

WEEK
TWO

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't You Worry
'Bout a Thing
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

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.

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.

SMALL GROUP

10
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

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
- "Sing Your Praise" from Orange Kids

Bible Story

Bottom Line

What's Our Part in the Story?

Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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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, wearing beachy/summery attire.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! I'm so happy to see you. If you're glad to be here, give me a thumbs-up like this. (*Demonstrate.*) If you're new here, we're so glad you came to [name of your environment]."

"This month we're talking about how God is with us—rain or shine. We can trust God in every season. And that doesn't just mean seasons like spring, summer, fall, and winter. It means that we can trust God in any situation in life. [*Basic Truth*] We can trust God no matter what!"

"Who can guess what season I'm dressed for today? (*Pause for responses.*) You got it—summer! What are some things that you like to do in the summer?"

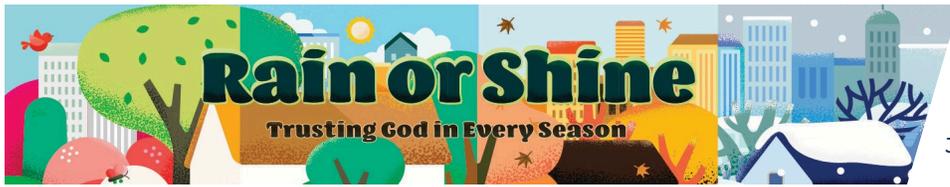
Pause for responses. Be ready to suggest some ideas if the kids don't mention them: swimming, playing outside, sleeping in, etc.)

"Those are all great reasons to LOVE summertime. I've got a fun summer game that everyone can play. I call it 'Summer Faves'!"

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL BEACHY MUSIC (THROUGHOUT THE GAME)

"First, everyone go ahead and stand up.

"I'll call out a summer-themed topic and give you two options. You'll decide which of those two options is your favorite—or which one WOULD be your favorite—and you'll move to the side of the room that lines up with your choice. If you don't really have a preference, you can hang out in the middle. Or if you REALLY prefer one choice, you can go ALL the way to that side. Make sense? All right, let's play!"



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SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 1 (ICE CREAM: CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA?)

“First up, one of the best things about summer: ice cream! What’s your favorite ice cream flavor—vanilla or chocolate? Follow the arrow to the side of the room that lines up with your ‘summer fave’!

*Kids will move to one side of the room or the other to vote for their favorite. Be sure to explain what each slide means (for example: “How about swimming? Would you rather swim in a pool or a lake?”). You can play too! Comment on the results.
Go through the other slides, playing the game in the same way each time.*

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 2 (SWIMMING: POOL OR LAKE?)

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 3 (SUMMER ROAD TRIP: BEACH OR MOUNTAINS?)

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 4 (FROZEN TREAT: POPSICLE OR SLUSHY?)

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 5 (COOKOUT: BURGER OR HOT DOG?)

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 6 (SLEEPING IN: EARLY BIRD OR NIGHT OWL?)

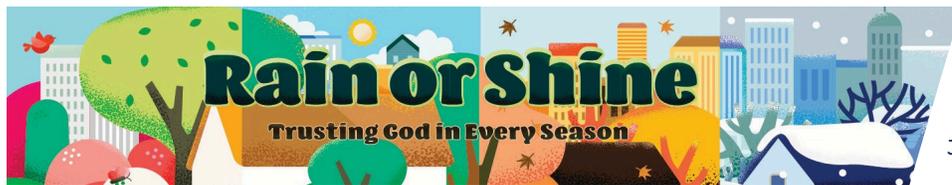
SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 7 (FRUIT: WATERMELON OR STRAWBERRIES?)

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE 8 (BEACH DAY: SANDCASTLE OR JUMPING THE WAVES?)

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“That was so fun! And now I feel like we all know each other a little better too. Thanks for celebrating summer with me. “You know what else I love about summer? Summer tunes! Let’s get into some worship—what do you say? After all, God is with us and God loves us in every season. Everyone, stay on your feet, but head back to where you were sitting before. Let’s get ready to sing and worship God!”



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hi, friends! We are here to lift our voices and praise God together. When we choose to worship God, it changes our day. We have more joy. We are more at peace. No matter what’s going on in our lives . . . no matter how we feel . . . we can choose to thank God and offer our worship.

Let’s do that right now! Sing along with us.

VIDEO: “SING YOUR PRAISE” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“I love that one! We can worship God with the way we live every day.

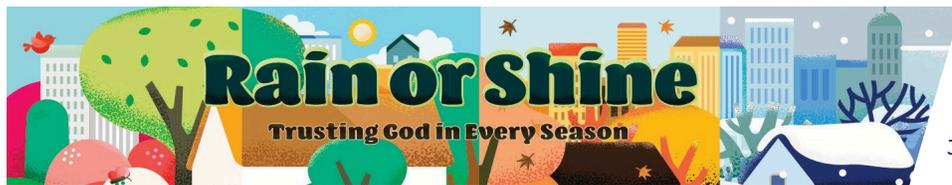
“Last week, we learned a new song called ‘I Can Do All Things.’

I’m so thankful that God is there for us through everything in life. It’s not just sometimes. It’s not a maybe. God is ALWAYS there to help us and to give us STRENGTH. As we read in Psalm 113:3: *‘From the sunrise in the east to the sunset in the west, may the name of the Lord be praised.’* (NirV) We can trust and praise God in every season.

Come on, everybody—let’s sing this.”

VIDEO: “I CAN DO ALL THINGS” LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

Closing Prayer: Pray in your own words.



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! Our story today is from the book of Matthew (*hold up Bible*), which is one of the four books of the Bible that are called the Gospels. These books tell stories from the life of Jesus.

"The book of Matthew was written by a man named Matthew—a tax collector whose life was totally changed by his friendship with Jesus.

"When Jesus was about 30 years old, He began to travel from town to town, teaching and healing people. Everywhere Jesus went, lots and lots of people gathered. Many sick people were hoping to be made well, and Jesus healed them! But Jesus cared about more than just their health. He also cared about people's hearts and minds. So, Jesus taught people what it looks like to live in God's kingdom.

Host enters, carrying the large duffel bag.

DON'T WORRY

STORYTELLER: "Oh, hey, [Host's name]. Whatcha doing?"

HOST: "Who, me? You know, just hanging out. What are YOU doing?"

STORYTELLER: "Ummm . . . I'm trying to tell the Bible Story."

HOST: "Right! I know! I was thinking I could help!"

STORYTELLER: "You want to help?"

HOST: "Yes! I've got everything we need in this bag right here! You just keep going, and I'll help out with some fun visuals."

STORYTELLER: "Okay, sure. Why not?"

Host sets the bag on the table.

(*To audience*) "One day, Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down to teach His disciples. Before long, a crowd gathered. The things Jesus said there that day have come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus talked about how life in God's kingdom is very different from what people might think.

"Jesus said some things that must have taken people by surprise.

"He said that we should love our enemies.

Host pulls the heart plush out of the duffel bag and sets it on the table.



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“He said that we should be like a light in the world.

Host pulls out the lantern, turns it on, and sets it on the table.

“Jesus also said that His followers should do good things quietly . . .

Host pulls out the megaphone, then puts it back in the bag.

“ . . . not so we would get attention from other people.

“And then . . . Jesus said this:

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:25 (NirV) and read.

“I tell you, do not worry. Don’t worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don’t worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn’t there more to life than eating? Aren’t there more important things for the body than clothes?” (NirV)

(To Host) “Do you have props for that part too, [Host’s name]?”

Host nods.

“Okay, let me read it again.

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:25 (NirV) and read.

“I tell you, do not worry. Don’t worry about your life and what you will eat or drink.

Host pulls out the snack and drink and sets them on the table.

“And don’t worry about your body and what you will wear.

Host pulls out the T-shirt, holds it up in front of him, then drapes it over the edge of the table.

“Isn’t there more to life than eating? Aren’t there more important things for the body than clothes?” (NirV)

“In my life, it seems like there are a lot of things that I could worry about. But what did Jesus say? ‘DON’T worry.’

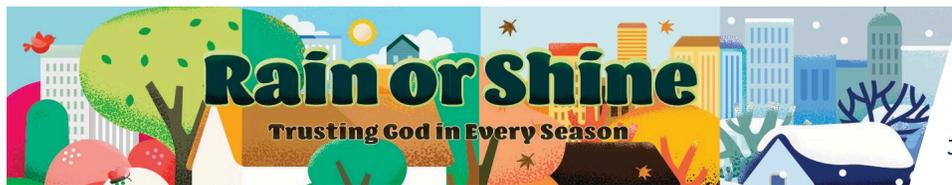
BIRDS AND FLOWERS

STORYTELLER: “Jesus then used some fun word pictures to explain what He meant.

Open up the Bible to Matthew 6:26-27 (NirV) and read.

“Look at the birds of the air.

Host pulls out the plush bird.



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“They don’t plant or gather crops. They don’t put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying?” (NirV)
“That makes sense, right? God provides the food that the birds need. They don’t worry about where they’ll find food in the future. They just find it when they need it.

Host puts the plush bird on the table.

“Jesus also said this:

Open up the Bible to Matthew 6:28-29 (NirV) and read.

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow.

Host pulls out the artificial flowers.

“They don’t work or make clothing. But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all his royal robes was dressed like one of these flowers.” (NirV)

“Flowers don’t have to worry . . . because God just helps them grow.

Host pulls out the plastic vase and sets it on the table, then puts the flowers in the vase.

TRUST GOD

STORYTELLER: “When Jesus said, ‘Don’t worry,’ of course He knew that we DO worry about things. We worry about whether we’ll have the things we need. We worry about the people we love, and if they’ll be safe and healthy. We worry about whether we’ll do well at school—or adults worry about whether we’ll do well at our jobs.

“But Jesus wanted to remind the people who were listening that day of something important. Instead of getting stuck feeling worried all the time, we can ask God to help us stop worrying. We can ask God to help us TRUST.

“See, when we start to feel worry creep up inside us, we can talk to God about it.

Host folds his hands and bows his head.

“We can choose to remember the things that are most important and that are always true: that God loves us . . . God is with us . . . and God is in control.

“Jesus finished up talking about worry like this:

Open up the Bible to Matthew 6:31-34 (NirV) and read.

“So don’t worry. Don’t say, ‘What will we eat?’ Or, ‘What will we drink?’ Or, ‘What will we wear?’ People who are ungodly run after all those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them. But put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you. So don’t worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (NirV)



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Host pulls out the calendar and opens it to the January page.

(To Host) “[Host’s name], you really do have just about everything there in that bag! I can see you’ve got a calendar with this month . . . and all the months coming up.

Host uses the marker to put a smiley face on a sticky note, then puts the sticky note on the calendar page.

Then Host makes more smiley sticky notes and sticks them on the following pages of the calendar.

(To Host) “Wow. It looks like you’re deciding to trust God instead of worrying!

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “We can choose to trust when we remember that God loves us . . . and God knows exactly what we need. That can be tough for us to do, so we definitely need God’s help!

“We can talk to God and tell God about how we feel . . . and ask God to give us peace so we don’t get stuck feeling worried. God can help us live worry-free today, rather than stressing out about tomorrow.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“When you’re worried, trust God. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “When you’re worried, trust God.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “It’s true, [Storyteller’s name]. It’s easy for us to get stuck feeling worried without even realizing it.”

STORYTELLER: “Right. It’s good for us to remember that we can always take our worries to God. Worry can really get you down. But God can help you grow in resilience so you can get back up again!”

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

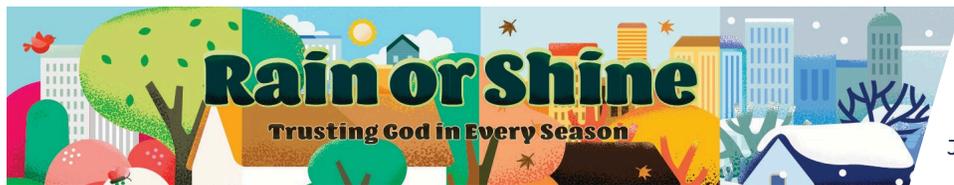
HOST: “Resilience means getting back up when something gets you down.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: “We need God’s help to find resilience when we’re stuck in worry . . . no matter how big or how small our worries might be. God knows that we need help. We can find peace when we choose to trust God and believe that God is always with us.”



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

25 MINUTES

HOST: “And if you feel like you’re worried and anxious a lot, talk with a trusted adult in your life. Often God will provide help through a parent or Small Group Leader or counselor.

“Why don’t we pray and ask God to help us choose to trust instead of worry?”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: “God, thank You for the way You love us. Thank You for providing the things we need, and for being a God Who we can trust no matter what. Please help us to trust You with all the things we worry about. Help us to let go of our worries so we can find Your peace instead. 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