



WEEK
FOUR
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

At the End of the Day
Heaven
Revelation 21, 22:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God will do.

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 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

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Hope Party
Application Activity: Today/Tomorrow Relay
Memory Verse Activity: Action Verse Challenge
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 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. Think about the ways that God is at work in your own life. Ask God to help the kids in your group to be encouraged, inspired, and hopeful that God is going to make the world right again.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

BASIC TRUTH

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, carpet squares (or construction paper), and device for playing upbeat music

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: "What games do you like to play at parties?"
- When enough kids have arrived, arrange the carpet squares (or the pieces of construction paper) in a circle so that there is one less square/piece of paper than the number of kids in the group.
- Play the music and instruct the kids to walk around the circle as the music plays.
- Stop the music and direct the kids to sit on a carpet square (or piece of paper).
 - *Optional: Turn up the fun by incorporating different movements like lunges around the circle, arm circles, or dancing.*
- Declare the kid who does not make it to a square (or piece of paper) to be out.
- Remove a square/piece of paper each round until one kid remains as the winner.
- Repeat if time and interest allow.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



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Revelation 21, 22:1-5

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder.
- Say: "We're going to play a game of Telephone!"
- Start the game by whispering a one-sentence story to the kid at the end of the line. (Some examples of stories are below.)
- Instruct the kid you whispered to, to whisper the same sentence to the next kid.
- Direct the next kid to repeat the sentence to the next kid until the sentence travels to the last kid in line.
- Instruct the last kid in line to say the sentence out loud to see if any changes were made to the story.
- If changes were made in the story, work together to determine at what point a detail in the story changed. Was it the beginning, middle, or end?
- Use the following one-sentence stories as time allows:
 - I rode my blue bike eleven miles to the banquet with my brother on Sunday.
 - Charlie baked chocolate cupcakes for the dinner party with his grandma Carol last night.
 - My little sister and I played basketball at the neighborhood tournament this morning.
 - Kayla fell asleep on the living room sofa watching the big New Year's Eve celebration on television.
 - The painter in Paris used purple, pink, and red in his art project at the party last April.
 - Nick invited Josh to his Superman birthday party last Saturday since Josh invited Nick to his Spiderman birthday party in September.
 - Fred dropped his phone on the floor on Friday and forgot to fix it before the fair.
 - Do you remember the summer we went to my Aunt Annie's cabin for the family reunion that lasted four days and five nights?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Was that a challenge or what? Great job, friends! Some of our stories changed in the very beginning and others changed in the middle or at the end. **[Transition]** Today we'll hear about another story that has a beginning, a middle, and an end, BUT it will never change!"

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. HOPE PARTY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles (optional: marked at Revelation 21 and 22), paper, markers or crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a blank piece of paper and a Bible.
- Set out the markers or crayons.
- Help the kids find the book of Revelation and turn to chapter 21.
 - *NOTE: If using marked Bibles, direct kids to flip to the marked part of their Bible.*
- Choose a few different kids who would like to read one or two verses of Revelation 21:1-5.
- Direct the kids to flip to chapter 22.
- Choose a few different kids who would like to read one or two verses of Revelation 22:1-5.
- Say: "I'm going to read something based on the verses—draw what you hear on your paper. Be creative and use your imagination!"
- Read aloud the following prompts and give the kids time to draw their responses.
 - Draw something that reminds you that our world is broken. *(Be sensitive to kids experiencing specific hardships. If a better fit for your group, you might instead say: "Draw a time when you felt like you did not have hope—when something seemed like it was not going to work out.")*
 - Draw your favorite part of the New Heaven and New Earth. *(Note: Help the kids recall specific imagery from the passages that might inspire them.)*
- After the kids have completed their drawings, invite them to share them with the group.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

At the End of the Day
Heaven
Revelation 21, 22:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God will do.

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 can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God showed John so many different things in the vision. Some of those things we might understand, and some of them we might not. But that's okay! The most important part of John's vision is that, in the end, God will make right everything that's wrong in the world.

"Life can be pretty messy sometimes. We're in the messy middle of the story. But when we follow Jesus, He promises us that all the failures, sicknesses, and tears of this life are not the end of the story. And that promise can bring a lot of hope and a lot of joy. We can even help others by sharing the love of Jesus with them.

"So this week, let's remember to **celebrate what God will do**. We might fail an important test. We might have a sick pet or a close friend or family member go to the hospital. But God promises to make things right. Now, things may not always work out the way we think they should, but we can trust that God only wants good for us, and that what God will do is way bigger than what we can even imagine."



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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. TODAY/TOMORROW RELAY [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Blessings for Today" Activity Page, "Blessings for the Future" Activity Page, a basket or container, noisemakers, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the basket of cards from the "Blessings for Today" Activity Pages on one end of your group area.
- Say: "These cards represent things we can be grateful for today or things that bring us joy today."
- Instruct the kids to line up on the other side of your group area, opposite of the basket.
 - If you have more than 13 kids, pair some of them up with a partner.
- One by one (or with their partner), instruct the kids to run to the basket, choose one card, then run back to the group and tag the next person to go until everyone has had a turn.
- When everyone has a card from the "Blessings for Today" Activity Page, instruct the kids to form a circle for a brief reflection.
- Ask each child to share what's on their card and why they can have joy or be grateful for it.
- After everyone has shared, give each kid a noisemaker.
- Use the marker to quickly write each kid's name or initials on their noisemaker.
- On the count of three, instruct the kids to use the noisemakers to celebrate everything God has done in their lives so far.
- After a few moments of celebration, direct the kids to set their noisemakers aside.
- Replace the cards from the "Blessings for Today" Activity Page with cards from the "Blessings for the Future" Activity Page.
- Instruct the group to play the same game again, except this time, choosing one card that represents something they're looking forward to.
- When each kid has a card from the "Blessings for the Future" Activity Page, form a circle.
- Ask each kid to share what's on their card and why it represents something they can look forward to.
 - *NOTE: There are two of each card, so expect some repetition in responses.*
- After everyone has shared, direct kids to pick up their noisemaker.
- Count to three, and instruct the kids to celebrate everything God will do with their noisemaker.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

At the End of the Day
Heaven
Revelation 21, 22:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God will do.

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 can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Isn't it cool to stop and think about just how much God is at work right now? (Hold up a few of the cards from the 'Blessings for Today' Activity Page.) There really is so much to be grateful for in our lives—our family, friends, our pets, our church, our health—you name it! What a great reason to have joy!"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 2. TODAY/TOMORROW RELAY, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about the blessings in your life you're most grateful for. Do you remember a time in your life when you prayed for what you have now? How has this changed you and improved your relationship with Jesus?)

"Another reason we can celebrate is because of what God will do. (Hold up a few of the cards from the 'Blessings for the Future' Activity Page.) There are more blessings God wants to share with you and others, wrongs God will make right, and, most importantly, there's a beautiful place God is preparing for us for when we get to live forever with Jesus. Let's not forget to celebrate what God has done AND to **celebrate what God will do.**"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- What's the best party you can imagine?
- What part of John's description of Heaven is most exciting to you?
- How can you celebrate what God will do?
- Why is it sometimes challenging to focus on what God will do, rather than on what God is doing now?



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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. ACTION VERSE CHALLENGE
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, and prepared gift bag with numbered paper strips inside

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to gather in a circle.
- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Philippians 4:4, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

At the End of the Day
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Revelation 21, 22:1-5

***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 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

Celebrate what God will do.

- Instruct the kids to leave their Bibles open to refer back to.
- Set out the prepared gift bag with numbered paper strips inside.
- Instruct the kids to take turns drawing a paper strip from the bag, reading the number on it, and then listening to find out what action their number represents.
- When a number is drawn, use the list below to tell the kid which action to perform.
- After the kid performs their action, instruct them to return the number to the bag.
- Action Verse Challenges:
 1. Read the verse from the Bible.
 2. Explain the verse.
 3. Choose someone else to read the verse with a funny accent.
 4. Say the verse with one or both eyes closed.
 5. Ask the leader to read the verse in the deepest voice possible.
 6. Whisper the verse.
 7. Sing the verse.
 8. Act out the verse without making a sound.
 9. Say the verse while dancing.
 10. Say the verse in a baby voice.
- Continue until everyone has had a turn.

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

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, friends! Which action challenge was your favorite? (Invite responses.) Which one do you never want to do again? (Invite responses.) Did you notice



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. ACTION VERSE CHALLENGE, CONTINUED)

this verse repeats? 'I will say it again. Be joyful!' (Or 'Rejoice!' for NIV.) I wonder if it's because of how hard it can be sometimes to remember to have joy. But when we **celebrate what God will do**, it reminds us to stay focused on the hope we have in Jesus and all the amazing things He still wants to show us!"



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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: "Blessings for Today" Activity Page cards from the Today/Tomorrow Relay Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Set out all of the cards from the "Blessings for Today" Activity Page from the Today/Tomorrow Relay activity face up.
- Give each kid one card to hold as you pray.
- Say: "During the prayer, I'll give you a signal. Once I give the signal, go around the circle and say, 'Thank You for (the blessing on their card).'"
- After the prayer is done, encourage the kids to take their cards home.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, there are so many reasons we can have joy. Thank You for sending us Your Son, Jesus, to bring joy to the world. Thank You for showing us how to have joy every day and for giving us the strength and wisdom to help others find joy too. You have blessed us in so many ways. *(Give the signal. Pause to allow each kid to thank God for the blessing on their card.)* Most of all, thank You for all the ways You are showing up for us today and for the ways You will show up tomorrow. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their card from the "Blessings for Today" Activity Page and explain what it means.

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Carpet squares (or pieces of construction paper), one less than the number of kids in each Small Group
- Device for playing upbeat music (consider using Orange Kids Music), 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:

- 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.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. HOPE 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:

- Bibles, one for each kid
 - *Optional:* Mark the Bibles at Revelation 21 and 22.
- Paper, one full sheet for each kid
- Markers or crayons, enough for a Small Group to share

* 2. TODAY/TOMORROW RELAY

[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 "Blessings for Today" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Blessings for the Future" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Basket or container, one for each Small Group
- Noisemakers, one for each kid
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group

3. ACTION VERSE CHALLENGE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Strips of paper, ten for each Small Group
- Small gift bag, one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Write the numbers 1-10 on the paper strips.
 - Place the paper strips inside the gift bag.

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:

- "Blessings for Today" Activity Page cards from the Today/Tomorrow Relay Activity
- If you did not do the Today/Tomorrow Activity, print "Blessings for Today" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set 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.**