



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Ask

Jesus Appears to Thomas
John 20:19-29

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens,
remember God is bigger
than your questions.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"In this world you will have
trouble. But, be encouraged!
I have won the battle over
the world."

John 16:33b, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Hope—Believing that something
good can come out of
something bad

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.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUg>

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
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: No Doubt Charades
Application Activity: I've Got Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Sticky Hope
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 CREATE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help you encourage kids who might be struggling with questions or doubts about their faith. Pray for kids to see that God is bigger than any question they could ever have. Ask God to help them feel safe to ask God questions and to know God’s love is steady—even in uncertainty.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

All I Ask

Jesus Appears to Thomas
John 20:19-29

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, butcher paper collage from Week 3, “HOPE Letters” Activity Page, safety scissors, coloring supplies, and glue sticks; *Optional: Magazines, stickers, washi tape, ribbon, and self-adhesive craft pom poms*

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

**Whatever happens,
remember God is bigger
than your questions.**

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet each kid by name and with a smile as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Roll out the butcher paper collage from Week 3 on a flat surface where kids can work comfortably.
 - If you don’t have the butcher paper from Weeks 1 through 3, provide some time for kids to use the glue sticks, scissors, magazines, and stickers then add washi tape, ribbon, and self-adhesive craft pom poms to make a large collage.
- Give each kid a card from the “HOPE Letters” Activity Page.
- Set out the safety scissors, glue sticks, and coloring supplies.
- Instruct kids to carefully cut out each letter to spell the word “HOPE.”
- Direct the kids to glue each letter onto the collage, in word order.
- Encourage the kids to use the coloring supplies to add colors, patterns, and designs to their “HOPE” letters, making them fun and creative.
- If time allows, encourage kids to continue adding their own creative designs to the rest of the collage.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**“In this world you will have
trouble. But, be encouraged!
I have won the battle over
the world.”**

John 16:33b, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Hope—Believing that something
good can come out of
something bad**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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: Four prepared zip-top bags of mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®), and toothpicks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into four teams.
- Give each team a zip-top bag of mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) and a box of toothpicks.
- Ensure the teams have a flat space to work, on the floor or table.
- Assign each team 1 letter in the word HOPE to create using mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) and toothpicks without telling them the word it spells. For example:
 - Team 1 will build a “H”
 - Team 2 will build a “P”
 - Team 3 will build an “E”
 - Team 4 will build an “O”
- Ask kids:
 - “Can anyone guess what we might be spelling out?”
- Instruct each team to use the mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) as connectors and the toothpicks to form their assigned letter.
- Encourage the kids to work together and use their creativity to make their letters sturdy.
- Once every team is finished, invite them to gently place their letters together to spell out the word “HOPE.”

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Awesome job, everyone! Did anyone guess the word you were spelling out correctly? *(Invite responses.)* That’s right! You all worked together using the mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) and toothpicks to spell out ‘HOPE!’ Each letter came together to make the word—it reminds me of how every part of our stories comes together to make one big, beautiful picture. At first, you didn’t know what word you were spelling out, but when it all came together, it made sense! **[Transition] When things get tough, having hope and seeing the bigger picture can be hard. Today, we’ll hear about one of Jesus’ friends who had some big questions about Jesus’ big-picture story. Come with me!**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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



1. NO DOUBT CHARADES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Charades Cards" Activity Page, plastic cup, painter's tape, and timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Use the painter's tape to create a 3' x 4' rectangle (the stage).
- Place the cards from the "Charades Cards" Activity Page in a cup in front of the "stage."
- Instruct the kids to face the "stage."
- Explain to the kids that they will run up to the cup, draw a card from the "Charades Card" Activity Page, and act out a scene from today's Bible Story for their group.
- Direct one team to send one kid up to the cup, draw a card, and head to the "stage" to act out the scene.
- Remind kids that they can only use motions—no talking!
 - Allow the kid to invite a friend or two to act with them if they feel more comfortable.
- Encourage that kid's team to watch closely and guess the scene being acted out.
- Set the timer for 20 seconds.
- Give each team 20 seconds to guess.
- If the team guesses correctly within the 20 seconds, award them a point.
- If the team guesses incorrectly within the 20 seconds, don't award a point.
 - Reveal to the group what the scene was for each incorrect guess.
- Instruct the next kid from the other team to go to the cup to grab a charade.
- Encourage both teams to take turns sending new kids to draw a new charades card until everyone has had a chance to act.
- Count the points earned by each team.
- Announce the winning team as the one with the most correct guesses!

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job, everyone! Were any of those scenarios tough to guess? (*Invite responses.*) Can you think of a time in your life when it was tough to understand why something hard was happening? (*Invite responses.*) Me too! Friends, there will be times in our lives when we don't quite understand what's happening, and we might feel confused about what God is doing. It's normal to have questions, just like Thomas did. Remember that God knows the whole picture, and we can trust God even when we don't have all the answers. **Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**"



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. I'VE GOT QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper, markers, safety scissors, glue sticks, and prepared "GOD" poster board

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each group of kids one piece of construction paper, a pair of safety scissors, markers, and a glue stick.
- Explain to the kids that you will give them a few minutes to work together to think of as many questions for God as they can.
- After a few minutes, instruct the groups to write down their questions on the construction paper.
 - Instruct kids to leave some space between each of their questions on the construction paper.
- Offer prompts such as:
 - "Why does God let bad things happen?"
 - "What does Heaven look like?"
 - "Why is it hard for me to make friends?"
- Share with kids that there are no right or wrong questions. God really loves hearing all of our questions, no matter how big or small.
- Instruct the kids to use the safety scissors to cut out each of their questions.
- Encourage kids to fold each strip of paper with the questions in half (or in thirds).
- Display the poster board for the kids to see.
- Then, explain to the kids that they will glue each of their folded questions onto the poster board by placing glue on the back.
 - Show kids how to place the glue on the blank side of their question strips so that once attached, kids can easily unfold the construction paper to reveal the question inside.

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! You've all shared some truly meaningful questions today. Thank you for being open and sharing your thoughts. Here's the amazing truth, friends: God is big enough for all of our questions. We can always ask God anything because God loves us SO much! God wants us to ask and discover more about God. When you meet a new friend, what do you do? (*Invite responses.*) You ask them their name, maybe a few questions about what they like—because that's how you get to know them better! We can ask God questions too.

"When we read the Bible or talk to other grown-ups or leaders who follow Jesus, we also get to learn more about God. But even they won't have all of the answers! It sometimes feels uncomfortable not to have the answers. But remember that whether you're asking something hard or wondering why God hasn't answered a prayer—**whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share about an age-appropriate time you had a big question for God and how you were able to cling to God's truth.)



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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



3. STICKY HOPE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at John 16:33b, "Sticky Hope" Activity Pages, safety scissors, permanent markers, and quart-size zip-top bags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give every kid a "Sticky Hope" Activity Page, a pair of safety scissors, a permanent marker, and a quart-size zip-top bag.
- Open the Bible marked at John 16:33b, and select a kid to read it aloud to the group.
- Repeat the verse several times as a group.
- Direct the kids to find the Memory Verse sticker on the "Sticky Hope" Activity Page.
- Instruct them to use a permanent marker to fill in the missing words on the sticker.
- Encourage the kids to carefully cut out their completed stickers using the safety scissors.
- As kids are working, invite them to share what other stickers they noticed on their "Sticky Hope" Activity Page.
- Give each kid a quart-size zip-top bag and prompt them to write their names on it with a permanent marker.
- Direct the kids to place their sticker(s) into the bag to take home.
- Explain to the kids that they can stick their stickers on their favorite water bottles or give them to friends or family members who might need a message of hope!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some awesome stickers! I love how each of you added your own handwriting to the Memory Verse sticker. The words in this month's verse remind us of the truth that **whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.** Do you ever have questions about the tough things that happen in your life? (*Invite responses.*) Friends, we won't always understand everything that happens to us, but we can have hope when we remember God is bigger than our questions. Sometimes, we're not supposed to know all the details—but no matter your questions, know you can always take them to God.

"Let's use these stickers to remind us to have hope. You can even use your stickers to spread hope to those around you! Stick them on your favorite water bottle, share them with friends, or give them to family members to tell them that **whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**"



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: "GOD" poster board from "I've Got Questions" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Hold up the "GOD" poster board.
- As you hold up the poster board, explain to the kids that we can ask God questions anytime and any place!
- Share that today the group will say a call and response prayer together.
- Use the prayer below to close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for bringing us together at church."

KIDS: "Dear God, thank You for bringing us together at church."

LEADER: "Help us remember that You are bigger than any question we have."

KIDS: "Help us remember that You are bigger than any question we have."

LEADER: "Let us feel Your love and comfort whenever we're worried."

KIDS: "Let us feel Your love and comfort whenever we're worried."

LEADER: "Thank You for being a safe place we can always turn."

KIDS: "Thank You for being a safe place we can always turn."

LEADER: "In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

KIDS: "In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, prompt the kids to show off their "Sticky Hope" stickers! Ask them which sticker is their favorite, and read the sticker's powerful truth together as they head out the door.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED 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 Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Butcher paper collage from Week 3
- Print "HOPE Letters" Activity Page on paper and cut in half, one "HOPE" card for every kid
- Safety scissors, enough for the Small Group to share
- Coloring supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Glue sticks, enough for the Small Group to share
- *Optional: Magazines, stickers, washi tape, ribbon, and self-adhesive craft pom poms*

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Mini-marshmallows, two bags for each Small Group
 - *Optional: For a non-food version, use Play-Doh®, two to four containers for each Small Group*
- Toothpicks, four boxes for each Small Group
- Quart-size zip-top bags, four for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Divide the two bags of mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) evenly between the four quart-size zip-top bags.

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. NO DOUBT CHARADES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Charades Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Plastic cup, one for each Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Timer, one for each Small Group

* 2. I'VE GOT QUESTIONS

[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:

- Construction paper in various lighter colors for kids to write on, one piece for every two kids
- Markers, one for every kid
- Safety scissors, one pair for every two kids
- Glue sticks, one for every two kids
- Poster board, one for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Use a permanent marker to write "GOD" in large bubble letters on the poster board.

3. STICKY HOPE

[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:

- Bible marked at John 16:33b, one for each Small Group
- Print "Sticky Hope" Activity Page on 8 1/2" x 11" vinyl sticker paper (like [this](#)), one sheet for every kid
- Safety scissors, one pair for every kid
- Permanent marker, one for every kid
- Quart-size zip-top bags, one for every kid



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2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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 understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "GOD" poster board from "I've Got Questions" 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.