



TRAINING CAMP

PLAN. PRACTICE. GROW.



WEEK
THREE
MAY 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus
Is the Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about 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 can trust God no matter what.

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: Basketball Review
Application Activity: Beach Ball Bounce
Memory Verse Activity: Verse Accordion
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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on what you believe about Jesus and what led you to believe in Him as the Messiah. Ask God to help the kids in your group to become more confident in how they talk about God with others. Pray for those kids with questions and doubts - that your group would be a safe space for them to practice

talking about God.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus
Is the Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, parachute (or tablecloth, bedsheet), and soft balls or pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the parachute (or tablecloth or bedsheet).
- Invite kids to gather around the parachute (or tablecloth or bedsheet) and hold a piece of it.
- Instruct the kids to hold the parachute tightly.
- Place one ball or pom-pom in the center of the parachute.
- Direct the kids to practice tossing the ball up into the air and catching it, without letting the ball fly completely off of the parachute.
- Make room for more kids as they arrive, and invite them to join.
- As kids practice, continue to add more balls or pom-poms to the parachute for a challenge.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

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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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a game of "What am I?"
- Say: "I'm going to read a list of clues about an object. Every object is either a skill or talent, or something you can

use to practice a skill or talent."

- One at a time, read aloud a list of facts about an object. (Some suggestions are below.)
 - Feel free to add your own examples.
- After each fact, ask: "What am I?"
- Invite kids to guess what the object is.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20

Object Facts

- I'm often the color brown. You can hold me in your hands. Everyone runs after me. You can throw me or kick me. What am I? (**football**)
- You can hold me, or I can stand on my own. I'm often used on a stage. I make everything louder. You can sing into me. What am I? (**microphone**)
- I'm often colorful. You can hang me on your wall to make your space more beautiful. You can make me by using brushes, pencils, or paint. What am I? (**art**)
- You wear me. I can help you move gracefully. Sometimes I make a sound when I move, and sometimes I'm completely silent. You wear me on your feet. You wear me when you're on stage with music playing. What am I? (**dance shoes**)
- I'm long and skinny. I can be made with metal or wood. I help make delicious food. You can use me in the kitchen. I can flip pancakes. What am I? (**spatula**)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about God.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job guessing! All of these activities take lots of *practice*! What are some of your favorite activities? (*Invite responses.*) Those are all great answers!

[Transition] Today, we're going to hear a story from the Bible about a very important question that Jesus asked His friends. We'll discover something important that we can all practice. Let's find out!"

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

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



1. BASKETBALL REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Basketball Review" Activity Page, blank papers, and a small basket or bin

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Direct both teams to gather with their team on one side of your group space.
- Place the basket or bin on the other side of your group space.
- Spread out the blank pieces of paper on the floor in the space between where the kids are gathered and the basket or bin.
- Choose a team to go first.
- Read a question from the "Basketball Review" Activity Page.
- Encourage the group going first to work together to come up with an answer.
- If the group gets the answer correct, award that group one point.
- Instruct one kid from their team to walk to a blank piece of paper on the ground, ball up the paper, and try to make a basket from that spot.
- If the kid gets the ball into the basket, award that team a second point!
- Continue playing, alternating between each team, until all questions and blank pieces of paper have been used.
 - Repeat some questions as needed.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Speak Now

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Matthew 16:13-20

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Commitment—Making a plan
and putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job answering our questions! Jesus' friends had a lot of questions too. They didn't always know what to think. Jesus' friends had to decide what they believed about Jesus, and so can we: Do we believe He's the Messiah, the Son of God?"

"When there were questions, Jesus started the conversation and challenged His friends to speak up and talk about it. Just like Jesus' friends, we can also **practice talking about God!** It's important to move from just *thinking* about God to actually *talking* about God. We can talk about God in our everyday conversations with our family and friends!"

[Make It Personal] (Share about ways you talk about God in your life. Who do you share with about what you see God doing in your life?)



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



*2. BEACH BALL BOUNCE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared beach ball, and black permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct kids to spread out in your group space.
 - Give one kid the prepared beach ball.
- Encourage kids to gently toss the prepared beach ball with the questions on it to each other.
- After a few moments of the kids gently tossing the ball, say: "Freeze!"
- Instruct the kid who is holding a ball to answer the question their left thumb is nearest to.
- Continue the game until all kids have a chance to answer.
 - Since questions are open-ended, it's okay if questions are repeated!
- Use this as an opportunity for kids to practice talking about their life and experiences with God!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus
Is the Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so much fun! I loved hearing about your thoughts, feelings, and experiences—especially about God. It felt like the more we played our game, the more comfortable we all were talking! In fact, the more we **practice talking about God**, the more we can keep our eyes open and be aware of all that God is doing. We can notice God doing amazing things all around us if we keep paying attention! When we **practice talking about God**, we can help people see who God is and how God is working too!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about 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

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



3. VERSE ACCORDION

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Colorful cardstock (cut into strips), markers, and tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up this month's Memory Verse, 1 Timothy 4:8, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus
Is the Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20

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 BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about God.

- Invite kids who would like to read the verse out loud to the group to do so.
- Set out the markers and cardstock strips.
- Invite the kids to choose eight strips.
- Direct them to write a section of the verse (a few words) on each strip, saving one strip for the reference.
 - Instruct the kids to use all eight strips.
- When kids finish writing out the verse, encourage the kids to line up their strips in verse order, leaving a small space in between each strip.
- Set out the rolls of tape.
- Instruct the kids to tape the strips together in order on one side, making sure the verse isn't covered up.
- Direct the kids to repeat with tape on the back side.
- Instruct the kids to fold the verse back and forth in different directions into an accordion shape!
- Say: "You can keep this pocket-sized Memory Verse with you wherever you go."

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:

"Look at all of these amazing verse accordions! They fold up so small, you could carry it with you in your pocket or bring it along if you have a sports game or play practice. Just like we practice soccer, singing, or dancing, we can also **practice talking about God**. When we fill our minds with God's Word and memorize Scripture, we can be even more ready to talk about God when we're with our family and friends. Let's find a time to **practice talking about God** to someone this week by showing them our verse accordions!"

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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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

Speak Now

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about 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 can trust God no matter what.

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

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to form groups of two or three.
- Once everyone has picked a spot to gather with their group, invite them to share something good God has done with their group.
- Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, direct the kids to come back in a circle as a whole group.
- Invite anyone who would like to share with the group.
- Close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for our time in groups where we can practice talking with others about You. Help us to slow down, keep our eyes open, pay attention, and be ready to notice what You are doing all around us. Give us the courage to share what You are doing with others. Thank You that we can grow in our faith as we practice talking about You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show them their verse accordions and to read the verse.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW 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
- Parachute (or tablecloth, bedsheet), one for each Small Group
- Soft balls or pom-poms, a few for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

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. BASKETBALL REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Basketball Review" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Blank pieces of paper, at least ten for each Small Group
- Small basket or bin, one for each Small Group

* 2. BEACH BALL BOUNCE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Beach ball, one for each Small Group
- Black permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Use the black permanent marker to write the following questions (spread out) on the inflated beach ball:
 - What is something true about God?
 - What is something you can thank God for?
 - What is something you can ask God for?
 - Who can you talk to about Jesus?
 - Where is one place you can talk about God?
 - When can you talk about God?
 - How can you help others see who God is?

3. VERSE ACCORDION

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Colorful cardstock
- Markers, enough for a Small Group to share
- Tape, a few rolls for each Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Cut each piece of cardstock into thick, even strips—eight strips 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:

- 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.**