



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light My Way
God's Word Is a Light
Psalm 119:105

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice hearing from God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Training the body has some value.
But being godly has value in every
way. It promises help for the life
you are now living and the
life to come."
1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan
and putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: This Little Light
Application Activity: Highlight God's Word
Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Training Camp
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



As kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for following through with the plan to send Jesus to rescue us. Ask God to help show each of the kids how God is speaking to them through the Bible. Thank God for allowing you the opportunity to help kids better connect and learn how they can hear from God.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light My Way
God's Word Is a Light
Psalm 119:105

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids with a high five or a fist bump as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought offerings to place them in the offering container.
- Place a line of floor tape in the center of the small group area.
- Say: "The floor behind the line is land. The floor in front of the line is sea. And jumping directly up is air!"
- One at a time, in no particular order, say one of the elements (land, sea, or air), directing kids to move to that location.
 - If a kid makes a mistake, instruct them to do three jumping jacks!
- Continue as time and energy allow.

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: *Optional: blindfold*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask kids to go around the circle and say their name.
- Choose one kid to close their eyes or wear a blindfold.
- Without speaking, point to a kid in the circle.
- Instruct that kid to say the name of the kid wearing the blindfold.
- Direct the kid wearing the blindfold to try to identify the voice and say the name of the kid who spoke.
- Play several rounds.
- Switch out kids who are wearing blindfolds as they guess correctly or after a few tries.
- For a challenge, ask kids in the circle to create added noise by snapping, clapping, or tapping their legs lightly.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow, you all did a great job recognizing each other's voices! Sometimes it felt pretty easy to guess who was speaking, and sometimes it felt a little tricky—especially if there was noise around us. And just like we can learn to recognize the voices around us, we can also learn how to hear from God too! **[Transition]** Today, we'll discover how we can get better at hearing from God. Let's go!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



1. THIS LITTLE LIGHT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Flashlights

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a flashlight.
- Say: "I'm going to name something you can see around you, and then I'm going to count to five. After I count to five, shine your light on that item."
- *Optional: Dim the lights in your environment, if possible.*
- One at a time, call out an item that can be seen in your group space and count to five.
 - *NOTE: kids may find different items to shine their light on!*
- Start by calling out more concrete items, then call out more abstract items.
- For example:
 - clock
 - TV, computer, or phone
 - sneakers
 - Bible
 - markers
 - paper
 - something happy
 - something fun
 - something safe
 - something warm
 - your favorite thing in the room
- Collect flashlights when completed.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job shining your lights! Today we heard about God's Word being like a lamp, or a light, that lights our way. Does anyone remember what book of the Bible that came from? (*Pause for responses.*) Psalms! Over and over, Psalm 119 showed us how valuable and beautiful God's words are.

"God's Word is like a light that can shine on things that are hard, difficult, or confusing. We can have the light of God's Word in our lives when we **practice hearing from God!** When we practice hearing from God, it helps us grow stronger in our faith. We can do that by making God's Word part of our life.

"What are some ways we can hear from God? (*Invite responses, like: read the Bible, listen to an app, memorize verses, listen to wise people who love us and who love Jesus, etc.*). The more we practice, the better we can hear from God!"

[Make It Personal] (*Tell about how you practice hearing from God. How do you make time to interact with God's Word? Do you read it in the morning, or maybe listen to it during travel times? Share how reading the Bible has been a light that guides your life.*)



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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*2. HIGHLIGHT GOD'S WORD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Highlight God's Word" Activity Page, and highlighters

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a highlighter and a "Highlight God's Word" Activity Page.
- Say: "I'm going to read a verse from Scripture out loud from the page you have in front of you. Highlight the words or phrases that jump out to you."
- For the first Scripture or two, instruct the kids to keep the cap on their highlighters as you read each verse, and emphasize key words or phrases to help them understand the process.
- After the first couple of verses, challenge kids to highlight words or phrases on their own as you read the verses out loud.
- After each verse, ask: "What words or phrases in this passage of Scripture stuck out to you?"
 - *NOTE: Kids should be encouraged to highlight what's meaningful to them, which will likely be different from the kids around them! That's wonderful and shows how God speaks to each of us!*

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I loved hearing what words from all of those verses stood out to each of you. The beautiful thing is that sometimes we had different things highlighted—and that's great! God speaks to each of us in different ways through the Bible. Reading God's Word is one way that we can **practice hearing from God.**"

"We can ask God for help to light up certain words for us when we read or listen to the Bible. This is one way we can hear from God! And as you continue to read the Bible, you can see how Jesus lived His life, then follow His example. The more we practice this, the better we can learn to hear God's voice in our lives!"



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. MEMORY VERSE TRAINING CAMP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up 1 Timothy 4:8 using the Bible Navigation

Tips below.

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "1 Timothy" in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 8 in chapter 4.*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Light My Way
God's Word Is a Light
Psalm 119:105

- Read the verse a few times together.
- Say: "I challenge you to a Memory Verse Training Camp!"
- Practice repeating the verse together several times, adding an exercise/action with each word or phrase.
- Invite kids to share ideas for each action.
- Here are some examples of actions:
 - When you say the word "value," do two jumping jacks.
 - When you say the word "life," do two push-ups.
 - When you say the word "training," do a body-builder pose.
 - When you say the word "promise(s)," jump as high as you can.
- Repeat several times with different actions, as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice hearing from God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come."
1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all did a great job training for this month's Memory Verse! The more we practiced, the better we got. When we memorize Scripture, that's one way we can **practice hearing from God**. God can speak to our hearts and minds when we take time to read God's Word and are quiet enough to listen to what God is telling us. When we make a habit of reading the Bible, listening to an app, memorizing verses, or hearing from wise people, we can **practice hearing from God** and grow in our faith."

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Device for playing sound clips of nature, paper, and crayons/pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the crayons or pencils.
- *Optional: Invite kids to move around and sit in a direction where they aren't facing anyone else.*
- Say: "God is talking to us all the time—even through nature!"
- One at a time, use the device to play different soundtracks of nature. (Some soundtracks are listed below.)
 - Sources for nature sounds: YouTube, Calmsound, Spotify, etc.
- As kids take time to be quiet and listen, invite them to write words or draw images to explain what they "hear" about God.
- Model this experience by "thinking aloud" while listening to the first soundtrack. For example:
 - **Thunderstorm:** God is big and powerful. God is strong. God is all around us.
 - **Ocean:** God is peace, patient, and kind. God is gentle. God is faithful.
 - **Birds chirping:** God cares about all of creation, even the littlest birds. God is joy.
 - **Wind blowing:** Even though we can't see God, God is everywhere. God is moving.
 - **Crickets:** God is always with us, even at night when we're asleep.
- Close your group time in prayer.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Today, we talked about many different ways we can **practice hearing from God**. By making a habit of being quiet and listening, reading our Bible, and learning from wise adults who love us and love Jesus, we can **practice hearing from God**."

"Dear God, thank You for the many, many ways we can hear from You. Next time we're in nature and hear a sound of Your creation, remind us to be still and quiet and to notice and remember that You are with us. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share one way they can practice hearing from God together at home this week!



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. **(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

1. EARLY ARRIVER

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Floor tape

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Optional: blindfold

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. THIS LITTLE LIGHT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Flashlights, one for each kid

* 2. HIGHLIGHT GOD'S WORD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Highlight God's Word" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Highlighters, one for each kid

3. MEMORY VERSE TRAINING CAMP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for each kid

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Device for playing sound clips of nature
- Paper
- Crayons/pencils

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.**