



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Need Is a Miracle

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
John 6:1-13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you have that you can use to help others?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use what you have to help 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

HOST SUPPLIES

- Beach balls
- Round laundry baskets

STORY SUPPLIES

- Host
- Kid's lunch box
- Snacks for ALL preteens and leaders (possibly Goldfish)

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



WEEK
THREE

FEBRUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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: "Hey, everyone! There's nothing I love more than
being here with all of you and singing to God together.

AUDIO: *The Best Is Yet To Come*

AUDIO: *Graves Into Gardens*

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 happening, everyone? We've had so much fun so far this
month as we've discovered more about what it means to care for the people
in our neighborhoods. We have such a good day in store for you. And that
day starts with . . . another block party game! This one might just get a little
bit wild. I call it "Block Party Beach Ball Toss!"



WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

SLIDE: "BLOCK PARTY BEACH BALL TOSS"

"Here's how it works. I have some beach balls over here and some laundry baskets over there. This will be Small Groups vs. Small Groups. Each Small Group Leader will hold a laundry basket on the top of their head like this (*demonstrates*). Kids, your goal is to score a beach ball into your leader's laundry basket. Sounds easy, but remember—with multiple beach balls and multiple baskets, you'll be competing for beach balls! You'll have two minutes (*or however long you choose*) to score. At the end of the time, we will see the score and try with another set of groups. Everyone got it? Let's go!"

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

Depending on the number of kids and groups, decide how many groups will go at a time and how much time. Have leaders not in the game counting the number of baskets. At the end of the time, report the score and play with different groups.

HOST: "(After the game) Wow, that was some fantastic chaos!"



25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, friends! Glad to see you all here today! I have a question for you; it might feel random, but hang with me here. We’re headed somewhere with this. Okay, here’s the question: have you ever heard about a rescue story where someone uses something completely unexpected to do something pretty amazing to help someone? (See show of hands.) OK, a few of you. That’s cool.

Use the following story or choose one of your own.

“Well, back in 2016, this happened to a woman named Susan Robbins. She was driving along and her car slid on some ice on a New Hampshire highway. Her car crashed and she was left unconscious. Even worse, her car’s engine compartment started a fire. Passing motorists called 911, but the fire threatened Robbins’ life. That’s when Mark Hickey stopped on the side of the road and sprang into action to put out the fire. First, he tried to put out the fire with spare clothing but couldn’t reach the flames. So he created a fire extinguisher with another item he had in his truck—a 2-liter of Coke. He really shook up the bottle (*acting out*) and opened the cap slowly, creating a spray stream of foamy soda. Low and behold, the fire went out! He stayed with Robbins until help arrived.

“A fire extinguisher out of a 2-liter soda? Now, that is pretty resourceful! You might be asking, why did [Name of Communicator] share this random story. Sure, it’s cool, but what does a 2-liter soda bottle fire extinguisher have to do with what we’re talking about today?

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Well, glad you asked! Here’s the thing: we might never extinguish a car fire with a soda bottle, but let’s be honest—that could have ended really badly. But we will have times in our lives when we will face situations when someone needs help. We might look at the situation and want to help but not know where to start. It might cause us to give up, but what if we looked at the situation differently? What if we got creative and realized that what we have is exactly what someone else needs and could make a huge difference in their life?

“People have been asking these sorts of questions for thousands of years. In fact, it’s that sort of question that Jesus’ own disciples wondered in our story today. Let’s head there now.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “We are back in the Gospels. The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament. The authors of the Gospels wanted people like us to know more about Jesus, why He came, and how we can follow Him. Today we’re in the Gospel of John.

“Now, as you dig into the Gospels, one of the things you start to notice is how Jesus was often surrounded by crowds of people. These crowds of people didn’t necessarily all believe in Jesus or want to really be His follower. Some were, for sure! But many were just hanging around because they were waiting for Him to do something miraculous. Others, like some of the religious leaders, had bad motives for following Jesus. They were just waiting to catch Jesus saying or doing the wrong thing in order to get Him in trouble. People chose to follow Jesus for all sorts



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

of reasons, but the reality was the same . . . the crowds were getting bigger. And sometimes, as we'll see today, those crowds were in need.

"Let's jump into our story! Check this out in John, chapter 6.

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

"Some time after this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. It is also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd of people followed him. They had seen the signs he had done by healing sick people. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside. There he sat down with his disciples.

"Okay, so Jesus was up by the Sea of Galilee. He and His 12 disciples were able to get into a boat to cross over to the other side. Of course, the huge crowds didn't fit into a boat. But that didn't stop the crowds. While Jesus and His disciples rowed across the sea, the crowds walked AROUND the sea to catch up with them! That was some commitment! So Jesus and His disciples went and sat, but they could see the crowds making their way to them.

"Now, do you ever have those moments when you have just been around people for a long time . . . maybe at school or at a sporting event, and it's nice to just get away from the crowds and be alone? I think Jesus and the disciples might have been experiencing a moment like that. The crowds had been around constantly, and the other side of the lake was supposed to be a little more peaceful. But not when the crowds followed them around!

"I wonder how Jesus will react. Maybe Jesus and His disciples will hide behind a log or run hoping the crowds don't see them. Let's keep reading.

Open the Bible to John 6:5-6 (NIRV) and read.

"Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do.

"Jesus' reaction was to get food! He started asking the disciples about finding food for the crowds! Philip was probably a little bit stunned.

Open the Bible to John 6:7 NIRV) and read.

"Philip answered him, "Suppose we were able to buy enough bread for each person to have just a bite. That would take more than half a year's pay!"

"Okay, either this was a really big crowd . . . or these people took BIG bites! Philip said: 'Jesus, we don't have money to feed them!'

"Before we go further, I need a volunteer.

Communicator chooses a male volunteer and brings him up on stage.

"(To volunteer) Hey there! This is for you. (Hands volunteer a lunch box) Don't open it yet. Let's keep reading and it will explain more.



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to John 6:8-9 (NirV) and read.

“Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He said, “Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?”

“Okay, so this was a little comical at first. Philip had said there was no way they could afford to feed the crowds. So Andrew’s (air quotes) ‘solution’? Let’s use this kid’s food!

Communicator takes the lunch box from the volunteer and carefully opens it so that it doesn’t reveal all of the extra cutouts.

“(To volunteer) Pretty good meal today! You got five small loaves (takes out paper cutouts and shows everyone) and two small fish (takes out two paper cutouts and holds them up). Got any cookies or anything? (Looking around) I’m just kidding . . . unless you do have cookies. I’ll take that as a no . . . (whispers to volunteer) but I’ll take one if you do.

“Now, it doesn’t really say when we read the story, but I always wonder how this kid’s meal came into the story. Did Andrew just happen to see him and volunteer his food? Did the kid happen to overhear the disciples talking and offered it up? Regardless, this was what they had to work with.

Communicator holds up the cutouts.

“Can you imagine what the disciples must have been thinking? Maybe they were expecting Jesus to pull out a knife and some toothpicks and make a VERY large platter of bread and fish bites . . . like grocery store samples or something.

“Let’s keep reading.”

Open the Bible to John 6:10 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. About 5,000 men were there.

“What? Did you catch that? I don’t know how big you imagined the crowd to be. John tells us there were 5,000 men there—that doesn’t even include any women and children who might have been there. Who knows? There could have been like 10,000 people! They would not have enough toothpicks! But things were about to get interesting.

Open the Bible to John 6:11 (NirV) and read.

“Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

“Did you catch that? Let’s see if we can capture this here. (To volunteer) Help me out please.

Communicator holds up the cutouts and puts them back in the lunch box, not revealing all of the other cutouts.

“Jesus gave thanks and then He started passing out the bread to the people. (To volunteer, handing them a cutout) Here, hand this to someone. (Reaching in and taking another) And this. And this. And this.



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Communicator keeps passing bread cutouts to the volunteer to hand out. The number will far exceed the original five, hopefully enough for everyone in the room.

“Wow. That’s a lot of bread. Let’s try the fish. (To volunteer) Here, pass out some fish.

Communicator keeps reaching into the lunch box and handing fish to the volunteer to pass out.

Open the Bible to John 6:12-13 (NIRV) and read.

“When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. “Gather the leftover pieces,” he said. “Don’t waste anything.” So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

“Did you hear that? Leftovers! When Jesus does a miracle. Jesus REALLY does a miracle!

“Can everybody thank our volunteer!

Volunteer sits.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “This story is pretty incredible, miraculous even, but if you think about it, outside of the miracle, this story would be very different without the boy. I think Jesus knew this too. The disciples probably laughed at Andrew’s suggestion to use such a small amount of bread and fish, but Jesus was able to use what He had—what the boy had—to help others.

“That day, many people saw the power of Jesus through His compassion on the crowds. Jesus could have simply just sent the crowds away or said, ‘They’re not My problem.’ But His compassion was evident to all as He provided for them. This act of compassion allowed them to stay and hear Jesus’ teachings rather than have to leave and go to town to search for food.

“I am guessing that at your age, it can be easy to think that you don’t have much to offer to help others. It may be tempting to just say, ‘I’ll help others later when I have more.’ But imagine if the boy in the story had thought the same way. There are so many ways that God can take what small amount we have to offer and do something pretty amazing with it. You don’t have to wait until you are older to help others. You can use what you have right here and now!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this.

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“What do you have that you can use to help others? Let’s get really practical. Think about what you have, your talents or gifts, anything really. What you have might not feel like a lot, but just imagine what God could do with what you can offer. If you’re not sure how you’d answer that question, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to chat about this with your Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us figure out what we have that can be used to help others. Let’s pray.



WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

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