



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reasons Why

Jesus' Mission Statement
Luke 4:14-24, 28-30

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What's your purpose in life?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Following Jesus means
caring about others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God."
Micah 6:8, NIV

HOST SUPPLIES

- Host
- Extra-long jump rope or rope

STORY SUPPLIES

- Item Box with your choice of items (See "What You Do")
- Room set up like an ancient Synagogue (See "What You Do")
- Nice chair for "Moses Seat"
- Step Stool (or small platform) for "bema"

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:

- HAPPY FEBRUARY
- COMPASSION Challenge
 - This month we are focused on being good neighbors and showing compassion to those around us.
 - Our challenge is for you to come back each week and share a story of COMPASSION with your leaders.
 - If we hear a great story of COMPASSION, we will share it from stage during the service.

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - Real Love & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do

Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & Graves Into Gardens

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Who You Say I Am

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Reasons Why
Jesus' Mission Statement
Luke 4:14-24, 28-30

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What's your purpose in life?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Following Jesus means caring about others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God."
Micah 6:8, NIV

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

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: "I am SO ready to sing and praise God with all of you.

AUDIO: THIS IS LIVING

AUDIO: WAY MAKER

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! Welcome to another month here at [Name of Environment]. Tell me, with a show of hands, have any of you ever been to a neighborhood block party? Food, fun, games, and all sorts of people who come together to be good friends and neighbors. This month as we discover what it means to live with others on our block, we have some block party games to kick off each week!"



WEEK
ONE
FEBRUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Now, when I think of block parties, I picture in my mind those old photographs of kids jumping rope in the street while the fire hydrants are shooting water. Classic, right? Well, I thought it’d be fun to see some of your rope jumping skills with a little game I like to call Jump Around the Block.”

SLIDE: JUMP AROUND THE BLOCK

Note: If your size of group does not allow for this game, you can do an alternate version with a jump roping competition in front (singles, pairs, all play line, etc.)

“I have an extra-long jump rope with me. You’ve probably played something like this out on the playground or in P.E. class, but here’s how it’ll work. I’ll stand in the middle of the room and get this thing swinging in a circle. As soon as I say go, I want you all to enter into the circle and begin to jump over the rope as it passes by. If the rope hits you, you are out. Just sit out to the side and we’ll get the rope started again. Let’s see how long we can last! Everyone understand? Great! Let’s do it!”

Kids start on the outside and then enter into circle once Host says go. Small Group Leaders can help spot who the rope hit. Play until there is a winner or for a set time.

HOST: “(After the game) Now that was some great jump roping! Well done!”



25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! Great to see you. I’m so excited to begin another month together. So, I brought this box with me, and I need some help. This box is filled with random items I have collected. I need volunteers to come up, choose an item, and explain what the item is used for—what is its purpose?”

Communicator calls up volunteers one by one and has them draw an item and explain its purpose. Provide commentary. Use as many volunteers as time or number of items allows. (See the Getting Ready section below for more ideas.)

Examples might include:

Sunglasses: Protect your eyes and help you see when it’s sunny outside

Watch: To help you tell time, arrive on-time, set an alarm, etc.

Picture Frame: To protect and display photographs

Pencil: Write something, do homework, etc.

Backpack: Carry school supplies, hiking supplies, extra clothes for a trip

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “The places where we live and go to school are filled with all sorts of objects that seem to have purpose. From the staple that keeps loose pages together to the pots and pans that keep our food warm. Most, if not all, of the items we can imagine have some sort of purpose.

“It’s one thing to think about objects we have. It’s another to think about people, specifically ourselves. Think about it for a moment. Have you ever thought about your own purpose? What you might want to do in the future? Maybe what you want to do right now? How can we discover what we’re supposed to do with our lives?

“That is a question people have been asking for thousands of years. It’s a question that doesn’t always have a clear answer, but we can discover something about our purpose as we read the Bible and discover what God has in mind for us through Jesus. Let’s head there now.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “We find the story of Jesus throughout the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament. Today, we head the book of Luke and find Jesus back in His hometown.”

“Now, before we get into the story, here’s a little background that can help us better understand what was happening here. First, the synagogue. Synagogues were meeting places for Jewish people. You would find them in every town or village that was big enough to have one. People would go to synagogue to worship together and to pray together. The synagogue was also a place of education, as kids would go to school there to learn the Bible. Others would go there to hear from rabbis. Synagogues were also social places—people would gather there and celebrate feasts and festivals.



25 MINUTES

“When it came to life in the synagogue, one of the busiest times of the week was the Sabbath, from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. The Sabbath service would often bring the whole village out, so the place would be packed. Check out this diagram of what synagogues looked like back in the first century.

SLIDE: SYNAGOGUE DIAGRAM

“As you’ve probably already noticed, the room is set up a bit differently today. This is actually set up to look a bit like a synagogue.

Go throughout the room and point to the different items that represent places in the synagogue.

