

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reasons Why Jesus' Mission Statement Luke 4:14-24, 28-30

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Following Jesus means caring about others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God." Micah 6:8, NIrV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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 MIN **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction** Early Arriver Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God Welcome/Opener Worship ("Love One Another" from *Make a Move* and "Give a Little Kindness" from *This Love*) Bible Story Bottom Line Prayer Closer

SMALL GROUP

25

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: From Scroll to Screen Application Activity: Twisted Match Memory Verse Activity: Verse Hop Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email) Devotionals for Kids Parent Cue App



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Praise God for showing compassion to us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank God for being compassionate toward your few and equipping all of us with the ability to show compassion. Ask God to help kids see that following Jesus means caring for others enough to do something about their needs.

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I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, long roll of paper, and markers, crayons, or colored pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought offerings to put them in the offering container.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Roll out the paper as long as necessary for kids to all have a space to work.
- Tell kids that as a group, they will create a mural map of your community that they'll work on all month.
 - Direct the kids to draw the church or space where you meet in the middle of the map.
 - Invite the kids to work together to draw/decorate that space with things you do and people you meet at church.
 - If time allows, invite the kids to fill in and label other things close to your church—houses or neighborhoods, major landmarks, etc.
- When it's time to move on to the next activity, roll up the mural and set it aside. Make sure it's stored someplace it can be easily pulled out next week.



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/or working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Community Helpers Cards" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Community Helpers" card, face down.
- Invite the kid wearing the most purple (or other color if there is no purple) to start the game.
- Instruct the first kid to look at their card.
- Direct the rest of the group to ask yes or no questions—up to 20 of them— to figure out who is on the first kid's card.
- Count the questions as kids ask them so they don't ask more than 20.
- If the kids can't figure out the community helper in 20 questions or less, let the kid reveal who is on their card.
- Choose a kid to go next.
- Continue playing until all of the kids have a chance to have their community helper guessed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our community is full of people who serve our town and look out for our families, environment, and safety. **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear why they might be so eager to help others!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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BASIC TRUTH



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



1. FROM SCROLL TO SCREEN

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: "From Scroll to Screen Apps" Activity Pages, Bibles, pens or pencils, markers or colored pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

• Give each kid a Bible, "From Scroll to Screen Apps" Activity Page, pen or pencil, and coloring supplies.

- Together, look up and read aloud Luke 4:18-19 from our Bible story.
- Invite the kids to make up two new comments on the Activity Page from different people in the community listed in the "active users" section. The comments should share how they will respond to the Good News in those verses.
 - For example:
 - @buildersunion: Thanks for the good message—today we're putting up houses for people who need a place to stay.
 - @momoffour: I'm going to be more patient with my kids today!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our Bible story, we heard Jesus tell His community the ultimate Good News: He had come to rescue people who were lost and even save the world itself! How did they respond? (They got upset.) Why do you think they got so upset? (didn't think He could be the Savior they'd waited for; thought Jesus was disrespectful; wanted someone "better" or more famous, to save them; etc.)

"At the very beginning of His work on Earth, Jesus made it very clear what His mission was and how He expected His friends to act. **Following Jesus means caring about others.** Jesus even cared for the people who were mad at Him! His whole plan was to free people from sin, help those who were poor or afraid, and show the world how to have relationship with God.

"That's a big mission! We can't do all of that, but we can do some of it! Today, you thought of ways people in your neighborhood or community could care for others. Does anyone want to share the comments they came up with for the neighborhood page today? (*Pause for responses.*) What are some ways you could care about others?" (*Pause for responses.*)

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

HOME

MADE TO PLAY

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



*2. TWISTED MATCH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: "Twisted Match Cards" Activity Page,

Twister[®] game, *(optional)* foam sit-upons, felt squares, colored paper plates and tape, or colored chalk

Option: If you don't have Twister or have too many kids

in your group, lay out other materials in a grid: foam sit-upons, felt squares, colored paper plates taped to the floor, etc. If your weather permits, draw colored chalk circles on pavement outside. You will call out combinations (right foot on red, etc.) or use an app on a phone or tablet.

WHAT YOU DO:

- (Note: If necessary, prompt kids to adjust their face masks before beginning this activity.)
- Play Twister in the traditional fashion. Here's a quick review of the rules:
 - Direct the kids to take off their shoes to prevent fingers getting stepped on.
 - Choose a kid to go first.
 - Spin the spinner and ask that kid to put their hands or feet on the circles as dictated by the spinner.
 - Kids should only touch the mat with their hands and feet.
 - No two kids can touch the same spot at the same time.
 - Choose a kid to go next and repeat the process.
 - A kid is out when they can't complete the movement dictated by the spinner, if they fall, or if they move off the spots they're supposed to touch.
- After playing for a while, direct the kids to circle around the mat.
- Sort the "Twister Match Cards" Activity Page into people and places.
- Place the two piles of "Twister Match Cards" in the center of the group.
- One at a time, instruct each kid to draw a people card and a places card then tell how they could help others in that situation.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Just like we matched 'right foot on red,' we have opportunities every day to match people in need with ways we can help. I liked the ways you talked about helping others at the end of our game. It reminded me of when . . . [Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate way in which you recently helped others—a friend in need or a random act of kindness. Talk about why you helped and how you did something about what they needed.)

"I have learned that **following Jesus means caring about others.** There are times when it's easy to care about others and times when it's more difficult. That's why I'm glad that in Jesus, we have the perfect example of how to care for others. He also sent the Holy Spirit to give us strength and help when we need it."

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

*2. TWISTED MATCH, CONTINUED)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

- If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:
- Who do you think you care for the most? How do you know?
- When is it hardest to care about others? When is it easy?
- Can you follow Jesus and NOT care about everyone? Why or why not?



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. VERSE HOP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, masking tape hopscotch grid, and small bean bags, rolled socks, mini frisbees, etc.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Micah 6:8 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
- Read the verse out loud together, twice.

Finding verses with a multi-age group: Guide all 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, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find Micah in the list under "Old Testament." When the kid finds Micah, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Micah. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find Micah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 6. Give time for all of the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 8 in chapter 6. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers, or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group.

- Lead the kids to the hopscotch board.
- Assign each kid a number from the grid and a portion of the verse to say out loud.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Instruct the first kid to toss their bean bag on the grid, hop to get it, skip the number it landed on, then finish the grid and hop back.
 - When they hop on each number, instruct the rest of the group to say their portion of the memory verse out loud, as fast as they need to keep up with the hopper. (So the memory verse will be said as a kid jumps through the hopscotch grid.)
 - Make sure the hopping kid also says their portion of the verse.
 - The kid whose square the bean bag landed on should be silent so that part of the verse is skipped.
- Play until everyone has had a turn.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This is a very famous verse that talks about how to treat people. Many times, it's quoted just as three short lines—act with justice, show mercy, be humble. In our game we had times when we missed those parts of the verse when the bean bag landed on one of them.

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(3. VERSE HOP, CONTINUED)

"Is there any part of that verse—especially those three things—that we could leave out but still follow Jesus? Could you follow Jesus and not care about justice—not care that people get taken advantage of and hurt? Could you follow Jesus and want revenge on people you don't like? Could you follow Jesus and want everything to be all about YOU all the time? No! Justice, mercy, and humility are necessary to loving others the way Jesus does. Those three things aren't optional when we try to really live and love the way Jesus did. This verse reminds us that **following Jesus means caring about others."**



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible opened to Luke 4:18-19

WHAT YOU DO:

• Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.

• Read Luke 4:18-19 to them but pause at the beginning and say, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon [kid's name] to bring Good News." Repeat with each kid.

• Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for sending us Jesus and showing us what love looks like. Help us this week to remember that **following Jesus means caring about others.** Show us the people who need our love and help this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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I should treat others the way I want to be treated. As adults arrive to pick up, let kids show off their App pages from the "From Scroll to Screen" Activity and see if any families want to add to the community mural from "Early Arriver."



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 Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving **WHAT YOU NEED**:

- Offering container
- Long roll of paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group **WHAT YOU NEED:**

 Print the "Community Helpers Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group

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. FROM SCROLL TO SCREEN [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "From Scroll to Screen Apps" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Bibles
- Pens or pencils
- Markers or colored pencils

*2. TWISTED MATCH [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Twisted Match Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one set for each small group
- Twister[®] mat and spinner
- (*Optional*) Foam sit-upons, felt squares, colored paper plates and tape, or colored chalk

3. VERSE HOP [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
- Masking tape
- Small bean bags, rolled socks, mini frisbees, etc.
 Tape a hopscotch grid on the floor of your small group area.

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

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

• Bible marked at Luke 4:18-19

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.**