

April Preteen | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NIV*

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.

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 (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss



Bible Story

Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Conversation Starter

What does it mean to you that God is with you?

Bottom Line

You can share the good news about Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • *Philippians 4:4 NIV*

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
- Play a classic game of "Telephone."
- Whisper a phrase related to the story into the ear of the first student.
 - *Phrase ideas:* "Go and make disciples of all nations." "I am always with you, to the very end." "Jesus was taken into heaven."
- That student whispers what they heard to the next person, and so on.
- The last person says the phrase out loud.
- See how much the message changed!

What You Say:

"That message got a little mixed up! Passing a message along can be tricky. Today, we'll see that Jesus entrusted His followers with the most important message of all, and He gave them a special promise to help them deliver it. Let's go!"


5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page	0



EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20, and Acts 1:4-11 out loud to the group. Explain that these are two separate, but very important events!
- Pair kids up and have them sit facing the same direction—one behind the other.
- Give the kid in the back a card from the "Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page. Tell them to study the picture quietly.
- Then instruct them to use their finger to "draw" the picture on their partner's back, without saying what the picture is.
- Give examples like:
 - "Draw a tall shape with a point at the top."
 - "Make a circle, then draw smaller circles inside it."
- The front partner tries to guess what part of the Bible Story the drawing represents.
- After a minute, let them turn around, compare the card with what they guessed, and explain what that picture represents in the story.
- Then have partners switch roles and repeat with a new picture.

What You Say:

"Great job reviewing the Bible Story with pictures! Jesus gave us all a very important job to do! We are to go into all the world to share the message of Jesus! That's an epic job! You worked very hard to decipher what your partner was drawing on your back. The disciples couldn't see Jesus anymore after He went to heaven, but they still trusted His promise—that He would always be with them. Even though we can't see Him with our eyes, Jesus is guiding us every day through His Word and His Spirit. He will help us to know what to say or do when we are sharing God's great love with others! **[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.**"



5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, and dry-erase eraser 1



EveryChild Tips

- Use a stop sign or other visual cue to signal when it is time to stop.

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

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.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Read the Memory Verse together as a group that you've written on the whiteboard: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4"
- Ask a volunteer to come up and erase one word (or two).
- Read the verse together again, filling in the missing word from memory.
- Invite another student to erase another word.
- Continue until the board is blank, and the group is saying the entire verse from memory!

What You Say:

"You guys have that verse memorized! Awesome job! What a joy to know you belong to God. We can share that joy wherever we go by loving like Jesus. When you're kind like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you're honest like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you're forgiving like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in you. The Spirit goes with you everywhere and can give you ideas about how to live like Jesus and share who He is. You carry Jesus' love at every moment! When you are kind and loving like Jesus, when you show your world who He is, people will want to know more about Him! And in those moments, you're not alone. God will help you find the right words to tell people about Him and His great love. You have a big assignment, but you are not alone, so remember, **[Bottom Line] you can share the good news about Jesus.**"

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- If you had been standing on the mountain listening to Jesus give His instructions about sharing His love with the world, what would you have felt? Excited? overwhelmed? scared?
- Why do you think Jesus wants His followers to tell every nation about Him—not just one group of people?
- What part of Jesus' mission feels the hardest for you?
- What do you think it means that the Holy Spirit gives us "power"?
- Since the Holy Spirit is with you and speaking to you, what do you think it feels like or sounds like when He is guiding you to share the good news about Jesus?
- What is ONE way you can share Jesus this week—through kindness, honesty, forgiveness, or words?






5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1 1
-  Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1) 1
-  Tape 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



EveryChild Tips

- For the sticky note prayer, if a child is uncomfortable sharing a hardship, allow them to write a prayer for someone else or simply write: "God knows."

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of one person they know who needs to know that God is with them. It could be a friend, a family member, or someone they know who is lonely.
- Instruct the kids to write the name of that person on a sticky note.
- Invite them to stick their note onto the posterboard cross.
- Gather around and pray for these people.

What You Say:

"Look at all these people! Jesus sent us to share the good news of His great love with everyone, everywhere. Let's pray that these people will feel God's presence and love this week.

"God, thank You for Your promise to always be with us. Please help the people on these notes know that You love them. Use us to share Your love and joy with them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page	0

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, and dry-erase eraser	1

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1	1
2. Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1)	1
3. Tape	1
4. Sticky notes	1
5. Writing supplies	1