



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Hope Is Alive

Crucifixion and Resurrection
John 18-20:1-18; 1 Peter 1:3

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens,
remember Jesus is alive.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"In this world you will have
trouble. But, be encouraged!
I have won the battle over
the world."

John 16:33b, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Hope—Believing that something
good can come out of
something bad

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

Welcome/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: Story Stones
Application Activity: Find Your Hope
Memory Verse Activity: Big Picture Race
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Story Starters" Activity Page, and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Give each group one page of the "Story Starters" Activity

Page and a pencil.

- Explain to the kids that each group has a story starter, and together, they will create 2-3 sentences to add to their story.
 - Encourage kids to use their imaginations to build on the story in a fun or surprising way!
- Direct the groups to write their sentences on their "Story Starters" Activity Page.
 - Offer help if anyone needs assistance with writing.
- Once each group is finished, gather all three groups together.
- Invite the groups to share all three of their story starter additions in order.
 - Start with Story Starter 1, then Story Starter 2, and finally Story Starter 3.
- After all groups have shared, point out to the kids how all of the group stories were pieced together to create one big story.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! I loved seeing all the ideas you added and how your stories came together to create one big story. It shows us that each part, no matter how small, can contribute to something greater! **[Transition] Today, we'll hear about one of the greatest stories ever told—and it's true! Come with me!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



* 1. STORY STONES

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Stones, small bags, wet wipes, paper plates, and paint pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a small bag, a paper plate, and five stones.
- Spread out the paint pens in the middle of the circle.
- Encourage the kids to put the stones on their paper plates.
- Instruct the kids to take turns using the colors to paint each stone with symbols that represent parts of today's Bible Story.
- Prompt the kids with ideas like:
 - "One stone could have a cross to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice."
 - "Another stone could be blank or have a simple design to show the empty tomb."
 - "What might you draw to represent that Jesus is alive?"
- Invite the kids to mark their bag in such a way that they will be able to identify it as theirs.
- Once kids are finished, invite them to set their stones and bag on the plates aside to dry, making sure each plate/set stays separate.
- Provide each kid with a wet wipe to clean their hands if necessary.
- Once the stones dry, invite the kids to place them in their small bags.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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John 16:33b, NIV

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all did such an amazing job making your story stones today! Each of the stones represents an amazing part of a true story. Without Jesus, we were separated from God. But guess what? Jesus took the consequences of our sin and our wrong choices when He gave up His life. When Jesus returned to life, He defeated death, and now death doesn't have to be the end of the story. When we choose to follow Jesus, we start a friendship with God that will last forever—and that's the best news EVER!

"Because Jesus is alive, we can have hope, no matter what we face. Hope is all about believing something good can come out of something bad. The truth is that following Jesus doesn't mean that hard things will just go away. But remember, Jesus will be right there with you. And His Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Friends, when you're having a hard time, you can hold on to the best news ever: **whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive!**"

NOTE: As you talk through salvation this week, be sensitive to kids who might have questions about following Jesus. Follow your church's policy for having conversations with kids about salvation. Involve families with this discussion or decisions as well.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



2. FIND YOUR HOPE [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Find Hope Scenarios" Activity Page, device for playing music, and a timer (or smartphone)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into four teams.
- Give each team five cards from the "Find Your Hope" Activity Pages.
- Share with kids that when they follow Jesus, they can trust that He is always with them no matter what they face.
- Direct the teams to sit in a circle.
- Instruct the teams to place their scenario cards in a pile in the center of their circle, with the "HOPE" side facing up.
- Share the goal of the game:
 - Each team will read each card out loud one at a time, talk about the scenario on the card, and think of ways to find hope in each situation, remembering that: **whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.**
- Select one kid from each team to pick up a card, read it aloud, and discuss it with the rest of the team.
- Play worship music on low volume in the background.
- Using the timer (or smartphone) discreetly, give the teams two minutes to discuss each card, then pause the music.
- Instruct each team to set aside each read card, and repeat the process until all cards have been read.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Awesome job, friends! You all shared great ideas on how to find hope in challenging situations. When we remember that even when things are hard, Jesus is with us, it gives us hope to keep going and look at the bigger picture!"

"Just like we got to read these scenarios today, talking about these things with a friend or a trusted adult can help us feel less worried or sad—that's one of the ways we find hope in Jesus too! We can also discover this hope by reading the Bible and asking God to give us hope. Easter is all about hope— it's about the incredible TRUE story of what Jesus did for you and me. Following Jesus changes everything! **Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share how you celebrate Easter! Maybe it's with family or friends over dinner. If you attend Easter service, share that with your group.)



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: The kids' small bags of story stones from "Story Stones" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Give every kid their small bag of story stones from the "Story Stones" Activity.
- Encourage the kids to think about one person they can retell the Easter story to this week using the story stones.
- Select a kid to start and invite them to share their person with the group.
- Continue around the circle until everyone who wants to share has a chance to.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for this time we've had to spend together on Easter! Thank You for giving us hope through Jesus. Help us to share the Good News that Your Son Jesus is alive with the people around us. Please help them to believe that whatever happens, Jesus is alive. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show off their story stones! Ask them to tell their adults who they will share the Easter story with this week.

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