



Get a Clue About
What to Do

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Living Hope
God So Loved the World
John 3:16-17

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God took care of
our greatest need.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look
out just for your own good.
Each of you should also look
out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done 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.

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

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: Eye Spy
Application Activity: Trust and Believe
Memory Verse Activity: Make the First Move
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2025

SMALL GROUP
2-3

Get a Clue About
What to Do

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, take a moment to pray for them. Pray for those who may visit your group for the first time. Reflect on how you came to know Jesus and how knowing Jesus has changed your life. Pray that the kids would come to understand how much God loves them, and that God provided for their greatest need through Jesus. Ask God to soften their hearts to receive this truth and help them trust God's love.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Living Hope
God So Loved the World
John 3:16-17

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Seek and Find" Activity Page, "Seek and Find Answer Key" Activity Page, and magnifying glasses

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Introduce yourself to any kids visiting your group for the first time!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Seek and Find" Activity Page and a magnifying glass.
- Using the magnifying glass, encourage the kids to search for images listed in the word bank.
- *NOTE: Consider partnering kids up to share magnifying glasses based on how many you have.*
- Walk around and dialog with the kids about what they've found.
- After the kids finish searching, use the "Seek and Find Answer Key" to review the hidden images with them.

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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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared inflated balloons in a bag (or bin)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
 - If there's an uneven number of kids, jump in and play!
- Give each pair of kids an inflated balloon.
- Direct the pairs to spread out.
- Guide kids in a series of challenges with the balloon:
 - Tap the balloon back and forth ___ times without dropping it. (5, 10, 20)
 - How high can you tap the balloon?
 - Tap the balloon, spin in a circle, and tap it again before it touches the ground.
 - Tap the balloon while standing on one leg.
 - Tap the balloon with your feet.
- Play as long as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Living Hope

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John 3:16-17

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so much fun! Did you notice something? We could see the balloons floating up and down but never 'saw' the air holding them up. Even though we can't see air, we believe it's there because it makes the balloons move. **[Transition]** What you believe changes everything. Today, we'll hear a true story from the Bible about Someone who took the initiative to rescue us. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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our greatest need.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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2-3

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



1. EYE SPY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Painter's tape, flashlights, "Eye Spy" Activity Page, and "Eye Spy Leader Guide" Activity Page, *Optional: sunglasses*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the "Eye Spy" Activity Page images around your group space.
- *NOTE: If taping the images around your space isn't possible, consider taping them to the floor.*
- Share with kids that Jesus met with Nicodemus at night.
- Give each kid a flashlight.
- If you can, turn the lights down.
 - It doesn't need to be completely dark—this is just for effect!
 - *Optional: If dimming the lights isn't possible, consider giving each kid a pair of sunglasses to darken their visual space.*
- Retell today's Bible Story using the "Eye Spy Leader Guide" Activity Page.
- As you read, pause frequently, giving the kids a moment to "spy" the correct picture and shine their light on it.
- *Extension: Ask kids questions about the Bible Story and have them shine their flashlights up to the ceiling when they want to answer a question!*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job shining your light during our story recap, friends! God knew our greatest need was to restore our relationship with God. Have you ever had a problem you couldn't solve? (*Invite responses.*) Well, sin is a big problem that none of us can solve alone. So, God made a move and made a way! God sent Jesus to give up His life for our sins—and when we choose to believe in Jesus, we can live with God forever. That's really, really good news—the best news ever!

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God took care of our greatest need.

"The good news doesn't end there! As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we reflect even more on who God is to the world. That includes taking *initiative*—initiative is all about seeing what needs to be done and doing it! Whether it's writing an encouraging note to a sick friend or helping a grown-up carry groceries without having to be asked, we can be on the lookout for ways we can love others by taking the initiative every day! When we share God's love with others, it shows our gratitude that **God took care of our greatest need.**"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Philippians 2:4, NIRV

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you took the initiative to see a need and do something about it. What did you see? What did you do about it? How did it make you feel?)

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

NOTE: As you talk through salvation this week, be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church's policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families with this discussion or decisions as well.



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. TRUST AND BELIEVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Floor tape, and prepared obstacle course; *optional: blindfolds*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
 - If there's an uneven number, jump in and play!
- Use the floor tape to create a starting line for the obstacle course.
- Encourage the pairs to line up behind the starting line.
- Explain to the kids that one kid in each pair will close their eyes (or wear a blindfold) while the other kid guides them through the obstacle course.
- Encourage the kid who's guiding, to talk the kid with their eyes closed through the obstacle course.
 - *NOTE: In smaller group areas, have one pair go at a time while the other pairs watch and act as obstacles.*
- Continue playing, allowing the kids to swap roles and repeat the process.

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Awesome teamwork, friends! While one partner had to take the initiative to lead, the other partner had to believe that their teammate would guide them in the right direction! Today, we discovered that God made the first move by sending Jesus to rescue us. What's so amazing is that when we follow Jesus, God's Son, we also begin to reflect more of who God is to the world around us. That includes taking the initiative—which is all about seeing what needs to be done and doing it—just like you all took the initiative to lead your partner in today's game!

"God took care of our greatest need when God sent Jesus, and now we can look for ways to take initiative with the people around us. Now, of course, we won't be able to do everything. We aren't supposed to! Taking the initiative starts with keeping our eyes open, seeing a need, and doing something about it. A grown-up is carrying a handful of groceries? Help them before being asked! A friend is sitting alone at lunch? Sit with them and ask them about their day! We can look out for others because **God took care of our greatest need!**"



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. MAKE THE FIRST MOVE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, and "Make the First Move" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into four groups.
- Give each group two Bibles.
- Lead the kids to find Philippians 2:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them 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, lead them to find Philippians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 4 in chapter 2.*

- Encourage the groups to repeat the verse aloud together.
- Give each group one of the four cards from the "Make the First Move" Activity Page that outlines a part of the Memory Verse and motions to go along with it.
- Give the groups time to work together to practice and memorize their part of the Memory Verse.
- Once the time is up, gather your entire group together.
- Invite each group to teach their portion of the Memory Verse to the rest of the kids.
- Then, practice repeating the verse and motions together several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Way to go, everyone! I'm so glad we have the Bible. We can learn so much truth from it that can help us love God and others. Memorizing the verses in the Bible is a great way to keep important truths handy when you need them most. God showed initiative by making the first move and making a way to restore our relationship with God through Jesus. Friends, **God took care of our greatest need!** When we remember this month's Memory Verse, it reminds us to keep our eyes open for the people around us and their needs too."

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Get a Clue About
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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: Prepared "Salvation Cards" Activity Page, and prepared ribbon (or yarn)

NOTE: Consider using the [SGL Salvation Conversation Guide](#) to engage in conversation about what it means to believe in Jesus.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Living Hope

God So Loved the World
John 3:16-17

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a set of cards from the "Salvation Cards" Activity Page.
- Explain to the kids that God took care of our greatest need through Jesus.
- Walk through John 3:16 with the kids using the cards and pausing for discussion.
 - God loved: God loves us SO much, more than we could ever fully understand.
 - God gave: God knew our sins, the wrong things we do that hurt God and others, would keep us from being with God forever. So, God gave us what we needed most: a Rescuer named Jesus!
 - Whoever believes: We can choose to believe in Jesus, ask Him to forgive us for the wrong things we've done, and try to live the way He shows us.
 - Lives forever: When we believe in Jesus, we get to live with God FOREVER in heaven!
- *NOTE: Be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church's policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families in this discussion or decisions as well.*
- Give each kid a piece of ribbon (or yarn).
- Direct the kids to string the ribbon (or yarn) through the punched hole on the cards in verse order.
- Share with kids that prayer is a conversation they get to have with God anytime, anywhere!
- Explain to kids that this month, the group will pray using the 'secret code,' "TACO":
 - **T = Thanks**
 - A = Adoration
 - C = Choices
 - O = Others
- This week, focus on giving thanks to God.
- Encourage kids to focus on thanking God this week for meeting our greatest need by sending Jesus.
- Give the kids a few moments to pray silently or aloud.
- Close the group in prayer.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God took care of
our greatest need.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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out just for your own good.
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Philippians 2:4, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs
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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, we have SO much to be thankful for! Thank You for loving us more than we



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25 MINUTES

(* 4. PRAY AND DISMISS, CONTINUED)

could ever fully understand. Thank You for making us in Your image and taking the first step to restore our relationship with You by sending Jesus. You took care of our greatest need, and we are SO grateful! Help us to believe and trust in Jesus. Help us share Your love with others by seeing the needs of others and doing something about them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share their Salvation Cards from the Pray and Dismiss Activity! Encourage kids to share the Memory Verse motions and teach it to the adults too. Ask kids to share with grown-ups what it might look like for them to take initiative this week.



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PRELUDE

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Print "Seek and Find" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- Print "Seek and Find Answer Key" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Magnifying glasses, one for every kid
- *NOTE: Consider partnering kids up to share magnifying glasses based on how many you have.*

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:

- Balloons, one for every two kids
- Large trash bag (or bin) to hold balloons, one for each Small Group
- *Optional: Balloon pump, one for each Small Group*
- Before group time:
 - Inflate the balloons. (*Optional: use a balloon pump, if helpful.*)
 - Set the balloons aside in a large trash bag or bin.

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 #4.

1. EYE SPY

[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:

- Painter's tape, one for each Small Group
- Flashlights, one for every kid
- Print "Eye Spy" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Eye Spy Leader Guide" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group Leader
- *Optional: Sunglasses, one pair for kid (if dimming the room isn't an option)*

2. TRUST AND BELIEVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Obstacle course items (Hula Hoops®, chairs, beanbags, etc.), 6-8 items for each Small Group
- *Optional: Blindfolds, one for every two kids*
- Before group time:
 - Create a simple obstacle course in your group area.

3. MAKE THE FIRST MOVE

[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, eight for each Small Group
- Print "Make the First Move" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for each Small Group

* 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]



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PRELUDE

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HOME

GETTING READY

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

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Salvation Cards" on cardstock and cut apart, one set for every kid
- Hole punch, one for each Small Group
- Ribbon (or yarn), one roll for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Use a hole punch to punch a hole in the left-corner of each card.
 - Use the scissors to cut the yarn into 6-inch pieces, one for every kid.

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.