

WEEK

ONE

2-3s | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule— July 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: The Story of the Farmer • Matthew 13:1-23

God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Key Question: Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Watch It Grow

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse with Motions

Story Seeds

The Farmer's Song

Garden Crown

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

***Allergy Alert**



Bible Story

The Story of the Farmer • Matthew 13:1-23

God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Key Question

Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line

Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse

"Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

5 min

Watch It Grow | Made to Explore

What You Need

 Slinkies® (plastic ones are safest)

1



EveryChild tips

- A child can hold one end while a leader stretches the other, allowing them to see the effect even if they can't do it themselves.
- Use larger, junior-sized Slinkies that are easier for small hands to handle and less likely to tangle.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children on the floor with you.

During the Activity: Give each child a Slinky. Show them how it can be small and then stretch to "grow" big. Let them explore how the Slinky moves.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come sit on the floor with me. I have a fun, springy toy for us to play with today!"

During the Activity: "Look! Your Slinky is so small! (*Help them squish it tightly together.*) Now ... let's make it grow! Stretch it out! (*Pause.*) Wow! Look how big it grew! It started so small and stretched so big! Make it small again. (*Help them squish it tightly together.*) Now stretch it out to grow, grow, grow!"

After the Activity: "We made our Slinkies grow and grow! Jesus tells us stories to help us learn about God and His kingdom. Today we are going to hear a story that Jesus told to help us learn how God's kingdom grows and grows and grows!"

20 min

Groups

5 min

Memory Verse with Motions | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Creating a safe place to connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me! Let's learn our brand-new Memory Verse. It tells us about God's kingdom, and it goes like this: 'Put (*point up with two hands*) God's kingdom (*make a crown on head with hands*) first.' (*Hold up one finger.*) Matthew 6:33." (*Open hands like a book.*)

During the Activity: "Now, let's learn the motions! The first part says, 'Put.' Everyone, point up in the air with both hands. (*Point up.*) Great! The next part says, 'God's kingdom.' Make a crown with your hands over your head like this. (*Make a crown on head with hands.*) The next part says, 'first.' Point up with one finger. (*Hold up one finger.*) Super! And the last part says, Matthew 6:33. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's put it all together! Ready? 'Put God's (*point up with two hands*) kingdom (*make crown on head with hands*) first.' (*Hold up one finger.*) Matthew 6:33 (*open hands like a book*). Great job!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "You've got it! Our Memory Verse teaches us to put God's kingdom first. When we learn verses from the Bible, it helps us remember God's words all week long! When we are at the playground, we can remember to 'put God's kingdom first.' When we are at home, we can remember to 'put God's kingdom first.' When we are at the library, we can remember to 'put God's kingdom first.' I'm so glad we have the Bible and Jesus to teach us about God's kingdom. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."**

5 min

Story Seeds | Made to Play

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 Cardstock	4
 Pom-poms	1
 Basket	1
 Spring-loaded clothespins	Several



What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Story Seed" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Place the story mats on the floor, spread apart.

During the Activity: Gather the children around the mats with the basket of pom-pom "seeds." As you retell the simplified story, let children take turns tossing a few seeds onto the correct mat.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's act out the story Jesus told about the farmer! These pom-poms are our seeds, and these pictures show where they landed."

During the Activity: "First, Jesus said some seeds fell on the hard path! (Point to the path mat.) Let's toss some seeds there! (Let child toss pom-poms to the hard path mat.) Oh no! The birds came and ate them! Gobble, gobble! (Use the clothespin as your bird to "eat" the pom-poms by pinching them up in the clothespins.)

"Then, some seeds fell on the rocks! (Point to the rocks mat.) Let's toss some seeds there. (Let child toss pom-poms to the rock mat.) They started to grow, but it got too hot and there was no water. (Pretend to be a hot sun.) Some seeds fell in the thorns! Let's toss seeds there. (Let child toss pom-poms to the thorny mat.) The thorns grew bigger and the plants could not grow. But some seeds fell on the GOOD SOIL! Let's toss lots of seeds here! (Let child toss pom-poms to the good soil mat.) These seeds grew into big, strong, healthy plants! Hooray!"

After the Activity: "In the story Jesus told, Jesus said we want our hearts to be like the good soil. When we hear and DO what Jesus says, God's kingdom grows. When we love like Jesus, God's kingdom grows. When we share our toys, God's kingdom grows. When we say kind words to our friends, God's kingdom grows. Jesus teaches us so many good things. When we listen to Jesus and do what He says, God's kingdom grows! **[Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom. Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.**"

5 min

The Farmer's Song | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild tips

- For children with limited mobility, all actions can be done from a seated position. They can toss imaginary seeds from their chair or wheelchair with their hands.
- Focus on the simple, repetitive actions. For a child who is non-verbal or shy, enthusiastically doing the motions with the group is a perfect way to participate.
- Model each action with big, clear movements. The goal is imitation and fun, not perfect singing.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children in a circle in an open area of your room where they have space to move.

During the Activity: Sing the following words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" and do the motions.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and stand in a circle with me! I have a fun song for us to sing to help us remember today's Bible Story."

During the Activity: "The farmer in the story Jesus told planted lots of seeds! Let's pretend to be farmers. First, we need to get our seeds from our bag. (*Pretend to reach into a bag at your side.*) Now, let's toss the seeds all over the ground! (*Make a tossing motion with your hand.*) Great job! Listen to the words and watch what I do, then join in with me.

(*Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" and do the actions.*)

"The farmer sowed the seeds, *(pretend to toss seeds)
 The farmer sowed the seeds, *(pretend to toss seeds)
 Jesus teaches you and me, *(point up on Jesus, then point to friends and self)
 The farmer sowed the seeds." (*pretend to toss seeds*)

"Ready to try it with me? Great! Let's sing and do the motions.

"The farmer sowed the seeds, *(pretend to toss seeds)
 The farmer sowed the seeds, *(pretend to toss seeds)
 Jesus teaches you and me, *(point up on Jesus, then point to friends and self)
 The farmer sowed the seeds." (*pretend to toss seeds*)

"Yay! You are wonderful singers and farmers! Let's do it again! Get your seeds from your bag! Ready? Let's sing!" (*Repeat the song and actions several times with lots of energy.*)

After the Activity: "That was such a fun song! The farmer planted seeds, and our song helps us remember that Jesus teaches us. He teaches us all about God and God's big, wonderful kingdom. Jesus teaches us that if we listen and do what He says, God's kingdom grows and grows! We want our hearts to be like the good soil! Jesus is the best teacher! Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [*Bottom Line*] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."

5 min

Garden Crown | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	"Garden Crown Label" Activity Page'	1
	Avery Labels #5160 or equivalent	1
	Green grass bulletin board border	1
	Flower and fruit stickers	Several
	Stapler	1
	Clear tape	1
	Permanent marker	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Garden Crown Labels" on label paper, one label per child. Write each child's name on their border.

During the Activity: Measure the border around each child's head and cut to size. Encourage children to decorate their "good soil" by adding flower and fruit stickers. When finished, help them add the verse label. Then, staple the ends together with the staple closure facing out, then cover the staple closure(s) with a piece of tape.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our story says that seeds in good soil grow beautiful plants. Let's make a growing garden crown!"

During the Activity: "Here is your grassy crown. Let's make beautiful things grow in our good soil! Add lots of flower and fruit stickers. *(Allow time to decorate.)* Your crowns look like a beautiful garden! Now let's add our special Memory Verse sticker to remember to put God's kingdom first. *(Help add label.)* Let me make it into crown for you. *(Staple ends together and cover the staple closures with tape.)* Now you can wear it!"

After the Activity: "Look at your amazing garden crowns! They remind us that when we listen to Jesus, and do what He says, God's kingdom grows! We want our hearts to be like good soil. We want to listen to Jesus because He teaches us so many important things. When you listen to Jesus, and do what He says, God's kingdom will grow and grow. Jesus is a very good teacher! **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."**



Supplies

Watch It Grow | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Slinkies® (plastic ones are safest)	1

Story Seeds | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Cardstock	4
2. Pom-poms	1
3. Basket	1
4. Spring-loaded clothespins	Several

Garden Crown | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. "Garden Crown Label" Activity Page'	1
2. Avery Labels #5160 or equivalent	1
3. Green grass bulletin board border	1
4. Flower and fruit stickers	Several
5. Stapler	1
6. Clear tape	1
7. Permanent marker	1

WEEK

TWO

2-3s | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: The Parable of the Bags of Gold • Matthew 25:14-30

God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Key Question: Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

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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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Who Teaches Me?

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

The Parable of the Bags of Gold • Matthew 25:14-30

God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Key Question

Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line

Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse

"Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

5 min

Who Teaches Me? | Made to Play

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 Cardstock	1
 Scissors	1



EveryChild tips

- Keep the cards large and simple with clear, real-life photos.
- For very young toddlers, reduce to just two sets at a time to prevent overwhelm.
- Celebrate every match with excitement—"You found it!"
- Repeat the key phrase often: "Jesus teaches us about God's kingdom."

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Who Teaches Me" on cardstock and cut, two sets per Small Group. Lay all the picture cards face up on the table, mixed up and spread out so children can see them clearly.

During the Activity: Invite children to help you find the matching pairs. When a pair is found, collect it and briefly talk about what that person teaches us. Save the Jesus pair for last if possible.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit with me at the table. Look at all these picture cards! These are people who teach us things. Each of the cards has a match. Will you help me find them all?"

During the Activity: "Can you find the teachers? (*Help children look and match.*) Yay! You did it! Teachers teach us about all sorts of things, like letters and numbers! (*Set teacher cards aside.*) Can you find the doctors? (*Help children look and match.*) Yes! Doctors teach us about being healthy. (*Set doctor cards aside.*) Now ... can you find the pictures of Jesus? (*Help children make the match.*) Yes! That is Jesus! Hooray! These people (*hold up one teacher and one doctor card*) teach us different things. But Jesus (*hold up a Jesus card*) teaches us about God's kingdom."

After the Activity: "In today's Bible Story, we're going to hear a story that Jesus told to teach us about God's kingdom! I can't wait! Let's go hear all about it!"

20 min

Groups

5 min

#1 | Made to Create

What You Need

	Cardstock	1
	Jumbo craft sticks	1
	Crayons or dot markers	Several
	Large jewel stickers	5
	Masking tape	1
	Permanent marker	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "#1" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Say and do the motions to our Memory Verse.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color and decorate their number with crayons, dot markers, and jewel stickers. Talk about putting God first while they decorate.

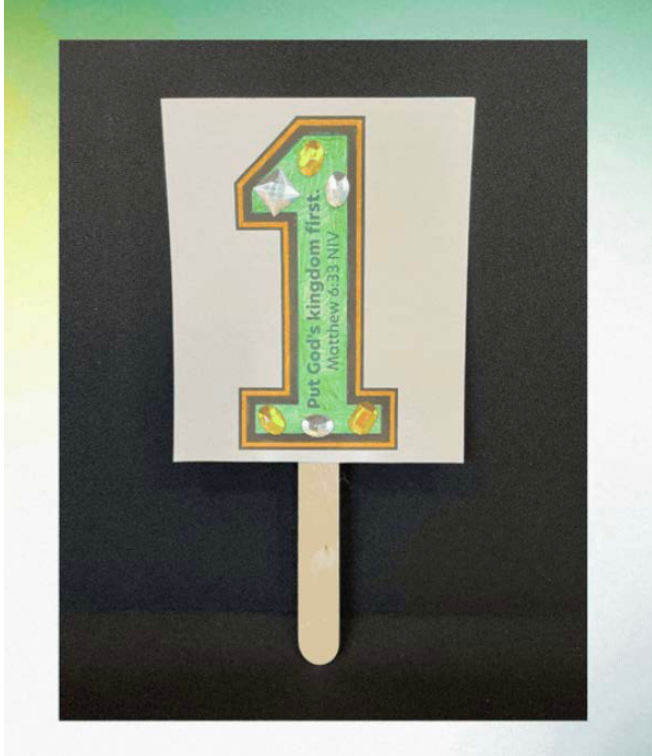
After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come join me over here and let's practice the motions as we say our Memory Verse together. Ready? 'Put God's (point up with two hands) kingdom (make crown on head with hands) first.' (Hold up one finger.) Matthew 6:33 (open hands like a book). Great job!"

During the Activity: "In our Bible Story, Jesus told us to use what God gives us. And our Memory Verse says, 'Put God's kingdom first.' That means God is number ONE! Look on your paper, that's a big number one you can color and add some jewel stickers. (Pause.) Now let's add a handle. (Tape a craft stick to the back of each child's paper.) Friends, show me your number ONE! (Pause.) Hold them high in the air and say the verse with me. 'Put God's kingdom FIRST' Matthew 6:33. Great job! One more time! 'Put God's kingdom FIRST' Matthew 6:33. You can take your number one home to remember our special Memory Verse."

After the Activity: "Your number ONE pictures look beautiful! Jesus teaches us to 'put God's kingdom first!' **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.**



5 min

Use What God Gave You | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children in an open space where they can move safely. Stand where everyone can see you and copy your motions.

During the Activity: Lead the children in simple motions while repeating short phrases. Keep it playful and energetic. Repeat several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come stand with me! In our Bible Story today, Jesus told a story about helpers who were given bags of gold. Two helpers used what they were given to earn more gold. One helper hid the gold."

During the Activity: "Friends, we are going to move around so listen to what I say and do what I do. Ready? Let's go!

"Clap your hands, wave your hands. (*Clap and wave your hands.*)

God gave you hands so you can help.

Stomp your feet, shake your feet. (*Stomp and shake your feet.*)

God gave you feet so you can go and tell people about Jesus.

Can you make funny sounds with your mouth? Can you shout hooray? (*Whoop and shout hooray.*)

God gave you a mouth and you can use it to say kind words.

"Great job! When we use what God gave us, we can grow God's kingdom! Yay! Clap your hands, wave your hands. God gave you hands so you can help. Stomp your feet, shake your feet. God gave you feet so you can go and tell people about Jesus. Make a funny sound with your mouth, shout hooray. God gave you a mouth, and you can use it to say kind words. When we use what God gave us, we can grow God's kingdom! Hooray!"

After the Activity: "You used your hands! You used your feet! You used your mouth! Jesus told the story about the bags of gold because He wants us to use what we have to help God's kingdom grow. You may not have bags of gold, but you are wonderfully made by God! You can show God's love to others in many ways. Maybe you can use your mouth to say kind words to cheer someone up. Maybe you can use your hands to help. Maybe you can use your feet to go and tell someone about Jesus. Jesus teaches us all about God's kingdom. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.**"

5 min

Shine Your Light | Made to Move

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild tips

- If a child is non-verbal, participation through motions is perfect.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather the children in a circle in an open area of your room where they have space to move.

During the Activity: Show children how to hold up one finger as their "light." Sing the following words to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine" together. Use simple motions and repeat often. Emphasize "don't hide it" to connect to the story.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come stand with me! In our Bible Story today, Jesus told a story about helpers who were given gold. Two helpers used what they were given. One helper hid his gold. We don't want to hide what God gives us. We don't want to cover it up! We are going to sing about shining our light!"

During the Activity: "Listen to the words and watch what I do, then join in with me."

(Sing "This Little Light of Mine" and do the motions.)

"Hold up one finger. This is your light!"

(Sing slowly with motions.)

"This little light of mine, *(hold one finger up)*
 I'm gonna let it shine! *(wiggle finger)*
 This little light of mine, *(hold one finger up)*
 I'm gonna let it shine! *(wiggle finger)*
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! *(Hold one finger up.)*

"Hide it in the ground? NO! *(Cover finger with other hand, then quickly uncover.)*
 I'm gonna let it shine! *(Lift finger high.)*

Hide it in the ground? NO! *(Cover finger with other hand, then quickly uncover.)*
 I'm gonna let it shine! *(Lift finger high.)*

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!" *(Hold one finger up.)*

"You did a great job shining your light! We don't want to hide it, no!"
(Repeat as time and interest allow.)

After the Activity: "God wants us to use what we have to help God's kingdom grow! God gives you hands to help. God gives you a mouth to say kind words. Jesus teaches us how we can use what we have to grow God's kingdom! **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."**

5 min

Kingdom Builder Bag | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Cardstock	1
	Avery Labels #22807 or equivalent	0
	Crayons	Several
	Permanent marker	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Kingdom Builder Bag" on cardstock, one per child. Print "Kingdom Builder Stickers" on Avery Labels #22807 or equivalent, one set per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate their paper with crayons. Then, talk about the different stickers and how we can use our hands, feet, and mouths to help God's kingdom grow. Let them add the stickers to their bag.

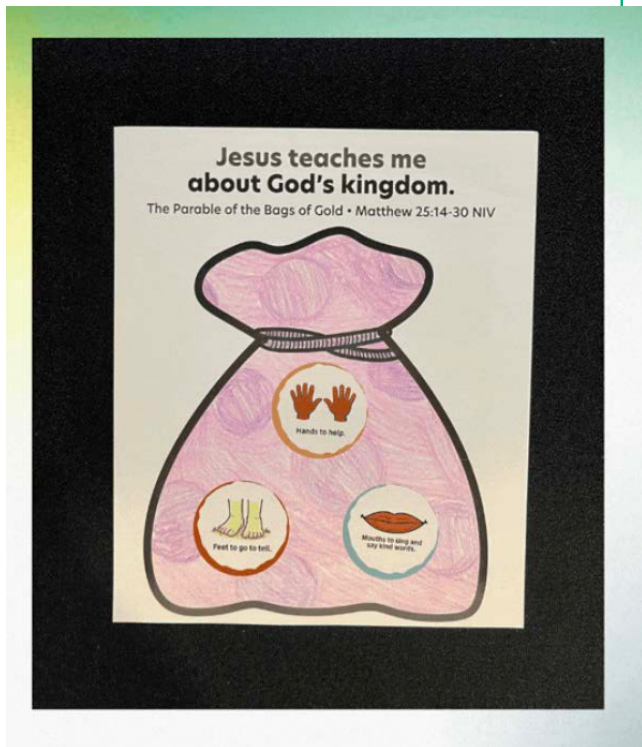
After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Jesus teaches us that we can grow God's kingdom! In the story He told about the helpers and the bags of gold, Jesus taught us to use what we have to grow God's kingdom. Let's make a special bag to remind us of all the ways we can help grow God's kingdom."

During the Activity: "First, you can color your bag. (Allow time.) Great! Now let's look at these stickers. This sticker shows hands helping. God gave us hands we can use to help! Let's put this sticker on your bag. (Pause.) This sticker shows a mouth singing. God gave us mouths to sing songs to Him! Let's put this sticker on your bag. This sticker shows feet walking. God gave us feet to go and tell people about Him! Let's put this sticker on your bag. (Pause.) Your Kingdom Builder Bags look super special! You can take these home to remember all the ways you can use what God gave you to make His kingdom grow."

After the Activity: "Remember, God made you wonderful and He gave you special gifts. You can use your gifts to share God's love wherever you go. Jesus teaches us about God's kingdom. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.**"



Supplies

#1 Made to Create	Quantity
1. Cardstock	1
2. Jumbo craft sticks	1
3. Crayons or dot markers	Several
4. Large jewel stickers	5
5. Masking tape	1
6. Permanent marker	1

Kingdom Builder Bag Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*	Quantity
1. Cardstock	1
2. Avery Labels #22807 or equivalent	0
3. Crayons	Several
4. Permanent marker	1

WEEK

THREE

2-3s | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • Matthew 18:21-35

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Key Question: Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

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Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Let's Count to Seven!

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Forgiving Heart Suncatcher

Feelings Story Time

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

The Servant Who Had No Mercy • Matthew 18:21-35

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Key Question

Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line

Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse

"Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

15 min

Social

5 min

Let's Count to Seven! | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild tips

- Choose actions that everyone in the group can do. Waving arms, stomping feet, or making a silly face are great options.

Providing time for fun interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather children in an open space.

During the Activity: Lead the children in doing different actions while counting to seven.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello, friends! Let's play a counting game! We are going to count to seven!"

During the Activity: "First, let's CLAP seven times! Clap as I count! One, two, three, four, five, six, seven! Yay! Now, let's JUMP seven times! Jump as I count. Ready? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven! Great jumping! Okay, now let's TURN AROUND seven times! Turn around as I count. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven! Whoa, that was fun but made me a little dizzy! Great job, friends!"

After the Activity: "You did a great job moving as we counted seven times. In our Bible Story, someone asks Jesus if He should forgive seven times. That's a lot! Let's go hear what Jesus said."

20 min

Groups

5 min

Forgiving Heart Suncatcher | Made to Create

What You Need

	Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent	1
	Paper plates (round or heart-shaped)	1
	Clear Con-Tact® paper	1
	Tissue paper squares in a variety of colors	Several
	Yarn	1
	Scissors	1
	Hole punch	1
	Permanent marker	1



Creating a safe place to connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Forgiving Heart Suncatcher Label" on label paper, one label per child. Cut a large heart shape out of the center of each paper plate. Cut Con-Tact paper in squares, about an inch larger than the opening on the plate, one per child. Attach Con-Tact paper to the back of the plate so the sticky side appears through the heart opening. Punch a hole at the top of each child's plate. Cut yarn into 18-inch lengths, one per child. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole in each child's plate and knot the ends together. Write each child's name on their plate. Say and do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity: Give each child a plate and encourage them to place tissue paper squares on the sticky part inside the heart shape. When finished, ask children to add their Memory Verse label to the plate. Say and do the motions to the Memory Verse together one more time.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over here and let's do the motions as we say our Memory Verse together. Ready? 'Put God's (point up with two hands) kingdom (make crown on head with hands) first.' (Hold up one finger.) Matthew 6:33 (open hands like a book). Great job!"

During the Activity: "Come sit down at the table! Today, we are going to make a heart suncatcher. The inside of your heart right here is sticky. (Point.) Fill your heart with lots of different colored pieces of tissue paper. (Allow time.) Wow! So pretty! Add this label to your plate. (Pause.) It has our Memory Verse written on it. Let's say our verse together one more time as we do the motions. 'Put God's (point up with two hands) kingdom (make crown on head with hands) first.' (Hold up one finger.) Matthew 6:33 (open hands like a book). Great job."

After the Activity: "When we forgive, we show God's love and His kingdom grows. Forgiving is one way to 'Put God's kingdom first.' Jesus, thank You for teaching us how to forgive. Jesus teaches us the best things. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."**

5 min

Feelings Story Time | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Cardstock

1

 Scissors

1



Crown



Happy



Sad



Worried



Upset



Red Heart

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Feelings Story Time" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
Gather the children in a circle.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible Story using very short sentences. Show an emoji each time you describe how someone felt. Encourage children to copy the face.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come sit with me! I have a fun way for us to review today's Bible Story."

During the Activity: "Jesus told a story about a king. (Hold up the crown emoji.) One man owed the king LOTS of money. The man felt worried. (Hold up the worried emoji and make a worried face.) Show me a worried face. (Pause.) The man said, 'Please give me time!' The king felt love. (Hold up the heart emoji.) The king was kind and forgave him. That made the man feel happy! (Hold up the happy face emoji.) Show me a happy face! (Pause.)"

"But then that man found someone who owed him a little money. That person felt worried. (Hold up the worried emoji.) But the man was not as kind as the king. He felt upset. (Hold up the upset emoji and make an upset face.) Show me an upset face. The man did not forgive. When the king heard about it, he felt upset. (Hold up the upset/upset emoji.)"

After the Activity: "Jesus told this story to teach us something very important. God is kind. (Hold up the heart emoji.) God forgives us. (Hold up the heart emoji.) When we forgive, God's kingdom grows! If someone breaks your toy, you can forgive. If someone won't share, you can forgive. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.**"

Supplies

Forgiving Heart Suncatcher Made to Create		Quantity
1.	Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent	1
2.	Paper plates (round or heart-shaped)	1
3.	Clear Con-Tact® paper	1
4.	Tissue paper squares in a variety of colors	Several
5.	Yarn	1
6.	Scissors	1
7.	Hole punch	1
8.	Permanent marker	1

Feelings Story Time Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*		Quantity
1.	Cardstock	1
2.	Scissors	1

WEEK

FOUR

2-3s | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up • Luke 18:1-8

God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Key Question: Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Listen!

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Parachute Praise

God Loves You Everywhere

Helping Hands

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up
• Luke 18:1-8

God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up.

Key Question

Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line

Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse

"Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

5 min

Talk Time | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 A variety of toy phones	Several
 Old phones	Several
 Toy walkie-talkies	Several



EveryChild tips

- Model the play by simply holding the phone to your ear and smiling. A child can participate even without speaking.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Disconnect the cords and wipe down the old phones. Place the phones on a mat or low table for children to explore.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to pick up the phones and pretend to talk. You can sit with them and pretend to have a conversation through another phone.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and play with me! Look at all these phones. We can use them to talk to people we love."

During the Activity: "Ring, ring! Hello? (Hold a phone to your ear.) Is [Child's name] there? Hi! I love you! Beep boop beep! Let's call Grandma! Hi, Grandma! It's so fun to talk, talk, talk! We can talk to our friends and family anytime we want. And we can talk to God anytime we want, too! That's called praying."

After the Activity: "Talking on the phones and walkie-talkies was so much fun! Our story today teaches us that we can talk to God anytime, about anything, and we should never stop talking to Him. Let's go hear it!"

5 min

Parachute Praise | Made to Move

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 Parachute	1
 Ball pit balls	Several
 Container or basket	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place ball pit balls into a container and place them near the parachute. Encourage children to stand around the parachute and hold the handles (or edge).

During the Activity: Begin shaking the parachute gently. Explain that each time we say something true about God, we will add a ball pit ball to the parachute.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand around the parachute and grab the handle/edge!"

During the Activity: "Are you ready, friends? Gently shake the parachute! God is good! (Add one ball pit ball.) Say it with me, God is good! God loves us. (Add another ball pit ball.) Say it with me, God loves us. Keep shaking the parachute! God helps us! (Add another ball pit ball.) Say it with me, God helps us. Keep shaking the parachute! We can pray and talk to God! (Add another ball pit ball.) Say it with me, we can pray and talk to God! Keep shaking!" (Continue as time and interest allow.)

After the Activity: "Wow! Look at all the true things we learned about God. God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up. We can pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything! **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."**

5 min

God Loves You Everywhere | Made to Move

What You Need

 Cardstock

1

 Painter's tape

1



EveryChild tips

- Keep movements slow and simple for safety.
- If running is too much, replace with marching or big steps.
- For children with limited mobility, let them point to the picture while you move closer together.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "God Loves You Everywhere" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Tape the pictures around the room at child's height. Gather children in the center of the room.

During the Activity: Call out a way to move (crawl, walk, run carefully) as you lead the children to the pictures. When you arrive at each picture, say the simple phrases together: "God loves you here" and "You can talk to God here." Continue moving to each picture in different ways.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me. (*Stand in the middle of your activity area.*) There are pictures of different places we can talk to God all around the room. We are going to play a game where we move to each picture in a different way."

During the Activity: "We can talk to God anywhere! Let's go to all these different places around the room and remember God loves us everywhere! Let's crawl to the house! (*Crawl together.*) God loves you here at the house. You can talk to God here! Now let's walk to the school! (*Walk together.*) God loves you here at school. You can talk to God here! Now let's run to the playground! (*Run together.*) God loves you here at the playground. You can talk to God here! Do you see the picture of the bed? (*Pause.*) Tiptoe to the bed! God loves you at bedtime, and you can talk to God here. (*Continue to each picture with different movements as time allows.*) God loves you at home. God loves you at school. God loves you everywhere!"

After the Activity: "Jesus told the story about the woman who wouldn't give up because He wants us to know that God is not like the judge in the story. God is good, and God always cares for His people. We can pray and talk to God, and never give up, and He will help us. And we know this because Jesus teaches that when we pray and don't give up, God's kingdom grows. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom?** **[Bottom Line]** Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom."

5 min

Helping Hands | Made to Create

What You Need

 Cardstock	1
 Washable ink pads	Several
 Baby wipes	1
 Permanent marker	1



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

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Helping Hands" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Place the ink pads and baby wipes on the table.

During the Activity: Allow children to pick the ink color they want to use for their handprints. Help each child gently press their hand onto the ink pad. Then guide them to press their hand firmly onto one side of the paper to make a handprint. Clean hands. Help ink the other hand and press on the other side of their paper. Clean hands.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come to the table, friends! Today we are going to make helping handprints!"

During the Activity: "Pick the color(s) you want to make your handprints. (Pause.) Okay [child's name], press your hand in the ink. Now press your hand on the paper. (Guide child's hand.) Lift your hand up and look at your beautiful, wonderfully made handprint! Let's clean your hand, and we'll make a handprint of your other hand. Press your hand in the ink. Now press your hand on the paper. (Guide child's hand.) Lift your hand up, ta-dah! (Clean this hand.) God gave you hands. You can use your hands to help. Jesus teaches us that when we use what God's given us, God's kingdom grows."

After the Activity: "Look at all these helping hands! God gave you hands to help. God gave you hands to share. God gave you hands to love. Jesus teaches us that when we use what God gives us, we can make God's kingdom grow. **Who teaches you about God's kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.**"

Supplies

Parachute Praise | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Parachute	1
2. Ball pit balls	Several
3. Container or basket	1

God Loves You Everywhere | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Cardstock	1
2. Painter's tape	1

Helping Hands | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Cardstock	1
2. Washable ink pads	Several
3. Baby wipes	1
4. Permanent marker	1