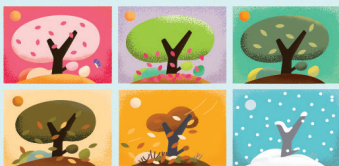


RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when
you feel angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Be strong, all you who put your
hope in the LORD. Never give up.

Psalms 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

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

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

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, pray for a few minutes, asking God to allow you to be patient today as you model how to be slow to speak and quick to listen when you're with your kids in small group today.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when you feel angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to 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.

1. JUST FOR FUN

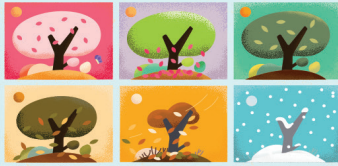
WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, prepared white poster board, "Lightning Bolt" Activity Page, tape, blindfold

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Use tape to hang the poster board cloud on the wall in your group space (or choose a kid in your group to hold it up).
- Ask kids to form a line several feet away from the cloud and explain you will play a game of "Pin the Lightning Bolt on the Cloud."
- Secure the blindfold over the eyes of the first kid in line.
- Attach a piece of tape to a lightning bolt from the "Lightning Bolt" Activity Page and hand it to the kid.
- Spin them around three times and tell them to give their best try at attaching the lightning bolt to the bottom of the cloud.
- Repeat until everyone gets a turn. If interest allows, give each kid another turn.

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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: Jenga® (or similar generic stackable blocks)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle in your group space.
- If the blocks need to be stacked, ask a few kids to help

stack them in the center of the circle.

- Explain the object of the game is to keep the tower standing as long as possible.
- Choose a kid to go first and invite them to pick any block in the stack they'd like to remove.
- Encourage the kid to carefully pull it out from the stack and place it aside.
- Then direct the kid sitting next to them to do the same.
- Continue in the same way around the circle until a block is removed that causes the entire stack to fall.
- Play again if time allows, starting with any kid who didn't get a turn in the last round.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! Did you notice how the tower didn't just crash as soon as the first block was removed? It was a slow process leading up to the crash and then everything fell apart! **[Transition]** Today, we'll discover who can help you and me from falling apart when we feel angry. Let's go to Large Group to hear more!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when you feel angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

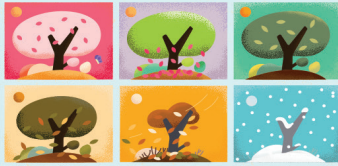
Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Anger Tools Responses" and "Anger Tools Scenarios" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle in your group space.
- Spread the response cards from the "Anger Tools Responses" Activity Page face up in the center of the circle so that everyone can see them.
- Choose a kid to go first and hand them one of the scenario cards from the "Anger Tools Scenarios" Activity Page.
- Ask that kid to read the scenario card out loud for the group.
- Then direct that kid to look at all the cards on the floor and choose one that reflects how they would respond.
- Give that kid a moment to explain why they chose that response.
- Invite the group to practice the response together.
 - For example, if the response is to take three deep breaths, lead the group in taking three deep breaths together.
- Continue around the circle, repeating the process with each kid until everyone gets a turn or all of the scenario cards have been read.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Which was your favorite way to calm down? Why?
 - Why is it sometimes difficult to slow our anger?
 - Is it wrong to feel angry?
- Remind kids that it's not wrong to feel anger. It's what we choose to do with our anger that matters! We have all felt angry, and sometimes it's helpful to have tools to help us manage those big feelings!
- Encourage the kids to use these tools when they are experiencing feelings of frustration or anger.
- Remind kids that God has also given us the Bible to encourage us and guide us to make wise choices. The Bible is God's word, and it's true, so we can trust God no matter what. We can talk to God whenever we feel angry!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when
you feel angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

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.

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: 2-liter bottles, water, bottle connector pieces

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into two to three groups.
- Invite the groups to spread out in your group space.
- Hand each group the following items:
 - One 2-liter bottle that is $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water
 - One empty 2-liter bottle
 - Bottle connector piece
- Instruct each group to work together to complete the following steps:
 - Remove the lid from the 2-liter bottle that has water in it.
 - Screw the bottle connector piece to the 2-liter bottle with water so that it's tight and secure.
 - Screw the empty 2-liter bottle into the other end of the connector piece until it's tight and secure.
 - Turn the bottles over, so that the bottle with water is on top.
 - Hold the top bottle with both hands, swirl it in a circular motion, and set it down.
 - Watch the water in the top bottle form a tornado-shaped funnel that trickles water into the bottom bottle.
- Ask the following questions:
 - What do you know about tornadoes? (*i.e.: They create strong winds, they can hit unexpectedly, they can cause major devastation, etc.*)
 - How do you typically react when something unexpected happens?
- Explain that sometimes when things happen unexpectedly (or out of our control), it can stir up anger within us.
- Tell the kids that if we give into that anger, it can take over and have serious consequences—just like the devastation of a tornado or a severe storm can leave behind.
- Remind kids that we won't always be able to control what happens to us, but we can control how we react. Talking to God can help us with that!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when
you feel angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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hope in the LORD. Never give up.
Psalm 31:24, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

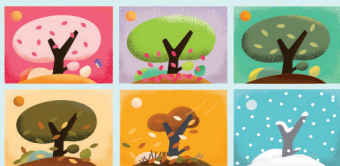
Resilience—Getting back up when
something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
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HOME

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. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What makes you feel angry?
- What do you do when you feel angry?
- When you act out in response to your anger, does it only affect you?
- Why is it sometimes challenging to be slow to anger?
- How can talking to God help you to be slow to act out on your anger?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when you feel angry?

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

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RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Stormy Crossword Cards” Activity Page, “Stormy Crossword Puzzle” Activity Page, “Stormy Crossword Answer Key” Activity Page, tape, pens or pencils, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into pairs.
- Spread the cards from the “Stormy Crossword Cards” Activity Page out in your group space.
- Hand each pair a copy of the “Stormy Crossword Puzzle” Activity Page, a Bible, and a pen or pencil.
- Explain the crossword puzzle contains two types of questions: Questions about storms and questions about various Bible verses.
- Let the kids know that to find answers, they will read the cards around their group space or look up verses in the Bible.
- Instruct kids to bring their finished crossword puzzles to you.
- Take time to go over each question using the “Stormy Crossword Answer Key” Activity Page, allowing the kids to share answers aloud.
- Tell kids that we can be encouraged by the Bible! The Bible talks about anger in a way that assures us it’s something we all experience. Anger, like storms, is sure to happen at some point!
- Remind kids that we should not avoid emotions that we feel, like anger. We can acknowledge and make space for our emotions and use them as a tool to learn and grow!
- Explain to kids that God’s Word can also help us grow as we become aware of what it says and how it applies to our lives.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Don’t Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY’S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when
you feel angry?

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

When you’re angry, talk to 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.

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: “Resilience Journal 3” Activity Page, pens or pencils, coloring supplies, hole punch, extra Resilience journals from previous weeks; *Optional: stickers*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle in your group space.
- Give any kids who weren't present the weeks prior an extra resilience journal.
- Hand every kid a copy of the “Resilience Journal 3” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Any kids who were present last week and still have their journals will only need journal 3.
- Place the coloring supplies, hole punch, and stickers (*optional*) in the center of the circle!
- Explain to kids one way we can talk to God is by writing down how we're feeling.
- Let the kids know even though we aren't actually talking, when we write things down, God knows what we write and cares about how we feel.
- Show kids how to take turns punching holes in the activity page.
- Model how to untie the binding string, open the journal, and place the new page with the other pages.
- Then, tell the kids to thread the string through the holes again, tying a bow to secure the pages.
- Give kids a few minutes of quiet time to use coloring supplies to decorate and write on the new page.
- During this time, add copies of the new page to the extra journals. Keep on hand for kids that may come later in the month.
- *Based on the dynamics of your group, choose whether it works best to have kids leave their journals at church as they add more pages, or for them to take their journals home. If they take their journals with them, they can simply add pages from each of the weeks to their journals at home.*
- Say a prayer for the entire group.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you do when you feel angry?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to 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.

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

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SOCIAL

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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. JUST FOR FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container, one for every Small Group
- Print the "Lightning Bolt" Activity Page and cut apart, one for every kid
- Scissors, one for every Small Group
- White poster board, one for every Small Group
 - Before kids arrive, use scissors to cut out a giant cloud shape on the white poster board.
- Tape, one roll for every Small Group
- Blindfold, about three for every Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Jenga® (or similar generic stackable blocks), one set for every Small Group

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.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Anger Tools Responses" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for every Small Group

- Print "Anger Tools Scenarios" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for every Small Group

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Empty 2-liter bottles, 4-6 for every Small Group
- Water
- Bottle connector piece ([like this](#)), two or three per group
- Before group time prepare the 2-liter bottles by filling each bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full of water

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Stormy Crossword Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for every Small Group
- Print "Stormy Crossword Puzzle" Activity Page on paper, one for every two kids
- Print "Stormy Crossword Answer Key" Activity Page on paper, one for every Small Group
- Bibles, one for every two kids
- Pens or pencils, one for every two kids

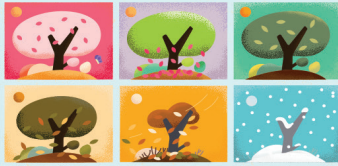
5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

RAIN OR SHINE

Trusting God in Every Season



WEEK
THREE

JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP

PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Resilience Journal 3" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid (plus a few extra!)
- Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for the Small Group to share
- Hole punch, one for every Small Group
- Before group time:
 - Assemble a few extra Resilience Journals using the "Resilience Journal 1" and "Resilience Journal 2" Activity Pages from previous weeks
 - Set them aside to give to any kids who weren't present for the weeks prior
- *Optional: Weather-themed stickers or other brightly colored stickers, two or three for every 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**.