



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and
Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

HOST

- Balloon for the Host (filled with air and tied)
- Balloons, one for each kid plus extras—already filled with air but NOT tied (see "What You Do"); you'll need a different color of balloons for each small group
- Glow stick (to match the ones in the Bible story)

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible, pre-marked at the passages the Leaders will need to read (see script)
- Glow sticks (unbroken, one per person in the room plus several for the Storyteller)—or you could use finger lights or any other small light source
- Rubber bands or other supplies to bundle the glow sticks (one bundle per small group)
- A way to dim the lights (see "What You Do")

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

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **HAPPY MAY**
- **RESILIENCE** Getting back up when something gets you down
 - All month long, we will be focusing on the message of **RESILIENCE**
 - For **HOSTS** and **COMMUNICATORS**, please be ready to share your own stories of **RESILIENCE** while
- **SERVE DAY** coming up May 14th
 - 2 spots to fill - plenty of family and kid-friendly projects
 - **Promo Vid**
- **SUMMER CAMP** for 3rd grade - Still time to sign up
- **LAUNCH** happens May 22... so we'll say goodbye to 3rd grade and hello to a new group of Kindergarteners

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & The Blessing
Week 2 - Let Go & There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
Week 3 - This is Living & Graves Into Gardens
Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Who You Say I Am
Week 5 - Real Love & Waymaker



WEEK
ONE
MAY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Start Spreading the News

Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."
Isaiah 40:31, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Resilience—Getting back up when something gets you down

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 KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: *Never Gonna Stop Singing*

AUDIO: *The Blessing*

Host enters, holding an inflated balloon.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here at [your environment's name]."

"Isn't it fun to bounce a balloon? (*Demonstrate.*) I can bounce it in the air... or even against a wall... then it bounces right back. That's something we can do, too. Sometimes things don't go our way, and it feels like life knocks us down. But just like this balloon, we can bounce back! (*Bounce the balloon.*)"

"That's what we're talking about this month—bouncing back. We can do that with something called 'resilience.'"

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP



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“Resilience is getting back up when something gets you down.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

“You see, you and I can be resilient when we trust God and believe that God is always with us!

(Reference the balloon.) “One of my favorite things to do with a balloon like this one is blow it up, let it go, and watch it fly around the room. Does anybody else like to do that? *(Pause.)* Great! Well, you’re in luck. Because for our game today, each of you will get a chance to fly your own balloon!

“Each small group will have a different color.

Reference the pre-inflated balloons, which should be sealed shut with binder clips or balloon clips but NOT tied.

Take a balloon to the wall so you can demonstrate.

“One group at a time, you’ll take a balloon and line up with the rest of your group against the wall. Be sure that the backs of your feet are touching the wall, okay? On the count of three, you’ll release your balloon like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Your whole group will let your balloons fly at the same time, and we’ll see whose balloon can fly the farthest!

“At the very end . . . after ALL groups have had a turn . . . we’ll take a look and see which color balloon made it the farthest of all. The group with that color is the winner!

“Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Let’s go!

Call up one small group, making sure each kid picks up a balloon in their group’s color and knows how to release it when the time comes. Have the group line up against the wall, then count to three and let the kids release their balloons. For each group, comment on how far the farthest balloon traveled.

Do this same process with all small groups, one group at a time, giving each group a different color of balloon.

At the very end, find the balloon that traveled the farthest and congratulate the small group that had that color!

“That was SO fun! Thanks for playing along.



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! As [Host's name] told you, this month we're talking about how God can help us live with resilience.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

"Resilience is getting back up when something gets you down.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

"Today, we're looking at a time when some people REALLY needed resilience. (*Hold up Bible.*) We're looking at what happened with Jesus' disciples in the very earliest days of the church. Remember, the disciples were some of Jesus' closest friends. Jesus had invited them to follow Him and learn from Him.

"Today, we'll represent Jesus' disciples with these glow sticks.

Hold up a few unbroken glow sticks, fanned out so they're all visible.

"The disciples left everything behind to follow Jesus, because they believed that He really is the Son of God. They thought that Jesus would take over and become king of Israel.

Gather up the glow sticks in your hand.

"But during the Passover week, Judas betrayed Jesus, and Jesus was arrested. He was nailed to a cross, where He died. We can imagine how sad and disappointed Jesus' followers must have been.

"But God was still at work. God raised Jesus from the dead! And over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to around 500 of His friends at different times. He walked with them, ate with them, and talked with them."

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

STORYTELLER: (*Hold up Bible.*) "In the book of Matthew, we can read about a time Jesus met His friends on a mountain in Galilee.

Again, hold up the glow sticks, fanned out so they're all visible.

"When the disciples saw Jesus, they worshipped Him. Listen to what Jesus said to them. Can one of our leaders read it for me?"

Hand the Bible to a Small Group Leader and have them read Matthew 28:18-20 (NIRV).



