



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

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

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and
Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"But those who trust in the LORD
will receive new strength. They
will fly as high as eagles. They will
run and not get tired. They will
walk and not grow weak."**

Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Resilience—Getting back up
when something gets you down**

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
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Worship ("Never Gonna Give Up" from *Make a Move* and
"I Run to You" from *Make a Move*)
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Dribble Down
Application Activity: Resilient Core
Memory Verse Activity: Elbow Bop
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that your few would be encouraged today to keep going even when the going gets tough. Pray that kids would feel God's presence with them, especially in times when life situations seem impossible. Ask God to show you how to specifically encourage any kids who are going through a tough time.

through a tough time.

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Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, beach ball, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Start a game of volleyball.
- Line kids up across from each other in rows of three.
- Tape a "net" on the floor between them.
- Instruct the kids to volley the beach ball across.
- Make sure arriving kids get a spot on a team.
- Ask the kids questions while you play.
 - How was your week?
 - What exciting things are coming up this month in school? In sports? Other activities?
 - What is school like this month?
 - Did anything great happen in your family this week?



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: Variety of round/spherical objects, (Optional) yardstick or three-foot measure drawn on a posterboard

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the round or spherical objects.
- Invite the kids to experiment with what will or won't bounce.
- If using the yardstick or posterboard, hold it vertically and instruct the kids to bounce the spheres near it to see how high they bounce.
- Test all of the objects to see how high they bounce.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Which objects bounced the highest? (*Invite responses.*) Which didn't bounce at all? (*Invite responses.*) Why do you think there was such a big difference between those two? (*Invite responses.*)"

"Tennis balls and ping-pong balls are made to bounce back when they hit the ground. They were purposely designed to keep going even after they get knocked down.

"We were made to bounce back too, when we hit against a hard spot in life. [*Transition*] **Let's go hear how 'bouncing back' helped spread the good news of Jesus all over the world!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

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Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. DRIBBLE DOWN

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Dribble Down Scenes" Activity Pages taped to cones and lined up, two basketballs or playground balls

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Line up each team on either side of the cones—each team will start on the opposite side of the cones.
- Give the first kid in each team a ball.
- Instruct the first kid on each team to dribble the ball around the cones towards the far side of the room then join the back of that line. (The kids will be dribbling around each other at some point.)
- Direct the kids to continue until every kid has had a chance to travel to the opposite side of the cones.
- When everyone has dribbled around the cones, the teams should be on the opposite side from where they started.
- Once everyone makes it to the other side of the room, use the images from the "Dribble Down Scenes" to review the story.

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Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This game had a lot of bouncing, zigging, and zagging! Sometimes, life takes a turn you weren't expecting or you face a HUGE challenge. That's when it's important to remember that **God is always with you.**

"When Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His friends an enormous job: tell the whole world about the good news that He had come to rescue them. Imagine if you had to tell the whole world something. How would you do it? (Invite responses.)

"Now imagine giving the whole world a message before computers or internet, before phones, before radio. This was even before regular books or paper or pens! The message would have to be told from person to person or written one time then copied by hand over and over again. There were no cars or planes to take people or messages around the world, just boats, pack animals, and feet!

"I would probably get discouraged or overwhelmed with such a big task, wouldn't you? There are some things that just feel impossible!

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you felt overwhelmed with a big job or lonely in the face of something big. What did you do? Who did you talk to? How did you pray during that time? Did you keep God's presence in mind? If not, how might things have changed if you did?)



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

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. DRIBBLE DOWN, CONTINUED)

“Jesus reminded His friends that He would always be with them and help them complete this huge mission. Jesus kept that promise through His Spirit. His Spirit was with His friends and It’s with us, forever. We never face anything alone or by ourselves because **God is always with you.**”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



* 2. RESILIENT CORE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Tennis balls, utility knife, black permanent marker, slips of paper, pencils or pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to gather around you but make sure they're not too close.
- Carefully cut the first tennis ball in half.
 - Poke a small hole in the ball with the knife then slowly widen it until you can safely cut through the ball's exterior.
 - Try to bounce the ball at a few points while cutting it apart.
- Point out that the ball is hollow inside.
- Say, "The ball is bouncy but its bounce can be stopped by one little puncture."
- Make a small slit in one side, like a mouth, in the second tennis ball.
- Use the black permanent marker to draw features on the ball—eyes, nose, etc.—above the mouth.
- Give each kid a slip of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Direct the kids to write some times that God has been with them or times they remember God was with people in the Bible.
- Invite the kids to "feed" the tennis ball their slips of paper.
- Keep going until you can't fit any more slips of paper inside the tennis ball.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."

Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This first tennis ball bounced back when we dropped it, but we discovered that it was pretty vulnerable. That means that just a little tiny point could deflate it and make it not bounce anymore. It seems resilient, but it's only bouncy on the outside.

"But our second tennis ball is full. It has resilience not just on the outside but on the inside. It's full of ways you can remember that **God is always with you.** God has been with people, giving them strength and hope for the future, all along. God was with Abraham and Isaac. God was with Moses and Ruth and Esther. God was with Mary and the disciples while they were telling people about Jesus. And God is with you.

"No matter what you face on the outside and how much your 'bounce back' is tested, remember that your resilience is strong because of what's inside you. God's Spirit—God's presence—will never leave you."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- When has your resilience or "bounce back" been tested lately?
- What can you do when you need to remember that God is always with you?
 - Who can you talk to?
 - What Bible story or Scripture would help you most?



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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. ELBOW BOP [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, inflated balloons in two colors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure every kid has a Bible.
- Together, open the Bibles and read Isaiah 40:31 as a group, using the Bible navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find Isaiah in the list under "Old Testament." When the kid finds Isaiah, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Isaiah. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 40. Give time for all kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 31 in chapter 40. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Assign each team a color balloon.
- Direct the kids to stand in a large circle, alternating team members so that no one is standing next to someone on their own team.
 - Have the kids take steps backward so the circle is very large and they can extend their hands to either side without touching their neighbor.
- Release the balloons.
- Instruct the kids that each team should try to keep their balloon in the air without anyone leaving their spot in the circle.
- Direct the kids to only use their elbows to keep the balloons up and only "bop" it once before it has to move to another kid.
 - If you have mostly younger kids, let them use their hands.
- Keep track of which team keeps the balloon from hitting the ground for more than ten bops first. (Increase it to twenty bops for older kids.) That's the winning team!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Nice bopping! Being resilient and bouncing back doesn't always look like what we expect. In this game, you had to use your elbows, even though you've been able to use your hands in this game before. It was more difficult, right? (Invite responses.)"



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. ELBOW BOP, CONTINUED)

“There might be challenges ahead that you aren’t ready for or big opportunities in life that need a lot of grit. You’ll need to be resilient and get back up when you fail at something. It’s okay to make mistakes or not get it right on the first try. When was the last time you learned something new or faced a big new challenge? How did it feel? Were you great at it right away? *(Invite responses.)*”

“When you were learning to walk, you fell down a lot. If I played this balloon game with two-year-olds, the balloon would be on the ground more than in the air, even if they could use their hands and heads and feet AND elbows! However, you’ve all played games like this for years, so you’ve learned how to bop the balloon even when it’s challenging or you failed at first. Learning and growing means trying again when you fail.”

“The great thing about our verse is the reminder that we’re not learning and growing alone. **God is always with you**, whether you’re learning how to use a spoon as a baby or long division as a 4th grader or how to drive as a teenager. No matter what you need to learn or what challenge you face, **God is always with you.**”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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

WHAT YOU NEED: Cones from "Dribble Down" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to line up near the cones.
- Challenge the kids to weave through the cones.
 - Younger kids can just walk or run through them.
 - For older kids, issue a challenge: hop on one foot through the cones, walk backwards, heel or toe walk, crab walk, etc.
- Gather the group to pray around the last cone.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These cones look easy, but you had a challenge to move through them! Sometimes in life, we get discouraged when an easy job turns out to be harder than we thought. When that happens, remember **God is always with you.** There is no challenge God can't help you face. God can help you can bounce back and face whatever is happening. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Spirit to be with us as we face life's ups and downs. Please help us remember Your presence this week whenever we face a big job or a difficult challenge. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, remind kids to "bounce back" this week!



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
- Beach ball
- Masking tape

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Variety of round or spherical objects—sports balls, cotton balls, mini bouncy balls, polystyrene balls, frozen meatballs, tennis balls, foam balls, clay balls, ping-pong balls, etc.
- (Optional) Yardstick or a three-foot measure drawn on posterboard

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 #2.

1. DRIBBLE DOWN

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Dribble Down Scenes" Activity Pages on cardstock; one set for each small group

- Six playground cones
- Masking tape
 - Tape the "Dribble Down Scenes" Activity Pages to the cones and line the cones up down the middle of the room.
- Two basketballs or playground balls

* 2. RESILIENT CORE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two tennis balls (preferably new)
- Utility knife
- Black permanent marker
- Slips of paper
- Pencils or pens

3. ELBOW BOP

[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:

- Bibles
- Balloons in two colors
 - Inflate a few balloons of each color.

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:

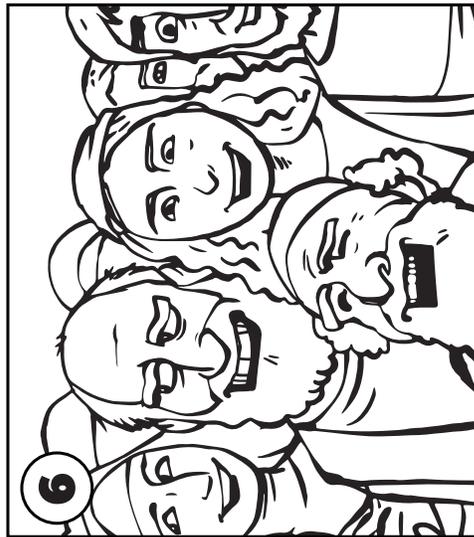
- Cones from "Dribble Down" Activity

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.**



Jesus ascended to heaven.



The church grows.



Jesus told the disciples to share the Good News.



Peter preaches to the crowd.



Jesus ate with His friends after His resurrection.



Pentecost

What to Do:
Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.