

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life
Israelites Long for Egypt
Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on
what you have now.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
Luke 12:15, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

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

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("What I Choose" from *Make a Move* and "[I Want to Say] Thank You" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Now and Later
Application Activity: Rearview
Memory Verse Activity: Human Bicycle
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to bring to their minds all the great things about being the age they are now. Ask God to help them stay focused on what they have now, celebrating what He has given them and the abilities and privileges they have in this phase of life.

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and wrapped or bagged treat

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name to Small Group.
- Invite kids who brought offerings to put them in the offering container.
- Tell kids that you have something awesome in the bag, and you can all share it after Small Group.
- Invite the kids to guess what's in the bag, but don't show them what it is yet.
- Ask:
 - What's the best gift you've ever received?
 - What is the best experience you've ever looked forward to?

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Birthday Cake" Activity Pages; crafting glue; coloring materials; birthday candles; and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Birthday Cake" Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Invite kids to decorate their dream birthday cake.
- Instruct the kids to choose the number of candles that correspond to their current age right now.
 - For older kids, help them use the scissors to carefully cut candles in parts to show the fractions so they can have 9 and 7/12 candles on their cake, if that's how old they are.
- Help the kids glue the candles on top of the cake and set them aside to dry.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life

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Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Remember when you were a toddler and had no homework or chores? Life was easier then! And think about it—in just a few years, some of you will be driving and can go anywhere! Where will you go first? *(Invite responses.)* Yeah, life was easy when we were younger. And there are a lot of amazing experiences ahead for all of us!

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on what you have now.

"But what is the best thing about being your age right now? *(Invite discussion. Share your own age and opinion.)* Sometimes, we get so caught up in remembering what was easier when we were younger, or what will be great when we're older, that we miss out on the awesome stuff that's right where we are! **[Transition] Let's go hear about some people in the Bible who had this problem, too.**"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
Luke 12:15, NIV

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



1. NOW AND LATER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Now and Later Clues" Activity Pages; "Now and Later Answers" Activity Page; pencils; and treats or prizes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into teams of three.
- Give each team a "Now and Later Clues" page and a pencil.
- Let kids work in teams to figure out the puzzle.
- Refer to the "Now and Later Answers" Page for the answers.
- When a team completes the puzzle, give them the prize.
- When you give each team their prize, don't make a huge deal of it, but expect that kids will at least say thank you.
- When all teams have solved the puzzle and are eating their prize, gather for discussion.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Some of those clues were tricky! I'm glad you all solved it and got the prize! But about those prizes . . . how do you think they compare with the big prize we'll have after Small Group? *(Invite answers. Some will suggest that you just give them the big prize now. Some might say that this prize is not that great.)* Have you ever had a prize that was greater or more impressive than the one I just gave you? *(Invite discussion.)*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on what you have now.

"We will get an awesome prize at the end of Small Group, and it sounds like some of you have had great prizes before. In our Bible story today, the Israelites were stuck in the idea that the better times of their lives were behind them. They got scared and thought that God had forgotten them. They actually FORGOT that God had rescued them and given them their freedom. God took care of them by feeding them in the middle of nowhere with food from heaven and water from a rock! God was showing that no matter where they were, He was with them and taking care of them, RIGHT NOW.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
Luke 12:15, NIRV

"They were so caught up in wishing for their past and worrying about their future that they missed what God was doing in the present. Have you ever been like that? *(Invite responses.)*

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time you were caught up in either the past or the future—anticipating something great to come or wishing you could go back to the past when life was easier. What did you feel during that time? Did you feel that God was taking care of you or not? How did those feelings cause you to treat other people?)

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

"There will always be things to look forward to, and good times to remember, but it's important that you **don't miss out on what you have now.**"

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. REARVIEW

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking tape paths and hand mirrors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into teams of five.
- Instruct the teams to stand near a path.
- Give the first kid in each team a mirror.
- Direct the kids to walk the wavy path backwards, using the mirror over their shoulder to watch what they're doing.
- Guide the kids to practice for a few minutes, then start the game.
- Explain that if a kid steps off the path, they have to start over.
- The first team to have everyone successfully navigate the path by using the mirror, wins!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

In My Life

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Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This game shows how hard it is to live in the past! The Israelites learned that in our Bible story today. But maybe you're not tempted to look backwards, like in our game. Maybe you live for the future. What's the most exciting thing coming up in the next few months? *(Invite responses.)* What's the most exciting thing you can think of that might happen next year? *(Invite responses.)*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss out on what you have now.

"There are some great things ahead of us! But imagine if you were only focused on those fun things to come: Would you miss out on anything? *(Invite responses.)* What if you were so wrapped up in a vacation next year that you decided not to hang out with your friends this afternoon because they're not as fun as where you're going? What if you took back your Christmas presents because you know in just three years, that gaming system will be old and outdated? What if you refused a new bike because it's not the car you want to buy when you're older?

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
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"No, none of us would do those things! But sometimes we act like we would, when we compare what we have now with what someone else has or what we imagine they'll get; or when we complain about what we have now because it's not as great as what we dream of someday.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

"Don't let that be you. **Don't miss out on what you have now.** So, what is great about RIGHT NOW—this actual moment?" *(Invite kids to discuss great things about being in Small Group.)*

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Describe a time when you tried to do something only older kids should do, and it didn't work out. *(Such as trying to make something in the kitchen before you were ready and you made a big mess; or going too far from home in your neighborhood and you got lost or a parent got panicked)*



WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. REARVIEW, CONTINUED)

- What are some good things happening in your life right now? What are some responsibilities or privileges you have now that you didn't have last year?
- Why is it important to remember and focus on what's good in your life right now? How can that help us be content?

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



***3. HUMAN BICYCLE**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Cards" Activity Page cards; Bibles; and hula hoops

Note: If you have more than eight kids in your group, consider making two sets of cards and using four hula hoops. This game is best played with teams of eight, but you can lengthen or shorten your "chain" of six kids depending on how many kids are in your group.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the "Verse Cards" on one side of the room.
- Gather the kids on the other side.
- Give two kids the hula hoops.
- Explain that the kids with the hoops are the wheels in the bike.
- Instruct the other six kids to form a line between the two kids hula-hooping.
- Direct the six kids to link arms and stay between the two hoops.
- Explain to the six kids that they are the chain in the bike.
- Instruct the kids with the hoops to hula-hoop—or at least hold up the hoops and walk—across the room to the Verse Cards.
- Instruct the chain to stay together and walk between the wheels all the way across the room. The entire bike should travel together.
- When the bike (group of kids) has reached the far side of the room, instruct one of the kids in the chain to grab a Verse Card.
- Direct the whole "bike" to go back to the far side where they started.
- Instruct the kids to put the verse card down and rotate so two new kids are the wheels.
- Play until all of the verse cards are collected and all of the kids have had a turn as the wheels.
- Once the group gets the cards, instruct them to use their Bibles to put the cards in verse order.
- If you have a few groups of "human bikes," play this as a competition or just have two "human bikes" going at the same time.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I've never seen that kind of bike before! Nice job working of together! I think the best part of that game is being a wheel. Who agrees? (*Invite a show of hands.*) I'm glad everyone got a chance to be a wheel.

"But what would have happened if no one would be the chain because they just wanted to sit out and wait for their turn to be the wheel? (*Invite responses.*) We would have had to stop the game and not play. That would have been no fun.

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BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK
THREE
NOVEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 3. HUMAN BICYCLE, CONTINUED)

"This game gave you another chance to remember: **don't miss out on what you have now**. Even though other fun things are coming, even though fun stuff has happened in the past, don't get so caught up in looking forward or back that you miss the fun right now!"

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Treat promised in "Early Arriver"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out the treat and let kids enjoy it!
- As you hand out the treat, remind the kids: **don't miss out on what you have now.**
- If time allows, lead a quick discussion about how they could have missed out on all the great activities earlier if they had only been focused on this treat you promised them.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we appreciate all You have given us, and we know that You'll take care of us in the future. Help us celebrate and be thankful for what You are doing right now in our lives. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, if there is enough, invite them to share the treat! Make sure the kids take home their Birthday Cake pages.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.
(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Great treat to share, wrapped in a gift bag (something you can hype)

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Birthday Cake" Activity Page on paper; one for each kid.
- Crafting glue
- Coloring materials
- Birthday candles
- Scissors

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #3.

1. NOW AND LATER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Now and Later Clues" Activity Page on paper; one for every three kids.

- Print "Now and Later Answers" Activity Page on paper; one for each small group.
- Pencils
- Unexciting treats or prizes (breath mints or hard candy)

2. REARVIEW

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Masking tape
- Hand mirrors—one for every five kids
 - Tape one or two very wavy paths on the floor of your small group area.

* 3. HUMAN BICYCLE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Verse Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group.
- Two hula hoops
- Bibles

Note: If you have more than eight kids in your group, consider making two sets of cards and using four hula hoops.

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Treat promised in "Early Arriver"

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**