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LEADER: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."*

STORYTELLER: *"Thanks, [leader's name]! Wow. Make disciples of ALL nations! Basically, Jesus told His closest followers to help other people ALL AROUND THE WORLD to become followers of Jesus, too! That's a big job, don't you think? But Jesus told the disciples, 'You can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.'"*

(Hold up Bible.) "In the book of Acts, we also read about a meal Jesus shared with His friends, when He reminded them that they would never be alone. He told them to wait for God's Holy Spirit. Would another leader like to read what Jesus said?"

Hand the Bible to another leader and have them read Acts 1:4 (NIRV).

LEADER: *"'Do not leave Jerusalem,' he said. 'Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"*

STORYTELLER: *"Thanks, [leader's name]. And Jesus went on to say this."*

Point to Acts 1:8 (NIRV) and have the same leader read it.

LEADER: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other."*

STORYTELLER: *"There it is again—Jesus said that His friends would tell others about Him, from one end of the earth to the other! They would be able to do this with the help of the Holy Spirit."*

Gather up the glow sticks in your hand.

"After Jesus said those things, He was taken up to Heaven. (Raise your hands in the air.) Suddenly, there were two men in white clothing standing next to them."

Open the Bible to Acts 1:11 (NIRV) and read.

"'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.'"

"Wow! I can't even imagine what it would have been like to see that happen!"

THE HELPER COMES

STORYTELLER: *"Jesus wanted His friends to tell the whole world about Him. And they wanted to tell everyone the good news! But they waited in Jerusalem, like Jesus had told them. All the believers were gathered in one place for the day of Pentecost. Soon, they discovered how Jesus would give them His power. Listen to this."*

Open the Bible to Acts 2:2-4 (NIRV) and read.



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“Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.

“Wow! God had given the Holy Spirit to the believers—just like Jesus had said!

LIGHTS: SLIGHTLY DIM

One by one, break the glow sticks representing the disciples so they start to glow.

“God was preparing the people who believed in Jesus to go and tell the whole world about Him.”

3,000 BELIEVERS

STORYTELLER: “Jerusalem was filled with Jewish people from many different nations who had traveled there for the festival of Pentecost. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to speak in languages they had never learned before.

Hold up one glow stick above the others to represent Peter.

“Peter began to speak to the crowd. He told them how Jesus had died on the cross, then came back to life. He told the people . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 2:38 (NIRV) and read.

“All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“Because of Peter’s message, through the power of God’s Spirit, three THOUSAND people believed in Jesus and were baptized that day!

Pick up the bundles of glow sticks. As you talk, give a bundle to each Small Group Leader.

“I’ve got glow sticks for all of you, so we can imagine what it was like for all those people to put their faith in Jesus. I don’t think we quite have 3,000 people today, but we can imagine what it was like as people heard about Jesus and began to believe!

“Leaders, you can pass out a glow stick to each person in your group. Everyone, when you get a glow stick, break it like this (*demonstrate with one in your hand*) . . . and hold it up high so everyone can see!”

LIGHTS: MORE DIM, OR OFF

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Wow! That looks so amazing! As you can see, through the power of God’s Spirit, the early church in Jerusalem grew quickly. Lots and lots of people believed, and the good news of Jesus spread.



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“The believers shared their lives, studied, worshipped, and ate together. They knew that the power of God’s Spirit could carry them through anything!”

“Here’s the really cool part. God is with US today, just like the early believers. God can help you bounce back when you have to face tough things. You can find that kind of resilience when you remember one simple thing.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“God is always with you.

“It’s true! God is with you—through the good times and the tough times in life. And we know that **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what. Let’s pray.**”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for never, ever leaving us alone. You gave us Jesus, and You gave us your Holy Spirit to be with us always. When we have to go through something tough, please help us remember that You are always with us. Help us trust You and find our strength in You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Note: If time allows, consider doing another worship song here. That way the kids can sing a song with the lights dimmed while holding up their glow sticks.



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CLOSER

LIGHTS: UP

Host enters, holding a (lit) glow stick, as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “It’s so cool to think that we’re part of something that happened so long ago, as the good news about Jesus started to spread. The news kept spreading for thousands of years—and now here WE are, talking about Jesus and following Him today!

“Back then, it must have seemed almost impossible for the disciples to imagine telling the whole world about Jesus. I mean, they didn’t have the internet or phones or cars! But Jesus promised them something important. Remember? He said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 28:20 (NIRV) and read.

‘You can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.

“The disciples had been through so much already, and this big job Jesus had given them wasn’t going to be easy. But they wouldn’t have to face those challenges alone. And the work they began is still going strong today!

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“This is true for you right now, just like it was for the early believers in the church.

“God is always with you.

“Sometimes things in your life can seem almost impossible. You might be worried about school. Or maybe something tough is happening in your family. You might feel out of control, and you don’t know what’s going to happen next. You don’t have to face those hard things alone, because **God is always with you.**

“A great way to remember that is with our memory verse for this month, Isaiah 40:13.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

“But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak. (Isaiah 40:31, NIRV)

“That’s SO good! Let’s head to Small Group and talk some more about how we can trust God—because God is always with us. Be sure to keep track of your glow stick!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP