



PLAY WELL.
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Greatest

The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are things you're
expected to do?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God. Love others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted
with something very little.
Then you can also be trusted
with something very large.

Luke 16:10a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Responsibility—Showing you
can be trusted with what is
expected of you

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

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 ("Friend Like You" from *This Love*, "Trust You With My Heart" from *This Love*, and "Love One Another" from *Every Beat*)

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 Review 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)

GodTime devotional for kids

Studio252.tv

Parent Cue App



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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



Before kids arrive, pray for you time together and ask God that you would have everything you need from Him to have an amazing time with your kids. Pray that they would feel empowered by God to love those around them.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

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WHAT YOU DO:

- As kids arrive, invite the place their offering in the container.
- Ask kids to name 3-4 familiar games such as Go Fish, Scrabble®, Chutes and Ladders®, and Uno®.
- Work together to come up with a pose and a sound effect to represent each of the games they chose.
- Practice the poses and sound effects until kids can do them quickly.
- Call out the games in no particular order.
- Kids must quickly jump into the pose and make the sound effect.
- Start out slowly then speed up.
- If someone messes up, you can opt to have them step out of the game or simply start the game over.
- Repeat with other poses and sounds kids come up with.



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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: Prepared boxes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Sit in a wide circle.
- Show kids the numbered boxes prepared with random objects inside.
- Explain that you will shake, tilt, and turn each box several times as they listen to the sound of the items moving inside.
- Tell kids to take turns guessing how many items are in each box just by listening, then open the box and reveal the contents.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great guesses! I'm betting you guys are also good at figuring out what's inside a gift box at Christmas, too. **[Transition] In Large Group, we're going to learn about some really important commands Jesus gave. He kept it simple. There weren't 10, 30, or 100 – just two. Let's go find out what they are.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pens, sticky notes or note cards, (optional) foam cups, permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a pen and 10 sticky note or note cards. (If desired, substitute 10 foam drinking cups and markers instead of sticky notes or note cards.)
- Ask kids to write on each card or sticky note one thing that is important to them.
- Challenge kids to arrange their sticky notes or cards in the shape of a pyramid on the floor so that what's MOST important to them is at the top of the pyramid.
- Invite kids to take turns sharing their choices and why they placed them high or low in the priority pyramid.

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, basket of laundry

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the basket of clean laundry.
- Ask kids to think of (silently) a responsibility they or kids

their age typically have.

- Invite kids to take turns using the clothing items in the laundry basket to shape clues for others to guess the responsibility they thought of.
 - Clarify that they don't wear the laundry, they just use it to create a picture, scene, or word that shows something they are expected to do.
- For the sake of time, if you have a larger group, you can pair kids up and let them work together to create a clue for the group. Just make sure they walk out of earshot to do the planning and then create their clue (relatively) silently.
- Discuss, with each example, ways they can show love for God and love for others as they do the tasks that are expected of them.
- Ask:
 - When doing a task that is boring or that you don't enjoy doing; such as, helping with laundry or cleaning your room, how does it help to think of ways those tasks are showing love for God or others?
 - Can someone love God and not others? Explain.
 - Can someone love others and not God? Explain.
 - If you do the things that are expected of you but have a bad attitude about it, are you still being responsible? Why or why not?

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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What's one benefit of being responsible?
- What's one consequence of not doing what is expected of you?
- Why should a Jesus follower be known as a person who is responsible?
- Would you say that loving God and loving others is an expectation God has of those who say they follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- What's one way you could show more love for God this next week? How about for others?

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



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, marshmallows, toothpicks, heart sticker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to look up and read Mark 12:29-31 in their Bible or on a Bible App.
- Call on volunteers to share what they think it means to love God with all your heart, soul mind, and strength.
- Ask:
 - Of all the responsibilities you have, what do you feel is the most important right now?
 - In what ways is Jesus the perfect example of loving God and others?
 - If you wanted to do a better job of loving God with all your heart, where would be a good place to start?
 - Where would you start if you wanted to do a better job of loving others?
 - Why do you think loving God and others is the number one responsibility Jesus gave His followers?
- Give each kid a marshmallow, toothpick, and heart sticker.
- Lead them in the following steps to create a way to check their pulse:
 1. Attach the heart sticker to one end of the toothpick.
 2. Gently insert the toothpick into the marshmallow but not all the way through
 3. Run in place for 20 seconds.
 4. Lay one arm palm up on a table then hold it very still.
 5. Find your pulse using your other hand. (Assist with this if needed.)
 6. Stand the marshmallow on top of the pulse point and watch the tip of the toothpick where the sticker is attached. The sticker will move slightly each time their heart beats.
- Wrap up by asking kids to finish this sentence: "As long as my heart is beating, my main responsibility is to . . ."

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Checkers, checkerboard

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind kids that if we want to follow Jesus, we have a responsibility to love God and love others.
- Encourage them to ask God to help them show love to the people around them. When others see how they love them, they can see how God loves them, too.
- Give each kid a checker piece.
- Tell kids to place their checker on the corner of the checker board that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence: today I need God's help to better love . . .
 - God (point to a corner)
 - Someone in my family (point to a corner)
 - Someone at school (point to a corner)
 - Someone I know who's not in my family or school (point to a corner)
- Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they'd like about their choices then encourage a couple volunteers to pray aloud for themselves and others in the group.
- Close in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You are the perfect example of love. You gave us your Son who loved us because He loved You. Help us to follow You well this week by growing in our love for You and choosing to love others as much as we love ourselves."



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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. JUST FOR FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Gift boxes; five to seven for each small group
- In separate boxes, place random items such as those listed below.
 - Two spoons
 - Three marbles
 - Five cotton balls or tissues
 - Two pairs of scissors
 - Four socks
 - Two pencils or markers
 - Seven paper clips

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.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pens
- Sticky notes or note cards; 10 for each kid

- (Optional) Substitute 10 foam cups and a permanent marker for each kid

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Laundry baskets with a colorful variety of clean socks, shirts, pants, towels, etc. (no undergarments, of course); one or two for each small group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[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:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- Mini marshmallow; one for each kid
- Toothpick; one for each kid
- Small (¼" - ½") heart sticker; one for each kid

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Checkerboard; one for each Small Group
- Checker; one for each kid



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GETTING READY

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

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.