



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Hey, Sew Sister
Lydia
Acts 16:13-15

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you good at?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use your gifts to help others.

LARGE GROUP SUPPLIES

- Mini marshmallows
- Chopsticks (three pairs)
- Three Small containers (Tupperware-like)
- Painter's tape
- Three Medium clear containers with line taped around top (like a Tupperware container, etc.) The line is the winning mark.

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Purple cloth (scarf or other available cloth)

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

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **MOVIE NIGHT - Mega Awesome Costume Party**
 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29th - 6:30
 - Register online - fliers go out this week
 - Movie - Hotel Transylvania 2
- **LOVE WORKS SERVE DAY - November 6th**
 - Every month we help support local organizations to serve our community.
 - BUT TWICE A YEAR we have a HUGE SERVE DAY
 - Nov 6th
 - SIGN UP TODAY

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

- Week 1 – The Best Is Yet To Come & Who You Say I Am
- Week 2 – Might Get Loud & Graves Into Gardens
- **Week 3 – Real Love & Who You Say I Am**
- Week 4 – This Is Living & Holy Spirit Come
- Week 5 – Might Get Loud & Way Maker

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



WEEK
THREE
OCTOBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Hey, Sew Sister
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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that.
What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.
Psalm 139:14, NIRV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Individuality—Discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference

BASIC TRUTH

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

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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

AUDIO: Never Lost

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?! We have a great day in store for you. And that day starts with another sweet Custom Creations game to get you moving. We call it Fill. Run. Pour."



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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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SLIDE: FILL. RUN. POUR.

"I need six volunteers today: three teams of two. Who wants to play?"

Host chooses six volunteers and pairs them up.

"Okay, one of you, the one with the best hand-eye coordination I'd say, is going to work these chopsticks and fill this small container with mini-marshmallows. Your partner, the runner, will then take the small container and RUN to the other side of the room and pour the mallows into the bigger container. You will then return the small container and continue filling it. FILL. RUN. POUR the mallows. RUN back. Continue this until your mallows reach the line on the top of the container down there. Got it? Let's get in position!"

Each person gets set and in place. All three groups will go at the same time.

"And go!"

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

Host provides commentary throughout. Watch the line on the containers. Declare a winner.

HOST: "Well done, everyone! That was the most furious marshmallow race I have ever witnessed—potentially the only marshmallow race I have ever witnessed! But it was great!"



WEEK
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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, friends! Glad to see you all here today. To kick us off, I brought a few pictures with me. Can you to help me brainstorm a little? Sweet. Here's the first one."

SLIDE: PROFESSIONALS 1: FIREFIGHTER

"So, obviously this is a firefighter. Anyone know a firefighter in real life? *(Pause for response.)* That's awesome! Now, what skills do you need to be a firefighter? What are some of the characteristics you would hope a firefighter has?"

Kids answer. Answers might include courage, know how to operate all of the equipment, know live-saving procedures, etc.

Do the same for the following images, asking, "What skills/characteristics would be important for these jobs?"

SLIDE: PROFESSIONALS 2: NURSE

SLIDE: PROFESSIONALS 3: CARPENTER

SLIDE: PROFESSIONALS 4: ATHLETE

SLIDE: PROFESSIONALS 5: COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "That's great. I don't have a photo for this next one, but I still need your help with the same sort of question: What skills do you need to be a follower of Jesus? Are there things you have to be able to do or things you need to know in order to be a Christian? Ok, this might sound like a trick question, but think about it. We might think we need to act a certain way or know certain things before we can start following Jesus. But is that true? Are there skills we need to master before you're able to start following Jesus? Well, let's not even try to answer that question on our own. Let's head right to the first place we should look when we have a question about following Jesus: The Bible."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today, we head to the book of Acts, which is in the New Testament of our Bible. The first four books of the New Testament, or Gospels, tell the stories of how Jesus came and called disciples to follow Him—like what we learned about last week when Jesus called Matthew to follow Him. Well, the book of Acts tells us what happened with these followers after Jesus went back to be with God. Jesus left His followers with a mission. He gave them the incredible task of carrying His message to the ends of the earth. Everybody would know about Jesus because of Jesus' followers!"



WEEK
THREE
OCTOBER 2021

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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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“One of those followers was a man named Paul. Paul accepted the incredible task of carrying the message of Jesus all over the Roman Empire. And when I say all over, I mean all over! Check out this map showing some of Paul’s travels!”

SLIDE: PAUL’S MISSIONARY JOURNEY MAP

“On his second major journey, Paul was traveling with friends and fellow followers of Jesus named Timothy, Silas, and Luke. Luke was actually the guy who recorded all of this in the book of Acts!”

“One night, Paul had a vision telling him he should go to a region called Macedonia (*Point on map*). Believing this vision was from God, Paul left the next day for Macedonia.”

“You know, before we go any further, I could use a little help. Can I get some female volunteers?”

Communicator chooses a few girl volunteers. One girl wears a purple cloth around her neck. The girls sit in a circle on the left side of the stage.

“In Macedonia, there was a very important city called Philippi. Philippi was a major trade city where people from all over the world would come to the marketplace. After his vision, Paul and his friends decided to head there and share the message of Jesus. And that is where we pick up the story in Acts.”

Open the Bible to Acts 16:13 (NIRV) and read.

““On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate. We walked down to the river. There we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered together.””

Communicator goes over to volunteers.

“Hello, women. I see you are gathered together here! By the . . . (*looking around*) river? Just sit tight. I’ll be back.”

Communicator goes back to stage center.

“Okay, so Paul and his companions entered Philippi. Now, sharing the message of Jesus in some of these big Roman cities was NOT easy. Even though many people would welcome the message of Jesus, there were also those who were not very excited to hear it. In fact, some were even against followers of Jesus and their message. But thankfully, the first people they met in Philippi were these women (*pointing to the girls*).”

Open the Bible to Acts 16:14 (NIRV) and read.

““One of the women listening was from the city of Thyatira. Her name was Lydia, and her business was selling purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to accept Paul’s message.””

Communicator has “Lydia” stand. She is the one with the purple cloth around her.

“This is Lydia. She was an important businesswoman from Thyatira who sold her beautiful purple cloth in the marketplace. And she also worshipped God, but she hadn’t been told the good news about Jesus yet! This was such



WEEK
THREE
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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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a cool moment! Paul had the opportunity to share the message about Jesus with these women, and Lydia believed! She was probably the first in the big city of Philippi to put faith in Jesus! But it didn't stop there! She and her whole family were baptized!"

"Now, like I was saying, it could be hard to be in a big city like this. It was hard to know who was for you and who was against you. But check this out . . ."

Open the Bible to Acts 16:15 (NIRV) and read.

"Then she invited us to her home. "Do you consider me a believer in the Lord?" she asked. "If you do, come and stay at my house." She succeeded in getting us to go home with her."

"Lydia was a new believer in Jesus. She wanted to support Paul and his companions in the tough city of Philippi. How did she do it? She used what she had. She opened her home. She provided a safe place for them. Lydia's house became a 'home away from home' for Paul and the apostles. Can you thank these girls for helping us out?"

Volunteers can return to their seats.

"Now, I'm guessing Lydia might not be a name from the Bible many of you have heard before. She's not one of the first people we think of like Moses or David or Mary. But to Paul and the apostles in Philippi she was really important. Later on in the same city, Paul and Silas got in some big trouble. They got thrown in jail and beaten pretty badly. I'm sure it was a terrible moment for them. Do you know where they went when they got released from prison? (Pause for responses.)

Open the Bible to Acts 16:40 (NIRV) and read.

"After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house. There they met with the brothers and sisters. They told them to be brave. Then they left."

"They went to Lydia's house! Why? Because that was where the other followers of Jesus began to meet. Lydia's home became like a church in Philippi. Her home was a place to gather and belong."

"Later on, after Paul had left that city and was in prison in Rome, he wrote a letter to the followers of Jesus living in Philippi. We can almost be sure that he was thinking of Lydia as well when he wrote these words."

Open the Bible to Philippians 1:3-6 (NIRV) and read.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. I am happy because you have joined me in spreading the good news. You have done so from the first day until now. God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns."

"In all of his travels, in all of his challenges, in all of his success, and also in his suffering, Paul was thankful to God for people like Lydia. They were partners in spreading the good news about Jesus. And for Lydia, it all started with simply using how God uniquely made her, what she had available, and what she was good at to serve others."



WEEK
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APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You know, at the beginning we shared some very specific skills that some professionals have. And many of you have some of those skills or others. And that's great! But the fact is, what we saw in Lydia was her ability to take what she already had and use it to love God and serve others. Sometimes you just have to be creative!"

"You don't need a specific set of skills to follow Jesus; you can put your faith in Jesus just the way you are. But here's what's so amazing. When you do believe in Jesus, God can use your unique skills and situations to help others know Jesus and show them God's love."

"Think about some of the ways that God has uniquely made you and the talents you already have. What would it look like to use those to love God and serve others? Maybe you like to experiment with baking. Could you bake to raise money for a mission trip or to help out a struggling family? Or maybe you love sports. Could you help teach a sports camp for kids in your neighborhood who aren't able to afford one? What about those of you who are great at a subject at school? Could you help serve others by tutoring someone who is struggling in class? There are so many ways we can use what we have to make a difference."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As you head to groups today, think about this:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What are you good at?" Think about how God created you. Think about your skills and talents. Think about what you just enjoy doing. Then consider how can you use what you have RIGHT NOW to make a difference. How can you love God and serve others through the gifts God has given you? If you're not quite sure, that's totally fine, too. We're still growing and figuring out how God has wired us. You can also talk to people like a family member, a teacher, or your Small Group Leader to help you discover some of this, too! Speaking of Small Group, before we head out, let's pray and thank God for creating us so uniquely to help those around us. Let's pray."

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

AUDIO: HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP