



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Don't You Worry
'Bout a Thing**
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your
hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when
something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSzi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Check out our Small Group Leader Conversation Guides to guide you through salvation conversations: <https://bit.ly/4daxSUG>

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Even Better
Application Activity: Trust God
Memory Verse Activity: All of My Hope
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God calmed your worries. Thank God for providing for you and caring for you deeply. Ask God to help the kids in your group learn to cast all their anxieties on God, and trust God when they are worried. Ask God to help the kids in your group identify trusted adults they can talk to

about their feelings.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, Play-Doh®, and paper plates

WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Put a lump of Play-Doh® on each kid's paper plate.
- Invite kids to create their favorite animal using Play-Doh®.
- As kids create, ask them a few questions about what they made.
 - What do you know about your favorite animal?
 - What makes this animal your favorite?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Birds of the Air" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group two sets of cards (so twenty cards total) from the "Birds of the Air" Activity Pages and place the cards

face down.

- Model how to arrange the cards face down in rows and columns.
- Instruct the groups to arrange the cards face down in rows or columns.
 - Don't worry if a grid is not "straight," kids will still be able to play!
- Direct kids to take turns flipping two cards to find matching pairs.
 - Explain to kids that if the cards match, they can keep them. If not, they turn them face down again.
- Declare the kids with the most pairs as the winners.
- Continue playing additional rounds as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What pictures did you find on your cards? (*Invite responses.*) I saw some birds on those cards too! What do you know about birds? (*Invite responses.*) What things are the same? What things are different? **[Transition] Well, come with me today as we discover what Jesus says about the birds of the air!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area. If you like, guide kids to move like different birds as you go.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



1. EVEN BETTER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Matthew 6, "When You're Worried" Activity Page, white coffee filters, markers, plastic tablecloth(s), pipe cleaners, and wet wipes

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids together in your group space.
- Spread out a plastic tablecloth.
- Set out the markers.
- Give each kid two coffee filters.
- Direct the kids to place their two coffee filters on the tablecloth.
- Invite the kids to use the markers to color the coffee filters.
- As kids color, open the Bible marked at Matthew 6.
- Share the following points to summarize today's Bible Story:
 - One day, Jesus sat down on a mountainside to teach a crowd of people about God's kingdom.
 - Jesus explained that life in God's kingdom is different—but in a good way! Jesus taught us to love everyone, even those who might not be kind to us.
 - Jesus said that we don't need to worry about things like food or clothes because God takes care of everything—just like God cares for the birds and flowers.
 - Just as birds don't worry about finding food and flowers don't worry about what to wear, we don't need to worry because God loves us so much and will take care of us.
 - Jesus reminded everyone that worrying doesn't help, it just makes us unhappy. Instead, we should focus on showing love and doing good things, which helps grow God's kingdom.
 - Jesus told us not to worry about tomorrow because He wants us to live joyfully today, knowing He will take care of all our needs.
- When each kid is finished coloring their coffee filters with markers, guide them to stack their two coffee filters together.
- Model how to fold the filters in half and then in half again.
- Once the filters are folded into quarters, help kids create an "accordion fold."
- Give each kid a pipe cleaner.
- Explain that the pipe cleaner will be their flower stem.
- Show the kids how to wrap the tip of the pipe cleaner around the points of the folded coffee filter several times.
 - Help as needed with this step!
- Provide kids with a leaf from the "When You're Worried" Activity Page and a strip of tape.
- Guide kids to attach the leaf, demonstrating how to pierce a hole in them where indicated using the end of the pipe cleaner.
- Read the Bottom Line aloud from the leaf, encouraging kids to point to the words as you read.



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. EVEN BETTER, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Guess what? God knows that food and clothes are super-important. But guess what else? Worrying doesn’t help you get those things—it can make you feel miserable and yucky inside. God knew that we would worry about things, that’s why the Bible talks about it!

“Maybe you’re worried about something going on in your family, or if you’ll make friends this year. Whatever it is, the next time you catch yourself worrying, think about how God takes care of the birds and the flowers. Remember, God LOVES you and knows EXACTLY what you need! So **when you’re worried, trust God!**”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



* 2. TRUST GOD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Trust God" Activity Page, prepared bag of cotton balls, prepared paper cups, prepared latex-free balloons, painter's tape, and permanent marker

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids together in your group space.
- Hold up the bag of cotton balls and point to the "worry" label.
- Say:
 - "There are SO many things we can worry about. We can worry about clothes (*take out a cotton ball*), not having enough to eat (*take out a cotton ball*), finding a friend (*take out a cotton ball*), or our grown-ups fighting." (*Take out a cotton ball.*)
- Ask kids what else we might worry about.
 - Invite responses. Kids might say: something bad happening, someone being mean/bullying, thunder/lightning/storms, being left alone, etc.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share with kids an age-appropriate example of something you sometimes worry about—maybe it's a family member who's sick or what people will think of you.)**
- Remind kids that God wants us to use our energy to come to God instead of worry.
- Explain to kids you will play a game where they will practice giving those worries to God!
- Give each kid a prepared cup and a prepared balloon.
- Show them how to stretch the balloon over the small end of the cup like a cap. Be sure the balloon covers almost half the cup.
 - Help kids as needed with this step!
- Use the permanent marker to write each kids' name on their balloons and cups.
- When kids finish, divide the kids into two teams.
- Use the painter's tape to create starting lines for each team.
- Set the "Trust God" Activity Page on the floor at another point in your group space across from the teams' starting lines.
- Instruct the kids to form lines behind the starting lines.
- Model for kids how to put a cotton ball in the balloon "launcher" and pull back on the balloon.
- Walk towards the "Trust God" Activity Page, aim, and as you get close, release the balloon and the cotton ball.
- Give each kid a cotton ball and instruct them to place it inside the launcher.
- At your signal, direct the first kid in each line to quickly move to the "Trust God" sign, launch their "worry" cotton ball toward it, and run back to their group.
 - If a balloon pulls off a cup, reattach it further onto the cup.
- Continue until each kid on both teams has had a turn.



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K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 2. TRUST GOD)

- For a visual of this activity check out this link <https://bit.ly/3ZBXRzR> or scan the QR code below:



WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, **when you're worried, trust God!** (Point to the "Trust God" Activity Page and read it with the kids.) You can give ALL of your worries to God, no matter what your worry is.

"God cares, God LOVES you, and God can help you have peace! I'm so glad God gives us trusted people to talk to too—like a parent, or a Small Group Leader or a counselor. Who do you like to talk to when you're worried? (Invite responses.)

"Ask that person to pray with you and ask God for help when you're so stuck in worry—whether it's big or small!"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. ALL OF MY HOPE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles marked at Psalm 31, and "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a Bible (marked at Psalm 31).
- Direct the groups to look up Psalm 31:24 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing
Do Not Worry
Matthew 6:25-34

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Psalm at the top of the page as you say "Psalm" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 31 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 31 for the little 24; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're worried, trust God.

***Finding verses with 1st graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 31. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 24 in chapter 31.*

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

- Read the verse aloud to your group. Then, invite the group to recite it aloud together.
- Show the signs from the "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Page and use them to demonstrate the Memory Verse motions to the kids.
- Instruct the kids to say and sign the verse with their group in the following ways:
 - Perform it loudly.
 - Perform it quietly.
 - Perform it facing someone in the circle.
- Come up with other fun ways to help kids memorize the verse!
- Invite any groups who would like to perform the Memory Verse for the rest of the kids to do so.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we tell God all about our worries, remember that God is big enough and strong enough to help! God loves you more than you could ever imagine. Our Memory Verse this month reminds us that when we put our hope in God, we don't have to worry—we can put our hope in God! So **when you're worried, trust God.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Birds of the Air" cards from the Opening Activity; *Optional: additional "Birds of the Air" Activity Pages*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread out the cards for the kids to see.
- Invite each kid to point to their favorite bird.
- Guide kids to close their eyes and imagine they're watching their bird. Prompt their imaginations by asking:
 - Is the bird flying? Floating on the water? Sitting in a tree? Eating at a feeder?
- Instruct the kids to open their eyes.
- Guide kids to close their eyes again, this time encouraging them to imagine God watching the bird with them.
- Use the following paraphrase of today's Bible Story to invite kids to imagine God saying this:

"Don't worry. Don't worry about what you'll eat or drink today. Don't worry about what you're going to wear either. Think about the birds. They don't plant crops or store their food, but every day I feed them. And you are so much more precious to Me than birds are! And think about how wildflowers grow. They don't work or make their beautiful petals as clothes. Since I dress the plants that way, I will dress you so much better! So don't worry. Focus on Me. I love you more than you can imagine and I will take GOOD care of you!"

- Close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for Your amazing, incredible, more-than-we-can-imagine love. Thank You for loving us SO much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Help us remember that we don't need to worry because You will never stop loving us or taking care of us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line: **When you're worried, trust God.** Invite them to show an adult their worry launcher!

Optional: Give each kid a set of twenty bird cards from the "Birds of the Air" Activity Pages. They can cut apart the cards and play the game with family or friends. Encourage them to remember how valuable they are to God as they play!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WEEK
TWO
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Play-Doh® (or clay), one lump for each kid
- Paper plates, one for each kid

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Birds of the Air" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for every two to three kids

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

1. EVEN BETTER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Matthew 6, one for each Small Group
- Print "When You're Worried" Activity Page on green colored cardstock and cut out, one leaf for each kid
- White coffee filters, two for each kid
- Markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Plastic tablecloth(s), one to two for each Small Group

- Pipe cleaners, one for each kid
- Wet wipes, one for each kid

* 2. TRUST GOD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Trust God" Activity Page on 11" x 17" paper, one for each Small Group
- Bag of cotton balls, one for each Small Group
- 3-oz. paper cups, one for each kid
- Latex-free balloons, one for each kid
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- X-ACTO® knife, one for each Small Group Leader
- Scissors, one for each Small Group Leader
- Before group time:
 - Use a piece of tape to label the bag of cotton balls "worry."
 - Use an X-ACTO® knife to cut the bottom out of each cup.
 - Knot the ends of the balloons
 - Using scissors, cut about ¼" off of opposite ends of each balloon

3. ALL OF MY HOPE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles (marked at Psalm 31 for kindergartners), one for every two or three kids
- Print "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Birds of the Air" cards from the Opening Activity



WEEK
TWO
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- *Optional: Print extra "Birds of the Air" Activity Pages on cardstock, two copies for each 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.