

WEEK

ONE

Preteen | W1

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 ("Everything to Me" from *Everything to Me*, "and "My Life for You" from *My Life for You*)

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org



Bible Story

Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2: 41-52

Bottom Line

Practice talking about God.

Monthly Memory Verse

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. • 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

Conversation Starter:

Who can you talk to about God?

Large Group Opener

Opening Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Happy New Year, everybody! Welcome back, we made it to 2026! I'm so pumped you're here today, because this month we're starting a brand-new theme called Game Plan: Growing Stronger in Faith Every Day."

"Here's the idea: just like athletes and teams need a game plan to train, grow, and win, we've got a game plan that helps us grow stronger every day in our faith. And we're going to see what that looks like all month long!"

"This month, we're going to look at four parts of a game plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. Today we're going to look at the first part of that game plan! Talking about God!"

"Since we're starting a brand-new year and a brand-new theme, we've got to kick things off with something BIG, a head-to-head challenge we're calling the Team Obstacle Relay! Two teams. Two lanes. First team to finish wins bragging rights!"

SLIDE: "Team Obstacle Relay"

"Here's how it works: I need eight volunteers to run this relay, four kids per team.

"If you want to run this obstacle course, raise your hand!"

Choose eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Arrange the kids in two teams of four, one kid behind the other.

"Great! Everyone else, you're the cheering squad. Your job is to get loud and cheer the players all the way through."

"Here's the path: weave through the cones, balance across the line, jump through all the hoops, and finish with a beanbag toss into the bucket. Then, you sprint back across the finish line, turn around, run back, and tag the next teammate. The first team with all runners back across the line, WINS!"

"Runners ready? Cheering squad, let me hear you! (*Pause as the kids cheer.*) On your mark ... get set ... GO!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

13 min

Worship

2 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Everything to Me | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

My Life for You | Worship Song

As the kids go through the course, hype the action, "Team 1 is flying through the cones! Team 2 has got the balance locked in! Big toss... nailed it!" When one team has won, cheer loudly, but let the other team finish the course.

HOST: "YES! Give it up for both teams, that was incredible!

If time allows, run more rounds with new kids and teams.

HOST: "Just like in that relay, the more you try something, the more you know what to do. And today we'll see how Jesus, even when He was your age, made time to talk about God. That's our Bottom Line for today: **[Bottom Line] Practice talking about God.**"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Happy New Year, everybody! I'm so glad you're here for the start of our new theme—**Game Plan!** We're giving God the first moments of this new year. He's the One who helps us, and we can look to Him always. Let's stand together and kick this off with a song that's all about who God is and what He means to us. It's a song called, 'Everything to Me.' Sing it loud and mean every word!"

"So great! As we begin a new year, we want to respond to God with our whole lives. This next song is a promise, kind of like this: 'God, my every day belongs to You, at school, at home, with my friends. I'm choosing to live for You in 2026.' Make this your prayer as you sing."

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse**What You Need**

No supplies needed

"Wow! You all can worship! Keep worshipping God all throughout this week!

"So here's why our theme is called **Game Plan**. Athletes train their bodies, but God invites us to train our hearts. The Bible says that training to be godly helps us **now and forever**—that's a Game Plan worth following. When we worship, listen, and talk about God, we're building real strength on the inside. This month's Memory Verse, that's the verse we're going to try to get into our hearts and heads, is **1 Timothy 4:8!** "I'll read the Memory Verse once by myself. Then we'll all say it with different movements.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV)"

"Let's run in place. (Run in place.) Now, let's say our Memory Verse!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV)"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great! It's time for some jumping jacks. (Do some jumping jacks at a controlled pace.) Now, let's say our Memory Verse!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV)"

WORSHIP LEADER: "You guys are so good at this! Let's get those knees up, if you can. (Do some high knees to demonstrate.) Now, let's say our Memory Verse!"

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV)"

WORSHIP LEADER: "Woohoo! Nice work, everybody! That's what our goal should be: training to become godly and follow Jesus. One way of doing that is by practicing talking about God."

24 min

**Bible Story
(Video)**

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video**What You Need**

No supplies needed

23 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

Introduction**What You Need**

No supplies needed

TENSION**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Communicator can place their Bible on it and read from it.

COMMUNICATOR: "Okay, I've got a question for you all. Have you ever thought about what it means to practice?"

"We usually think of practicing for something like a sport, an instrument, or a game. You practice to get stronger, faster, or better at something. But there's something else we can practice that doesn't usually happen at practice or rehearsal. It's talking about God.

"That might sound easy, but when you actually try it, it can feel a little awkward. You might wonder, 'What do I even say?' or 'What if I get it wrong?'

"This month, we're learning that getting closer to God doesn't just happen automatically. Some things happen quickly, but other things take practice, just like anything else we care about.

"There are all kinds of ways we can practice getting to know God better: talking about Him, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. This week, we're starting with the first one—talking about God, because as we'll find out, the more we do it, the more we learn about Him.

COMMUNICATOR: "Maybe you've been in a moment where you wanted to say something about God, but you didn't know how. Like when you're standing around adults having a deep conversation, and their words feel big and serious. You want to jump in, but you don't have the right words. Or maybe you've had a real question about God, but you've never said it out loud because you didn't know where to start.

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"That feeling, when you want to talk about God but feel unsure, is what we're going to explore today.

"In our story, we'll see Jesus as a Kid, just 12 years old, right in the middle of grown-up conversations about faith. He didn't stay quiet or nervous. He showed what strength looks like at your age: showing up, listening well, asking questions, and daring to talk about God. He was with people who knew about God, and He talked to them about Him.

"That's the kind of practice we're talking about. But before we dive into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split

5 min

TRUTH

What You Need

No supplies needed

in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!

COMMUNICATOR: "We're going to continue right on in our journey through the Bible. We're right at that part in God's story when Jesus was 12, and we find Him talking about God.

"As I tell the story today, I'd like you to take part! Every time I say the phrase '*Lean In*,' I want you to literally lean forward in your seat. It's our way of practicing what Jesus did in the temple, paying attention, being ready, showing up with focus."

"Jesus' family traveled to Jerusalem every year for the Passover festival. It was a big trip. Streets were packed. Families camped along the road. There was singing, food, and a lot of walking. This time Jesus was 12—just a little older than many of you.

"After the festival ended, everyone started the journey home. Picture a long line of people on a dusty road. Aunties. Uncles. Friends from the neighborhood. Kids walking with cousins. Mary and Joseph did not see Jesus right away, but with so many people around, it was normal to think He was with the big group somewhere.

"But then they realized that Jesus was nowhere to be found in the crowd! Where was He? Joseph and Mary were searching and searching. So they journeyed back to Jerusalem to find Jesus.

"They searched in Jerusalem for one day. No Jesus.
Day two. Still no Jesus.
Day three. Finally, they found Him.

"Where was He?

Open the Bible to Luke 2:46 (NirV) and read.

After three days they found him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions.

"Okay, lean in here. *(Make sure the kids are leaning in.)*

"Jesus wasn't lost. He was right where He was meant to be. He was sitting with the teachers. These were the adults who knew the Scriptures well. They knew a lot about God. Jesus was listening closely. He was asking real questions. He was also sharing answers that made people think. Grown-ups around Him were amazed. They weren't amazed because He shouted or showed off. They were amazed because He understood who God is and what God says, He spoke up about it, and He could talk about it clearly.

"Can you imagine how Mary and Joseph felt when they saw Jesus sitting and talking with the religious leaders? I'm sure they felt some relief and gratitude that they had found Him. They probably shed a few tears too.

"Mary spoke to Him like a mom who had been worried for days. This is what she said:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:48 (NirV) and read.

"Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere."

"You can hear the concern in what she said.

"Jesus answered with one simple line that carried big meaning:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:49 (NirV) and read.

"Why were you looking for me?" He asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

"This moment also shows priorities. Priorities are what come first. Jesus didn't say, 'I forgot to come with you.' He showed what mattered most. His Father's house. His Father's work. Being there, talking about God, was not random. It was necessary.

"Jesus wasn't rude. He was clear. He belonged with His Father and doing His Father's work.

"Okay, time to lean in more. *(Make sure the kids lean in.)*

"Now watch what Jesus did next. He didn't push His parents away. The Bible says:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:51 (NirV) and read.

Then he went back to Nazareth with them, and obeyed them.

"Jesus didn't ignore His parents. He went home to Nazareth with them. He obeyed them. In this one story, we see two things at the same time. Jesus honored God, His Father. Jesus honored His earthly parents.

5 min

APPLICATION

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Mary kept these things in her heart. She watched her Son grow and started to see more and more that He is the promised Messiah. Luke then summed up Jesus' growing years with one short sentence that says a lot in verse 52. Luke wrote this:

Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 (NirV) and read.

Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

"Jesus grew in wisdom. He grew in stature. He grew in favor with God. He grew in favor with people. He was growing.

"Okay, lean in a little more. *(Make sure the kids are leaning in.)*

"So what does this have to do with us? Jesus set the standard for us. He showed us what it looks like to talk about God. He didn't wait until He was older. He didn't wait for a stage or a microphone. At 12, He found people who knew a lot about God, and He stepped into the conversation about His Father. He listened. He asked. He spoke. You don't have to be the loudest. You don't have to know everything. All you need to do is be willing to talk about Him.

"When you think about your week, picture this story. Picture Jesus in the temple, talking about God. That's our picture too. We show up. We listen well. We talk about God with humility and courage. We grow."

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's talk about the word *practice* in a way that makes sense for us.

"Let's lean in. *(Make sure everyone is leaning in.)*

SLIDE: "Practice Means"

"Practice means:

- You do it again and again so you get better.
- You show up on purpose, even when you don't feel like it.
- You learn from mistakes, then try again.
- You take small steps and celebrate small wins.
- You keep going when it is boring or hard.

Share a short, real story of something you practiced until you improved. Share two or three sentences, then land it by saying: "I got better because I kept practicing."

"Jesus set the example for us. He was a young Kid in the temple talking about God. He didn't wait until He was older. He just did it.

"So what can you start doing to talk about God?

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

"Here is a very easy step: Practice. The best way to get better at something is to practice.

"There are people in your life who know about God. Talk to them. Ask them your questions about Him. Ask them where you can find some answers in the Bible. You'll find that the people in your life who are His friends can help you get to know Him more too.

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' In our story, Jesus hadn't grown up yet, but He is still teaching us!

"God worked for years and years to send us Jesus. And part of the reason God sent us Jesus is so Jesus would show us who God is. Jesus is God's Son, but He is also God Himself. So how He lived is how God would live. When someone wasn't living the best way, He taught them the best way. When someone was sick, He healed them. Jesus went around our broken world and said, 'This isn't the way it is in God's Kingdom, I'm going to fix it.' And there was something else that was super-important! As Jesus lived through our broken world, He never, ever sinned. He lived a perfect life. As we saw this week, even as a 12-year-old Boy, Jesus honored God and His parents. Later in His life, Jesus would give up that perfect life, paying for our sin, and breaking that awful curse we were under. Jesus' perfect life continued God's plan to rescue us all!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 1 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we talked about Jesus at the temple when He was just a Boy!"

COMMUNICATOR: "The way we can apply today's true story from the Bible is simple. **[Bottom Line] Practice talking about God.** We watched 12-year-old Jesus in the temple. He showed up, listened, asked, and spoke about God. He didn't wait until He was older. This week, picture

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER**What You Need**

No supplies needed

one real moment in your life where you can do the same. As you think about a moment, ask yourself this:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "Who can you talk to about God?"

"Carry this question to Small Group. You can practice talking about God with someone you know who knows about Him. It might be awkward to talk about God at first, but it can help you get to know Him better."

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's take a moment and talk to God right now. Would you bow your head and close your eyes?"

"God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that even as a Kid, Jesus showed us how important it is to talk about You. Help us to practice this week. Help us to find the people in our lives who know You so we can learn more about You. We want to know You more. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

WEEK

TWO

Preteen | W2

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 about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Prayers on the Wall

Application Activity: Voice Changer

Memory Verse Activity: Bop the Verse

Prayer Activity: Prayer Bands

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:9-13

Bottom Line

Practice praying to God.

Monthly Memory Verse

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. | 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

Conversation Starter

What do you pray about?

5 min

LG Opener

5 min

Opener Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Welcome to Week 2 of Game Plan!

"I'm so glad you're here. Turn to two people and say, 'You made it.' If this is your first time here, give us a wave so we can cheer for you. (*Wave and cheer for the new kids.*)

'This month, we're learning about how we need a Game Plan when it comes to getting to know God more! And by following this Game Plan, we'll start growing stronger in faith every day.

"There are four parts of this Game Plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. Last week, we learned that we can practice talking about God.

"This week we're going to talk about the second part of this Game Plan: **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God.** When you practice something, it takes a lot of repetition. And repeating something simple helps you grow. Prayer works like that too. You can talk to God every day—simple words, with a real heart. And the more you talk to God, the more natural it becomes. That is our focus today. We'll dive more into that soon!

"Alright, everyone, let's do a quick warm-up. Shake out your hands. Take one big breath in ... and out. If you like knocking stuff down, let me hear you shout, 'Knockdown.' Awesome!

"Today we're going to play a game called: 'Do It Again: Knockdown.'"

SLIDE: Do It Again: Knockdown

"I need six kids who'd like to play our game! If you want to play, raise your hands!

Choose six kids from those with their hands raised and invite them to come on stage.

"Great! You line up behind this start line, forming two teams of three. Now, I need two leaders. Leaders, if you want to help with the game, raise your hand!

Choose two adults from the leaders who have their hands raised and invite them to come on stage.

"Great! Everyone else, you are the cheer squad."

"I'll explain, 'Do It Again: Knockdown'! Each team has a cup pyramid on a table and a basket of ping-pong balls at the throw line. Each team will choose one kid to go first. That kid will run to the throw line, and get three throws to knock down the pyramid. If you knock it down on your first or second throw, run back to your team, and tag the next kid to go right away.

"Leaders, you'll rebuild the cup towers after each kid goes and make sure each team's basket is full of ping-pong balls."

13 min

Worship

2 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Every cup that gets knocked down is one point for your team. Leaders, can you keep track of your team's totals too? We'll play for 60 seconds."

"Teams ready? *(Pause and make sure both teams are ready.)* I've got my timer set. Three, two, one, go!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start the game and start your timer. As the kids play, hype the room.

HOST: *(after 60 seconds)* "Time! Leaders, what are your totals?"

Pause as the leaders share the totals.

HOST: "Way to go, teams! Let's do it again and try to beat that score. Let's get a new group of kids!"

"Raise your hand if you want to play!"

Choose six kids from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to come on stage.

"Great! You guys know the drill! Line up behind this start line, forming two teams of three. *(Wait for the teams to get ready.)* Same rules. Three throws per turn. Tag fast.

HOST: "Are you ready? *(Pause and make sure the kids are ready.)* Three, two, one, go!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start the game and start your timer. As the kids play, hype the room.

HOST: *(after 60 seconds)* "Time! Leaders, what are your totals?"

Pause as the leaders share the totals. Celebrate the numbers.

"Amazing! Big cheer for both teams! Way to play, 'Do It Again: Knockdown!'"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Right now, we're here to meet with God and give Him our full attention. Before we sing, think of one true thing about who God is. Maybe He is faithful, kind, powerful, or close. Take a moment and just whisper that to God, tell Him you are thankful that He is with you, that He is King. Worship is not just loud music—it's our whole heart focused on God.

"If you're able, stand with me. Let your voice be real, not perfect. Clap on the beat, move a little, and sing these words like you mean them. This first song reminds us that God is everything to us. Let's give Him our best."

3 min

Everything to Me | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

I Run to You | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

"Great singing. Now I want you to think about the moments this week when you might need help. Maybe there's a test coming up, a friend situation that's confusing, or someone in your family who is hurting. Prayer is simply talking to God about those real things. You don't have to wait for church. You can talk to God on the bus, in the hallway, or in your room at night—He is always with you, and He wants to hear from you. This next song is our response. We choose to run to God first, because He listens and He cares. While we sing, tell God one specific thing you need His help with today."

"Our theme this month is Game Plan—growing stronger in faith every day. Teams train their bodies so they can play well. God invites us to train our lives so we can live a godly life. The Bible says that training to follow God helps us right now in our daily life, and it also prepares us for the life to come. That's why we keep showing up, why we worship, and why we practice praying to God."

This month's Memory Verse is **1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)**. I'll read it, and then we can say it together!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's say it together, all in one voice."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Jesus taught us how to pray with 'The Lord's Prayer.' Prayer is training for your heart. It helps you honor God, trust His will, ask for what you need, receive forgiveness, and stand strong when you face temptation. When we practice praying to God, we're training to be godly, and that helps us now and for the life to come!"

What You Need

No supplies needed

28 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

Introduction**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

TENSION**What You Need**

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Make sure the whiteboard or large paper is visible, and have a dry-erase marker (or marker) available to write with.

COMMUNICATOR: "Alright, show of hands, who's ever watched someone do something that looked *super-easy* ... until you tried it yourself?

"Yeah, me too. Maybe it was a trick shot in basketball, or learning a fun dance, or baking a fancy cake you saw online. You think, '*I got this,*' and then... it's a mess.

"Sometimes things look simple until you actually try them.

"Well, prayer can feel the same way. We see other people pray—maybe your parents, your small group leader, or someone at church—and it sounds so natural. They have the perfect words, their tone is calm, and they seem so confident!

"And you're sitting there thinking, '*Okay, I can do that ... wait, what do I say again?*'

"You want to pray, but maybe you don't feel confident. Or you're afraid you'll get it wrong.

"In Jesus' time, people had the same problem. Some people thought prayer was about sounding impressive, or using big, fancy words so everyone would notice them. But Jesus told them the exact opposite of that idea was true. He showed His friends that prayer isn't about performance, it's just about being real with God."

"Today, we're going to look at a moment when Jesus taught His friends how to pray."

COMMUNICATOR: "So, what do you think prayer really is? Like, if someone asked you to define it, what would you say? (*Get some answers from the kids.*)

"Those are some great explanations! Here's the next question: When do you pray the most?
(*Get answers from the kids.*)

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Those are great answers! Those moments are great!

"Here's the thing, prayer isn't a script. It's not a checklist. It's not about using the right words or praying at the right time. Prayer is a real conversation with God—you can talk to Him anytime, anywhere, about anything.

"And the amazing thing? Jesus made it simple for us. He didn't give His followers a long list of rules on how to pray. He just showed us! He showed the disciples how to pray a lot because He was always talking to God, His Father.

"But before we look at how Jesus Himself taught us to pray, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a

5 min

TRUTH

What You Need

No supplies needed

king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

COMMUNICATOR: "We're picking up in our journey through the Bible when Jesus walked and talked and lived on earth! Part of the reason Jesus came to earth is to show us how to be God's friend. He talked to His Father, God, a lot. So let's hear what He wants us all to know about prayer, about talking to God!

"Before we read what Jesus taught us, let's clear up a few myths some people think about prayer. Maybe you've even thought some of these at some point.

SLIDE: Prayer Slides 1 "Only at church"

"Some think you can only pray in church. Only at church, only when the worship is really good. Yes, for sure you can pray then, but it's not the only place. You can pray anywhere!"

SLIDE: Prayer Slides 2 "Only when you are sick"

"Some think prayer is only for emergencies. That's a myth! Of course, we pray when we're sick, or when we know someone else is sick. God hears our prayers! But that's not the only thing we can or should pray about."

SLIDE: Prayer Slides 3 "Only at bedtime"

"Some think prayer is only a bedtime habit. Myth. It's a great habit to have at bedtime for sure! But there are so many other times when we can talk to God!"

SLIDE: Prayer Slides 4 "Only to say thanks for food"

"Thanking God for food is great. But prayer is bigger. Of course, we should thank God for the amazing mashed potatoes our grandma makes, but we can also thank Him throughout the day for so much more!"

SLIDE: Prayer Slides 5 "Truth"

"Prayer is simply talking to God. Any time. Any place. About anything. Jesus taught that prayer isn't a show to impress people. It's a real conversation with God!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus gave us a prayer we could use as a model when we pray—it's called 'The Lord's Prayer.' Let's look at it and break it down."

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:9-13 (NirV) and read.

*"Our Father in heaven,
may your name be honored.
May your kingdom come.
May what you want to happen be done
on earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.
Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.
Save us from the evil one."*

Write down each of the bolded titles below on the whiteboard (or large paper) as you talk about each one.

Our Father

"The prayer Jesus taught us starts by sharing who God is. He is our Father. He is close and good. Take a quiet breath and tell God one true thing about who He is—He is faithful. Kind. Strong. With us."

Pause as the kids pray.

Holy Name

"The next part of the prayer Jesus taught us is this: '*May your name be honored.*' God's name represents Him. It's His character and deeds. So, we want who God is, His character and name, to be respected in our lives. That means our words and our choices point to Him at school, at home, and online.

Your Kingdom and Will

"The next part of the prayer Jesus taught us is this: '*May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is in heaven.*' God is a King of a Kingdom! He is kind and compassionate and trustworthy and joyful and peaceful. And His Kingdom spreads whenever we live out the ways of the King. And we want those ways to spread all over the earth—so earth is full of kindness and compassion and truth and joy and peace. So earth is full of all of those good things,

just like God's Kingdom is! Take a few seconds and ask God, the King, to bring His Kingdom into your world.

Pause as the kids pray.

Daily Bread

"The next part of the prayer Jesus taught us is: '*Give us today our daily bread.*' God invites us to ask for what we need today. Not everything for the next ten years. Today's need. It can definitely be food, but it could also be courage for a conversation, wisdom for a test, or help with a habit. Spend a few seconds telling God one need you have today."

Pause as the kids pray.

Forgive

"Then Jesus told us this is the next part of what we can pray: '*Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.*' When we talk to God, we can confess where we messed up, and we receive the forgiveness that Jesus purchased for us on the cross. Then we choose to forgive others. When we forgive, we're not pretending that nothing happened. We're choosing to release payback and ask God to heal our hearts. Think of one place you need forgiveness and one person you may need to forgive. Talk to God about both.

Pause as the kids pray.

Deliver

"Jesus said the part of the prayer is: '*Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.*' This part of the prayer mentions 'the evil one.' That's Satan, our enemy and God's enemy, that wants to hurt God by hurting us. Satan is our enemy, yes, but he has been defeated. And God is so much stronger and bigger, we don't have to be afraid of Satan.

"But like a dead wasp that still stings, when Satan tries to hurt us, God will help us anytime we ask! We can turn to God anytime we're tempted to step out from His ways and disobey. Ask God to lead you away from traps and toward His good ways."

Pause as the kids pray.

COMMUNICATOR: "There's so much more we could unpack in this prayer that Jesus taught us, but know this: You can talk to God. And it doesn't have to be super-fancy. You can talk to God about all kinds of things, just like this prayer says.

"And you can talk to God anytime! You can pray in the hallway, on the bus, during practice, before a test, when you feel happy, and when you feel hurt. Anytime and anywhere."

5 min

APPLICATION

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus talked to His Father God a lot. His whole life was an ongoing conversation with God!

"Since Jesus made talking to God a priority, we can too. We can **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God**. Practice means you do it again and again so you grow. You keep doing it even when you don't feel like it. You learn from mistakes and try again.

"Here's a simple plan for this week. Use 'The Lord's Prayer' as a guide in your own words.

"Start with 'Father God.' That's what Jesus told us to call Him!"

"Help me show people how wonderful You are."

"Please make (this part of my life) look more like Your Kingdom."

"I need (this) today."

"I messed up here, please help me forgive this person who hurt me."

"Please help me stand strong when I'm tempted not to follow Your ways."

"You can talk to God about whatever you need. And just keep doing it—that's practicing praying to God. Talk to Him anytime, anywhere, about anything."

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' In our story, we learned how to pray, how to talk to God, straight from Jesus!

"Jesus is such a gift to us! His home is in Heaven, so He knows how God's kingdom works. He also has a perfect relationship with God the Father, so He knows exactly what He's like. With all of that knowledge and understanding, He left Heaven, came to Earth, and showed us what it's like to live as God's friends on Earth—all because He loves us. Jesus' whole life, He taught us what it looks like to live as God's friend, as a part of His Kingdom. And then Jesus did even more. Jesus gave up His sinless life to pay the price for the sins we committed, to break the curse that we had put ourselves under. No wonder God worked for years and years to send us Jesus. Jesus' perfect life continued God's plan to rescue us all!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we learned 'The Lord's Prayer' that Jesus taught us to pray!"

8 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus gave us an example of how we can talk to God. It's not a show, it's a conversation with our Father, God. This week, pick one real moment to talk to God about something in your life. On the bus. Before a test. After practice. At dinner. God is listening."

"As you go to Small Group, think about this question:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "What do you pray about?"

The Conversation Starter is a question kids will think about now, and carry their thoughts with them to Small Group. The question is not answered here—it's just to provoke thought.

"Think about this question now, and we'll talk about prayer more in Small Group. What are those specific things that make prayer hard, and what helps? How can knowing that God wants to hear from you make a difference?"

COMMUNICATOR: "Father God, thank You that You hear us. We honor Your name. We want Your good Kingdom to come in our world. Please give us what we need today. Forgive us, and help us forgive others. Lead us away from temptation and protect us from evil. Teach us to practice praying to You every day. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

WEEK

THREE

Preteen | W3

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 about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

The Wise and Foolish Builders | *Matthew 7:24-27 (Supporting: John 10:27-28)*

Bottom Line

Practice hearing from God.

Monthly Memory Verse

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. | 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

Conversation Starter

How can you hear from God?

5 min

LG Opener

5 min

Opening Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Welcome, everyone! I've been loving learning the practical things with you all! This month, we're learning about how we can follow a Game Plan when it comes to getting to know God more! And by following this Game Plan, we'll start growing stronger in faith every day. "There are four parts of this Game Plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. This week, we're going to look at 'hearing from God'! "Quick check. If you like to build things, raise a hand. If you like to win things, raise both hands. Perfect! Because today we'll build fast. And we'll listen even faster. Turn to two people and say, 'Hear it, then do it.' Good. We're going to play a game called 'Picture to Project.'"

SLIDE: Picture to Project

"If you like to build things, and you don't mind doing it in front of everyone, raise your hands! I need four volunteers!"

Choose four volunteers from the kids whose hands are raised. Invite them on stage, and direct each "builder" to stand behind a bin on a table.

HOST: "Here is how 'Picture to Project' works. We'll put a picture on the screen. All four builders get the same picture. All four builders get the same supplies. You can use anything in your tub. You will have **60 seconds** to build something that matches the picture. When I say 'Hands up,' you stop touching your build. I'll pick a winner, you'll put your supplies back in the bin, and we'll move on to the next round!"

"After each round, those four builders will head back to their seats. Then **four new builders** will come up. That way, more of you get to play."

"Rules are simple. Do not eat the supplies. Use anything in your tub. You want your build to look like the picture. Everyone watching, cheer them on!"

"Let's get started with the first round! Builders, look at the screen!"

Round 1

SLIDE: Picture to Project: House

HOST: "Your first build is a **house**. You can use any supplies in your tub. You have **60 seconds**—three, two, one, go."

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Start timer. Music up.

HOST: (After 60 seconds) "**Hands up and** step back. Hmm. Which build looks most like the picture, stands on its own, and shows creativity?"

Point to the winner. Celebrate the winner with a short cheer.

"Great work. Builders, put your supplies back in your bins, and head back to your seats. **Raise your hand if you want to build! Let me choose four more builders!**

Choose four new volunteers and play Round 2. Play as many rounds as time allows.

Round 2

SLIDE: Picture to Project: Flower

Round 3

SLIDE: Picture to Project: Lightning Bolt

13 min

Worship

2 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Everything to Me | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

My Life for You | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

Round 4

SLIDE: Picture to Project: Happy Face

Round 5

SLIDE: Picture to Project: Bridge

HOST: "Nice work, builders. You watched the image. You listened for the rules. Then you put things in motion and did something. Jesus teaches us to live like that. We **hear** His words. Then we **do** them. That's how we get strong when life feels stormy. Today we'll learn how to **practice hearing from God** in real life, not just in a game!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

Hi, everyone! Today, I want you to think about one true thing you know about God. (*Pause as the kids think.*) Now, let's take a moment and tell the Lord, 'Thank You' for that thing you thought about. Even while we're worshipping, just tell God how much you love Him. Don't worry about the distractions around you, or what you're doing after church. In this moment, just focus on God. "

"This first song we're going to sing is called, 'Everything to Me.'

"Awesome! God really is everything to us. Now, let's keep going with another song called 'My Life for You.' This song is all about choosing to live for God everywhere we go. Let's give it our all!"

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"So great, you guys! Let's worship God always. When you leave here today, know that you can worship God all the time.

"It's time to look at our Memory Verse—that's God's truth from the Bible that we're going to try to get into our heads and hearts.

"The Bible says that training to follow God helps us right now and also for the life to come. Hearing from God is part of that training. When we listen to what God says, our hearts grow stronger and our choices get wiser. This month's Memory Verse is **1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)**. I'll read it, and then we can say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 NirV*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's say it together."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 NirV*

WORSHIP LEADER: "This connects to today's true story from the Bible where Jesus tells us that it's so important to hear His words and put them into practice. We listen to God and then we do what He says. Great job, everyone!"

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

28 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

Introduction

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it.

5 min

TENSION

What You Need

No supplies needed

COMMUNICATOR: "Let me ask you something: Have you ever tried to hear something important, but there was so much noise around you that you just couldn't focus? Maybe you were trying to study, but your phone kept buzzing. Or maybe your parents were talking to you, but you were halfway into your favorite video. You could hear them, but you weren't *really* listening. You can be honest ... we've all been there, me included. Nod if you've been there. (*Nod and watch as the kids nod.*)

"It's kind of like that with God sometimes, isn't it? We say we want to hear from Him, but life is loud. There's school, friends, notifications, sports, family ... It's not that God isn't speaking. It's that oftentimes we're not quiet long enough to notice.

"Here's something I've learned: a lot of the time we need to tune in and pause, and listen.

"And then when you *listen* to what Jesus says and actually *do* it, you start building something solid in your life. Something that can stand when everything else feels shaky."

COMMUNICATOR: "I want you to think about the days when everything feels easy, you're laughing with friends, things are going your way. It's so nice, right? And then suddenly ... a storm hits. A rumor spreads. A friend pulls away. Someone you care about gets hurt. Or maybe you just feel lost inside your own thoughts.

"The truth is, everyone faces storms. No one gets a free pass. But did you know that the storm isn't what decides how strong you are? The foundation does.

"So here's the deep question I want you to think about today: What are you building your life on? Because whether you realize it or not, you're building something—one choice, one thought, one habit at a time. Are you building on what feels good right now, or what will actually last?

"That's what Jesus' story we're going to read about today is all about. It is about two builders, both heard the same words, but only one put them into action. One house stood. One fell. The difference wasn't the storm. The difference was the foundation.

"So ... what are *you* building on?

"But before we get into Jesus' words to us in the Bible today, let me tell you about something awesome we've been doing all year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

5 min

TRUTH

What You Need

No supplies needed

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Today we're journeying right along through the Bible. We're at the part of the story where Jesus is on Earth and He's teaching us all about God and God's Kingdom! And Jesus would know about God and His Kingdom, since He is God's Son Himself!"

"Jesus was speaking to a crowd on a mountain. What Jesus taught at this time is often called the Sermon on the Mount. Near the end of His teaching, He told a story.

"Before I read it, I need five kids to come up and help tell the story! As I read and explain, you're going to work together to use your bodies to create some of the images in the story—the house, the rock, the sand, the storm. You don't have to do it perfectly, just give us a picture we can all see.

"Who wants to volunteer to do that in front of everyone? If you do, raise your hand!"

Choose five volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised. Invite them to come on stage. (Consider choosing kids in clothing that's suitable for a lot of moving around.)

"Great! I'll tell you guys what to make when we get to certain parts of the story.

"Let me start reading Jesus' words from the book of Matthew in the Bible.

Open the Bible to Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV) and read.

"So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock."

"Alright, volunteers! Work together to create an image of the house on a strong rock. Then freeze where you are!"

Pause as kids create an image of the house on a rock, and then freeze.

"Great job building a house on a strong rock. So good! Wait, a storm is blowing in! Can you make it so a storm is coming too? And freeze!"

"Amazing! Jesus said that everyone who hears His words and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built a house on rock. The rain came down. The water rose. The winds blew and beat against that house. It did not fall because its foundation was solid. Look at that house standing strong despite the storm! When we HEAR God's words and put them into practice, we are like that wise builder.

"Okay, volunteers, you can rest and sit for a bit. I will tell you when it's time to build again!

"Now think about hearing God's truth. You can hear from God in a lot of different places.

"You can hear from God, you can hear His truth, at church.

"You can hear from God, you can hear His truth, at a small group.

"You can hear God's truth when a parent or leader shares truth with you.

"You can hear God's truth when you read the Bible.

"You can hear from God as you're going through life and the Holy Spirit says, 'That kid looks like they could use some joy.'

"But hearing by itself is not the goal. Hearing plus doing is the foundation that holds us.

"Jesus then talked about the other builder. He said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 7:26-27 (NIV) and read.

"But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash."

"Alright, volunteers, I need you again! Can you create a house again? But this time it's built on sand. Then freeze where you are!

Pause as kids create an image of the house on the sand, and then freeze.

"Great job building a house on sand. So good! Wait, a storm is blowing in! Can you make it so a storm is coming too? And freeze!

"Now, there's one more part to the story. The house collapses! So all of the volunteers, can you carefully collapse together as the house falls? And then freeze with everything collapsed?

Pause as the kids do so.

"Whoa!! Look! Everything just collapsed and crumbled.

Pause and look at the "collapsed" kids.

"You guys did a phenomenal job!! Thank you so much for helping me tell the story! You all can have a seat. Let's all clap for our awesome volunteers!

5 min

APPLICATION

What You Need

No supplies needed

Lead the applause as the kids return to their seats.

"Here's the thing, the same rain came down. The same water rose. The same wind blew and beat against that house. But this house fell with a loud crash.

"Notice the important comparison between the two builders. They had the same storm, same pressure, same conditions. The difference was not the weather. The difference was the foundation, which was based on the person's response. One person heard and did. The other person heard and did not. That is why one house stood and one house fell.

"Let's connect this to our real lives.

"You might hear Jesus say, 'Tell the truth' and also read it in the Bible. Doing that looks like telling the truth when it's hard.

"You might hear Jesus say, 'Forgive.' Doing that looks like choosing not to get payback and asking God to help your heart heal.

"You might hear Jesus say or read in the Bible, 'Don't worry.' Doing that can look like talking to God about what scares you, asking for peace, and taking the next right step.

"Every time you do what Jesus says, you sink the foundation of your relationship with Jesus deeper into the rock."

COMMUNICATOR: "The first step to doing what God says is hearing what God says.

"God speaks to you in a lot of ways, but here are three key ones:

"The Bible! God gave us the Bible to show us who He is. The Bible is also a guidebook to becoming more like Jesus. And as you read the Bible, you aren't just reading black and white words on pages. Or you aren't just listening to words on a Bible app. God will speak to you as you read the Bible! When you're reading the Bible, you're learning about and spending time with the God of the universe!

"Another way God speaks to you is through other people who follow Jesus. God might have something to say to you through the love and stories and encouragement of your dad, or grandma, or a Small Group Leader, or a friend who loves Jesus. God's very Spirit lives in them, and He might speak His words for you through other people.

"A third way God speaks to you is through God's Holy Spirit Himself. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you, and He might give you a certain phrase, or an image, or a sense of peace. He might bring a specific verse from the Bible to mind. Since He lives in Heaven and He lives in you too, the Holy Spirit can give you downloads straight

from Heaven right for that moment in your life! It takes time and practice to listen to His voice, but He is speaking.

"These ways might seem overwhelming, but as a follower of Jesus, God does speak to you. He said this:

Open the Bible to John 10:27 (NIV) and read.

"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

"You are God's sheep, and He is speaking to you! You can trust that!

"Our Bottom Line today is **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God.** Practice means you do it again and again, so you get better. You show up on purpose. You learn from mistakes and try again. You take small steps and celebrate small wins. Here is a simple plan you can use this week to practice hearing from God.

- Read the Bible. Read a short part of the Bible each day. Start with Matthew 7 or a Psalm. The gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell about the life of Jesus! You can read a part of them! As you read the Bible, circle one line that stands out. Ask, 'What is God telling me?'
 - Ask and be quiet. Pray, 'God, help me hear You today.' Sit quietly and listen.
 - Pay attention to wise voices who love Jesus. When a parent, small group leader, or trusted friend shares truth about God or from the Bible, listen.
 - Listen to the Holy Spirit in your heart when He shows you a part of the world that doesn't look like His Kingdom. Like when you're going about your day and you see: 'That kid looks lonely.' Or 'That kid needs some joy.'
 - Check what you hear that you think is from God. God's voice will always match the truth of the Bible and move you to love God or love people.
- "Practice doing what you heard.
- Tell the truth, always, even when it would be easier to lie.
 - Apologize without excuses when you mess up.
 - Forgive others even when it's hard.
 - Do something to make your world look more like God's Kingdom when the Holy Spirit shows you: Invite the lonely kid to sit with you, hold the door for someone who needs help, smile at the gloomy person who needs joy.
 - Pray first before you post or reply.

"Pick one thing that you've heard from God and do it today. That is how you build on rock. Storms come to everyone. The difference is the foundation you build every day. Hear Jesus. Do what He says. The storms won't go away, but the foundation stays. I hope you build on a good foundation."

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

LANDING

What You Need

No supplies needed

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' In our story, Jesus taught us that it's crucial to hear from God!

"God really, really wants us to hear from Him. He wants us to hear from Him so much that He sent us Jesus. Jesus is God's very own Son and God Himself! If you want to know who God is, and how He would live, and what He would say, look at Jesus. No wonder God planned years and years for Jesus. Jesus was the key to God's Big Story. And not only did Jesus show us who God is and teach us what God's Kingdom is like, He lived a perfect, sinless life while doing it. Then Jesus gave up that perfect, sinless life to pay for our sins and break the curse we were under. Jesus, the Rescuer, God Himself, gave His life to rescue us all!

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"This week we learned about the wise and foolish builders whom Jesus taught us about!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus gave us a clear plan. **Hear** His words and **put them into practice**. That is how we grow stronger every day, and that's how we stand firm when life gets stormy. This week, choose one real moment to hear and do. Maybe it's at school, at home, with a friend, or online."

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "How can you hear from God?"

"Think about this question now, and we'll talk more about it in Small Group. Be honest about what helps you listen to God and what makes it hard."

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's take some time and **[Bottom Line] practice hearing from God**. Close your eyes and bow your head. Just ask God

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

to speak to you. Just pause and don't think about everything going on around you or what you are doing tonight or tomorrow.

Pause for about 15-30 seconds while the kids listen to God.

"Lord, we love You, thank You that You speak to us. The message You gave to all those people is for us too. Lord, we want You to speak to us, but we don't just want to hear You, we want to do what You say. We want to start putting Your words into practice because they are the best way to live. Teach us to follow You because we love You. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

WEEK

FOUR

Preteen | W4

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 ("Everything to Me" from *Everything to Me* and "I Run to You" from *Make a Move*)

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Matthew Maze (K-1st grade), Live for God Game Plan (2nd-3rd grade), Live for God Scenarios (4th-5th Grade)

Application Activity: What Does It Look Like? (K-1st grade), Room to Live for God (2nd-3rd grade), Spell It Out (4th-5th Grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Run the Verse (K-1st grade), Race to the Verse (2nd-3rd grade), SPARKLE the Verse (4th-5th Grade)

Prayer Activity: Hot Potato Prayers (K-1st grade), Prayer Squeeze (2nd-3rd grade), Name It (4th-5th Grade)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App and ParentCue



Bible Story

Jesus Chooses Levi | Luke 5:27-32 (Supporting: Romans 12:1)

Bottom Line

Practice living for God.

Monthly Memory Verse

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. | 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

Conversation Starter

What does it look like to live for God?

5 min

LG Opener

5 min

Opening Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Welcome, everyone! Can you believe we are already on Week 4 of Game Plan?"

"If you haven't joined us, let me bring you up to speed! This month, we're training with a Game Plan to grow stronger every day in our friendship with God. This Game Plan has four parts—talk about God, pray to God, hear from God, and live for God!"

"We've been learning so much. If God taught you something this month, throw a hand up. *(Put your hand in the air, and pause for responses.)*

"Love it. We're closing out the theme today, and we have one more thing to unpack, and it's so good! We're going to learn about how we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

"That leads me to our game for today! Let's do a quick warm-up. Bounce on your toes. Shake your hands out. Big breath in and out. You ready? We're calling today's game the 'Safe Zone Sprint.' You gotta be quick with this one.

SLIDE: Safe Zone Sprint

"I'll need ten volunteers for today's game. Raise your hand if you would like to play, and then I'll share the details of the game!"

Choose ten volunteers from the kids whose hands are raised. Invite them to come up on stage and stand in the tape ((or cone) rectangle on the floor with you.

(Point to the tape—or cone—rectangle you're standing in.) "This rectangle is the Safe Zone. When the music plays, you walk inside the Safe Zone in a circle. When the music stops, the floor is lava, and the Hula Hoops® are safe spots. Sprint to a hoop, get both feet inside, and freeze before I count to three. It's always one kid per hoop. If two kid reach the same hoop, the last one in is out. Got it? Think musical chairs meets floor is lava!

"Everybody else, cheer these volunteers as they play!"

ROUND 1

"Alright, it's time, music ... go!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Play the music as the kids walk in the Safe Zone. Randomly stop the music.

13 min

Worship

2 min

Worship Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

Everything to Me | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Music stop, go! 1... 2 ... 3 ... freeze! If you're not frozen in a hoop, you're out. Everybody else, back to the Safe Zone. Let me remove one hoop."

"Let's keep playing!"

Play the music as the kids walk in the Safe Zone. Randomly stop the music. Play several rounds until there are two kids and one hoop left.

FINAL ROUND

"You have reached the final round! Woohoo! Let's play one more time!"

"Music ... go!"

Play the music as the kids walk in the Safe Zone. Randomly stop the music.

"Music stopped, go! 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... freeze! We have our champion!"

Feel free to play again with 10 new kids if time allows.

"That was so fun! You guys are awesome!"

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! We're going into a time of worship. Worship is so important. We do this for many reasons, but one is to acknowledge that God is King. He is on the throne. No one is above Him. We understand God is King—everything else doesn't even come close to being like Him. He is above it all. While we sing this first song, be reminded that God should not just be a part of your life. He should be everything.

"Great singing! It's important to understand that we're not trying to earn God's love; we receive and thank God for the love He gives. As we sing this next song, make it a prayer. Think of one real place this week where you want to live for God—like telling the truth, choosing kindness, or what you watch and say online. In your heart, say, 'Jesus, my life is Yours.'

3 min

My Life for You | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"It's always so good to worship with you all!"

Let's talk about our Memory Verse now—it's the part of God's truth from the Bible that we're going to try to get into our heads and hearts this month.

"Our Memory Verse talks about training; training shows up in daily choices that you keep doing over and over. The Bible says training to follow God helps us now and also for the life to come. That's why we worship, and why we learn to live for God. This month's Memory Verse is **1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)**. I'll read it, and then we can say it together.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)*

"Let's say it together."

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)*

WORSHIP LEADER: "This connects to our story today. Matthew said yes to Jesus and started living for God. Training in following Jesus looks like that kind of daily yes. It's choosing to follow Him every single day. It helps right now in your choices, and it shapes your future with God. Great job, everyone!"

12 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

28 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

Introduction

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Communicator can place their Bible on it and read from it.

COMMUNICATOR: "Hi, everyone! It looks like I need some help with choices. I'll tell you what the choices are, and then tell you how to vote for them!

"Okay, here's your first choice.

Choice 1:

"Would you rather have unlimited jump passes at the trampoline park for a whole month, or unlimited arcade tokens for a month?

"If you'd like unlimited jump passes, jump up and down! If you'd like unlimited arcade passes, pretend like you're really dramatically steering a pretend arcade car!

Pause and let the kids choose. Comment on their responses.

"Okay, here's your next choice!"

Choice 2:

"You can only choose one this semester because they meet at the same time—robotics club or basketball team? Which one do you go with?

"If you'd like to be on the robotics club, dance like a robot at your seat! If you'd like to play on the basketball team, pretend to dribble a basketball!

Pause and let the kids choose. Comment on their responses.

"Wow! Here's your next choice!"

Choice 3:

"For your birthday, would you choose a day at a huge water park with just a few close friends, or a big backyard party with everyone invited?

5 min

TENSION

What You Need

No supplies needed

"If you'd rather go to the water park with a few close friends, pretend to ride a water slide at your seat! If you'd rather have a big, backyard party, pretend to flip some burgers on the grill!

Pause and let the kids choose. Comment on their responses.

"Awesome! Last choice!

Choice 4:

"You've been saving money for months. Do you spend it now on something small you really want, or keep saving for something bigger even later?"

"If you want something really small right now, move your hands close together. If you want to save for something big later, spread your hands wide!

Pause and let the kids choose. Comment on their responses.

"Awesome job! Great choices, everyone!

"Here's the thing, every time you said yes to one option, you said no to the other. You can't do both. Every 'yes' takes you in one direction, and every 'no' means letting go of something else.

"Every day we make choices like that—what to wear, what to say, who to hang out with. Most choices seem small, but they all build toward something bigger.

"And following Jesus is a lot like that too. It's not just believing in Him, it's choosing to live His way. Saying yes to Jesus means saying no to the things that pull us away from Him.

"Today, we're going to meet someone who had to make a choice like that, a man named Levi, who you might also know as Matthew. When Jesus invited him to follow Him, Matthew had to decide: hold on to what he knew ... or walk away to live for something greater.

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's be honest, some choices are easy, while others feel impossible. But what do you do when the right choice costs you something big?

"When saying yes to Jesus might mean saying no to friends who don't get it.

"When following Him means walking away from what's comfortable or popular.

"When doing what's right means standing alone.

"That's what makes today's story so powerful.

"Matthew had a good job, money, a routine, and Jesus looked at him and said, '*Follow Me.*' It sounds simple, but that invitation changed everything.

"Following Jesus is a big deal! But it's so worth it!

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"So here's the question to keep in mind as we read:

"If Jesus asked you to follow Him right now, what would be hardest to leave behind?

"We'll dive into seeing if Matthew could leave everything behind.

"But before we get into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

"Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!"

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

5 min

TRUTH

What You Need

No supplies needed

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

COMMUNICATOR: "So, we're going to continue on in our journey through the Bible. We're right at the part when Jesus was alive on Earth. Jesus came to Earth to show us who God is and to teach us about God's Kingdom.

"Before we get to the part of the Bible where Jesus called Matthew, you should know that right before this, Jesus had just healed a man who could not walk. The crowds were amazed at Jesus!

"Then Jesus saw a man who was a tax collector. Now here's the thing about tax collectors during Jesus' time. They didn't have the best reputation. The Jewish people didn't want to be around them because they saw them as traitors. Tax collectors worked for the Roman government, and the Roman government ruled over the Jewish people. Being a tax collector was choosing to work for the enemy. Some tax collectors took more money than they were supposed to from the Jewish people.

"So, all that to say, most people avoided tax collectors. But Jesus did not avoid Matthew.

"Listen to what the Bible says happened:

Open the Bible to Luke 5:27 (NirV) and read.

[Jesus] saw a tax collector sitting at the tax booth. The man's name was Levi. "Follow me," Jesus said to him.

"Jesus said two words that changed everything: 'Follow me.'

"Think about Matthew for a second. He had a job, making good money, a system, he had a life. So to say yes to Jesus would mean saying no to a lot of that.

"The Bible tells us that this happened next:

Open the Bible to Luke 5:28 (NirV) and read.

Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

"No delay. No, 'Can I follow You part of the time, Jesus?' No, 'I will catch up in a few months.' Matthew made a clear choice."

"Take a moment and turn to someone next to you and answer in one sentence. What might be hard for Matthew to leave behind in that moment?"

5 min

APPLICATION

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Great! Now Matthew did something next that showed his heart. He chose to walk away and follow Jesus, and then ... He threw a big banquet for Jesus at his house!

"Look at what Scripture says:

Open the Bible to Luke 5:29 (NirV) and read.

Then Levi gave a huge banquet for Jesus at his house. A large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

"He invited his friends—many of them other tax collectors. When you start following Jesus, it doesn't stop with you. You want other people to meet Him too. So the room filled up with people most religious leaders would have kept at a distance.

"The Pharisees and the teachers of the law saw this and questioned it. Why would Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners? Why sit at the table with people who break the rules? Jesus gave a clear answer.

Open the Bible to Luke 5:31-32 (NirV) and read.

"Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people do. I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to turn away from their sins."

"He said it was not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. He came to call people who know they need help. In other words, Jesus came for those who would turn around and live God's way."

"Think about a time you felt left out or judged by your worst moment. Now hear this. Jesus sees you, calls you by name, and invites you close. He does not pretend that sin is no big deal. He sits at the table and calls you into real change.

"Go back to the moment at the booth. Jesus saw Matthew. He did not start with a long speech. He did not say, 'Fix everything first.' He started with a relationship and a direction. 'Follow Me.' That was a call to live a new way. It was not just new information. It was a new way of living.

"Now look at who got upset in the story. People who thought they were already good enough. People who were sure they were right with God on their own. Jesus' answer was a reset. He said His mission was for sinners to turn away from sin and turn toward God. That included Matthew. That includes me. That includes you.

"Matthew's fast yes is a pattern we can follow. Jesus calls. We respond. Jesus came for people who know they need rescue. And we all need rescue.

"Do you remember way back in the Garden of Eden? Adam and Eve ushered in a curse of sin, and we all have sin-sick hearts. No one can be close friends with God anymore. We need someone to break that curse of sin so we can be close friends with God again! We are the sick people who need a doctor, like Jesus talked about. We need Jesus.

"We need Jesus to save us, and then we can follow Him every day.

COMMUNICATOR: "Our Bottom Line for today is: **[Bottom Line]**

Practice living for God. Matthew said yes to Jesus. That yes changed his daily choices. Living for God is not about being perfect. It's just choosing to say, 'Jesus, I want to follow You and do what You do.'

Here's what you can do:

1) Start with a yes.

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

"When you wake up, pray one simple line: 'Jesus, I say yes to You today. Help me live for You.'

2) Leave something behind.

"Matthew left his booth. What is one thing you can leave today so you can follow Jesus more clearly?

- Maybe it's a conversation in the cafeteria or at recess that becomes mean and hurtful.
- Maybe it's a show or video that keeps pushing you toward stuff you know is wrong.
- Maybe it's the habit of snapping back when someone upsets you.

"Sometimes you just have to walk away from things that you know might keep you from following Jesus.

3) Invite someone close to Jesus.

"Matthew hosted a meal so his friends could meet Jesus. You can do that in your world.

- Sit with someone new at lunch.
- Invite a friend to church.
- Tell a friend why you trust Jesus when life is hard.

4) Reset fast when you mess up.

"Living for God is not never failing. It's choosing to turn back quickly. If you blow it, pray, 'Jesus, I am sorry. Please forgive me. Help me make it right.' Then get back to following Him.

"If you've never before fully chosen to follow Jesus, and accepted Him as your Savior. You can! If you want to commit your life to following Him, talk to a leader or a parent. We would love to pray with you.

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' In our story today, we saw when Jesus called Matthew to follow Him.

"As we saw this week, we're all like Matthew. Jesus has said to all of us: 'I want you as My friend.' God wanted us close to Him, but we had the curse of sin in the way. But God didn't let that stop Him. Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life to pay for the sin that was keeping us from being close to God. The God of the universe has picked you to be His Friend—that's been His key motivation throughout His Big Story. God worked for years and years to send us Jesus. The Jesus who wants us to be His friend would give His life to rescue us all. Our friendship means so much to Him.

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"This week, we learned about when Jesus called Matthew to follow Him!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Two minutes from now, you will head to group and then right back into normal life, buses, hallways, chats, and chores. Before you move, what can you start doing this week to live for God? Is it telling the truth, choosing kindness online, inviting a friend to church, or stopping listening to certain music that pulls you the wrong way? Name your two choices in your head now, and be ready to share."

"That's thinking about our Conversation Starter for this week."

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] "What does it look like to live for God?"

"How are you going to live this week, and what are you going to leave behind? Let's pray before you go."

COMMUNICATOR: "Jesus, we love You so much. Thank You that You see us, that You love us. Thank You, Jesus, that You came to help the sick people. Thank You that You died for us on a cross, and then rose again so that we could be freed from sin and be Your close friend forever. We want to follow You today. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.