

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

Under Pressure
Peter and John Are
Taken to the Sanhedrin
Acts 3:1–4:21

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is with you no matter what.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"So we say with confidence,
'The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.'"
Hebrews 13:6a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Confidence—Living like you
believe God is with you

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.

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: Acting Up
Application Activity: Game Play
Memory Verse Activity: Power Piñata
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

RAISE YOUR GAME

PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE

WEEK
THREE
MAY 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

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, pray for each kid who will be in attendance this morning—those who are regular attenders and those who may be visiting for the first time. Ask God to open their hearts, that they may be able to understand that because God has forgiven us, we can also forgive others. Ask God to help you and the kids walk in love and forgiveness.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Pressure

Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin
Acts 3:1–4:21

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, boxes, and sticky notes in various colors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to Small Group as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Set out the boxes and the sticky notes.
- Demonstrate how the box can fit over your head.
- Invite the kids to use the sticky notes to make block-style faces on their box.
- Encourage the kids to take their time and be creative!
- Set these aside for use later.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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RAISE YOUR GAME

PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE



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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Cardstock in various colors, safety scissors, stickers, and coloring materials

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the cardstock, scissors, and stickers.
- Invite kids to use the materials to make money for their own imaginary video game world.
 - Encourage the kids to be creative—they can make bills, coins, jewels, virtual money shapes.
 - The decoration of the money can show the type of world their video game is set in.
- When kids have made a pretty good set of currency, set it aside.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"If you could make your own money, how much would you make? (*Invite responses.*) What kind of imaginary money or treasure would you want someone to surprise you with? (*Invite responses.*) What is the most valuable currency in your video game world? (*Invite responses.*) **[Transition] Let's go hear about someone who expected silver and gold but got something priceless instead!**"

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Lead your group to the Large Group area.

RAISE YOUR GAME

PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE

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THREE
MAY 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

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. ACTING UP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Box heads created in "Early Arriver" and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to form groups of three or four.
- Set out the cardboard box heads created in "Early Arriver."
- Invite the kids to choose a different cardboard box head for each of their group members.
- Instruct the kids to work together to retell the story for the rest of the group as they wear the box heads.
- Open the Bibles to Acts 3 and 4.
- Set the Bibles out for reference as the kids work and plan their retellings.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This whole story started with something great—a man who couldn't walk was now able to walk! And it started a whole chain of events: the preaching in the synagogue, the 5,000 new members of the new church, then *(pause like something awesome comes next)* the arrest of Peter and John! They were tossed into a smelly uncomfortable prison, in the dark.

"They must have been confused and upset. It seemed like everything was going so well for followers of Jesus until then. Their new group of Jesus' followers was growing by the thousands every week. People were healed and helped in Jesus' name. They were probably wondering, 'How could anyone get arrested for sharing such good news?'

"They had a chance to speak in front of the local court, the Sanhedrin. These judges were leaders of God's people and also should have been happy that the man had been healed. But they weren't. Why do you think that is? *(Invite responses—they were jealous of the new church, they wanted to be the only ones right about following God, etc.)*

"Peter and John weren't sad or discouraged though! They told the Good News right to that whole group of angry leaders. Peter and John knew the secret that **God is with you no matter what**. When they were participating in the healing outside the Temple, God was with them. When they were welcoming new people to their group of Jesus' followers, God was with them. In prison, God was with them. On trial, God was with them. Even when they were released, they knew everyone could see that God was with them.

"And in the same way, God is with you! Through good times and not-so-great ones, when you feel close to God and when you feel far away, **God is with you no matter what.**"

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. GAME PLAY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Game Play Charades Cards" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the cards from the "Game Play Charades Cards" Activity Page.
- Instruct one kid to pick a card not share what it is with the group.
- Guide the kid to silently act-out what is on the card.
- Invite the rest of the group to guess the actions. (If the group's answer is basically the same as what's on the actor's card, but not worded exactly, you can accept that answer.)
- The first kid who guesses the action gets to become the next actor, drawing a card and acting it out for the group.
- Play until everyone who wants to has had a chance to act-out a card.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some outrageous scenarios from video games, but we all have times when we're scared or lonely, times when we're happy and hopeful. In all of these times, **God is with you no matter what.**

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you felt God's presence—maybe in joy over creation or thankfulness for family or friends, maybe when you were lonely or sad and felt God's reassurance. Have you read something in the Bible recently that felt particularly personal? All of these are ways we know God is with us.)

"We can feel and see God's presence in many ways—in family and friends, in the Bible and in worship songs, when we pray or worship, even when we give help or serve others. If you're not sure that God is with you, pray! Then be on the lookout for a moment of joy or peace or forgiveness that wouldn't usually be possible—that's God with you, God's Spirit present in every minute of your life."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- When was the last time you knew that God was with you? Or you felt close to God?
- Are there any downsides to God being with you no matter what?
- What can you do when you feel like God is far from you?

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PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE

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PRELUDE

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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. POWER PIÑATA

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared piñata with “Verse Cards” inside and “Power Piñata” Activity Page stapled to the outside; string for hanging; whiffle bat or broomstick; masking or painter’s tape; and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Assign each team a color.
- Gather both teams near the piñata.
- Place a masking tape line that kids must stand behind for safety. (Or make a big square around the piñata area so kids know where to stand so they don’t get hit.)
- Invite kids from each team to take turns whacking the piñata with the bat or broomstick until it breaks.
- To make sure everyone gets a turn before the piñata breaks open, allow each kid just one “whack” on each turn.
- When the piñata breaks, in addition to the candy or prizes, make sure the “Verse Cards” fall to the ground.
- Direct kids to gather their treats as well as the “Verse Cards” in their team’s color.
- Instruct the teams to assemble the verse in order.
- The first team to get all of their verse cards and put them in order, wins!
- Set the treats aside to take home.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“This verse reminds us that God is our helper! Through the Holy Spirit, God is with us in every minute of our lives. Close your eyes and think about the last time you felt lonely. Even though you might not have known it, God was there with you. You weren’t actually alone.

“Think about your happiest memory. (*Let kids share as appropriate.*) God was with you then, too! What scares you? You don’t have to say it out loud, but even when something scary does happen, God is right there with you. The Spirit giving you strength to get through it.

“When you follow Jesus, God gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit living inside you. So God is with you when you take tests at school. God is with you every time you eat an ice cream cone. God is with you every birthday. When you’re sick, God is with you. When you’re at the doctor’s office or hospital, God is with you. God was with you in school last year, and God will be with you when you go to school next year. There will never be a place that you go that God is not there with you.

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K-5
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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. POWER PIÑATA, CONTINUED)

“Even if you went somewhere you shouldn’t go, God is still with you, ready to help you make the wise choice and get outta there! Even if you do something you know you shouldn’t, God is there with you, to help you ask forgiveness, fix the relationship, and start again. One of the most important things you’ll ever hear, in your whole entire life, is this: **God is with you no matter what.**”

RAISE YOUR GAME

PLAY WITH CONFIDENCE



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K-5
STARTER

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: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group.
- Tell the kids that you're going to pray a responsive prayer.
- You will make a statement, and they will answer, "God is with me no matter what."
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Under Pressure

Peter and John Are
Taken to the Sanhedrin
Acts 3:1–4:21

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you're feeling awesome and excited and happy . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When you're feeling sad and mad and bad and generally rotten . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When you're scared and lonely and there's a thunderstorm outside . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is with you no matter what.

"When you've done something wrong and you're embarrassed . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When your pictures look amazing and you have a zillion followers online . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

When you feel like no one likes you and you're not good enough . . . (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.')

God is with you no matter what. (Kids say, 'God is with me no matter what.' Then lead them to say 'Amen' with you.) Amen."

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"So we say with confidence,
'The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.'"
Hebrews 13:6a, NIV

As adults arrive to pick up, send the kids home with the treats from the piñata and their video game currency. Invite the adults to get pictures of the kids wearing the giant box heads, too!

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Confidence—Living like you
believe God is with you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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
- Large boxes (big enough to fit over a kid's face)—one for each kid
- Sticky notes in various colors

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cardstock in various colors
- Safety scissors
- Stickers (stars, emojis, animals, etc.)
- Coloring materials

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 #1.

* 1. ACTING UP

[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:

- Box heads created in "Early Arriver"
- Bibles

2. GAME PLAY

[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 "Game Play Charades Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each small group.

3. POWER PIÑATA

[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:

- Print "Power Piñata" Activity Page on paper, one for each small group.
- Print "Verse Cards" Activity Page on two different colors of paper, one set in each color for each small group.
- Large paper bag
- Stapler
- Several types of candy and prizes
- String
- Whiffle bat or broomstick
- Masking or painter's tape
- Bibles
 - Make a piñata by putting the candy, prizes, and both sets of the "Verse Cards" into the large paper bag. Staple it shut at the top and staple the "Power Piñata" Activity Page on it.

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:

- 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.**

Dancing like a video
game character

Building a house
out of bricks

Jumping and falling
off a ledge

Collecting
a supply drop

Shooting fireballs
out of your hands

Losing a life

Growing GIGANTIC

Finding treasure

Talking to a villager

Knocking down
a pig's fort

Winning a car race

Losing a car race

What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each small group.



What to Do:
Print on paper, one for each small group.

“So

we say

with

confidence,

‘The Lord

is my

helper;

I will

not

be afraid.””

Hebrews

13:6a (NIV)

What to Do:

Print on two different colors of paper and cut apart,
two sets for each small group (one of each color).

"So

we can

say boldly,

'The Lord

helps

me.

I

will not

be

afraid.'"

Hebrews

13:6a (NlrV)

What to Do:

Print on two different colors of paper and cut apart,
two sets for each small group (one of each color).