



WEEK
ONE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days
and Mondays**
Jesus Wept
John 11:1-45

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're sad, remember
you're not alone.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your
hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when
something gets you down

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: Jesus Wept
Application Activity: You're Not Alone
Memory Verse Activity: 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. Think about a time when God comforted you in your sadness, and you were thankful for the presence of God. Ask God to help the kids learn to feel that presence, so they know that when they feel sad, they aren't alone.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days
and Mondays**
Jesus Wept
John 11:1-45

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, Play-Doh® (or clay), and paper plates

WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a lump of Play-Doh® (or clay) and a paper plate.
- Instruct the kids to use the Play-Doh® (or clay) to create faces showing different emotions.
- To help the kids get started, suggest different emotions such as:
 - happy
 - sad
 - surprised
 - silly
 - worried, etc.
- Encourage any kids who would like to share an emotion they felt this week to do so.
- Be sure to validate every kid's feelings with a response. You might say:
 - "I appreciate you telling me how you're feeling."
 - "I'm sorry. I understand why you'd feel that way!"
 - "Thank you for sharing with me."
- Create your own face alongside the kids. Use it to share an emotion you felt this week and why.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you're sad, remember
you're not alone.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Be strong, all you who put your
hope in the LORD. Never give up.**
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Resilience—Getting back up when
something gets you down**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle making sure everyone has enough space to move around.
- Explain that you'll be playing a game that requires the kids to listen closely to what you say and how you say it.
- Instruct the kids to act out or show the emotion or action you describe, but only if you say the words "Show me" before saying the emotion or action.
- If you don't say, "Show me" before an action/emotion, encourage the kids to freeze.
- One at a time, read the following actions/emotions and give the kids the time to perform them (if called for):
- "Show me a happy face."
 - "Show me how you feel when you open a special gift."
 - "Show me how you feel after you fall and hurt your knee."
 - "Pretend to be a flower swaying in the breeze."
 - "Spin around like a tornado."
 - "Show me how you jump in a rain puddle."
 - "Show me silly!"
 - "Show me how you feel when you see your best friend."
 - "Pretend to be a leaf blowing in the wind."
 - "Show me how you feel when you eat your favorite food."
 - "Show me how you pretend to be a snowman."
 - "Pretend to build a sandcastle."
 - "Show me surprised."
 - "Show me how you feel when you're REALLY tired."
 - "Show me calm."
- To continue playing, come up with new emotions and actions for the kids to perform. Randomly don't include the words "Show me" as you share the emotions/actions.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Psalm 31:24, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! We pretended to be (*model each emotion as you say them*) happy, sad, angry, silly, surprised—there are SO MANY emotions we can feel. Did you know Jesus felt those emotions too? **[Transition] Come with me to discover more!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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SMALL GROUP

K-1

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



* 2. YOU'RE NOT ALONE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper plate halves, markers, jumbo craft sticks, masking tape, and a device for taking pictures

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage the kids to show you a happy face.
- Use a device for taking pictures to take a picture of the group's happy face.
- Show the kids their happy faces on the device.
- Next, direct kids to show you a sad face.
- Use a device for taking pictures to take a picture of the group's sad face.
- Show the kids their sad faces on the device.
- Give each kid two paper plate halves.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct the kids to draw a happy mouth on one half of a paper plate (with the straight side facing up).
- On the other half of the plate, instruct the kids to draw a sad mouth (with the straight side facing down).
- As kids work, encourage them to think of when they might feel happy and when they might feel sad.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example with the group of when you've felt happy and sad too.)**
- Give each kid several pieces of masking tape and two craft sticks.
- Instruct the kids to tape the sticks to the back of each plate. Be prepared to assist as needed.
- Model how to hold the plate up to your face by holding the craft stick.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Have you ever noticed you feel different emotions throughout the day? We all do! You might feel happy on your way to school (*guide kids to hold their happy masks up to their faces*), but angry, worried, or even sad (*guide kids to hold their sad masks up to their faces*) at school because of something that happened with a friend. You know, Jesus experienced all the happy emotions you do, and He experienced all the sad and hard emotions you do too.

"So when you're happy (*prompt kids to hold their happy masks to their faces and turn to a neighbor*), remember you're not alone. And **when you're sad**, (*prompt kids to hold their sad masks to their faces and turn to a neighbor*) **remember you're not alone.** Jesus loves you, and He is right there with you—so however you're feeling, let's invite Jesus into it. We do that by praying and asking Jesus to help give us the courage to get back up! "



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



3. HOPE!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles (marked at Psalm 31), and "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a Bible (marked at Psalm 31).
- Direct the groups to look up Psalm 31:24 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Rainy Days and Mondays
Jesus Wept
John 11:1-45

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Psalm at the top of the page as you say "Psalm" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 31 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 31 for the little 24; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're sad, remember you're not alone.

***Finding verses with 1st 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 Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find Chapter 31. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 24 in chapter 31.*

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIRV

- Let kids know that you will recite the verse together as a group using sign language motions.
- One at a time, show the kids the signs from the "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages.
- Teach kids the sign language motions as you slowly say the verse.
- Repeat the verse, encouraging kids to sign it with you.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse tells us we can be strong and put our hope in God. God created you and me and everything in the world we see! God loves us so much more than we could ever imagine, and we can trust God no matter what! Is God with us when we're happy? (Yes!) Is God with us when we're sad? (Yes!) So **when you're sad, remember you're not alone.** Invite God to be with you no matter what you're going through—God is right there with you!"

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.