



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreadin' the News
John's Disciples Follow Jesus
John 1:35-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first hear about Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

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

Just for Fun
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 (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments of quiet to pray. Ask God to help you remember how you felt when you first discovered the story of Jesus and what His death and resurrection meant for you.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreadin' the News
John's Disciples Follow Jesus
John 1:35-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first hear about Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name and with a smile as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Select one kid from each team to be the "Interrogator."
- Explain to the kids that you will give the "Interrogators" a category. Consider using some of the following:
 - Snack Food
 - Spying
 - Dogs
 - Vacation
 - Disguises
- Explain the rules:
 - The Interrogators can only ask questions related to the category given.
 - The first Interrogator will ask a question, and then the other Interrogator must respond with another question that fits the category.
 - Kids will continue in this way until a kid hesitates to ask a question or a question is asked that doesn't fit the category,
 - The winning Interrogator earns a point for their team.
- *Note: No one ever actually answers any of the questions - they simply respond with another question related to the topic.*
- For example, if the topic is "School," the Interrogation might go something like this:
 - Player #1: Do you like school?
 - Player #2: Is school good?
 - Player #1: How do you feel about math?
 - Player #2: Is math really as important as they say it is?
 - Player #1: Do you get good grades?
 - Player #2: What's your favorite subject?
- After each round, select new Interrogators and choose another category.
- Continue until every kid gets a turn to be an Interrogator.



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: Index cards, markers (or pens), "Informant" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team a stack of index cards and a marker (or pen).
- Designate a place for each team to stand on opposing sides of your group area.
- Choose a kid from each team to be an "Informant."
- Explain that Informants help detectives solve problems by giving them important information.
- Share with the kids that in today's game, the Informants from each team will receive a one-word message (only they can see it).
- The Informant's job is to help their team collect all the letters for the word.
- The goal of the game is for each team to collect all the letters and reveal the message together!
- Invite the Informants from each team to stand beside you.
- Give each Informant a stack of cards from the "Informant" Activity Page and a marker (or pen).
- *NOTE: Encourage "Informants" to use a marker or pen to cross off letters as they share them.*
- Explain how to play:
 - The Informants will select a card from their pile and look at the word closely.
 - Once the Leader signals the start of the game, one kid from each team must run to their Informant.
 - The Informant will share one letter from the selected card without revealing the word.
 - *For example, if the word on the card is "SPY," the Informant could share the letter "P." They must share the letters out of order.*
 - The runner must return to their team and write the letter on an index card.
 - After the letter is written, each team will quickly send another kid to the Informant for a second letter.
 - That kid must return to their group and write the second letter on a separate index card.
 - Teams will continue repeating the process of sending runners to the informant, retrieving a letter, and returning to their team to write the letters revealed on separate index cards.
 - Once all the letters are collected, teams must work together to figure out the message.
- After the first word is guessed for each team, give another kid a chance to be the informant.
- Continue playing as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreadin' the News

John's Disciples Follow Jesus
John 1:35-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first
hear about Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell
others about Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look
out just for your own good.
Each of you should also look
out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the
way I want to be treated.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

(2. OPENING ACTIVITY, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Great job, friends! You all really worked together to solve those words quickly! Actually, each word you solved today is a clue about today’s Bible Story. *[Transition]* **Let’s go hear about how Jesus CALLED some FISHERMEN to be His DISCIPLES. They chose to FOLLOW Him and couldn’t wait to TELL OTHERS. Come with me!**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, pens, index cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of 2-3 kids and give each team a color name.
 - Select the color or allow the teams to come up with their own.
- Give each team a Bible, pen, and index card.
- Assign the team a portion of John 1:35-45 to read and look up.
 - For example, the red team might look up verses 35-37, the yellow team 2 verses 38-40, and the purple team verses 41-45.
- Consider using the Bible Navigation tips below:

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreadin' the News

John's Disciples Follow Jesus
John 1:35-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first hear about Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Instruct each team to choose 2-3 keywords from their verses.
- Share with the kids that a "keyword" can be the name of a person, place, or a word that sticks out to them in the verses.
- Direct the teams to write their keywords in list form on one side of the index card.
- How to play:
 - The team with the first part of the story will begin reading it from the Bible.
 - When they reach one of the keywords they chose, they must replace it with their team color and continue reading.
 - For example, if the yellow team chose "Rabbi" as one of their keywords, they would read, "They said, "Yellow" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"
- The challenge is for the other groups to figure out what the correct word should be.
- **NOTE:** Consider challenging the teams to find the answers without using their Bibles.
- After each team reads, give the others a few moments to think about the missing words.
- Lead a discussion about the Bible Story:
 - Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God?
 - What examples in the story do you see of people sharing Jesus with others?
 - What examples of taking initiative can you find in this story?
 - What makes you most excited about telling others about Jesus?



(2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- Tell kids that when people met Jesus and believed in Him, they were so excited that they didn't wait for someone to ask about it. They immediately looked for ways to share the story of Jesus with others.
- Encourage kids to think of ways to open a conversation about Jesus with a friend (i.e., pray for them, invite them to a church event, share what they've been learning about Jesus this month at church, etc.)



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- How did you first hear about Jesus?
- Why do you think it's important to tell people about Jesus?
- How can you share Jesus with others besides just talking to them about Him?
- What are some reasons you hesitate to tell others about Jesus?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreadin' the News

John's Disciples Follow Jesus
John 1:35-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first hear about Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



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



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Red crepe paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group together in a circle.
- Hand a kid the red crepe paper roll.
- Instruct that kid to begin by holding onto the end of the roll and tossing the rest across the circle to another kid.
- The kid who catches the crepe paper should hold onto the paper in one hand and toss the rest of the roll to another kid with their other hand.
- Invite the kids to continue tossing the crepe paper in this way to create a "laser field."
- Once everyone is holding a piece of crepe paper, invite kids to pray for the kid on the other end of their laser.
- Tell kids they can pray silently or aloud.
- *Optional: Invite kids to share a prayer request or name a person they would like to share Jesus with this week.*
- Close the group with prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreadin' the News

John's Disciples Follow Jesus
John 1:35-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How did you first hear about Jesus?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.