



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Right Now

Timothy
1 Timothy 4:12
(supporting: Acts 14-17;
1 Timothy 4:14,
1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you make a
difference right now?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can make a
difference right now.

LARGE GROUP SUPPLIES

- Three chairs
- Three preselected Small Group Leaders
- Package of ice cream cake cones
- Plastic tarp
- Variety of sundae toppings
- Ice cream (for messy version of the game – see "What You Do")
- (Optional) Poncho and shower cap for each small group leader

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Host dressed as older Paul (robe, gray beard, etc)
- Two chairs for interview

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:

- Mega Awesome Costume Party

- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29th - 6:30
- Register online - fliers go out this week
- Only \$15 - entry into prize giveaways
- LIVE DJ
- Games
- Time with your groups/leaders

- LOVE WORKS SERVE DAY - November 6th

• VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT

- 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
FOUR
OCTOBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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 can trust God no matter what.

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: THIS IS LIVING
AUDIO: HOLY SPIRIT COME

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: "Hey, everyone! I hope you are having a great month. Today kicks off with a "custom creation" game like no other. It's so custom and so creative that I actually have preselected some leaders to come up and help me. But I need also three kids from the audience! Who wants to be a part of it?"



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Host chooses three volunteers.

For this game you can choose the messy version (*with ice cream*) or the less-messy version (*without ice cream*). Adjust the wording accordingly. Be sure to put a tarp down under the head of each leader in order to catch the mess. (*Optional*) Give each leader a poncho and shower cap.

"Alright, how many of you like sundaes? I don't mean as in the day, like Sundays, although those are pretty great, too, because we all get to hang together. I mean sundaes, as in ICE CREAM sundaes! "

Pause for response.

"Yeah, me too. But, have you ever had a leader sundae? Me neither. But it makes me want to try one. Let's call this game what it is:"

SLIDE: MAKE YOUR OWN SMALL GROUP LEADER SUNDAE

"What is a Small Group Leader sundae, you ask? Well, it's just what it sounds like! Each leader will lay down on the ground on their backs. They will hold a cone (*or dish*) in their mouth. Then one volunteer per leader will stand on a chair above them and DROP (*ice cream if doing messy version*) down into the cone, followed by all of the yummy toppings. Then, the room will vote on the best-looking leader sundae. It is going to be glorious! On your mark, get set, go!"

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

Have pre-selected leaders get into position. Be sure their clothing is covered as well. Position each volunteer on a chair above a leader with the supplies. Have them begin and afterward have everyone vote on the best looking "leader sundae."

"(After the game) That was pretty amazing!



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Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you are here today. I have a question, have any of you ever been told you are too little or too young to do something?"

Pause for responses.

"Maybe it was here . . ."

SLIDE: INTRO 1: CARNIVAL RIDE SIGN

"You're too small to ride the ride. Or maybe it was here . . ."

SLIDE: INTRO 2: HOUSE

"You're too young to stay home by yourself. Or here . . ."

SLIDE: INTRO 3: CELL PHONE

"You're too young to have your own cell phone. Or here . . ."

SLIDE: INTRO 4: KID'S TABLE AT THANKSGIVING

"You're too young to sit at the grownup table at Thanksgiving. Or here . . ."

SLIDE: INTRO 5: CAR

"You're too young to drive a car."

"Unfortunately, you'll face some times in life when you might be reminded that you are too small or too young to do something you'd really like to do right now."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "I mean, sure, you might be able to ride the bumper cars, but you really want to ride the upside-down monster coaster. You still get to eat Thanksgiving dinner, but you'd like to feel like one of the grown-ups and listen in on their conversations. Maybe you end up at the point where you start thinking, 'Can I do ANYTHING important, can I make a difference, or do I matter right now while I'm young?' First of all, don't feel bad about feeling that way. Wondering about these things is part of growing up. But if you have found yourself asking these sorts of questions, I'm glad you're here. We love questions around here, especially the hard ones that don't have simple answers. When we have questions like this, we usually start looking for answers in the Bible. We start there because the Bible was written by all sorts of people who had encounters with God and Jesus. God inspired them to write about them, so we could learn more about God and more about ourselves. Let's head there now!"



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TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Last week we talked about a guy named Paul who traveled throughout the Roman world to spread the message of Jesus.”

SLIDE: PAUL’S MISSIONARY JOURNEY

“We saw him go to the city of Philippi in Macedonia. I have a question for you—does anyone remember WHO was with Paul on that journey?”

Pause for responses.

“That was a tough question. He was actually with a few people. Paul was with Luke, who actually wrote the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Paul was also with Silas, who was with him in prison, too. And there was one other person who was with him. Who was it . . . (*Communicator is thinking.*)”

Host enters dressed as older Paul in a robe and beard. This is done tongue-in-cheek as the preteens will know the Host is playing the role of Paul. Have fun with it.

HOST AS PAUL: “That would be Timothy.”

Communicator turns to see Host dressed as Paul. It is clearly the Host, but they are in it together and continue.

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey look everybody! It’s . . . the apostle Paul! Wow, so great to have you with us. Really, it’s an . . . honor.”

HOST AS PAUL: “Well, I heard you’ve been talking about my journeys, so I thought, hey, I got some extra time here. Why not swing by and share some stories?”

COMMUNICATOR: “Well, great! Come, have a seat.”

Communicator and Host sit for an “interview.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Actually, I’m really interested in *Timothy’s* story.”

HOST AS PAUL: “Oh, not . . . my stories? I just thought—”

COMMUNICATOR: “Oh, this is awkward. Well, I mean . . . we do talk about you a lot, and maybe we can have you back and share some of your own stories at some point . . . but today I thought it’d be more helpful for the kids if you shared some stories about Timothy.”

HOST AS PAUL: “Timothy.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Yeah. I know he became like a son to you. Maybe you can just start with sharing how you came to meet Timothy. And how he came to meet Jesus.”



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HOST AS PAUL: “Yes, well, Timothy is a great guy. So, on my first journey, Barney and I traveled to a city named Lystra . . .”

COMMUNICATOR: “Barney?”

HOST AS PAUL: “Oh yeah, Barnabas to you guys. *(Chuckles)* Good old Barney—boy, he really doesn’t like being called that. *(beat)* Anyways, Barney and I traveled to a city named Lystra. Fun fact, do you know that is where they invented mouthwash like Listerine?”

COMMUNICATOR: “I did not know that!”

HOST AS PAUL: “Because it is not true. Gotcha! Wow, you are gullible. Anyways, while we were in the city, we healed a man through the power of Jesus. Well, this caused QUITE a commotion in the city. The people all swarmed us like we were celebrities, and they thought we were Greek gods. They even tried to worship and make sacrifices to us—not good at all. But we stopped them, and then I was able to tell the people there about the one they SHOULD worship: Jesus.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Wow. That’s pretty amazing! But, *how* does Timothy fit into the story again?”

HOST AS PAUL: “Oh, yeah. Well Timothy is from Lystra, and even though he never really quite confirmed this for me, I have a sneaking suspicion he was in the crowd that day and heard about Jesus. You see, Timothy has a very interesting backstory. His mom is Jewish and taught him the Old Testament. His dad is Greek, which offered a whole different way of living and worshipping. But when Timothy heard about Jesus, he believed!”

COMMUNICATOR: “So that is when *Timothy* joined you?”

HOST AS PAUL: “Are you telling the story here sonny, or am I? *(beat)* I’m just kidding . . . but seriously, be patient. No, we left Lystra and continued to share the message of Jesus from city to city. But eventually, several years later, we made it back to Lystra and there we found Timothy. People all around Lystra had such good things to say about Timothy that we decided to take him on the rest of the journey! These journeys can be difficult, and it helps if you have a team of great people. So when you find a guy like Timothy, well, you do anything to get him on the team.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Ahh, I see. So Timothy left Lystra with you and joined the mission of spreading the message of Jesus to the world. That’s pretty cool. What were some of the tasks you were able to give to Timothy? In other words, how was he helpful to the mission?”

HOST AS PAUL: “Oh, he was incredibly helpful. At one point I was able to send him to a really difficult city called Corinth. The church there was having a LOT of trouble, and I personally couldn’t get there. But Timothy could, so I sent him. But I would say one of Timothy’s most important tasks was taking on the leadership of the church in Ephesus.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Ephesus—like THE Ephesus? I know that was one of the most important cities in the world at the time . . . and that it was also a pretty dark city. Sorcery. Witchcraft. Idol worship. Sounds like a dark place that needed the light of Jesus.”



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HOST AS PAUL: “It absolutely was. You know, I spent over three years in Ephesus, and I’ll tell you. That city was actually a home to many followers of Jesus. The church there was very dear to me. And they needed a leader, someone to care for them. To teach them. To guide them on how to be a light in such a dark city. Timothy was the right choice.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, can you all thank Paul for coming out here and helping us learn more about *his* travels but, more specifically, about his friend Timothy?”

Applause as Host exits.

“As you can imagine, leading the church in Ephesus wasn’t always easy for Timothy. Actually, Paul ended up writing Timothy a few instructions and some encouragement to help him grow as a leader. We have a couple of the letters Paul wrote to Timothy. They’re in the New Testament of our Bible—they’re called 1 and 2 Timothy. As you read the letters, it becomes clear that Timothy REALLY needed some encouragement. One of the reasons was because he was young, and it seemed that people in the church were not taking his leadership seriously. But check out what Paul wrote to him.”

Open the Bible to 1 Timothy 4:12 (NirV) and read.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure.”

“You see, for Timothy, he seems to have struggled a bit. He struggled to ignore the voices telling him that he was TOO young. That he wasn’t ready yet. That he should leave the important stuff to those who were older and better prepared. But Paul told Timothy—YOU’RE READY! You can make a difference now! Make a difference in what you say and how you live. Make a difference in the way you love and what you believe. Show everyone what it means to live the right way . . . not sometime in the future . . . but right NOW.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “I’m guessing that is a challenge for many of you as well. Maybe somebody has even told you that you’re too young to make a difference. But think about all of the ways Paul told Timothy he could make a difference. He could set an example with how he used his words.”

“You know, I bet if you thought about it, you could set an example for people in your life. You could set a good example to others with how to use words to build up rather than tear down. This isn’t a kid’s table situation. You don’t have to wait until later. You can do this right now!”

“Paul also told Timothy to set an example in how he lived. Do you have some people in your life who could use an example of what it means to live life the right way? With how you make wise choices in your life, you can help others see to make the wise choice in theirs. You can trust God no matter what and show others what it looks like to follow Jesus. This isn’t like waiting to drive a car when you’re a teenager; you can do this right now!”

“Finally, Paul told Timothy to set an example in how he loved. Do you have some people in your life who can use an example of what it looks like to love other people even when they are hard to love? How you treat others at school,



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on your sports teams, or even here at church can set an example of what it looks like to love as Jesus loved us. Again, you don't have to wait until later like waiting until you're old enough to have your own cell phone. You can do this . . . right now!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to Small Group, think about this:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How can you make a difference right now?" Think about how God has wired you. Timothy was a great teacher and leader, but you probably have different skills. Think about those then ask yourself about how you can use those skills and your personality to set an example for others in your family, in your neighborhood, or in your school. How can you make a difference right now? And if you're not quite sure yet, that's ok, too. You'll have a chance to talk more about this with your group. Before you head out, though, let's pray and thank God for creating us and giving a chance right now to make a difference. 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