



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days  
and Mondays**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're sad, remember  
you're not alone.

### 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.

### 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: Jesus Wept  
Application Activity: You're Not Alone  
Memory Verse Activity: HOPE!  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



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**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. Think about a time when God comforted you in your sadness, and you were thankful for the presence of God. Ask God to help the kids learn to feel that presence, so they know that when they feel sad, they aren't alone.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days  
and Mondays**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, Play-Doh® (or clay), and paper plates

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a lump of Play-Doh® (or clay) and a paper plate.
- Instruct the kids to use the Play-Doh® (or clay) to create faces showing different emotions.
- To help the kids get started, suggest different emotions such as:
  - happy
  - sad
  - surprised
  - silly
  - worried, etc.
- Encourage any kids who would like to share an emotion they felt this week to do so.
- Be sure to validate every kid's feelings with a response. You might say:
  - "I appreciate you telling me how you're feeling."
  - "I'm sorry. I understand why you'd feel that way!"
  - "Thank you for sharing with me."
- Create your own face alongside the kids. Use it to share an emotion you felt this week and why.

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you're sad, remember  
you're not alone.**

### 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.**



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle making sure everyone has enough space to move around.
- Explain that you'll be playing a game that requires the kids to listen closely to what you say and how you say it.
- Instruct the kids to act out or show the emotion or action you describe, but only if you say the words "Show me" before saying the emotion or action.
- If you don't say, "Show me" before an action/emotion, encourage the kids to freeze.
- One at a time, read the following actions/emotions and give the kids the time to perform them (if called for):
- "Show me a happy face."
  - "Show me how you feel when you open a special gift."
  - "Show me how you feel after you fall and hurt your knee."
  - "Pretend to be a flower swaying in the breeze."
  - "Spin around like a tornado."
  - "Show me how you jump in a rain puddle."
  - "Show me silly!"
  - "Show me how you feel when you see your best friend."
  - "Pretend to be a leaf blowing in the wind."
  - "Show me how you feel when you eat your favorite food."
  - "Show me how you pretend to be a snowman."
  - "Pretend to build a sandcastle."
  - "Show me surprised."
  - "Show me how you feel when you're REALLY tired."
  - "Show me calm."
- To continue playing, come up with new emotions and actions for the kids to perform. Randomly don't include the words "Show me" as you share the emotions/actions.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days and Mondays**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you're sad, remember you're not alone.**

### 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 SAY:**

"That was fun! We pretended to be (*model each emotion as you say them*) happy, sad, angry, silly, surprised—there are SO MANY emotions we can feel. Did you know Jesus felt those emotions too? **[Transition] Come with me to discover more!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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



## 1. JESUS WEPT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Story Recap" Activity Page, Bible (marked at John 11), floor tape (or cones), disposable ponchos, and Hula Hoops®; *Optional: Use blue 12" x 18" construction paper cut into puddle shapes instead of six Hula Hoops®.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days  
and Mondays**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Using floor tape (or cones), mark a starting point for each team.
- Instruct each team to line up behind their team's starting point.
- Designate another point equidistant across from each team and place a set of picture cards from the "Story Recap" Activity Pages there.
- Between each team's starting point and set of picture cards, place three Hula Hoops® (or three blue pieces of construction paper cut into puddle shapes). Explain that these will be "puddles."
- Give each team a disposable poncho.
- Help the first kid on each team put on a poncho.
- At your signal, instruct the first kid on each team to race to their cards, hopping from one "puddle" to the next.
- Direct the kids to quickly pick one picture card up, head back to their teams, and give the poncho to the next kid in line.
- Continue the relay until every team retrieves their picture cards. Congratulate both teams on finishing the relay!
- Encourage teams to recall the Bible Story and work together to put the picture cards in order.
- Invite a kid to open the Bible marked at John 11.
- Use the cards as a guide to review the Bible Story as a group. Help the kids rearrange any picture cards that are out of order.
- As you review, ask some questions about how the kids think the people in the story might have felt, like:
  - How do you think Mary and Martha might have felt?
  - How do you think Jesus felt when all of this was happening?
  - How do you think Lazarus felt when he got sick? How about when Jesus raised him from the dead?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**When you're sad, remember  
you're not alone.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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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 SAY:

"There are SO many emotions we all experience. Can you remember a time you felt really sad? (*Invite responses.*) Like when school is super-tough, or when someone you love is feeling sick or gets hurt. Or, maybe you've felt alone before, like when a friend says something that hurt your feelings. Sadness can be one of those big feelings that makes us feel all by ourselves.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (1. JESUS WEPT, CONTINUED)

“But guess what? We discovered that Jesus was sad too. He even cried! When His friend Lazarus died, Jesus was SO sad even though He knew He was going to raise him from the dead. Jesus was right there with Mary and Martha, loving them through their tears. And the best part? Jesus is right there with you too, no matter how you're feeling! So **when you're sad, remember you're not alone.**”



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



## \* 2. YOU'RE NOT ALONE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Paper plate halves, markers, jumbo craft sticks, masking tape, and a device for taking pictures

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage the kids to show you a happy face.
- Use a device for taking pictures to take a picture of the group's happy face.
- Show the kids their happy faces on the device.
- Next, direct kids to show you a sad face.
- Use a device for taking pictures to take a picture of the group's sad face.
- Show the kids their sad faces on the device.
- Give each kid two paper plate halves.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct the kids to draw a happy mouth on one half of a paper plate (with the straight side facing up).
- On the other half of the plate, instruct the kids to draw a sad mouth (with the straight side facing down).
- As kids work, encourage them to think of when they might feel happy and when they might feel sad.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example with the group of when you've felt happy and sad too.)**
- Give each kid several pieces of masking tape and two craft sticks.
- Instruct the kids to tape the sticks to the back of each plate. Be prepared to assist as needed.
- Model how to hold the plate up to your face by holding the craft stick.

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Rainy Days and Mondays**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

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When you're sad, remember you're not alone.

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down**

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Have you ever noticed you feel different emotions throughout the day? We all do! You might feel happy on your way to school (*guide kids to hold their happy masks up to their faces*), but angry, worried, or even sad (*guide kids to hold their sad masks up to their faces*) at school because of something that happened with a friend. You know, Jesus experienced all the happy emotions you do, and He experienced all the sad and hard emotions you do too.

"So when you're happy (*prompt kids to hold their happy masks to their faces and turn to a neighbor*), remember you're not alone. And **when you're sad**, (*prompt kids to hold their sad masks to their faces and turn to a neighbor*) **remember you're not alone.** Jesus loves you, and He is right there with you—so however you're feeling, let's invite Jesus into it. We do that by praying and asking Jesus to help give us the courage to get back up! "





PRELUDE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



## 3. 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

**Rainy Days and Mondays**  
Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

***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 sad, remember you're not alone.**

***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

- Let kids know that you will recite the verse together as a group using sign language motions.
- One at a time, show the kids the signs from the "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages.
- Teach kids the sign language motions as you slowly say the verse.
- Repeat the verse, encouraging kids to sign it with you.

## MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse tells us we can be strong and put our hope in God. God created you and me and everything in the world we see! God loves us so much more than we could ever imagine, and we can trust God no matter what! Is God with us when we're happy? (Yes!) Is God with us when we're sad? (Yes!) So **when you're sad, remember you're not alone.** Invite God to be with you no matter what you're going through—God is right there with you!"

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**



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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:** Skittles®, white plate, prepared warm water bottle, and baby wipes

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Set the plate on a stable surface.
- Pour some Skittles® into your hand and explain that God gave each of us emotions.
- Encourage kids to name different emotions.
- Instruct the kids to imagine each color of candy as an emotion.
  - Point to a red candy to resemble anger.
  - Point to a yellow candy to resemble happiness.
  - Point to a purple candy to resemble sadness.
- Explain to kids no matter what emotion they're feeling, they are not alone!
- Give each kid one of the Skittles®.
- Guide kids to carefully put their candies around the inside edge of the plate, creating a colorful circle.
- When they finish, explain that other people feel the same emotions they feel too.
- Let kids know that when we follow Jesus, God's Holy Spirit lives with us, so we are never alone!
  - Point to the "Jesus" label on the water, then slowly pour it onto the plate until each candy is surrounded by water.
- As the colors of the Skittles® bleed together to form a kaleidoscope, encourage kids that God can use ALL their emotions to help someone else and show others what God is like.
- Close your group time in prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Jesus Wept  
John 11:1-45

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You that You are ALWAYS with us. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus. Just like Jesus was with Mary and Martha and Lazarus, He is with us too. When we're joyful, angry, worried, and when we're sad, help us remember that we are never alone—no matter how we feel! 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 sad, remember you're not alone.**





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PRELUDE

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## 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:**

- No supplies needed

### 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. JESUS WEPT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Story Recap" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Bible (marked at John 11), one for each Small Group
- Floor tape (or cones) to mark a starting point for two teams, two sets for each Small Group
- Disposable ponchos, two for each Small Group
- Hula Hoops®, six for each Small Group

- *Optional:* Instead of six Hula Hoops®, use blue 12" x 18" construction paper or art paper cut into six puddle shapes.

#### \* 2. YOU'RE NOT ALONE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Explore:** an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- White, uncoated paper plates cut in half; two halves for each kid
- Markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Jumbo craft sticks, two for each kid
- Masking tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Device for taking pictures, one for each Small Group

#### 3. HOPE!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**Made to Explore:** an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bibles (marked at Psalm 31 for kindergartners), one for every two to three kids
- Print "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages 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:**

- Skittles®, one 2.17 oz. bag or 3.5 oz. box for each Small Group (each kid will need one Skittle)
- Small waterproof white plate, one for each Small Group
- Container of warm water, one for each Small Group
- Baby wipes, one container for each Small Group
- Before group time:
  - Heat up water and add to the container.
  - Label the container of warm water "Jesus."



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PRELUDE

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## GETTING READY

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

### 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.**