



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Friend Like Me

Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 19:14-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When has someone encouraged you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends encourage one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help
when trouble comes.**

Proverbs 17:17, NIrV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

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.

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

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 Review 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)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2020

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "What's going on, everyone! Today starts with an epic block party relay triathlon.

SLIDE: THE BLOCK PARTY TRI SLIDE

"Who wants to be a part of this momentous occasion?!" I need three leaders.

"Alright we have our people—now let's get you some tasks. One of you from each team will start with the human crabwalk. (Demonstrate and show where they will go.) You will then tag the foot of the next person who will be waiting inside of a pillowcase to start hopping. (Show leader where to go) Finally, you'll tag our last relay. The final person will be hopping on one leg. They will then race to the finish line. Got it?" (USE CONES ON STAGE AND AROUND THE ROOM)

"Places everyone. Ready? Set? GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host provides commentary throughout.

"(After the race) You all did a great job! That was a truly epic relay triathlon. Now let's stand and worship together!"



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OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

SECOND HOST OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! It's so great see all of you! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here at [your environment's name]. This whole month we're having a block party and LOTS of fun! I love having fun with friends! How about you? (Pause for response.)

"I'm so glad God created friendship. What IS friendship?"

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"Raise your hand if you're thankful for good friends. (Raise your hand.) Raise your hand if you want to BE a good friend. (Raise your hand.) We'll discover a great way that we can do that when we look at today's story.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- LOVE WORKS SUNDAY: we are collecting items today for OPEN ARMS
- MOVIE NIGHT: Firday, Sept 25th... showing ONWARD... fliers handed out when you leave today

"Before we get into our story for today, it's time for **Worship**. (Explain worship moment and welcome out **WORSHIP TEAM**)



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everyone! Glad to see you all here today. Let’s start with an exercise that involves everyone. Have you ever had to do something on your own that would have been much easier if you had just had some help? Maybe it was at home. Maybe it was at school. Maybe it was in your family or in your own life. Brainstorm with the people around you if you need to, but then write something down on one of these sticky notes and stick it to the side of this box here.”

Communicator points out sticky notes and also the box where they should stick them. Be sure that the side they are sticking the notes is OPPOSITE the side that says “A Message from the LORD” which will be used later.

“And GO!”

Be sure to add or have small group leaders add some of the ones that you would like to discuss later on during the application section.

(After sticking notes) “Alright, well done. Now, we’re actually going to leave those there for now and come back to them later on.”

Communicator sets box aside, being careful not to reveal the message on the other side.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, think back to yourself at some of those examples. When you went through those situations or others, did it ever feel like you were on your own? Maybe even at times like no one cared about the situation you were facing? You don’t need to raise your hand or anything, but I have a feeling lots of us have felt this way from time to time—even if it looks like we have a ton of friends and people around us. How should we respond, what should we do when we feel this way? Wow, that’s a good question. A good question like that needs a good answer, and the first place we should check is the Bible. In the Bible, we find all these moments where people experienced God. He inspired them to write about those moments so people could get to know God better. Let’s check one of these moments out and see how it connects with this question.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “It comes from the Old Testament of our Bible and gives us a firsthand look at a very important and very interesting group of people known as the prophets. To understand it better, let’s start with a little back story.”

“The Old Testament follows the story of God’s people, the Israelites. At this time in their nation’s history, they were actually TWO nations—Israel and Judah. Both of these nations were ruled by kings. Some of these kings were great kings who led the people to honor and follow God. But there were also some pretty wicked kings who did what they wanted and led the people away from God. They even worshipped other gods and caused the people of Israel to do the same. It was a pretty dark time.”



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“So what did God do when the people had turned their back on Him, broken their relationship, and the king basically did whatever he wanted? Well, I guess there were a lot of things God could do, but one of the main things God did was to tell them, ‘This is not okay!’ And to tell them, God would often speak through a chosen person called a prophet.”