“Here (*pointing*) we have the Moses seat, where the important reader of the day would sit. They would read from the Scriptures that day. Here (*pointing*) we would have the bema, which was a small raised platform where the Scriptures would be read from. Here (*pointing*) is the Torah closet. Back then people didn’t own their own copies of the Jewish Scriptures. How many of you have a Bible? (*Allow students to raise their hands.*) To hear someone read from the Scriptures, they’d have to go to the synagogue. The scrolls that contained the Scriptures were kept in that Torah closet. And lastly, I’ll just point out some seats. There were (*pointing*) chief seats for the priest’s wife and honored people within the community and floor seats for most everybody else.”

“Okay, that was a lot of setup, but it will be worth it. Let’s get into the story.”

Open the Bible to Luke 4:14-15 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit. News about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

“So Jesus was back in Galilee, and He was going from town to town, village to village, teaching in synagogues. Why? Because that’s where people gathered. Not only that, but the synagogue was also where you could find leaders who understood the Scriptures. Check it out.

Open the Bible to Luke 4:16 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. On the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue as he usually did. He stood up to read.

“Now this is not a long verse, but there is a LOT going on here. First, Jesus went back to His hometown, Nazareth. Next, it was the Sabbath day, that very special day when most if not all of the people from the village would be at the synagogue, including Jesus! But that wasn’t all. Luke shares that that Jesus stood up to read. Does anyone remember what we talked about earlier? Who gets to read in a synagogue? Right, only those who sit in Moses’ seat.

Walk over to Moses seat.

“Those who are honored and have been chosen by the synagogue leaders to lead that day.

Open the Bible to from Luke 4:17 (NirV) and read.



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me. He has anointed me to announce the good news to poor people. He has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners. He has sent me so that the blind will see again. He wants me to set free those who are treated badly. And he has sent me to announce the year when he will set his people free.

“Woah. Isaiah’s words were powerful because these words described actions the Messiah would fulfill one day. People had been wondering for a really long time just who would fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy and when it would happen. We can imagine that the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were glued on Jesus. They knew that the Scripture reader would often give some application of what He had just read.

“Well, Jesus did, in fact, have a teaching to give about the passage of Scripture He just read. Not very long, but definitely very important. He handed the scroll back to the attendant and sat down in front of everyone to teach. Listen to this!

Open the Bible to Luke 4:21 (NirV) and read.

“He began by saying to them, “Today this passage of Scripture is coming true as you listen.”

“Wait, WHAT? These were amazing promises—promises that could only be fulfilled by the Messiah, and Jesus basically said, ‘Get ready because it is happening!’ Jesus declared boldly that He is the One they had been waiting for, and that THIS was why He was here! He told them His purpose. And it might have surprised a few people that day. The Messiah would care for those who others often overlook—the people who are poor, imprisoned, hurting, and oppressed. Jesus was now here for them!

Walk back to center stage.

“At that point, the mood in the synagogue that day took quite a turn. Not only were the people upset that Jesus declared Himself the Messiah who would defend and protect the powerless, but they also became upset with what Jesus implied by His words. Jesus told two stories about Gentiles, or non-Jewish people being healed. In other words, Jesus shared that His mission was for everyone, Jews AND Gentiles, to be made right with God. To the people in the audience, Gentiles were outside of God’s plan. Jews wanted nothing to do with them. But here was Jesus saying that He was here to rescue them too! Well, this did not go over super well with the crowd. Okay, it was actually a disaster.

Open the Bible to Luke 4:28-30 (NirV) and read.

“All the people in the synagogue were very angry when they heard that. They got up and ran Jesus out of town. They took him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They planned to throw him off the cliff. But Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

“Well, that escalated quickly! The synagogue was thrilled to hear the message of Jesus . . . until they heard who the message of Jesus was for. But despite the reaction that day, Jesus made it clear that His purpose was to bring good news to EVERYONE!

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Jesus was willing to show compassion to those whom others would rather overlook or exclude. His purpose was to bring the good news to everyone, which He ultimately fulfilled by giving His life for everybody and then raising again to new life—a new life that is available to everyone.



WEEK
ONE
FEBRUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

“As followers of Jesus, we should be becoming more and more like the One we follow. So if we read about Jesus showing compassion to others, what does that mean for us? We should be showing compassion for others! And, if Jesus showed compassion for the ones that were often overlooked, what does that mean for us? Yeah! We should have compassion to them, too!

“Think about it. Who are the overlooked at your school? On your team? In your neighborhood? How can you be like Jesus by showing compassion to them?

“Maybe it looks like sharing an encouraging word or note with someone who is often overlooked. Maybe it looks like bringing a meal to someone in the neighborhood who is alone and sitting with them to talk. I don’t know what it looks like for you to show compassion, but I’m guessing that you are starting to think about it.

“For some of you, you might feel like the one Jesus was talking about. The one who feels overlooked and excluded from the group. If that’s you, I want you know that God sees you and knows your situation. God loves you and has a plan for your life. You’re not alone. You have a whole lot of kids in this room who’d love to hang out with you, including your amazing Small Group Leaders. Reach out to them; they’re here for you!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, as you head to Small Group think about this question:”

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION SLIDE

“What’s your purpose in life?” In other words, as you think about the way God created you, how can you live your lives with others in mind? How can you show Jesus’ love to others with how you treat them? If you’re not quite sure how you’d answer that question, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to talk about it in groups. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to rescue us and show us what compassion is all about. Let’s pray.”

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 THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP