



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

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: HOPE
Application Activity: You're Invited!
Memory Verse Activity: Jesus' Words
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 MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Straws, prepared construction paper circles, and timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into groups of two or three.
- Place the construction paper circles in a scattered pile on a table or floor.
- Give each kid a straw.
- Demonstrate for the kids how to pick up a circle with the straw by sucking in through the straw.
- Model how to carry the circle a short distance.
- Give the kids a chance to practice sucking in the top of the straw to “hold” the circle to the other end of the straw.
- When everyone has had a chance to practice, share the challenge:
 - Each team must work together to create the longest caterpillar of circles in two minutes.
- Set the timer for two minutes.
- On your “Go!,” start the timer, and encourage the kids to begin using their straws to pick up the circles.
- Declare the team with the longest caterpillar after two minutes the winner!

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John 16:33b, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

“You all did a great job making some very fun-looking caterpillars! I’ve seen some pretty neat-looking caterpillars before. Some with very interesting colors or even hair! And some of them look like they might even have horns—how creative!”

“Did you know that all caterpillars make something called a cocoon? (*Invite responses.*) Do you know what caterpillars turn into? (*Invite responses.*) Yes, beautiful butterflies! **[Transition] Now let’s go hear a true story about a time when things didn’t look beautiful at all but turned into something more beautiful than anyone could have imagined!”**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



1. HOPE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Hope Comic" Activity Page, and coloring supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together.
- Give each kid a "Hope Comic" Activity Page.
- Explain to kids that you will review today's Bible Story together using the comic.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Invite the kids to use the coloring supplies to color the uncolored pieces in the story images.
- Use the following review points to talk through the comic, pausing to give kids a few moments to color between each image.
 - **The Last Supper:** "Jesus shared a special Passover meal with His disciples, but one of them, Judas, snuck away to betray Him. During this meal, Peter promised that he would never betray Jesus. Sadly, Jesus promised that Peter would betray Him."
 - **Garden of Gethsemane:** "Jesus prayed in the garden while His disciples fell asleep, and Judas led a group of soldiers to arrest Jesus."
 - **Peter denies Jesus:** "Peter followed Jesus to be as close as he could to His fake trial, but three times Peter denied being Jesus' friend, just like Jesus had said would happen."
 - **Jesus on trial:** "Jesus was put on trial before the high priest and then Pilate. Pilate couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus, but had Him hurt really badly."
 - **Jesus is crucified:** "The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, and He hung there between two thieves, while some of His followers watched sadly. He died."
 - **The tomb:** "Jesus' body was placed in a tomb by two of His followers, and a large stone was rolled in front to seal it."
 - **The Resurrection:** "On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, found it empty, and saw Jesus was alive!"
 - **The Good News:** "Mary told the disciples that Jesus is alive. Now, we can have hope because Jesus paid for our sin and defeated death!"
- Assist kids with writing their names on the comic using the coloring supplies.
- Encourage the kids to use the comic to tell a friend the Easter story!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus' resurrection gives us HOPE! There were a lot of hard and sad things that happened before the amazing moment when Jesus rose from the tomb. But the moment was finally here—God had promised to send a rescuer and that was Jesus! Jesus paid for our sin and defeated death, and that means that anyone who follows Jesus can live with God forever! That's Good News! In fact, it's the best news EVER!



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THREE
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. HOPE, CONTINUED)

"I'm so glad that Jesus came to rescue us! AND, not only that, but through Jesus, one day, everything will be made right. That's why we can have hope—believing that something good can come out of something bad. Remember that Jesus is right there with you, His very Holy Spirit lives inside of you, when you experience something hard. **Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.**"



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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: "H.O.P.E." Activity Page (from Week 1)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Show kids the "H" from the "H.O.P.E." Activity Page (Week 1) and show them how it says: "Help! Ask God for help when you need HOPE!"
- Remind the kids that they can talk to God anytime, telling God how they feel and asking God for help.
- Then, show them the "O" and show how it says: "Others! Talk to OTHERS who are Jesus-followers when you need HOPE!"
- Invite kids to share an example of a time they asked God for help when they needed hope.
- Then, show the kids the letter "P" and explain that it says: "Put your confidence in Jesus!"
- Discuss how this means trusting that God can and is always working—even when things seem hard.
- Give the kids a few moments to pray silently or aloud. Encourage them to thank God for Jesus and what He did for us on the Cross.
- Close your group in prayer.
- NOTE: Set the HOPE letters aside to be used each week this month.

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[Make It Personal] (Share how you came to follow Jesus in an age-appropriate way, or use this example: "I'm so grateful that God was at work when Jesus was sent to rescue us. Without Jesus, I would be separated from God forever. But because I've chosen to follow Jesus, I know He's always with me!")

"Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Thank You, God, for everyone here today! Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to rescue us. I pray for those who haven't chosen to follow Jesus yet. I pray for all my friends here who will share the good news with someone who doesn't know You yet. Give them the courage to share the life-changing truth about Jesus! We're just so grateful for what You've done for us. Thank You for being with us even when things are hard! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share their invitations and challenge them to share it with someone in their life this week.