“A prophet is like God’s messenger. They deliver God’s message to God’s people. Sometimes they share good messages and sometimes they share bad ones. Before we continue, I need someone to help me out today to be a prophet. Any takers?”

Choose someone to be “Elijah.” Bring volunteer up on stage.

NOTE: During the story, there will be several volunteers. Guide them through motions, stage directions, etc. to help bring life to the story. There are some directions written in, but feel free to improvise with the volunteers.

“Alright everyone. Say hi to Elijah. *(Pause for responses.)* Elijah was an important prophet during the reign of a wicked king—maybe the MOST wicked king—a guy by the name of Ahab. This was one bad dude.”

“Now a lot of the time, the life of a prophet was hard, and it was lonely. Any guesses why? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“That’s right. You were often traveling from place to place, sure. But even more than that, the prophets had important messages to carry.”

Communicator reveals the box that says “The Message from the Lord” and tries to hand it to the volunteer. They should struggle to hold it and carry it around a little.

“Many times, the messages they were delivering were not very popular. When they had to go and constantly tell people that the people were breaking God’s commands, do you think they got invited to a lot of birthday parties? I don’t think so.”

Volunteer sets the box down.

“But it was also a dangerous life. People of power, like wicked king Ahab, certainly didn’t like a prophet’s message. And if someone in power didn’t like a prophet’s message, well, he might want to get rid of the messenger. And that is where our story starts today. Elijah was crying out to God. Check out what was happening!”

Communicator helps volunteer act out the words of the passage.

“(Read directly from 1 Kings 19:14, NIV) ‘He replied, “Lord God who rules over all, I’ve been very committed to you. The Israelites have turned their backs on your covenant. They have torn down your altars. They’ve put your prophets to death with their swords. I’m the only one left. And they are trying to kill me.””

“Woah. This was pretty intense! And scary. And lonely. Elijah felt like he was the only prophet left. And now his own life was on the line.”



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STORY

WORSHIP

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“Well, the Lord actually gave him instructions on where to go, and how He was going to raise up kings and more prophets. In fact, God told Elijah that he had kept 7,000 people in Israel for Himself. In other words, even though Elijah felt alone, he was not, and he was about to learn that in a powerful way.”

“(Read directly from 1 Kings 19:19, NIV) ‘Elijah left Mount Horeb. He saw Elisha, the son of Shaphat. Elisha was plowing in a field. He was driving the last of 12 pairs of oxen. Elijah went up to him. He threw his coat around him.’”

Direct volunteer Elijah around the stage.

“So Elijah left the mountain and found a guy . . . let me stress here . . . it was a GUY named Elisha. You know what? I think we need an Elisha. Can I have another volunteer?”

Communicator chooses an Elisha and brings them up on stage. Stand Elijah and Elisha next to one another.

“Elijah and Elisha. With names like that how could they not be friends—or a boy band! What was Elisha doing when Elijah found him? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Yeah, he was plowing a field. And then this random guy (spotlighting volunteer) showed up and threw his coat on him. I mean, what in the world?!”

“This was a sign that Elisha had been chosen to go with the prophet Elijah. And Elisha knew it, because check out his response.”

“(Read directly from 1 Kings 19:20, NIV) ‘Then Elisha left his oxen. He ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said. “Then I’ll come with you.”’”

“Elisha knew it was time to go, too, and to make this permanent. So in order to say goodbye to his old life, Elisha was going have the biggest barbeque you’ve ever seen before leaving town.”

“(Read directly from 1 Kings 19:21, NIV) ‘So Elisha left him and went back. He got his two oxen and killed them. He burned the plow to cook the meat. He gave it to the people, and they ate it. Then he started to follow Elijah. He became Elijah’s servant.’”

“So from here on out, Elijah and Elisha went everywhere together. And . . .”

Communicator directs them to pick up the box and carry it together (with the words facing out).

“They carried the message of the Lord together. Even when it was hard, they did it together. They spoke to powerful kings. They proclaimed the message of God to the people.”

“Well, near the end of Elijah’s ministry, Elijah knew it was soon time for him to go. *(Read directly to 2 Kings 2:2, NIV) ‘Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here. The Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “I won’t leave you. And that’s just as sure as the Lord and you are alive.” So they went down to Bethel.’”*

Communicator directs the two volunteers to carry the box to one side of the stage.



25 MINUTES

"Elijah went to Bethel, and Elisha was sure to go with him. And check this out . . ."

"(Read directly from 2 Kings 2:4, NIV) 'Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha. The Lord has sent me to Jericho." Elisha replied, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So they went to Jericho.'"

Communicator directs the two volunteers to carry the box to the other side of the stage.

"And so Elisha went with Elijah to Jericho!"

"(Read directly from 2 Kings 2:6, NIV) 'Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here. The Lord has sent me to the Jordan River." Elisha replied, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So the two of them walked on.'"

Communicator directs the two volunteers to carry the box back to the other side of the stage.

"And then, in this amazing moment, Elijah was taken away to heaven. Check this out!"

"(Read directly from 2 Kings 2:11-12, NIV) 'They kept walking along and talking together. Suddenly there appeared a chariot and horses made of fire. The chariot and horses came between the two men. Then Elijah went up to heaven in a strong wind. Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah, "My father! You are like a father to me! You, Elijah, are the true chariots and horsemen of Israel!" Elisha didn't see Elijah anymore. Then Elisha took hold of his own garment and tore it in two.'"

"This was an emotional moment as Elijah was taken away to heaven and Elisha cried out to him! They had been together carrying God's message together . . . and now . . ."

Communicator removes Elijah and hands the message box to Elisha.

"Elisha was going to take over doing what Elijah had taught him to do."

"Can you all thank our volunteers?!"

Volunteers sit back down.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You know, at the start of the story, Elijah was in a pretty rough spot. He was carrying the message of God alone and truly believed that he was the only prophet left. This was a tough job and a really lonely job, too. But then God brought Elisha into his life, and the two of them carried God's message together really for the rest of Elijah's time on earth. Elisha was a source of encouragement for Elijah when he needed it most."

"Have you ever had moments like that? Well, actually, I know you have, because you told me about them at the beginning . . ."

Communicator takes box and turns it around, revealing the post it notes that were stuck on during the Opener.



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25 MINUTES

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Elisha saw that Elijah's coat had been left behind.

"He picked it up and hurried back to the Jordan River. He hit the water with Elijah's coat . . .

". . . and just like before, the water split in two. Elisha crossed the river on dry land. A group of prophets from the city of Jericho were watching. They saw that God's Spirit was now with Elisha in the same way it had been with Elijah.

Move out from behind the clothesline and come up to the front of the stage.

"Elijah had been so lonely, and then God brought Elisha into his life. The two friends encouraged each other as they did the things God asked them to do.

"That's what good friends do!

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Friends encourage one another.

"With God's help, we can find lots of great ways to encourage our friends.

"Now it is easy for us to think about ourselves as Elijah and wonder where our Elisha is. We wonder about who will encourage US? But we also want to consider how we might be an Elisha to others, to help encourage them along the way when things get tough for them, too."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about this question:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION SLIDE

"When has someone encouraged you? Consider who has been an Elisha for you. You'll get a chance to talk about them in groups. You'll also get a chance to chat about the people in your life who you can encourage. Before you head out to Small Group, let's pray and thank God for the people who have been an encouragement to us. We can't do life without them. Let's pray."

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for the story of Elijah and Elisha. It's so cool how they were there to encourage and support each other. Please help us encourage our friends in the same way. Help us use our words to let our friends know that we're always there for them. Help us SHOW our friendship with our actions, too. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: BLOCK PARTY THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP