

WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

LARGE GROUP

K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger
Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to 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 should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

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
- "At the Top of my Lungs" 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

STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Slow to Anger
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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 fall attire.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Hi there, fun people! My name is [your name] and I'm really happy to be here with all of you. "Do you like my fun outfit? Which season do you think I'm dressed for today? (*Pause for responses.*)

Right—the fall! We're talking about how we can trust God in every season. That's true about the seasons like spring, summer, fall, and winter . . . but really it means that we can trust God through all the different times in our lives. We know that God is with us, through all the different feelings we might feel inside. We can depend on God—rain or shine.

"So, I'd love to know . . . what are some things that you like to do in the fall?"

Pause for responses. Be ready to suggest some ideas if the kids don't mention them: playing in the leaves, going to a pumpkin patch or corn maze, apple picking, etc.)

"Those are all great reasons to LOVE the fall season. One of my favorite things to do in the fall is apple picking, so I thought we'd do our own version of apple picking for our game today! I'm looking for three contestants from each side of the room. Raise your hand if you'd like to play.

Pick three kids from each side to go on stage. (Be sure to pick kids from different parts of the room—not just up front.)

(To the kids on stage) "Okay! We have the red team and blue team. You guys come stand by your team's baskets. See the colors on them? (*Point to the two empty baskets with the construction paper label on them.*)



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HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“As you can see, we have an apple picking station (*point to the basket full of fake apples on the opposite side of the stage*) . . . and we have an empty basket for each team (*point to the two empty baskets the kids are standing next to*). That’s where you’ll put the apples that you collect. Your team will try to get as many apples into your team’s basket as you can before time runs out. Sounds easy enough, right? But here’s the thing. You won’t just grab the apples in your hands. You’ll get to use one of these grabbers!

Hold up a reacher-grabber and use it to pick up a fake apple.

“Your team will send one person at a time to go get an apple from the basket across the way, and use your grabber to carry it all the way back to your team’s basket. If you drop the apple along the way, no problem. Just pick it up with the grabber and carry it again. If you drop the apple three times, then at that point you can pick it up with your hands and carry it back to your team’s basket.

“When you get an apple into your basket, hand the next person on your team the grabber, and they’ll start their journey to go get another apple. Meanwhile, the person who just had a turn can go to the back of their team’s line and wait for their next turn. We’ll play for two minutes, and the team with the most apples in their basket wins!

“Okay, everybody line up. We’ll all be cheering for you. Ready, set, go!

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (5-MINUTE VERSION, CUED UP TO 2:00)

If you’re not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for two minutes. As teams are competing, provide funny commentary and encouraging words. Encourage the audience to cheer for the contestants.

When the timer goes off, count how many apples each team got in their basket, and celebrate big! Then dismiss the contestants to their seats.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

“That was some serious fall fun! Let’s give a big hand to our contestants. And let’s all jump up on our feet now so we can lift our voices and worship God together.”



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

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “I’ve been waiting all week for this time with all of you. I love it when we come together to worship and lift up the name of Jesus. His way is always the very best way to live. Come on, everybody—let’s dance and sing!”

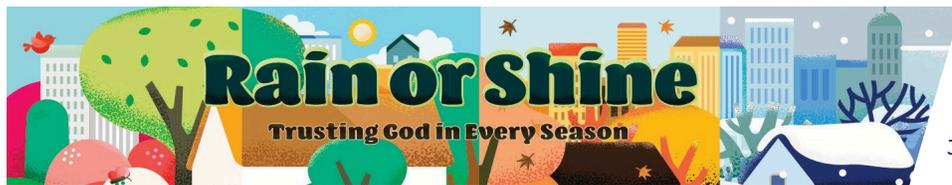
VIDEO: “AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS” LIVE LYRICS

“We can trust God each and every day of our lives. *[Basic Truth]* We can trust God no matter what! Listen to these encouraging words David wrote in Psalm 31:24: ‘Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord. Never give up.’ (NirV) God is always with us. God gives us strength in every season and in every challenge we face.

Sing this with me.”

VIDEO: “I CAN DO ALL THINGS” LIVE LYRICS

Closing Prayer: Pray in your own words.



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

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 in everything we face in life. God is there to help us through all the emotions and feelings we feel inside.

"Today we're looking at an idea from the book of James in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Here's a fun fact about James: he was Jesus' half-brother!

"After Jesus died and then came back to life, James believed that Jesus really was God's Son. James became a leader of the early church in Jerusalem. He wrote this letter to other believers to help them understand that it's important not only to HAVE faith, but to put that faith into action in the way we treat others.

TROUBLE WILL COME

STORYTELLER: "So . . . what did James write?"

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1 (JAMES WRITING A SCROLL)

Open the Bible to James 1:2-3 (NirV) and read.

My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. Your faith will be tested. You know that when this happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. (NirV)

"Let me read that again.

My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. Your faith will be tested. You know that when this happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. (NirV)

"Okay, wow. James was very honest with the people he was writing this letter to. He said that we WILL face trouble in life. But the way we respond to that trouble is really important. When we trust God to help us, God will build the strength and resilience IN us that we need to keep going.

"Think about it this way.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (THUNDERCLOUD)

"When bad things happen in our lives, how does that usually make us feel? (*Pause for responses.*) Right. Scared. Confused. Upset. Even angry!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3 (THUNDERCLOUD WITH ANGRY EMOJI)

"That's what trouble usually does for me. When something doesn't go the way I want it to, or when I don't get something that I think I deserve . . . it's easy to get mad. And not only that, it's easy to STAY mad.



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25 MINUTES

“But James said that there’s a different way we can look at trouble. He said that we could ‘*think of it as pure joy*’ (James 1:2, NIV).

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4 (THUNDERCLOUD WITH SMILEY FACE)

“Does that seem hard to believe? I mean, how is that possible? How can we keep from getting stuck in our anger and learn to trust God instead?”

QUICK TO LISTEN

STORYTELLER: “Well, let’s see what else James had to say about that.

Open the Bible to James 1:19 (NIV) and read.

Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry. (NIV)

“Okay, that’s some really wise advice right there. Here’s a fun way to think about it.

“Raise your hand if you’ve heard of a cheetah before. *(Pause for responses.)*”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5 (CHEETAH RUNNING)

“What do you know about a cheetah? What are they known for? *(Pause for responses.)* Right. They’re fast!”

“Really quick, I want you stand up on your feet and run in place to show me how fast you think cheetahs are. I’ll count to five, and then you can sit back down. Ready? Go!”

Pause while the kids run in place. Count to five and then cue them to stop.

“All right, have a seat. Great job!”

“Now, see if you remember what James wrote here:

Open the Bible to James 1:19 (NIV) and read.

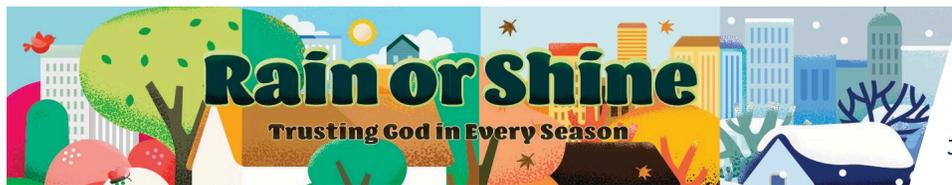
Everyone should be quick to . . . [Pause for responses.] LISTEN. (NIV)

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 6 (TWO KIDS DISAGREEING)

“You might be having trouble with a friend because they said something you didn’t like . . . and that made you really mad! You might feel that anger rising up inside you. But if you’re quick to listen . . . if you ask them WHY they said what they said, especially in a calm way . . . you might find out something you didn’t know before.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 7 (SAME TWO KIDS, NOW WITH CURIOUS EXPRESSIONS)

“You might even find a way to stay friends instead of saying something mean back to them.



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

25 MINUTES

SLOW TO SPEAK

STORYTELLER: “Let’s read that part of James’ letter again.

Open the Bible to James 1:19 (NIRV) and read.

Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry. (NIRV)

“Okay. So we should be quick to listen, like a cheetah. But we should be slow to speak. We should be slow to get angry.

“Raise your hand if you like sloths. *(Pause for responses.)* Me too!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 8 (SLOTH)

“What do you know about sloths? What are they known for? *(Pause for responses.)* Right—they move really slowly, like this.

Hold up your hand and wave to the kids in super-slow motion.

“This time, you can stand up and do a slow-motion sloth walk. I’ll count to five, and then you can sit back down. Ready? Go!

Pause while the kids slow walk in place. Count to five and then cue them to stop.

“That was some great sloth slow-motion, everyone! You can sit back down.

“Now, what did James say about moving slowly? We should be slow to . . . *(pause for responses)* speak. And slow to . . . *(pause for responses)* get angry.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 9 (KID GETTING ANGRY)

“That means you don’t just say the first thing that pops into your head—because it might not be the wisest thing to say when you’re angry!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 10 (KID LOOKING THOUGHTFUL)

“Instead, we can pause . . . take a deep breath . . . and think about what we want to say, BEFORE we say it. We can say a silent prayer and ask God to help us choose our words carefully. That will help us trust God and find the strength we need to speak and act wisely.

“Everyone, show me what it looks like to take a nice, deep breath. Ready?

Lead the kids in a couple of deep breaths.

“That feels good, doesn’t it? If we take time to breathe and take time to think, we’ll be slow to speak—like a sloth. That will help us to be SLLLLLOOOOOWWWW to get angry.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 11 (ANGRY EMOJI)



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“Now, it’s important to remember that feeling anger is NOT wrong! In fact, Jesus Himself got angry. There are things that happen in our world that are not good. It’s right to feel angry about those things. But we need to stay in control of our anger so that we don’t hurt ourselves or other people. Like Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians:

Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:26 (NirV) and read.

“When you are angry, do not sin.” (NirV)

“Anger is only wrong when you let it take control of you and if you act without thinking.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Okay, everyone get back up on your feet so we can practice what we’ve learned. “We should be quick, like cheetahs, to listen.

Let me see you run in place like a cheetah!

Pause while the kids run in place.

“We should be slow, like sloths, to speak. Show me your silent sloth slow-motion walk.

Pause while the kids walk in place.

“Good! We should be slow to get angry. Let me see your sloth walk again.

Pause while the kids walk in place.

“Great job! You can sit back down.

“When trouble comes in life, you might start to feel angry. But you don’t have to let that anger take charge. Instead, ask God to help you respond with wise words and actions to what’s making you angry.

“Here’s what we need to remember today:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

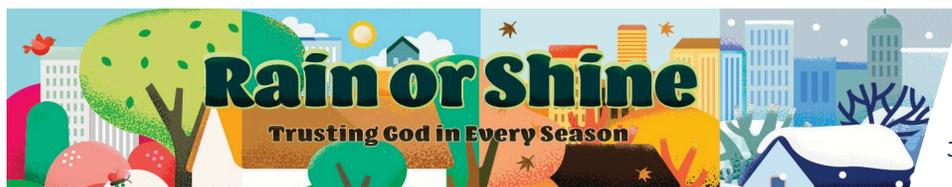
“When you’re angry, talk to God. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “When you’re angry, talk to God.”

Host enters.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "That's great, [Storyteller's name]. I definitely want to remember this the next time I feel angry. *(To audience)* I should be quick like a cheetah to . . . *(pause for responses)* listen. I should be slow like a sloth to . . . *(pause for responses)* speak . . . and slow to get angry."

STORYTELLER: "That's right! And remember, you don't have to do that all by yourself. No matter what you're feeling, you can talk to God about it. You can ask God to help you stay in control of your anger and show you what to say to try to make things better. God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of you to do just that—He will help you with your anger when you ask. That way you can keep from doing or saying things that will make a bad situation worse."

HOST: "We don't have to get stuck in our anger. With God's help, we can be resilient!"

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"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: "So, if you have an argument with a friend, try to listen to what they have to say. Ask God to help you to be patient and try to find a way to make things better in your friendship.

"If you find yourself getting angry with your brother or sister, take a deep breath and don't say anything right away. Talk to God about how you're feeling, so that you'll know how to respond in a wise way.

"You can also talk to an adult you trust who can help you figure out what to do in a tricky situation."

HOST: "There also some things you can do that will help calm your anger down—like taking some deep breaths . . . or wrapping your arms around yourself and hugging hard."

STORYTELLER: "You could draw a picture and crumple it up . . . punch a pillow . . . or even pop some bubble wrap!"

HOST: "It's important not to let anger take over so that we can try to fix things that are going wrong. That's what I'd want my friends or siblings to do for me. And as we like to say around here, [*Basic Truth*] I should treat others the way I want to be treated."

STORYTELLER: "Let's pray and ask God to help us slow down when we feel angry."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for loving us and for understanding how we feel. Help us to trust You when we start to feel angry. Please show us how we can be quick to listen and slow to speak. Show us how to slow down so we can make wise choices, even when we're angry. 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