



WEEK  
**ONE**  
APRIL 2025

LARGE  
GROUP  
**K-5**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Look Up Child  
Keep Looking to Jesus  
Hebrews 12:1-3

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens,  
keep looking to Jesus.

### 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.

### 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 "Happy Day" from *Orange Kids*, and "The Battle Belongs" by *Phil Wickham*  
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: It's a Race! (*k-1st grade*), Mosaic Masterpiece (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
Application Activity: Play Catch with Jesus? (*k-1st grade*), Letter Scramble (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
Memory Verse Activity: The Finish Line (*k-1st grade*), Look for It! (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



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**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! It's so great to see you! This month we're talking about The Big Picture. Have you ever heard someone say that before—the 'big picture'? It means that we see the FULL picture, not just part of it.

"Sometimes tough things happen in our lives that we don't expect. If we look at those things by themselves, we might feel scared or confused. But if we look at the 'big picture,' we can see how God is doing something good at the same time. There might be difficult things right in front of us, but we can find hope when we take a step back and see how God is working.

"I always feel a lot of hope this time of year when we celebrate Easter. Think about it. It was awful when Jesus died on the cross . . . but then, Jesus came back to life! Since Easter is coming up soon, I thought it would be fun to kick off our time today with an Easter game. We'll just start the celebration a little bit early. Sound like fun? *(Pause for response.)* Great!

*Walk over to the table with the six baskets.*

"As you can see, we've got six Easter baskets here, and each basket has only one egg in it. In just a minute, I'll choose someone to come up and open one of the eggs. Inside each egg are instructions for something we ALL need to do together. If we complete the challenge, we'll earn a piece of this puzzle.

*Point to the puzzle grid on the wall.*

"There are six pieces to the puzzle, and we'll need to put all six of them together to solve it. Are you ready? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Raise your hand if you'd like to come up and open up one of the eggs.

*AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC*



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10 MINUTES

*Choose a child to come up and open the egg in the first basket, then hand you the piece of paper that's inside the egg. Read the instructions from the paper to the whole room and lead everyone in completing the task.*

*Once you finish the task, take the puzzle piece from underneath the first basket and tape it to the puzzle grid. Make sure you match the number on the picture to the numbered square on the grid. Continue to play the game, proceeding through all six baskets and challenges until you complete the puzzle.*

“Wow! We did it! Great job, everyone. *(Referencing the completed puzzle)*

“Now that we've put these puzzle pieces together, we can see the big picture. And what does it say? *(Pause for response.)* Yes—HOPE! We'll be talking all month about the hope we have in Jesus. Let's all get on our feet now and get ready to sing and worship God together.”



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Alright, everyone! Get ready to celebrate! Today, we're singing about the happiest day ever – the day Jesus rose from the dead! It's 'Oh Happy Day' by Hillsong United, and it's all about the joy we have in Jesus! So, stand up, clap your hands, jump around, and let's make some noise for Jesus! Let's sing about the joy He gives us!"

*VIDEO: "HAPPY DAY" LIVE LYRICS*

"Wow! You guys are amazing! You really know how to celebrate! Now, let's shift our focus to something powerful. Sometimes, we face battles in life, but guess what? The 'Battle Belongs to the Lord!' This song reminds us that God is stronger than anything we face. Like it says in 2 Chronicles 20:15, 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.' Let's sing about trusting God's power together."

*VIDEO: "THE BATTLE BELONGS" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Thank you for singing with such heart! Let's take a moment to thank God for His joy and His strength. Let's pray."



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## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hello, friends! I’m so happy to be here with you as we talk about the HOPE we have in Jesus. “Today we’re looking at a letter in the Bible that’s known as the book of Hebrews. (*Hold up Bible.*) This is one of 21 letters in the New Testament of the Bible that were written to new Jesus-followers. These letters helped people understand how Jesus wants us to live.

“We don’t know who wrote the book of Hebrews, but we do know that the person who wrote the book loved Jesus and loved the people who followed Jesus. In fact, they wrote this letter to encourage Jesus-followers to stay strong in their faith. Why? Because the religious leaders and government officials were making things really difficult for the people who believed in Jesus.

“That’s why this letter, which we know as the book of Hebrews, was written. The writer wrote this letter to a group of Jesus-followers to encourage them to keep following Jesus, even when things got tough. And this letter can also encourage us today.

### CLOUD OF WITNESSES

**STORYTELLER:** “In Hebrews chapter 11, we find a list of men and women who were known for following God. These are people who we can read about in the Bible—like Abraham and Sarah . . . Jacob . . . Joseph . . . Moses and his mom and dad . . . and lots more. These were all people who lived God’s way and had great faith in God, even when they faced some really tough challenges. “Here’s what the writer of Hebrews had to say about these people.

*Open up the Bible to Hebrews 12:1 (NIRV) and read.*

*A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. (NIRV)*

“A cloud of witnesses. What do you think that’s about?”

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1A (CLOUD OF WITNESSES)

“Does that mean there’s an actual cloud in the sky where we can see the faces of all these different people from the Bible? (*Pause for responses.*) No? I mean, that would be pretty cool if we could!”

“This was just the writer’s way of saying that, as we follow God, we’re not alone. The person who wrote this letter wanted the Jesus-followers to think about the other believers throughout history.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1B (FACES WITH BIBLE)



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“We can think of all the people who have gone before us who have ALSO followed God. It’s like they’re surrounding us and encouraging us to keep going!

“Think of it this way. Imagine that you’re a singer and you’re about to go out onto a really big stage.

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

*Set the microphone on the stand in front of you.*

“You might feel a little overwhelmed or nervous. But then . . . you look out at the audience and you see all those people CHEERING for you!

“Let me hear you cheer really quickly—a BIG round of applause. *(Pause while the kids cheer.)*

“If you’re the person on stage, that would feel really good, right? You’d know that you’re not alone. You’ve got other people out there who want you to do well and who are there to encourage you.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1A (CLOUD OF WITNESSES)*

“That’s kind of what the writer of this letter meant when they said, ‘A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us’ (Hebrews 12:1, NIV). We can think of the people of faith who have come before us and remember that we’re not alone.

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

## THROW OFF SIN

STORYTELLER: “And that’s not all that’s in this passage from Hebrews. Listen to this.

*Open up the Bible to Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) and read.*

*A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. (NIV)*

“That’s pretty cool to think about. As we live our lives, it’s kind of like we’re running a race.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (RUNNING TRACK)*

“Raise your hand if you like to run. *(Raise your hand.)* Great! Go ahead and stand up and get ready to run in place. I’ll count to five and then we’ll stop. Ready? Go.

*Run in place along with the kids.*

“Five, four, three, two, one. Good job.

*Put on the backpack, acting like it’s really heavy.*

“Now show me what would happen if you tried to run while wearing a super-heavy backpack. Ready? Go.



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*Run in place along with the kids—this time, acting like it's really difficult.*

“Five, four, three, two, one. Okay. That was a lot tougher!

*(Hold up Bible.)* “Now, what did this passage from Hebrews say we should do as we live our lives each day? Do you remember?

*Open up the Bible to Hebrews 12:1 (NIRV) and read.*

*Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. (NIRV)*

“Sin is anything that breaks our relationship with God and other people . . . like being unkind or hurtful, lying, or taking something that isn't yours. If we have sin in our lives, that can really slow us down. It's kind of like we're trying to run while wearing a really heavy backpack. *(Reference the backpack.)*

“But you know what we can do? We can ‘throw off’ those wrong things we've done. We can ask God to forgive us . . . and asking anyone else we've hurt to forgive us too. And we can ask God to help us make a better choice the next time around.

“All right, I'd love to see you run your race one more time. First, let's ‘throw off’ sin—like this.

*“Throw off” the backpack dramatically. Gesture to the kids to do that same motion.*

“Perfect! Now let me see you run in place. Ready? Go.

*Run in place along with the kids (quickly this time).*

“Five, four, three, two, one. Good job. You're really running your race now! You can have a seat.

## KEEP LOOKING TO JESUS

STORYTELLER: “Okay. So we've talked about how there's a ‘cloud of witnesses’ around us.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1A (CLOUD OF WITNESSES)*

“We can think about the people who have followed God who have gone before us. And that will give us hope as we choose to follow God ourselves.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (RUNNING TRACK)*

“We've talked about how we can run our race well if we ‘throw off sin.’

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

“Now listen to this next part of the letter. This is really amazing, so pay close attention, okay?

*Open up the Bible to Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIRV) and read.*



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*Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. He made it through these attacks by sinners. So think about him. Then you won't get tired. You won't lose hope. (NIRV)*

“Wow! It makes me feel so good and so loved to think of all that Jesus has done for us.

*Pick up the binoculars and look through them toward the back of the room.*

“We can't see Jesus right now with our eyes.

*Bring down the binoculars (around your neck).*

“But we can still do what this verse says. We can ‘keep looking to Jesus’ when we choose to remember what Jesus did and said. Here, show me your binoculars as you look at these pictures up here.

*Reference the screen and show the kids how to make “binoculars” with their hands.*

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3A (JESUS WITH PEOPLE)*

“Jesus, God's very own Son, chose to come to Earth and live as a human being. He taught amazing things about God and showed love to everyone He met.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3B (CROSS)*

“Jesus chose to give up His life on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Then He rose from the dead and came back to life!

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3C (EMPTY TOMB)*

“Through all of this, Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever!

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

“When you face difficult situations, you can remember that Jesus is right there with you . . . and He LOVES you, no matter what. That's what it means to ‘keep looking to Jesus.’

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “So . . . when things seem hard in life, there are three things we should remember from this passage here in the book of Hebrews. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. We can think of the people of faith from long ago—like the people we read about in the Bible.

“We need to ‘throw off sin’ so that we can keep running our race and living the way Jesus taught us to live.



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“And we need to keep looking to Jesus. We can choose each day to trust Jesus and remember how much He loves us.

“If we can do those things, then we’ll find the strength we need to face tough challenges in life. We can trust that in the end, God will make everything right for those who follow Jesus. And that will help us find hope, even on the very hardest days.

*SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE*

“Whatever happens, keep looking to Jesus. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “Whatever happens, keep looking to Jesus.”

*Host enters.*

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “Wow! It’s so important to remember where our hope comes from. Because I think we all know what it’s like to face tough things in our lives.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right. But we don’t have to face those tough things alone. We can keep looking to Jesus and find hope because of all that He has done for us.”

HOST: “Here’s what hope is about.

*SLIDE: VIRTUE*

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

“It’s about believing that something good can come out of something bad.”

*SLIDE: THEME*

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

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

STORYTELLER: “God is always at work in our lives—even if we can’t always see it. That’s why it’s important to step back and think about how big God’s story really is.”

HOST: “A great way to do that is to spend time reading God’s Word, the Bible. That will help us focus on Jesus.”

STORYTELLER: “You can ask a grown-up or older sibling to read the Bible with you. You can start by reading the books that tell the story of Jesus, at the beginning of the New Testament.”

HOST: “Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.”



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STORYTELLER: “Yep! As we read about what Jesus did for us . . . and as we celebrate Easter this month . . . we can find hope in Jesus that nothing in this world can take away.”

HOST: “I find a lot of hope in our Memory Verse for this month, John 16:33. It’s something Jesus said to His closest friends, the disciples.

*SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE*

*“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” (John 16:33, NIRV)*

STORYTELLER: “I love that! Let’s pray and thank God for giving us true hope in Jesus.”

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

## PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: “Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to have a relationship with You. And thank You for showing us over and over again that You can make something good come out of something bad. Help us to remember that **[Basic Truth]** we can trust You no matter what. And please help us keep looking to Jesus, through all the challenges we face each day. We love You, God, 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*