



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, 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 "Good Good Father" by Yancy)
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: The Big Picture (*k-1st grade*), No Doubt Charades (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Application Activity: Got Questions? (*k-1st grade*), I've Got Questions (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Memory Verse Activity: Words in Red (*k-1st grade*), Sticky Hope (*2nd-3rd grade*)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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: "What's up, everybody? I'm so glad you're here, because we've got lots of fun planned for you today!"

"This month we've been talking about how we can find hope when we look at the 'big picture.' Sometimes things happen that make us feel scared, worried, or confused. But we can keep hope alive when we remember that God is with us . . . God loves us . . . and God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and then defeated death by coming back to life. That's what we celebrated last week at Easter, and it's something that can change the way we live our lives every day!"

"Now, today we'll look at the story of someone who had some questions. So I thought it would be fun to play a question game. I call it, 'What IS That Thing?'"

"Raise your hand if you've ever played the game 'Heads Up'—you know, where someone puts their phone on their forehead (*put your phone on your forehead*), and they try to guess the word or phrase that's on their phone based on what everyone else tells them. Sound familiar? (*Pause for responses.*)"

"Well, this game is kind of like that. I'll need two Small Group Leaders to come join me on the stage."

Bring up two adult leaders and give each of them a blindfold to put on.

(*Referencing the two leaders*) "Our friends here will wear these blindfolds so they won't be able to see the image that will be on the screen. All of you will see the image on the screen, but this is very important: you can't say the name of it! You can talk ABOUT whatever is on the screen, but you can't say the name. So, for example, let's say we put up a picture of an apple. You can't say



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

the word apple. But you might say things like: 'It's crunchy. It tastes yummy. It grows on trees in an orchard.' Keep giving clues until the leader can guess the correct answer: apple!

"We'll take turns, with each leader trying to guess, then switching to the other leader. Let's see how many you can get right in two minutes. Are you ready? (*Pause for responses.*) You're not going to say the name of the item when we show it on screen, right? (*Pause for responses.*) All right: say it with me: 'What IS That Thing?'"

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Set a timer on your phone for two minutes.

SLIDES: GAME SLIDES, ONE AT A TIME (FOLLOW HOST'S LEAD)

For each round, alternate between the two leaders on stage. Let them listen to the clues the kids give them. If the kids accidentally say the name of what's on screen, just say "pass" and move on to the next one (but remind them only to talk ABOUT the item—not say the name). Use the dry-erase board and dry-erase marker to keep track of how many items the leaders guess. This isn't a competition; you're just trying to see how many the group can guess as a whole. When time runs out, congratulate everyone on how many they got right.

Thank the two leaders and dismiss them to their seats.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"Way to go, everyone! You did a great job of giving clues, and our leaders did a great job of guessing those mystery items. It's good to know that God is there to help us when we feel uncertain or have questions. Let's all jump up on our feet so we can sing and worship God together."



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K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! Let's start with a big celebration! 'Oh Happy Day' is all about the new life we have in Jesus! Let's dance, clap, and sing with all our hearts!"

VIDEO: "HAPPY DAY" LIVE LYRICS

"You guys are amazing! Now, let's sing a song that reminds us that God is always faithful and loving. 'Good Good Father' reminds us that we can always trust Him. Let's sing about how much we love him, because of how much he loves us."

VIDEO: "GOOD GOOD FATHER" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you for singing with us today. Let's pray and thank God for his faithfulness."



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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! We’ve been talking about the reason we can have hope no matter what’s going on around us. We can have hope because Jesus is alive! Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and then came back to life. But do you remember why Jesus had to pay the price for our sins? *(Hold up Bible.)*”

“Well, if we go back to the very beginning, we read how God made a perfect world. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a good plan to make things right. God promised to bless the whole world through the family of one man, Abraham. And God’s promise came true when God sent Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

“When Jesus grew up, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. People could see that Jesus was special, and they began to follow Him wherever He went. They started to think He might really be the Savior God had promised to send. But not everyone believed that. The religious leaders didn’t think that Jesus was the Son of God, and they didn’t like that people were following Him instead of them. So when Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover festival, the religious leaders made plans to get rid of Him.

“Last week we talked about what happened when Jesus came to Jerusalem. He was arrested, even though He hadn’t done anything wrong. He was put on a cross to be punished like a criminal . . . and He died. This was so sad, but now we know that it was all part of God’s good plan. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for the sins of anyone who would choose to follow Him. But that wasn’t the end of the story, was it?”

“As I tell you what happened next, I’d love it if you could help me by being ‘story statues.’ I’ll walk through the room . . . and when I get to a part of the story where I need one or more statue helpers, I’ll raise my hand. *(Raise your hand.)* If you want to pose as a statue, that’s when you raise your hand. If I point to you, stand up, and I’ll tell you how to pose to show what happened in the story. Then you can sit back down.

“Ready? Let’s get into it!”

Start to walk into the audience. (Throughout the story, move around the audience so you can pick kids from different parts of the room.)

THE RESURRECTION/ROAD TO EMMAUS

STORYTELLER: “On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus’ tomb.

Raise your hand. Point to a girl with her hand raised and cue her to stand up.

“When she got there, she discovered that the tomb was empty. She was SHOCKED and AMAZED!”

Pause and see how the girl does a shocked/amazed pose. Do a hand motion (both palms out) to indicate that she should freeze.



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

25 MINUTES

(To the girl) “Perfect, [kid’s name]. Hold it just like that. *(To audience)* Jesus was alive! Mary even spoke with Jesus. She then rushed back to share the good news with the disciples.

Motion for the girl to sit back down.

“Later that same day, two of Jesus’ followers were traveling to a village called Emmaus.

Raise your hand. Point to two boys with their hands raised and cue them to stand up.

“They were walking and talking about everything that had happened.

Pause and see how the two boys do a walking/talking pose. Do the hand motion to indicate that they should freeze.

“All of a sudden, Jesus Himself showed up, walking along with them!

Raise your hand. Point to another boy and cue him to stand up. Guide him to stand between the other two boys. Then do the hand motion to indicate that he should freeze.

“Perfect!

Motion for the three boys to sit back down.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

STORYTELLER: “Meanwhile, Jesus’ disciples were hiding together in a locked room.

Raise your hand. Point to three other boys with their hands raised and cue them to stand up.

“They were hiding because they were scared about what might happen next.

Pause and see how the three boys do a scared pose. Do the hand motion to indicate that they should freeze.

“Well, get this. Suddenly, in that locked room, Jesus Himself appeared!

Cue the boy who played Jesus before to come over to where the others are. Raise your hands above your head and motion for him to do that same pose; then cue him to freeze.

“This is what we read in the book of John.

Open the Bible to John 20:19-20 (NirV) and read.

Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord. (NirV)

(To the disciples) “Very happy—let’s see that, disciples.



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25 MINUTES

Pause and see how the three boys do a happy pose. Do the hand motion to indicate that they should freeze.

Make sure the boy playing Jesus stays frozen with his hands raised.

(To the disciples/Jesus) “Great job. You four stay just like that for a minute, okay?”

Walk over to another part of the room.

(To audience) “Now, there was one disciple, Thomas, who wasn’t with the other disciples at that time.

Raise your hand. Point to a boy with his hand raised and cue him to stand up.

“Later, when Thomas heard what had happened, he had some questions. The story seemed too good to be true. *(To the boy)* Let’s see you shrug like this, Thomas.

Do an exaggerated shrug, with your arms outstretched and palms up. Motion for the boy playing Thomas to do that same pose; then cue him to freeze.

(To audience) “Here’s what Thomas said to the other disciples.

Open the Bible to John 20:25 (NirV) and read.

“First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe.” (NirV)

JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS

STORYTELLER: “Well, one week later, the same thing happened again.

Walk back to the other disciples and Jesus. Make sure they’re still doing their poses as before.

“The disciples were in the same locked room when Jesus suddenly appeared among them. But this time . . . Thomas was there.

Cue the boy playing Thomas before to come over to where the others are. Make sure he’s still doing the shrug pose.

“Listen to what happened.

Open the Bible to John 20:26-27 (NirV) and read.

Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, “May peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas,

“Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” (NirV)

“Thomas was SHOCKED and AMAZED!”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Pause and see how Thomas does a shocked/amazed pose. (Ideally, it'll be the same pose as the girl did earlier for Mary.) Do the hand motion to indicate that he should freeze.

“Thomas cried out, ‘My Lord and my God!’ (John 20:28, NIV).

“And then Jesus said this to him.

Open the Bible to John 20:29 (NIV) and read.

“Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.” (NIV)

(To Thomas) “Let’s see your joyful pose, Thomas.

Pause and see how Thomas does a joyful pose.

(To audience) “Let’s give a big hand to ALL of our story statue helpers. (To the kids standing up) You can have a seat.

Go back on stage as the kids sit down.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Thomas had questions and doubts. It was hard for him to believe that the good news could possibly be true—that Jesus was alive.

“And did you notice how Jesus treated Thomas when Thomas had those questions? Jesus wasn’t frustrated or angry. Not at all! Jesus was kind to Thomas, and He helped Thomas understand that He really had come back to life.

“We all have questions about things that happen in our lives. We might wonder why something went the way it did . . . or maybe why something DIDN’T happen like we wanted it to. Even in those difficult moments, we can trust that God sees the bigger picture. We can trust that God has a bigger plan.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.”

Host enters.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “I know there have been times when I’ve felt confused or worried about things that have happened in my life. It’s normal to have questions about things we don’t understand.”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

STORYTELLER: “Absolutely. That was how Thomas felt. He wanted to believe what people were saying—that Jesus was alive—but then again, it didn’t seem possible. His friends were so excited because they had seen Jesus . . . but Thomas still couldn’t be sure until he saw Jesus for himself.”

HOST: “Sure enough, Jesus appeared to Thomas and helped him believe! That must have filled Thomas with SO much hope.

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

“Hope is 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: “No matter what’s going on in our lives, we can find hope when we remember that God is right there with us.”

HOST: “We won’t always get to know why some difficult things happen . . . but we CAN know that God is always there in the midst of them.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right. We can see just one tiny part . . . but God sees the whole story. No matter what questions or doubts you have, you can always talk to God about them. **[Basic Truth] You can trust God no matter what!**”

HOST: “Let’s pray and thank God for helping us with our questions.”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: “Dear God, thank You for this story of Jesus and Thomas. Thomas had doubts and questions about what really happened after Jesus died on the cross . . . and Jesus showed up to help Thomas believe. God, it’s so good to know how big You are. You are bigger than our biggest questions. You understand things we don’t understand. Remind us to bring our doubts and questions to You and talk to You about everything we’re feeling inside. We love You, 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