



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, NIRV

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.

SMALL GROUP

10
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
Just for Fun Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

30
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect



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

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as they welcome everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited they are that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, everyone! How's everyone doing today? It's great to see you at [Name of Environment]! Can't believe we've reached the end of May, but that's not gonna stop us from having a great time together today. Every week, we've had an Eye Spy challenge where we've had to find clues and figure out answers to puzzles, photos, and phrases . . . you've all met those challenges with amazing skill. And we've got another one today that will get you leaning in and listening closely . . . So, who's ready for another Eye Spy challenge? Awesome! This is called 'What's That Sound?'"

SLIDE: "WHAT'S THAT SOUND?" TITLE SLIDE

"This challenge is for the whole room in a Small Group vs. Small Group listening challenge. Here's how it works. You'll have to listen closely. We'll play a sound effect and repeat it once. As a group, you'll have about 15 seconds to write down your best guess for what that sound effect represents. We'll go through all of them, then we'll review them to see if you guessed correctly. You'll keep track of your own points. The Small Group with the most correct guesses wins. Everyone understand? Any questions? Great! Let's play!"



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LARGE GROUP
PRE TEEN

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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

If they don't have them already, have someone hand out a pencil and an index card to each Small Group Leader.

Host will call for each sound to be played and repeated one extra time. Then the groups will have 15 seconds to write down their best guess. The host will continue this pattern through the rest of the sound effects. Go through as many as you have time.

- AUDIO: TURNING ON A CAR
- AUDIO: KAZOO
- AUDIO: PEN CLICKING
- AUDIO: "RAKING" LEGO
- AUDIO: OPENING A BAG OF CEREAL
- AUDIO: FLIPPING THROUGH A BOOK
- AUDIO: POURING SODA INTO A GLASS OF ICE
- AUDIO: START-UP SOUND ON A COMPUTER
- AUDIO: CRACKING EGGS
- AUDIO: SCISSORS CUTTING PAPER

After the first time through playing all the sounds.

"Okay, how many do you think you have correct? All of them, three of them, none of them? Well, let's find out!

Review through each of the sounds revealing the correct answer. Have Small Groups keep track of how many they get correct.

- AUDIO: TURNING ON A CAR
- AUDIO: KAZOO
- AUDIO: PEN CLICKING
- AUDIO: "RAKING" LEGO
- AUDIO: OPENING A BAG OF CEREAL
- AUDIO: FLIPPING THROUGH A BOOK
- AUDIO: POURING SODA INTO A GLASS OF ICE
- AUDIO: START-UP SOUND ON A COMPUTER
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- AUDIO: SCISSORS CUTTING PAPER

After second time through revealing the correct answers.

"Let's find out!

Review the groups' correct answers however you want, most to least, least to most, etc. Have the groups cheer for the other groups with the most correct!

"That was fun! Great job listening, everyone. Now, let's get ready to not only listen but also sing along with some great worship music that gives praise to our amazing God!"



PRELUDE

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10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, friends! Are you ready to make some joyful noise? We're starting with 'That's Who I Praise'! This song is a powerful way to tell the world who we worship! Let's sing it out loud and proud!"

VIDEO: "THAT'S WHO I PRAISE" LIVE LYRICS

"That was awesome! Now, let's sing a song that helps us think about all the amazing things God has done. It's called 'Great Are You Lord.' When we look around at creation and all the good things in our lives, it shows us how great He is. Let's sing about His wonderful works."

VIDEO: "GREAT ARE YOU LORD" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

WORSHIP LEADER: "Thank you for joining in worship today! Let's pray and thank God for all His wonderful deeds."



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Like [Host’s Name], I can’t believe we’ve reached the end of May. But I’m SO excited we’re all here together. It’s always great to hang out, have fun, talk about Jesus, and learn something that can help us in our everyday lives when we head back to our weekly schedules.

“You know, this has me thinking. It’s true; we talk A LOT about Jesus here, but maybe you’re wondering why. Maybe you’ve never thought about it, but at some point, every Small Group Leader, worship leader, even me . . . heard about Jesus and chose to follow Him with our entire lives. How about I tell you my story about that . . .

Communicator share an age-appropriate, personal story about the time they first heard about Jesus. Use the following story as an example.

“When I was eleven, I attended Vacation Bible School for the first time. My friend, Noah, invited me, but I was super excited about it. But my mom said I should go—she said it’d be good for me and would at least give me something to do that week. So that first morning, Noah and his mom picked me up and dropped me off at their church. And you know what? It wasn’t that bad. In fact, it was actually fun. More than that, though, the Small Group Leaders were SO nice! One of them, a guy named Mr. Dave, really stood out to me. He wasn’t like anyone I had ever met—kind, patient, and full of joy that seemed to light up the entire room.

“During one of his lessons, he spoke about Jesus in a way I’d never heard before. I remember him saying, ‘Jesus isn’t just someone you read about; He’s someone who wants to walk with you every day.’ His words stayed with me, and I couldn’t shake the feeling that something big was happening in my life.

“Later that day, during a quiet moment, Mr. Dave and I got to talking. He asked me if I thought I was ready to invite Jesus into my life and follow Him. I just HAD to say yes! Later, when my mom came to pick up, we chatted again with Mr. Dave. And we all prayed together, and for the first time, I asked Jesus into my life. Of course, that decision didn’t mean everything suddenly became perfect, but because of Noah and Mr. Dave and JESUS, I started out on a path that has that brought me to hang out with you all and tell you about Jesus, too.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “My journey of following Jesus started with someone taking initiative to talk with me about how much Jesus meant to them and what Jesus had done in their life. And I imagine if you asked your Small Group Leader or maybe even your mom or grandmother, they’d have a similar story. Someone told them about Jesus.

“And you’re here today, and someone—me and your Small Group Leader—is telling you about Jesus. We think telling people about Jesus is a pretty great thing because Jesus has changed our lives for the better. We want everyone to get to have that same experience! But you might wonder if YOU should be telling others about Jesus. And if you should, how should you? Like, what should you say? Are there some special words or phrases? How can you let people know how much Jesus means to you?”



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“Those are really important questions to consider as you make decisions about your faith in Jesus. Thankfully, we’re not the first people who thought about those questions. In fact, since people first started following Jesus, they’ve been asking about what it means to share Jesus with others. We have many of their stories captured for us in the New Testament of our Bibles. How about we look at one of those moments now?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Our story today is found in the book of John. (*Hold up Bible.*) John is the fourth book of the New Testament, and in it, John shares all sorts of stories from the life of Jesus. John was one of Jesus’ 12 closest friends and followers known as the disciples. John hung out with Jesus day-in and day-out learning from Him and putting what he learned into practice.

“John started his book by writing that Jesus is God’s Word. When we look at the life of Jesus, we see God because Jesus is God’s Son. God gave Jesus to the world like a light in the darkness to help us see how much God loves us and wants a forever relationship with us.

“John also wrote about one of the first people to understand the truth about Jesus: Jesus’ cousin, who was also named John. This John was known as John the Baptist.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 1

“One day John was by the Jordan River. He was baptizing people and telling them to turn to God. Some of the religious leaders came to ask John who he was and what he was doing. Check out what John told them.

Open the Bible to John 1:26-27 (NirV) and read.

“I baptize people with water,” John replied. “But someone is standing among you whom you do not know. He is the one who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals.”

“The next day, John saw Jesus Himself coming toward him. He said:

Open the Bible to John 1:29-30 (NirV) and read.

“Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about.”

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 2

“John said that God had given him a special sign before all of this happened.

Open the Bible to John 1:32 (NirV) and read.

“I saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven like a dove. The Spirit remained on Jesus.”

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 3

“Woah! The Holy Spirit, like a dove coming from heaven? That’s amazing! But that’s not all. John kept talking. He said that God had told him that he would see the Spirit come down and stay on someone. And when that happened, John



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would know that person was God's Chosen One, the promised Savior. So that's how John knew that Jesus was the Savior! Let's keep going. This story is just getting started.

"The next day, John the Baptist was hanging out with two of his own disciples. One of them was Andrew, and the other was probably John. Not John the Baptist, but the OTHER John. . . The same John who wrote this book we're reading from. That's right, John was a disciple of John the Baptist before he was Jesus' disciple.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 4

"Listen to what happened:

Open the Bible to John 1:35-36 (NirV) and read.

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. He saw Jesus walking by. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God!"

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 5

"Did you catch that? John saw Jesus and pointed Him out for who He really is. What do you think the reaction of the disciples might be? (Responses) Let's find out!

Open the Bible to John 1:37 (NirV) and read.

The two disciples heard him say this. So they followed Jesus.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 6

"Wow! They believed what John the Baptist told them. Then, they got up, left John, and took off to follow Jesus! Jesus turned and asked them what they wanted.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 7

"They asked Jesus where He was staying. And He invited them to come home with Him. They spent the rest of the day with Him. But Andrew and John didn't stop there. They were so amazed by Jesus that they couldn't help but tell others about Him. Andrew knew he needed to tell his brother, Simon—also known as Peter—about what he experienced with Jesus.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 8

"Andrew told his brother about Jesus, saying:

Open the Bible to John 1:41 (NirV) and read.

"We have found the Messiah."

"Immediately, Andrew took Simon to go meet Jesus. Listen to what happened next.



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Open the Bible to John 1:42 (NIRV) and read.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas.” Cephas means Peter, or Rock.

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 9

“Now, there’s a lot happening here, but Jesus was basically giving Peter a nickname: ‘The Rock.’
“After that, people kept finding out about Jesus. In fact, the next day, we find out that Peter called a man named Philip to follow Him. And guess what Philip did next? (Response) That’s right!

SLIDE: BIBLE STORY 10

“He went and found another friend of his—Nathanael—and told HIM about Jesus!
“ALL these guys were so excited when they met Jesus that they couldn’t keep it to themselves. They really believed that Jesus was the Savior God had promised, so they began to tell everyone they knew about Him!”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Wherever Jesus went, people were changed. These changes were so huge, that they couldn’t wait to tell others about what Jesus had done. It was clear that there was something very special about Jesus. More and more people started believing that He was the Savior God had promised. That’s why Jesus’ first followers spread the word about Him again and again.

“And here’s the really cool part. That same thing is still happening today. It’s like we said earlier, people experience Jesus and can’t wait to share that experience with others. That sharing keeps going on and on. We’re still telling each other about Jesus! We believe that Jesus really is the Son of God and the Savior of the world, and the news about Him is the best news of all.

“But like we said, you might be wondering how you can talk about Jesus—if you need the right words or the right sort of experience. Well, that’s what’s so great about following Jesus. We follow Jesus as a community like here at church, but we also have a very personal way that Jesus meets us and helps us. When that happens, that’s what we can talk about with others. Like, you can tell them how Jesus gave you peace during a difficult time. You can offer to pray with someone who’s facing something tough. You can encourage people who are struggling or scared that Jesus is with them. We might just need to take some initiative.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head to Small Groups today, take some time to think about this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“... we can look for ways to tell others about Jesus. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “Look for ways to tell others about Jesus.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: *(To Storyteller)* “[Storyteller’s name], I think it’s so cool how all those people shared the good news about Jesus.”

STORYTELLER: “Me too! People could tell that Jesus was different. They wondered if He really might be the Savior they had been waiting for. They saw how Jesus loved and cared deeply about everyone He met—even people who didn’t seem important.”

HOST: “And when people met Jesus, they didn’t just wait around for someone to ask them about it. They were so excited that they started looking for ways to tell people about Jesus right away. That took initiative!”

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

“Remember, initiative is about seeing what needs to be done and doing it.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: “There are lots of ways to tell people about Jesus. We can use our words and share how Jesus has changed our life. We can also share Jesus’ love with the way we live each day. We can show initiative in the way we care for the people around us.”

HOST: “That’s right. We know that Jesus is always with us. Sometimes we can feel Him nudging us to show His love and kindness to others. And we know that He’s always with us, so we can have His peace in any situation.”

STORYTELLER: “Those are the things you can share with your friends. You can share how Jesus gives you peace. You can offer to pray with someone and encourage them that Jesus is with them too.”

HOST: “Let’s pray and ask God to help us look for ways to share Jesus’ love.”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: “God, thank You for the all the ways You love and care for us. We know we can trust that You will always be with us. We can see how the first disciples told others about Jesus and helped them see that Jesus is Your Son—and our Savior! God, we need Your help to do that too. Show us how to share Your love and care to the people around us. 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