

WEEK
ONE

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

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.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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

SMALL GROUP

10
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

LARGE GROUP

30
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener Worship:

- "I Can Do All Things" from Orange Kids
- "At the Top of my Lungs" from Orange Kids

Bible Story

Bottom Line

What's Our Part in the Story?

Prayer

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when
something gets you down

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters, dressed in spring or Easter attire (bright colors). Optional: Host is also carrying a flowerpot with a fake flower or an umbrella.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everybody! It's so great to be with you here at [name of your environment]. My name is [your name], and this month we're talking about how God is with us—rain or shine. We can trust God in every season!

"Who can tell me what the four seasons are? *(Pause for response.)* That's right! Spring, summer, fall, and winter are the seasons that we have each year. You might notice that today I'm dressed for the spring season! Who can tell me some things that usually happen in the spring where we live?"

Pause for responses. Be ready to suggest some ideas if the kids don't mention them: baseball, flowers growing, rain showers, Easter, etc.)

"That's right! Those are all great reasons to LOVE spring. I thought it would be fun if we played a springtime kind of game: 'Pin the Tail on the Bunny!'"

"We have a station set up for four small group leaders to play. First, let me tell you how we will play. We'll get four AMAZING small group leaders up here on the stage. We'll blindfold the leader, spin the leader around and give that leader a little cotton ball - you know, like a little bunny tail.

The bunny on the stage has glue where the tail belongs. So If your leader gets the right spot, it will stick. If your leader doesn't, It won't!



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HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

We'll give each leader 10 seconds to hit the target, how does that sound?

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Play up the competition really big - have the leaders get Into It - maybe a little chanting from the kids.

"Way to go, everybody! Thanks for celebrating spring with me today. "We've got some more games about the seasons coming up later this month. Of course, when we talk about trusting God in every season, we're not just talking about the four seasons of the year. We're also talking about the different seasons we experience in our lives. We might have times when we feel different feelings—like sadness, anger, or joy, just to name a few. And we know that God is there to help us through those feelings. "Check out our Memory Verse for this month, Psalm 31:24:

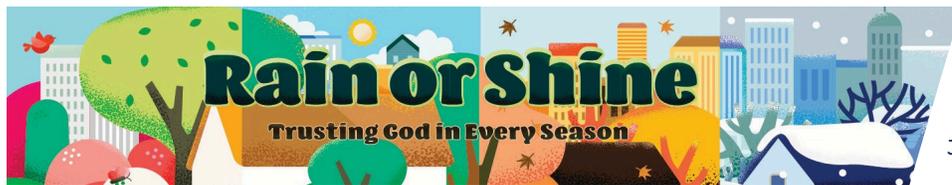
SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"God can give us the strength we need to keep going! Let's take some time to sing and worship God together. Everyone on your feet!"



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Oh yeah—now is the time to worship! Everybody, get on your feet!"

Okay, I know you love this song. I know that some of you like to get a little rowdy. I'm going to ask you one thing though. We're going to SING at the top of our lung - but we're not going to scream. There's a difference. When you scream - It's distracting and worship Isn't supposed to be distracting.

So, let's SING "At the top of our lungs."

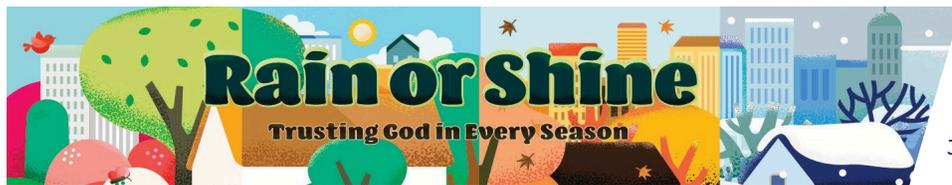
VIDEO: "AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO, OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE)

Great job, friends. We have a new song to teach you today, It's called "I can do all things!" It comes from Philippians 4:13 where It says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." You've probably heard that verse before. However, this Is what It means. Jesus Is your strength. Always. No matter what happens. No matter how hard something Is. No matter what comes against you - you can trust that Jesus Is with you. He Is your strength - always!

Okay, let's sing, "I can do all things!"

VIDEO: "I CAN DO ALL THINGS" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

Closing Prayer: Pray in your own words.



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! As you know, this month we're talking about how God is with us—rain or shine. One thing that's true for all of us is that we all feel lots of feelings and emotions. That's how God made us! And God is with us when we feel those emotions. Today we'll see how Jesus had very strong feelings and emotions about something that happened to one of His good friends.

"We can find this story in the Bible (*hold up Bible*), and we'll look at how it's described in the book of John. John, the man who wrote this book, was one of Jesus' closest friends. Since John was so close with Jesus, he got to see Jesus perform miracles like turning water into wine and healing people who were sick. John also experienced everyday life with Jesus. He saw how Jesus experienced things that we all feel—like being happy, being tired, or even being sad. John wrote down what he saw and heard to help us understand that Jesus really is the Son of God.

"Now, today I've got something really special planned. I'll tell you the story while I interview two different people who were there to see it all happen. I'll need two Small Group Leaders to play the part of John and Martha.

Bring up one male and one female Small Group Leader. Give them a name tag to wear, and direct them to have a seat in their chairs.

(To the two leaders) "John and Martha, thanks for joining us today. Don't worry—your part is really simple. When I ask you a question, you can just say one of two answers: yes or no. Does that sound good to you? *(Pause for response.)* Great.

*Storyteller sits in a chair behind a desk or table.
Storyteller can use the printed script for reference in order to set up the leaders' responses.*

LAZARUS IS SICK

STORYTELLER: *(To audience)* "First, let's set up the story so we all know who's who. Jesus was really good friends with a man named Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. *(To 'Martha')* Martha, that's you!

"Lazarus, Mary, and Martha lived in a town called Bethany, which was close to the city of Jerusalem. One day, Lazarus got very sick. *(To 'Martha')* "Now, Martha, I've heard that your brother was so sick that you and Mary were very worried about him. Is that right?"

LEADER (AS MARTHA): "Yes."

STORYTELLER: *(To 'Martha')* "I see. So you and Mary decided to send a message to Jesus to let Him know that Lazarus was sick.

Hold up the rolled-up piece of paper.



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“Is that true?”

LEADER (AS MARTHA): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “Okay. (To ‘John’) Now, John, you were with Jesus when this was all happening. Is that right?”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: (To ‘John’) “John, I understand that when Jesus received the message, He said:

Open the Bible to John 11:4 (NirV) and read.

“This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory. God’s Son will receive glory because of it.” (NirV)

“But Jesus didn’t go to see Lazarus, Mary, and Martha right away, did He?”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “No.”

STORYTELLER: “He waited for two days.”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “All right, John. This is all fascinating. So after two days, then Jesus was ready to go see Lazarus.”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “I understand that Jesus looked at you and the other disciples and said:

Open the Bible to John 11:11 (NirV) and read.

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. . . . But I am going there to wake him up.” (NirV)

“John, you and your friends thought Jesus meant that Lazarus had gone to sleep, like you go to sleep at night.”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Yes.”

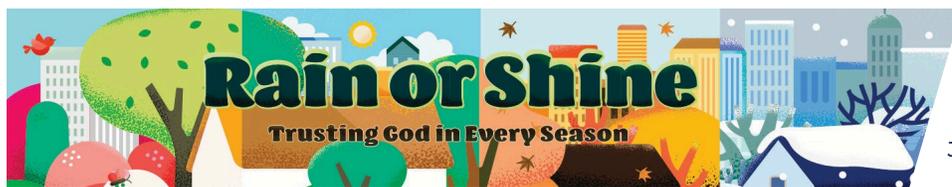
STORYTELLER: “But then Jesus said that Lazarus had died. He said:

Open the Bible to John 11:14-15 (NirV) and read.

“Lazarus is dead. For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. But let us go to him.” (NirV)

“Is that true?”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Yes.”



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

JESUS, MARTHA, AND MARY

STORYTELLER: "All right. So, John, then you and your friends went with Jesus back to Bethany. Can you walk in place and show us what that looked like?"

"John" stands up and walks in place.

"Thanks so much, John. You can have a seat."

(To 'Martha') "Now, Martha . . . when Jesus, John, and the others arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Is that right?"

LEADER (AS MARTHA): "Yes."

STORYTELLER: "You must have been very sad."

LEADER (AS MARTHA): "Yes."

STORYTELLER: "You ran out to meet Jesus. (Hold up Bible.) Here's what you said."

Open the Bible to John 11:21-22 (NirV) and read.

"Lord . . . I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for." (NirV)

"Jesus then said that Lazarus would rise again! You said:

Open the Bible to John 11:24 (NirV) and read.

"I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day." (NirV)

"Then Jesus said:

Open the Bible to John 11:25-26 (NirV) and read.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (NirV)

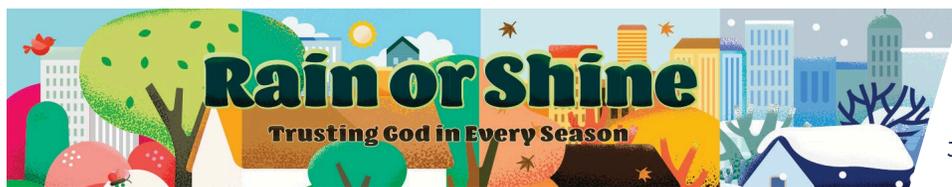
"Is that how it happened, Martha?"

LEADER (AS MARTHA): "Yes."

STORYTELLER: "And Martha, even though you were very sad about what had happened, you told Jesus that you believed in Him, and that you trusted that He was the Son of God."

LEADER (AS MARTHA): "Yes."

STORYTELLER: "Then Jesus asked to speak to someone else. Was it your sister, Mary?"



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25 MINUTES

LEADER (AS MARTHA): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “Mary fell down at Jesus’ feet. She also told Jesus that she wished He had come sooner, because then Lazarus wouldn’t have died. Is that right?”

