



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Ask

Jesus Appears to Thomas
John 20:19-29

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens,
remember God is bigger
than your questions.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

John 16:33b, NIV

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: No Doubt Charades
Application Activity: I've Got Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Sticky Hope
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Four prepared zip-top bags of mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®), and toothpicks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into four teams.
- Give each team a zip-top bag of mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) and a box of toothpicks.
- Ensure the teams have a flat space to work, on the floor or table.
- Assign each team 1 letter in the word HOPE to create using mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) and toothpicks without telling them the word it spells. For example:
 - Team 1 will build a "H"
 - Team 2 will build a "P"
 - Team 3 will build an "E"
 - Team 4 will build an "O"
- Ask kids:
 - "Can anyone guess what we might be spelling out?"
- Instruct each team to use the mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) as connectors and the toothpicks to form their assigned letter.
- Encourage the kids to work together and use their creativity to make their letters sturdy.
- Once every team is finished, invite them to gently place their letters together to spell out the word "HOPE."

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Awesome job, everyone! Did anyone guess the word you were spelling out correctly? (*Invite responses.*) That's right! You all worked together using the mini-marshmallows (or Play-Doh®) and toothpicks to spell out 'HOPE!' Each letter came together to make the word—it reminds me of how every part of our stories comes together to make one big, beautiful picture. At first, you didn't know what word you were spelling out, but when it all came together, it made sense! **[Transition] When things get tough, having hope and seeing the bigger picture can be hard. Today, we'll hear about one of Jesus' friends who had some big questions about Jesus' big-picture story. Come with me!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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. I'VE GOT QUESTIONS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper, markers, safety scissors, glue sticks, and prepared "GOD" poster board

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each group of kids one piece of construction paper, a pair of safety scissors, markers, and a glue stick.
- Explain to the kids that you will give them a few minutes to work together to think of as many questions for God as they can.
- After a few minutes, instruct the groups to write down their questions on the construction paper.
 - Instruct kids to leave some space between each of their questions on the construction paper.
- Offer prompts such as:
 - "Why does God let bad things happen?"
 - "What does Heaven look like?"
 - "Why is it hard for me to make friends?"
- Share with kids that there are no right or wrong questions. God really loves hearing all of our questions, no matter how big or small.
- Instruct the kids to use the safety scissors to cut out each of their questions.
- Encourage kids to fold each strip of paper with the questions in half (or in thirds).
- Display the poster board for the kids to see.
- Then, explain to the kids that they will glue each of their folded questions onto the poster board by placing glue on the back.
 - Show kids how to place the glue on the blank side of their question strips so that once attached, kids can easily unfold the construction paper to reveal the question inside.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! You've all shared some truly meaningful questions today. Thank you for being open and sharing your thoughts. Here's the amazing truth, friends: God is big enough for all of our questions. We can always ask God anything because God loves us SO much! God wants us to ask and discover more about God. When you meet a new friend, what do you do? (*Invite responses.*) You ask them their name, maybe a few questions about what they like—because that's how you get to know them better! We can ask God questions too.

"When we read the Bible or talk to other grown-ups or leaders who follow Jesus, we also get to learn more about God. But even they won't have all of the answers! It sometimes feels uncomfortable not to have the answers. But remember that whether you're asking something hard or wondering why God hasn't answered a prayer—**whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share about an age-appropriate time you had a big question for God and how you were able to cling to God's truth.)



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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



3. STICKY HOPE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at John 16:33b, "Sticky Hope" Activity Pages, safety scissors, permanent markers, and quart-size zip-top bags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give every kid a "Sticky Hope" Activity Page, a pair of safety scissors, a permanent marker, and a quart-size zip-top bag.
- Open the Bible marked at John 16:33b, and select a kid to read it aloud to the group.
- Repeat the verse several times as a group.
- Direct the kids to find the Memory Verse sticker on the "Sticky Hope" Activity Page.
- Instruct them to use a permanent marker to fill in the missing words on the sticker.
- Encourage the kids to carefully cut out their completed stickers using the safety scissors.
- As kids are working, invite them to share what other stickers they noticed on their "Sticky Hope" Activity Page.
- Give each kid a quart-size zip-top bag and prompt them to write their names on it with a permanent marker.
- Direct the kids to place their sticker(s) into the bag to take home.
- Explain to the kids that they can stick their stickers on their favorite water bottles or give them to friends or family members who might need a message of hope!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some awesome stickers! I love how each of you added your own handwriting to the Memory Verse sticker. The words in this month's verse remind us of the truth that **whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.** Do you ever have questions about the tough things that happen in your life? (*Invite responses.*) Friends, we won't always understand everything that happens to us, but we can have hope when we remember God is bigger than our questions. Sometimes, we're not supposed to know all the details—but no matter your questions, know you can always take them to God.

"Let's use these stickers to remind us to have hope. You can even use your stickers to spread hope to those around you! Stick them on your favorite water bottle, share them with friends, or give them to family members to tell them that **whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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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: "GOD" poster board from "I've Got Questions" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Hold up the "GOD" poster board.
- As you hold up the poster board, explain to the kids that we can ask God questions anytime and any place!
- Share that today the group will say a call and response prayer together.
- Use the prayer below to close the group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Ask

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John 20:19-29

WHAT YOU SAY:

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for bringing us together at church."

KIDS: "Dear God, thank You for bringing us together at church."

LEADER: "Help us remember that You are bigger than any question we have."

KIDS: "Help us remember that You are bigger than any question we have."

LEADER: "Let us feel Your love and comfort whenever we're worried."

KIDS: "Let us feel Your love and comfort whenever we're worried."

LEADER: "Thank You for being a safe place we can always turn."

KIDS: "Thank You for being a safe place we can always turn."

LEADER: "In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

KIDS: "In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, prompt the kids to show off their "Sticky Hope" stickers! Ask them which sticker is their favorite, and read the sticker's powerful truth together as they head out the door.

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