

WEEK

ONE

Preteen | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2026, Week One

Bible Story: How to Hear from God • John 10:2-4, 14-16; Psalm 1:1-3; Romans 1:19-20

Bottom Line: I can hear from God.

Conversation Starter: What does it look like to hear from God?

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

- See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.
- In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

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

How to Hear from God • John 10:2-4, 14-16; Psalm 1:1-3; Romans 1:19-20

Conversation Starter

What does it look like to hear from God?

Bottom Line

I can hear from God.

Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. • John 10:27 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Explore

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Scissors	1
	Paper	1
	Plastic straws	1
	Solo® cups	1
	Rubber bands of various widths	Several
	Table	1
	desk, or any flat surface	1
	Optional: Plastic ruler	1



EveryChild tips

- Encourage kids to work in pairs.
- **Groups**
- **Creating a Safe Place to Connect**
- **25 minutes**
- Groups 1/5

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Cut paper into 1 x 11-inch strips.
- Gather all the supplies and have them ready in the middle of the Small Group space.

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 they are going to explore frequencies with the items in the center of the Small Group space.
- Say, "There are many factors that can describe frequencies. During this activity, we're going to explore how high- and low-pitched sounds are produced, which is an example of frequency!"
- Invite kids to explore by doing the following:
- Cut straws into different lengths. Notice how the sound changes when blowing over straws of different lengths.
- Paper/Ruler: Allow part of the paper/ruler to hang over a surface. Flick it, and notice the high or low sounds based on how much of the paper/ruler is hanging over the side of the surface.
- Stretch rubber bands over a Solo® cup with the opening facing up. Strum the rubber band, and notice the high or low pitch (depending on width or tightness). *Note: Ensure kids use rubber bands appropriately and don't shoot them.*
- Allow kids to share their findings.

What You Say:

"Sound is made when things vibrate, which sends waves through the air. How fast something vibrates is called 'frequency.' When you changed the objects, you made them vibrate more slowly or more quickly. Slow vibrations make low sounds, and fast vibrations make high sounds. We're going to explore the theme of 'Frequency' all month and learn how we can hear from God!"

"Speaking of that, today, we're going to *hear* a story ... well, about *hearing*. Let's go *hear* it!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	Bible	1
	- "Sheep Fun Facts" Activity Page	1
	"Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Pictures" Activity Page	1
	"Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Scenarios" Activity Page	1



EveryChild tips

- Have kids work in pairs and support one another to reduce the pressure of reading.
- Groups 3/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Sheep Fun Facts" double-sided on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Print "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Pictures" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group
- Print "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Scenarios" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Show the kids the sheep on the "Sheep Fun Facts" Activity Page.
- Say, "In today's Bible Story, we heard about how Jesus says His followers are like sheep. Let's look at this sheep in the picture. What do you notice about a sheep's ears?" (*Allow kids to share.*)
- Share with the kids some facts about a sheep's ears and hearing from the back side of the "Sheep Fun Facts."
- Open the Bible to John 10:4b NIV and read.
- Say, "This passage is talking about a shepherd and says, ... *he goes on ahead of them. His sheep follow him because they know his voice.*" It's so important for sheep to follow their shepherd. He knows exactly where to take them to find food, how to help them avoid danger, how to keep them from getting lost, and how to protect them. Jesus is saying that simply listening to His voice and following Him is the job of His followers."
- Take the following cards from the "Four Frequencies Matching Game" set, and lay them in front of the group: "Heart," "Bible," "People," "The World."
- Say, "In today's Bible Story, we learned that when we take time to listen, we can hear God in four ways: through our hearts, the Bible, people, and creation.
- (*Point to the "Heart" card.*) Say, "This doesn't mean the heart in our body. This refers to the part deep inside us that senses words or images God wants to show us."
- (*Point to the "Bible" card.*) Say, "God speaks to us through His Word—the Bible! In it, He gives instructions, wisdom, and inspiration for us to follow Him."
- (*Point to the "People" card.*) Say, "God uses people who follow Him to help us understand His words and to speak to us, such as leaders in church, your parents, or other trusted adults in your life."
- (*Point to the "The World" card.*) Say, "The Bible says that God shows Himself through what He has created. The sky, oceans, land, and animals all tell of God's creativity and power."

- Say, "We're going to play a matching game to explore some scenarios of God speaking in our daily lives."
- Mix up the sixteen cards from the "Four Frequencies Matching Game" Activity Page, and lay them face down in a 4×4 grid.
- Have kids take turns turning over cards to match a scenario with a way God speaks. Go around the group until all the "Scenarios" cards are matched with the "Pictures" cards.

What You Say:

"Nice work! It's important to know that God is speaking to us in so many different ways and that you and **[Bottom Line] I can hear from God.**

"You may have to get quiet sometimes to hear Him by shutting out the noise and busyness of the world. You can also read or listen to God's Word every day, then think about what He's teaching you through it. No matter what, you can trust that God wants to speak to you and that He will speak to you through words and images in your heart, through the Bible, through others who love Him, and through the amazing things He has made."

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Solo® cups	1
	Plastic spoons	Several
	Optional EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones	Several



EveryChild tips

- Provide noise-canceling headphones for kids with sound sensitivities.
- Invite kids to keep their eyes open to complete this activity.
- Groups 2/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Instruct the kids to put their cups face down

"We're going to play a different type of follow-the-leader game today. Instead of using our bodies, I'm going to have you follow me by using your ears, a spoon, and a cup. I will tap a pattern with my spoon on my cup, then pause. When I say, 'Go,' you will repeat the pattern back to me."

"You'll need to listen very carefully to the pattern that I tap and wait for me to say, 'Go' to play the pattern back to me. I'll start simple, and when you get the hang of it, I'll make the patterns more challenging."

Play a simple pattern for the group such as tap-pause-tap-pause-tap. Say "Go"

Once the kids get the hang of it, have them take turns being the one to create a pattern while the rest of the group repeats it

What You Say:

"This game required you to intentionally listen to be able to remember what you heard and repeat the patterns back. Being able to hear from God is similar because we need to be intentional about listening to Him so we can hear Him. Listening is an important part of following. God wants to speak with you! And He will speak to you through your heart, through what He has said in the Bible, through listening to trusted people who follow God, and observing the world He made.

"Remember, **[Bottom Line]** I can hear from God. And sometimes, hearing from God takes practice, especially when we're surrounded by noise and distractions. But remember, God wants to speak to you, so you can trust that He will help you hear Him."

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example about what you do to intentionally listen to God, whether it be worship music or a specific time of prayer or Bible reading. For example, you could share something like: "It's important to me to hear from God. Some things that I do to be intentional about listening are Hearing from God keeps me focused on what is most important and helps me remember what is true.")

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones Several



EveryChild tips

- Provide noise-canceling headphones for kids with sound sensitivities.
- Groups 5/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 10:27 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.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Choose one kid to be the "listener."
- Have the listener stand in front of the group and try to say the Memory Verse out loud.
- While the listener says the Memory Verse, invite the rest of the group to create distractions, such as snapping, clapping, singing, and playing upbeat music.
- After the first round, have the same listener say the Memory Verse again with no distractions.
- If time allows, choose another listener and repeat.

What You Say:

"In our Memory Verse, Jesus compares His followers to sheep and says He is our Shepherd. Jesus used pictures like this to help people understand the ways of God's kingdom. In Jesus' day, shepherds were common and lived with their flock of sheep. They would guide the sheep to food, keep them safe from predators, and help them avoid dangerous surroundings. Sheep know their shepherd's voice and respond to His directions. In this verse, Jesus is teaching that His true followers listen to and obey what He says.

"It was harder to remember the Memory Verse when there was a lot of noise, wasn't it? The verse didn't change, but the distractions made it harder to focus. Life can feel like that too. You might want to hear from God, but your mind could be full of school, friends, sports, family stuff, or

an electronic device. There are a lot of voices trying to get your attention. But Jesus says His sheep listen to His voice. That means you can learn to recognize when He's guiding you, reminding you of what's true, or helping you know what to do next. Jesus knows you, and He wants you to know Him too. When we listen to Jesus, we learn how to follow Him in real life. Not just at church, but at school, at home, with friends, and when things feel confusing. He is our Good Shepherd!"

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bible

1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:
- Why is it important to hear from God?
- What distractions or “noises” make hearing God challenging?
- **[Conversation Starter] What does it look like to hear from God?**

Groups 4/5

What You Say:

John 10:3 NIV. Does the verse say it's the sheep's job to listen or to hear?
Why is this important to know?
What has God given us to be able to hear Him?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Connect

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Say: "Listening to God isn't complicated. But sometimes, life gets so busy that we don't stop and listen to God. We're going to take a couple of minutes to practice listening to God."
- Say: "I'm going to pray, and then I want each of us, quietly and on our own, to ask God: 'What do You want to say to me?' Then, just listen."
- Say: "Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. Lord, we love You. Would You speak to us today? We want to hear from You."
- Take a few quiet moments, then allow the kids to share anything they may have heard as they practiced listening to God.

What You Say:

"You might have heard something from God, and you might not. And that's okay! But you can always take time to be still and ask God to speak to you. Because He does. And remember, we can learn to hear God through reading our Bibles every day and thinking about what it says. We can take time to notice the beautiful or fascinating things God has made. And this week, we can practice the habit of getting in a quiet place and asking God, 'What do You want to say to me?' Let's pray together, friends."

Prayer:

"God, thank You for caring so much about us that You want to talk to us. Help us to hear You over the noises and distractions of life. Teach us how to listen to You. We love You, and we pray these things 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
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Paper, several pieces per Small Group
- Plastic straws, fifty per Small Group
- *Optional: Plastic ruler, two per Small Group*
- Solo® cups, ten per Small Group
- Rubber bands of various widths, thirty per Small Group
- Table, desk, or any flat surface, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Cut paper into 1 x 11-inch strips.
- Gather all the supplies and have them ready in the middle of the Small Group space.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Solo® cups, one per kid and leader
- Plastic spoons, one per kid and leader

EveryChild Supplies

- *Noise-cancelling headphones, one pair per kid*

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- "Sheep Fun Facts" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Pictures" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Scenarios" Activity Page, one per Small Group

- Cardstock, three pieces per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Sheep Fun Facts" double-sided on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Print "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Pictures" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group
- Print "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Scenarios" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

3. Discussion Questions**Made to Connect****What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You**Made to Create****What You Need:****Made to Play****What You Need:**

- Bibles, one for every kid

EveryChild Supplies

- Noise-canceling headphones, one pair per kid

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

- No supplies needed

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: Talk about God | Bible Story Review
- EveryChild Supplies: Made to Reflect
- EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones
- EveryChild Supplies: Pray to God | Prayer Activity
- EveryChild Supplies: Made to Reflect

Supplies

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Scissors	1
3. Paper	1
4. Plastic straws	1
5. Solo® cups	1
6. Rubber bands of various widths	Several
7. Table	1
8. desk, or any flat surface	1
9. Optional: Plastic ruler	1

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. - "Sheep Fun Facts" Activity Page	1
3. "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Pictures" Activity Page	1
4. "Four Frequencies Matching Game Cards: Scenarios" Activity Page	1

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Solo® cups	1
2. Plastic spoons	Several
3. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones	Several

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones	Several

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bible	1

WEEK

TWO

Preteen | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2026, Week Two

Bible Story: How to Read the Bible • *Matthew 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*
Bottom Line: I can learn to know God through the Bible.

Conversation Starter: What do you want to learn from the Bible?

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 NIV

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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

How to Read the Bible • *Matthew 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Conversation Starter

What do you want to learn from the Bible?

Bottom Line

I can learn to know God through the Bible.

Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. • John 10:27 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	"Points" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Plastic tablecloth	1
	Sliced bread	1
	Ping pong balls	1
	- Floor tape	1
	Whiteboards	1
	Dry-erase markers	Several
	Bucket	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Certified gluten-free sliced bread	Several



EveryChild tips

- *Gluten-allergy/sensitivity: Use certified gluten-free bread to accommodate for kids with gluten allergies or sensitivities.*
- **
- **Groups**
- **Creating a Safe Place to Connect**
- **25 minutes**
- Groups 1/5

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Points" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Place a tape line on one side of your Small Group area. Make the space behind the tape enough so that your Small Group can line up behind it.
- Lay a plastic tablecloth on the ground vertically, the nearest (short) end about 4 feet in front of the tape line.
- Place slices of bread in a vertical row on the tablecloth, spaced apart.
- Place a card from the "Points" Activity Page by each piece of bread in ascending order (10, 20, 30, 50, 100).
- Put ping pong balls in a bucket

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Say "We're going to play a game called 'Dough Toss'. We'll have two groups compete in this ping-pong style game. Here's how to play Dough Toss (share instructions below).
- Dough Toss Game Instructions:
- Divide into two teams: Team A and Team B.
- Kids will line up behind the tape line, alternating players from each team.
- The first player tosses a ball at a piece of bread.
- If the kid hits the bread, they earn the points shown on the card.
- Keep track of each team's score.
- The first team to reach 300 points wins.
- Play more rounds as time allows.

What You Say:

"Great game, everyone! Looking at that bread is making me hungry. Who here likes bread? (*Allow kids to respond.*) What are your favorite kinds-- rolls, bagels, sourdough? (*Allow kids to respond.*) Now I'm really hungry!! Today, we're going to learn about what bread has to do with God's Word. Let's *roll* out and hear more about it!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Bible Facts" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Bible Facts" on cardstock, one for every two kids.

During the Activity:

- Say, "Have you ever been watching a YouTube® video or streaming a show and an ad comes on? (*Allow kids to respond.*) How would you describe those ads? (*Allow kids to respond.*) Today, you are going to be the content creators AND the actors for an ad that promotes reading the Bible and its benefits. I'll have you break into groups of two or three to create this ad. You will have ten minutes to create the ad, and then you will act out your ad for the group."
- Have kids choose a partner or group to work with. Help lone kids find a partner or group.
- Hand out the "Bible Facts" Activity Page. Say, "Here are some Bible Facts to use if you need them."
- Remind the kids, "You'll be creating an ad that promotes reading the Bible and its benefits. Any questions?" (*Allow kids to respond.*) You have ten minutes to come up with your idea and prepare to act it out in front of the group. Go!"
- As kids work, walk around the room, giving guidance, support, or encouragement as needed.
- Give kids a heads up when they have five minutes of prep time remaining. Give another heads up when there are two minutes remaining.
- Gather the kids back together.
- Have groups share their ads, one group at a time.

What You Say:

"Those were some very convincing ads! And while some of our ads may have seemed lighthearted or silly, you were talking about something very important. So important that Jesus compared God's Word to 'daily bread' in Matthew 6:11 when He said, 'Give us this day our daily bread.'"

"Let's think about this comparison for just a minute. What do you think Jesus meant about God's Word when he called it 'daily bread'? Jesus was talking about daily meals, daily food. How many of you have skipped breakfast before? How did you feel by lunch time? Have any of you ever missed breakfast *and* lunch before? How did you feel around mid-afternoon? If you have ever missed meals for a whole day, you would know that you would feel extremely hungry, your energy would be very low, you may have a headache, and possibly be cranky. Missing your 'spiritual bread' known as God's Word, has consequences, too. You m

ay not notice much at first, but eventually, you become spiritually tired, unsettled, and cranky, too.

"The opposite is also true. When you consistently read God's Word to get to know Him, you get spiritually encouraged, grow in a relationship with God, and are filled with the joy and peace of knowing Him. This week, I want you to remember **[Bottom Line] I can learn to know God through the Bible.**"

Groups 3/5

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Bible Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Sticky notes	1
	Pens	1
	Wall tape	1
	Scissors	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Bible Scavenger Hunt" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Tape "Bible Scavenger Hunt" cards around the room.
- *Note: This particular activity was designed for up to six Small Groups to use the Bible Scavenger Hunt cards taped around the room. If you have more than six Small Groups in your room, consider dividing your room into several sections, each section with its own set of cards.*

During the Activity:

- *(Hold up a Bible)* Say "God's Word, the Bible, is filled with everything we need to know Him and to know how much He loves us. We're going to get to know the Bible a little more by completing a Bible Scavenger Hunt."
 - Direct kids to get into pairs or groups of 3. Help any kids who are not yet in a group find one.
 - Give each group of kids a stack of sticky notes, a pen, and a Bible.
 - Say, "There are Scavenger Hunt Cards around the room. Each card has instructions to find something in the Bible. You will use the sticky notes to write what you find and to mark that place in the Bible. There are eight cards total, and you will have 10 minutes to finish the scavenger hunt. Once you finish, come back here, and you'll have an opportunity to share what you find."
 - Have the kids move around the room to complete the Bible Scavenger Hunt.
 - Give kids time reminders when five minutes are remaining and two minutes are remaining.
 - Gather the kids back in the Small Group area. Go through the "Bible Scavenger Hunt" prompts, allow kids to share, and provide feedback, as needed:
 - Take two sticky notes and bookmark the Table of Contents. Write the answers to these questions on the sticky note: (A) How many books are in the Old Testament? (B) How many books are in the New Testament? (Answer: Old Testament- 39 books; New Testament- 27 books)
1. Find the first book in the Bible. Use a sticky note to bookmark it. (Answer: Genesis.)
 1. Find the last book of the Old Testament. Use a sticky note to bookmark it. (Answer: Malachi.)

1. The Gospels are the first four books in the New Testament. Use a sticky note to bookmark one of the Gospels. Be ready to share the names of these books. (Answer: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.)
1. Find a verse in the Bible where Jesus is speaking. Bookmark this verse and be ready to share. Hint: Jesus' life was chronicled in the four-book collection known as the Gospels. (Answer: *kids share the verse they chose.*)
1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 gives a list of attitudes or actions that describe love. Choose one of these attitudes or actions, write it on a sticky note, and bookmark this passage. Be ready to share. (Answer: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.")
1. Galatians 5:22-23 describes the "Fruit of the Spirit". Write on a sticky note one of these fruits and bookmark this passage. Be ready to share. (Answers: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.)
1. Find 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does this verse say Scripture is useful for? Write one on a sticky note and bookmark the passage. Be ready to share. (Answer: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.")

What You Say:

"Many people have a wrong idea about that Bible—that it is a rule book, a list of do's and don'ts. As you take time to explore the Bible more and more, you'll discover that the Bible is *not* a rule book at all. While it does contain God's law, that is only a small part of the Bible. The Bible is made up of different types of books. The first thirty-nine in the Old Testament tells the story of Creation, the Fall of Man, and God's great redemption plan to save His people and the world.

"The twenty-seven books of the New Testament tell of Jesus' birth, ministry, ultimate payment for sin on the cross, and Resurrection...and that's just the first four books of the New Testament called the Gospels. The rest of the New Testament helps Christians to clearly know how to live for God, encourages believers to persevere, instructs them to share their faith with others, and shares some details about the future when Jesus will come back, and all things will be made new.

"That's a whole lot right there! But if you read God's Word a little day-by-day, you can learn to know God through the Bible."

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example about how you have learned to know God through the Bible. Say something like "I used to think that God was like a strict principal or judge. When I messed up, I would feel guilty and shy to talk to Him. But as I was reading in Romans 8:1-2a, I read these words: "Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer under God's judgment. Because of what Christ Jesus has done, you are free." That means that God doesn't see my mistakes; He sees the freedom Christ claimed for me. Now, I can seek Him when I mess up, admit my mistake, and ask for the power He has given me through Jesus and His Spirit.)

Groups 2/5

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bibles

1

 Dice

1

EveryChild tips



- Have kids work in pairs to support one another.
- Groups 5/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 10:27 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.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Have kids circle up.
- Tell kids that they will each have a turn to say the Memory Verse. When it's their turn, they will roll a die to determine how they will say the Memory Verse. If it lands on the number...

1. Say the Memory Verse with a partner (they get to choose their partner).

1. Say Memory Verse solo.

1. Say the Memory Verse with the whole group.

1. Say the Memory Verse backwards (i.e. 27:10 John .me follow they and, them know I. voice my to listen sheep My).

1. Say the Memory Verse like a sheep.

1. Player's choice.

What You Say:

"That was great! This is such an important verse for us to know. One of the ways that we can know our Shepherd's voice is by knowing what He would say and what He wouldn't say. Jesus and the Holy Spirit will never say something that goes against Scripture. That's why it's important to remember that **[Bottom Line] I can learn to know God through the**

Bible. If you ever have questions, talk to a trusted grown-up, leader, or pastor, and they can help you understand more of what is in the Bible."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bible

1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:
- **[Conversation Starter] What do you want to hear from the Bible?**
- Do you have a favorite Bible story or verse in the Bible? What does this story/passage communicate about God to you?

Groups 4/5

What You Say:

2 Timothy 3:16-17. What do you think it means that "God has breathed life into all Scripture"? According to this verse, what are some things that Scripture (the Bible) is useful for?

What are the names of the books that make up the Gospels? (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*). Why do you think God gave us four different books to tell about Jesus' life here on earth?

What are some things you can do if you read a part of the Bible that seems confusing?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	"My Bible Plan" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Writing supplies	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "My Bible Plan" on paper, one per kid

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a "My Bible Plan" Activity Page and something to write with.
- Say, "This week our goal is to grow more in reading God's Word, the Bible. The best way to make progress towards any goal is to make a plan. We are going to use this "My Bible Plan" Activity Page to help us plan to read our Bible this week."
- Guide kids to complete each section of the "My Bible Plan" Activity Page. Kids may choose to fill in blanks or create another option as part of their plan.

What You Say:

"I encourage you to follow the plan you have made to read the Bible this week. Ask your parents for help finding a devotional or Bible app reading plan (if you have access to a device). When we read the Bible, you and **[Bottom Line] I can learn to know God through the Bible.** Let's pray."

Prayer:

"God, it's amazing that You want us to know You and have given us Your Word to get to know You. Thank You for the Bible and the freedom, instructions, and encouragement that Your Word gives us. Please help us to read Your Word every day so that we can receive all that You want to give us. Please give us understanding as we read Your Word and help us to know You better each day. We love You and pray for all these things 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
- "Points" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Cardstock, one piece per Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Slices of bread, five per Small Group
- Ping pong balls, five per Small Group
- Bucket, one per Small Group
- - Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Whiteboards, two per Small Group
- Dry-erase markers, two per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies

- *Certified gluten-free sliced bread, five slices per Small Group*

What You Do:

- Print "Points" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Place a tape line on one side of your Small Group area. Make the space behind the tape enough so that your Small Group can line up behind it.
- Lay a plastic tablecloth on the ground vertically, the nearest (short) end about 4 feet in front of the tape line.
- Place slices of bread in a vertical row on the tablecloth, spaced apart.
- Place a card from the "Points" Activity Page by each piece of bread in ascending order (10, 20, 30, 50, 100).
- Place ping pong balls in a bucket.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every two kids
- "Bible Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page, one set for every six Small Groups
- Sticky notes, ten for every two kids
- Pens, one for every two kids
- Wall tape, one roll for six Small Groups

Note: This particular activity was designed for up to six Small Groups to use the Bible Scavenger Hunt cards taped around the room. If you have more than six Small Groups in your room, consider dividing your room into several sections, each section with its own set of cards.

What You Do:

- - - Print "Bible Scavenger Hunt" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Tape "Bible Scavenger Hunt" cards around the room.

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Create**What You Need:**

- Bible, one for every two kids
- "Bible Facts" Activity Page, one for every two kids
- Cardstock, one piece for every two kids

What You Do:

- Print "Bible Facts" on cardstock, one for every two kids.

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect**What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Made to Play**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- Dice, one per Small Group

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Made to Reflect**What You Need:**

- "My Bible Plan" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Writing supplies, one per kid
- Parent+ App or Weekly Devotionals

What You Do:

- Print "My Bible Plan" on paper, one per kid.
- Make a plan to boost parents' connection with your organization's Parent+ App, if applicable. See "Home" below.

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: Certified gluten-free sliced bread

Supplies

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play

Quantity

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1. | Offering container | 1 |
| 2. | "Points" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. | Cardstock | Several |
| 4. | Plastic tablecloth | 1 |
| 5. | Sliced bread | 1 |
| 6. | Ping pong balls | 1 |
| 7. | - Floor tape | 1 |
| 8. | Whiteboards | 1 |
| 9. | Dry-erase markers | Several |
| 10. | Bucket | 1 |
| 11. | EveryChild Supplies: Certified gluten-free sliced bread | Several |

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Bibles | 1 |
| 2. | "Bible Facts" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. | Cardstock | Several |

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 1. | Bibles | 1 |
| 2. | Dice | 1 |

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 1. | Bible | 1 |
|----|-------|---|

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | "My Bible Plan" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. | Paper | 1 |
| 3. | Writing supplies | Several |

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore
Uses Minimal Supplies

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. "Bible Scavenger Hunt" Activity Page	1
3. Cardstock	Several
4. Sticky notes	1
5. Pens	1
6. Wall tape	1
7. Scissors	1

WEEK

THREE

Preteen | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2026, Week Three

Bible Story: The Vine and the Branches • *John 15:1-11*

Bottom Line: I can grow when I stay close to God.

Conversation Starter: What is standing in the way of you and Jesus?

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

- See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.
- In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

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

The Vine and the Branches • John 15:1-11

Conversation Starter

What is standing in the way of you and Jesus?

Bottom Line

I can grow when I stay close to God.

Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. • John 10:27 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Hula Hoops®	1
 Balls	Several
 Plastic cups	Several



EveryChild tips

- Carefully select the "Interference" so all kids can participate.
- Allow a kid to be the one to call out the "Interference."
- Groups**
- Creating a Safe Place to Connect**
- 25 minutes**
- Groups 1/5

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

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.
 - Divide kids into groups of four to six.
 - Explain Activity: Say "We are going to play a game where you will complete tasks as a group. There will be two challenges:
1. Your whole team must stay connected to a hula hoop while completing the task. If anyone lets go, you pause, reconnect, and then continue.
 1. I will randomly call out "Interference" and give you an extra challenge while you are completing a task."
 - Give each team a hula hoop and ask if they have any questions.
 - Instruct teammates to all be holding on to the hula hoop and announce one task at a time:
 - Give everyone on your team a high-five.
 - Take turns stepping into the middle of your hula hoop and lifting it over your head. *Interference: everyone closes one eye*
 - Go to a wall, touch it, and return to your original spot. *Interference: Hop on one leg*
 - Everyone on your team lies flat on the ground. *Interference: no talking allowed*
 - Move a ball from one side of the Small Group area and back. *Interference: no hands allowed except for holding the hula hoop.*
 - Stack cups. *Interference: Only one person on your team can move at a time. (Note: make sure each group has access to their supply of cups)*

What You Say:

"You all did a great job completing your tasks while staying connected. How hard was it to stay connected? (*Allow kids to answer.*) What about when there was "Interference"? Today's Bible Story is all about staying connected even when distractions try to interfere. Let's go find out more!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bible	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Writing supplies	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Say "I am going to have you work in groups to make a list. I want you to think of as many items as possible that you use on a daily or weekly basis that require some sort of connection. It may be items that have to be plugged into outlets for electricity or items that need some sort of internet connection to work (or maybe both). I'm going to give you five minutes to think of as many of these as possible."
- Divide the kids into groups of four. Have the group decide who is going to be the Recorder for the group. The Recorder will write down the group's ideas.
- Give a piece of cardstock and a pen to each group's Recorder.
- Ask if the group has any questions. Answer questions to clarify the assignment.
- Have groups circle up and tell them they have five minutes.
- Set a timer. Give a one-minute heads up.
- Gather kids back together in the Small Group space. Have groups share their list of items. Allow kids to write down any additional items that they think of during this time.
- Say "Now, I want all of us to look over these items that require connection. Think about how your day or week would be impacted if these items could not connect to their power source or signal (i.e., electrical, gas, internet)." Allow kids to share. Prompt kids with ideas if they need help, such as "What if your dishwasher was not plugged in? How would it affect your life?"

What You Say:

"Sounds like our life would be really impacted if these things we depend on each day or week were not connected to their source of power. In our Bible Story today, Jesus taught about a strong connection that His followers should have with Him. He compared it to Him being a vine (like a grapevine) and His followers being the branches. The vine is a part of the plant that brings up nutrients from the ground and provides strong support for the plant. The branches can only exist by being connected to the vine. If the branches remain connected, they will produce fruit—specifically grapes! But, there are things in life that can cause us to become disconnected from Jesus...things like focusing on if we have the latest and greatest stuff, or an overabundance of entertainment (such as shows or too much time on video games)."

Read John 15:5-11. Say "Jesus is very clear in verse 5 that we cannot do anything without Him. He is our source of power to know God, follow God, and accomplish the important work that God has for us. Also, verses 8-10 tell us of the good things we receive when we remain connected to Jesus—we receive the love that He has for us (and He loves us so much!). We also receive the joy that He wants to give us. He calls it "complete joy" which means it's a joy that satisfies."

"Today's Bible Story about the Vine and the branches, reminds me that **[Bottom Line] I can grow when I stay close to God.**"

Groups 3/5

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

What You Need

	Bible	1
	"Dimmer Switch" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Flashlight	1
	9V batteries	1
	Mini lightbulbs	1
	Mini lightbulb holders	1
	Insulated wires with alligator clips	1
	Pencils	1
	Sandwich-sized resealable plastic bags	1
	Pocket knife or utility knife	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do

Print "Dimmer Switch" on cardstock (one for every four kids). "We've been talking about being connected today." Show the flashlight (off). "What kind of connection does this flashlight need to work?"

(Allow kids to respond.) "The light needs to connect to energy from the battery. When I move this switch (move the switch to turn on the flashlight), it creates a complete circuit so that the energy can flow freely to the lightbulb, and the lightbulb has what it needs to do its job. In just a minute, I'm going to give you a set of instructions and supplies to create what is known as a Dimmer Switch."

What You Say:

"Let's use what we know now about a Dimmer Switch to explore a little further what we talked about in our Bible Story today.

Read John 15:5. "Show me your dimmer switch with two of the alligator clips touching. (*The lightbulb should shine brightly.*) What happens when the clips are connected? (*The lightbulb shines brightly.*)"

"Now, put the clips touching the lead of the pencil, and the tips only slightly apart. Now, distance them further apart on the pencil lead. Now, distance them further apart on the lead. Now, distance them as far apart as they can go while still touching the pencil lead. What happened as they moved apart? (*The light dims.*) Jesus said, 'If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.' Just like the light dims when it moves away from its energy source, our ability to grow our fruit--which would be loving God and loving others--gets weaker when we drift away from Jesus or let distractions get in the way."

Read John 15:7-8. "Notice what Jesus says in this passage. He says, 'If you remain joined to me and *my words* remain in you'...let's stop right there. Where do we find Jesus' words? (*Scripture/the Bible.*) Jesus leaves us a big clue right here on how to remain connected to Him. His Word. It's not the only way, but reading and knowing God's Word, the Bible, keeps us lined up with knowing Him and living in a way that reflects Him. This scripture comes with a promise...if we remain joined to Him, we can ask for anything we wish, and it will be done for us. This isn't a genie-in-a-bottle type of situation. God knows that when we remain in

Him, we want what He wants, and we desire the things that line up with His plans for our lives.

"Remember, **[Bottom Line]** **I can grow when I stay close to God.** Staying close to God connects us to everything we need to grow in Him so that we can do the good things He has planned for us."

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you noticed that distractions were getting in the way of your connection with God. For example, you could share something like "One of the ways I try to stay close to God is by reading my Bible in the morning. I notice that if I start scrolling on my phone at night too late or get into a show that goes way past my bedtime, I feel really sleepy in the morning, and it can impact if I wake up and read my Bible or if I can really understand what I'm reading if I'm too tired...")

Groups 2/5

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need



Bibles



Timer or phone timer

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 10:27 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

1

1

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.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Have kids form a circle, holding hands or elbows touching.
- Explain to the group that they will work together to say the Memory Verse one word at a time.
- Designate a kid to start the verse. That kid will say the first word of the verse, then hand-squeeze or elbow tap the kid to his left, who will say the next word of the verse. That kid will hand-squeeze or elbow tap the kid to his left, who will say the next word of the verse. This continues until the group has completed the verse.
- Time the group.
- The group will repeat the verse several times to see how quickly they can complete it.

What You Say:

"You did a great job staying connected and working together to see how fast you could complete our Memory Verse. Just like staying close to each other helped you complete this Memory Verse challenge, staying connected with God is important because you can grow when you stay close to God and **[Bottom Line] I can grow when I stay close to God.**"

Groups 5/5

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bible

1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:
- **[Conversation Starter]** What is standing in the way of you and Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to use a vine and branches to teach His followers to stay connected to Him?
- Why is it important to stay connected to Jesus?
- What can help you stay connected to Jesus?

Groups 4/5

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Create

What You Need

 Butcher paper	1
 Markers	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Say "Think about some distractions that could get in the way of spending time with Jesus and being connected to Him. I'm going to give you a few minutes to draw a picture of these distractions."
- Allow kids time to complete their drawings, giving a 2-minute heads up when it's time to finish up.
- Allow kids to share their drawings and expound on the distraction. If kids do not want to share, that is OK.

What You Say:

"Choose a distraction that you want to focus on removing this week. It can be one of these listed here or one that you are just thinking about. Let's ask God for help in overcoming this particular distraction this week. Let's pray."

Prayer:

"God, thank You for wanting to be close to us. Thank You for your never-ending love. We want to be close to You, too. Please help us to remove distractions that take our focus away from being connected with You. Thank You for hearing us. 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
- Hula Hoop®, one for every four to six kids
- Balls, one for every four to six kids
- Plastic cups, twelve for every four to six kids

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- "Dimmer Switch" Activity Page, one for every four kids
- Cardstock, one piece for every four kids
- Flashlight, one per Small Group
- 9V batteries, one for every four kids
- Mini lightbulbs, one for every four kids
- Mini lightbulb holders, one for every four kids
- Insulated wires with alligator clips, three for every four kids
- Pencils, one for every four kids
- Sandwich-sized resealable plastic bags, one for every four kids
- Pocket knife or utility knife, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Dimmer Switch" on cardstock, one for every four kids.
- Use the pocket or utility knife to shave down one side of a pencil to expose the graphite. Place the knife in another room, out of reach of kids.
- Create a Dimmer Switch Kit by placing the following in the resealable plastic bag: 9V battery, mini lightbulb, mini lightbulb holder, three alligator clips, pencil (with graphite exposed); one set for every four kids.

• - - - - -

- - - 2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, one piece for every four kids
- Writing supplies, one for every four kids

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect**What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Made to Play**What You Need:**

- Bibles, five per Small Group
- Timer or phone timer, one per Small Group

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Made to Create**What You Need:**

- Butcher paper, one per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per child

What You Do:

- Cut butcher paper into five five-foot lengths, one per Small Group.

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

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Hula Hoops®	1
3. Balls	Several
4. Plastic cups	Several

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Cardstock	Several
3. Writing supplies	Several

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. "Dimmer Switch" Activity Page	1
3. Cardstock	Several
4. Flashlight	1
5. 9V batteries	1
6. Mini lightbulbs	1
7. Mini lightbulb holders	1
8. Insulated wires with alligator clips	1
9. Pencils	1
10. Sandwich-sized resealable plastic bags	1
11. Pocket knife or utility knife	1

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Timer or phone timer	1

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bible	1

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Butcher paper	1
2. Markers	Several

WEEK

FOUR

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2026, Week Four

Bible Story: The Lord Calls Out to Samuel • 1 Samuel 3

Bottom Line: I can ask God to speak to me.

Conversation Starter: What are you going to ask God to speak to you about?

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 NIRV

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

The Lord Calls Out to Samuel • 1 Samuel 3

Conversation Starter

What are you going to ask God to speak to you about?

Bottom Line

I can ask God to speak to me.

Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. • John 10:27 NIRV

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Offering container

1

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

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.
- Introduce the game "Switch!"
- Have everyone stand in a circle.
- - Choose one kid to stand in the middle.
- Explain the rules:
- If the kid in the middle says "Switch," everyone must switch spots with someone else in the circle.
- If the kid in the middle says "Stay," no one moves.
- If the kid in the middle says "Jump," everyone jumps in place.
- If someone does the wrong action, they switch places with the kid in the middle.
- Play several quick rounds, encouraging the kid in the middle to say the commands quickly to make it more challenging.

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W**hat You Say:

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

25 minutes

Groups 1/5

What You Say:

"That got tricky fast! You had to listen closely and react quickly. Sometimes it was easy to know what to do, and sometimes it got confusing when things moved fast."

"Today's story includes a boy who heard something, but he did not understand it right away. It's going to be great!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bible	1
	"Samuel Story Script" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	Several
	Small megaphone	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Samuel Story Script" on cardstock, one per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Say "You are going to help act out today's Bible Story. I am going to read the Bible Story out loud. When I get to a specific action word and say that word through the megaphone (*show megaphone*), you will act out the word I say. Let's practice before we get started with the Bible Story:
- Read the following sentence to the kids, saying the word in bold through the megaphone: "*The basketball player **shot the ball** at the buzzer for the win!*"
- Say "Now that you have an idea of what to do, help me by acting out the Bible Story. Remember, your cue to act out an action is when I say a word through the megaphone.
- Use "Samuel Story Script" Activity Page to read the Bible Story aloud.

What You Say:

"That is some good acting there! Even though this was fun and playful, the events in this story really happened. One detail that is truly amazing is found in 1 Samuel 3:10. (*Have a kid read out this verse.*) This passage says that the LORD came and stood there and then called out to Samuel. Samuel was not even aware that the LORD was there. It's amazing that the very presence of the LORD can be with us even when we are not aware.

"When Samuel replied, 'Speak, I'm listening, God spoke aloud to Samuel with a message about Eli and his sons. While God does speak out loud sometimes, as He did to Samuel, He speaks most of the time to your heart through thoughts and images. It's like an inside, quiet voice. It takes paying attention and sometimes practice to recognize God's voice. Reading Scripture can also help us recognize God's voice.

"Remember this week, that **[Bottom Line]** I can ask God to speak to me. He wants to speak to you and give you what you need to follow Him for all of your life."

Groups 3/5

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bean bags

Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Have kids stand in a circle and take two steps back.
- Say "We are going to pass a bean bag around the circle, but there are a few rules."
- - Explain the rules:
 - - Before throwing the bean bag, say the name of the person you are throwing to.
 - The receiver must say, "I'm ready," before the bean bag is thrown.
 - - Once the group gets into a rhythm, additional bean bags will be added.
 - Model the activity by calling a kid's name and waiting for them to say, "I'm ready," before tossing the bean bag.
 - Instruct kids to keep the bean bag going.
 - Add a second bean bag when ready, then a third if the group can handle it.

What You Say:

"In this game, you heard your name and responded, 'I'm ready.' In our Bible Story, Samuel heard his name, but he was confused because he had never heard God's voice before. During this time, God did not speak to anyone. In fact, it had been quite a while since he had spoken to anyone. Samuel was not expecting it when God called his name while he was sleeping.

"When Samuel heard his name in the middle of the night, he logically thought Eli was calling him and ran to Eli. The first couple of times, Eli was not sure what was going on either, because he told Samuel to go back to bed. The *third* time God called, Eli realized that it might be God speaking to Samuel. He told Samuel to go back and lay down, and if someone called out to say, 'Speak, LORD, I'm listening.' Samuel did exactly what Eli had told him to do. He was ready this time to receive the LORD's message.

"When the LORD called to Samuel a fourth time, Samuel said, 'Speak, LORD, I'm listening.' In all of Israel, God had chosen a kid to give His message to. God gave Samuel a message for Eli. It was not an easy message, full of rainbows and unicorns. It was a message to Eli about the consequences his family would face because of the terrible things his grown sons had been doing. Samuel was trustworthy with the message G

od had given him, and he shared it with Eli when Eli asked him what the LORD had said. God continued to speak to Samuel for the rest of his life. He became an honest, devout prophet of the LORD, and obeyed God completely.

"Anyone who follows Jesus can hear from God, whether they're an adult or a kid. That's very exciting. That means that *you* can hear from God. Remember today that **[Bottom Line]** I can ask God to speak to me."

[Make It Personal] (Share an age appropriate story about a time when you have asked God to speak to you. Maybe it was a time when you needed direction about a decision or needed encouragement during a hard time. Say something like "A few years ago, I had a choice to make about staying with my same job or moving to a new job. I wasn't sure what the best decision was. I prayed and asked God to speak to me about what He would want me to do....").

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Groups 2/5

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bibles

1

 Bean bag

1



EveryChild tips

- Review the Memory Verse as a group several times before playing the game.
- Allow kids to ask a friend to say the verse with them.
- Groups 5/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 10:27 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.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Have kids stand in a circle, close enough to pass a bean bag around the circle.
- Say "We are going to play a 'Hot Potato' game to practice our Memory Verse. I will set a timer for a mystery amount of time (mystery to you that is) and say, 'Go.' You will pass the bean bag around the circle. When the timer goes off, whoever is holding the bean bag will say the Memory Verse. Then, I'll set the timer for a different time (which will be a mystery to you), and you will start passing the bean bag around the circle until the timer goes off, and whoever is holding it will say the verse. Any questions?"

What You Say:

"In our story today, Samuel did not recognize God's voice at first. God did not hold that against him. He kept calling Samuel's name until Samuel knew how to respond. The part of our Memory Verse in John 10:27, where it says, 'My sheep hear my voice...' is amazing to think about! You can start now by asking God to speak to you. He knows you're learning to hear from Him. During this learning phase, you can remember **[Bottom Line]** I can ask God to speak to me, and He will help you to learn to hear Him when He speaks."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bible

1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Ask these questions and discuss:
 - **[Conversation Starter]** What are you going to ask God to speak to you about?
 - What do you think Samuel was feeling and thinking....
1. when God was speaking to him?
 1. when he finally figured out it was God?
 1. when God gave him the message about Eli and his sons?
 1. What would you be thinking and feeling?
 - What might make it difficult to hear God when He is speaking?
 - What can you do to be ready for God to speak?

Groups 4/5

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Create

What You Need

 Cardstock	Several
 White crayons	Several
 Watercolors	Several
 Paintbrushes	1
 Plastic cups	Several
 Water	Several
 Paper towels	Several
 Scissors	1
 Plastic tablecloth	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Cut Cardstock into thirds, one third per kid.
- Fill each cup about two-thirds full with water.
- Spread out tablecloth.
- Place supplies in the middle of the Small Group area.

During the Activity:

- Direct each kid to take a piece of cardstock, a crayon, and a paintbrush.
- Instruct the kids to write their name or the **[Bottom Line] I can ask God to speak to me** on the cardstock using a white crayon (or they can do both). Tell kids they are going to need to press down firmly on their crayon or go over each letter again. Write your name on a piece of cardstock to model this for the kids.
- Place watercolors, cups of water, and paper towels around the Small Group area, within reach of kids. Every four to five kids will need two cups of water- one cup for getting brushes wet and one for rinsing paintbrushes.
- Model the following for your group:
- Dip your hand in the water and lightly drip water over the watercolors to prepare them for use.
- Wet your paintbrush by dipping it in the clean water cup.
- Dip your paintbrush in the watercolor of choice and paint over the crayon on your paper. (*Hint: The white crayon will show up with the watercolors in the background.*)
- To change colors, dip the paintbrush in the other cup of water, dry the brush with a paper towel, dip the brush in clean water, and choose your new watercolor.
- Direct kids to paint over their words with watercolors (they can paint their whole paper if they would like).

After the Activity:

- Instruct kids where to leave their paintings to dry.
- Have kids rinse off their paintbrushes, dry them with a paper towel, and place them in a designated area to dry.
- Select volunteers to dump water in a sink or to take water cups to a designated area.

What You Say:

"Samuel did not realize that God was standing right there in the Tabernacle while he was sleeping. When you wrote on this cardstock, it was not very visible that there was anything on it, but as you painted over it with watercolors, your writing appeared. God is always with you, even if you cannot see Him. Certain situations reveal His presence, such

as when you are reading the Bible and a phrase really jumps out at you or when you're listening to a worship song, and it really touches you. Those are moments when the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. Let's pray that we will sense when God is speaking to us and how we can respond to Him. Let's pray."

Prayer:

"God, thank You that You are always with us. We ask today that You speak to us and that we will obey You when You do. Thank you that You want to include us in Your work and that You have a special plan for us. Help us to always seek you. We pray these things 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

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bean bags, three per Small Group

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- "Samuel Story Script" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, one piece per Small Group
- Small megaphone, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Samuel Story Script" on cardstock, one per Small Group

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Made to Move**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- Bean bag, one per Small Group

5. Make It Personal with Prayer**Made to Create****What You Need:**

- Cardstock, one piece for every three kids
- White crayons, one per kid
- Watercolors, one set for every four to five kids
- Paintbrushes, one per kid
- Plastic cups, two cups for every four to five kids
- Water, several per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Paper towels, one per kid

What You Do

- Cut cardstock into thirds, one third per kid.
- Fill each cup about two-thirds full with water.
- Spread out tablecloth.
- Place supplies in the middle of the Small Group area.

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

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Offering container | 1 |

Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

- | | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Bible | 1 |
| 2. "Samuel Story Script" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. Cardstock | Several |
| 4. Small megaphone | 1 |

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

- | | Quantity |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Bean bags | Several |

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

- | | Quantity |
|-------------|----------|
| 1. Bibles | 1 |
| 2. Bean bag | 1 |

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

- | | Quantity |
|----------|----------|
| 1. Bible | 1 |

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Create

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Cardstock | Several |
| 2. White crayons | Several |
| 3. Watercolors | Several |
| 4. Paintbrushes | 1 |
| 5. Plastic cups | Several |
| 6. Water | Several |
| 7. Paper towels | Several |
| 8. Scissors | 1 |
| 9. Plastic tablecloth | 1 |