



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Raise Me Up
Lazarus Raised
John 11:1-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Whatever happens, remember
how powerful God is.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens, remember
how powerful God is.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

In this world you will have
trouble. But be encouraged!
I have won the battle over
the world.
John 16:33b, NIV

HOST SUPPLIES

- Index cards; one for each small group
- Pens or pencils; one for each small group

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Two pieces of foam board large enough the puzzles to be completed on top.
- Two puzzles

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 APRIL
- HOPE
 - All month long, we will be focusing on the message of HOPE
 - HOPE: Believing that something good can come out of something bad
 - For HOSTS and COMMUNICATORS, please be ready to share your own stories of HOPE while
- Preteen Guys Hang Event: GAME TRUCK APRIL 10th
- Preteen Girls Hang Event: Mom/Daughter Paint Party May 1st
- SUMMER CAMPS - Still time to sign up
- EASTER INVITE CHALLENGE - VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Graves Into Gardens
Week 2 - Never Gonna Stop Singing
Easter - TBD
Week 4 - Let Go & Who You Say I Am



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Raise Me Up
Lazarus Raised
John 11:1-45

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.
John 16:33b, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

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: GRAVES INTO GARDENS

AUDIO:

Host enters . . .

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host enters. 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 (World Autism Awareness, National Library Week, National Wildlife Week, National Walking Day), a big sports game, movie opening (*Sonic the Hedgehog 2*), 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 am so excited for another month here at [Name of Environment]. Let's kick off the month of April right with a little challenge that will test your skills of observation. How many of you used to rule those 'search and finds' or word searches in school when you were younger? Yeah, me too! Well, we have a 'search and find' to top them all. But we think you're all pretty smart, so we're NOT giving you the words ahead of time. OK.



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Small Groups, get together. When the slide comes on the screen, write down as many of the words you can find. There are NINE specific words we are looking for you to find. You'll have two minutes to see how many you can find. Let's see who can get them all."

Small groups get together. Each group needs an index card and pencil.

"Okay, be sure not to yell the answers out loud. And here comes the slide. And go!"

SLIDE: SEARCH AND FIND BLANK
AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

After two minutes, call stop to reveal answers.

"Alright, let's see if anyone got all nine. Cheer if you got this first answer."

SLIDE: ANSWER #1: SICK (HIGHLIGHTED)

Go through the rest of the answers with the Small Groups.

- SLIDE: ANSWER #2: LAZARUS**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #3: SISTERS**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #4: JESUS**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #5: TOMB**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #6: RISE**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #7: BELIEVE**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #8: WEPT**
- SLIDE: ANSWER #9: OUT**

"Did any groups get ALL nine? (Pause for response) Awesome job, everyone. Looking at those words, I'm pretty sure we'll see them all a bit later.



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, friends! Great to see you. I'm so excited to begin another month together. Let's start with a challenge. I need some volunteers. Can I get eight people?"

Choose volunteers and put them into two groups of four. As they're coming up, take the two sheets of foam board and place one on each side of the stage. Have each group gather around a sheet of foam-board that you have placed on the ground.

"Alright . . . now how many of you like puzzles? But are you fast at puzzles? I have two very similar puzzles in these boxes. When I say go, open up the box and work as a group to assemble the puzzle as quickly as possible, based on the picture on the front. The first team to complete it, put your hands in the air and yell 'Done!' I'll come and check it out. Pretty easy right?"

Communicator hands out puzzle box to each team of four. One of the puzzles is normal, while the other has a box with paint all over the picture.

"And . . . GO!"

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

The two teams work. One team will struggle based on not being able to see the picture. Keep encouraging them to try. Once the first group is done, stop.

"Alright, aaaaaand stop. Great job, everyone! We do have a winner here. This group was able to put their puzzle together MUCH faster."

The other group will probably start to argue or explain.

"What was the problem? Why was that so difficult?"

Debrief a little, allowing them to share that they couldn't see the picture so they didn't know what they were trying to create. After debrief, have both groups sit down.

"For sure. Without the picture, you hardly know where to start. You can't tell where the pieces go. It takes forever to see how the pieces fit together to form a recognizable image."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "This happens if we're creating a puzzle without a guide. But have you ever felt that way in life? Hear me out. Throughout our lives sometimes we face moments that make no sense at all. They can be big things like all that's happened these past two or three years with COVID-19. Or not-as-big things like not doing as well on a test you thought you'd get an 'A' on. While we're experiencing them, we have no idea how they fit into the



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022



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

25 MINUTES

bigger picture of our lives. When we can't see the bigger picture, we may start to feel like the situation is hopeless. We feel lost or confused. We may get frustrated or even angry. We might have no clue what to do next and have a whole lot of questions. When we face situations like this and don't know where to turn, we should remember that we're not alone. Lots of people feel this way, even people we read about in the Bible. When we read their stories, we can learn from their experience and how it can help us in ours. Let's head to one story that has a lot to do with unexpected situations that are hard to understand.

TRUTH
COMMUNICATOR: "We find ourselves in the one of the Gospels today. The Gospels are the first books of the New Testament. The authors of the Gospels tell us all about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Now, as many of you already know, Jesus had close followers He called disciples, who were kind of like students. Jesus was also close to those He considered friends, like one particular family that lived just outside of Jerusalem in a town called Bethany. This is where our story begins. Let's check out what the Gospel author, John, says about Jesus' friends."

Open the Bible to John 11:1 (NirV) and read.

"A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived."

"So here we are introduced to the family. There were two sisters . . ."

SLIDE: ANSWER #3: SISTERS

"Mary and Martha. They had a brother named . . . (Pause for response.)"

