

**WEEK**

**ONE**

# Preteen | W1

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

**Bible Story:** Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin • Acts 3–4:22

**Bottom Line:** Keep going because of what God has done.

**Conversation Starter:** What have you seen God do?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 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 (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



### Bible Story

Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin • Acts 3–4:22

### Conversation Starter

What have you seen God do?

### Bottom Line

Keep going because of what God has done.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIRV






5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Offering container	1
 "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page	2
 "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page	1
 Paper	2
 Writing supplies	Several

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Print "Codebreaker Message" on paper, two per Small Group.
- Print "Codebreaker Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

#### *During the Activity:*

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page and writing supplies.
- Explain that the page contains a secret message from today's Bible Story written in a simple code.
- Challenge each team to work together to crack the code and discover Peter's bold message. The first team to decode it wins and gets to announce the message: *"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard."*

### What You Say:

"Great work, codebreakers! You uncovered Peter's message. Today, we're going to hear more about this message and what Peter meant when he said, *"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20b NIV). Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training, but they had amazing boldness! Let's go learn how we can be bold and persevere when things get tough, just like Peter and John."

5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### *During the Activity:*

- Instruct the kids to pair up.
- Explain the "Shadow Walking Challenge." One person in the pair is the "Leader," and the other is the "Shadow."
- The Leader walks around the room, and the Shadow must follow as closely as possible, mimicking all the Leader's movements—walking, stopping, turning, maybe even doing a silly dance move.
- After a minute, instruct the kids to switch roles.
- For the final round, encourage everyone to find a new partner and play again.

### What You Say:

"That was fun! It takes a lot of focus to be a good shadow, right? This activity reminds us of how Peter and John followed the lead of the Holy Spirit. They just did whatever He led them to do. We don't know for sure what the Holy Spirit led Peter and John to do, but talking about Jesus sure does sound like something He'd lead people to do. And that's what they did after God healed the man! Then, when the religious leaders tried to stop them, Peter and John refused to listen, even though they were in a dangerous situation—Jesus had been handed over to die by these very same religious leaders. But even knowing this, Peter and John were bold. They trusted God and followed the lead of the Holy Spirit. They were able to **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done** and what God was continuing to do through His Spirit."

5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

 Floor tape

0

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Create a straight line down the center of the activity area with floor tape.

#### *During the Activity:*

- Divide the group into two teams. Designate one side of the room as “Bold for Jesus” and the other side as “Not Bold.”
- Read one scenario below at a time.
- Each team will discuss the scenario and send one representative to stand on the side of the room that they think best describes the action.
- After each team has sent their representative, discuss with the group why each action is bold or not bold.
- **Scenarios:**
- You see a friend being made fun of, and you walk away so it doesn't happen to you. (*Not Bold*)
- Your friend asks you what you did over the weekend, and you mention you went to church. (*Bold*)
- Someone asks you why you're always so positive, and you tell them it's because of your hope in Jesus. (*Bold*)
- You know something is wrong, but you stay quiet because you don't want to cause trouble. (*Not Bold*)

### What You Say:

“It's not always easy to be bold, is it? Sometimes it can feel scary. But Peter and John's story shows us where our boldness comes from. It doesn't come from being the strongest or the loudest. It comes from being convinced about what we've experienced and heard God do.

“God has done so much for you! God wants you to be close friends with Him so much that He worked for years and years throughout history to bring Jesus. And then Jesus died for your sins so that you could be close to God. Then, God sent the Holy Spirit, Jesus' very Spirit, so you can be closer than close with God. God goes through everything with you through His Spirit—what a close friend! And this friendship will last forever! Wow!

“Knowing that God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be friends with Him forever can make US bold too. It can help us keep going when things get tough. Maybe you feel like a coach is being totally unfair. Maybe you have to go to a new school where you don't know anyone. Or maybe you find out you have to go to a lot of doctors' appointments. You can trust that God is working in and through you so that you can keep going!

"You will face many things that make you want to give up. But when that happens, remember how much God loves you and all that God has done for you. Ask the Holy Spirit inside you for help. Then you can keep going, no matter what. When you focus on that, it makes it easier to **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done!**"

**[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you did something bold because you remembered God's great love for you. For example, you can share something like: "I remember a time when I was nervous to pray before a meal in a restaurant. It felt like everyone was watching. But then, I remembered how much God has done for me, and I realized that showing I'm thankful is more important than what other people might think. It was a small, bold step for me.")**

5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

 Bibles

1



- Encourage kids to select motions so all kids can participate.

### What You Do:

*During the Activity:*

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 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.
- Challenge the group to create their own motions for the verse as you review it again.
- Go through the verse phrase by phrase, and let the kids brainstorm and vote on a motion for each part.
- "Let us not become tired"
- "of doing good."
- "At the right time"
- "we will gather a crop"
- "if we don't give up."
- "Galatians 6:9!"

### What You Say:

"Awesome job! You all created your own way to remember our Memory Verse. And it's so important to remember this verse because it's all about perseverance. It's a promise that when we keep doing the right thing, even when it's hard, there will be a good result. Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training, but they spoke with boldness. It was clear they had been with Jesus and had seen God do amazing things! God is with each of us and is working in each of our lives too. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be bold and share the good news about Jesus, just like Peter and John. This verse encourages us to **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done** and what He promises He will do."

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 Peter and John were able to be so bold, even when the same leaders who killed Jesus were threatening them? What does that tell you about how the Holy Spirit helps us have courage today?
- The healed man didn't just walk—he leaped and praised God. What's something God has done in your life that makes you want to "leap," even if you don't always show it? What stops you from showing your thankfulness sometimes?
- Peter told the religious leaders, "*We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20b NIRV). What's something about Jesus you've "seen or heard" that you would find hard to stay quiet about?
- The religious leaders saw the miracle but still didn't want people talking about Jesus. Why do you think some people reject truth, even when it's right in front of them?
- When life gets hard, what helps you **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done?** Can you think of a time when you wanted to give up, but remembering something God had done helped you keep moving?

5 min

# Prayer

5 min

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

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

*During the Activity:*

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Call this a “Keep Going Stories” sharing circle.
- Encourage the kids to think of a time they wanted to give up on something—like a difficult level in a video game, a hard homework assignment, or a tough sports practice.
- Invite them to share what happened. What made them want to quit? What helped them keep going?
- After a few kids have shared, connect their experiences to our faith journey.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help everyone have perseverance.

### What You Say:

“Thanks for sharing those stories, friends. It’s real, and we all experience it—sometimes we just want to give up. The good news is, in our faith, we have the best reason to persevere! We have a God who is with us and has already done the most amazing things for us. God sent Jesus to rescue us so we can be friends with God forever. When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised we would have the Holy Spirit to help us. You can ask the Holy Spirit inside you for help. Then you can keep going, no matter what. Let’s pray.”

### Prayer:

“God, thank You for the story of Peter and John. Thank You for showing us what it looks like to be bold and to persevere. We know that life gets hard, and sometimes we want to give up. In those moments, please remind us of everything You’ve done for us. Help us to fix our eyes on You and **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done.** 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
- "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page, two per Small Group
- "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, two per Small Group
- Writing supplies, several per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Print "Codebreaker Message" on paper, two per Small Group.
- Print "Codebreaker 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 Play

##### What You Need:

- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Create a straight line down the center of the activity area with floor tape.

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

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

##### Made to Move

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### 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

#### 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

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page	2
3. "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page	1
4. Paper	2
5. Writing supplies	Several

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Floor tape	0

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1

**WEEK**

**TWO**

# Preteen | W2

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

**Bible Story:** Philip and the Man from Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

**Bottom Line:** Keep following God, even when you have questions.

**Conversation Starter:** What questions do you have about God?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

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

### Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

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### 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 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



### Bible Story

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

### Conversation Starter

What questions do you have about God?

### Bottom Line

Keep following God, even when you have questions.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

👤	Offering container	1
👤	Plastic straw	1
👤	Balloons	1
👤	Long piece of string or yarn	2
👤	Tape	Several
👤	Scissors	1
👤	Chairs	2

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Tie one end of the string to the back of a chair and place it on one side of the activity area in an open area—the area should be large enough for one kid to stand on each side of the string.
- Cut a straw into two-inch pieces, one piece per Small Group.
- Thread one two-inch piece of straw onto the string, then tie the other end of the string to the other chair, making sure the string is pulled taut between the two chairs.

#### *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.
- Gather the kids in the activity area and give each kid a balloon.
- Have one kid blow up their balloon and pinch the end together while you help tape their balloon to the piece of straw.
- Position the kid and the balloon on one side of the string, and ask for a volunteer to be the “runner.” Place the “runner” on the other side of the string.
- Explain that this balloon is a “rocket.” One kid will be the “launcher,” and the “runner” will run alongside the balloon as it moves.
- The “launcher” lets the balloon loose, sending the “rocket” down the string.
- As the rocket launches, the “runner” runs alongside it.
- Let kids take turns being the “launcher” and the “runner.”

### What You Say:

“Wow, that rocket is fast! You had to be quick to keep up with it. In our Bible Story today, the Holy Spirit directed a follower of Jesus named Philip to run alongside a chariot to do something really important. Let’s go find out why.”






5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

 Bibles	1
 "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page	1
 Paper	1
 Painter's tape	1
 Scissors	1

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Print "Bible Story Clues" on paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Put cards from the "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page in different "stations" around the room with a Bible or two (e.g., Station 1: Acts 8:26; Station 2: Acts 8:29, etc.).

#### During the Activity:

- Ask one of the Review Questions from the Bible Story out loud that are listed below. The Review Question will correspond to one of the cards from the "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page. (e.g., "What did the angel tell Philip to do?")
- When you say "Go," kids run to the different stations and look up the Bible verse on the clue card to see if their clue answers the question you asked.
- The first kid to find the correct station and run back to you with the right answer wins a point.
- Continue until you've asked all of the Review Questions below.

### Review Questions

What did the Ethiopian man want to do once he learned about Jesus? (Acts 8:36-37)

What did the angel tell Philip to do? (Acts 8:26)

How did the man from Ethiopia respond when Philip asked if he understood what he was reading? (Acts 8:30b-31)

Who spoke to Philip and told him to go to the chariot and stay near it? (Acts 8:29)

What was the Ethiopian man reading about in the book of Isaiah? (Acts 8:32b-35)

### What You Say:

"Great job! You had to really search for those answers. The man from Ethiopia was searching for answers too. He was reading God's Word, but he didn't understand it. He persevered—he didn't give up. And because God cared about him so much, God sent Philip to help him.

*"Acts 8:26 says: An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. 'Go south to the desert road,' he said. 'It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' Now, I'm sure Philip had questions about this. After all, he was busy doing God's work in Samaria! But Philip trusted God and set off to where God told him to go. As Philip was on his journey, he saw a chariot on the road. Acts 8:29 says: The Holy Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot. Stay near it.' Philip hurried to the chariot, and when he got there, he saw the Ethiopian man reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip climbed up into the chariot and found out what the official was reading.*

"The man asked questions, and Philip was able to help him understand what he was reading and the good news about Jesus. Right away, the

man wanted to be baptized because he believed in and wanted to follow Jesus! The Ethiopian official then continued his trip home, filled with joy. God had sent someone right to his chariot to answer his questions! This is a great reminder to ***[Bottom Line]*** **keep following God, even when you have questions."**




5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

 Paper	Several
 Stapler	1
 Coloring supplies	Several



- For kids who struggle with writing, allow them to draw their questions instead. A picture of a storm could represent a question about why bad things happen.
- Offer to be a “scribe” for any student who would rather dictate their question to you privately.

### What You Do:

#### During the Activity:

- Give each kid a few sheets of paper. Show them how to fold them in half and staple them together to create a small journal.
- Have kids decorate the front cover with the title “My Big Questions About God.”
- Explain that this journal is a safe place for them to write down any questions they have about God, faith, the Bible, or anything else.
- Give them a few minutes of quiet time to write down their first question. Assure them that no question is silly or off-limits.
- If they're comfortable, invite one or two kids to share a question they wrote down.

### What You Say:

“It’s so important to have a place to ask your questions. Don’t ever stop being curious about God! The man in our Bible Story had questions about God, and his perseverance in seeking answers led him to the best news in the world. God isn’t afraid of your questions. In fact, He welcomes them!

“The Ethiopian man had some huge questions. Somehow, he had come to trust in the One True God. But he hadn’t heard about Jesus, so the words of the prophet Isaiah were confusing to him. The official traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship God and probably hoped to get his questions answered there! But even though he still didn’t understand, he continued to study and ask. God was pleased with the Ethiopian man for asking questions and sent Philip right to where the man was to answer those questions.

“Like that man, you can keep following God, even when you have questions! And while you follow, you can keep asking those questions too. See, God doesn’t get irritated or angry when we ask questions. In fact, God LOVES when we ask questions. God wants to be your close, close friend, and when you ask questions about Him, it shows you want to know Him more! And He loves that! So if you have hard questions about God, trust that God hears you and keep asking! There are so many important questions to ask. And remember, **[Bottom Line] keep following God, even when you have questions.**”

**[Make It Personal] (Share about some of the questions you personally have about God. For example, you could say: “I have a journal like this too. One question I wrote down a while ago was, ‘God, why do You let bad things happen to good people?’ I don’t have a perfect answer, but writing it down helped me talk to God about it honestly.”)**





5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Emoji Verse" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Scissors	1

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Print "Emoji Verse" on paper and cut, one set per kid.

#### During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 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 set of the five emoji cards.
- Explain that they are going to "translate" the Memory Verse into emojis.
- Read the verse phrase by phrase and have the kids hold up the emoji that best fits each phrase.
  - "Let us not become tired" (👉)
  - "of doing good." (👉M)
  - "At the right time" (👉)
  - "we will gather a crop" (👉>)
  - "if we don't give up." (👉L)
- Once complete, challenge the kids to lay the emojis in the correct order and say the Memory Verse together.

### What You Say:

"That was a fun way to think about our Memory Verse! This verse is the ultimate message of perseverance. It's a promise from God that our efforts in 'doing good' are never wasted. So even when you have questions or when things are hard, don't give up. **[Bottom Line] Keep following God, even when you have questions.**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask these questions and discuss:

- When you have questions about God, who can you ask?
- What if you don't get answers to the questions you have—what can you do?
- What truths do you know about God? How can knowing these truths help you while you wait to find answers to questions you may have?
- What do you do when you have questions about God that don't really have answers?

5 min

# Prayer

5 min

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

### What You Need

👤	Air popcorn popper	1
👤	Popcorn kernels, one cup	1
👤	Bowl	1
👤	Extension cord	1

### What You Do:

#### *During the Activity:*

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle in the activity area.
- Set up the air popcorn popper in the middle of the group.
- Explain that for this prayer time, each kernel of popcorn represents a prayer.
- Go around the circle and have each person name one person or one thing they want to pray for. It could be a question they have, a friend who needs help, something they're thankful for, etc.
- For each prayer request, drop a kernel of popcorn into the popper.
- Once all the requests have been shared, turn on the popper.
- As the popcorn pops and fills the bowl, explain that this is like our prayers rising up to God. The more we pray, the more we see God work.
- Close in prayer, then enjoy the popcorn snack together as a group.

### What You Say:

"Look at all that popcorn! Each piece represents a prayer. We can talk to God about anything and everything! God hears every single prayer request and every single question. So keep praying, and keep asking questions. Sometimes you may have to wait a long time for an answer. And sometimes you may not get the answer you wanted. But through it all, you can trust that God loves you more than you can imagine, He hears you every time you ask Him a question, and He will give you everything you need to know for right now. Let's thank Him for that."

### Prayer:

"God, thank You that You are a God who invites us to ask questions. Thank You for not being distant or scary. Help us to be like the man from Ethiopia—to keep searching and keep asking. And when we have those hard questions, help us to persevere and trust that You're always with us. 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 Move

##### What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Plastic straw, one per Small Group
- Balloons, one per kid
- Long piece of string or yarn, one per Small Group
- Tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group
- Chairs, two per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Tie one end of the string to the back of a chair and place it on one side of the activity area in an open area—the area should be large enough for one kid to stand on each side of the string.
- Cut a straw into two-inch pieces, one piece per Small Group.
- Thread the two-inch piece of straw onto the string, then tie the other end of the string to the other chair, making sure the string is pulled taut between the two chairs.

### 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:

- Paper, a few sheets per kid
- Stapler, one per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per Small Group

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

##### Made to Play

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Print "Bible Story Clues" on paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Put cards from the "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page in different "stations" around the room with a Bible or two (e.g., Station 1: Acts 8:26; Station 2: Acts 8:29, etc.).

#### 3. Discussion Questions

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

##### Made to Connect

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### 4. Verses to Take with You

##### Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity Made to Connect

###### What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Emoji Verse" Activity Page, one set per kid
- Paper, 1/4 piece per kid
- Scissors, one per Small Group

###### What You Do:

- Print "Emoji Verse" on paper and cut, one set per kid.

#### 5. Make It Personal with Prayer

##### Pray to God | Prayer Activity Made to Reflect

###### What You Need:

- Air popcorn popper, one per Small Group
- Popcorn kernels, one cup per Small Group
- Bowl, one per Small Group
- Extension cord, 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

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Plastic straw	1
3. Balloons	1
4. Long piece of string or yarn	2
5. Tape	Several
6. Scissors	1
7. Chairs	2

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page	1
3. Paper	1
4. Painter's tape	1
5. Scissors	1

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Paper	Several
2. Stapler	1
3. Coloring supplies	Several

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. "Emoji Verse" Activity Page	1
3. Paper	1
4. Scissors	1

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

	Quantity
1. Air popcorn popper	1
2. Popcorn kernels, one cup	1
3. Bowl	1
4. Extension cord	1

**WEEK**

**THREE**

# Preteen | W3

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

**Bible Story:** Paul Becomes a Believer | Ananias Helps Paul • Acts 9:1-31

**Bottom Line:** God can help you see things in a new way.

**Conversation Starter:** When have you discovered something new about God?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 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 (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



### Bible Story

Paul Becomes a Believer | Ananias Helps Paul • Acts 9:1-31

### Conversation Starter

When have you discovered something new about God?

### Bottom Line

God can help you see things in a new way.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIRV

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

👤	Offering container	1
👤	Floor tape	1
👤	Blindfold	1
👤	Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Create a large square on the floor (about 18"x18") with floor tape.

#### *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.
- Ask for one volunteer who will be blindfolded. Pick a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised.
- Stand the blindfolded kid in the center of the square.
- Explain the challenge: "Your goal is to march in place for 30 seconds without going outside the square while blindfolded."
- Time each kid for 30 seconds while they march.
- When the time is up, instruct them to take off the blindfold to see where they ended up.
- Continue the activity with each kid who wants to play. Talk about why it's so difficult to stay in one place when you can't see your surroundings.

### What You Say:

"It's almost impossible to stay in the right spot when you can't see, isn't it? You lose your sense of direction. You think you're staying still, but you're drifting off course. In our Bible Story today, we'll meet a man named Saul who had an experience that literally made him go blind. It forced him to stop and see his life from a completely different perspective. Let's go find out what happened."

5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

👤	Blindfolds	Several
👤	Chairs, pillows, and other items from your activity area	Several

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Create an obstacle course with chairs, pillows, and other items from your activity area.

#### During the Activity:

- Pair up the kids.
- In each pair, one person will be the "Traveler" (who will be blindfolded), and the other will be the "Guide."
- Explain that the Traveler represents Saul after he was blinded, and the Guide represents Ananias, whom God sent to help him.
- The Guide's job is to lead their blindfolded partner safely through the path or obstacle course using only their voice. They cannot touch their partner.
- Let the pairs go one at a time.
- If time allows, after everyone has gone through, have the kids switch roles and go through the obstacle course again.
- Afterward, ask these questions and discuss:
  - When you were a "Traveler," what was it like to trust your guide completely? Was it scary?
  - When you were a "Guide," what was challenging about giving clear directions?
  - How is this activity like Ananias helping Saul? (*Ananias had to trust God's directions, and Saul had to trust Ananias.*)

### What You Say:

"Great job! That took a lot of trust and good communication. In our Bible Story today, Saul was powerful and used to being in charge, but suddenly, he was helpless and had to rely on someone he thought was his enemy.

"Here is what happened: As Saul approached Damascus, a brilliant light from heaven suddenly shone around him. The Bible says: *He fell to the ground. He heard a voice speak to him, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you opposing me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus,' he replied. 'I am the one you are opposing. Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do' (Acts 9:4-6 NIV).*

"But when Saul stood up and opened his eyes, he realized he was blind! His companions led him into the city, where he stayed with a man named Judas. Then, God led Ananias to help Saul. And even though Ananias' knees were probably knocking together because he was afraid of Saul, Ananias did what God said. He went to help Saul! And when Ananias placed his hands on Saul and prayed for him, immediately, something like scales fell off Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again!

"So much happened in Saul's story. But God was using everything to change the way Saul saw things. Saul used to think that the stories about

Jesus returning to life were dangerous nonsense. But once Saul MET Jesus and after he regained his sight, Saul totally changed! Now, instead of arresting believers, Saul went straight to the synagogue and started preaching that Jesus is the Son of God!

"God used those events to change Saul completely. Sometimes God allows us to be in situations where we feel like we can't see what's ahead, so we can learn to trust Him and the people He puts in our lives. It's in those moments that **[Bottom Line] God can help you see things in a new way.**"

5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

👤	Plastic tablecloth	0
👤	Clear glass	1
👤	Warm water	1
👤	Ground turmeric, one teaspoon	1
👤	Rubbing alcohol, one-half cup	1
👤	Baking soda, one tablespoon	1
👤	Vinegar, one-half cup	1
👤	Spoons	2
👤	Small paper cups	2

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Spread out the tablecloth on a table or on the floor in the activity area.
- Fill the clear glass halfway with warm water and stir in one tablespoon of baking soda, one per Small Group.
- Pour a half cup of rubbing alcohol into a plastic cup then stir in one teaspoon of turmeric, one per Small Group.
- Pour a half cup of vinegar into a second plastic cup, one per Small Group.

#### During the Activity:

- Hold up the jar of warm baking soda water and say, "This represents Saul. He thought he was doing the right thing, but his view was a little cloudy."
- Ask kids to watch as you pour some of the turmeric solution into the water. It will start out as a yellowish-orange color and turn to a reddish-orange color. Say, "This is like the moment Saul met Jesus on the road. It was a dramatic, life-changing encounter."
- Say, "When Jesus came into Saul's life, it was like a light turned on. Saul began to see everything differently." Add some vinegar, and watch the red water turn back to yellow. Say, "Even after we follow Jesus, we still have to keep choosing to see things His way. The world will try to pull us back to our old ways of thinking."

### What You Say:

"That was a pretty cool transformation, right? Just like the water changed colors, Saul's entire life changed when he met Jesus. Before meeting Jesus, Saul believed that the stories about Jesus were dangerous lies. He went from being someone who hated Christians to being one of the most influential people for Jesus who ever lived!

"After meeting Jesus, Saul's way of seeing the world completely changed. He became one of Jesus' most loyal followers. It's a powerful reminder that no matter how you see things right now—your friends, your family, or even yourself—God can help you see other people in a new way too. You can always ask the Holy Spirit to show you how God sees the people in your life. Maybe your little sister seems super annoying, but she really thinks you're amazing and just wants to be with you. Maybe that rude kid at school who says mean stuff is just lonely, and no one is kind to them at home. God can even help you change the way you see your circumstances. No matter what's going on in your life, God loves you, He's always with you, and He has promised to make everything right in the end. Keep your eyes focused on Jesus, and **[Bottom Line] God can help you see things in a new way.**"

**[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time about how God helped you see things in a new way. For example, you could share something like: "There was a time when I was really judgmental**

***about someone. I only saw their flaws. But I asked God to help me see them the way He does, and over time, my perspective totally changed! I started to see their good qualities and the reasons God loves them. God completely changed how I saw that person.”)***



5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  EveryChild Supplies Several
- Noise-cancelling headphones



- Provide noise-cancelling headphones for kids with sound sensitivities.

### What You Do:

#### During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 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 you're going to say the verse using a simple rhythm.
- Lead them in the pattern: **clap, clap, snap** (or **pat knees, pat knees, clap** for non-snappers).
- Once they have the rhythm, start adding the words. Try to fit two words of the verse into each beat.
  - **(clap, clap) Let us (snap) not**
  - **(clap, clap) become (snap) tired**
  - **(clap, clap) of doing (snap) good.**
  - And so on ...
- Go through the whole verse several times, getting faster as you go.

### What You Say:

"Awesome job! That rhythm helps get the Memory Verse stuck in your head. This verse is all about perseverance. Saul, who you might also know as Paul, had a hard life, but he never gave up doing good. He persevered because he knew God was with him and had helped him see everything in a new way. When you feel like giving up, remembering **[Bottom Line] God can help you see things in a new way** can give you the strength to persevere."

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 chose to appear to Saul in such a dramatic way (a blinding light and speaking voice) instead of in a quieter way, like a dream?
- When Jesus told Ananias to go to Saul, Ananias argued at first. Why was it so hard for him to believe Saul could change?
- Right after Saul could see again, he immediately began preaching about Jesus. Why do you think Saul didn't hesitate or wait?
- Why do you think God didn't just fix Saul instantly, but instead used Ananias—a regular Jesus-follower—to be part of Saul's healing?
- After Saul's transformation, the church continued to grow. How did Saul's new mission help spread the message of Jesus even further?






5 min

# Prayer

5 min

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

### What You Need

 Music Player	1
 Soft worship music	1
 Paper	1
 Coloring supplies	Several
 EveryChild Supplies Clay and pipe cleaners	Several



- For kids who are restless during quiet activities, offer an alternative, like using clay or pipe cleaners to create their prayer instead of drawing. The tactile input can help them focus.
- Frame the quiet time as “your time with God,” emphasizing that there’s no right or wrong way to do it. This removes pressure for kids who may feel anxious about praying “correctly.”

### What You Do:

#### *During the Activity:*

- Play some soft worship music in the background.
- Tell the kids that for the next few minutes, you’re going to have some quiet time to pray.
- Explain that they can pray by drawing or designing something on their paper.
- Give them a prompt: “Think about a situation or a person in your life that you need to see in a new way. Ask God to help you see that situation or person the way He does. Draw or write about that.”
- Allow for several minutes of quiet, independent reflection and creation.

### What You Say:

“Sometimes the best prayers are the ones we don’t say out loud. God knows our hearts, and He sees what you’ve created. Let’s close our time together in prayer.”

### Prayer:

“God, thank You for the story of Saul. It reminds us that You can change anyone and that You can help us see things differently. Please help us to see the situations we just drew about—and the people involved—the way You do. Give us new eyes to see the world with Your love and grace. 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 Move

##### What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group
- Blindfold, one per Small Group
- Timer (or smartphone or watch), one per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Create a large square on the floor (about 18"x18") with floor tape.

### 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
- Clear glass, one per Small Group
- Warm water, one per Small Group
- Ground turmeric, one teaspoon per Small Group
- Rubbing alcohol, one-half cup per Small Group
- Baking soda, one tablespoon per Small Group
- Vinegar, one-half cup per Small Group
- Spoons, two per Small Group
- Small paper cups, two per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Spread out the tablecloth on a table or on the floor in the activity area.
- Fill the clear glass halfway with warm water and stir in one tablespoon of baking soda, one per Small Group.
- Pour a half cup of rubbing alcohol into a plastic cup then stir in one teaspoon of turmeric, one per Small Group.
- Pour a half cup of vinegar into a second plastic cup, one per Small Group.

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

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

##### Made to Imagine

##### What You Need:

- Blindfolds, several per Small Group
- Chairs, pillows, and other items from your activity area, several per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Create an obstacle course with chairs, pillows, and other items from your activity area.

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

- No supplies needed

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

- Bibles, one per kid

***EveryChild Supplies***

- *Noise-cancelling headphones*

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

- Music player, one per Small Group
- Soft worship music, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Coloring supplies, several per Small Group

***EveryChild Supplies***

- *Clay and pipe cleaners*

**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. Floor tape	1
3. Blindfold	1
4. Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension   Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*	Quantity
1. Blindfolds	Several
2. Chairs, pillows, and other items from your activity area	Several

Preteen – Take a Snapshot   Made to Explore	Quantity
1. Plastic tablecloth	0
2. Clear glass	1
3. Warm water	1
4. Ground turmeric, one teaspoon	1
5. Rubbing alcohol, one-half cup	1
6. Baking soda, one tablespoon	1
7. Vinegar, one-half cup	1
8. Spoons	2
9. Small paper cups	2

Preteen – Verses to Take with You   Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. EveryChild Supplies Noise-cancelling headphones	Several

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer   Made to Reflect	Quantity
1. Music Player	1
2. Soft worship music	1
3. Paper	1
4. Coloring supplies	Several
5. EveryChild Supplies Clay and pipe cleaners	Several

**WEEK**

**FOUR**

# Preteen | W4

## Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 4

**Bible Story:** Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

**Bottom Line:** Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

**Conversation Starter:** How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 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 (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



### Bible Story

Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

### Conversation Starter

How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

### Bottom Line

Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIRV






5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Move

### What You Need

 Offering container	1
 "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page	2
 "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page	1
 Paper	2
 Writing supplies	Several

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Print "Codebreaker Message" on paper, two per Small Group.
- Print "Codebreaker Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

#### *During the Activity:*

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page and writing supplies.
- Explain that the page contains a secret message from today's Bible Story written in a simple code.
- Challenge each team to work together to crack the code and discover Peter's bold message. The first team to decode it wins and gets to announce the message: *"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard."*

### What You Say:

"Great work, codebreakers! You uncovered Peter's message. Today, we're going to hear more about this message and what Peter meant when he said, *"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20b NIV). Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training, but they had amazing boldness! Let's go learn how we can be bold and persevere when things get tough, just like Peter and John."






5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

 Bible	1
 Origami Boat Directions" Activity Page	1
 Paper	1
 Scissors	Several
 Optional: Shallow plastic bin, water, and a plastic tablecloth or tarp	Several

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Print "Origami Boat Directions" on paper, one per Small Group.
- Cut paper into a square, one per kid.

#### During the Activity:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- As a group, talk through the key moments of Paul's shipwreck story:
  - The journey to Rome by ship
  - Paul's warning to the ship's crew about the journey being hard
  - The storm hitting and lasting for days
  - The angel's promise to Paul
  - Paul trusting God in the storm
  - The shipwreck on the island of Malta
  - The snake bite and Paul's survival
- While you discuss the story, lead the kids step-by-step through the process of folding their paper into an origami boat.
- Encourage them to help each other as they follow the instructions.
- *Optional: When the boats are complete, let the kids test them in a tub of water to see if they float.*

### What You Say:

"Nice work on those boats! It took some focus to get all those folds right. Paul's journey was anything but smooth—it was full of storms and unexpected problems. But through it all, what was the one thing he never did? (*Give up on God.*) Exactly! He persevered. He kept trusting that God was still good and was still at work. That's our challenge too: **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**

"So what does this mean for us? Well, you may never be shipwrecked or bitten by a deadly snake, but when you're disappointed or sad, it's still easy to feel like God is nowhere to be found. The truth is that God loves us deeply and is *always* with us, whether we feel like it or not. We can look back and see all the ways God has worked in the past and know He's still at work right now. So remember, **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"





5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

	"Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Clipboards	1
	Pencils	1

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Print "Don't Give Up Challenge" on paper, one per kid.

#### During the Activity:

- Explain that the goal for each puzzle is to connect the same color dots without crossing over any lines.
- Give kids several minutes to work on their puzzles.
- As they work, encourage them by saying things like, "That one is tough, but don't give up!" or "What's another way you could try that?"
- After a while, gather the group and talk about the experience. Ask: "How did it feel when you got to the harder puzzles? What made you want to give up? What helped you keep trying?"

### What You Say:

"Those last puzzles were really hard! It's frustrating when you try and try and can't seem to solve something. Life can feel like that sometimes. We face problems that seem impossible. Maybe a kid at school keeps picking on you, or your parents argue a lot. Maybe your best friend invites someone else to spend the night instead of you. Those are really hard things. But God is always right there, working behind the scenes. God has promised to make everything right in the end, even if we don't get to see that right away. Paul's story shows us that even in the middle of a literal shipwreck, God is still there and still working for good. We might not see the solution right away, but our job is to persevere and keep trusting Him. **[Bottom Line] Don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"

**[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time about how you turned to God when things got hard. You can share something like: "I was working on a project recently that just kept going wrong. I was so frustrated and ready to quit. But I remembered this verse about not getting tired of doing good. I took a break, prayed, and asked God for a new perspective. It didn't magically get easy, but God gave me the perseverance I needed to finish it.")**




5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

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

### What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Construction paper, a variety of colors	25
	Floor tape	1



- Allow kids to be the ones to call out the color.

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Create a 5 x 5 grid on the floor with the construction paper, with space in between each piece of paper. Use at least two of each color.
- Secure each piece of paper with floor tape.

#### During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 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.
- Instruct the kids to stand on the outside of the colored grid.
- First, say the Memory Verse, Galatians 6:9, together as a group.
- Explain the game: You will call out a color. All the kids must find a square of that color and step on it.
- Then, you will call out a line from the Memory Verse. The kids will repeat it back to you.
- Next, call out a different color and the next line of the verse.
- For a challenge, call out two colors they have to touch (one hand, one foot) while saying the verse, or have them hop from color to color as they recite the verse.

### What You Say:

"Great job! You had to stay focused to keep up. That's what perseverance is—staying focused on doing good, even when it's hard or you get tired. Our Memory Verse is a promise that if we keep going, there will be a harvest. We will see the good results of our faithfulness. Over and over, through every difficulty he faced, Paul chose to keep trusting God and keep going. In time, Paul shared the good news about Jesus with so many people! Through the work of Paul, the Church grew with more and more believers! So, **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"

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 Paul trusted God even when everyone else felt hopeless during the storm? What do you think helped him stay calm?
- What does this story show us about God's promises? How did God keep His promise to Paul?
- Paul thanked God and ate food while the storm was still happening. Why do you think gratitude is important even when life is hard?
- What are some "storms" kids your age might face today? (*School stress, friendships, family problems, fear, etc.*)
- What does "not giving up on God" actually look like in everyday life for a preteen? What are some practical examples?



5 min

# Prayer

5 min

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

### What You Need

-  Spring-loaded clothespins 1
-  Fine-tip permanent markers 1



- Pre-write the phrase on the clothespins for kids who may have difficulty with fine motor writing. They can still decorate it with dots or patterns.
- If the “secret” part of the mission causes anxiety for a kid, give them the option to give their pin directly to the person and tell them they will be praying for them.

### What You Do:

#### *During the Activity:*

- Give each kid a clothespin and a marker.
- Instruct them to write the phrase “God is always with you” on their clothespin. They can decorate it if they’d like.
- Explain the “secret mission” for the week: They are to take this clothespin and secretly clip it onto the backpack, jacket, or another belonging of someone they know who might need some encouragement.
- Challenge them that every time they see that person this week, they should say a silent prayer for them, asking God to help that person persevere and remember He is with them.
- Close in prayer together.

### What You Say:

“This is a cool way to be a secret encouragement for someone this week. It’s a way to help someone else persevere, just like Paul encouraged the men on the ship. Let’s pray for the people who will receive these pins.”

### Prayer:

“God, thank You for being with us in the middle of storms. Please encourage the friends and family members who will get these prayer pins this week. Help them to feel Your presence and not to give up. And help us to be people who, like Paul, show others what it looks like to trust You, even when things are hard. 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 Move

##### What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Writing supplies, several 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:

- "Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Clipboards, one per kid
- Pencils, one per kid

##### What You Do:

- Print "Don't Give Up Challenge" on paper, one per kid.

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

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

##### Made to Create

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Origami Boat Directions" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid and Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- *Optional: Shallow plastic bin, water, and a plastic tablecloth or tarp*

##### What You Do:

- Print "Origami Boat Directions" on paper, one per Small Group.
- Cut paper into a square, 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
- Construction paper, a variety of colors, twenty-five pieces per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group

**What You Do:***Before the Activity:*

- Create a 5 x 5 grid on the floor with the construction paper, with space in between each piece of paper. Use at least two of each color.
- Secure each piece of paper with floor tape.

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

- Spring-loaded clothespins, one per kid
- Fine-tip permanent markers, 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 Move

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page	2
3. "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page	1
4. Paper	2
5. Writing supplies	Several

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Origami Boat Directions" Activity Page	1
3. Paper	1
4. Scissors	Several
5. Optional: Shallow plastic bin, water, and a plastic tablecloth or tarp	Several

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. "Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page	1
2. Paper	1
3. Clipboards	1
4. Pencils	1

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

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Construction paper, a variety of colors	25
3. Floor tape	1

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

	Quantity
1. Spring-loaded clothespins	1
2. Fine-tip permanent markers	1

**WEEK**

**FIVE**

# Preteen | W5

## Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 5

**Bible Story:** Heaven • *Revelation 21:3-5*

**Bottom Line:** God will make everything right in the end.

**Conversation Starter:** What do you think heaven will be like?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

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

### Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

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

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

### Small Group (15 minutes)

#### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

### Large Group (35 minutes)

#### Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

#### Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections 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



### Bible Story

Heaven • *Revelation 21:3-5*

### Conversation Starter

What do you think heaven will be like?

### Bottom Line

God will make everything right in the end.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV






5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Offering container	1
 "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page	2
 "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page	1
 Paper	2
 Writing supplies	Several

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Print "Codebreaker Message" on paper, two per Small Group.
- Print "Codebreaker Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

#### *During the Activity:*

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page and writing supplies.
- Explain that the page contains a secret message from today's Bible Story written in a simple code.
- Challenge each team to work together to crack the code and discover Peter's bold message. The first team to decode it wins and gets to announce the message: *"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard."*

### What You Say:

"Great work, codebreakers! You uncovered Peter's message. Today, we're going to hear more about this message and what Peter meant when he said, *"We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20b NIV). Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training, but they had amazing boldness! Let's go learn how we can be bold and persevere when things get tough, just like Peter and John."





5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Transparency sheets	1
	Fine-tip permanent markers	Several
	Clear tape	1

### What You Do:

#### During the Activity:

- Give each kid a transparency sheet and a marker.
- Read the description of heaven from Revelation 21:3-5 again.
- Ask them to imagine what heaven will be like based on the description and their own hopes.
- Instruct kids to draw their vision of what heaven might look like in a horizontal layout on the transparency sheet. And write the **Bottom Line**, "**God will make everything right in the end,**" somewhere on their drawing.
- When finished, show them how to roll their sheet into a cone/mountain shape and secure it with a piece of tape.

### What You Say:

"These look amazing! It's hard to even imagine how incredible heaven will be, but it's fun to try. The Bible gives us a glimpse, a sneak peek, of the end of the story. And it's a good one.

"The Bible tells us that: *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death. And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be" (Revelation 21:4 NIV).* Jesus promised that everything would be made new! It's a powerful promise that helps us persevere through the hard parts of the story we're living in now. When Jesus returns, the terrible curse of sin won't have any more power over God's children. Ever. We will get to live in perfect friendship with God, and we'll do the amazing work of taking care of all He created. Forever.

"When you choose to follow Jesus, that's the true end of your story. Or maybe we should say ... the beginning! We can keep going because we know **[Bottom Line] God will make everything right in the end.**"



5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

### What You Need

-  Butcher paper 1
-  Coloring supplies Several

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Place the butcher paper on the floor.
- On the far-left end, write, "CREATION (Everything Was Good)." Draw a simple picture of a garden or the world.
- On the far-right end, write, "NEW CREATION (Everything Is Made Right)." Draw a simple scene of the new earth with the New Jerusalem (a shining city) in the background.

#### *During the Activity:*

- Explain that this is the beginning and end of the big story God has been telling in the Bible.
- Ask kids to think about the stories they've learned in church. What are some of the big moments that have happened between the beginning and the end?
- Encourage kids to work together to draw pictures or write key words on a timeline to fill in the middle of the story. (e.g., Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus' birth, Jesus' death and resurrection, Paul's journeys, etc.)

### What You Say:

"Look at this incredible timeline! When you see it all laid out, you can see that God has been working on His plan for a very, very long time. There have been hard parts and sad parts, but the story has always been moving toward that amazing ending.

"We are part of this story, right here in the middle. So what does this mean for us? It's so important for us to remember that we're living in the middle of the big story God is telling!

"This is a summary of the big story God is telling: God created everything, but people broke their perfect friendship with God, and sin entered the world. Still, God has been writing a story of redemption all through history, and He proved it by sending His own Son, Jesus, to break the terrible curse of sin so we could be close friends with God again. And the story will conclude when Jesus comes back to make everything right, and God will be with us all the time!

"God has always been faithful, so we can know that He's going to make everything right in the end. And because we know the ending, we can have hope. We can persevere through the hard things right now, knowing that **[Bottom Line] God will make everything right in the end.**"



5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

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

### What You Need

-  Bibles 1
-  Hacky sack or a small, soft beanbag 1

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 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.
- Invite the group to stand in a circle.
- Say: "We're going to try to say the Memory Verse, Galatians 6:9, together. But here's the catch. Every time the hacky sack hits the ground, we have to start the verse over from the beginning."
- Start by trying to pass the hacky sack around the circle while reciting the verse. It will likely drop several times, forcing kids to repeat the verse over and over. This turns memorization into a fun, cooperative game of perseverance.
- Keep playing until they can successfully make it all the way around the circle.

### What You Say:

"That was tough! You had to persevere and not give up, even when you kept having to start over. That's exactly what our Memory Verse is about! It's a perfect way to remember it. We can keep doing good, even when we mess up, because we know God's promise is true. We have God's Holy Spirit with us every step of the way in this sometimes-difficult middle part of God's story! And in the end, when Jesus returns, God will make every single wrong thing right! Remember, **[Bottom Line] God will make everything right in the end.**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask these questions and discuss:

- If you were John, exiled on an island and suddenly seeing Jesus in glory (that's what John records in the beginning of the book of Revelation), how do you think you would feel—and why do you think Jesus started by saying, "Do not be afraid"? What does that tell you about Jesus' heart toward us?
- God promised to wipe away every tear, end all pain, and make everything new. How does that future hope change the way you face hard things right now? Why might God want us to hold onto this picture?
- Revelation shows a world where God finally lives with His people again—like in the Garden of Eden. What do you think it will be like to see God face-to-face? How does that idea shift the way you think about heaven?
- John saw things that were beautiful, confusing, and sometimes scary. What does that teach you about trusting God, even when you don't understand what He's doing?
- If you really believed that God will make everything right in the end, how might it change the way you respond to sadness, unfairness, or disappointment today? What choices would look different?

5 min

# Prayer

5 min

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

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Ask the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask them to think quietly for a moment about the world around them.
- Ask, "What is one thing in the world today that feels broken, sad, or just not right to you?" (e.g., people being hungry, wars, sickness, friends being mean to each other)
- Go around the circle and let each person share one thing.
- Explain that praying is one way we persevere and show that we trust God and God's promise. When we pray about the broken things, we are "giving them to God," trusting that He will help.
- Close by praying together for the things they mentioned.

### What You Say:

"It can be overwhelming to think about all the hard things in the world. But our hope isn't in our ability to fix everything. Our hope is in God. And while we still live in this difficult part of the story, we can ask the Holy Spirit to encourage our hearts and give us hope as we look forward to the time when God will make everything right and be with us forever. Let's pray and give these things to Him now."

### Prayer:

"God, we see a lot of things in the world that are broken and sad. We pray for [mention a few of the things the kids shared]. It's hard to understand why these things happen. But we trust You. We believe Your promise that one day, You will make everything new and right again. Help us to have hope and to not give up in doing good. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

# Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

## GETTING READY

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

### SOCIAL:

#### Opening Activity Made to Play

##### What You Need:

- Offering container, 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 Create

##### What You Need:

- Butcher paper, one piece per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Place the butcher paper on the floor.
- On the far-left end, write, "CREATION (Everything Was Good)." Draw a simple picture of a garden or the world.
- On the far-right end, write, "NEW CREATION (Everything Is Made Right)." Draw a simple scene of the new earth with the New Jerusalem (a shining city) in the background.

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

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

##### Made to Create

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Transparency sheets, one per kid
- Fine-tip permanent markers, several per Small Group
- Clear 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 Move

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Hacky sack or a small, soft beanbag; 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

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. "Codebreaker Message" Activity Page	2
3. "Codebreaker Key" Activity Page	1
4. Paper	2
5. Writing supplies	Several

## Preteen - Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Transparency sheets	1
3. Fine-tip permanent markers	Several
4. Clear tape	1

## Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Butcher paper	1
2. Coloring supplies	Several

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

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Hacky sack or a small, soft beanbag	1