



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Come On, Let's Go  
Jesus and His Followers  
Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16; 8:1-3

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants us to work together.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.  
Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone

### 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**  
Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**30**  
MIN

**STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**  
**WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God**  
Opener  
Worship "Alive" from *Hillsong*, and "Our God" by Yancy)  
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: True or False Story Review (k-1st grade), Making Disciples (2nd-3rd grade)  
Application Activity: Cooperation or Not? (k-1st grade), Together We Win (2nd-3rd grade)  
Memory Verse Activity: Two Are Better Than One (k-1st grade), Linked Arm Race (2nd-3rd grade)  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



WEEK  
**ONE**  
MARCH 2025

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **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.*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

## OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everybody! How's it going? My name is [your name] and I'm so glad to be here with you at [name of your environment]. Really quick, when I count to three, I want everyone to shout out your name so I can hear it. Ready? One, two, three! *(Pause for responses.)* I love it!

"I'm really jazzed (*jazz hands*) about our theme this month, Cast and Crew. Have you ever thought about all the different people who are part of making a movie, a TV show, or a play on stage? Everyone in the cast is important. Everyone in the crew is important. Everyone has a part to play. And they all come together to create something awesome!

"For our game today, I thought we could celebrate some of the people who are part of the crew of a movie. They do all the moves and jumps and stunts during the big action scenes. I'm talking about stunt people! Let's do a little stunt training of our own, shall we?

Everybody stand up! "First, let's make one giant circle, all the way around the room.

*Take some time to get everyone in a big single-file circle. If you have a group of more than 25 kids, you might want to play the game with two (or three) separate circles.*

*(Hold up the Hula Hoop®.)* "Now, we'll start this Hula Hoop® on one side of the circle, and when I say 'go,' we'll all join hands. We'll have to work together to move the Hula Hoop® all the way around the circle, back to the first person, WITHOUT letting go of each other's hands! That'll take some serious stunt team kind of moves.

"Are you ready to give it a try? *(Pause for responses.)* Let's do this!



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*Place the Hula Hoop® between two kids' arms (for each circle).*

"Stunt team ready! Lights, camera, action!"

*AUDIO: FUN MOVIE MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "MISSION IMPOSSIBLE THEME," LOOPED)*

*Encourage the kids as they try to move the Hula Hoop® around the circle.*

*If time allows, play another round going the opposite direction, or play a round with the smaller circles joining up as one larger circle.*

"That was really amazing! Some of you might have a future in the movie industry. That was some great maneuvering! Now let's keep moving as we sing, dance, and worship God together."



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hi, everyone! It's time to get on your feet. It's time for us to sing, move, and look ALIVE! We're going to sing one of my favorites - 'Alive,' a song about how God makes us new and sets us free. Just like it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' So, let's sing loud and celebrate that we are alive in Him!"

*VIDEO: "ALIVE" LIVE LYRICS*

"Great job. Whew - who knew that singing to God could be such a workout? Okay, we have a new song to sing today, it's called "Our God." In this song, we're going to sing about God's greatness, about his power, and about how there isn't anyone or anything like him. There is no one who compares to him. Aren't you God that you serve a God that is as BIG and AMAZING and as POWERFUL as our God is? Let's sing together!"

*VIDEO: "OUR GOD" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** Amazing! Let's pray.



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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! (*Hold up Bible.*) Today we're looking at the book of Luke in the New Testament. Luke wanted to write about all the things Jesus said and did . . . so he traveled around and talked to people who had been with Jesus and wrote down what they said.

*(Flip back to the beginning of Genesis.)* "All the way back at the beginning of God's Story, we can see how God created everything—including people. People turned away from God, but God had a good plan to rescue us. At the perfect time, Jesus, God's Son, came to live here on earth as a human.

*(Flip back to Luke.)* "One really cool thing is that we can read here in the book of Luke about how Jesus grew up.

*Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 (NirV) and read.*

*Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people. (NirV)*  
"Jesus did grow up to be a man.

*Bring out the balloon with the Jesus face on it.*

"When He was about 30, He was baptized by His cousin John. And when Jesus was baptized, God's voice spoke from heaven, saying:

*With your other hand, open the Bible to Luke 3:22 (NirV) and read.*

*"You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you." (NirV)*

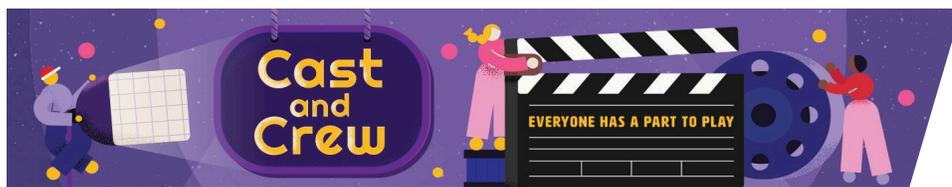
"Soon after this, Jesus began traveling around, teaching and healing people. It was clear that Jesus was very special, and it didn't take long before people started following Him!

### THE CAST

**STORYTELLER:** "Now, Jesus could have done His work in the world completely on His own. But that's not what happened. Instead, Jesus chose to work with a group of ordinary, everyday people who we know today as the disciples. "These men spent their time with Jesus, learning how to live His way and doing the work that Jesus gave them to do. And they weren't all alike, either! They all had different personalities and were very different people.

"Raise your hand if you know how many disciples Jesus had. (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! Jesus had 12 disciples.

*Set down the Jesus balloon (which should be attached to a balloon weight, like all balloons for the story).*



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

*Bring out the bundle of 12 multicolored balloons with faces (and names in small print). As you reference each balloon, turn the face so it faces the audience.*

*(Referencing the balloons)* “We have Simon Peter, also known as Peter . . . Andrew, James, and John. We have Philip, Bartholomew, and Matthew the tax collector. Also, we have Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas the son of James . . . and Judas Iscariot, the one who eventually betrayed Jesus.

*Set down the 12 balloons. Then pick up the Jesus balloon.*

“We can read in the book of Luke about how Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and then He came down and chose these 12 men to be His disciples. But if we go back a little earlier in the book of Luke, we can find out how Jesus first met some of these men and first invited them to follow Him.

*Set down the Jesus balloon, a short distance away.*

### **PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, AND JOHN**

STORYTELLER: “One day, Jesus was teaching the people by the edge of a big lake. He saw two boats that were empty because the fishermen were cleaning their nets.

*Separate the Peter, Andrew, James, and John balloons from the bunch of 12 and hold them up.*

“Those fishermen were actually two sets of brothers: Peter and Andrew, and James and John.

*Set the bunch of four balloons down.*

“Jesus borrowed Peter’s boat to teach from as people gathered on the shore to listen. Then, Jesus told Peter to throw his nets into the water. Peter and the others had been fishing all night and hadn’t caught anything. But when they did what Jesus told them to do, they caught so many fish that the weight of all those fish almost sank their boats!

“And then something really interesting happened. Peter knew right away that there was something really special about Jesus—that He was no ordinary man. And remember, Peter was also known as Simon, or Simon Peter. Listen to this.

*Open the Bible to Luke 5:8-10 (NirV) and read.*

*When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees. “Go away from me, Lord!” he said. “I am a sinful man!” He and everyone with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught. So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon.*

*Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid. From now on you will fish for people.” (NirV)*

*“Then . . . these four men pulled their boats onto the shore . . . and as we read right here, ‘they left everything and followed [Jesus]’ (Luke 5:11).*

### **MATTHEW AND OTHERS**

STORYTELLER: “And then there’s Matthew.



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SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

*Separate the Matthew balloon from the bunch of 12 and hold it up.*

“Matthew was a tax collector. He was in charge of taking money from the Jewish people to give to their enemies, the Romans. Not only that, the arrangement tax collectors had with the Roman government was to take extra to pay their salaries. Tax collectors were known for taking extra money and keeping it for themselves. So, as you can imagine, tax collectors were NOT popular people.

“But sure enough, Jesus chose Matthew—a tax collector—to be one of His disciples. He walked up to Matthew and said, ‘Follow me’ (Luke 5:27, NIV). Jesus even went to dinner at Matthew’s house!

“So get this. Jesus had one disciple who had worked FOR the Romans . . . and He had another disciple who was very much AGAINST the Romans: Simon the Zealot.

*Separate the Simon the Zealot balloon from the bunch of 12 and hold it up, with the Matthew balloon still in your other hand.*

“As you can see, Jesus didn’t just choose people who were all alike as His closest friends. He chose people like Matthew and Simon who saw the world very differently.

*Gather the 12 disciple balloons into one bunch, and set them to the side.*

“And it wasn’t just these 12 men who followed Jesus.

*Bring out the three balloons representing Mary, Joanna, and Susanna.*

“Women traveled with Jesus and learned from Him too. Listen to this.

*Open the Bible to Luke 8:1-3 (NIV) and read. As you mention Mary, Joanna, and Susanna, reference the balloons representing them.*

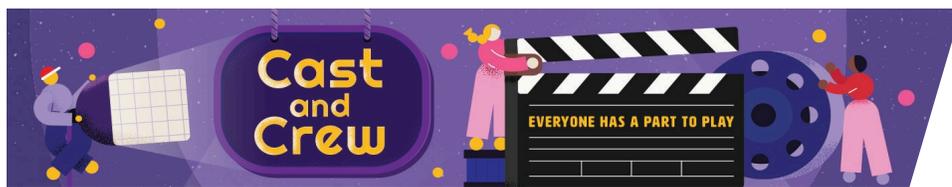
*Jesus traveled around from one town and village to another. He announced the good news of God’s kingdom. His 12 disciples were with him. So were some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses. One was Mary Magdalene. . . . Another was Joanna. . . . Susanna and many others were there also. These women were helping to support Jesus and the 12 disciples with their own money. (NIV)*

“That’s pretty cool to think about! These women spent time with Jesus, and they also gave their own money to support Jesus and the disciples.”

*Gather all of the balloons (except the Jesus balloon) together. Set them on the stage with the Jesus balloon a short distance away.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus chose all kinds of people to follow Him: men and women . . . people from all different backgrounds . . . and people who would never have talked to each other on the street. But Jesus invited ALL of them to join Him.



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“Jesus knew that the more time these people spent with Him, the more they would become like Him. He chose to include others and not just do everything by Himself. He helped His friends to put aside their differences to do the work He had for them to do. “Here’s what we need to remember for today:

*SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE*

“Jesus wants us to work together. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “Jesus wants us to work together.”

STORYTELLER: “One more time!”

*Host enters.*

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “Jesus wants us to work together.”

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “It’s cool how Jesus gathered a group of people who were really different from each other . . . but yet they all had an important job to do. Jesus invited them to share God’s love and to be part of what He was doing in the world.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right. Jesus knew that His followers would need to cooperate to do what He had called them to do.”

HOST: “Have you heard the word ‘cooperation’ before? Here’s what it means.”

*SLIDE: VIRTUE*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE*

“Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.

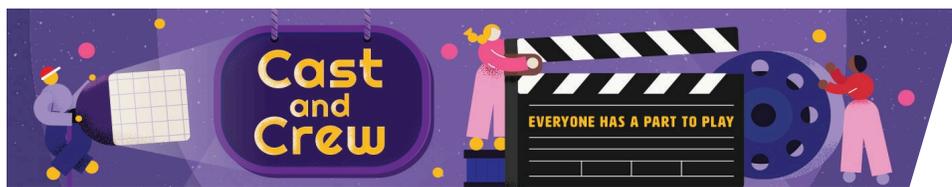
*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

“Jesus’ disciples had to cooperate and work together . . . and with God’s help, we can do that too.”

STORYTELLER: “Sometimes it might seem easier just to do something yourself. You might feel like you’d rather do things YOUR way . . . or maybe you might think that someone else might mess up the way you’d planned to do something for yourself.”



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25 MINUTES

HOST: "But it's important to remember that God designed us to work together. We're created to need other people. If we choose to cooperate with others, that will help us grow to become more like Jesus."

STORYTELLER: "Doesn't it feel good when we get to work with other people to make a difference? That's why cooperation is a great way we can *[Basic Truth]* treat others the way we want to be treated."

HOST: "Our Memory Verse for this month is Ecclesiastes 4:9. King Solomon had amazing wisdom from God, and he shared this wise advice:

*SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE*

*Two people are better than one.*

*They can help each other in everything they do. (Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV)*

STORYTELLER: "We really are better together! Let's pray and ask God to help us work together well."

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

## PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You for loving us the way You do. Thank You for putting people in our lives who can help us as we share Your love with others. We can see how Jesus invited people to join Him in the good work He was doing in the world. Help us to be patient and kind with each other . . . and to work together so that we can make a difference. 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*