



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Do Something

Jesus Heals a Man Who Could Not Walk / Four Friends
Luke 5:17-26

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who do you know who needs help?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work together to help someone in need.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Two people are better than one.
They can help each other in everything they do.
Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Cooperation—Working together to do more than you can do alone

HOST SUPPLIES

- Host
- Two Small Groups

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Two Small Groups
- Heavy Blanket or Quilt

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 MARCH
- Preteen Camp - 4th and 5th graders - June 24-26
- Jr High Camp - 6th graders - June 27-July 1
 - Sign up SOON... you'll get a flier when you leave today
- PRETEEN GUYS Hang - Game Truck Day
 - Guys ONLY
 - INVITE FRIENDS
 - Sunday April 10th, 12-2p
 - Bring \$5 for playing games and pizza
 - Bring extra for Snack Shack if you want

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



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SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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: *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 (Turning Red), a viral video on YouTube, holiday (National Panda Day, St. Patrick's Day, Certified Nurses Day, National Chocolate Caramel Day, National Corn Dog Day, National Ravioli Day, World Down Syndrome Day), 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 up, everyone? You know, in life only a few things get me really excited. The list includes a good jam on the radio with the windows down on a nice spring morning, a rocking concert with my buddies, AND seeing all of you in [Name of Environment] each week! Thanks for being here.

"How about you? Raise your hand if you love a good song? (Pause for response.) Me too! Raise your hand if you think you are good at hearing a song and immediately knowing what song it is? (Pause for response.)



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Nice! Any small groups out there who are pretty good at naming songs want to try your hand at a brand-new game? *(Pause for response.)*

*Host selects two small groups to come on stage and compete.
Direct the small groups to stand on either side of the host.*

“Thanks for joining me on the stage for this super simple game I like to call MUSICAL MAYHEM.

SLIDE: “MUSICAL MAYHEM”

“Here’s how it works. All your small group must do is be the first to identify the music playing. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Excellent. I need both groups to sit down on the stage. *(Allow groups to sit.)* To guess the song, your ENTIRE group must be the first group to stand up! Wait until I call on your group BEFORE you say the name of the song. The group with the most points after three rounds wins all the glory and praise that comes with the prestigious title of MUSICAL MAYHEM CHAMPION! The first round is worth one million points! Alright—enough talking! Let’s play round one.

AUDIO: UPBEAT SONG #1

Play one simple song that would be easy for your kids to identify. Host stops music before calling on a group to identify the song. Host allows first group to stand to guess the name of the song.

“Great job! I feel like the first round was a little too easy for a game called MUSICAL MAYHEM. Let’s make round two a little more difficult by playing two songs at the same time. If your group can only identify one song, it’s worth one million points. But if you can identify both songs, it’s worth three million points! Let’s play round two.

AUDIO: UPBEAT SONGS #2/3

Host facilitates round two. If one group can only identify one song, allow the other group to name the other. If both groups identify one song, they each get one million points.

“That was harder than I was expecting. Great effort by both groups. In the final round, we will again play two songs at the same time. However, the final round should be worth more points! Identifying one song is worth two million points but naming both will give your team four million points! Let’s play the final round!

AUDIO: UPBEAT SONGS #4/5

Host facilitates the final round. Host can manipulate the points of the final round to avoid a tie or to give the losing team a chance to win.

“Wow! That was incredible! Both teams worked hard together to name the songs during the chaos. Congrats to both Small Groups! Let’s give a round of applause for both groups! *(Pause for response.)* BUT there can be only one group crowned the MUSICAL MAYHEM CHAMPION! Let’s go a little bit crazier for our champs as all our volunteers take a seat!

Host directs all volunteers to take a seat.



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

25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hello, everybody! Thanks so much for being here at [Name of Environment]! Let's have a show of hands: who likes to have fun? *(Pause for response.)* Yeah, of course! Most everyone enjoys a good time every once and a while, but what people enjoy and how they define 'fun' can be different from person to person, can't it?"

"I'm sure we'd hear all sorts of different answers to a question like this: What do you like to do for fun with your friends? Just think about it. Don't answer out loud quite yet. First, I need a brave Small Group come on stage to do some acting. Any willing Small Groups? *(Pause for response.)* Awesome! Come on up!"

Communicator calls up a small group to the stage.

(To the small group on stage) "Thank you for joining me on the stage. In a moment, we'll hear about some of the activities the rest of these groups enjoy doing with their friends. Our audience comes from different homes and schools with different families and friends and different interests and talents. This means they will enjoy doing a variety of endeavors. Regardless of their favorite activity, I need you to act out each activity in five seconds or less. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Excellent!"

(To the audience) "Now for the rest of you, hopefully you've had a chance to think about the sorts of things you love doing with your friends. Let's hear them. Raise your hands, and I'll call on a few people. If someone already says the activity you love to do, think of a different activity. Raise your hand to tell us your favorite activity to play or do with friends."

Communicator allows kids to share. Direct the small group on stage to react quickly to the activity mentioned. The group can either act out a scene or all do the same task at the same time. If communicator wants to have additional groups on stage, send the small group off the stage for acting out the activity "too slowly."

"Well, that was fun! Let's give a warm round of applause for all our volunteers who acted out the activities with such enthusiasm!"

Communicator dismisses volunteers back to their seats.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "I love hearing all the sports, games, and adventures you enjoy with your friends. Now, think with me for a moment. When you're participating in those activities and having a blast, what are you thinking about? During the times you are running up the soccer field, jumping on the trampoline, or walking into the movie theater with your friends, what is going through your head?"

"If you are anything like me, more than likely you're thinking about how much fun YOU are having. YOU are not wanting the activity to end. YOU don't want the other team to win. Yes, more than likely, it's all about YOU."

"It's only natural that we think about ourselves, but in those moments, do you ever wonder about the other people



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

with you? Do you think about how they're enjoying what you're doing? How they're feeling about the game or project? Or maybe even, do you wonder if someone you're with has a need?

"When we are with our friends, seeing the needs of those around us doesn't always get top priority. Many times we are simply oblivious to the needs of those around us because we are having a great time with those friends. This is what makes this one story we are going to explore so remarkable. How should our friend groups respond when we see a need we just might be able to meet? That's the question we get to explore today as we look at a really incredible moment from Jesus' life.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "If you've spent any time in [Name of Environment], you've heard us talk a lot about Jesus. During the time of this story, Jesus was in a small town in Galilee. It's important for everyone to understand Jesus is not just any normal man. Jesus is the Son of God. He spent time showing people who God is, helping those in need, and teaching us what it means to be fully alive. As Jesus traveled from town to town, He gathered quite a following of people eager to hear Him teach or see Him make impossible things possible.

"As Jesus made His way through this small town, He stopped at a home where He began teaching. When word got out that Jesus was in town, people came from miles and miles around for the chance to see Him and possibly be healed. The house was packed! We can imagine wall-to-wall people spilling out of the front door! There wasn't a chance that anyone else would get inside. But this is the point in our story where things got exciting . . .

"Before we find out though, I need a Small Group that can show us a bit of what happened next. Any Small Groups interested? *(Pause for response.)*

Communicator calls up a Small Group to the stage. Try to select a group that has not already come to the stage. Communicator separates one kid from the selected Small Group to stand on the opposite side of the stage from their peers and to sit on the quilt/blanket on the ground.

"Now, imagine this small group lived in the same town Jesus was visiting in Galilee. I like to imagine this group as close friends who loved to hang out together and have fun! I picture them having high-jumping contests.

Communicator pauses to allow the Small Group to demonstrate.

"I can imagine them spending time fishing.

Communicator pauses to allow the Small Group to demonstrate.

"Who knows? Maybe they even raced camels.

Communicator pauses to allow the Small Group to demonstrate.

"OK, probably not that last one. *(Beat)* Regardless, this group of friends saw another one of their friends in need. They had a friend who was unable to walk. He laid on a mat, and if there was any chance for Jesus to heal their friend, they had to take action. Together, they CAREFULLY picked the man up using the mat.

Communicator pauses to allow the Small Group to carefully pick up the kid on the quilt or blanket.



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"Then, the group carried the man all the way to the house where Jesus was visiting.

Communicator pauses to allow the group to carefully carry the volunteer off the stage and into the crowd. Note: If your stage is high off the ground, consider placing the quilt or blanket off to the side of the room instead of on stage.

"But the group ran into a problem.

Open the Bible to Luke 5:18b-19a (NIRV) and read.

"They tried to take him into the house to place him in front of Jesus. They could not find a way to do this because of the crowd.

"You can imagine how the group must have tried so hard to get into the house so the man could be with Jesus. Maybe they begged and pleaded for the crowd to clear a path for them. But even if the crowd wanted to help, there were so many people. No one was getting through that door.

"At this point, most people would have considered giving up or leaving the man outside the house. But not this group of friends. They decided to do something crazy.

"They carried the man on the mat onto the roof.

Communicator pauses to allow the group to carefully carry the volunteer back onto the stage.

"Once on the roof, the friends got on their hands and knees and started to dig a hole in the roof.

Communicator pauses to allow the Small Group to demonstrate.

"In Luke 5:19, we find out what happens next.

Open the Bible to Luke 5:19b (NIRV) and read.

"Then they lowered the man on his mat through the opening in the roof tiles. They lowered him into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

"It was in this moment Jesus first laid eyes on the man who was unable to walk. Jesus told the man,"

Open the Bible to Luke 5:20 (NIRV) and read.

"Friend, your sins are forgiven."

"Woah. When the religious leaders heard Jesus' words, they were furious. The Pharisees believed no one could forgive a person's sins except God alone! They didn't believe that Jesus is the Son of God and had that power. But check out what Luke tells us:



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Open the Bible to Luke 5:22-24 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’? Or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he spoke to the man who could not walk. “I tell you,” he said, “get up. Take your mat and go home.” “Then the man stood up on his own two legs, grabbed his mat, and walked home!”

Communicator pauses to allow the one volunteer demonstrate. Communicator then directs the rest of the Small Group to go back to their seats.

“Let’s give a round of applause for all of our volunteers!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “As I sit here and think back on this story, I can’t help but be amazed. This story was about a man who was unable to work or live an independent life. The man lying on the mat needed Jesus for healing. God used some friends to go above and beyond to make sure their friend did not miss his chance to be seen by Jesus. Through the power of God and the help of a few friends, the man who could not walk was now able to jump, fish, or race camels!

“Jesus had the power to heal this man’s need to walk, but Jesus also saw the man had a different kind of need! It’s the same need each one of us has as well. The man needed to be forgiven of his sins. Jesus lovingly provided both healing and forgiveness.

“It’s important to point out that Jesus is the Son of God who also offers forgiveness of our sins. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, because Jesus rose back to life, our sins can be forgiven and we can have a renewed and forever relationship with God!

“This story shows us what it looks like to work together to help others around us. Whether we know it or not, there are needs everywhere. In our neighborhoods. At the park. In our schools. Maybe at your home. Sometimes the needs can be overwhelming, but you don’t have to do it alone. God provides us with friends and community to work with us to help others around us!

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “For some, it may be difficult to see the needs. As we wrap up and prepare for small groups, think on this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“Who do you know who needs help?” Ask God to give you the eyes to spot ways to help others! Then ask God to surround you with courageous friends who will work together to make the world a better place! Let’s pray and ask God to help us see the needs of others!”

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: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP