

WEEK

TWO

October Preteen | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—October 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: A Gold Statue and a Blazing Furnace • Daniel 3

Bottom Line: God is with me, so I can stand for what's true.

Conversation Starter: What things have you seen that are wrong or broken?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.* • Psalm 46:1 NlrV

Note: 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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension 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)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App



Bible Story

A Gold Statue and a Blazing Furnace • Daniel 3

Conversation Starter

What things have you seen that are wrong or broken?

Bottom Line

God is with me, so I can stand for what's true.

Memory Verse

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

• Psalm 46:1 NlrV

5 min

Social Opening Activity | Made to Explore

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Straws	1
	Pipe Cleaners	Several
	Tape	1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Tell kids that they will be creating a sculpture using straws, pipe cleaners, and tape.
- Instruct kids to find a partner or group to work with.
- Explain that they will have 10 minutes to work with their partner/group to create a sculpture. They can choose to build the tallest structure possible or create an artistic or geometric design.
- Let them know that this is not a competition against other groups, but that it's an opportunity to work as a team to build something unique.
- After 10 minutes, allow kids to showcase their sculpture and say a few words about it. Use the following questions to help them, if needed:
 - What was the most challenging part of building your sculpture?
 - Did you start with a plan, or did your ideas change as you built?

What You Say:

"Those were some very creative sculptures. I'm impressed! Today's Bible Story involves a king who created a huge golden statue, but it wasn't just for creativity; his inspiration was all about power and ego. Let's go find out more!"

5 min

Small Group Activity- Take a Snapshot | Made to Move

What You Need

 Bible

1



EveryChild tips

- If kids are unable to stand up or lie on the floor, have kids put their arms out wide to form a "T" and both arms to the right to form an "F".

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Say, "I have some True or False Statements that I am going to read to test your knowledge. When I read a statement, you'll decide if you think the statement is true or false. If you believe the statement to be true, stand up in the shape of a "T" (choose a kid to demonstrate). If you believe the statement to be false, lie down on the floor in the shape of an "F" (choose a kid to demonstrate). Any questions? *(Allow kids to ask clarifying questions.)* These statements include content about science and the Bible. Here we go:
- Read the following statements and allow time for kids to make their bodies into the shape of a "T" or a "F."
 - Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun. *(True.)*
 - Humans only use 10% of their brains. *(False- this is a myth, humans use nearly 100% of their brain over a day, just not all at the same time.)*
 - A day on Venus is longer than a year on Venus. *(True.)*
 - Jesus turned water into wine. *(True.)*
 - God helps those who help themselves. *(False. Not in the Bible.)*
 - Bats are blind. *(False.)*
 - Jesus fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. *(True.)*
 - There are more stars in the sky than grains of sand on Earth. *(True. Researchers say there are roughly 10,000 stars in space for every single grain of sand on our planet.)*
 - Water boils at the same temperature everywhere on Earth. *(False. The boiling point of water depends on the atmospheric pressure. Water boils at 212 degrees at sea level. Water boils at a lower temperature in very high elevations.)*
 - The Bible says God is our refuge and strength. *(True. Psalm 46:1.)*
 - Moses built the ark. *(False. Noah built the ark.)*
 - Paul was one of the twelve disciples. *(False.)*
 - Octopuses have three hearts. *(True.)*
 - A group of flamingos is called a flamboyance. *(True.)*
 - Sound travels faster than light. *(False.)*
 - God promises we will never face fear. *(False. He promises to be with us when we face troubles.)*
 - God created humans in His image. *(True.)*
 - All deserts are hot. *(False. Antarctica is a cold desert.)*
 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God. *(True. Romans 8:38-39.)*

What You Say:

"Some of those true or false statements were obvious, but some of them were pretty tricky. Daniel's friends Shadrach (*SHAD-rack*), Meshach (*MEE-shack*), and Abednego (*uh-BED-nih-go*) were in a very tricky situation where they were going to choose if they would stand for what's true even when no one else did.

"Years before, Daniel and his friends had been captured by the Babylonian army when Babylon conquered Israel and taken to Babylon to serve the king. As new trainees in the king's court, these four young men refused to serve the false gods of Babylon, so God gave them wisdom and favor with the king.

(*Open your Bible to Daniel 3.*) "Now, they found themselves in a large field with all the other royal officials, looking at a massive, 90-foot golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had created. They heard the instructions given that when the music sounded, they must all fall down and worship the gold statue, whoever did not fall down and worship would be thrown into a blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not have much time to think about what was happening. When the music played, all the royal officials threw themselves to worship the ginormous statue. All of them, that is, except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

"They had to make a quick decision, but they did so firmly. They replied to King Neb: *'We might be thrown into a blazing furnace. But the God we serve is able to bring us out of it alive. He will save us from your power. But we want you to know this, Your Majesty—even if we knew that our God wouldn't save us, we still wouldn't serve your gods. We still wouldn't worship the gold statue you set up.'* (Daniel 3:17-18 NIV)

"Are you willing to stand for what you believe in? They could have obeyed King Neb, but they understood it was not right and chose to trust God.

"This made King Neb furious, so much that he commanded the fiery furnace be heated up seven times hotter. It was so hot that the soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego died from the heat. When Neb looked into the furnace, he leaped to his feet, crying out: *'Didn't we throw three men into the fire? Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They aren't tied up. And the fire hasn't even harmed them. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods.'* (Daniel 3:24b,25 NIV)

"King Neb called them to come out. When they did, even though the ropes had disintegrated in the fire, not a hair on their head was singed, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

"When the time came for these friends to choose the right way or bow to a false god, they chose to make a stand. When you are confident that God is with you, then you can stand up for what's true, even when others do not. You probably won't be ordered to bow down to a golden idol, but you will be tempted in this life to compromise in many ways. You may be tempted to tell a lie about brushing your teeth or doing your homework, just to avoid consequences; to stay silent when kids are making fun of someone, even though you know that the person is made in the image of God; or to watch something at a friend's house that makes you uncomfortable or that your mom and dad would say 'no' to, because you don't want your friend to think that you are different. Following God, even when you're the only one, is not easy, but it is worth it. That's when you remember that **[Bottom Line] God is with me, so I can stand for what's true!**

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal, kid-appropriate example about a time when you stood up for what is true and knew God was with you. Say something like "When I was in high school, my friend wanted me to go to a movie that I knew my parents would not approve of....")

5 min

Small Group Activity- Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Bible Verse Cards" Activity Page	2
	Cardstock	2
	Bean bags	6
	Floor tape	1
	Scissors	1



EveryChild tips

- *Adjust the start line so all kids can participate and be successful.*

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Bible Verse Cards" on cardstock and cut, two sets per Small Group.
- Create a 4x2 grid on the floor with tape so that there are 8 squares/rectangles with enough room for 2 of the cards from the "Bible Verse Cards" Activity Page to fit inside.
- Place the two identical verse cards in each square of the grid.
- Tape a line away from the grid to mark the point that kids have to stand behind to toss a bean bag.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Psalm 46:1 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 out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Split the Small Group into two teams of kids. Tell the kids that you will be playing a bean bag toss game to see which team can collect all the verse cards and put the verse in order first.
- Explain how to play the game:
 - Each team will line up behind the start line and take turns throwing a bean bag at the grid.
 - If the bean bag lands in a square, the team gets a verse card from that grid. Teams can only take one verse card per grid.
 - The first team to collect all the cards and put the verse together wins.
- Gather your Small Group around one of the completed Bible Verses and read it together.

What You Say:

"This verse really applies to the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. *'God is our place of safety. He gives us strength.'* (Psalm 46:1a NIV). He really did give them the strength to stand up and do what's right. He gave them the strength to tell the king straight to his face that they would never bow down to the statue, no matter the consequences. They trusted in God so completely that they knew He could save them, and even if He didn't, it was still worth obeying Him.

"Let's look at the last part of this verse: *'He is always there to help us in times of trouble.'* (Psalm 46:1b NIV) "When did the fourth person in the fire become visible (*Answer: in the fire.*) God was always with them, but His presence became visible when they were in the fire. God is always with us, too. When you choose to follow Jesus, God's very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, moves inside of you. When you face difficulties, ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust that He is with you."

5 min

Small Group Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
 - **[Conversation Starter] What are things that you have seen that are wrong or broken?**
 - How might you be able to stand for what is true regarding these wrong or broken things?
 - When is a time that you have stood for something that was right, even when those around you didn't?
 - What is a situation in which you may need to ask the Holy Spirit for courage to stand up for what is right?

5 min

Small Group Prayer- Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	"Take a Stand" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Writing supplies	1



EveryChild tips

- Pair up kids with writing difficulties with a kid who can help them write.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Take a Stand" on cardstock, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a "Take a Stand" Activity Page with a pen or pencil.

What You Say:

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew exactly what they stood for, what they believed in, what they would and wouldn't do. That's why they could make such a firm decision when they were put on the spot. It's important for you and for me to know God and know His truths. That's one reason why we talk so much about knowing God's truth and choosing His ways. When we align our beliefs with the truths from God's Word, we will be ready to stand up for what's right, with the help of the Holy Spirit giving us courage. And it's easier to stand in truth when we decide ahead of time what we will stand for. This paper contains a few "I will" statements with an area for you to fill in the blank. I'm going to give you a few minutes to complete these "I Will" statements. If you don't understand what one of these means or need help thinking, ask me for help. If you can't think of an answer for one of these, you don't have to fill in the blank." *(Give kids a few minutes to fill in the blanks.)*

"Remember, **[Bottom Line]** God is with me, so I can stand for what's true. Let's pray.

Prayer:

"Dear God, we want to obey You and stand for what is true. Please give us the courage to stand for what is true, even when others don't. We ask for Your wisdom and understanding to know Your truths and know how to best honor You. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for always being with us. Help us to trust that You are with us always. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Straw, several per kid
- Pipe Cleaners, several per kid
- Tape, several rolls per Small Group

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group

2. Verses to Take with You

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Bible Verse Cards" Activity Page, two sets per Small Group
- Cardstock, two pieces per Small Group
- Bean bags, six per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Bible Verse Cards" on cardstock and cut, two sets per Small Group.
- Create a 4×2 grid on the floor with tape so that there are 8 squares/rectangles with enough room for 2 of the cards from the "Bible Verse Cards" Activity Page to fit inside.
- Place the two identical verse cards in each square of the grid.
- Tape a line away from the grid to mark the point that kids have to stand behind to toss a bean bag.

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- "Take a Stand" Activity Page, one per kid
- Cardstock, one piece per kid
- Writing supplies, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Take a Stand" on cardstock, one per kid.

Supplies

Social Opening Activity | Made to Explore

1.	Offering container	1
2.	Straws	1
3.	Pipe Cleaners	Several
4.	Tape	1

Small Group Activity- Take a Snapshot | Made to Move

1.	Bible	1
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Small Group Activity- Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

1.	Bibles	1
2.	"Bible Verse Cards" Activity Page	2
3.	Cardstock	2
4.	Bean bags	6
5.	Floor tape	1
6.	Scissors	1

Small Group Prayer- Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

1.	"Take a Stand" Activity Page	1
2.	Cardstock	1
3.	Writing supplies	1

Decide Beforehand to Take a Stand:

I will love those around me by _____
_____.

I will be stand for what's right when _____
_____.

I will honor God at _____
by _____.

I will obey my parents when _____
_____.

I will be honest when _____
_____.

I will choose to not participate in _____
_____.

**God is
our place**

of safety.

**He gives
us strength.**

He is always

there to help

us in times

of trouble.

Psalms 46:1

WEEK

THREE

October Preteen | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule— October 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:35-41

Bottom Line: God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Conversation Starter: What is something you can trust God with right now?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.* • Psalm 46:1 NIV

Note: 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

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension 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)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Jesus Calms the Storm • Mark 4:35-41

Conversation Starter

What is something you can trust God with right now?

Bottom Line

God is in control, so I can trust Him.

Memory Verse

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

• Psalm 46:1 NIV

5 min

Social Opening Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Blue construction paper	Several
	Floor tape	1
	Large cardboard box or rug	1
	Smart watch or timer	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	Several



EveryChild tips

- Provide noise-cancelling headphones.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Designate a space to house the boat. (May be used for all Small Group Activities in this lesson.)
- Create a boat outline out of tape, or create a box boat, or simply use a rug to be the boat, one per Small Group.
- Crumple blue paper to make paper wads, 30 per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Tell your group that you will be playing a game today called "Sinking Ship." Explain the directions:
 - The group will be split into two teams: Team A and Team B.
 - Team A starts inside the boat while Team B starts outside the boat.
 - Team B will quickly try to "sink" Team A's ship by tossing water inside the boat (i.e., blue paper wads).
 - Team A will work quickly to get as much "water" (paper wads) out of their boat.
- When the leader says "Go!", play begins and continues for one minute.
- When the leader yells "Freeze!", everyone must stop immediately.
- Count the number of paper wads left inside Team A's boat.
- Teams switch places. Team B moves inside the boat, and Team A now tries to sink Team B's ship.
- Repeat the game for one minute and count the number of paper wads left in Team B's boat.
- The team with the fewest paper wads ("water") left in their boat wins and successfully keeps their ship from sinking!
- If time allows, play two additional rounds.

What You Say:

"Raise your hand if you have played the game Battleship before. It's very exciting to sink other people's battleships, isn't it?! It's not so fun being the one on the side who has the most battleships sunk. In today's story,

there is no battle, but there is a group of people who ended up in a crazy storm on a boat. Let's go find out what this is all about!"

5 min

Small Group Activity- Bible Story Extension | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Bible	1
 "Scaredometer" Activity Page	1
 Cardstock	1
 Sticky arrow tabs	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Scaredometer" on cardstock, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Say, "The disciples were ordinary men, following an extraordinary man & God (Jesus was fully human and fully God). And they had a huge variety of emotions throughout their daily encounters with Jesus. Today's Bible Story is found in Mark 4:35-41. We are going to use a "Scaredometer" to show the level of concern, worry, and fear that you think they were feeling."
- Give each kid a "Scaredometer" Activity Page and a sticky arrow tab.
- Say, "I'm going to read today's Bible Story and pause at certain parts. When I pause, I want you to use your arrow to show what you think the disciples were feeling. For example, if I read "The disciples all got ice cream from the ice cream truck before they got in the boat." What emotion would you point your arrow to? (*Allow kids to respond.*) If I said, Peter found a spider crawling around in his ice cream. What emotion would you point your arrow to? Obviously, those are silly examples that are not actually included in the Bible. Let me read through the real deal, and I will let you determine how chill or how scared the disciples may have been."
- Read Bible Story details from Mark 4:35-41, pausing after each statement. When kids give different "Scaredometer" ratings, allow them to discuss why they gave the rating they did.
 - When evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake."
 - They left the crowd behind. And they took Him along in a boat, just as He was. There were also other boats with Him.
 - A wild storm came up.
 - Waves crashed over the boat. It was about to sink.
 - Jesus was in the back, sleeping on a cushion.
 - The disciples woke Him up. They said, "Teacher! Don't you care if we drown?"
 - He got up and ordered the wind to stop. He said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down. It was completely calm.
 - He said to His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have any faith at all yet?"

- They were terrified. They asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"
- Say, "I don't know about you, but I can absolutely relate to the disciples' feeling scared. Now, I'm going to read some possible present-day scenarios. After I read each scenario, I'm going to have you rate how you might feel if this were something happening to you."
- Read the following scenarios, pausing after each one to allow kids to rate each on their "Scaredometer." Discuss their responses as appropriate.
 - It's the night before the first day of school, and none of your friends are in your classes this year.
 - You have been invited to two different friends' birthday parties that are on the same day and start at the same time.
 - You have to give a presentation in front of the class.
 - The lights suddenly go out, and everything is dark.
 - You get separated from your family for a few minutes in a big store.
 - You try out for a new team or audition for something.
 - A big storm starts, and thunder shakes the window.

What You Say:

"Will God help us with the real stuff, the tough stuff, in our lives? Yes, He is present! Because we know that God is in control, and because He is good, we can trust Him with anything we face. When we feel concerned, worried, scared, or terrified, those emotions are like warning lights telling us that we are facing something bigger than what we can handle on our own. That's when we need to turn to God to be our help and our refuge. God created everything, and He is more powerful than anything else, ever. Everything answers to Him. That means that God is bigger and more powerful than any difficult thing you will ever face. God does not cause terrible things to happen, but He can work in and through all things for our good. Because of this, we can remember that **[Bottom Line] God is in control, so I can trust Him!**"

5 min

Small Group Activity- Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Verse Debris" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	3
	Scissors	1
	Flashlights	2

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Verse Debris" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Optional: Use the 'boat area' from the Opening Activity.
- Turn down the lights or turn off the lights in your Small Group space if possible.
- Scatter the cards from the "Verse Debris" Activity Page around your Small Group space, away from the "boat."
- *Note: Save the "Verse Debris" cards for next week's Memory Verse Activity.*

During the Activity:

- Guide kids to sit inside the area designated as your Small Group's "boat."
- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Psalm 46:1 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 out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Say, "Oftentimes when ships are at sea, they might come upon some debris floating in the water. This may be driftwood or debris from another ship or boat. Right now, floating in the waters outside of our boat is debris, each piece with a word from our Memory Verse on it. You are going to take turns, two people at a time, swimming out, collecting one piece of debris, and bringing it back to our boat. Each person will have a flashlight to help them see."
 - Remind kids that they have to swim when they are outside of the boat.
 -

Give two kids a flashlight and have each of them go retrieve a piece of the Bible Verse.

- Send out two more kids after the first pair have returned.
- Repeat until all the "Verse Debris" cards are collected.
- Have the kids put the "Verse Debris" cards in order and say the Memory Verse. Then have them turn their backs to the verse and say the Memory Verse again.

What You Say:

"In today's true story from the Bible, the disciples were scared because of the storm that surrounded them. They forgot that God is their place of safety and that He is always there to help us in times of trouble. They had not realized yet that Jesus is fully God and that even the wind and waves obey Him. One of the reasons we work to memorize verses is that God's Word has a way of coming to our minds just when we need it. I hope that when you encounter a storm or tough situation, this verse will encourage you to turn to God and trust Him because He is in control."

5 min

Small Group Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
 - **[Conversation Starter] What is something you can trust God with right now?**
 - Why do you think Jesus was able to sleep during a massive storm that was rocking the boat and waves were crashing over the sides?
 - Mark 4:41 says this about the disciples, *"They were terrified. They asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him!'"* How did the disciples' perspective change after Jesus calmed the storm?
 - When we turn to God with storms in our lives, He either takes away the difficult thing or walks with us through the difficult situation. Why do you think that He doesn't just automatically take away the tough stuff?

5 min

Small Group Prayer- Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 "Scroll" Activity Page	1
 Paper	1
 Water Bottles (dry & with lids)	1
 Scissors	1
 Writing supplies	1
 Twine or yarn	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Scroll" on paper, one per kid.
- Cut twine/yarn into 12-inch lengths, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a "Scroll" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that they will create a message in a bottle that will include a prayer for someone else in the room. It can also include words of encouragement. Tell them that they will not know who gets their message, so they can ask the Holy Spirit to help them with the words that they will write in their message.
- Guide kids to write a prayer on the scroll for another kid in their Small Group. They can also add words of encouragement if they would like. Encourage kids to ask you for help if they get stuck. Kids can also add drawings if they prefer.
- Instruct kids to roll up their scrolls tightly and tie with a piece of twine/yarn.
- Tell kids to put their message in a water bottle and to seal it with a cap.
- Ask kids to place their bottles in the center of the Small Group area.

What You Say:

"We've talked a lot today about how God is always with us to help us in times of need and trouble. One of the ways that God might help you in a time of need is to guide another believer to come alongside you and encourage or pray for you. God will also use you to be an encouragement and support for someone else who is going through a difficult time. This is why the church is so important. God doesn't just promise to be with us; He gives us a whole family who is there to celebrate the good times and encourage us through the hard times. You are going to have an opportunity to pray and encourage someone in this Small Group by making a message in a bottle."

"Each of you will receive a message in a bottle to take home with you today. When you get home, open up the message, which should have a prayer for you. Read the prayer and receive the words that are there for you. When storms come into your life, you can remember **[Bottom Line]** **God is in control, so I can trust Him.** You can also remember that you

have friends here who are rooting for you and praying for you. Let me pray for you right now."

(Optional: Ask kids to share any tough stuff that they have in their life right now and pray specifically for those needs.)

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for these amazing guys and girls here today. I know You have created them for amazing things. You are powerful and in control, even when tough things come into their lives. Help us all to trust You as You walk with us through every step of our journey. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Blue construction paper, 30 pieces per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Large cardboard box or rug, one per Small Group
- Smart watch or timer, one per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies

- *Noise-cancelling headphones, one per kid*

What You Do:

- Designate a space to house the boat. (May be used for all Small Group Activities in this lesson.)
- Create a boat outline out of tape, or create a box boat, or simply use a rug to be the boat, one per Small Group.
- Crumple blue paper to make paper wads, thirty per Small Group.

GROUPS:

1. Bible Story Extension

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Bible, several per Small Group
- "Scaredometer" Activity Page, one per kid
- Cardstock, one piece per kid
- Sticky arrow tabs, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Scaredometer" on cardstock, one per kid.

2. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

3. Verses to Take with You

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid

- "Verse Debris" Activity Pages, one per kid
- Cardstock, three pieces per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Flashlights, two per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Verse Debris" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

4. Make It Personal with Prayer**Made to Reflect****What You Need:**

- "Scroll" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Water bottles (dry and with lids), one per kid
- Twine or yarn, one per Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per kid
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Scroll" on paper, one per kid.
- Cut twine/yarn into 12-inch lengths, one per kid.

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**.

Supplies:

- EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones
- EveryChild Supplies: Pre-cut squares for windows (several per kid)
- EveryChild Supplies: Pre-cut circle for the bottom of the clear cup

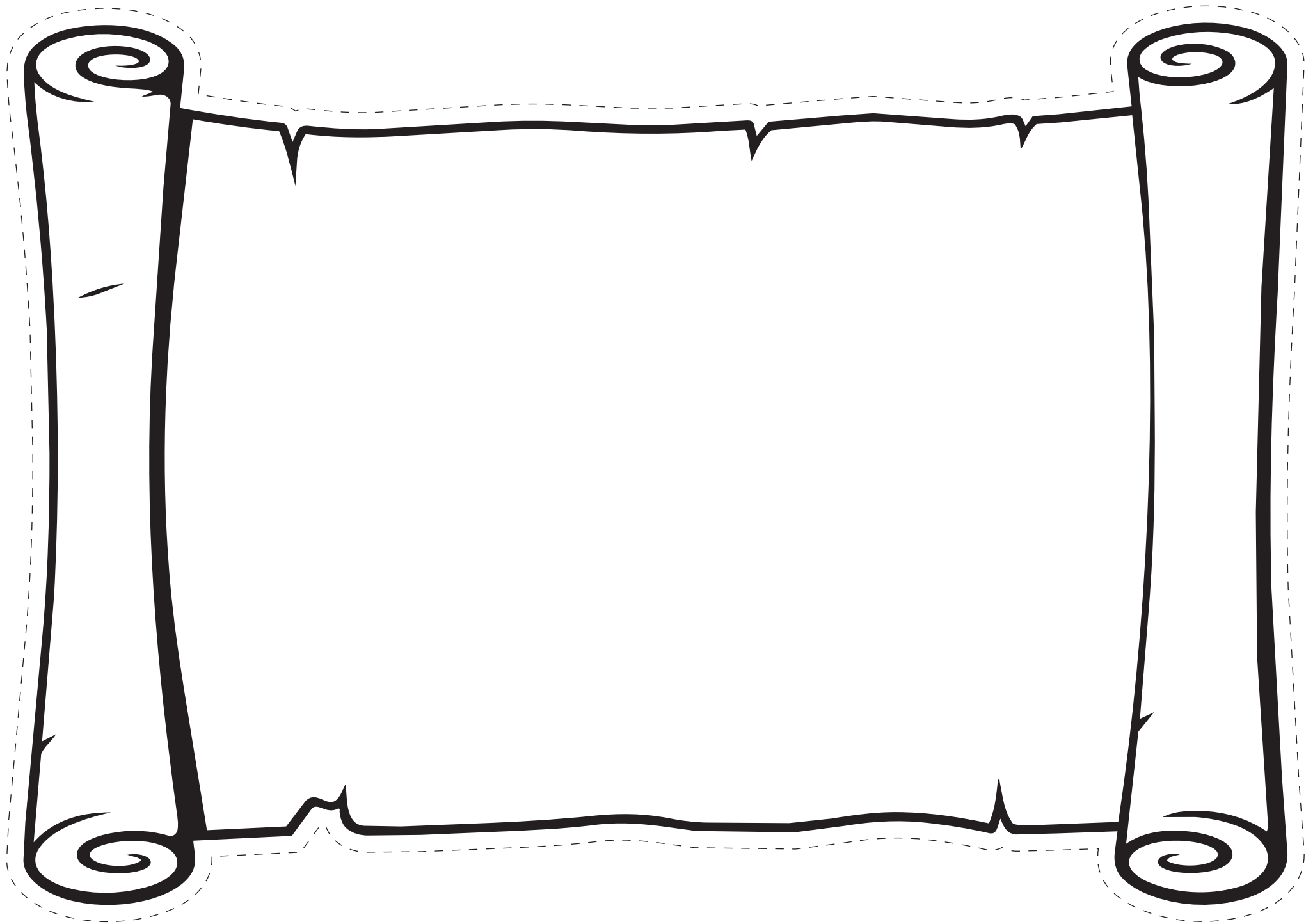
Supplies

Social Opening Activity Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Offering container	1
2.	Blue construction paper	Several
3.	Floor tape	1
4.	Large cardboard box or rug	1
5.	Smart watch or timer	1
6.	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	Several

