



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### All I Ask

Jesus Appears to Thomas  
John 20:19-29

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What questions do you  
have for God?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens, remember  
God is bigger than your questions.

### 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

### HOST SUPPLIES

- Slides

### STORY SUPPLIES

- Host dressed as game  
show host

### 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 Girls Hang Event: Mom/Daughter Paint Party May 1st
- SUMMER CAMPS - Still time to sign up

#### MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Graves Into Gardens  
Week 2 - Never Gonna Stop Singing  
Easter - WHAT I SEE & GRAVES INTO GARDENS  
Week 4 - Let Go & Who You Say I Am



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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### 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: Let Go**

**AUDIO: Who You Say I Am**

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 (National Pretzel Day, National Tell a Story Day, National Superhero Day, National Zipper Day), 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! Can you believe it is the end of the month already?! We've had a great month together, and we're not done having fun. I think we need one more puzzle to finish us out. I have a feeling that this one will stump you for sure. How many of you like brain teasers? (Pause for response) Well, I have some for you. If you think you know the answer, go ahead and stand up. Let's see if these can trick you all!"



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**SLIDE: PUZZLE 1**

"You are in a place called Wally's World, and there is only one rule. There is a mirror but no reflection. There is pizza with cheese but not sausage. There is pepper but no salt. There is a door yet no entrance or exit. What is the rule?"

"You can talk about it with your group or someone near you. Try and figure it out!"

*Allow for responses. Give hints if no one is getting it. Optional: offer some sort of prize to the person who gets the answer correct.*

**SLIDE: PUZZLE 1 ANSWER (THE RULE = EACH WORD IN WALLY'S WORLD MUST CONTAIN DOUBLE LETTERS.)**

"That was a tough one! Let's try another."

**SLIDE: PUZZLE 2**

"Billy left home running. He ran a distance and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?"

*Allow for responses. Reveal answer. Optional: offer some sort of prize to the person who gets the answer correct.*

**SLIDE: PUZZLE 2 ANSWER (THE MASKED MEN WERE THE CATCHER AND UMPIRE. IT WAS A BASEBALL GAME!)**

"Alright I've got one more for you."

**SLIDE: PUZZLE 3**

"What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?"

*Allow for responses. Reveal answer. Optional: offer some sort of prize to the person who gets the answer correct.*

**SLIDE: PUZZLE 3 ANSWER (SHORTER)**

"You are kicking yourself now, right? Short . . . add two letters, it becomes shorter? Get it?"

*Host exits*



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

*Communicator enters*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey y’all! Glad to see you all here today. You were doing so great with those brain teasers earlier that I thought I would try one more on you if you were up for it.

*SLIDE: PUZZLE 4*

“Alright, here goes. There was a man named Kevin. Kevin walked in the desert for three days until he found a horse named Monday. The horse had one leg that was brown and one leg that was white. He traveled for two days in the rain without getting wet, but he didn’t have an umbrella. When he reached the town, the sheriff came out and said, ‘You must be Kevin’ to which Kevin responded, ‘Actually my name is Wednesday. All of this happened on a Friday. My question is, what color were the man’s shoes?’”

*Communicator let’s everyone remain very confused, restating parts of the teaser, no more and no less.”*

*“(After letting everyone wrestle for a while) Okay, can I be honest? I have NO IDEA what the answer is to that teaser. I’m not even sure we CAN know the answer.”*

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Ok, so as ridiculous as that brain puzzle was, it’s actually not so far off some of the questions we face in life—not that we’re all asking ourselves about the color of shoes people are wearing, but we do all face difficult questions that don’t seem to have any answer to them at all. Or at least they seem like questions too big for an answer.

Sometimes we may even face moments when we’re not sure how to ask the question in the first place. When we have questions like that, things can seem pretty hopeless. So what should we do? Thankfully, we’re not the first people in the course of history who faced really tricky, confusing times in life. We’re not the first to ask hard questions. In fact, as we’ll see today, even the people who hung out with Jesus had some big questions and faced some serious doubts. We can learn from their experience and discover how we can respond when we have questions of our own. Let’s check this out together.”

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today we head back to the Gospels, immediately after Jesus’ resurrection where we left off last week on Easter. You might remember Mary Magdalene had been to the tomb where she encountered the risen Jesus. She ran to tell the disciples what she had seen, but they would certainly experience it for themselves soon enough.”

*AUDIO: JEOPARDY MUSIC BEGINS PLAYING.*

*Host enters dressed loosely as a game show host.*

**HOST:** “Good evening everyone, and welcome tooooooooo . . .”



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**COMMUNICATOR:** "Ummm, hi there [Host's name]. What's going on?"

**HOST:** *(breaking character)* "What? You said you wanted some help with the questions in the story today so . . . I got you."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "No, what I meant was—"

**HOST:** *(back in character, cutting Communicator off)* "I'm sorry, please phrase your answer in the form of a question."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "But I can't do that . . ."

*Host stares at Communicator.*

"What is . . . I can't do that?"

**HOST:** "There you go! Well done. Since I'm here, why don't I go ahead and read the start of our story to get us going."

*Open the Bible to John 20:19-20 (NIV) and read.*

*"On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord."*

*Communicator tries to interact with what was just read, while also trying to ask in the form of a question.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** "So . . . *(thinking)* WHAT IS the evening of the first day of the week?"

**HOST:** "That would be evening on that first Sunday . . . please, try and keep up."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "No, wait, what I meant was . . . *(thinking)* WHO WERE the disciples?"

**HOST:** "The disciples were Jesus' followers. They had run away and scattered and now they are all back together. You're not getting this?"

**COMMUNICATOR:** *(getting flustered)* "No but—ahh—WHO IS Jesus?"

**HOST:** "Who is Jesus? They let you teach around here and you don't know who Jesus is!"

**COMMUNICATOR:** *(breaking)* "Okay, I don't think this is working—"

**HOST:** "Okay, I'll stop. But first, let me try a little role reversal. Who was Thomas?"

**COMMUNICATOR:** *(A bit confused)* "Huh?"

**HOST:** "Who was Thomas?"



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**COMMUNICATOR:** *(Catching on) "Ooooooh . . . I get it. Well, let's read on then."*

*Open the Bible to John 20:24 (NirV) and read.*

*"Thomas was one of the 12 disciples. He was also called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came."*

**HOST:** *"Sounds like you have it from here . . ."*

**AUDIO:** *JEOPARDY MUSIC STOPS PLAYING.*

*Host exits.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** *"Thanks [Host's name]. So the risen Jesus had appeared to the disciples, showing them His hands and His side. And this truly made them happy. Only one problem. Thomas was not in the room with them when this happened. We're not sure why, but for some reason, Thomas was out. When he returned, the disciples were understandably excited."*

*Open the Bible to John 20:25a (NirV) and read.*

*"So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!""*

*"Now, how do you think YOU would have responded? Think about it? This was truly a lot to process for Thomas. He might have needed a minute!"*

*Open the Bible to John 20:25b (NirV) and read.*

*"But [Thomas] said to them, "First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe.""*

*"Now, sometimes we give Thomas a really hard time about this response. But remember, this was a lot to take in. And I'm sure that Thomas had a whole LOT of questions. He knew Jesus had died, and now the others were telling him that Jesus was back? How was that possible? How could someone who had been crucified and killed rise from the dead only three short days later? Were the other disciples seeing things? Was this all really happening? So many questions. And for Thomas, the only right answer was to see Jesus face to face."*

*"Pretty soon, he got his chance. Check it out."*

*Open the Bible to John 20:26 (NirV) and read.*

*"A week later, Jesus' disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!""*

*"Did you notice anything about this time? (Pause for responses.) Yeah, it is almost exactly the same situation as the*



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first time—locked doors, Jesus showed up, and said the same thing. But THIS time, Thomas was actually there.”

*Open the Bible to John 20:27 (NirV) and read.*

*“Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.””*

*“Jesus moved directly to Thomas, addressing his questions. And check out Thomas’ response.”*

*Open the Bible to John 20:28 (NirV) and read.*

*“Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!””*

“Isn’t that amazing? Thomas didn’t move toward Jesus with a list of questions. (Act like Thomas.) ‘Now that I have Your attention, Jesus, I have a few questions for You.’ No, instead Jesus IS the answer to Thomas’ questions. Thomas believed because he saw Jesus face to face.”

“Like I said before, we sometimes give Thomas a hard time for not believing in the first place. But do you want to know something cool about Thomas? He was one of the first disciples to call the resurrected Jesus his Lord and God. He boldly declared it! And later on, he’d take the message of Jesus all over the world. Tradition teaches that he went to places like modern day India. He was all-in for Jesus.

“Thomas may have had questions, but he let those questions lead him to Jesus. And in the end, Thomas saw firsthand that Jesus was truly the answer to his greatest questions.”

### APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “You know, there is one more thing that Jesus said to Thomas that is really interesting to read as followers of Jesus here today.”

*Open the Bible to John 20:29 (NirV) and read.*

*“Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.””*

“Do you realize that is us? None of us have ever SEEN Jesus. We haven’t touched the wounds in His wrists or side. We haven’t sat across the table from Him and enjoyed a meal. And, yet, many of us still believe. We truly believe that Jesus is our Savior. That is the sort of faith Jesus is looking for.

“This doesn’t mean that you won’t face times, like Thomas, when you just have questions. Or maybe you’ll even find something hard to believe. You might go through a really tough time and it leaves you with questions. First of all, you need to know that having questions is totally normal. It’s ok to have questions, even big, difficult, hard to answer questions. It’s part of being a human. But more than that, God is not scared of those questions, not even one little bit. Let your questions lead you to Jesus. God is bigger than any question you can have. And if anyone can handle them, God can!

“God can bring people into your life to help work through your questions and doubts. People in your family, a



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pastor here at church, a friend, or your Small Group Leader. If you have a question, reach out to one of them or a trusted adult. Don't be afraid to ask your questions."

**LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today as you head to Small Group, think about a question about questions."

**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION SLIDE**

**"What questions do you have for God?** Think about it. If you could ask God about anything, what would it be? Don't hold back. Remember that God is bigger than any question you might have. You'll have a chance to share and talk more about these questions when you go to Small Groups. For now, though, let's pray and ask God to help us find hope even when we have questions that seem too big to answer. And let's thank God for Jesus who made a way for us to have hope no matter what! 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**