

WEEK

ONE

K-3 | 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

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience



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

K1 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

-  Party hats 3
-  Ping-pong ball 1



EveryChild Tips

- Move the hats slowly at first to ensure success and build confidence.

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.
- Place the three party hats in a row on the floor or on a table.
- Show the kids the ping-pong ball and place it under one of the hats.
- Slowly slide the hats around to mix them up.
- Ask for a kid volunteer and encourage them to guess which hat the ball is under.
- Lift the hat to reveal if the ball is there.
- Play several rounds, letting different kids guess where the ping-pong ball is, and different kids hide and move the hats.

What You Say:

"You guys are good guessers! It was tricky to know where the ball was. In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus' friends went to look for Him, but He wasn't where they expected Him to be. It was the biggest surprise ever! Let's go find out what happened."


5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

K1 - Build the Story | Made to Create

What You Need

 Wiki Stix® or pipe cleaners

1



EveryChild Tips

- Create the images in advance with the Wiki Stix and encourage the kids to point to the image as you read each statement.

What You Do:

- Give each kid four Wiki Stix® or pipe cleaners.
- Tell the kids you're going to review the Easter story, and they get to build parts of it with the Wiki Sticks or pipe cleaners!
- Say, "God loves us so much, He sent us Jesus to rescue us. Can you make a heart?" (*Let them build.*)
- Say, "Jesus died on a cross to pay for our sins to make a way for us to be His friends forever. Can you make a cross?" (*Let them build.*)
- Say, "Then Jesus was buried in a tomb with a big stone in front. Can you make a round stone?" (*Let them build.*)
- Say, "On the third day, Mary went to the tomb, but the stone was rolled away! The tomb was empty! Jesus is alive! Can you make a happy face because Jesus is alive?" (*Let them build.*)
- Talk about how each shape reminds us of part of the true story of Easter.

What You Say:

"You built the whole Easter story! God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus died on a cross to pay for our sins to make a way for us to be God's friends forever! And then He rose again on the third day! Jesus is alive today! That's why we celebrate Easter. That's why we have joy. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive!**"




5 min

Application Activity

5 min

K1 - Buckets of Questions | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Prepared buckets or plastic bins with the 5 numbers 1-5 on them
-  Soft balls or beanbags Several
-  Floor tape 1



EveryChild Tips

- Allow kids to point to a bucket instead of tossing the ball or beanbag into it.

What You Do:

- Set up a line with floor tape on one side of the room.
- Place the prepared buckets in a line on the other side of the room, across from the tape line.
- Invite the kids to line up single file behind the tape line.
- Instruct the first kid to toss the ball or beanbag into a bucket.
- If they make it into bucket #1, ask question #1. If #2, ask question #2, etc.
- Questions:
 1. Who did God send to rescue us? (*Jesus*)
 2. Why were the disciples sad at first? (*because Jesus died*)
 3. What did Mary find at the tomb? (*It was empty./Angels!/Jesus!*)
 4. Why do we have joy today? (*Because Jesus is alive!*)
 5. Who can be friends with God forever? (*Everyone who believes in what Jesus did!*)
- Let the kids answer, then retrieve the ball or beanbag and give it to the next person.
- Make sure all five questions have been discussed before ending the game.

What You Say:

"Great job answering those questions! You know the true story of Easter so well. God had a plan all along to rescue us because He loves us so much. Jesus followed that plan perfectly. Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, died on a cross for our sins, was buried in a tomb, and on the third day, Jesus rose again. Jesus is alive! Because Jesus paid for our sins, we can be friends with God! And since Jesus is alive forever, we will be His friends forever! **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.**"





5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Memory Verse Motions | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Construction paper in a variety of colors Several
-  EveryChild Supplies: Dot markers Several
-  EveryChild Supplies: Coloring materials Several



EveryChild Tips

Prepare crosses in advance and encourage kids to decorate them with dot markers or other coloring supplies.

What You Do:

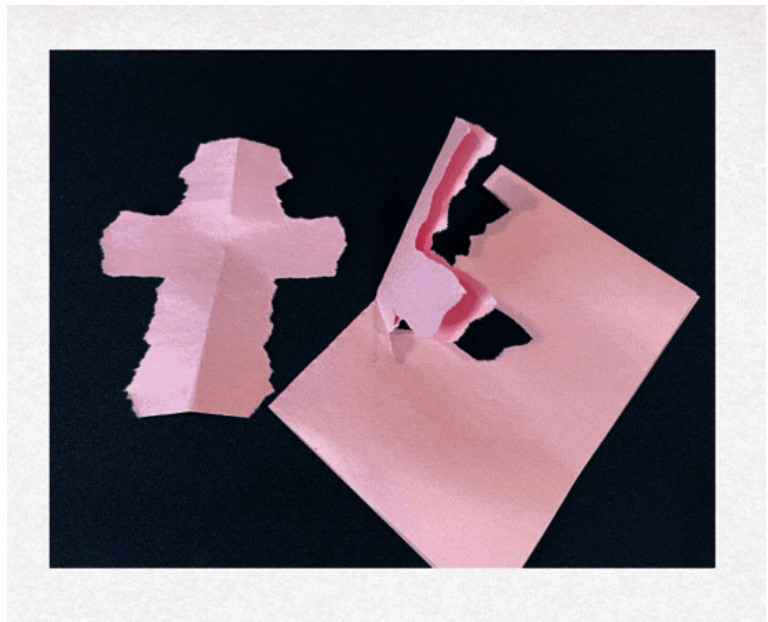
- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 4:4.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a piece of construction paper.
- Show them how to tear the paper into a cross shape. See our Pinterest Board.
- As kids work, practice saying the verse together.
- Once they're finished tearing the paper, invite them to stand up and hold their crosses while saying the verse one more time.

What You Say:

"Great work! You made something really special by tearing a plain piece of paper and creating a cross. Your cross may not look perfect. But that's the point! We aren't perfect, and we all make bad choices sometimes, choosing our way instead of God's. But the cross is the good news! The cross reminds us how much Jesus loves us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins so we could be friends with God forever! And then Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus is alive today! And because Jesus is alive, we can always be joyful. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because Jesus is alive.**"






5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Prepared cups/bowls of jellybeans 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Colored beads 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Stickers 1



EveryChild Tips

- In place of candy, use colored beads or stickers.

What You Do:

- Give each kid their cup with the jellybeans inside.
- Say: "We're going to use these jellybeans to help us remember the true story of Easter."
- Hold up one color at a time, and instruct the kids to hold up the same color as you and repeat after you.
- Hold up a black jellybean and say: "Black reminds us of our sins that kept us from being close to God." *(Let the kids repeat.)*
- Hold up a red jellybean and say: "Red reminds us of Jesus' blood on the cross. Jesus paid for our sins!" *(Let the kids repeat.)*
- Hold up a white jellybean and say: "White reminds us that Jesus cleanses us from sin." *(Let the kids repeat.)*
- Hold up a green jellybean and say: "Green reminds us we can grow our friendship with God every day." *(Let the kids repeat.)*
- Hold up a yellow jellybean and say: "Yellow reminds us of our friendship with God that will last forever." *(Let the kids repeat.)*
- Set the cups aside.

What You Say:

"All of these colors help us remember the amazing truth of Easter—Jesus died for our sins, He made a way for us to be friends with God forever! And then He rose again! That is the best news ever!
 "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You that He died for our sins so we can be Your friends, and thank You that He rose to life again. Help us grow closer to You every day. We are so excited to be friends with You forever! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | 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
- Party hats, three for each Small Group
- Ping-pong ball, one for each Small Group
- *Optional: Opaque plastic cups in place of party hats, three 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.)

1. Build the Story

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Wiki Stix® or pipe cleaners, four for every kid

2. Buckets of Questions

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Buckets or plastic bins, five for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, five for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Soft balls or beanbags, three for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
 - *Number the sticky notes 1-5.*
 - *Number the 5 buckets, 1-5, with the sticky notes.*

3. [Hear from God | Memory Verse

Activity] Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Construction paper in a variety of colors, one piece for every kid

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Bag of jellybeans, one for each Small Group
- Cups/bowls, one for every kid
- *Before group time:*
- *Place a handful of jellybeans in each cup/bowl.*
- *Include the following colors in each cup/bowl: black, red, white, green, and yellow.*

Supplies

K1 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 2. | Party hats | 3 |
| 3. | Ping-pong ball | 1 |

K1 - Build the Story | Made to Create Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Wiki Stix® or pipe cleaners | 1 |
|----|-----------------------------|---|

K1 - Buckets of Questions | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Prepared buckets or plastic bins with the numbers 1-5 on them | 5 |
| 2. | Soft balls or beanbags | Several |
| 3. | Floor tape | 1 |

23 - Memory Verse Motions | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Bibles | 1 |
| 2. | Construction paper in a variety of colors | Several |
| 3. | EveryChild Supplies: Dot markers | Several |
| 4. | veryChild Supplies: Coloring materials | Several |

23 - Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Prepared cups/bowls of jellybeans | 1 |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|

WEEK

TWO

K-3 | 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 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

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience



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 NIV*




5 min

Social

5 min

K1 Social Activity | Made to Explore

What You Need

-  Offering container 1
-  "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page 1
-  Coloring supplies 1

What You Do:

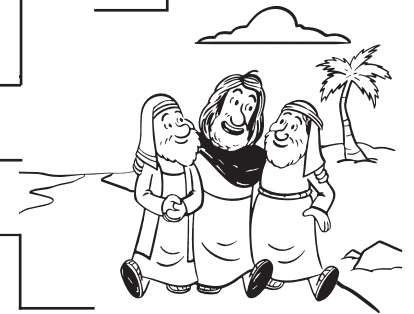
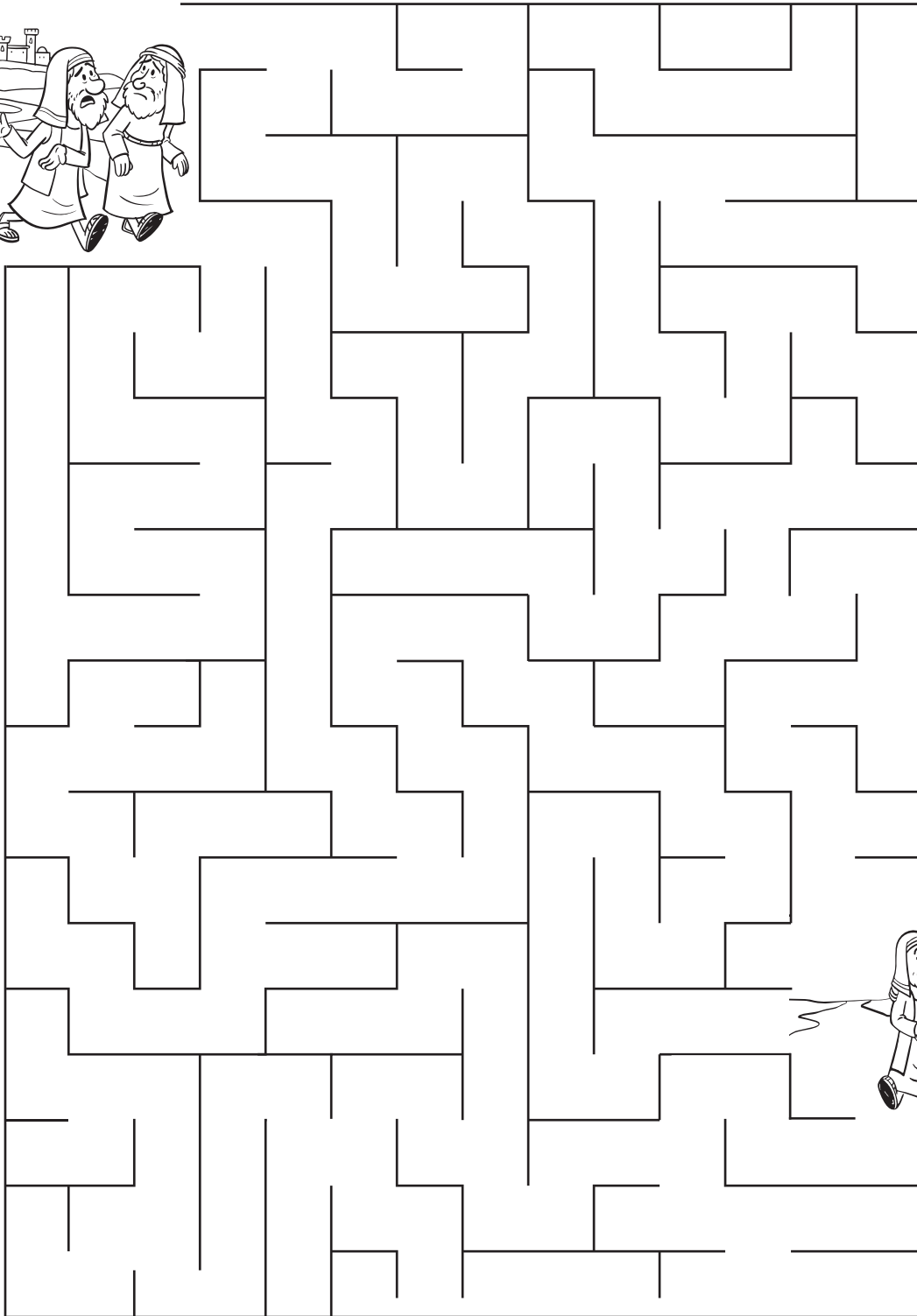
- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid an "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page and a coloring supply.
- On the "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page, show kids the start of the maze (Jerusalem) and the end of the maze (Emmaus).
- Explain that two friends are walking on a long road, and they need help finding the way.
- Let the kids trace the path through the maze using the coloring supplies.

What You Say:

"Great job! You helped the two friends find the way! In our true story from the Bible today, these two friends were walking on a long road and feeling very sad. But then Someone joined them and told them something that changed everything! Let's go find out who this Person was and what He said."

Help the two friends get from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

On the Road to Emmaus • Luke 24:13-35



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

"Emmaus Maze" Activity Page
April 2026, Week 2, Small Group K-1
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5 min


Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Two Kids and a Stuffy | Made to Move

What You Need

 Small stuffed animals (per pair of kids) 0

 Premarked start and finish line Several

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a stuffed animal.
- Explain that they are to walk from the start line to the finish line and back, holding the stuffed animal between their backs the whole time.
- Encourage them to work together to keep it from falling!
- If it falls, allow them to pick it up again and keep going.
- After the race, gather the kids and ask:
 - "Is it easier to walk alone or with a friend?"
 - "In our story, who was walking with the two friends?" (*Jesus!*)
 - "Did they know it was Jesus at first?" (*No.*)
 - "How did they feel when they realized it was Him?" (*Joyful! Happy!*)

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! Walking with friends makes the journey better. Cleopas and his friend went on a seven-mile trek from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. They were sad at the beginning of their walk talking about how Jesus had died, then someone joined them. It was Jesus! But they didn't know it was Him. Jesus asked them, *"What are you talking about as you walk along?"* (Luke 24:17 NIV). As they all walked together, Jesus explained the bigger story. He explained that He had to die and rise again to rescue everyone. When the friends understood the bigger story, they had so much joy! And just like them, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

K1 - Walk the Walk | Made to Move

What You Need

- "Action Cards" Activity Page taped along 1 the tape path made of floor tape



EveryChild Tips

- *Select motion cards so all kids can participate.*

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to line up at the start of the tape path.
- Lead them on a walk along the tape line.
- When you reach a card from the "Action Cards" Activity Page, stop and have everyone do the action together.
 - **Jump for Joy:** Jump up and down five times.
 - **High Five:** High-five a neighbor.
 - **Spin Around:** Spin in a circle one time.
 - **Clap Hands:** Clap three times.
 - **Heart Hands:** Make a heart shape with your hands.
- Continue until you reach the end of the path.

What You Say:

"That was a fun walk! Great job, everyone! The friends in our story had a long walk too. But while they walked, they learned that God was doing something amazing, something big. The friends on the walk to Emmaus were living in a bigger story, and we are too!

"It's the best story that's ever been told. And it's all true. We're living in God's big story right now, God is still working towards it, and that means **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story!**"



**Jump for Joy:
Jump up and down 5 times.**

What to Do:
Print on cardstock.
One set for each Small Group. Page 1 of 5.

"Action Cards" Activity Page
April 2026, Week 2, Small Group K-1
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**High Five:
High five a neighbor.**

What to Do:
Print on cardstock.
One set for each Small Group. Page 2 of 5.

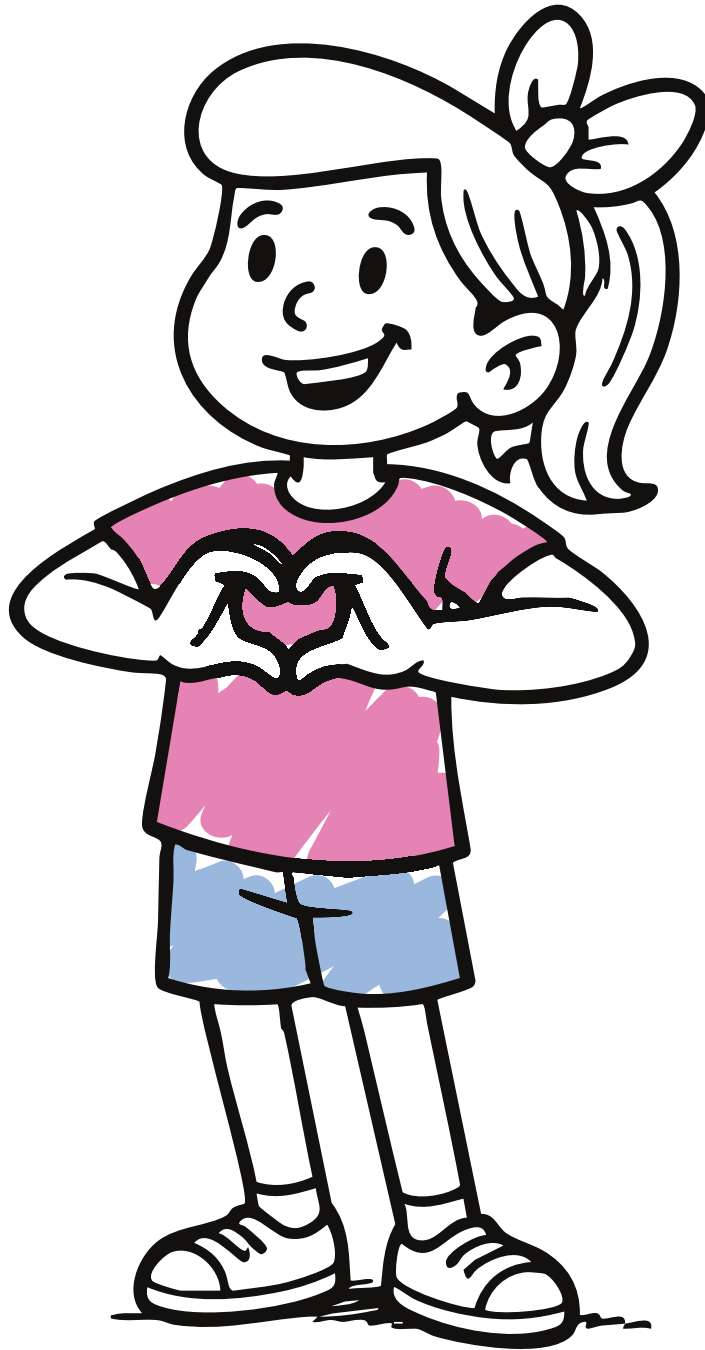
"Action Cards" Activity Page
April 2026, Week 2, Small Group K-1
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**Spin Around:
Spin in a circle one time.**



**Clap Hands:
Clap 3 times.**



Heart Hands: Make a heart shape with your hands

What to Do:
Print on cardstock.
One set for each Small Group. Page 5 of 5.

"Action Cards" Activity Page
April 2026, Week 2, Small Group K-1
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5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

K1 - Freeze Memory Verse | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Bibles marked at Philippians 4:4 1
-  Prepared smiley face paper plates scattered on the floor 1
-  Music player 1



EveryChild Tips

- In place of standing, have kids dance/move with the smiley face plate and hold it up when the music stops.

What You Do:

- Open the Bible and read Philippians 4:4.
- Tell the kids to dance around the room while the music plays.
- When the music stops, instruct them to find a smiley face plate to stand on.
- Once everyone is standing on a plate, say the Memory Verse together:
"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4"
- Start the music again and play several rounds.

What You Say:

"You guys have some great dance moves! Standing on the smiley faces reminds us of joy. Having joy doesn't mean that you won't face hard times or that you can't be sad and angry sometimes. But it does mean that you go through it all with God. That's an incredible reason for joy! **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because there's a bigger story.**"




5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  "Footprint" Activity Page 1
-  Coloring supplies Several
-  Painter's tape 1



EveryChild Tips

- In place of candy, use colored beads or stickers.

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to draw or write a short prayer on the footprint about something they want to thank God for this week.
- When they're done, help them tape their footprint to the wall or floor to create a "path" of footprints.
- Point out that we are all walking with Jesus together.

What You Say:

"Look at all these footprints! It reminds us that we never walk alone. Jesus made a way so we could be close to Him forever! Jesus is always with us, just like He was with the friends on the road to Emmaus. As Jesus broke bread with the two men, He gave thanks to God. Let's pray together and give thanks to God as well.

"Dear God, thank You that You're always with us. Thank You that even when we're sad or confused, You have a bigger story. Help us to trust You and to find joy in Your bigger story. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."





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

"Footprint" Activity Page
April 2026, Week 2, Small Group 2-3
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Getting Ready 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:

- Print "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

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. Two Kids and a Stuffy

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move

What You Need:

2. Walk the Walk

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Print "Action Cards" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Create a tape path on the floor in an area that works for your space and secure the cards from the "Action Cards" Activity Page in different spots along the path with tape.*

3. Freeze Memory Verse

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity] *Made to Move*

What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Paper plates, one for every kid
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Music player, one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Draw a smiley face on each paper plate.*
- *Scatter the smiley face paper plates around the floor and secure with tape.*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Print "Footprint" Activity Page on cardstock, one for every kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group

Supplies

K1 Social Activity | Made to Explore Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Offering container | 1 |
| 2. | "Emmaus Maze" Activity Page | 1 |
| 3. | Coloring supplies | 1 |

23 – Two Kids and a Stuffie | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | Small stuffed animals (per pair of kids) | 0 |
| 2. | Premarked start and finish line | Several |

K1 - Walk the Walk | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | "Action Cards" Activity Page taped along the tape path made of floor tape | 1 |
|----|---|---|

K1 - Freeze Memory Verse | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Bibles marked at Philippians 4:4 | 1 |
| 2. | Prepared smiley face paper plates scattered on the floor | 1 |
| 3. | Music player | 1 |

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. | "Footprint" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. | Coloring supplies | Several |
| 3. | Painter's tape | 1 |

WEEK

THREE

K-3 | 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

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

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

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

 Inflated latex-free or mylar balloon 1

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.
- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Toss the balloon into the air.
- Tell the kids the goal is to keep the balloon off the ground like in the game, "Keepy Uppy."
- They can use their hands, heads, or elbows to tap it up.
- Challenge them to see how long they can keep it in the air.
- Count the taps together!

What You Say:

"You did a great job keeping that balloon up! It stayed right there with us in the circle. Today, we're going to learn that even though Jesus went up to heaven, He promised to still be with us, just like that balloon stayed with us. Let's go hear the story!"





5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

K1 - Parachute Party | Made to Play

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Parachute or large sheet	1
 Streamers	Several
 Small, inflated latex-free balloons	Several

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:4-11 out loud to the group. Explain that they are two separate, but important, events!
- Spread the parachute on the floor.
- Gather around the parachute and hold the handles or edges.
- Ask, "What was the special job Jesus gave His friends?" (*to tell everyone about Him!*)
- Ask, "What is the message we are supposed to share?" (*Jesus is alive, and Jesus loves you!*)
- Throw the streamers and balloons onto the center of the parachute.
- Say, "These are like the good news of Jesus. Let's spread them everywhere!"
- Invite the kids to shake the parachute fast so the streamers and balloons fly up and out all over the room.
- Ask kids to gather them up and do it again!

What You Say:

"Whew! We spread that good news everywhere! Jesus told His friends to go into all the whole world and tell people everywhere about Him. That's a really big job! But He promised them something special, that He would be with them always through His Holy Spirit. Guess what? Jesus wants YOU to tell everyone, everywhere about Him, and Jesus will always be with you through His Holy Spirit too! **[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.**"





5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Spread the Joy | Made to Create

What You Need

	"JOY" Activity Page	1
	Cotton rounds	1
	Washable markers	Several
	Double-sided tape	1



What You Do:

- Ask kids to color one side of the cotton round completely with lots of different colors.
- Use double-sided tape to stick the cotton round (colored side up) in between the J and Y on their paper.
- Explain that when they get home, they can take their colorful cotton round off their paper and place it on a plate with a thin layer of water. Watch as the colors on their cotton round do something special.

What You Say:

"Your artwork looks so cool! It will be even cooler when you go home and put the cotton round in water. The water will make something special happen—the colors will spread all over in the water.

"Jesus wants us to spread His joy to everyone around us. He told us to go into all the world and tell people about Him and His great love. That means we can tell our neighbors, our friends, our teammates, and our family about Jesus. That means we can tell people about Jesus in our neighborhood, at school, at the grocery store, at practice, at the park, and on the bus. He loves them!

"And just like the water will help the colors from your cotton round spread, God is with us to help us spread His love and tell people about Him. Jesus said, *'And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end'* (Matthew 28:20b). And later Jesus explained what that meant—He told His followers that His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, would help them! That promise was true then, and it's true for us today. Jesus is *always* with us. **[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus."**

You can share the good news about Jesus.

JESUS

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

Fill the bottom of a plate or bowl with water. Remove the cotton pad from your paper and place it in the water. Watch the water swirl and change as the colors from the cotton pad release into the water. Fun to watch, but not to drink. Please dispose of the water when done.

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

"JOY" Activity Page
April 2026, Week 3, Small Group 2-3
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5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Unscramble Relay | Made to Move

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Floor tape	1
	piles of 17 prepared crepe paper streamers (with part of the Memory Verse on each streamer from the labels used in the "Unscramble Relay" Activity Page)	2



EveryChild Tips

- In place of running, walk, roll, or move to get each streamer.
- For a version with less movement, place all of the streamers in front of each team and encourage them to place them in order as a team.

What You Do:

- Create two starting lines with floor tape.
- Place a complete pile of streamers on the opposite side of the space from the starting lines.
- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Philippians 4:4.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Guide the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Divide the kids into two teams and line both teams up at the opposite end of the room, behind the floor tape starting lines, and across from a pile of streamers
- Explain that they will take turns running to the pile, choosing one streamer, and running it back to their team.
- Once both teams have collected all their streamers, help them read the words on the streamers and put the verse in order.
- When both teams finish, say the verse together.

What You Say:

"You all did an awesome job running, collecting, and solving your verse puzzle! This Memory Verse tells us, 'Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord' (Philippians 4:4 NIV). That means we can have joy every day, not just because we feel happy, but because we belong to God! He loves us so much! We belong to God, and that news is too good to keep to ourselves. One of the reasons to have joy is knowing that we get to share the good news about Jesus with everyone we meet. We can remember this verse on good days and bad days, because sharing Jesus' love brings light to the world no matter what. So say it again, be joyful! **[Bottom Line] You can share the good news about Jesus.**"





5 min

Prayer

5 min

K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

	Construction paper	1
	Clear or washi tape	Several
	Washable markers	Several
	Stickers	Several

What To Do:

- Give each kid a piece of construction paper, and encourage kids to decorate their paper with markers and/or stickers.
- Help each kid roll their paper into a cone shape to make a megaphone. Tape it in place.
- Ask the kids to think of one person they want to tell about Jesus this week (a friend, a cousin, a neighbor).
- One by one, have them use their megaphone to shout out just the first name of that person.
- After everyone has shouted a name, pray for all those people.

What You Say:

"God hears us when we shout and when we whisper. We can talk to God anytime and anywhere! He knows all the people you shouted for, and He wants them to know Him too. Let's remember to tell others about Jesus this week! Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for giving us the job of telling others about You. Please be with us as we talk to our friends and family this week about Jesus. Help us to be brave and full of joy as we share the good news of Your great love. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



Getting Ready | 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:

- Inflated, latex-free or mylar balloon with air and not helium, one 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.)

1. Parachute Party

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bible
- Parachute or large sheet, one for each Small Group
- Streamers, one roll for each Small Group
- Small, latex-free balloons; several for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Cut streamers into 1-foot lengths, one for every kid.*
- *Inflate several small, latex-free balloons with air and tie off.*

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

2. Spread the Joy

[Live for God | Application Activity] Made to Create

What You Need:

- Print "JOY" Activity Page on cardstock, one for every kid
- Cotton rounds, one for every kid
- Washable markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Double-sided tape, one roll for each Small Group

3. Unscramble Relay

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity] Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Print "Unscramble Relay" Activity Page on Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent, two sets for each Small Group
- Streamers, one roll for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Cut streamers into 24-inch lengths, thirty-four for each Small Group.*
- *Place one label on the end of each streamer.*
- *Create two piles of complete verse streamers, two sets.*
- *Keep the two sets separate until group time, so they don't get mixed up in any way.*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Construction paper, one piece for every kid
- Clear or washi tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Washable markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Stickers, five to ten for every kid

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

K1 Social Activity | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Inflated latex-free or mylar balloon	1

K1 - Parachute Party | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Parachute or large sheet	1
3. Streamers	Several
4. Small, inflated latex-free balloons	Several

23 – Spread the Joy | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. "JOY" Activity Page	1
2. Cotton rounds	1
3. Washable markers	Several
4. Double-sided tape	1

23 – Unscramble Relay | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Floor tape	1
3. piles of 17 prepared crepe paper streamers (with part of the Memory Verse on each streamer from the labels used in the "Unscramble Relay" Activity Page)	2

K1 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Construction paper	1
2. Clear or washi tape	Several
3. Washable markers	Several
4. Stickers	Several

WEEK

FOUR

K-3 | 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

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience



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

K1 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

-  Offering container 1
-  Plastic fruit or a small ball 1
-  Music player 1
-  Fun, upbeat music 1

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.
- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you are going to play "Hot Potato," but with a piece of fruit!
- Start the music and pass the fruit around the circle.
- When the music stops, instruct the kid holding the fruit to stand up and do a joyful dance.
- Start the music again and keep playing.

What You Say:

"You guys are great at passing the fruit! It's fun to play games with friends and fruit. In our true story from the Bible today, God gave His friends a special gift who helped them have joy and share it with others. Let's go find out who it was!"




5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Sculpted Creations | Made to Create

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  Play-Doh® or air-dry clay 1
-  Paper plates 1



EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Read Acts 2:1-4. Explain that this is part of the story of Pentecost!
- Give each kid a paper plate and a lump of dough/clay.
- Talk about the story of Pentecost: The sound of wind, the tongues of fire, people speaking different languages, and the church growing.
- Ask the kids to choose one part of the story to sculpt. They could make a flame, a person, a mouth (for speaking), or a heart (for the fruit of the spirit).
- Give them time to create.
- Go around the circle and let each kid show what they made and explain which part of the story it is.

What You Say:

“These sculptures are awesome! You remembered so many details. The wind and fire were signs that each believer had been filled with the Holy Spirit. God gave another sign too: these men and women began speaking in languages that they hadn’t known before! A crowd gathered because they heard their own languages being spoken. They were hearing about God’s Big Story in a way they could understand! The most important part is that God sent His Holy Spirit, His very Spirit, to be with us. God is closer than close! The Holy Spirit helps us hear from God, know Him more, and gives us joy. **[Bottom Line] The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**”

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Jesus in Many Languages | Made to Connect

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild Tips

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Provide visual cue cards with each language printed and illustrated.
- If pronunciation is difficult for some kids, reassure them: "God understands every language perfectly!"

EveryChild Supplies:

- Visual cue cards for every language

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle where everyone can see your hands and face.
- Say the word "Jesus" in English and ask the group to repeat it.
- Teach the three languages one at a time:
 - Spanish: Jesús (hay-SOOS). Say it slowly and let kids repeat.
 - French: Jésus (ZHAY-zoo). Say it together as a group.
 - ASL: Sign "Jesus" by touching the middle of each palm with the opposite middle finger.
- Invite kids to practice each version with a partner.
- Play a quick round of "Leader Says"—you say a language, and they respond in that language.

What You Say:

"Awesome job, everyone! Did you notice something? No matter what language we used—Spanish, French, or Sign Language—we were still talking about Jesus. That's exactly what happened in today's Bible Story. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers speak in all kinds of languages so everyone could understand the good news that God loves them and Jesus came to rescue them.

"God wanted everyone to hear about His love! So the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' friends exactly what they needed so that the people there could hear about God's love. The Holy Spirit still helps us today! He goes through every single bit of life with you and will give you exactly what you need in that moment. He is God in you—He is God closer than close!

"If you need to hear God's love for you, ask the Holy Spirit to help you. If you need to know the words to speak to a friend, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the right words. If you need to be brave, and bold, and strong, ask God to help you. Go through life aware that the Holy Spirit is in you, and talk to Him about everything like you would your closest friend. God loves you so much that He has moved inside of you through His Holy Spirit. And He wants you to go through life knowing He is with you every step of the way!"


5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

K1 - Joyful Jump| Made to Move

What You Need

 Bibles marked at Philippians 4:4

1



EveryChild Tips

- In place of jumping, offer other movement choices such as clapping hands, swaying side to side, or tapping knees.

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible marked at Philippians 4:4.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Instruct the kids to stand up with plenty of space around them.
- Say the Memory Verse together once: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4*
- Tell the kids you are going to say the verse again, but this time, they are to jump up and down the whole time!
- Start jumping and saying the verse.
- Challenge the kids to keep jumping until the very end!
- Do it again, maybe hopping on one foot this time.

What You Say:

"Whew! I'm out of breath! Jumping makes me feel joyful. Remember, even when we aren't jumping, we can have joy on the inside because God is with us. The Holy Spirit lives inside every one of us who follows Jesus. The more that we trust and rely on the Holy Spirit, the more our lives will be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. As we grow in our faith and our relationship with God, we will look more and more like Him. **[Bottom Line] The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**"





5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Large, prepared paper with "JOY" written 1 on it in bubble letters
-  Ink pads (washable, various colors) 1
-  Baby wipes for cleanup 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Gloves 1



EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

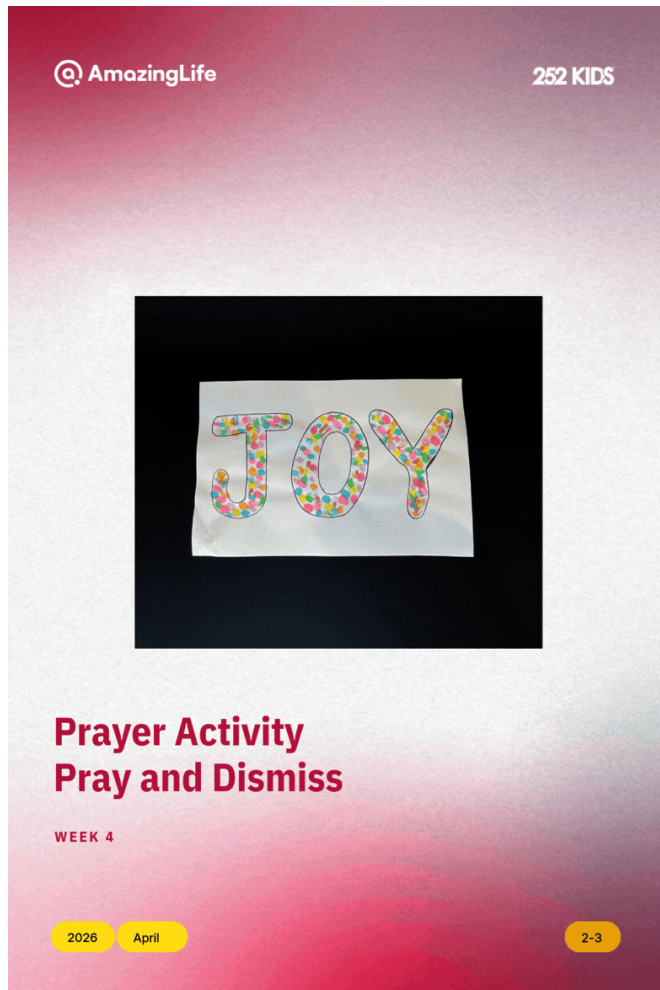
What To Do:

- Invite the kids to press their finger onto an ink pad and then stamp it inside the letters J-O-Y.
- Let them fill the letters with colorful fingerprints.
- As they stamp, ask, "How can the Holy Spirit help you have joy this week?"
- Let them share ideas (helping me be nice, helping me not be scared).
- Clean hands with baby wipes.

What You Say:

"This JOY sign is beautiful because it has a piece of all of you in it. Just like the Holy Spirit fills us up with joy, we filled these letters up with color. Let's pray.

"God, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You that He lives in us and helps us. Teach us how to be His close friend. Please grow good fruit in our lives—like love, peace, and patience. And especially this week, we ask that the Holy Spirit gives us joy. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



Getting Ready 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:

- Plastic fruit or a small ball, one for each Small Group
- Fun upbeat music cued on the music player

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. Sculpted Creations [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Play-Doh® or air-dry clay, enough for every kid to have a large lump
- Paper plates, one for every kid

2. Jesus in Many Languages

[Live for God | Application Activity] Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed
- EveryChild Supplies:**
 - *Visual cue cards for every language*

3. Joyful Jump

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity] Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles marked at Philippians 4:4, one for every kid

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity] Made to Reflect

Supplies

K1 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Offering container | 1 |
| 2. | Plastic fruit or a small ball | 1 |
| 3. | Music player | 1 |
| 4. | Fun, upbeat music | 1 |

23 – Sculpted Creations | Made to Create Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | Bible | 1 |
| 2. | Play-Doh® or air-dry clay | 1 |
| 3. | Paper plates | 1 |

K1 - Joyful Jump | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Bibles marked at Philippians 4:4 | 1 |
|----|----------------------------------|---|

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Large, prepared paper with "JOY" written on it in bubble letters | 1 |
| 2. | Ink pads (washable, various colors) | 1 |
| 3. | Baby wipes for cleanup | 1 |
| 4. | EveryChild Supplies: Gloves | 1 |