



WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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.

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: True or False Story Review
Application Activity: Cooperation or Not?
Memory Verse Activity: Two Are Better Than One!
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



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

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the unique abilities that each kid has. Ask God to help the kids see the importance of working together as a team, just as Jesus calls us to do.

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and inflated balloons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, ask:
 - "What was your favorite part of your week?"
- Once three or four kids have arrived, invite the kids to play "Keep It Up!" with a balloon.
- Instruct the kids to work together to see how long they can keep a balloon in the air.
- Select a kid to start and give them an inflated balloon.
- Once they begin, count each tap to see how long the group can keep the balloon in the air.
- After the balloon drops, announce the number of taps from that round.
- Encourage the group to try again and see if they can beat the number of taps from the previous round.
- Remind the kids frequently to cooperate and work together to keep the balloon in the air!
- To make the game more challenging, add another balloon.



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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: Hula Hoops®, and a device for playing music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the Hula Hoops® on the floor around your group area.
- Point out the Hula Hoops® and explain that you are going to play a game called "Hoop Stop!"
- Share the rules:
 - When the music starts, kids are to walk around the space outside of the Hula Hoops®.
 - As soon as the music stops, kids are to step inside a Hula Hoop® as quickly as possible.
 - Two or more kids can be in the same Hula Hoop®.
 - Kids are considered "inside" the Hula Hoop® if at least one foot is in.
- Start the music.
- Play one round of the game.
- At the end of the first round, remove one Hula Hoop®.
- Encourage kids to make room for other kids who don't have a spot.
- Continue in the same way, removing one Hula Hoop® per round until one Hula Hoop® is left, and the children try to squeeze into it together.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! You had to make room for your friends to fit into a Hula Hoop®, and I loved watching you cooperate. **[Transition]** Today, we'll hear about a group of friends who decided to work together!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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. TRUE OR FALSE STORY REVIEW [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to sit together in your small group area.
- Explain that you're going to review today's Bible Story by

asking True or False questions.

- Show the kids what a "thumbs-up" looks like for "True."
- Encourage the kids to practice showing their thumbs-up.
- Show the kids what a "thumbs-down" looks like for "False."
- Encourage the kids to practice showing their thumbs-down.
- Read the following questions one at a time, pausing for kids to show their "thumbs-up" for "true" and "thumbs-down" for false.
- If the answer is false, help the kids to talk through what would make the answer true.
 - Jesus could have done everything on His own without help. True or false? (*True! Jesus is God's Son, but He chose to work with a group of people.*)
 - Jesus' followers were called "disciples." True or false? (*True!*)
 - Jesus didn't pay His disciples to work for Him. True or false? (*True! Jesus wanted them to follow Him and work together because they chose to, not for money.*)
 - Jesus chose people who were exactly alike. True or false? (*False! Jesus chose people from different backgrounds who didn't always get along.*)
 - Jesus chose 12 men, including some women, to be His disciples and follow Him. True or false? (*True!*)
 - Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John were tax collectors. True or false? (*False! They were fishermen.*)
 - Jesus chose Matthew to follow Him, and everyone loved Matthew. True or false? (*False! Matthew was a tax collector, and people didn't like him at first.*)
 - Only men followed Jesus. True or false? (*False! Women followed Jesus too—like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.*)
 - Jesus wanted His followers to work together and share God's love. True or false? (*True!*)
 - Jesus wants us to work together too. True or false? (*True!*)

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, you did an awesome job answering these questions! We learned that Jesus picked all kinds of people to follow Him—fishermen, tax collectors, and even women like Mary Magdalene! They weren't all the same, and they didn't always get along, just like us sometimes. But they had an important job: to follow Jesus and work together! When we work together and look past each other's differences, we can do more good, just like Jesus' first followers. Remember **Jesus wants us to work together.**"



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

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. TRUE OR FALSE STORY REVIEW, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time you worked with others to make a difference. Maybe you were a part of a building project or on a mission trip. How did working together help you make an even more significant impact?)



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles (marked at Ecclesiastes 4:9 for kindergartners)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Instruct the pairs to look up Ecclesiastes 4:9 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Ecclesiastes at the top of the page as you say "Ecclesiastes" aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number 4 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 4 for the little 9; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Ecclesiastes in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Ecclesiastes starts with the letters E-C. When the kids find Ecclesiastes, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Ecclesiastes. Help the kids find the page. When they find Ecclesiastes, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 4.

- Read the verse aloud together.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Teach the kids the following motions to help them learn the Memory Verse.
- For the NIV:
 - Two people are better (hold up two fingers for the number 2)
 - than one. (Hold up one finger.)
 - They can help each other (two thumbs-up)
 - in everything they do. (Hands out and apart to show "everything.")
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9 (Hold hands open like a book.)
- For the NIV:
 - Two (hold up two fingers for the number 2)
 - are better than one, (hold up one finger)
 - because they have good return (two thumbs-up)
 - for their labor. (Act like you're digging with a pretend shovel.)
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9 (Hold hands open like a book.)
- Repeat the verse and motions with the kids a few times.

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(3. TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE!, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Two are better than one. Why? Because two people can always do more than just one! **Jesus wants us to work together.** This is what cooperation is all about—working together to do more than you can do alone. Jesus showed us how important cooperation is by choosing friends to follow Him and help Him spread the news of God’s kingdom! When we decide to work together, we can help each other. Remember, **Jesus wants us to work together.**”



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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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a tight circle with their arms around each other's shoulders.
- Before praying, remind the kids that they can pray anytime, anywhere! God wants us to pray for each other and pray together!
- Lead the kids in prayer, reminding them that: **"Jesus wants us to work together."**

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. We want to follow Him like the disciples did. Help us to work together and show others Your love. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus wants us to work together.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to say the Memory Verse with the motions they learned today and share the truth that: **"Jesus wants us to work together."**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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