SLIDE: ANSWER #2: LAZARUS

"Lazarus, right. And from the very start of the story, we learn something about Lazarus. What is that? (Pause for response.)"

SLIDE: ANSWER #1: SICK

"Lazarus was sick. John doesn't tell us why or how, but it definitely seems like Lazarus was in really bad shape. Mary and Martha weren't sure what to do. So do you know who they sent for?"

SLIDE: ANSWER #4: JESUS

"Right! In their moment of need, they could only think of one Person to call on. Check this out."

Open the Bible to John 11:3 (NirV) and read.

"So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. "Lord," they told him, "the one you love is sick."

"But then something a little strange happened. Check this out."

Open the Bible to John 11:4-7 (NirV) and read.



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022



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

25 MINUTES

“When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory. God’s Son will receive glory because of it.” Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So after he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. And then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

“Let’s just pause the story for a moment. Does anything seem a little strange about that to you? Before we answer that, notice that it says that Jesus LOVED this family. Certainly, He wanted to help them and ease the pain they were feeling. But after hearing Lazarus was sick, Jesus waited two more days. He didn’t go right away. Unfortunately, those two days made a big difference. Jesus and His disciples went to see Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.”

Open the Bible to John 11:17 (NIRV) and read.

“When Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.”

“Wait, what? Tomb!”

SLIDE: ANSWER #5: TOMB

“What is the reason Lazarus would be in a tomb? (Pause for responses.) Right, he had died. This sickness was quite serious, yet Jesus was not there in time to help. This is one of those moments we talked about earlier. It doesn’t make sense. It’s confusing why Jesus wouldn’t have tried to make it to Lazarus in time to help him. Turns out the sisters experienced this, too.

Open the Bible to John 11:20-22 (NIRV) and read.

“When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.”

“Martha was honest with Jesus and shared what she was feeling. But it turned out that Jesus knew something that Martha didn’t. Listen to this.”

Open the Bible to John 11:23 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

SLIDE: ANSWER #6: RISE

“Martha agreed, because she believed she would see her brother again . . . someday. But Jesus didn’t just mean someday. He made a bold statement to Martha . . .”

Open the Bible to John 11:25-26 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?””

SLIDE: ANSWER #7: BELIEVE



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022



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

25 MINUTES

“Jesus declared that He had power over death and that life was found through believing in Him. This was probably quite confusing to Martha as she was standing near the tomb of her brother, but somehow she still believed.”

Open the Bible to John 11:27 (NirV) and read.

““Yes, Lord,” she replied. “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. I believe that you are the one who is supposed to come into the world.””

“What a powerful moment! Martha went and got her sister Mary to let her know that Jesus was there. Mary came running and had a very similar reaction as Martha. ‘If only You were here, Jesus . . .’ But then something quite unexpected happened. Jesus looked around at all of the people crying and mourning over the death of dear Lazarus. He saw all of the pain. He saw the hurt of His friends, Mary and Martha. And in only two words, we see the heart of Jesus on display.”

Open the Bible to John 11:35 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus wept.”

SLIDE: ANSWER #8: WEPT

“But even before John shared that Jesus wept, he wrote about how Jesus’ spirit was very sad and troubled. Sometimes we forget that Jesus had real human emotions and relationships. He loved His friends and His family. Saying goodbye to them was painful for Him, too.”

“Jesus, however, was not done yet. Remember what He said earlier. This sickness would not end in death. Was Jesus wrong? Well, we should probably read the end of the story.”

“Jesus had them lead Him to the tomb, which was a cave. He instructed them to roll away the stone, which you can imagine everyone was a bit hesitant to do. But Jesus reminded them . . .”

Open the Bible to John 11:40 (NirV) and read.

“Then Jesus said, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” So they rolled away the stone, and Jesus prayed. And then, He called in a loud voice. He said, “Lazarus, come out!”

SLIDE: ANSWER #9: OUT

“Now, anyone can say this . . . but guess what? John tells us that it actually happened! Lazarus, still wrapped in strips of linen, came staggering out of the tomb. Many who had come to visit saw what Jesus did and believed.”

SLIDE: ANSWER #7: BELIEVE

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Obviously, this story is pretty incredible. I keep coming back to how Jesus said, ‘This sickness will not end in death,’ but then later in the story Lazarus was in a tomb. This all must have seemed quite confusing. And then both Mary and Martha told Jesus things would have been different if He had been there before Lazarus died. I have a feeling many of us wonder the same thing. There are times when we want to see this . . .”



WEEK
ONE
APRIL 2022



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

25 MINUTES

Hold up puzzle box with full picture on it.

“Our life mapped out in a beautiful photograph or painting. But instead, we really can only see this.

Hold up puzzle box with paint covering the picture.

“Not really anything at all. There are times when we can’t see the full picture. We don’t understand how the pieces are supposed to fit together because we really don’t understand what God is doing. Something bad might happen in our lives, and we think that’s the final picture. Maybe you end up having to move schools in the middle of the year, and it is really hard to leave your friends. And at the same time, you just can’t see how that piece could fit into a bigger picture. Or maybe you experience some loss, you find yourself like Mary and Martha, wishing God would have done something. It is just so hard to see a bigger picture. But a story like this can remind us that in these difficult moments, we can have hope. We can have hope, because God knows the final picture. We can believe that God is good and can be trusted. Our circumstances might not change, but God’s love for us never changes. We can find comfort in that.

LANDING

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

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION SLIDE

“How do you react when bad things happen?” Maybe we react a certain way because we can’t see the bigger picture at the time. Maybe it depends on who’s around us or how we expect God to work. We have all sorts of ways to respond to the circumstances that happen in our lives and to those we love. Our hope in God can help us respond well. You’ll talk more about this when you get to Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to show us just how hopeful we can be in life. 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 STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP