

**WEEK**

**ONE**

# Preteen | W1

## Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 1

**Bible Story:** Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 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 (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Build the Story (K–1st grade), Picture Plates (2nd–3rd grade)

Application Activity: Buckets of Questions (K–1st grade), Jesus Went Away and Came Back (2nd–3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Motions (K–1st grade), Torn Paper Cross (2nd–3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

Easter (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18–20:23*

### Conversation Starter

How do you celebrate Easter?

### Bottom Line

You can have joy because Jesus is alive.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NlrV



5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Offering container 0
-  EveryChild Supplies: Small pictures of Easter items Several



### EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain that you are going to play "Twenty Questions" with an Easter theme.
- Think of an Easter-related item (e.g., Jesus, cross, Peeps®, Easter egg, crown of thorns, sunrise, stone, chocolate bunny, jellybeans).
- Share that the kids can ask up to 20 yes or no questions to guess what you're thinking of.
- If they don't guess what you're thinking of in 20 questions, tell them the answer, think of a different item, and start another round.
- Let a kid who guesses correctly take a turn being the "thinker."

### What You Say:

"You guys are great detectives! You asked good questions to figure out the answer. In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus' friends had a lot of questions too. They were confused and sad. But then they discovered the answer that changed everything. Let's go dive into the story."








5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

### What You Need

 Prepared "Chalk Cross" Activity Page cutouts	0
 Black construction paper	1
 Painter's tape	Several
 Chalk pastels	1
 Heart cutout or sticker	1
 Hand wipes	1
 EveryChild Supplies: Gloves	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of black construction paper and a cutout from the "Chalk Cross" Activity Page.
- Help them use a small piece of painter's tape to stick the cross to the center of the black construction paper.
- Instruct them to use the chalk pastels to color heavily around the edges of the cross, drawing outward from the cross onto the black paper. Encourage them to use bright colors!
- Encourage them to smudge the chalk outward with their fingers to create a glowing effect.
- Once they're done coloring, carefully peel off the cross cutout. This will reveal a stark black cross surrounded by a burst of color.
- Give each kid a heart cutout or sticker to place in the center of the black cross.
- Give each kid a hand wipe.

### What You Say:

"This beautiful art reminds us of today's true story from the Bible: the story of Easter and what Jesus did for every one of us. When Jesus died on the cross, it was a dark, sad moment. Jesus' friends didn't know it, but Jesus was paying for sins and making a way for us to be God's friends. And then Jesus didn't stay dead—He rose again on the third day! Jesus is alive, and that means that anyone who believes in Him can have a friendship with God that lasts forever!

"The heart reminds us that He did all of this because He loves us. At any moment, Jesus could have called down powerful angels to save Him from the agony of the cross. He could have walked away. But He didn't. Jesus chose to endure the pain so He could rescue us. Now, even in our darkest times, we have the light and joy of Jesus. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.**"






5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

 Dissolving paper	1
 Washable markers	1
 Clear, plastic bowl	1
 Water	1
 Plastic tablecloth or tarp	1

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of dissolving paper and a washable marker.
- Instruct them to write a word or draw a picture that represents a sin that separates us from God. (Sin is anytime we choose to go our own way instead of God's.) (e.g., "Lying," "Selfishness," "Envy.")
- Direct them to fold the paper.
- Explain that Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for all of these things.
- One by one, encourage the kids to drop their paper into the water in the bowl. (*Stir gently with your finger if needed.*)
- Watch as the paper dissolves.

### What You Say:

"Look at that. Your papers don't look like paper anymore and what you wrote went away. That's what Jesus did for us on the cross. That's what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took all our sin—all our bad choices, all of the times we chose to go our way instead of God's way—and He washed them away. He broke the curse of sin so we could be close to God again. Because He's alive, we're forgiven and free! That's the biggest reason for joy. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.**"

**[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate way you trust Jesus with your sins.) You can say something like: "I know I make bad choices. But I don't have to carry that weight around anymore because I know Jesus has already paid for my sins. And that gives me so much peace and joy."**




5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

### What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Laundry basket	1
 Prepared beanbags	Several

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

**Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Create a line with floor tape on one side of your activity area.
- Place the prepared beanbags in a pile on the tape line.
- Place the laundry basket about five feet from the tape line.
- Instruct the kids to line up behind the tape line and take turns trying to toss one beanbag at a time into the laundry basket.
- Once all the beanbags are in the basket, dump them out.
- Challenge the group to race to put the beanbags in the correct order to form the verse.
- Read the verse together out loud. If needed, help the kids put the beanbags in the correct order.

### What You Say:

"Nice work, everyone! And great teamwork getting all the beanbags into the basket and then putting the verse together. Philippians 4:4 tells us to *'Always be joyful.'* That isn't always easy, especially when times are tough, or hard things happen in our lives. But when we remember that we *'belong to the Lord'*—and that Jesus is alive with us—it makes joy possible. No matter what happens, Jesus made a way for you to be friends with God forever, and that friendship can start right now. Life with God is far better than you can ever imagine, and **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because Jesus is alive!**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

Ask these questions:

- Why do you think Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested even though the soldiers fell down when He said, "I am he"? (John 18:6 NIRV)
- What moment in today's Bible story amazes you the most?
- What does the resurrection prove about who Jesus really is?
- Peter messed up, but Jesus still forgave him and used him. What does that tell you about how Jesus sees YOU when you mess up?
- How does knowing Jesus is alive change the way you face: Fear? Confusing moments? Mess-ups?




5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross that's taped to the wall at a kid's height 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



### EveryChild Tips

- Create a "group" thank you note on a large piece of paper if individual writing is too daunting for the group.

### What You Do:

- Point out the large cross taped to the wall.
- Give each kid a sticky note and ask them to write a short "Thank You" note to Jesus on it. They can thank Him for dying for them, for being alive, for being their friend, or for something specific He has done in their lives.
- Invite them to go to the wall and stick their note on the cross.
- Gather around the cross and pray.

### What You Say:

"Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, and then He gave that perfect life to pay the price for our sin. Because He never did anything wrong, Jesus was able to take on our sin. With His own life, He paid for all the wrong things anyone has ever done or ever will do. He broke the curse of sin we were under. He set us free. Because the curse is broken and our sin is paid for, now we can be close to God forever! Jesus chose to endure the cross because God wants to be close to YOU. Seeing all these thank-you notes reminds us of how much we have to be grateful for. Let's pray together.

"Jesus, thank You. Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the empty tomb. Thank You that You're alive right now! We are so grateful that we can know You and be Your friends. Please fill us with Your joy this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Kids

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# Resources

## Activity Pages

### What You Need

No supplies needed

# Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

## GETTING READY

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

### Social

#### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

##### 15 Minutes

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

#### Opening Activity

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- Offering container

##### EveryChild Supplies:

- Small pictures of Easter items

### 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.)**

#### 1. Take a Snapshot

##### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Explore*

##### What You Need:

- Dissolving paper, one piece for every kid
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Washable markers, one for every kid
- Clear, plastic bowl; one for each Small Group
- Water, enough to fill the plastic bowl
- Plastic tablecloth or tarp, one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Cut dissolving paper into small pieces, one for every kid. (See example of dissolving paper here: <https://bit.ly/4iNiocB>)*
- *Spread out a tablecloth or tarp.*
- *Fill the plastic bowl with water and place it in the center of the tablecloth/tarp.*

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

##### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Explore*

##### What You Need:

- Print "Chalk Cross" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one for every kid
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Black construction paper, one piece for every kid
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group

- Chalk pastels, enough for each Small Group to share
- Heart cutout or sticker, one for every kid
- Hand wipes, enough for each Small Group to share

**EveryChild Supplies:**

- Gloves

**3. Discussion Questions**

**Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

*Made to Connect*

**What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

**4. Verses to Take with You**

**Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity**

*Made to Move*

**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Laundry basket, one for each Small Group
- Beanbags, at least 9 for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Masking tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Write parts of the Memory Verse on strips of masking tape and stick them to the beanbags. (e.g., "Always," "be joyful," "because," "you belong," "to the Lord." "I will," "say it again." "Be joyful!" "Philippians 4:4")*

**5. Make It Personal with Prayer**

**Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect*

**What You Need:**

- Posterboard, one for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for every kid
- Writing supplies, one for every kid
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Draw a large cross on the posterboard and cut out, one for each Small Group.*
- *Tape the cross to the wall at the kids' height.*

**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 resources: **Parent Cue App**.

# Supplies

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	0
2. EveryChild Supplies: Small pictures of Easter items	Several

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Prepared “Chalk Cross” Activity Page cutouts	0
2. Black construction paper	1
3. Painter’s tape	Several
4. Chalk pastels	1
5. Heart cutout or sticker	1
6. Hand wipes	1
7. EveryChild Supplies: Gloves	1

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Dissolving paper	1
2. Washable markers	1
3. Clear, plastic bowl	1
4. Water	1
5. Plastic tablecloth or tarp	1

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Laundry basket	1
3. Prepared beanbags	Several

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

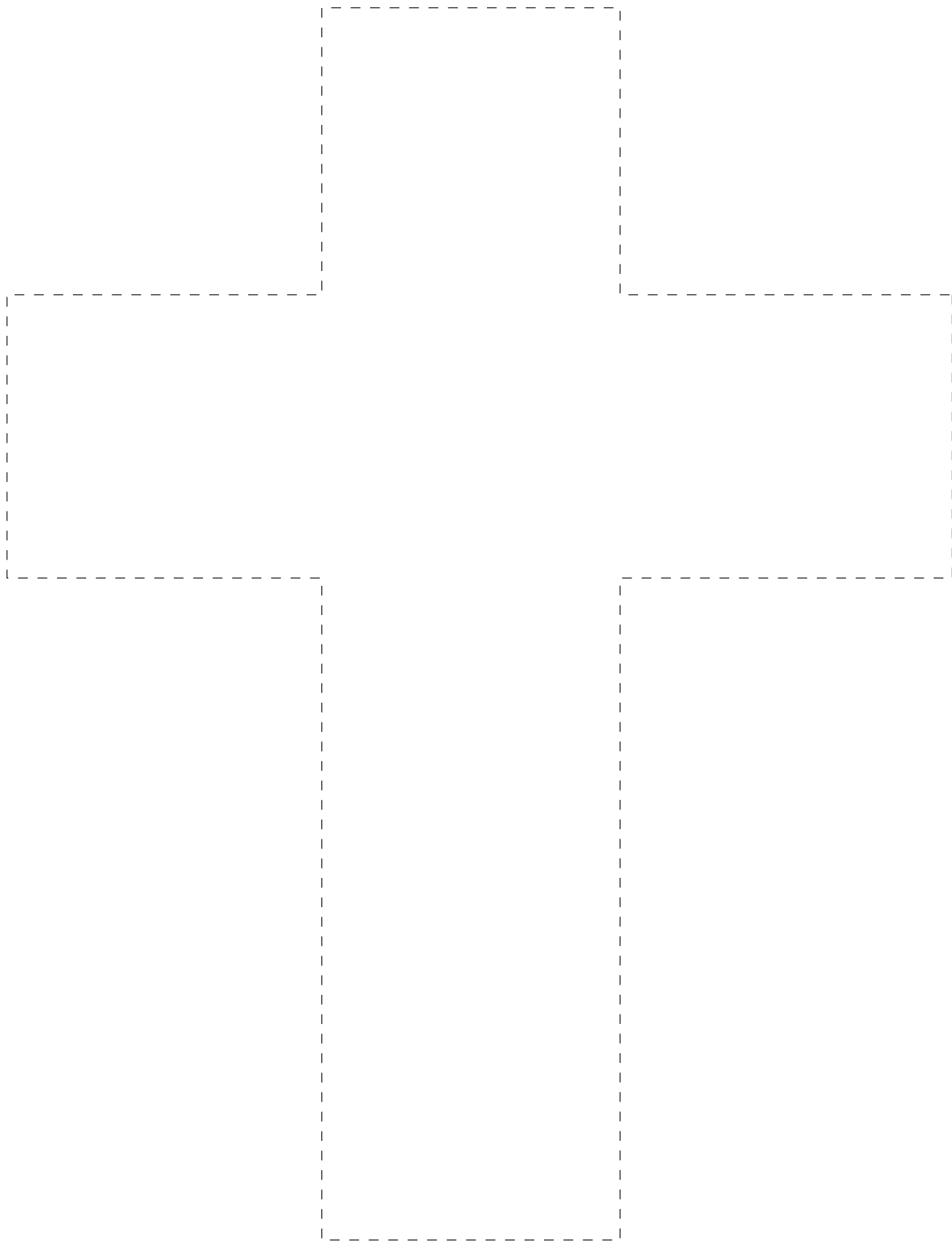
	Quantity
1. Prepared posterboard cross that’s taped to the wall at a kid’s height	1
2. Sticky notes	1
3. Writing supplies	1



# Activity Pages

## Preteen

Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.



**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut.  
One for every kid.

**"Chalk Cross" Activity Page**  
April 2026, Week 1, Small Group Preteen  
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**WEEK**

**TWO**

# Preteen | W2

## Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 2

**Bible Story:** On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 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 (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Bigger Story Joy (K-1st grade), Two Kids and a Stuffie (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Walk the Walk (K-1st grade), Help to See (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Freeze Memory Verse (K-1st grade), Joy Uncovered (2nd-3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

### Conversation Starter

How does knowing that Jesus is alive bring you joy?

### Bottom Line

You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*



5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Offering container 0
-  EveryChild Supplies: Small pictures of Easter items Several



### EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain that you are going to play "Twenty Questions" with an Easter theme.
- Think of an Easter-related item (e.g., Jesus, cross, Peeps®, Easter egg, crown of thorns, sunrise, stone, chocolate bunny, jellybeans).
- Share that the kids can ask up to 20 yes or no questions to guess what you're thinking of.
- If they don't guess what you're thinking of in 20 questions, tell them the answer, think of a different item, and start another round.
- Let a kid who guesses correctly take a turn being the "thinker."

### What You Say:

"You guys are great detectives! You asked good questions to figure out the answer. In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus' friends had a lot of questions too. They were confused and sad. But then they discovered the answer that changed everything. Let's go dive into the story."




5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

### What You Need

 Bible	1
 Blindfold	0
 Prepared tape maze on the floor	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

### What You Do:

- Ask for volunteers and choose two from the kids who have their hands raised.
- Choose one volunteer to be the "traveler" and blindfold them.
- Choose the other volunteer to be the "guide."
- The guide must use only their voice to direct the traveler through the maze from start to finish. (e.g., "Take two steps forward." "Stop." "Turn left." "Turn right.")
- The rest of the group must stay silent.
- Continue with more rounds if time allows. Ask for two new volunteers at the start of each round.

### What You Say:

"Wow, great job, you guys! Navigating that maze without seeing was tough, right? The traveler had to trust the guide who could see the whole path—the bigger picture. In our Bible Story today, Cleopas and his friend were the travelers, and they were lost in their sadness. They thought the story was over. But Jesus came alongside them as a guide. He walked with them and showed them the bigger story, which was that He, the Messiah, HAD to suffer on the cross and rise again. It was all part of God's rescue plan. When Jesus gave up His life and then rose again on the third day, He defeated the power of sin and death. Now when we believe in Jesus and accept what He's done for us, we can be forgiven and walk in close relationship with God forever. When the two friends saw the big picture, their sadness turned to joy! And just like them, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story.**"

5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

No supplies needed



### EveryChild Tips

- *Remind kids to select a motion that all kids in the group are able to do.*

### What You Do:

- Invite the group to stand in a circle.
- Explain that one person is going to do a very small, subtle motion (like winking their eye, wiggling their finger, tapping their toe, or twitching their nose).
- Instruct the rest of the group to watch closely to “see” what the person is doing.
- Ask for volunteers and choose one kid from those with their hands raised. Instruct the volunteer to begin their motion.
- When someone thinks they spot what it is, direct them to shout, “I SEE! I SEE!” and identify the motion.
- If they’re right, they get to be the next person to do a motion.
- If the group can’t guess after a minute, the person reveals their motion, and you say, “We needed help to see!”
- Play several rounds. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.

### What You Say:

“Great job! You all had to look really closely to see what was happening, right? In our Bible Story today, the two friends walked with Jesus for miles but didn’t recognize Him. They needed help to see the truth. As people, we usually focus on our little piece of the story, like that test that didn’t go so well, or the mean thing your friend just said, or how you have to start at a new school where you don’t know anyone. We all face difficult or confusing things like that every single day. But God has given us a huge gift: we get to know the bigger story that we’re living in.

“And the bigger story is this: God loves us so much that, from the very beginning, He had a plan to rescue us from the terrible curse of sin so we could be close to Him. All of history points to the time that God sent Jesus to rescue us. Sometimes we get so focused on our problems or sadness that we miss what God is doing. And that’s when we need to remember to step back and look for the bigger story. God is ALWAYS working, even when we can’t see it at first, and that’s why **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there’s a bigger story!**”






5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Sandal or shoe	1
 Music player	1
 Fun, upbeat music	1
 EveryChild Supplies: Stop sign	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Use a stop sign or other visual cue to signal when it is time to stop.

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

**Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
- Pass the sandal or shoe around the circle while the music plays.
- When the music stops, instruct the kid holding the sandal to stand up and say the Memory Verse: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! Philippians 4:4."
- If they need help, the group can say the Memory Verse with them.
- Start the music again and continue playing.

### What You Say:

"You guys are pros at this verse! The first part says: 'Always be joyful.' That sounds impossible, right? How can we be joyful when bad things happen? The key is the next part: 'because you belong to the Lord.' Because we belong to God, we are part of His story."

"We're living in God's big story right now! This doesn't mean that you won't face hard times or that you can't ever be sad or angry. But it does mean that you go through it all with God. That gives us a deep joy that doesn't go away, even on bad days. That's why **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story!**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

Ask these questions:

- If you were walking with Jesus, what questions would you ask Him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to show up right in the middle of the two friends' sadness instead of waiting until they felt better?
- How do you think Cleopas and his friend were different after their walk with Jesus compared to before it?
- How does knowing that Jesus is alive help you have joy—even in confusing or painful times?
- What is one way you can look for God's bigger story this week?






5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1 1
-  Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1) 1
-  Tape 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



### EveryChild Tips

- For the sticky note prayer, if a child is uncomfortable sharing a hardship, allow them to write a prayer for someone else or simply write: "God knows."

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a sticky note and something to write with.
- Ask kids to think of something in their life that they need Jesus' help with.
- Instruct them to write it on the sticky note (or draw a symbol for it if they're more comfortable with that).
- Explain that we're going to give these things to God, trusting that He is writing a bigger story.
- Invite them to stick their notes onto the cross on the wall.
- Gather around the cross.

### What You Say:

"God sees every one of these sticky notes. He knows it's hard. But just like He turned the sadness of the cross into the joy of the resurrection, He is working toward that good story you are living in. Let's pray together and trust Him with our stories.

"God, thank You that You see the whole picture. Thank You that You're writing a good story. We give You these hard things today. Help us to trust You. Fill us with Your joy, and remind us that You are with us, You will help us, and You are always working for good. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

## GETTING READY

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

### Social

#### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

##### 15 Minutes

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

#### Opening Activity

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- Offering container
- Print "Road to Emmaus" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one set of puzzle pieces for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Resealable bag, one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Put the puzzle pieces in the resealable bag so one piece is ready to give to each kid as they enter the room.*

### 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.)**

#### 1. Take a Snapshot

##### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

##### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Blindfold, one for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Create a "maze" on the floor with tape in an area that works for your space. It should be wide enough to walk through but have twists, turns, and dead ends.*

#### 3. Discussion Questions

##### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Connect*

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### 4. Verses to Take with You

##### Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

*Made to Connect*

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Sandal or shoe, one for each Small Group
- Music player, one for each Small Group
- Fun, upbeat music

##### EveryChild Supplies:

- Stop sign

#### 5. Make It Personal with Prayer

##### Pray to God | Prayer Activity

*Made to Reflect*

##### What You Need:

- Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1, one for each Small Group
- Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1), one for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for every kid
- Writing supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- *Before group time:*
- *Tape the posterboard cross from Week 1 to the wall at a kid's height.*
- *If you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1, make a new one—draw a large cross on the posterboard and cut out, one for each Small Group. Tape to the wall at a kid's height.*

##### 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 resources: **Parent Cue App**.

# Supplies

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	0
2. EveryChild Supplies: Small pictures of Easter items	Several

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Blindfold	0
3. Prepared tape maze on the floor	1

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Sandal or shoe	1
3. Music player	1
4. Fun, upbeat music	1
5. EveryChild Supplies: Stop sign	1

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1	1
2. Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1)	1
3. Tape	1
4. Sticky notes	1
5. Writing supplies	1



# Activity Pages

**Preteen**

Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.



**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut.  
One for each Small Group.

**"Road to Emmaus" Activity Page**  
April 2026, Week 2, Small Group Preteen  
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**WEEK**

**THREE**

# Preteen | W3

## Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 3

**Bible Story:** Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

**Bottom Line:** You can share the good news about Jesus.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 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.

### **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 (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### **Small Group (25 minutes)**

#### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Bible Story Review: Parachute Party (K–1st grade), Emoji Story (2nd–3rd grade)

Application Activity: Be a Smartie (K–1st grade), Spread the Joy (2nd–3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Bubble Verse (K–1st grade), Unscramble the Relay (2nd–3rd grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### **Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### **Bible Story**

Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

### **Conversation Starter**

What does it mean to you that God is with you?

### **Bottom Line**

You can share the good news about Jesus.

### **Monthly Memory Verse**

*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NIV*

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Offering container

1



### EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
- Play a classic game of "Telephone."
- Whisper a phrase related to the story into the ear of the first student.
  - *Phrase ideas:* "Go and make disciples of all nations." "I am always with you, to the very end." "Jesus was taken into heaven."
- That student whispers what they heard to the next person, and so on.
- The last person says the phrase out loud.
- See how much the message changed!

### What You Say:

"That message got a little mixed up! Passing a message along can be tricky. Today, we'll see that Jesus entrusted His followers with the most important message of all, and He gave them a special promise to help them deliver it. Let's go!"


5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

### What You Need

 Bible	1
 Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page	0



### EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

### What You Do:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20, and Acts 1:4-11 out loud to the group. Explain that these are two separate, but very important events!
- Pair kids up and have them sit facing the same direction—one behind the other.
- Give the kid in the back a card from the "Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page. Tell them to study the picture quietly.
- Then instruct them to use their finger to "draw" the picture on their partner's back, without saying what the picture is.
- Give examples like:
  - "Draw a tall shape with a point at the top."
  - "Make a circle, then draw smaller circles inside it."
- The front partner tries to guess what part of the Bible Story the drawing represents.
- After a minute, let them turn around, compare the card with what they guessed, and explain what that picture represents in the story.
- Then have partners switch roles and repeat with a new picture.

### What You Say:

"Great job reviewing the Bible Story with pictures! Jesus gave us all a very important job to do! We are to go into all the world to share the message of Jesus! That's an epic job! You worked very hard to decipher what your partner was drawing on your back. The disciples couldn't see Jesus anymore after He went to heaven, but they still trusted His promise—that He would always be with them. Even though we can't see Him with our eyes, Jesus is guiding us every day through His Word and His Spirit. He will help us to know what to say or do when we are sharing God's great love with others! **[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.**"




5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

### What You Need

 Device to play audio/video	1
 Paper	Several
 Writing supplies	Several



### EveryChild Tips

- *Remind kids to select a motion that all kids in the group are able to do.*

### What You Do:

- Cue a video of ASL of Jesus.
- Teach the kids how to say "Jesus" or "God is with you" in three different languages.
  - **Spanish:** Jesús (Hay-soos) / Dios está contigo.
  - **Mandarin Chinese:** Yēsū (Yeah-soo).
  - **American Sign Language (ASL):** Touch the middle finger of your right hand to the center of your left palm, then the middle finger of your left hand to the center of your right palm.
- Encourage the kids to practice saying/signing these.
- Give them paper and markers to make a small card with one of these phrases to give to someone.

### What You Say:

"Jesus told His friends to go to all nations. That means people who speak every language! It's cool to know that people all over the world are praising Jesus today. No matter where we go or what language we speak, **[Bottom Line] you can share the good news about Jesus.**"



5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, and dry-erase eraser 1



### EveryChild Tips

- Use a stop sign or other visual cue to signal when it is time to stop.

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Read the Memory Verse together as a group that you've written on the whiteboard: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4"
- Ask a volunteer to come up and erase one word (or two).
- Read the verse together again, filling in the missing word from memory.
- Invite another student to erase another word.
- Continue until the board is blank, and the group is saying the entire verse from memory!

### What You Say:

"You guys have that verse memorized! Awesome job! What a joy to know you belong to God. We can share that joy wherever we go by loving like Jesus. When you're kind like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you're honest like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you're forgiving like Jesus, the world sees Him. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in you. The Spirit goes with you everywhere and can give you ideas about how to live like Jesus and share who He is. You carry Jesus' love at every moment! When you are kind and loving like Jesus, when you show your world who He is, people will want to know more about Him! And in those moments, you're not alone. God will help you find the right words to tell people about Him and His great love. You have a big assignment, but you are not alone, so remember, **[Bottom Line] you can share the good news about Jesus.**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask:

- If you had been standing on the mountain listening to Jesus give His instructions about sharing His love with the world, what would you have felt? Excited? overwhelmed? scared?
- Why do you think Jesus wants His followers to tell every nation about Him—not just one group of people?
- What part of Jesus' mission feels the hardest for you?
- What do you think it means that the Holy Spirit gives us "power"?
- Since the Holy Spirit is with you and speaking to you, what do you think it feels like or sounds like when He is guiding you to share the good news about Jesus?
- What is ONE way you can share Jesus this week—through kindness, honesty, forgiveness, or words?






5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1 1
-  Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1) 1
-  Tape 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



### EveryChild Tips

- For the sticky note prayer, if a child is uncomfortable sharing a hardship, allow them to write a prayer for someone else or simply write: "God knows."

### What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of one person they know who needs to know that God is with them. It could be a friend, a family member, or someone they know who is lonely.
- Instruct the kids to write the name of that person on a sticky note.
- Invite them to stick their note onto the posterboard cross.
- Gather around and pray for these people.

### What You Say:

"Look at all these people! Jesus sent us to share the good news of His great love with everyone, everywhere. Let's pray that these people will feel God's presence and love this week.

"God, thank You for Your promise to always be with us. Please help the people on these notes know that You love them. Use us to share Your love and joy with them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

## GETTING READY

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

### Social

#### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

##### 15 Minutes

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

### Opening Activity

*Made to Play*

#### What You Need:

- Offering container

### 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.)**

### 1. Take a Snapshot

#### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Connect*

#### What You Need:

- Device to play audio/video cued to pronunciations in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, one for each Small Group
- Paper, one piece for every kid
- Writing supplies, one for every kid

### 2. Bible Story Extension

#### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Play*

#### What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Print "Bible Story Pictures" Activity Cards on cardstock and cut, two sets for each Small Group

### 3. Discussion Questions

#### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Connect*

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

### 4. Verses to Take with You

#### Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

*Made to Connect*

**What You Need:**

- Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, dry-erase eraser; one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Write the Memory Verse on the whiteboard with the Bible reference.*

**5. Make It Personal with Prayer**

**Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect*

**What You Need:**

- Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1, one for each Small Group
- Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1), one for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for every kid
- Writing supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- *Before group time:*
- *Tape the posterboard cross from Week 1 to the wall at a kid's height.*
- *If you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1, make a new one—draw a large cross on the posterboard and cut out, one for each Small Group. Tape to the wall at a kid's height.*

**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

Preteen Social Activity   Made to Play	Quantity
1. Offering container	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension   Made to Create	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Bible Story Pictures <sup>SM</sup> Activity Page	0

Preteen – Take a Snapshot   Made to Connect	Quantity
1. Device to play audio/video	1
2. Paper	Several
3. Writing supplies	Several

Preteen – Verses to Take with You   Made to Play	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, and dry-erase eraser	1

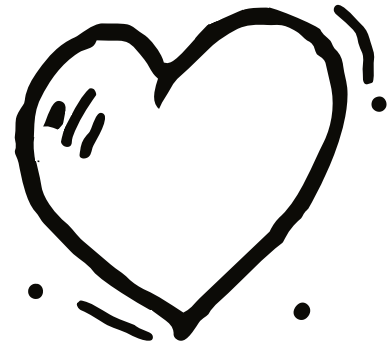
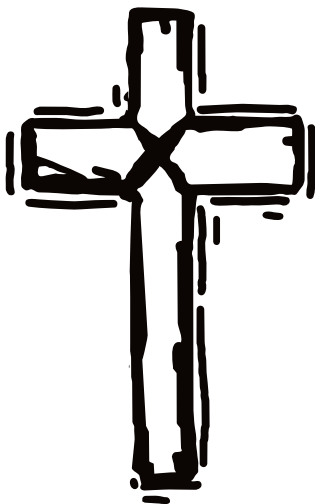
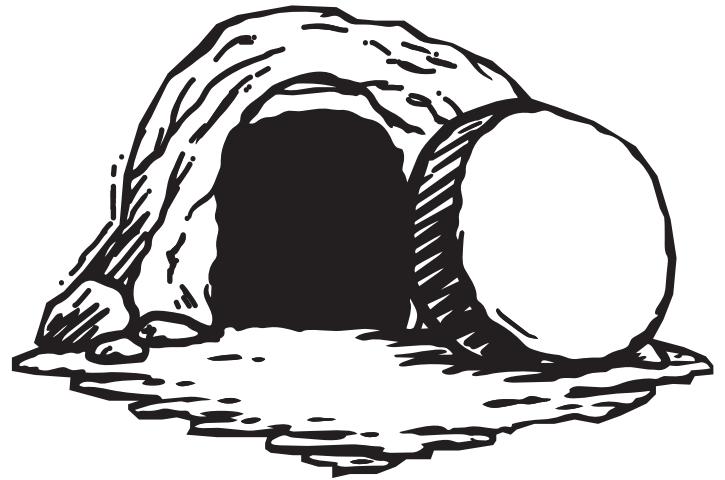
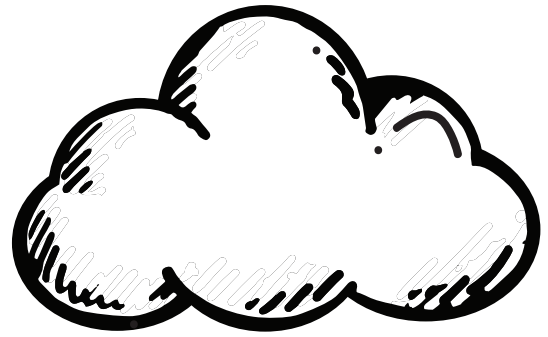
Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer   Made to Reflect	Quantity
1. Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1	1
2. Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1)	1
3. Tape	1
4. Sticky notes	1
5. Writing supplies	1



# Activity Pages

## Preteen

Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.



**What to Do:**  
Print on cardstock and cut.  
Two sets for each Small Group.

**"Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page**  
April 2026, Week 3, Small Group Preteen  
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**WEEK**

**FOUR**

# Preteen | W4

## Today's Suggested Schedule April 2026, Week 4

**Bible Story:** Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

**Bottom Line:** The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 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.

### 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 (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Headband Story (K-1st grade), Sculpted Creations (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Grouped Together (K-1st grade), Jesus in Many Languages (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Joyful Jump (K-1st grade), To the Beat (2nd-3rd grade)

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

### Conversation Starter

When have you experienced joy in your life?

### Bottom Line

The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV







5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

-  Offering container 1
-  Plastic cups 1
-  Ping-pong balls 1
-  Party blowers 1
-  Table 1
-  Timer (or smartphone or watch) 1



### EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

### 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.
- Divide the group into teams.
- Give each kid a party blower.
- Explain the challenge: Using *only* the air from the party blower (no hands!), they are to knock the ping-pong balls off the cups.
- They are to get close enough for the party blower to extend and hit the ball.
- Time each team to see how fast they can knock all three off.

### What You Say:

"That was a blast! It took a lot of air power to play that game. In our true story from the Bible today, the disciples experienced a different kind of power, something that sounded like a mighty rushing wind. It was the arrival of the Holy Spirit! Let's go find out how that changed everything."




5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

### What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  "Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page 1
-  Coloring supplies Several



### EveryChild Tips

- Provide adaptive tools.
- Encourage kids to work in pairs and support one another.

### What You Do:

- Read Acts 2:1-4 out loud to the group. Explain that this is part of the story of what happened at Pentecost when God sent His Holy Spirit.
- Give each kid a comic strip page from the "Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to draw the pictures for each panel.
- The captions should outline the story:
  1. The disciples were waiting and praying together.
  2. Suddenly, a sound like a mighty wind filled the house!
  3. Something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues separated and came to rest on each of them.
  4. They started speaking in different languages!
  5. Peter told the crowd about Jesus.
  6. 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!
- Encourage the kids to be creative with how they show the wind and fire.
- Let them share their comics with a partner.

### What You Say:

"Your comics really bring the story to life! Can you imagine being there? It must have been so amazing. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to do things they couldn't do before—things like speaking new languages and being bold enough to preach to thousands.

"That same Holy Spirit, God's very Spirit, lives in us today! When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. But it takes practice to learn to listen and follow God's Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to you in nudges throughout your day, sometimes He brings words to your mind, sometimes He will make words in the Bible jump right off the page, and you know they're just for you. Sometimes He speaks through worship song lyrics that shoot straight to your heart.

"There are a lot of different ways that the God who goes with you everywhere will speak to you! He will send truths from heaven right to your heart! **[Bottom Line] The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**"



5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

### What You Need

-  Prepared balloons (deflated with hearts drawn on them) 1
-  Prepared paper plates that are taped to the wall at different heights Several



### EveryChild Tips

- For kids with limited motor strength, allow a buddy to help hold or release the balloon.
- For kids who struggle blowing up balloons, pre-blow balloons and clip them so the kid can simply release them.
- Some kids may not want to participate or may need to leave the room for this activity if they are sensitive to balloons.

### What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of three and assign each group a paper plate target.
- Show kids the paper plate targets across the room and explain that it represents people God wants us to reach with His love and joy.
- Give each kid a balloon and instruct kids to blow up their balloon until they see the special image—a heart!
- When everyone is ready, say: “On the count of three, let your balloon go and see if it can fly toward the target!”
- Allow several attempts so kids can adjust how much air they blow into the balloon and how they release it.

### What You Say:

“Look at what happened every time you blew up your balloon. You saw the heart shape on the balloon, which reminds us of love. When you let the balloon go, it flew toward the target. Some balloons flew straight. Some spun around. Some went sideways. But eventually, they all moved because something inside them pushed them.

“That’s exactly what happened at Pentecost. Jesus’ followers were waiting and praying, and then the Holy Spirit filled them. When the Holy Spirit filled them, amazing things started happening. They had courage. They spoke languages they didn’t know. They shared Jesus boldly with people who had never heard the message of Jesus before.

“The Holy Spirit does the same thing in you. When you follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives inside you. He is God in you! He fills your heart with things you can’t create on your own—like love, peace, patience, and especially joy.

“Just like the balloon couldn’t move without something inside it, you can’t live out God’s purpose without the Holy Spirit helping you from the inside out. The more you rely on the Holy Spirit, the more His fruit, including joy, shows up in the way you live your life. You can ask the Holy Spirit to help you, guide you, and fill you with joy, because **[Bottom Line] the Holy Spirit gives you joy.**”

5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

### What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Sticky notes	Several
	Blindfold	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Allow kids to participate without the blindfold or without spinning if that makes them uncomfortable.

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Blindfold one kid.
- Spin them around gently.
- The goal is for them to stick a "pointer" sticky note (or just their hand) onto the sticky notes on the wall that have phrases of the Memory Verse on them.
- Whatever note they touch, the group is to read that phrase loud and joyfully!
- Then, take the blindfold off, and continue the same process with another kid.
- After each kid who wants to has had a chance to go, encourage the group to work together to put the notes in the correct order on the wall.
- Read the whole verse together.

### What You Say:

"Great teamwork! This verse is a command—'Be joyful!' But it's also a promise. We can be joyful because we belong to the Lord. It's not about forcing a smile when we're sad; it's about knowing deep down that God loves us and He is with us. It's easy to forget that we have such an amazing Helper, but remember this: the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you. It's breathtaking! And the more that you remember that the Holy Spirit is with you, the more your life will be filled with joy ... even in the middle of difficult times. God's Spirit gives you joy that lasts."

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask:

- What's the difference between being happy and having joy?
- What's one thing you want to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with today?
- Before that Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit, the believers were waiting without knowing what would happen. How would YOU feel waiting for something God promised but didn't explain?
- Why does God choose to work through us instead of doing everything Himself?
- Since the Holy Spirit lives in you as a follower of Jesus, what are some ways you hear His voice?






5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1 1
-  Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1) 1
-  Tape 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



### EveryChild Tips

- For the sticky note prayer, if a child is uncomfortable sharing a hardship, allow them to write a prayer for someone else or simply write: "God knows."

### What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of one person they know who needs to know that God is with them. It could be a friend, a family member, or someone they know who is lonely.
- Instruct the kids to write the name of that person on a sticky note.
- Invite them to stick their note onto the posterboard cross.
- Gather around and pray for these people.

### What You Say:

"Look at all these people! Jesus sent us to share the good news of His great love with everyone, everywhere. Let's pray that these people will feel God's presence and love this week.

"God, thank You for Your promise to always be with us. Please help the people on these notes know that You love them. Use us to share Your love and joy with them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

## GETTING READY

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

### Social

#### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

##### 15 Minutes

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

#### Opening Activity

*Made to Move*

#### What You Need:

- Offering container
- Table, one for each Small Group
- Party blowers, one for every kid
- Solo® cups, three for each Small Group
- Ping-pong balls, three for each Small Group
- Timer (or smartphone, or watch), one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
  - *Set up the three cups upside down on one end of a table.*
  - *Balance a ping-pong ball on top of each cup.*
- 

#### 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.)**

#### 1. Take a Snapshot

##### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Play*

#### What You Need:

- Deflated balloons, one for each kid
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Black permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Paper plates, one plate for every three kids
- *Before group time:*
  - *Draw a heart on each balloon.*
  - *Draw smiley faces or stick people on paper plates, one for every three kids.*
- *Tape the paper plates on the wall across the room at different heights.*

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

##### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Create*

#### What You Need:

- Bible
-

Print "Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid

- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

#### **EveryChild Supplies**

- Adaptive tools

### **3. Discussion Questions**

#### **Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

*Made to Connect*

#### **What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

### **4. Verses to Take with You**

#### **Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity**

*Made to Play*

#### **What You Need:**

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Sticky notes, at least one for every kid
- *Before group time:*
- *Write phrases of the Memory Verse on separate sticky notes.*
- "Always be joyful"
- "because you belong"
- "to the Lord."
- "I will say it again."
- "Be joyful!"
- "Philippians 4:4"
- *Stick them on the wall in a mixed-up order.*

### **5. Make It Personal with Prayer**

#### **Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

*Made to Reflect*

#### **What You Need:**

- Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1, one for each Small Group
- Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1), one for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for every kid
- Writing supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- *Before group time:*
- *Tape the posterboard cross from Week 1 to the wall at a kid's height.*
- *If you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1, make a new one—draw a large cross on the posterboard and cut out, 1 for each Small Group. Tape to the wall at a kid's height.*

### **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

Preteen Social Activity   Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Offering container	1
2.	Plastic cups	1
3.	Ping-pong balls	1
4.	Party blowers	1
5.	Table	1
6.	Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension   Made to Create		Quantity
1.	Bible	1
2.	"Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page	1
3.	Coloring supplies	Several

Preteen – Take a Snapshot   Made to Connect		Quantity
1.	Prepared balloons (deflated with hearts drawn on them)	1
2.	Prepared paper plates that are taped to the wall at different heights	Several

Preteen – Verses to Take with You   Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Bibles	1
2.	Sticky notes	Several
3.	Blindfold	1

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer   Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1	1
2.	Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1)	1
3.	Tape	1
4.	Sticky notes	1
5.	Writing supplies	1



# Activity Pages

Preteen

Activity Pages are created to extend each week's planned activities, helping leaders intentionally reinforce the week's Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse. Each page uses the monthly story images and key applications to spark engagement through games, puzzles, and hands-on creativity making learning God's Word fun, memorable, and meaningful for every kid.

**1. The disciples were waiting and praying together.**

**2. Suddenly, a sound like a mighty wind filled the house!**

**3. Something like flames of fire appeared over their heads.**

**4. They started speaking in different languages!**

**5. Peter told the crowd about Jesus.**

**6. 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!**

**What to Do:**  
Print on paper.  
One for every kid.

**"Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page**  
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