LEADER (AS MARTHA): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: *(To audience)* “And then . . . we read something amazing here in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* We read how Jesus saw that Mary was crying.

(To ‘Martha’) He saw how sad you were, Martha . . . and the other townspeople too.

(To audience) “Jesus became very sad, and He asked where they had put Lazarus. When Jesus saw the tomb where Lazarus was buried . . . Jesus cried.

(To audience) “Think about that. Jesus was sad . . .

(to ‘Martha’) right along WITH you, Martha . . . and everyone else.

(To ‘Martha’) “Martha, is it true that the people were amazed at the way Jesus reacted?”

LEADER (AS MARTHA): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: “But some of them wondered why Jesus couldn’t have kept Lazarus from dying.”

LEADER (AS MARTHA): “Yes.”

LAZARUS IS ALIVE

STORYTELLER: “So then Jesus came to the tomb, and He asked the people to take away the stone that was blocking the entrance.

(To ‘John’) And John, you were there to see this too?”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Yes.”

STORYTELLER: *(To ‘Martha’)* “Martha, you can just nod if I have this correct. You told Jesus that there might be a bad smell because Lazarus had been in the tomb for so long.

“Martha” nods.

“But then Jesus said to you:

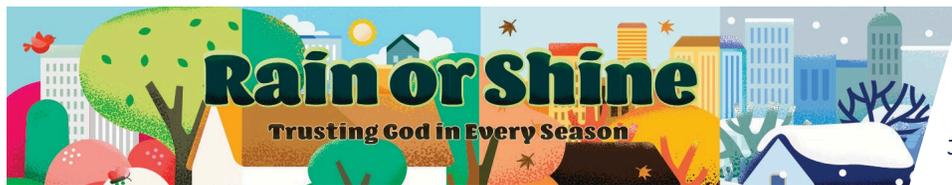
Open the Bible to John 11:40 (NirV) and read.

“Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” (NirV)

“Martha” nods.

“So they removed the stone. Then Jesus prayed, and He called in a loud voice: ‘Lazarus, come out!’ *(John 11:43, NirV)*
(To ‘Martha’ and ‘John’) “Martha, John . . . can you say that for us so we can imagine what it sounded like?”

Nod to “Martha.”



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25 MINUTES

LEADER (AS MARTHA): “Lazarus, come out!”

Nod to “John.”

LEADER (AS JOHN): “Lazarus, come out!”

STORYTELLER: “And then . . . well . . . a miracle happened. Lazarus walked out of the tomb, alive and well!”

(To ‘Martha’) “Martha, show me how excited you were.”

“Martha” jumps/shouts with joy.

(To ‘John’) “John, how about you?”

“John” jumps/shouts with joy.

“Incredible! Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. That’s something only Jesus could do!”

(To ‘John’ and ‘Martha’) “John, Martha, thank you so much for joining us today!

(To audience) Let’s give them a hand for helping out. John and Martha, everybody!”

Dismiss the two leaders to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Martha, Mary, John, and everyone else who was there that day must have been absolutely amazed to see how Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Jesus is more powerful than anything—even death!”

“And this story shows us something else that’s really important. Jesus cared about how His friends felt. He shared in their sadness. He cried, just like they cried. He felt sad that Lazarus had died . . . even though He knew that He’d bring Lazarus back to life.

“Jesus is also with US when we face hard things. He cares how we feel. We know that He’s there to help us and comfort us, so we’re never alone.

“That’s what we need to remember today:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“When you’re sad, remember you’re not alone. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: **“When you’re sad, remember you’re not alone.”**

Host enters.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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25 MINUTES

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "What an amazing story! I can just imagine how sad Martha and Mary and the others must have been when Lazarus died. It must have meant so much to them to know that Jesus really cared about how they were feeling."

STORYTELLER: "Right. Jesus was sad about Lazarus, just like they were sad about Lazarus."

HOST: "And then Jesus performed a miracle and brought Lazarus back to life, right before their eyes!"

STORYTELLER: "As we think about this story today, we can remember that God is with us and God cares about us. God is there when we're feeling full of joy and excitement . . . and God is also there to comfort us when we're sad. God is right there WITH us in all of our feelings. And because of that, God can help us choose something that we call resilience."

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

HOST: "Resilience means getting back up when something gets you down."

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: "When we face challenges in life, we can pray and talk to God about how we're feeling. We can ask God to help us through those times when we feel sad or lonely."

HOST: "It's also important to talk to someone about how we're feeling. God has put people in our lives who love us and can help us understand the emotions inside us."

STORYTELLER: "No matter what you might be feeling, you can know for sure that you're never alone. Jesus experienced all the sad and hard emotions that we do. And He's right there with you!"

HOST: "Let's pray and ask God to help us with our feelings."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for showing us that You are with us when we feel sad. Jesus felt sad because His friend Lazarus had died . . . and He saw how everyone else felt sad too. There will be times when all of us face difficult things in life. Please remind us, God, that we're not alone. Help us to remember that **[Basic Truth]** we can trust God no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP