

WEEK

ONE

Preteen | W1

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2026, Week 1

Bible Story: What Is God's Kingdom? The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast • *Matthew 13:31-34*

Bottom Line: Jesus shows us God's kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • *Matthew 6:10* NIRV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

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



Bible Story

What Is God's Kingdom? The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast • *Matthew 13:31-34*

Bottom Line

Jesus shows us God's kingdom.

Monthly Memory Verse

"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • *Matthew 6:10* NIRV

Conversation Starter

What is God's kingdom?






5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Paper	1
	Writing supplies	1
	"Mustard Seed Word Search" Activity Page	1
	"Mustard Seed Answer Key" Activity Page	1



EveryChild tips

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

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Mustard Seed Word Search" on paper, one per kid.
- Print "Mustard Seed Answer Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- 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 a "Mustard Seed Word Search" Activity Page.
- Explain that hidden in the puzzle are words related to today's Bible Story, like "GROW," "FAITH," "KINGDOM," and "JESUS."
- Challenge kids to see who can find all the words. (Share that some of the words might be backwards!)
- Talk about which word they think is most important and why.

What You Say:

"Nice job finding all those words! It's kind of interesting trying to find small words hidden inside a big puzzle. That's a little like what Jesus did in our Bible Story today. Jesus used small, everyday things to help people find and understand a huge, important idea: what God's kingdom is really like. Jesus knew that simply learning the right information is not enough. He wanted to engage our hearts and our imaginations so that we don't just know about God's love and His kingdom but learn to experience them for ourselves.

"This is why, when Jesus taught, He often used parables. A parable is a short story using everyday objects and situations to help explain something about God and His kingdom. A parable makes you think and feel. It helps you to understand something true for yourself instead of just repeating what someone else has told you. Let's go hear one of those parables Jesus taught!"





5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Building materials (e.g., LEGO®, mini erasers, sugar cubes, dried pasta shapes)	Several
	Paper plates	1
	Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up Matthew 13:31-34 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Talk about how Jesus used parables to teach us about God and His kingdom.
- Read Matthew 13:31-34 as a group.
- Ask, "What did you learn from these two parables that Jesus taught?"
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Divide the group into teams of two or three.
- Give each team a pile of the tiny building materials.
- Challenge them: "Using only these tiny pieces, work together to build the tallest and strongest structure you can in five minutes."
- After five minutes, invite each group to present their structure.
- Discuss the challenges and successes of building something big from only small parts.
- Ask: What is God's kingdom?

What You Say:

"It's amazing what you can build from such small pieces! That's the exact point Jesus was making in the parable or story He told about the mustard seed.

"A mustard seed is a very *tiny* little round ball, not much bigger than a speck. But while most herb plants stay pretty small, under the right conditions, a mustard seed can grow into a plant so big that it's the size of a tree! Jesus gave us an amazing picture: Something so small you can barely see grows up into a leafy, branching tree that even provides rest and shelter.

"That's what God's kingdom is like! When Jesus returned to heaven, there were only a few hundred believers. But as the Holy Spirit enabled those believers to share about Jesus and the love of God, more and more people began to follow Jesus. And now, around 2.5 billion people say they believe in Jesus. That's nearly one-third of people across the whole world. So many people take refuge and find shelter in God's love, just like birds find shelter in a mustard tree.

"We asked a big question at the end of that build: What is God's kingdom? What do you think God's kingdom is? (*Invite responses.*)

"Great answers! Let's think about this question: What are some attributes of God? What is God like? (*Invite responses. If kids are stumped, you can share something like: 'God is loving, joyful, patient, kind, trustworthy, faithful, and good.'*) God's kingdom is anywhere He reigns as King. And since He is those attributes, His kingdom is full of love, joy, kindness, and all of those things He is! God's kingdom is a great, great place!

"And as Jesus taught us in those parables we read, God is in the business of growing His kingdom! **[Bottom Line] Jesus shows us God's kingdom.**"












5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

What You Need

 Plastic tablecloth	1
 Plastic tray or tub	1
 Empty 20-ounce or larger plastic bottle	1
 Small plastic cup	1
 Hydrogen peroxide (6% from a beauty supply store works best and is safer) , one-half cup	1
 Bottle of dish soap	1
 Bottle of food coloring	1
 Active dry yeast, one tablespoon	1
 Warm water, three tablespoons	1
 Measuring cup	1
 Measuring spoon	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Spread out the tablecloth.
- Place the tray/tub in the middle of the tablecloth, and place the plastic bottle on the tray/tub.

During the Activity:

- Carefully pour the hydrogen peroxide into the plastic bottle.
- Add a generous squirt of dish soap and a few drops of food coloring. Swirl gently.
- In the separate, small plastic cup, mix the yeast with the warm water for about 30 seconds.
- Now for the fun part! Quickly pour the yeast mixture into the plastic bottle and stand back. A huge, warm foam (elephant toothpaste!) will erupt from the bottle.
- **Safety Note:** A leader should handle all the ingredients, especially the hydrogen peroxide. The resulting foam is safe to touch.

What You Say:

“Whoa! That was a huge reaction from just a tiny bit of yeast, right? Jesus told a parable or story about yeast. He said a woman mixed just a little bit into a huge amount of flour, and it worked its way all through the dough. Jesus was using yeast to teach the people listening—and us—about God’s kingdom! God’s kingdom might be small, like yeast, but it was going to grow and grow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus shows us God’s kingdom.**

“God’s kingdom grows when more and more people follow Jesus as King. As a follower of Jesus, you are a part of God’s kingdom—but you don’t have to grow it. That’s God’s job. But you can point to it! When you forgive someone for breaking your game controller, you’re pointing to Jesus and saying, ‘Hey, the King of this kingdom is forgiving, like this.’ When you speak the truth when it would be easier to be dishonest, you’re pointing to Jesus and saying, ‘Hey, the King of this kingdom is honest, like this.’

And maybe the person you’re interacting with will ask why you’re different. And you can tell them that Jesus, the King, loves them too and wants to start a friendship that lasts forever. You can point to Jesus, the King!

“Even if the person you point to Jesus doesn’t choose to follow Him as King, you’re still pointing to the God who is in the business of doing

big things. You might be a step in their journey of learning about Jesus. Just be faithful to point to the King, and leave the results to Him. He is working, even if you can't see it!"





5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Paper	1
 Writing supplies	1
 Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Matthew 6:10 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Explain that the kids will have a friendly competition: 'The Speed Verse Challenge'!
- Time each kid saying the Memory Verse as fast as they can while still saying every word clearly.
- Write each kid's name on the paper and record their time.
- After every kid has gone once, give them a chance to try and beat their own time.
- Cheer for each kid as they try the challenge.

What You Say:

"Awesome job! Some of you are seriously fast talkers! Let's open the Bible to Matthew 6:10. (*Open Bible.*) That's where we can find our Memory Verse. Listen as I read. 'May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven' (Matthew 6:10 NIV).

"Our Memory Verse is a prayer that Jesus taught His followers. It's a Kingdom Quest prayer. What do you think it means? (*Pause while kids answer.*) We are asking God to bring more of His kingdom—His goodness, His love, and His justice—to our world, here on earth, right now.

"When you follow Jesus, you get to be a part of God's kingdom! You're living in the kingdom of God every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to transform

you to become more like Jesus so you can point to God's kingdom in the way Jesus shows us. As you begin to grow in your faith and your relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit can work through you to begin pointing to God and God's kingdom wherever you are: in your home, your neighborhood, your school, and your city. In fact, God calls us to partner with Him to point to His kingdom in the places where we live here on earth.

"I'm so glad we're going to memorize this verse so we can always remember our Kingdom Quest and calling to point to God's kingdom everywhere we go."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

these questions and discuss:

- What is God's kingdom?
- Why do you think Jesus used ordinary things to explain God's kingdom?
- How does faith grow even when we don't see it?
- What's one small thing you can do that might have a big impact?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Ask the kids to sit quietly for a moment.
- Pose the question: "After hearing about the mustard seed and the yeast, and how God is growing His kingdom, what is one small thing you can bring to your world this week to help point to God's kingdom?"
- Give them some concrete examples:
- Invite the new kid to sit with your group at lunch.
- Choose to have a positive attitude when your team is losing.
- Decide to pray for five minutes before you get out of bed in the morning.
- Ask them to think of one small, specific step they can take this week.
- After a moment of quiet reflection, close in prayer.

What You Say:

"When you follow Jesus, you get to be a part of God's kingdom! You even have the Holy Spirit, that's God's very Spirit, to help you and transform you to become more like Jesus, so you can point to the kingdom in the way Jesus shows us. It's powerful to think about the small steps we can take to make a big difference. Small acts of kindness and simple words of encouragement can help show the love of Jesus to people around you in a big way. God is so powerful that He can take our little actions that point to Him and turn them into something bigger than we can imagine. Let's pray and ask God to use them."

Prayer:

"God, thank You for showing us that You use small, ordinary things to do amazing work in the world. Please help us to be faithful with the small things this week. Take our small acts of kindness and our quiet prayers and use them to point to You and Your kingdom in our schools, in our homes, and in our hearts. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- "Mustard Seed Word Search" Activity Page, one per kid
- "Mustard Seed Answer Key" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid and Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Mustard Seed Word Search" on paper, one per kid.
- Print "Mustard Seed Answer Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Plastic tray or tub, one per Small Group
- Empty 20-ounce or larger plastic bottle, one per Small Group
- Small plastic cup, one per Small Group
- 6% hydrogen peroxide (from a beauty supply store), one-half cup per Small Group
- Bottle of dish soap, one per Small Group
- Bottle of food coloring, one per Small Group
- Active dry yeast, one tablespoon per Small Group
- Warm water, three tablespoons per Small Group
- Measuring cup, one per Small Group
- Measuring spoon, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Spread out the tablecloth.
- Place the tray/tub in the middle of the tablecloth, and place the plastic bottle on the tray/tub.

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Building materials (e.g., LEGO®, mini erasers, sugar cubes, dried pasta shapes), twenty or more pieces per kid
- Paper plates, one for every two or three kids
- Timer (or smartphone or watch), one per Small Group

3. Discussion Questions**Talk about God | Bible Story Review****Made to Connect****What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You**Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity****Made to Play****What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per Small Group
- Timer (or smartphone or watch), one per Small Group

5. Make It Personal with Prayer**Pray to God | Prayer Activity****Made to Reflect****What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Paper	1
3. Writing supplies	1
4. "Mustard Seed Word Search" Activity Page	1
5. "Mustard Seed Answer Key" Activity Page	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Building materials (e.g., LEGO®, mini erasers, sugar cubes, dried pasta shapes)	Several
3. Paper plates	1
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Plastic tablecloth	1
2. Plastic tray or tub	1
3. Empty 20-ounce or larger plastic bottle	1
4. Small plastic cup	1
5. Hydrogen peroxide (6% from a beauty supply store works best and is safer) , one-half cup	1
6. Bottle of dish soap	1
7. Bottle of food coloring	1
8. Active dry yeast, one tablespoon	1
9. Warm water, three tablespoons	1
10. Measuring cup	1
11. Measuring spoon	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Paper	1
3. Writing supplies	1
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

WEEK

TWO

Preteen | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Sheep • *Luke 15:1-7 (supporting 1 Timothy 1:15)*

Bottom Line: Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is the way to God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: *"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven."* • Matthew 6:10 NIRV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

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



Bible Story

The Story of the Lost Sheep • *Luke 15:1-7 (supporting 1 Timothy 1:15)*

Bottom Line

Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.

Monthly Memory Verse

"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIRV

Conversation Starter

What is the way to God's kingdom?




5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Party hats	1
 Cotton balls	1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- 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 a party hat.
- Explain that they need to wear their party hat over their eyes so they can only look through the small hole at the end to see.
- Scatter a few cotton ball "sheep" on a table or on the floor.
- Challenge them to find all the "sheep" while looking only through the tiny hole in the party hat. It will be surprisingly difficult and disorienting.
- Let them try for a minute, then allow the kids to take the hats off and easily find the sheep.

What You Say:

"That was pretty tough, right? When you're only looking through a tiny hole, you can miss a lot of what's right in front of you. It's easy to get a limited perspective. In our Bible Story today, some people had a very limited perspective about who belonged in God's kingdom. But Jesus told them a story called a parable to show them they were missing the big picture. Let's go hear it."


5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Imagine

What You Need

 Bibles

1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Luke 15:1-7 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Talk about how Jesus used parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Ask, "What did you learn from this parable?"
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Divide the group into two "focus groups."
- **Group 1 is the "Shepherd's Perspective."** Their task is to discuss and be ready to answer questions as if they were the shepherd from the parable.
- **Group 2 is the "Sheep's Perspective."** Their task is to discuss and be ready to answer questions as if they were the one lost sheep from the parable.
- Give each group a few minutes to brainstorm.
- Then, act as an interviewer. Ask the two groups questions, and let them answer from their character's point of view.
- "Shepherds, weren't you worried about the 99 sheep? Why risk leaving them for just one?"
- "Sheep, what happened? How did you get so lost?"
- "Shepherds, what was the first thing you did when you found the lost sheep?"
- "Sheep, how did it feel to be found and carried home?"

What You Say:

"That was awesome! Hearing the story from those different perspectives really makes you think. As Jesus was teaching a group of tax collectors and other people who had done wrong things, the religious leaders began to grumble to each other. The religious leaders couldn't understand why Jesus would spend time with people who had done

wrong things. They believed the only way to get close to God was to do all the right things, all the time. Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He told them a parable, a story.

"Jesus told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep but lost one. When one was lost, he still had 99 sheep. That's still a lot of sheep! He could have just forgotten about the one that was lost. But that one sheep was so very important to him. He knew that if a sheep wanders away from the flock, it's completely helpless. It might fall in a ditch or ravine. It could be attacked by wild animals. It might simply fall over on its back and not be able to get up again. The shepherd had great compassion for the lost sheep, so he went out into the wild and searched far and wide until, at last, he found it! The shepherd was so delighted to have that one lost sheep back home that he couldn't contain his joy. He even invited the whole neighborhood to come celebrate with him!

"The shepherd's joy and the sheep's relief are so powerful. This story isn't just about sheep and a shepherd. It's about us and God and what He did to bring us home.

"Every single one of us has a sin problem. Like that sheep that kept going further and further away from the shepherd, that sin problem was pulling you further and further away from God. You were lost, and you couldn't find your way back home.

"But Jesus loves you so much! He gave His life, He paid for your sin, and went and picked you up and brought you back home to Him! God loves us so much that He sent Jesus so we can be with God forever. **[Bottom Line] Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild tips

- If a kid can't think of a time they lost something, they can share about a time a friend or family member lost something.
- Be sensitive, as this topic could bring up feelings about a lost pet or person. Affirm their feelings, and keep the focus on the joy of being found by God.

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask the group to think about a time they lost something that was really important to them. It could be a favorite toy, a pet, or even a piece of jewelry.
- Go around the circle and let each student share their "Lost and Found" story.
- Ask them:
- How did you feel when you realized it was lost? (*Stressed, sad, panicked?*)
- What did you do to find it? How hard did you search?
- How did you feel when you finally found it? (*Relieved, joyful, excited?*)
- After everyone has shared, connect their feelings to the parable.

What You Say:

"All those feelings you described—panic when it was lost, determination to find it, and total joy when you did—that's a small picture of how God feels about us. The Bible says we are so valuable to Him that He would search for us no matter the cost. God doesn't give up. He doesn't wait for us to get it together, do all the right things, and then come to Him. No, God is like the shepherd, setting aside everything else to come and find us, even when we're completely lost and helpless. Even though we may still have to live with some consequences of our sin or bad choices, God rescues us for all time.

"And when even one person chooses to turn their heart to God and be rescued, God is so excited, and all of heaven is filled with joy! The joy of the shepherd finding the sheep is like the joy in heaven when one person is found.

"It's amazing to know we are that loved. It's that love that made a way for us to be part of God's kingdom through Jesus. **[Bottom Line] Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom.**"




5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Timer (or smartphone or stopwatch)	1
	Inclusive Optional: Pool noodles	Several



EveryChild tips

- For kids with mobility challenges who may have difficulty standing and sitting quickly, allow them to raise a hand or a pool noodle instead.
- If the speed challenge creates anxiety for anyone, keep the focus on simply completing the Memory Verse smoothly as a team rather than racing the clock.

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Matthew 6:10 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Explain how to play "Sit and Stand Verse":
- Everyone starts seated.
- Going in order around the circle, each person is responsible for one word of the Memory Verse.
- The first person will quickly stand up, say the first word ("May"), and immediately sit back down.
- As soon as the first person is seated, the second person stands, says the second word ("your"), and sits back down.
- This continues around the circle, creating a wave-like effect until the entire verse is complete.
- Try it once slowly to get the hang of it. Then, introduce the challenge.
- Say, "Okay, that was a good practice round. Now let's see how fast we can do it! I'm going to time you."
- If desired, time the group as they go through the verse. Let them try two or three times to see if they can beat their own best time.

What You Say:

"Nice job! That's harder than it sounds, right? It takes a lot of focus to know your word and be ready to pop up at the exact right moment. It's a great picture of how we can point to God's kingdom. Each of us has a small but super important part to play. When we all do our part, it creates something amazing, like saying this whole verse together.

"God is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, and good—among other things! And His kingdom is anywhere those things are the way things operate. So when we're kind, or when we're honest, we're pointing to God's kingdom. We might be doing something little, but we're pointing to something so wonderful—God's kingdom!"

"While we can point to God's kingdom, only He can make it bigger with more people following Him as King. But that's something we so want Him to do! And that's what this month's Memory Verse is asking: '*May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven*' (Matthew 6:10 NIV), we are asking God to do the same thing: to bring more of His goodness and love to the people around us. We want God to make His kingdom bigger and bigger, so let's pray this prayer often!"

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- Why did the shepherd go after the one sheep when he still had 99?
- Why did Jesus tell this parable?
- What is the way to God's kingdom?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus cares for YOU? Out of everyone in the entire world, you are special to God, and **[Bottom Line] Jesus made a way for you to be part of God's kingdom!**




5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Paper	1
 Writing supplies	1
 Box	1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Ask them to think of one thing that sometimes makes them feel "lost." (It could be a worry, a fear, a friendship problem, or a question they have.)
- Instruct them to write that "lost" feeling down on their paper.
- When they're done, have them ball up the paper.
- Explain that the box represents the sheep pen, being home close to God, which is a place of safety.
- Let them take turns tossing their balled-up prayer into the pen.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"It's good to be honest about the things that make us feel lost. The great news from our Bible Story is that we have a Shepherd who loves us so, so much. He has brought us home to Him, and He wants to be our safe place. Let's pray together and thank God for that."

Prayer:

"God, thank You for being the Good Shepherd. Thank You for paying a great price to bring us home to You. We are so grateful that Jesus made a way for us to be part of God's kingdom. Teach us how to rest in Your love. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Party hats, one per kid
- Cotton balls, one bag per Small Group

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid

3. Discussion Questions

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Timer (or smartphone or stopwatch)

EveryChild Supplies

- *Optional: Pool noodles*

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Paper, one piece per kid
- Writing supplies, one per kid
- Box, one per Small Group

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.

- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Party hats	1
3. Cotton balls	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Imagine

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Timer (or smartphone or stopwatch)	1
3. Inclusive Optional: Pool noodles	Several

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Paper	1
2. Writing supplies	1
3. Box	1

WEEK

THREE

Preteen | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2026, Week 3

Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Son • *Luke 15:11-32*

Bottom Line: God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: *"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven."* • Matthew 6:10 NIRV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

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



Bible Story

The Story of the Lost Son • *Luke 15:11-32*

Bottom Line

God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

Monthly Memory Verse:

"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIRV

Conversation Starter:

What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?







5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Ball pit balls	Several
 Plastic bins	2
 Small laundry baskets	2
 Scooter boards	2
 Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- 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.
- Dump all the ball pit balls in the center of the room to represent the "pig food."
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Place one empty bin, a laundry basket, and a scooter board on either side of the room for each team.
- Explain the game: This is a life-sized version of "Hungry, Hungry Hippos."
- One person from each team (the "hippo") will lie on their stomach on a scooter board. Another teammate (the "pusher") will hold their feet.
- On "Go," the pushers will push the hippos into the center of the room. The hippos hold their laundry basket upside-down and try to scoop up as many "slop" balls as possible.
- They then get pulled back and dump the balls in their team's bin.
- After a set amount of time (e.g., 60 seconds), the round is over. The team with the most balls in their bin wins.
- Play multiple rounds, and switch out kids for the "hippo" and "pusher" roles so more kids get a chance to play.

What You Say:

"That was awesome! Today we're going to hear a story Jesus told about a father and a son. The son made some choices that led him to some pigs and some pig food, like in our game. In fact, that was the moment everything started to change. Let's go find out what happened."







5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Move

What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Plastic coins	20
 Brown paper lunch bags	2
 Buckets	2
 Robes or large T-shirts	2
 Plastic toy rings	2



EveryChild tips

- Make sure the “robe” is large and easy to get on and off to avoid frustration.
- If running is a challenge for anyone, they can walk or roll. The focus is on participation, not speed.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Put ten plastic coins in each of the brown paper bags.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up Luke 15:11-32 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Read Luke 15:11-32 together.
- Talk about how Jesus used parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Ask, “What did you learn from this parable?”
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Set up a simple relay race. On one side of the room, place the buckets for both teams with space in between. Place the props—the robe, the ring, and the paper bag of plastic coins—for each group across the room from their buckets. Instruct the kids to line up near their teams’ props.
- Explain the relay: The first person in line will put on the robe and the ring, grab the paper bag of coins, run to the other side of the room, drop ONE coin in the bucket (representing wasting the money), run back, and take everything off for the next person. That person will repeat. Continue with each kid.
- The relay continues until all the coins are gone.
- The first team to put all their coins in the bucket wins.

What You Say:

“Great job! That relay helps us remember some key parts of the story Jesus told to teach us about God’s love. Let’s review our Bible Story: ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger son spoke to his father. He said, “Father, give me my share of the family property.” So the father divided his property between his two sons’ (Luke 15:11-12 NIV).”

At this time, a son usually received his share of the family property after his father died. So when the younger son demanded his money right away, it was almost like saying he wished his father were dead!

"The father must have been terribly hurt, but he allowed his son the freedom to make mistakes and learn the hard way. *'Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed'* (Luke 15:13-14 NIV). The younger son bought whatever he wanted when he wanted it. So when a famine came, and food was scarce, the younger son had nothing left. He went from living the party life to starving in a very short time. In fact, the younger son became so desperate that he went to work feeding pigs. This was one of the worst jobs a Jewish young man could do, since pigs were considered to be 'unclean.' But the son was so very hungry that he actually wanted to eat the slop he gave to the pigs! That's when he hit rock bottom.

"The younger son finally understood how he had messed up. He thought he would need to earn his way back into his father's house. But when he approached his father's house, his father did something totally unexpected! *'While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him'* (Luke 15:20b NIV). That is such a powerful picture of forgiveness. The father didn't care about the wasted money; he was just so thrilled his son was home.

"The older son had stayed with the father the entire time and had done all of the right things. The older son was upset that the father did such great things for the younger son. But the father wanted the older son to join the party and celebrate too!

"That's a picture of God. God celebrates when we come to Him, no matter what we've done. He loves us and wants us to be part of His kingdom. **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom."**

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Explain that you're going to read a scenario, and they'll have two questions to answer as a group.
- What would *most* people do in this situation?
- What would God, the loving father from our Bible Story, want you to do?
- Read the first scenario: A kid who was really mean to you last year wants to sit with your group at lunch this year.
- Give the teams a minute to discuss their two answers. Invite them to share their thoughts.
- Continue with the other scenarios:
- A new student joins your class and doesn't know anyone.
- A friend who hurt your feelings last week comes and says they're sorry.
- A kid who doesn't believe in God asks if they can come to your youth group.

What You Say:

"Those are tough situations. It's easy to react like the older brother and think, 'They don't deserve a second chance!' But Jesus told this story to show us that God's kingdom works differently. It's a kingdom of grace and second chances.

"Sometimes, we're like the younger son. We do what we want instead of what God wants. We don't feel like we've earned God's love. But that's the whole point! You can't earn God's love. God's love is deeper than your greatest sins or your biggest mess-up. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less. And the moment you turn back to God, you'll find that He's running to meet you. God is so excited when you return to His love that all of heaven celebrates! God wants you close to Him!

"And sometimes, we're like the older son. We feel like we've done all the right things and earned God's love, so we deserve for Him to give us what we want. But you can't earn God's love in those times, either! God wants you to rest in His love and all the good things He's already given you.

"No matter who you are or what you've done, no matter whether you're like the older son or the younger son, God loves you. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to make a way for you to be close to Him. Our Kingdom Quest is to show that same kind of grace to others, welcoming them

in just like the father welcomed his sons. Because **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.**"





5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Paper	1
 Scissors	1
 "Scripture Scramble" Activity Page	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Scripture Scramble" on paper and cut, two sets per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Matthew 6:10 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a scrambled set of the Memory Verse word strips.
- On "Go," teams race to assemble the verse in the correct order.
- The first team to correctly assemble the verse and read it aloud wins.
- Play again, but this time, challenge them to do it with one hand behind their back or without talking.

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! You worked together to put that important prayer back together. When we pray, 'May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven' (Matthew 6:10 NIV), we're saying, 'God, let more of Your goodness and love show up right here.'

"The story of the two lost sons is a perfect example of what God's kingdom is like—it's a kingdom of celebration, forgiveness, and welcoming everyone home. No matter who you are or what you've done, God loves you. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to make a way for you to be close to Him forever. And you can pass on that love to other

people because **[Bottom Line]** God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What did He want us to learn?
- Have you ever felt like the older brother in the story?
- Have you ever done something wrong? Is there anything you could do to make God stop loving you?
- What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?




5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Posterboard or butcher paper	1
	Coloring supplies	Several
	Optional: Party horns or hand clappers	Several

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Write "Praise Report" at the top of the posterboard/butcher paper.
- Remind the group how the father celebrated when his son came home. The whole house was filled with joy.
- Ask the group: "What are some things you've been praying about that you've seen God answer? It could be something big or small. What is a 'praise report' you can share?"
- As kids share, write their praises on the poster, or allow them to write or draw it.
- After each person shares a praise, let them make some noise to celebrate God's goodness together!
- *Optional: Give everyone a party horn or hand clapper to celebrate with.*

What You Say:

"This is incredible! It's so good to stop and celebrate all the ways God is working. This is what heaven is like when someone turns back to God—it's a party! Luke 15:23-24 NIV says, *'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found."* So they began to celebrate.' The father in our story honored his son and threw an epic welcome-home party! God is so excited when you return to Him that all of heaven celebrates! Let's end with one big celebration prayer."

Prayer:

"God, we celebrate You! Thank You for being a good Father who welcomes us home. Thank You for all the amazing things You're doing in our lives that we wrote on this poster. We praise You because You are good, and You are forgiving. Help us to have hearts like Yours and to welcome everyone, because we know You want everyone to be part of Your kingdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Ball pit balls, one large bag/container per Small Group
- Plastic bins, two per Small Group
- Small laundry baskets, two per Small Group
- Scooter boards, two per Small Group
- Timer (or smartphone or watch), one per Small Group

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Robes or large T-shirts, two per Small Group
- Toy plastic rings, two per Small Group
- Plastic coins, twenty per Small Group
- Brown paper lunch bags, two per Small Group
- Buckets, two per Small Group

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Put ten plastic coins in each of the brown paper bags.

3. Discussion Questions

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Scripture Scramble" Activity Page, two sets per Small Group
- Paper, two pieces per Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Scripture Scramble" on paper and cut, two sets per Small Group.

5. Make It Personal with Prayer**Pray to God | Prayer Activity****Made to Reflect****What You Need:**

- Posterboard or butcher paper, one per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per Small Group
- *Optional: Party horns or hand clappers*

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

Preteen Social Activity Made to Move	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Ball pit balls	Several
3. Plastic bins	2
4. Small laundry baskets	2
5. Scooter boards	2
6. Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension Made to Move	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Plastic coins	20
3. Brown paper lunch bags	2
4. Buckets	2
5. Robes or large T-shirts	2
6. Plastic toy rings	2

Preteen – Verses to Take with You Made to Play	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Paper	1
3. Scissors	1
4. "Scripture Scramble" Activity Page	1

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*	Quantity
1. Posterboard or butcher paper	1
2. Coloring supplies	Several
3. Optional: Party horns or hand clappers	Several

WEEK

FOUR

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl • *Matthew 13:44-46 (Supporting: Matthew 4:18-22)*

Bottom Line: Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

Conversation Starter: What is most important?

Monthly Memory Verse: "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • *Matthew 6:10 NIRV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

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



Bible Story

The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl
• *Matthew 13:44-46 (Supporting: Matthew 4:18-22)*

Bottom Line

Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

Monthly Memory Verse

"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • *Matthew 6:10 NIRV*

Conversation Starter

What is most important?





5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Small treats (gold coins; Jolly Ranchers®; stickers; small, fun erasers)	0
	Roll of plastic wrap	1
	Dice	2

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Roll one treat multiple times with plastic wrap, then enclose another treat and wrap several times.
- Wrap five or more treats per kid, creating a large, multi-layered ball of plastic wrap.

During the Activity:

- 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.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give the plastic-wrap ball to the first person and the dice to the person on their right.
- On "Go," the kid with the dice will roll as the kid with the plastic wrap ball starts unwrapping as fast as they can.
- The kid with the dice rolls until they get doubles and yells, "Doubles!" at which point the kid unwrapping has to stop. That kid gets to keep any treats they uncover.
- The dice and the plastic ball get moved to the person beside them. Repeat until the entire ball is unwrapped.

What You Say:

"That was intense! It's so exciting when you find one of those treats hidden in there. It feels like finding treasure! Today's Bible Story is all about finding a treasure so valuable, so important, it changes everything. Let's go find out what it is."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension

What You Need

 Bibles

0

 Floor tape

1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up Matthew 13:44-46 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Talk about how Jesus used parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Ask, "What did you learn from these parables?"
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Lead the group in a "Hard Choices" game.
- Create a line in the middle of your activity area with floor tape.
- Present the group with a series of "Would You Rather?" questions where both options are good.
- "Would you rather have ice cream or cake for dessert for the rest of your life?"
- "Would you rather get a brand-new bike or a brand-new video game console?"
- "Would you rather be famous for being an amazing athlete or a famous musician?"
- With each question, signify which side represents which answer.
- The kids should move to the side that represents their answer.
- After discussing a few fun choices, transition to the Bible Story.
- Ask: "The men in the parables, and the disciples like Peter and Andrew, made a hard choice. They had good things—jobs, boats, and families. Why did they leave all of it to follow Jesus?"
- Discuss the idea that they recognized Jesus and His kingdom were infinitely more valuable than anything else they had.
- Ask: "What is most important?"

What You Say:

"Those were some tough choices! It's hard to pick between two good things. Every single one of those things is good. God made you to love them. But none of them is the *most* important thing.

"Jesus used stories called parables to explain what God's kingdom is like and how it grows. Today, we heard two of those stories. When Jesus' closest friends wanted to know more about God's kingdom, Jesus told them, *'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field'* (Matthew 13:44 NIV). Jesus said that truly finding God's kingdom is more exciting and more valuable than golden treasure. In fact, it's worth giving up all the other important things to keep this one thing. The man in the story knew that God's kingdom was the most valuable treasure he could ever find. That's why he gave up everything for it. There is nothing in the whole world more important than loving God and His kingdom.

"Jesus told another parable to show how valuable God's kingdom is. He said, *'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl'* (Matthew 13:45-46 NIV). In this case, the man was actually looking for treasure—a super-valuable pearl. And as in the first parable, when he found that treasure, he went and sold everything he owned to be able to buy this one, perfect pearl.

"Like that treasure and that pearl, God and His kingdom are more important than anything else. But the men in our stories realized they had found something that wasn't just good, it was the BEST. They found the ultimate treasure. They understood that **[Bottom Line] loving God and His kingdom is most important.**"





5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

What You Need

	Paper	0
	Writing supplies	0
	"Find the Hidden Treasure" Activity Page	0
	"Find the Hidden Treasure Key" Activity Page	1



EveryChild tips

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

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure" on paper, one per kid.
- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Challenge kids to make as many words as possible from the letters given. What two words are the most important?

What You Say:

"Great job! You made lots of words from those letters. There were two important words you could spell with those letters. Raise your hand if you made the word 'kingdom.' *(Pause.)* Awesome! The other really important word is a name. It's whose kingdom we're learning about. *(Pause.)* That's right! God! Raise your hand if you made the word 'God.' Fantastic, everybody!

"Our world sends us a lot of scrambled messages about what should be important: money, popularity, being the best at everything. But Jesus gives us a clear message: **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important.**

"So make getting to know God and His kingdom the most important thing in your life. You can do this by making spending time with God the most important thing you do. You can make it a priority to spend time with God every day—and you can get to know who He is by reading the Bible.

"And you can go through every day with Him as your closest friend too. Since God is the most important, talk to Him about absolutely everything. As you go through life, you can say, 'God, I loved that breakfast so much,' Or, 'God, I'm really nervous about swim practice.' Or, 'God, is there anything You would like me to do here?'

"You can also show that God is most important by living like Jesus. Since Jesus is loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind, then God's kingdom is like that too. We can be loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind everywhere we go to show that God's kingdom is the most important.

"Invite God to be part of everything in your life—at home, at school, or wherever you are. **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important** and the most incredible adventure of your life."

[Make It Personal] *(Share how you have to make a choice in your life to show that God is most important. You can say something like: "For me, sometimes my phone can be a distraction. It's easy to spend a lot of time scrolling. I have to make a choice to put it down and spend time reading my Bible or praying to remind myself of what the real treasure is. It's a choice I have to make every day.")*








5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

What You Need

 Bibles	0
 Avery® Labels #5160	0
 Seashells (big enough for labels)	0
 Paper plates	0
 Paint pens in a variety of colors	Several
 Hand wipes	Several
 "Shell Verse" Activity Page	0

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Shell Verse" on label paper, one label per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

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

- Read the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a seashell and paper plate.
- Ask kids to decorate the inside of their seashell, then add the label.

What You Say:

"These shells remind me of our Bible Story and how the man looked and looked for the most special pearl. Did you know that pearls grow in oysters, clams, and even mussels? Those are ocean creatures with a soft body hidden inside two hard shells hinged together so they can open and close.

"Your shells turned out really cool! Keep them somewhere special this week. When you see it, remember our Memory Verse that's on it. Our Memory Verse is a prayer that reminds us to focus on the greatest treasure: God's kingdom. God's kingdom is the most incredible, valuable treasure there is because the kingdom comes wherever God is. There is nothing in the whole world more important than learning to know and love God and to live in God's kingdom."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- Why did the men in the parables that Jesus told sell everything?
- Why did the disciples follow Jesus right away?
- What are some things we love?
- What is most important?
- How can we show God is most important?




5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Jar	1
 Index cards or slips of paper	0
 Writing supplies	0

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Ask the kids to think about the people in their lives who need to know they are a treasure to God.
- Give each kid a slip of paper and something to write with, and ask them to write a name on it.
- Collect all the names in the jar, then mix them up.
- Have each student draw a slip of paper from the jar.
- Ask kids to pair up and find a quiet space in the room to pray for the people whose names they drew.
- Close in a group prayer.

What You Say:

"It's an amazing act of love to pray for someone else and ask God to help them discover His treasure. That is loving God and pointing to His kingdom! When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John, all four men left their nets and boats and followed Jesus immediately. They knew in their hearts, if not yet in their minds, that God's kingdom is worth everything. These men left their families and their jobs behind in order to follow Jesus and help spread the news of God's kingdom. Let's close our time together with prayer."

Prayer:

"God, thank You for showing us what is most important. Thank You that Your kingdom is the greatest treasure we could ever find. Please help the people whose names we drew today to see and feel Your love. Help all of us to make choices this week that show **[Bottom Line] loving God and His kingdom is most important**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

GETTING READY

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Small treats (gold coins; Jolly Ranchers®; stickers; small, fun erasers), five per kid
- Roll of plastic wrap, one roll per Small Group
- Dice, two per Small Group

What You Do:

- Roll one treat multiple times with plastic wrap, then enclose another treat and wrap several times.
- Wrap five treats per kid, creating a large, multi-layered ball of plastic wrap.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- "Find the Hidden Treasure" Activity Page, one per kid
- "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid and Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure" on paper, one per kid.
- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group

3. Discussion Questions

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Shell Verse" Activity Page, one per kid
- Avery® Labels #5160, one label per kid
- Seashells (big enough for labels), one per kid
- Paper plates, one per kid
- Paint pens in a variety of colors, several per kid
- Hand wipes, one package per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Shell Verse" on label paper, one label per kid.

5. Make It Personal with Prayer**Pray to God | Prayer Activity****Made to Reflect****What You Need:**

- Jar, one per Small Group
- Index cards or slips of paper, one per kid
- Writing supplies, one per 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

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Small treats (gold coins; Jolly Ranchers®; stickers; small, fun erasers)	0
3. Roll of plastic wrap	1
4. Dice	2

Preteen – Bible Story Extension

	Quantity
1. Bibles	0
2. Floor tape	1

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Paper	0
2. Writing supplies	0
3. "Find the Hidden Treasure" Activity Page	0
4. "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" Activity Page	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	0
2. Avery® Labels #5160	0
3. Seashells (big enough for labels)	0
4. Paper plates	0
5. Paint pens in a variety of colors	Several
6. Hand wipes	Several
7. "Shell Verse" Activity Page	0

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Jar	1
2. Index cards or slips of paper	0
3. Writing supplies	0