Small Group Activity- Bible Story Extension Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	Bible	1
2.	"Scaredometer" Activity Page	1
3.	Cardstock	1
4.	Sticky arrow tabs	1

Small Group Activity- Verses to Take with You Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Bibles	1
2.	"Verse Debris" Activity Page	1
3.	Cardstock	3
4.	Scissors	1
5.	Flashlights	2

Small Group Prayer- Make It Personal with Prayer Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	"Scroll" Activity Page	1
2.	Paper	1
3.	Water Bottles (dry & with lids)	1
4.	Scissors	1
5.	Writing supplies	1
6.	Twine or yarn	1



What to Do:
Print on paper.
One per kid.

"Scroll" Activity Page
October 2026, Week 3, Small Group Preteen
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God

is

our

place

of

safety.

He

gives

us

strength.

He

is

always

there

to

help

us

in

times

of

trouble.

Psalms 46:1



What to Do:
Print on cardstock.
One per kid.

"Scaredometer" Activity Page
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WEEK

FOUR

October Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule— October 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Jesus Has Won the Battle • John 16:33; Revelation 19:11-16

Bottom Line: Jesus wins.

Conversation Starter: How does believing Jesus wins change how you see things?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.* • Psalm 46:1 NlrV

Note: 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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension 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)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Jesus Has Won the Battle • John 16:33; Revelation 19:11-16

Conversation Starter

How does believing Jesus wins change how you see things?

Bottom Line

Jesus wins.

Memory Verse

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.
• Psalm 46:1 NlrV

5 min

Social Opening Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Deck of cards	1
	Small item like a rubber duck	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Shuffle the deck of cards.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Tell your group that you will be playing a fast-moving game today called "King's Treasure".
- Have kids sit in a circle and explain the game.
- "This is the treasure. The goal is to be the one holding the treasure when the last King card is drawn." (You may need to explain that there are four King cards in a deck of cards.) Place the treasure in the center of the circle. I will flip through this deck of cards quickly once you get the hang of it. Here are the actions you will perform based on each card that is drawn:
- **Number Cards (2-9)**- nothing happens. **10 & Joker**- treasure goes back in the center.
- **Jack**- everyone makes the funniest face possible. The last person to make a face gets a strike. **Queen**- everyone must switch seats. The last person to sit down gets a strike.
- **Ace**- everyone must dramatically fake fainting on the floor. The last person down gets a strike.
- **1st King drawn**- everyone races to grab the treasure. Whoever gets it keeps it until a Joker or 10 appears, but if the treasure holder laughs the treasure goes to the person who made them laugh OR the treasure goes back in the center if more than one person made them laugh.
- **King 2 & King 3**- race to grab the treasure from the center.
- **Winning**- the person holding the treasure when the **fourth King** is drawn wins!
- Explain these additional rules:

- No touching.
 - No insults.
 - Only silliness.
 - Funny walks, weird noises, impressions, and dramatic speeches are encouraged.
 - Anyone who gets three strikes must talk in a silly accent for the rest of the game.
-
- Ask the kids if they have any questions.
 - Start the game. Flip through the cards as quickly as possible while allowing time to follow the instructions for each card.
 - After the game, circle up with the kids again.

What You Say:

"Wow- that game got pretty silly! Some of you were seriously determined to be the one holding the treasure. And if you were holding it near the end, you were probably hoping and waiting for that final king card to be flipped over. Today, we're going to learn about the ultimate King- a king who always wins and never loses. Let's go find out more!"

5 min

Small Group Activity- Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Small #1 foam fingers	1
 Permanent markers	1



EveryChild tips

- Pre-write "Jesus Wins" on foam hands for kids.

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Say, "How many of you have ever attended a pep rally or a big game for a team that you were cheering on to victory? (*Allow kids time to respond.*) Some fans will hold up signs, cheer with pompoms, or wear their team's colors to cheer on their favorite team. Some fans are so devoted to their team that they even paint their faces or chests and cheer out in 25-degree weather in devotion to their team. I have a little fan gear today for us to use to cheer on the most Powerful Lord of All!"
- Show the #1 foam fingers to kids.
- Say, "We are going to use these foam fingers to help us claim that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!**"
- Instruct kids to write "Jesus wins" with a permanent marker on their foam finger and put it on.
- Say "I'm going to read today's true Bible Story and pause at certain points. When I pause, it will be your turn to say, **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus wins." Every story or road to victory comes with high, celebratory points and low, somber points. When I read a part of the story that is a high point, I want you to respond with a firm and loud **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus wins!" When I read a part of the story that is a low point, say **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus wins," still matter-of-factly, but in a lower, more reflective voice. Each time you say, **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus wins," point up your #1 foam finger.
- Read the Bible Story review below, guiding kids to respond with **[Bottom Line]** "Jesus wins" as noted.
 - "In the beginning, God created everyone and everything. He knew you and loved you before the world began! We were made to be in a close relationship with God always. God didn't want a bunch of little robots, so God gave us freedom to choose Him.

But God's enemy, Satan, tempted the first people, Adam and Eve, to doubt God's love. Adam and Eve allowed this poison to enter their hearts and minds. They used their freedom to sin by turning away from God and breaking His law. Because of this, the world was broken. Sin and sadness and death crept in. God could have given up on us. On the story. But God loves us so much that He had a plan from the very beginning to restore us to a close relationship. God promised to send a hero who would defeat the enemy and rescue us forever by cleansing us from sin! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**

- "Over thousands of years, God paved the way for this hero. Countless smaller stories fit together to form God's epic story: God's call to Abraham; **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** The way God freed His people from slavery in Egypt and led them to the Promised Land; **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** The prophets who led the people toward God, and the kings who led the people away from God. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**
- "And at last, God sent the promised Hero in the most unexpected way. God's own Son, Jesus, was born as a baby and grew up to teach and serve and heal. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** Jesus lived a perfect life, following God's ways and never giving in to the temptations of the enemy. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** And then Jesus chose to give up His perfect life—for us! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** His death paid the price for our sin. And when Jesus rose from the dead, he defeated the power of death forever! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**
- "But the story isn't over. While we know that the war has been won, there is still a battle going on around us. God's enemy tries to hurt God by hurting God's kids. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** That's us."
- "This is one of the reasons why life feels so hard sometimes. Sometimes we face difficult situations because we're in a war. But sometimes tough things happen simply because pain and sickness are part of our broken world. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** But no matter how hard the story feels right now, you can be confident that you have been, and will be, rescued! **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**
- "The night before Jesus gave up His life, He told His friends—(John 16:33) *'I have told you these things, so that you can have peace because of me. In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.'* **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**
- "Jesus never promised that our lives would be easy. But He did promise that He will be with us every step of the way. We can have deep peace even in the middle of trouble—because we know the end of the story: **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**
- "Only God knows when He will end the war, and we will live forever with Him. But God did give the apostle John a vision of what that time will be like, when Jesus returns. John wrote about Jesus—(Revelation 19:11-16) *'I saw heaven standing open. There in front of me was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True. When he judges or makes war, he is always fair. His eyes are like blazing fire. On his head are many crowns. ... His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses. They were dressed in fine linen, white and clean. [... He stomps on the grapes of God's winepress. The winepress stands for*

the terrible anger of the God who rules over all.] Here is the name that is written on the rider's robe and on his thigh.'

The Greatest King of All and the Most Powerful Lord of All. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**

- "Wow. That's Jesus. Our hero. Our rescuer. When He returns, He will fix this broken world. He will take away all sickness, pain, and death. There will be zero doubt about who wins. The enemy will be defeated forever. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!"**

What You Say:

"No matter what you're facing, remember that Jesus wins! The difficult things that you face will not last forever. Remember that Jesus is with you right now, through the Holy Spirit. He will walk you through whatever you are facing. Nothing can separate you from the great love of Jesus.

"Living in a broken world means that painful things happen in our stories. What feels broken in your world right now? *(Allow kids to respond. Some examples may include: someone at school is saying mean things; parents are fighting a lot; it feels like a teacher or coach is being totally unfair; news stories about people fighting or terrible things that have happened somewhere in your country or the world.)*

"When you feel overwhelmed or sad or angry, take time to stop and be still. Ask the Holy Spirit to calm your heart and remind you that Jesus is with you and that He will make everything right in the end. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the peace that Jesus promised His followers, even in the midst of trouble. And if something feels too big and hard, talk with a trusted grown-up who loves Jesus and can help you see God's truth in your story."

"You might feel the weight of sin or sickness in your school, family, or world around you. Look to God. Pray for the darkness you see. And know that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins."**

5 min

Small Group Activity- Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Pennant Banner" Activity Page	1
	11-inch by 17-inch cardstock	1
	Index cards	1
	Coloring supplies	1
	Washi tape	1
	Twine or yarn	1
	Tape	1
	Decorative items (stickers, stamps, glitter pens, etc.)	1
	Kid scissors	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Pre-cut banner for each kid	1



EveryChild tips

- Provide adaptive scissors, adaptive grips, and adaptive coloring supplies.
- Provide pre-cut banners.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Pennant Banner" on 11×17 cardstock, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Instruct kids to pair up with one or two other people.
- Assign each pair one of the verses in Revelation 19:11-16.
- Ensure each pair has a Bible, a few index cards, and a pen
- Instruct pairs to read their verse, looking for words or symbols that describe Jesus, and write these down on an index card (one word/symbol per index card).
- Circle up your Small Group with pairs sitting beside each other.
- Guide pairs to share their findings and guide the Small Group in discussion with this process:
 - Ask a volunteer to read Revelation 19:11.
 - Have the kids assigned to this verse share the words and symbols that describe Jesus (place their cards in the center of the circle).
 - When you come across words or symbols that may be difficult to understand, ask the Small Group "What do you think _____ means?"
 - If any words or symbols are left out, have a kid write them on an index card to add to the collection in the middle.
 - Go through each verse until each pair has shared.
 - *Note: Preteens are beginning to transition from concrete thinking to more abstract thinking. Some students may naturally understand the symbolism in Revelation 19:11-16, while others may need additional guidance. Be ready to pause and explain some of the symbolism in simple, kid-friendly ways as needed.*
- Say "Jesus is the Ultimate Champion! He defeated death and sin once and for all on the cross. One day, when He returns, Jesus will get rid of all sin, death, tears, and pain. Let's celebrate that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins** today by making a Championship Pennant. When teams or individuals win the national titles in sports, they often bring home a Championship Pennant. I want you to use any of these words or symbols that are meaningful to create a pennant for Jesus being the Ultimate Champion."
- Have kids create an Ultimate Champion Pennant for Jesus using a blank pennant and craft supplies. Remind them to use some words or symbols that stuck out to them from the verses in Revelation 19:11-16.

- When they are finished, instruct kids to cut a piece of yarn or twine and tape it to both sides of the top of their pennant banner (tape on the back).

What You Say:

"That is amazing news that Jesus wins! While we know that the war has been won, there is still a battle going on around us. The night before Jesus gave up His life, He told His friends: (John 16:33) *'I have told you these things so that you can have peace because of me. In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.'*

"Jesus never promised that our lives would be easy. But He did promise that He will be with us every step of the way. We can have deep peace even in the middle of trouble—because we know the end of the story: **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!** Only God knows when He will end the war, and we will live forever with Him. But God did give the apostle John a vision of what that time will be like, when Jesus returns. No matter exactly how this vision will happen, it gives us a powerful picture of Jesus as King and the Ultimate Champion.

"Take the pennant you created home and hang it up somewhere you'll see often. That way, when you see it, you'll remember that **[Bottom Line] Jesus wins!**"

5 min

Small Group Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:
- **[Conversation Starter]** How does believing that Jesus wins change the way you see things?
- Jesus was a ransom for our lives when he died on the cross. What freedoms did He purchase for us through His death and resurrection? What will He do away with once and for all when He returns?
- Revelation 19:15b says, *'He stomps on the grapes of God's winepress. The winepress stands for the terrible anger of the God who rules over all.'* God is a just and righteous God. What areas would make God upset?
- **Note:** Romans 8:1 says, *'Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer under God's judgement.'* God is compassionate towards His children and wants all people to be saved. His anger is towards evil and the works of the enemy.
- How might you handle hard things differently this week by remembering that Jesus wins?

5 min

Small Group Prayer- Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Instruct kids that the group will be praying an echo prayer. Tell them that you will say a line, and they will repeat it.
- Use the prayer guide below for the echo prayer.

What You Say:

"Jesus secured victory over sin and death when He died on the cross and rose from the dead three days later. When Jesus said in John 16:33c *'But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world!'* He was encouraging His followers to live courageously and boldly because Jesus could see beyond the current struggles and knew how the story ends. His words are true for our lives, too. Let's thank Him today and pray for courage in prayer."

Prayer:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for defeating sin and death for me." (*Kids repeat.*)

"Thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love." (*Kids repeat.*)

"Help me to turn to the Holy Spirit for help and rest when things get tough." (*Kids repeat.*)

"Help me have peace and courage because You win!" (*Kids repeat.*)

"I pray these things in Your name, amen." (*Kids repeat.*)

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Deck of cards, one per Small Group
- Small item like a rubber duck, one per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Noise-cancelling headphones, one per kid*

What You Do:

- Shuffle the deck of cards.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible, one for every two kids
- "Pennant Banner" Activity Page, one per kid
- 11-inch x 17-inch cardstock, one piece per kid
- Index cards, thirty per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per kid
- Washi tape, several rolls per Small Group
- Twine or yarn, one per Small Group
- Tape, several rolls per Small Group
- Decorative items (stickers, stamps, glitter pens, etc.), several per kid
- Kid scissors, one pair per kid

EveryChild Supplies:

- Pre-cut banner for each kid.

What You Do:

- Print "Pennant Banner" on 11×17 cardstock, one per kid.

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Create**What You Need:**

- Bible, several per Small Group
- Small #1 foam fingers (<https://bit.ly/4oa0umS>), one per kid
- Permanent markers, several per Small Group

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect**What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

Supplies

Social Opening Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Deck of cards	1
3. Small item like a rubber duck	1
4. EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	Several

Small Group Activity- Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Small #1 foam fingers	1
3. Permanent markers	1

Small Group Activity- Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. "Pennant Banner" Activity Page	1
3. 11-inch by 17-inch cardstock	1
4. Index cards	1
5. Coloring supplies	1
6. Washi tape	1
7. Twine or yarn	1
8. Tape	1
9. Decorative items (stickers, stamps, glitter pens, etc.)	1
10. Kid scissors	1
11. EveryChild Supplies: Pre-cut banner for each kid	1

