

K-5th

Large Group

August — Week 1

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (30 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Small Group (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Creation and the Fall Genesis 1-2:3, 3 Romans 5:8

Bottom Line

You can trust God no matter what.

Memory Verse

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (NIRV)**



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

① Opener

AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as kids enter.
 SLIDE ->Theme
 OPTIONAL VIDEO ->Theme Loop

→ *Host enters wearing a cape and mask and strikes a superhero pose.*

OPTIONAL VIDEO -> Countdown
 OPTIONAL VIDEO ->Theme Intro
 OPTIONAL VIDEO ->Theme Loop

HOST: "Hello, adventurers! No time to fear, for I am here!

→ *Breaks character and takes off the mask but leaves on the cape.*

"Just kidding, it's just me, [Name of Host]. But I AM really excited you guys are here at [Name of Kids' Environment] this month because it's going to be EPIC! We are going to learn where it all began, the origins of us, our relationship with God, and the origins of the world itself!

"Doesn't that sound pretty cool? Faith can be kind of a hard thing to learn about, because it means trusting in Jesus, even when we can't see Him. This is what the Bible has to say about it.

SLIDE -> Memory Verse

→ *Open Bible to Hebrews 11:1 (NirV) and read.*

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.

"That means that because of our faith we can trust God no matter what, even when we can't see Him.

→ *Walk over to the table and reveal the game time supplies.*

"Luckily for our game time today you won't need x-ray vision, because we can see who needs saving in these blocks of ice! I'll need three boys and three girls who are true heroes to come rescue our trapped civilians from their cruel fate.

→ *Pick three boys and three girls of various ages to play. Give each kid a different tool: hammer, hair dryer, squirt gun filled with hot water. See "What You Do" for tips on how to freeze the civilians action figures.*

15 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“Together you will use your unique superpowers to try and free your person. You’ll only have 2 minutes to work together. The first team to pose their person with their arms and legs outstretched in victory, wins.

“Remember to treat your person nicely! No hitting them with the hammer or trying to force their limbs into position. Use the dryer to melt any ice in the joints, to make it easier to move.

“Are you all ready to rescue? Heroes away!

Optional Video -> 2 Minute Timer

AUDIO -> Fun upbeat game music

- *Encourage the kids to work quickly but not get in each other’s way. The dryer and squirt gun shouldn’t be close enough to be hit by the hammer. The squirt gun shouldn’t shoot water at the dryer. Make sure any electrical cords are away from the water or ice where they can’t get wet. Keep safety in mind!*
- *After the 2 minutes are up if the characters still aren’t free, decide which one is the most liberated. The Host can help finish the job with a sledgehammer or in another funny way. If they both are then both teams win. Optional: Give small prizes for the winners.*

“Great job, everyone! Rescuing people is really tough, but you never gave up trying to save them. That’s just like God, as we’ll see, He always had a rescue plan in place too! Let’s celebrate Him for that with some worship. Everyone on your feet!”

10 MINUTES

Worship

② Worship

→ *Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey friends! I'm so excited to worship with you! Worship is giving praise and honor to God by singing and dancing. We can follow God no matter what. Let's go ahead and sing about it!"

VIDEO: "CAN'T STOP SINGING" LIVE LYRICS

"Great worshipping! Sometimes, though, it can be hard to follow God, right? It can feel like sometimes, we are alone or that God isn't there with us. But God IS with you, no matter what is going on! Let's worship together."

VIDEO: "ASK, SEEK, KNOCK" LIVE LYRICS

"Great job everyone! Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our Bible Story today."

15 MINUTES

Story

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Theme Background

- *Storyteller enters carrying an extra-large comic book as Worship Leaders exit. Storyteller sets closed comic book on a music stand so the cover is facing the kids.*

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hey, boys and girls! I’m [Storyteller Name]! I’m excited to be with you today because we’re going to kick off one of the greatest stories ever told! Filled with battles, treachery, and betrayal. But also, of kings and queens, best friends, and an epic love story. (HOLD UP THE BIBLE) I’m talking about this—the Bible. It’s the greatest love story of all time, about God’s great love for us.

“This school year, we’re going to go through the Bible in order and see some of the most important stories so we can learn more about who God is. It’s God’s Big Story! Each week we’ll focus on one story, and then we’ll place a picture of that story on our timeline.

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“At the end of the year, we’ll have walked through some key points in God’s Big Story!

“We’ll begin in the very first book of the Bible called Genesis. The word genesis actually means ‘origin’ or ‘beginning’ in Greek. So we’re going to begin at the beginning!

THE BEGINNING

STORYTELLER: “The Bible tells us, in the very first verse, that God began by creating. So while I’m telling you guys the story today, I’m going to do some creating of my own. I’m going to finish up this comic book I started about today’s story.

- *Turn the music stand around away from the kids and finish “drawing” the first page of the comic book.*

“In the very beginning, God started creation by making the heavens and the Earth itself.

15 MINUTES

Story

“The big ball of Earth was covered in water and waves, and God’s Spirit was hovering over the waters. It was like God was preparing for something awesome.

“And He was! On the first day of creation God said this: ‘Let there be light’ (Genesis 1:3, NIV). And there it was. God separated the light from the darkness—the light was the day and the darkness was night.

“Then, on the second day of creation, God separated even more! He separated water up and water down, and sky appeared.

“On the third day, God separated even more! He gathered the water together to make seas, and dry land appeared—He separated water from land. And on this dry ground, He created plants! Grasses and flowers and veggies!

“Then, God started to fill what He had separated. On the fourth day, God filled the heavens that He had created. God made all the things in outer space. Listen to this.

→ *Put down your artist pen and pick up the Bible.*

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 1:14-16 (NIV) and read.*

God said, “Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. . . . Let them be lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth.” And that’s exactly what happened. God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. He also made the stars.

“On the fourth day of creation, God made the sun and moon and every star in the sky. Incredible!

→ *Put down the Bible and go back to drawing in the comic book.*

“God hadn’t made any living creatures yet. So, on the fifth day, He made all the birds that could fly and all the sea creatures in the oceans. Did you know that scientists estimate that the ocean contains as much as 80% of all life on our planet? Wow!

“Still, God didn’t stop there! On the sixth day, He created all the animals on land. From the smallest lizard to the biggest elephant, God created them.

→ *Stop drawing and turn the music stand around.*

SLIDE -> Comic Image 1—Creation

“I think I got a little bit of everything. There are some plants and animals, the water over here. What do you guys think?

→ *Turn the music stand away from the kids, flip the page of the comic book, and start “drawing” the next picture.*

15 MINUTES

Story

“But God wasn’t done creating yet! He saved His favorite creation for last! Can you guys guess what that was? That’s right, people! God made the first man and woman named Adam and Eve. God made each of us special, and we are all created in God’s image. That doesn’t mean that we look like God, but that we can reflect God’s character. We were created to show the world, and other people, what God is like! God is loving, so we can love others like He does! God is kind, so we can be kind! God is fair, so we can be fair! And He made us to be His friends. Isn’t that amazing?”

“God blessed the first man and woman and gave them a job to be fruitful and increase in number, to fill the Earth and take care of it. When God saw all He had done, He saw that it was VERY good. I think I did a very good job on my next page! What do you guys think?”

→ *Stop drawing and turn the music stand around.*

SLIDE -> Comic Image 2—Adam and Eve

“The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, had a big job to do. But on the day after they were created, on day seven, God rested. The first man and woman got to enjoy His company in the beautiful new world He had created.

→ *Turn the music stand away from the audience and start “drawing” the third page.*

THE FALL

STORYTELLER: “Adam and Eve worked hard taking care of God’s creation. They lived in a place called the Garden of Eden. It was a beautiful home where they could spend time walking and talking face-to-face with God. God loved them so much, He let them make their own choices. God told Adam the one rule He did have—one single rule.

“In the middle of the garden were two special trees. One was the tree of life, and the other was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And God said this about these two trees:

→ *Stop drawing and pick up the Bible.*

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 2:16-17 (NIRV) and read.*

The LORD God gave the man a command. He said, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die.”

“Seems like a reasonable request, right? However, there was also a serpent in the garden who wanted to trick Adam and Eve into disobeying God. The serpent tried to twist God’s words to make it seem like God was holding out on them. The serpent taunted Eve saying:

→ *Open the Bible to Genesis 3:4-5 (NIRV) and read.*

15 MINUTES

Story

“You will certainly not die. . . . God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil.”

“Now, hold up a moment! I know what you’re probably thinking: Snakes don’t talk! That’s right, but this wasn’t any ordinary snake. Later in the Bible we’re told that this serpent slithering around in the Garden was none other than Satan, the devil himself. He was there to tempt Adam and Eve, to get them to doubt God. And he’s still up to evil today. But in this story, we see how it all began.

“The serpent was very crafty and made eating the fruit sound so tempting, until finally Eve gave in. She ate some of the fruit from the tree of knowledge and gave it to Adam to eat as well!

→ *Stop drawing and turn the music stand around.*

SLIDE -> Comic Image 3—Eaten Fruit

“All of a sudden Adam and Eve felt things they had never known before—fear, shame, and blame. They learned what it felt like not to trust each other, and not to trust God.

→ *Turn the music stand away from the kids and begin to “draw” the next image.*

“They also noticed they were naked. So, they took some leaves and sewed them together to make clothes. Once they had done this, they heard the sound of walking in the distance. They knew it was God, so they hid from Him in the trees.

“God, knowing what Adam and Eve had done, asked them what happened. And do you know what they did? They started the blame game! Adam was afraid to take responsibility, so he blamed ‘the woman [God] had put there’ (Genesis 3:12, NIV). And Eve was too afraid to admit she disobeyed God, so she blamed the serpent.

“When Adam and Eve sinned, a whole bunch of really sad stuff happened. Before sin, they walked and talked with God every day! They were super close. But sin made a wall between them and God, and that closeness was broken.

“Sin didn’t just hurt their hearts—it also hurt the world! The curse of sin brought pain, sickness, sadness, and even death. That was never God’s plan.

“God had tried to protect Adam and Eve from all of this, but now He told them how much harder their lives would be. Even though God still loved them, He knew they couldn’t stay in the Garden any longer. He made them clothes to wear from animal skins, then banished them from the Garden. He didn’t want to risk them coming into the Garden, eating from the tree of life, and living forever in their cursed state. God didn’t want them to live forever apart from Him. The Bible says He placed angels and a flaming sword at the entrance to guard the way to the tree of life.

15 MINUTES

Story

→ *Stop drawing and turn the music stand around.*

SLIDE -> Comic Image 4—Banished

A NEW HOPE

STORYTELLER: “It must have been terrifying for Adam and Eve to leave everything they had ever known, and to leave the safe and loving presence of God. But even when everything felt dark, God didn’t give up on them.

→ *Turn the music stand away from the kids and flip to the next page. Quickly begin to “draw” the next scene.*

“God still loved the people He created, and He had a plan to rescue them. Thousands of years later, many generations after Adam and Eve, God started a huge step in His rescue plan. God sent His very own Son, Jesus to Earth to be born as a baby!

→ *Stop drawing and turn the music stand around.*

SLIDE -> Comic Image 5—Baby Jesus

“Wow, I drew that quickly, but it turned out really good! Jesus was God but born as a baby and grew up just like the rest of us.

→ *Turn the music stand back away from the kids to draw the next picture.*

“Jesus grew up just like us, with skinned knees, and learning how to swim. Except Jesus never did anything wrong. Have you ever known anyone who NEVER did anything wrong? Yeah, me neither.

“Jesus showed us the right way to live. And He showed us how to love God and to love others with our whole hearts. Jesus showed who God is and what God is like.

“Jesus loves us so much that He gave up His life for us. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, all the things that go against God and His ways.

“But in addition to that amazing news, Jesus didn’t stay dead. Three days later when His friends went to His tomb, they found it EMPTY! Jesus wasn’t dead anymore, He was alive!

“Jesus rose from the dead! And when He rose from the dead, Jesus proved that He really did pay for our sins. Jesus paid for all sin for all time! He broke the curse of sin.”

→ *Stop drawing and turn the music stand around. Walk Around to the front of the music stand for the last part.*

15 MINUTES

Story

SLIDE -> Comic Image 6—Empty Tomb

“Because Jesus paid for our sins, we can be in relationship with God again. Jesus fixed a huge part of what Adam and Eve had broken. When we choose to believe in Jesus and follow Him, we get to live with God forever.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Later, after Jesus went back up to heaven, a follower of Jesus named Paul wrote this in a letter to the people in Rome.

→ *Open the Bible to Romans 5:8 (NirV) and read.*

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“Jesus died for us even though we still sin sometimes. THAT’S how much God loves us. Jesus offers us a restored relationship with God. Because of God’s rescue plan, through Jesus, our relationship with Him is no longer broken.

“And that’s just the first part of God’s great plan! There’s more! Jesus is coming back! When He does, we will live with Him forever and there will no longer be any pain, or sickness, or death. He is going to fix everything that has been broken!”

④ Bottom Line

“God has always been working on His beautiful rescue plan. It’s throughout the story of the Bible. That’s why:

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] “You can trust God no matter what. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “You can trust God no matter what.”

⑥ Prayer

HOST: "Dear God, thank You for Your amazing rescue plan—Jesus and His return! You knew Adam and Eve would sin the Garden, and we'd all need Your rescue, but You carried out Your rescue plan anyway. Thank You that You never stop loving us no matter what! 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 -> Theme Loop