams have gathered all eight of their shells with pearls of wisdom on the back.
- Celebrate the team who finds their eight pearls first as the winner.
  - *NOTE: Eight shells have pearls and four are empty. You can share this info with younger groups, but older kids will be able to figure it out by the numbers on the pearls.*
- Have teams each choose their favorite two pearls of wisdom to share with the group.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Growin' Up

Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

### 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 can trust God no matter what.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"How did you feel when your shell was empty? (Invite responses.) When we search for wisdom, we might end up not finding it right where we expect.

**[Make It Personal]** (Share an age-appropriate story about following advice that was not wise— maybe a friend gave you some bad advice, or you followed a tip/trick/hack from the Internet that didn't work, read an un-useful book, or were given information by a sales or service person that wasn't accurate.)

"One of the places we can turn to for wisdom is the Bible! (Invite kids to read the verses from the Pearls of Wisdom on their shells.) We can also gain wisdom by learning from mistakes, learning from other people, and most importantly, we can ask God for wisdom. We know that **wisdom is worth searching for**, and the Bible is a great place to start!"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (\* 2. PEARLS OF WISDOM, CONTINUED)

*Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids*

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

- Why was Jesus at the temple? Do you think there were things He didn't know?
- What do you think is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- If you don't know the answer to a problem in your life, who or what do you go to for advice?
- What does it mean to be wise?



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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. TREASURE SEARCH**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, bowls, spoons, a variety of trinkets (beads, coins, jewels, etc.), bowls of water; hand towels, timer, shaving cream, plastic tablecloth or tarp, and hand wipes

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

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**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 can trust God no matter what.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- *NOTE: If possible, lead this activity outdoors. Otherwise, first set out a plastic tablecloth or tarp in your group area.*
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Instruct each group to form a circle.
- Set out one empty bowl, one bowl of water, and a hand towel in the middle of each team's circle.
- Squirt the shaving cream into the empty bowls, then scatter the trinkets inside the shaving cream.
  - Stir the contents of the bowl well with a spoon so the trinkets are hidden.
  - Leave a spoon in each bowl.
- Explain that kids from each team will have twenty seconds to use the spoon to gather as many hidden trinkets as they can from the shaving cream bowl, wash them off in the water bowl, and place them on the hand towel.
- Set the timer for twenty seconds.
- Start the timer and direct the first two kids to start.
  - After twenty seconds, direct a new kid from each team to do the same.
- Repeat until everyone has had a turn—even if there are no trinkets left. Give each kid the full twenty seconds to search.
- Help kids clean their hands with a hand wipe.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, James 1:5, using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***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*

- Invite one older kid from each team to read the verse aloud.



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25 MINUTES

### (3. TREASURE SEARCH, CONTINUED)

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Just like these treasures, **wisdom is worth searching for!** How did it feel to find the prizes? (*Invite responses.*) What about if you didn't get any? (*Invite responses.*)

"When you're searching for wisdom and coming up empty, our verse reminds us that God will give us wisdom. If we pray and ask God, we can discover wisdom! That might mean that a wise grown-up comes into your life, or that you find a specific verse of truth from the Bible for your situation. There are many ways for us to discover wisdom, but we can be sure that God will give us wisdom if we ask."





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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:** Poster board, shells (or sea-themed stickers), and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Set out the poster board.
- Write "WISDOM" in large letters using the permanent marker on the poster board.
- Invite an older kid to read the word.
- Ask kids what wisdom is. (*Finding out what you should do and doing it.*)
- Set out the shells (or sea-themed stickers).
- Encourage kids to cover the letters with the shells (or stickers) as you pray.
- Point to each letter on the poster as you lead the prayer below.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You so much! You have given us wisdom! Thank You for the ("W") wise choices we can make that You show us every day, for the ("I") incredible generosity You show in giving us what we need, for the ("S") search for wisdom we will be on our whole lives as we follow Jesus more closely, for the ("D") deep love You have for us as You lead us to grow, for the ("O") opportunities we have to discover the wisdom in Your creation and nature, for the ("M") many, many places You have put wisdom: in the Bible, in our wise relationships, in Your world, and of course in Yourself. Please help us this week to search for the wisdom that You give. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their completed "Search and Rescue Maze" Activity Page and to read the Bottom Line.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

Wisdom is worth searching for.

**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 can trust God no matter what.



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Offering container
- Small object that can be hidden easily, one for each Small Group

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- String or yarn, one spool for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Toy ring (plastic toy ring, Ring Pop®, etc.), 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 #2.*

#### 1. SEARCH AND RESCUE

[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:**

- Print "Search and Rescue Maze" Activity Page on paper, one copy of the older version for each older kid, and one copy of the younger version for each younger kid
- Pencils, one for each kid

#### \* 2. PEARLS OF WISDOM

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Shells and Pearls" Activity Pages on different colored cardstock and cut apart, two differently colored sets for each Small Group
- Swim or dive goggles, two pairs for each Small Group

#### 3. TREASURE SEARCH

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles, two for each Small Group
- Bowls (large), two for each Small Group
- Spoons (large), two for each Small Group
- Small trinkets (beads, coins, jewels, etc.), a variety for each Small Group
- Bowls of water, two for each Small Group
- Hand towels, two for each Small Group
- Timer, one for each Small Group
- Shaving cream (unscented), two to three cans for each Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth or tarp, one for each Small Group (unless this activity can be led outdoors)
- Hand wipes, one set 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:**

- Poster board, one for each Small Group
- Shells (or sea-themed stickers), enough for each Small Group to cover the letters on the poster board
- Permanent marker

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and



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## GETTING READY

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

- Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource:  
**Parent Cue app.**