

WEEK

ONE

K-3 | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 1

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

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

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Act It Out (K-1st grade), Don't Throw the Ball (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Growing Straw Wrappers (K-1st grade), What Kind of Soil Are You? (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions (K-1st grade), Illustrate the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

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

Bottom Line

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

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

5 min

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Cardstock	1
 Scissors	1
 Clear tape	1
 Large paperclip	1
 Metal brad	1
 Floor tape	1
 Option 1: Twister® board game in place of the "Garden Twister" and "Garden Twister Spinner" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, clear tape, large paperclip, metal brad, and floor tape	1
 Option 2: Construction paper: red, yellow, green, and blue (6 sheets of each) in place of the "Garden Twister" Activity Page	24
 EveryChild Supplies: Tray or table	1



EveryChild tips

- Allow a kid to be the spinner.
- Elevate the game to a tray or table. Place the pictures so a kid can participate by touching the picture as the fruit/vegetable is called.

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Garden Twister" on cardstock, six sets per Small Group.
- Print "Garden Twister Spinner" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Cut the arrow from the side of the "Garden Twister Spinner," and attach by taping the arrow to the top of the paperclip. Insert the brad from the bottom up through the board and spinner, bending the ends of the brad outward to secure it on top of the spinner.
- On the floor, create a column with each fruit/vegetable. For the first column, lay the apple pictures (red papers) in a line with a few inches in between each picture. Move over a few inches, and create the next column with the corn pictures (yellow papers). Move over a few inches, and create the third column with the green bean pictures (green papers). Then, complete your game board with the final column of blueberry pictures (blue papers).
- Secure each picture to the floor with floor tape.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Welcome the kids to the "garden."
- Say, "What do you see in our garden? (Pause for responses.) Farmers plant many fruits and vegetables. These are just a few, so we can play a super fun game!" (Point to the pictures/colors on the floor: apples/red, corn/yellow, green beans/green, blueberries/blue.)
- Explain how to play the game: When you spin the arrow, you'll call out the fruit/vegetable it lands on and say which hand or foot to place on that picture/color.

What You Say:

"Phew! That was fun and pretty tricky. Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told to teach us about God and His kingdom. Jesus explained that the soil is like our hearts. When we're the 'good soil,' we don't just hear what God says, we do what He says.

"When you listened to my instructions in the game, like, 'Put your hand on the yellow corn,' you had to move and do it, right? If you just stood there, you wouldn't be playing the game! It's the same with God. **[Bottom Line]** God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says. Let's go hear more!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Don't Throw the Ball | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bible	1
	Floor tape	1
	Construction paper	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Place a line of tape on the floor in the middle of your area to divide your space.

During the Activity:

- Open your Bible to Matthew 13:1-23, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Review the story with the kids by sharing these main points:
 - Jesus was teaching about God's kingdom, and He told this parable, or story, about a farmer.
 - The farmer scattered some seed on the ground.
 - The seed fell in four different types of places on the ground.
 - None of the seeds grew well, except those that fell on the good soil.
 - The seeds that grew in good soil produced a huge harvest!
 - Jesus told this story to show that when people hear God's message about His kingdom and understand it, they produce way more than He planted!
- Divide the kids into two groups, and instruct them to stand on either side of the tape line facing each other.
- Hand each kid a piece of paper, and instruct them to crumple it tightly.
- Say: "Everyone, look at your hand. You are holding a seed! In our Bible Story today, Jesus talked about a farmer planting seeds like these."
- Explain the rules of the game: Kids can't throw (plant) the seed until they hear you say the key word or words.
- Say: "First, I need you to be still like scarecrows until you hear the word 'PATH.' Are you ready? Listen closely."
- Read the following slowly:
 - Say: "While Jesus was on earth, so many people heard Him teach. One day, as Jesus was teaching along the Sea of Galilee, He told this story."
 - Say: "A farmer went out to plant his seed. He scattered the seed on the ground" (Matthew 13:3b-4a NIV).
 - Say: "Some fell on a PATH. Birds came and ate it up" (Matthew 13:4b NIV).
- Say: "Throw your seeds into the garden on the other side! (Pause.) Great job! The seeds are scattered. Now, pick up a seed on your side, and hold it until you hear the key words. This time, listen for the words 'ROCKY PLACES.'"

- Say: *"Some seed fell on ROCKY PLACES, where there wasn't much soil. The plants came up quickly ... When the sun came up, it burned the plants" (Matthew 13:5-6a NIV).*
- Say: *"Throw your seeds into the garden on the other side! (Pause.) Great job! The seeds are scattered. Now, pick up a seed on your side, and hold it until you hear the key word. This time, listen for the word 'THORNS.'"*
- Say: *"Other seed fell among THORNS. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants" (Matthew 13:7 NIV).*
- Say: *"Throw your seeds into the garden! (Pause.) Great job! The seeds are scattered. Now, pick up another seed from your side, and hold it until you hear the key words. This time, listen for the words 'GOOD SOIL.'"*
- Say: *"Still other seed fell on GOOD SOIL. It produced a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than what was planted" (Matthew 13:8 NIV).*

What You Say:

"In the Bible Story, Jesus explained that the 'seed' is God's truth, and the 'soil' is our heart. The path is the people who don't understand. The rocky soil is people who accept God's truth but quit when things get hard. The thorny soil is people who worry too much about other things. And the good soil is the people who HEAR the message and UNDERSTAND it.

"Just like you listened to me, so you knew when to throw your seeds, we have to listen to God. Over time, as you continue to listen to God and follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit will grow fruit, the good fruit of God's kingdom, in your life. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says."**

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – What Kind of Soil Are You? | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Cardstock

4

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "What Kind of Soil Are You?" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the four pictures in the middle of your group: two on the top, two on the bottom.
- Review what each picture means from the Bible Story.
- Explain that you will read a short sentence, and they need to slap the picture that matches the "heart" in the story.
- Read the following simple scenarios:
 - "Jayden isn't listening to his mom." (*Hard path*)
 - "June shares her toy with a friend." (*Good soil*)
 - "Zoe starts to clean her room, but then stops to play." (*Rocky soil*)
 - "Amari gives his dad a big hug." (*Good soil*)
 - "Carson is distracted by worries instead of relying on God to help." (*Thorny soil*)
 - "Luke is honest when it would be easier to lie." (*Good soil*)
- After each one, briefly and simply explain why it matches.
- End by asking: "Which soil do we WANT to be? Slap the picture of the soil we want to be!" (Have everyone slap the "good soil" picture!)

What You Say:

"The good news is that each of us can become good soil! You can ask God to soften your heart so His words will take root and grow in your life. When you're sad or afraid or frustrated, you can ask God for help and trust that He's always with you so your heart doesn't become hard or bitter. Over time, as you continue to listen to and follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit will grow good fruit in your life. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. As you have soft hearts and listen to God, He will grow His good fruit in you.

"And as you live out that fruit God will grow in you—as you're kind, or loving, or honest—you're saying: 'Hey, look! This kingdom is awesome! The King who reigns over it is kind, loving, and honest—just like I was. He loves you and wants you to follow Him as King and be your friend. Do you want to be a part of God's kingdom too? You can! The Bible says that everyone who accepts what Jesus did on the cross for their sins is welcomed into God's kingdom—and God's family—with open arms!'

"When you live like Jesus, you are showing the world God's good kingdom! ***[Bottom Line]*** God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says."

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Illustrate the Story | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Permanent marker	1
	Posterboard	3
	Coloring supplies	Several
	Wall tape	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- On each piece of posterboard, write the following words from the Memory Verse:
- Posterboard 1: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking.
- Posterboard 2: It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy.
- Posterboard 3: All this comes through the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17 NIV)

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible, and direct them to look up Romans 14:17.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat 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.
- Group kids into three groups.
- Assign one of the Memory Verse posterboards to each group to illustrate.
- Posterboard 1: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking.
- Posterboard 2: It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy.
- Posterboard 3: All this comes through the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17 NIV)
- Once the illustrations are complete, hang them up on the wall.

What You Say:

"We used what we had to create a beautiful illustration of our Memory Verse. We'll leave it up all month as a reminder that: *God's kingdom is n*

ot about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit' (Romans 14:17 NIV). God's kingdom is full of good things because God, the King, is so good! **[Bottom Line]** God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says."

5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	Clear cup or jar	1
	Tray	1
	Water	1
	Plastic spoon	1
	Baking soda	1
	Popcorn kernels	1
	Cold white vinegar	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Place the cup/jar on the tray.
- Pour one cup of water into the cup/jar.
- Mix one teaspoon of baking soda into the water.

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid one popcorn kernel to hold.
- Say: "This little seed reminds us of the seeds in our Bible Story. We want our hearts to be good soil, ready for God's words to grow."
- Say: "Let's prepare our soil." (*Slowly add the vinegar to the water and baking soda mixture—you may not need the entire cup of vinegar to create the desired effect.*)
- Tell them you will pray, and when you're done, they can put their seed in the cup as their way of telling God, "I want to listen to You."
- Lead the group in a simple prayer.
- Pass the cup around, and let each kid drop their seed in.

What You Say:

"Let's pray and ask God to help us be like the good soil so we can point to God's kingdom!"

Getting Ready | 23

Small Group

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- "Garden Twister" Activity Page, six sets per Small Group
- "Garden Twister Spinner" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, twenty-five pieces per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Clear tape, one roll per Small Group
- Large paperclip, one per Small Group
- Metal brad, one per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- *Option 1: Twister® board game in place of the "Garden Twister" and "Garden Twister Spinner" Activity Pages, cardstock, floor tape, scissors, metal brad, large paperclip, and clear tape*
- *Option 2: Construction paper: red, yellow, green, and blue (6 sheets of each) in place of "Garden Twister" Activity Page*

EveryChild Supplies:

- Tray or table

What You Do:

- Print "Garden Twister" on cardstock, six sets per Small Group.
- Print "Garden Twister Spinner" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Cut the arrow from the side of the "Garden Twister Spinner," and attach by taping the arrow to the top of the paperclip. Insert the brad from the bottom up through the board and spinner, bending the ends of the brad outward to secure it on top of the spinner.
- On the floor, create a column with each fruit/vegetable. For the first column, lay the apple pictures (red papers) in a line with a few inches in between each picture. Move over a few inches, and create the next column with the corn pictures (yellow papers). Move over a few inches, and create the third column with the green bean pictures (green papers). Then, complete your game board with the final column of blueberry pictures (blue papers).
- Secure each picture to the floor with floor tape.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Don't Throw the Ball

[Talk about God \ | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play**What You Need:**

- Bible, one per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Construction paper, one piece per kid

What You Do:

- Place a line of tape on the floor in the middle of your area to divide your space.

2. What Kind of Soil Are You?**[Live for God \ | Application Activity]****Made to Play****What You Need:**

- "What Kind of Soil Are You?" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, four pieces per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "What Kind of Soil Are You?" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.

3. Illustrate the Story**[Hear from God \ | Memory Verse Activity]****Made to Create****What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group
- Posterboard, three pieces per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per kid
- Wall tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- On each piece of posterboard, write the following words from the Memory Verse:
- Posterboard 1: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking.
- Posterboard 2: It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy.
- Posterboard 3: All this comes through the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17 NIV)

4. Pray and Dismiss**[Pray to God \ | Prayer Activity]****Made to Reflect**

What You Need:

- Clear cup or jar, one per Small Group
- Tray, one per Small Group
- Water, one cup per Small Group
- Plastic spoon, one per Small Group
- Baking soda, one teaspoon per Small Group
- Popcorn kernels, one per kid
- Cold white vinegar, one cup per Small Group

What You Do:

- Place the cup/jar on the tray.
- Pour one cup of water into the cup/jar.
- Mix one teaspoon of baking soda into the water.

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:

- Offering container
- "Garden Twister" Activity Page
- "Garden Twister Spinner" Activity Page
- Cardstock, twenty-five pieces per Small Group
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Large paperclip
- Metal brad
- Floor tape
- Option 1: Twister® board game in place of the "Garden Twister" and "Garden Twister Spinner" Activity Pages, cardstock, floor tape, scissors, metal brad, large paperclip, and clear tape
- Option 2: Construction paper: red, yellow, green, and blue (6 sheets of each) in place of "Garden Twister" Activity Page
- Bible
- Floor tape
- Construction paper
- "What Kind of Soil Are You?" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Bibles
- Permanent marker
- Posterboard
- Coloring supplies (several per kid)
- Wall tape
- Clear cup or jar
- Tray
- Water
- Plastic spoon
- Baking soda
- Popcorn kernels
- Cold white vinegar
- EveryChild Supplies: Tray or table

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Move

Quantity

1.	Offering container	1
2.	Cardstock	1
3.	Scissors	1
4.	Clear tape	1
5.	Large paperclip	1
6.	Metal brad	1
7.	Floor tape	1
8.	Option 1: Twister® board game in place of the "Garden Twister" and "Garden Twister Spinner" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, clear tape, large paperclip, metal brad, and floor tape	1
9.	Option 2: Construction paper: red, yellow, green, and blue (6 sheets of each) in place of the "Garden Twister" Activity Page	24
10.	EveryChild Supplies: Tray or table	1

23 – Don't Throw the Ball | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Quantity

1.	Bible	1
2.	Floor tape	1
3.	Construction paper	1

23 – What Kind of Soil Are You? | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Quantity

1.	Cardstock	4
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23 – Illustrate the Story | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

Quantity

1.	Bibles	1
2.	Permanent marker	1
3.	Posterboard	3
4.	Coloring supplies	Several
5.	Wall tape	1

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

Quantity

1.	Clear cup or jar	1
2.	Tray	1
3.	Water	1
4.	Plastic spoon	1
5.	Baking soda	1
6.	Popcorn kernels	1
7.	Cold white vinegar	1

WEEK

TWO

K-3 | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*
Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.
Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 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.

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Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Run to the Gold (K-1st grade), Add to the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Talents Door Hanger (K-1st grade), Do the Wave (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Cup Stack (K-1st grade), Keychain Coins (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

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

Bottom Line

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

Conversation Starter

"What has God given you?"

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Table	1
 Painter's tape	1
 Permanent marker	1
 Plastic coins	1

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Create zones by placing strips of tape across the table at one end of the table.
- Make three tape lines about a foot apart.
- Draw one star on the first tape line, draw two stars on the second tape line, and draw five stars on the last tape line.

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.
- Gather the kids at the table, give each kid a coin, and explain that the coins will be the "gold."
- Point out each zone, and demonstrate how to slide a coin down the table to land it into one of the three zones.
- Explain that the goal is to get the "gold" into one of the zones without it falling off the table. Each zone is worth points, but if the coin falls off the table, that's zero points. Kids will get one redo if their coin falls off the table.
- Encourage kids to take turns sliding their coin down the table, leaving all the coins on the table until each kid has had a turn.
- At the end of the game, count up how much "gold" the kids accumulated by multiplying the coins in each zone. (The first zone: Multiply by 1. The second zone: Multiply by 2. The third zone: Multiply by five.)
- Continue playing as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"What a fun game trying to get the gold into one of the zones! Every time your piece of gold made it into a zone, you increased the amount of gold we had! Today, we'll hear about a time when Jesus taught His disciples about God's kingdom. Jesus told a story about a man who gave gold to his servants for them to take care of while he was away. He knew they were good at different things, so he gave them different amounts of gold. Let's go hear what happened next in this story and find out why Jesus told it."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

K1 - Run to the Gold | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

-  Bible marked at Matthew 25:14-30 NIV 1
-  Cardstock Several
-  Painter's tape 1



EveryChild tips

- *In place of running, have all kids walk, roll, or point to the pictures.*

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Run to the Gold" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Tape the pictures in different spots around the room.

During the Activity:

- Gather the kids in the center of the room.
- Open the Bible, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Say: "We're going to talk about this story in the Bible that Jesus told to help us understand God's kingdom. When I get to a key part, run to the picture that shows what I'm talking about."
- "The story starts with a rich man giving bags of gold to his servants. Run to that picture!"
- "Two of the servants used the gold to make more. Run to the picture of the men working!"
- "But one servant did something different. He dug a hole in the ground and hid his gold. Run to that picture!"
- "When the rich man came back, was he happy with the first two servants? Yes! Run to the happy face!"
- "Was he happy with the servant who hid the gold? No! Run to the sad face!"

What You Say:

"Great job running to all the parts of our Bible Story! Jesus wanted us to know that when we live in God's kingdom, we're called to use what we've been given to love God and love others. In the story that Jesus told, a rich man, the master, was going on a long journey, so he left three servants in charge of some gold.

"When the rich man came back from his journey, two servants had used the gold the master had given them to make more gold! The master was so happy. But the third servant hid the gold while the master was gone. He didn't use the gold the master had given him. And the master was so sad.

"Jesus told us this story to tell us something true about His kingdom. Jesus is the master, and He has gone away for a little while. He's in heaven, but He's coming back! And in the meantime, He wants us to use everything He has given us, absolutely everything, to do things that make Him happy—just like the first two servants did.

"God gives us all amazing gifts, like our talents, our time, and our smiles, and He is so happy when we use them! And He does great kingdom

things when we do! ***[Bottom Line]*** God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

K1 - Talents Door Hanger | Made to Create

What You Need

	Cardstock	0
	Scissors	1
	Plastic tablecloth	1
	Small bowls or cups	0
	Water	0
	Paintbrushes	1
	Watercolors	2
	Crayons	Several
	Paper towels	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Talents Door Hanger" on cardstock and cut, one per kid.
- Spread the tablecloth on the table or floor.
- Fill the bowls/cups with water, and place on the table with the paintbrushes.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a "Talents Door Hanger" Activity Page.
- Encourage them to draw a picture of one of their gifts on the front of their door hanger with crayons.
- Talk with them about the special things God has given them. Are they a good artist? A fast runner? A kind friend? A great helper?
- Let them paint their entire door hanger with watercolors any way they want to.
- Send the door hanger home, and encourage them to ask a parent or adult to write down ideas for how they can use their gifts.

What You Say:

"These door hangers are fantastic! When you hang this on your door at home, it will be a great reminder of all the special things God has given you. You might not have bags of gold, but those bags in the parable represent the unique gifts God has given to each of His followers. Maybe you're great at listening when someone is sad and sharing the love of Jesus with them. Maybe you can show how Jesus helps you persevere when you stick with it and keep going, even when learning to read is really hard. Maybe you love to bake and can take cookies to a lonely neighbor, letting her know God is always with her. Whoever you are and wherever you live, God wants you to use everything He's given you. It makes Him so happy when you do, and He will do great kingdom things with what you do! **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

K1 - Memory Verse Cup Stack | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bibles marked at Romans 14:17	1
	Plastic cups	10
	Permanent marker	1
	Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- On each cup, write a short phrase of the Memory Verse using the guide below:
- Cup 1: "God's kingdom
- Cup 2: is not about
- Cup 3: eating or drinking.
- Cup 4: It is about doing
- Cup 5: what is right
- Cup 6: and having
- Cup 7: peace and joy.
- Cup 8: All this comes
- Cup 9: through the Holy Spirit."
- Cup 10: Romans 14:17 NIV

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Romans 14:17.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find

that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat 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.
- Mix up the cups.
- Challenge the kids to work together to stack the cups into a pyramid with the verse in the correct order from the bottom up.
- Once the pyramid is built, read the verse together.
- Knock it down and challenge them to build it again, but even faster this time.

What You Say:

"Awesome teamwork! You built a great Memory Verse tower. Let's say our verse together one more time: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).*

"God's kingdom is full of good things because He is so good! Today's Bible Story teaches us that when we use what God has given us—our gifts and talents—to help others, we are doing what is right and spreading God's peace and joy. You are showing people God's kingdom! No matter what God has given you, He wants you to use it all to show people His kingdom. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.**"

5 min

Prayer

5 min

K1 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Small container or cup	1
 Play sand	1
 Paper plate	1
 Plastic gold coin	1
 Paper towels	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Fill the container/cup with sand, and place on top of the plate.

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Show them the gold coin. Say: "This coin can be like one of the special gifts God has given you."
- Show them the sand. Say: "The lazy servant in the story buried his gift. He didn't use it."
- Slowly bury the gold coin in the sand.
- Ask: "Is this coin helping anyone right now? Is it growing or doing anything good?" (*No.*)
- Say: "What should we do with the gifts God gives us?" (*Use them!*)
- Take the coin out of the sand, and wipe it off.

What You Say:

"Let's pray and ask God to help us never bury the gifts He's given us, but to use them to point to Him so He can grow His kingdom."

Getting Ready | K1

Small Group

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Table, one per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group
- Plastic coins, one coin per kid

What You Do:

- Create zones by placing strips of tape across the table at one end of the table.
- Make three tape lines about a foot apart.
- Draw one star on the first tape line, draw two stars on the second tape line, and draw five stars on the last tape line.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Run to the Gold

[Talk about God \ | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Matthew 25:14-30 NIV, one per Small Group
- "Run to the Gold" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, \

of pieces per Small Group

- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Run to the Gold" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Tape the pictures in different spots around the room.

2. Talents Door Hanger

[Live for God \ | Application Activity]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- "Talents Door Hanger" Activity Page, one per kid
- Cardstock, one half page per kid
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Small bowls or cups, one for every two kids
- Water, one for every two kids
- Paintbrushes, one per kid
- Watercolors, two per kid
- Crayons, several per kid
- Paper towels, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Talents Door Hanger" on cardstock and cut, one per kid.
- Spread the tablecloth on the table or floor.
- Fill the bowls/cups with water, and place on the table with the paintbrushes

3. Memory Verse Cup Stack

[Hear from God \ | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play**What You Need:**

- Bibles marked at Romans 14:17, one per kid
- Plastic cups, ten cups per Small Group
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group
- Timer (or smartphone or watch), one per Small Group

What You Do:

- On each cup, write a short phrase of the Memory Verse using the guide below:
- Cup 1: "God's kingdom
- Cup 2: is not about
- Cup 3: eating or drinking.
- Cup 4: It is about doing
- Cup 5: what is right
- Cup 6: and having
- Cup 7: peace and joy.
- Cup 8: All this comes
- Cup 9: through the Holy Spirit."
- Cup 10: Romans 14:17 NIV

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God \ | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Small container or cup, one per Small Group
- Play sand, one cup per Small Group
- Paper plate, one per Small Group
- Plastic gold coin, one per Small Group
- Paper towels, several per Small Group

What You Do:

- Fill the container/cup with sand, and place on top of the plate.

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:

- Offering container
- Table
- Painter's tape
- Permanent marker
- Plastic coins
- Bible marked at Matthew 25:14-30 NIV
- "Run to the Gold" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- "Talents Door Hanger" Activity Page
- Cardstock (one half page)
- Scissors
- Plastic tablecloth
- Small bowls or cups (one for every two kids)
- Water (one for every two kids)
- Paintbrushes
- Watercolors
- Crayons (several per kid)
- Paper towels
- Bibles marked at Romans 14:17
- Plastic cups
- Permanent marker
- Timer (or smartphone or watch)
- Small container or cup
- Play sand
- Paper plate
- Plastic gold coin
- Paper towels (several per Small Group)

Supplies

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Table	1
3. Painter's tape	1
4. Permanent marker	1
5. Plastic coins	1

K1 - Run to the Gold | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bible marked at Matthew 25:14-30 NIV	1
2. Cardstock	Several
3. Painter's tape	1

K1 - Talents Door Hanger | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Cardstock	0
2. Scissors	1
3. Plastic tablecloth	1
4. Small bowls or cups	0
5. Water	0
6. Paintbrushes	1
7. Watercolors	2
8. Crayons	Several
9. Paper towels	1

K1 - Memory Verse Cup Stack | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bibles marked at Romans 14:17	1
2. Plastic cups	10
3. Permanent marker	1
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

K1 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Small container or cup	1
2. Play sand	1
3. Paper plate	1
4. Plastic gold coin	1
5. Paper towels	1

WEEK

THREE

K-3 | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 3

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

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: King for a Day (K-1st grade), You Break It, I Fix It (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Counting Forgiveness (K-1st grade), Heavy or Light Backpack (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Three Pillar Pose (K-1st grade), Memory Verse Suncatcher (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

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

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Conversation Starter

What and who do you need to forgive?

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

5 min

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

-  Offering container 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Dice 1



EveryChild tips

- *In place of kids putting their hands behind their backs, offer two dice, and roll the dice until kids get to the number seven.*

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

- 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.
- Encourage kids to select a partner.
- Partners will stand, facing each other, with their hands behind their backs.
- Say: "On your marks, get set, SHOW!"
- On "SHOW!" each kid is to hold up one to five fingers on one hand.
- The other hand is to remain behind their back.
- Pairs will add up the two hands (one from each player). If the total for both is seven, that pair is out and must sit down.
- For example: If one kid holds up three fingers and their partner holds up four fingers for a total of seven, the pair is out.
- Repeat with remaining pairs, calling out: "Ready, Set, SHOW!" for each round, as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"What number were you trying to avoid? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! The number seven. Pay close attention to our Bible Story today to find out why seven is the wrong answer."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – You Break It, I Fix It | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bible	1
	Jenga® or wooden blocks	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Soft foam blocks	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Open your Bible to Matthew 18:21-35, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Review the story with the kids. Share these main points:
 - Peter asked Jesus how many times he needed to forgive someone. Peter asked if the number was seven. Jesus said the amount was so much more than that.
 - Then, Jesus told a story to share how God's kingdom works.
 - In the story, a king decided to get everyone who owed him debts to pay him.
 - One servant had a huge debt and begged and begged the king for time to pay.
 - Instead of making the servant pay back the humongous debt, the king forgave it! Completely!
 - But that same servant had someone who owed him a little debt.
 - Instead of forgiving the person who owed him, like the servant had been forgiven, that servant put the person who owed him in prison and demanded that he pay him his tiny debt.
 - The king heard that the servant wouldn't forgive the person who owed him, and the king was so upset. He threw the servant in jail until he could pay his huge debt.
 - Jesus said that we should forgive people who hurt us because we have been forgiven of so much.
- Set up the Jenga® blocks for the kids to play the game, or encourage them to just stack the blocks to build the highest tower they can.
- When the tower or Jenga® game topples, encourage everyone in the group—EXCEPT for the person who caused the tower to fall—to clean it up and restack the blocks.
- Repeat for another round if time allows.

What You Say:

"Usually in life, when someone breaks something, we say, 'You break it, you fix it.' But that's not how God treats us. Because God loves us, He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him forever. It's like God said, 'This is broken, but I'll fix it! I'll send Jesus, My only Son, to fix this broken relationship and pay for your sins, so you can be forgiven.' Forgiveness is the way God chose to fix it! And the same is true for us. Forgiveness fixes it.

"How does knowing you've been forgiven help you forgive others? This week, if you're tempted to stay angry or you find yourself refusing to forgive, remember rebuilding this tower for someone else. Think about how God fixed our broken relationship with Him by sending Jesus to pay for our sins and choosing to forgive us. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** God's kingdom grows when you forgive."

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Heavy or Light Backpack | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | Cones or pillows | 1 |
|  | Small backpacks | 2 |
|  | Heavy-but-safe items (like books or water bottles) | 1 |



EveryChild tips

- For a kid in a wheelchair, place the backpack on their lap as they roll.
- Pair kids to do this challenge together.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Set up two simple, similar paths across the room using cones or pillows. Space the two paths about three to five feet apart from each other.
- Put the heavy items in the backpacks.

During the Activity:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Ask for two volunteers to put on the "heavy" backpacks.
- When you say: "Go!" have kids race their paths from one side of the room to the other.
- When the kids get back to the start, they will take off their backpacks and hand them to the next kid in line, then they'll race down and back. Continue until each kid on the team has had a turn.
- Ask the teams: "Was that easy or hard?"
- Now, remove all the heavy items out of the backpacks, making them light.
- Encourage the teams to race again, but this time with the "light" backpacks.
- Ask: "Was that easier or harder?" (*Easier!*)

What You Say:

"It was so much easier to race when the backpack was light! When we don't forgive someone, it can feel like carrying a heavy backpack. It makes our hearts feel heavy and sad. But when we forgive, God takes the heavy feeling away! He makes our hearts feel light.

"God is like the good king in the Bible Story who completely forgave the huge amount of money. When we trust that Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and choose to follow Him, God wipes out our sin debt. We were completely tied up in our sin, but now we're free!

"Because God has forgiven us of such a giant sin debt, He wants us to pass that forgiveness on to the people around us. Like Jesus told Peter, we can continue to forgive without putting limits on it.

"Forgiving someone doesn't mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. It doesn't even mean you have to keep being friends with them. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust!

"Forgiving someone says you're trusting God to make things right. And when you forgive, it frees *you* from staying angry and becoming hard and bitter. Forgiveness isn't a feeling, it's a choice. And when you ask God for help and choose to forgive, you are showing your world God's good heart of forgiveness. And God will do great kingdom things when you choose to forgive. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you forgive.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Memory Verse Suncatcher | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Paper	1
	Plastic tablecloth	1
	Baby oil	1
	Coated paper plates or bowls	1
	Crayons	1
	Cotton balls	1
	Paper towels	1
	Hand wipes	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Gloves	1



EveryChild tips

- Offer gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Castle Window" on paper, one per kid.
- Spread out the tablecloth.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible, and direct them to look up Romans 14:17.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat 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.
- Pour a small amount of oil on each plate/bowl, one for every three kids.
- Give each kid a "Castle Window" Activity Page, and ask them to color all the white space.
- As they work, repeat the Memory Verse together: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV)."
- Once kids have finished coloring their paper, ask kids turn their paper over then dip their cotton ball into the oil and rub it over their paper. Encourage kids to blot their picture with a paper towel to absorb any excess oil.
- Set aside to dry.
- Give each kid a hand wipe to remove any oil on their hands.

What You Say:

"These stained-glass windows are beautiful! The light can shine right through them. When we forgive others, it's like we're letting God's light shine through us for all to see. God forgives, and it's a mark of His

kingdom—it is what is right, and it brings peace and joy, just like our Memory Verse says. When we forgive like God forgave us, we are pointing to God and His kingdom. ***[Bottom Line]*** **God's kingdom grows when you forgive."**

5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Index cards	1
	Pencils	1
	Pink Pearl® erasers or similar	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Dry erase marker	1
	EveryChild Supplies: Whiteboard	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid an index card, a pencil, and an eraser.
- Ask them to scribble all over the paper until it's very messy.
- Say: "This mess can be like the times we mess up or do something wrong."
- Say: "The king in our story forgave the man's big, messy debt. He wiped it all away, just like this!"
- Show them how to use the eraser to clean up a small spot on their messy paper.

What You Say:

"Every single one of us has sinned against God. We have done and said things that go against God and His ways—including His rules that He gave because He made us and loves us and knows the best way for us to live. God is so amazing and perfect and holy that any sin creates a giant debt, just like the money the first servant owed the king in the Bible Story. But Jesus loves us so much that He paid our giant debt we owed because of sin. Let's pray and thank God for His forgiveness and ask Him to help us forgive others."

Getting Ready | 23

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

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Dice*

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. You Break It, I Fix It

[Talk about God \ | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- Jenga® or wooden blocks, one set per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Soft foam blocks*

2. Heavy or Light Backpack

[Live for God \ | Application Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Cones or pillows, several per Small Group
- Small backpacks, two per Small Group
- Heavy-but-safe items (like books or water bottles), several per Small Group

What You Do:

- Set up two simple, similar paths across the room using cones or pillows. Space the two paths about three to five feet apart from each other.
- Put the heavy items in the backpacks.

3. Memory Verse Suncatcher

[Hear from God \ | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Castle Window" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Baby oil, one bottle per Small Group
- Coated paper plates or bowls, one for every three kids
- Crayons, several per kid
- Cotton balls, one per kid
- Paper towels, one roll per Small Group
- Hand wipes, one package per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Gloves*

What You Do:

- Print "Castle Window" on paper, one per kid.
- Spread out the tablecloth.

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God \ | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Index cards, one per kid
- Pencils, one per kid
- Pink Pearl® erasers or similar, one per kid

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Dry erase marker*
- *Whiteboard*

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:

- Offering container
- Bible
- Jenga® or wooden blocks
- Cones or pillows (several per Small Group)
- Small backpacks
- Heavy-but-safe items (like books or water bottles) (several per Small Group)
- Bibles
- "Castle Window" Activity Page

- Paper
- Plastic tablecloth
- Baby oil
- Coated paper plates or bowls (one for every three kids)
- Crayons (several per kid)
- Cotton balls
- Paper towels
- Hand wipes
- Index cards
- Pencils
- Pink Pearl® erasers or similar
- EveryChild Supplies: Dice
- EveryChild Supplies: Made to Play
- EveryChild Supplies: Soft foam blocks
- EveryChild Supplies: Made to Move
- EveryChild Supplies: Gloves
- EveryChild Supplies: Dry erase marker
- EveryChild Supplies: Whiteboard
- EveryChild Supplies: Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. EveryChild Supplies: Dice	1

23 – You Break It, I Fix It | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Jenga® or wooden blocks	1
3. EveryChild Supplies: Soft foam blocks	1

23 – Heavy or Light Backpack | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Cones or pillows	1
2. Small backpacks	2
3. Heavy-but-safe items (like books or water bottles)	1

23 – Memory Verse Suncatcher | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Paper	1
3. Plastic tablecloth	1
4. Baby oil	1
5. Coated paper plates or bowls	1
6. Crayons	1
7. Cotton balls	1
8. Paper towels	1
9. Hand wipes	1
10. EveryChild Supplies: Gloves	1

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Index cards	1
2. Pencils	1
3. Pink Pearl® erasers or similar	1
4. EveryChild Supplies: Dry erase marker	1
5. EveryChild Supplies: Whiteboard	1

WEEK

FOUR

K-3 | 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

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

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

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

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Balloon People (K-1st grade), Judge Statue (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Keep On Knocking (K-1st grade), Yes, No, Not Yet (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Sticker Reward Bookmark (K-1st grade),

Memory Verse Tower (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

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

Bottom Line

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

Conversation Starter

What do you need to keep doing?

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 Nlrv

5 min

Social

5 min

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Floor tape	1
 Safety cones	1
 Chairs	1
 Tables	1
 Pool noodles	1

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use the items listed above, as well as any other items from your activity area, to create a simple, fun obstacle course around your room.
- Create a clear start and finish line with floor tape.

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.
- Explain each part of the obstacle course to the kids. (e.g., "Crawl under the table, walk the tape line, hop around the cone, and run to the finish line!")
- Let the kids take turns going through the course.
- Cheer for them, and encourage them to keep going, even if a part is tricky.
- Celebrate everyone as they cross the finish line.

What You Say:

"Awesome job, everyone! You all did a great job not giving up—even on the tricky parts! That's called perseverance. In our Bible Story today, Jesus tells us about a woman who had amazing perseverance. She refused to give up! Let's go hear about her."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

K1 - Balloon People | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bible	1
	Cardstock	1
	Scissors	1
	Hole punch	1
	Latex-free balloons	1
	Coloring supplies	1
	Large googly eye stickers	Several
	Optional: Clear tape	Several

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Balloon People" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per kid.
- Punch a hole in between the shoes on each kid's cutout where indicated.

During the Activity:

- Open your Bible to Luke 18:1-8, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Review the Bible Story with the kids. Share the following points:
- Jesus wanted to tell a story about how we should pray and never give up.
- In His story, Jesus told about a widow who came over and over to an unfair judge and asked him to help her.
- The judge didn't care about God or what other people thought, but he finally helped the widow because she came to him over and over for help.
- Jesus told this story to teach us about God. Since an unfair, uncaring judge finally made things right, we can be absolutely sure that God, who loves us deeply, will help us when we ask.
- Give each kid a balloon and a "Balloon People" Activity Page cutout.
- Ask kids to decorate their cutout.
- Encourage kids to blow up their balloon and tie it in a knot. Help kids as needed.
- Show kids how to insert the knot into the hole in their cutout.
- Ask kids to add googly eye stickers to their balloons.
- *Optional: Attach a piece of tape at the base to help keep the balloon person upright as needed.*

What You Say:

"These balloon people are a great way to remember our Bible Story from today! The woman in Jesus' story kept coming over and over and over to ask the judge for help. She probably didn't have shoes like these, but she kept walking over to the judge and walking over to the judge, and he finally helped her. The judge didn't help the woman because he was a good judge; he helped her because she was so persistent!"

"Jesus told us this story to teach us about God. He is not like the mean judge at all! He is kind and loves us so much! Since an unfair judge finally helped the woman who came to him, we can know for sure that God is going to help us when we come to Him for help. And when you come to Him and come to Him and come to Him, you will grow closer to Him

because you're talking to Him all the time. ***[Bottom Line]*** God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up."

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

K1 - Keep On Knocking | Made to Imagine

What You Need

	Tri-fold presentation board	1
	Small basket or container	1
	Small treats or stickers	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Tell the kids they have to knock on the “door” to get a special prize, but the “Judge” (Leader) is a little grumpy and will only open it after a specific, funny sequence of persistent actions.
- First time: Have a kid knock once. (From behind the “door,” say in a grumpy voice: “Go away! I’m busy!”)
- Second time: Have another kid knock three times while hopping on one foot. (Say: “I’m still busy! Try again!”)
- Third time: Have the whole group knock on the “door” together and say: “Please, Mr. Judge!”
- After the third try, open the “door” with a big sigh, and let them get their prize.

What You Say:

“You did it! Your persistence paid off! The widow in our story didn’t just knock once and go home. She kept coming back! Jesus wants us to be like that when we pray. But is God a grumpy judge? *(Pause for responses.)* No! He’s our loving Father, and He LOVES to hear from us.

“We can keep talking to Him because we know He’s listening. That doesn’t mean God will answer right away or even in the way we think is best. Sometimes God says, ‘Yes.’ Sometimes He says, ‘No.’ And a lot of times, God says, ‘Not yet.’ But no matter what, Jesus gives us permission to keep on asking for what we want.

“When you keep praying—when you keep talking to God, and talking to God, and talking to God—it helps your heart stay close to God. And even when things are slow or hard, God is working. He is listening. And He is working on something good because He loves you so much!”

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

K1 - Sticker Reward Challenge | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Bibles marked at Romans 14:17	1
	Cardstock	1
	Scissors	1
	Coloring supplies	1
	Small, fun stickers	1



EveryChild tips

- Allow kids to say the Memory Verse with a buddy. Celebrate participation over perfection.

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Sticker Reward Bookmark" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Romans 14:17.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat 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.
- Give each kid a "Sticker Reward Bookmark," and ask them to decorate it.
- Challenge each kid to say the Memory Verse.
- If they can say it, they get a sticker to put on their bookmark.
- Afterward, ask them: "Did you get that sticker because you're a genius or because you practiced and listened?" (practiced/listened)

What You Say:

"Great job listening and practicing! It is so important to listen to God's Word and put it into practice. It helps us live a life that honors God."

"Our Memory Verse says peace and joy come 'through the Holy Spirit.' When we don't give up on praying, the Holy Spirit helps us have peace and joy, even when things are hard. **[Bottom Line]** God's kingdom grows when you pray and don't give up."

5 min

Prayer

5 min

K1 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Gather the kids.
- Say: "In the story that Jesus told, the widow kept coming back! She didn't give up! She asked for what was right."
- Ask: "What can we do?" (*We can pray every single day! We can trust God even when we wait. And we can ask God to help and heal.*)
- After the "What You Say" section, lead the kids in a simple call-and-response prayer.

What You Say:

"Talking to God over and over strengthens your relationship with Him. God wants to hear your heart because that's what friends do! Let's pray together. You can repeat after me!"

Getting Ready | K1

Small Group

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Safety cones, several per Small Group
- Chairs, several per Small Group
- Tables, several per Small Group
- Pool noodles, several per Small Group

What You Do:

- Use the items listed above, as well as any other items from your activity area, to create a simple, fun obstacle course around your room.
- Create a clear start and finish line with floor tape.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Balloon People

[Talk about God \ | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- "Balloon People" Activity Page, one per kid
- Cardstock, one piece per kid
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Hole punch, one per Small Group
- Latex-free balloons, one per kid
- Coloring supplies, several per kid
- Large googly eye stickers, two per kid
- *Optional: Clear tape, one roll per Small Group*

What You Do:

- Print "Balloon People" on cardstock and cut, one per kid.
- Cut a small hole in each kid's cutout where indicated on their paper.

2. Keep on Knocking

[Live for God \ | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine**What You Need:**

- Tri-fold presentation board, one per Small Group
- Small basket or container, one per Small Group
- Small treats or stickers, several per kid

3. Sticker Reward Bookmark**[Hear from God \ | Memory Verse Activity]****Made to Create****What You Need:**

- Bibles marked at Romans 14:17, one per kid
- "Sticker Reward Bookmark" Activity Page, one cutout per kid
- Cardstock, one piece for every three kids
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per kid
- Small, fun stickers, several per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Sticker Reward Bookmark" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per kid.

4. Pray and Dismiss**[Pray to God \ | Prayer Activity]****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

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Floor tape	1
3. Safety cones	1
4. Chairs	1
5. Tables	1
6. Pool noodles	1

K1 - Balloon People | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Cardstock	1
3. Scissors	1
4. Hole punch	1
5. Latex-free balloons	1
6. Coloring supplies	1
7. Large googly eye stickers	Several
8. Optional: Clear tape	Several

K1 - Keep On Knocking | Made to Imagine

	Quantity
1. Tri-fold presentation board	1
2. Small basket or container	1
3. Small treats or stickers	1

K1 - Sticker Reward Challenge | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Bibles marked at Romans 14:17	1
2. Cardstock	1
3. Scissors	1
4. Coloring supplies	1
5. Small, fun stickers	1