



WEEK
THREE
JANUARY 2025

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger
Slow to Anger
James 1:19

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 should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

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: Green Light, Yellow Light
Application Activity: S.L.O.W. Down
Memory Verse Activity: Never Give Up
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



WEEK
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Think back to a time God helped you manage your anger. (Maybe it was through prayer, talking it out with a friend, or a breathing exercise.) Ask God to help you communicate what you've learned about managing anger with the kids in your group. Ask God to help you share the truth today that

it's okay to be angry, but it's important to talk to God about it. Ask God to lead you as you help the kids learn to go to God in their anger, and journey with God through it as they experience anger.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, and coloring materials

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Challenge kids to think of and draw as many types of weather as possible.
- Ask the following questions to help:
 - What kind of weather do you play outside in?
 - What kinds of weather do you stay inside in?
 - What kinds of weather can sometimes cause damage?
- Encourage kids to share their drawings with the group and talk about the different types of weather.

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.



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: Device for playing upbeat worship music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids together in your group space.
- Explain that you're going to play music.
- When the music starts, invite kids to dance and move to it and freeze when the music stops.
- Start the music, and let it play for a few moments while the kids dance around.
- Randomly stop the music, encouraging kids to freeze.
- After a couple of rounds, direct the kids to move like slow or fast animals each time you call them out. Use some of the following examples:
 - sloth
 - hummingbird
 - cheetah running
 - snail
 - galloping horse
 - kangaroo hopping
 - turtle
- Play several rounds, switching up how long you play and pause the music.
- Play as long as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Slow to Anger
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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Good listening! What did you guys notice about the different animals? (Some were slow and some were fast.) Yes! Some were fast and . . . some . . . were . . . S-L-O-W. **[Transition]** In Large Group, we'll hear about when it's important to be quick and when it's important to be slow. Let's go learn more."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



1. GREEN LIGHT, YELLOW LIGHT
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at James 1, and "Green Light, Yellow Light" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pick a kid to open the marked Bible to James 1.
- Read verse 19 to the group.
- Explain what it means to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.
 - Quick to listen: Like a cheetah, be very fast to hear what someone else is saying.
 - Slow to speak: Like a slow sloth, we can pause . . . take a deep breath . . . and think about what we want to say, BEFORE we say it.
 - Slow to get angry: Like a slow sloth, be someone who is slow to get angry. Anger is only wrong when you let it take control of you and if you act without thinking.
- Instruct the kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder on one side of your group space.
- Stand across from the kids in your group space, leaving enough space to play a game similar to Red Light, Green Light.
- One at a time, read a scenario from the "Green Light, Yellow Light" Activity Page.
- Invite a kid to share the wise choice.
- If a kid chooses the correct answer, instruct the group to move closer to you using a movement below:
 - Everyone, quickly take ____ [number] hops forward.
 - Everyone, slowly take ____ [number] ____ baby steps forward.
 - Everyone, slowly take ____ [number] ____ giant steps forward.
- End the game when the kids reach you.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Slow to Anger
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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you feel angry, you have choices. You can let your anger take control OR you can make the wise choice about what to do.

"What does it look like to let anger take control? (Invite responses. Kids might say something like: yelling, throwing things, crying, saying mean things.) Why are those things not helpful? (Invite responses. Kids might say something like: I can hurt myself or others, they don't help me be like Jesus.) What wise choices can you make instead? (Invite responses. Kids might say something like: I can take a deep breath, talk about it, move my body, etc.)

"Yes! God has given you some GREAT ways to help your body and mind let go of anger. First, **when you're angry, talk to God.** Tell God how you feel. Ask God to help you make wise choices. God's Spirit lives with us and can help us to make wise choices!



WEEK
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SMALL GROUP

K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. GREEN LIGHT, YELLOW LIGHT, CONTINUED)

“You can also talk with a trusted adult, take deep breaths, move your body, or draw a picture of how you feel. And if you’re angry because someone is doing something you don’t like, you can say, ‘Stop. I don’t like that.’ With practice—and with God’s help—you can be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”



WEEK
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SMALL GROUP
K-1

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. S.L.O.W. DOWN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Pages, stuffed animals, plain paper, and coloring supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Invite kids to share what makes them angry.
- **[Make It Personal]** (*Share what made you angry when you were a kid. Maybe it was a sibling taking things without asking, a friend saying something mean, being blamed for something you didn't do, or someone calling you names.*)
- Call on kids to share what happens when they get really angry.
 - Share that sometimes feeling angry might make us want to yell, or get quiet, or cry, and so much more.
 - **[Make It Personal]** (*Give kids an age-appropriate example of what happens when you're angry.*)
- Tell the kids that today the group will discover some wise choices we can make when we're angry.
- Show kids the posters from the "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Page.
- As you go through each page, teach kids the strategies.
- Once you've talked through each strategy, get the stuffed animals, plain paper, and coloring supplies.
- If you have enough space and leaders:
 - Divide your kids into four groups.
 - Set out the four posters from the "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Page along with the items needed for that strategy.
 - Assign each group to a strategy.
 - Assign a leader to each group to walk the group through the strategy.
 - Lead all four groups to rotate through all four strategies.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger
Slow to Anger
James 1:19

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We all get angry sometimes, and feeling angry is NOT wrong—even Jesus got angry! Anger can become wrong when you let it take control of you. So **when you're angry, talk to God.** Ask God to help you S.L.O.W. down. Tell God how you feel! Take deep breaths, draw and crumple up a picture, move your body, or talk it out with a grown-up you trust. All these things can help you be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."



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



3. NEVER GIVE UP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles marked at Psalm 31, "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Page, "Talk to God" Activity Page, and coloring supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a Bible (marked at Psalm 31).
- Direct the kids to look up Psalm 31:24 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***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.*

***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.*

- Let kids know that you will recite the verse together as a group using sign language motions.
- One by one, go through the signs of the "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Page and demonstrate the Memory Verse motions.
- Say the verse together as a group with the motions, encouraging kids to say the verse and sign it with you.
- Give each kid a coloring page from the "Talk to God" Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Read the Bottom Line out loud on the page and encourage the kids to say it with you.
 - **When you're angry, talk to God.**
- Invite kids to color the page using the coloring supplies.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to help kids process how God can help them when they're angry.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What's a way you calm yourself down when you're angry? (Invite responses.)"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger

Slow to Anger
James 1:19

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you're angry, talk to God.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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PRELUDE

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. NEVER GIVE UP, CONTINUED)

That's great! One way you can be strong is to trust God when you're angry. We can say it this way: **When you're angry, talk to God.** Ask God to help your mind and body let go of the anger.

"God loves us so much and gives us tools to help! From fidget toys, to slow breaths, hugging ourselves, moving our bodies, or coloring—there are so many tools! You can also talk with a trusted adult about why you're angry. And if you're angry because someone is doing something you don't like, you can say, 'Stop, I don't like that,' instead of letting anger take over!

"As you practice taking control of anger, 'never give up!' (*sign the words*). God wants to give you the gift of resilience—getting back up when something gets you down."



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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: "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Pages from the S.L.O.W. Down Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask: "What are some different things you might do when you're angry?"
- Share some of the following ways people sometimes show anger:
 - Yelling, stomping feet, make a fist, shut down, break or throw something, getting quiet, upset stomach.
- Explain that God has given us so many tools to help us slow down when we're getting angry.
- Display the "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Page posters by spreading them out.
- Use the posters to remind kids about things they can do when they feel anger starting to take control.
- Give kids a few moments to look at the posters.
- Invite each kid to pick a strategy they'll use this week to help them be 'slow to get angry.'
- Guide each kid to take a seat near the strategy poster they'd like to try to use this week.
- Close the group in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Look Back in Anger
Slow to Anger
James 1:19

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for each of my friends here! Thank You for all the tools we learned today to help us when we're feeling angry. Please remind us that You are always with us. When we're angry, help us make wise choices and be slow to get angry. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share one strategy they'll use when they feel angry. Also, encourage them to share today's Bottom Line: **When you're angry, talk to God.**



WEEK
THREE
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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 Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Paper, one piece for each kid
- Coloring materials, enough for each Small Group to share

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Device for playing upbeat worship music, one for each 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.)

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

1. GREEN LIGHT, YELLOW LIGHT [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible (marked at James 1), one for each Small Group
- Print "Green Light, Yellow Light" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group

* 2. S.L.O.W. DOWN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Pages on cardstock, one set for each Small Group
- Stuffed animals, one for each kid
- Plain paper, one piece for each kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

3. NEVER GIVE UP

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles marked at Psalm 31 (for kindergartners), one for each kid
- Print "Psalm 31:24 Signs" Activity Pages on paper, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Talk to God" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

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:

- "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Pages from the S.L.O.W. Down Activity
 - If you didn't do the S.L.O.W. Down Activity, print the "S.L.O.W. Down" Activity Pages on cardstock, one set for each 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.**