



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 KEY QUESTION

When have you felt alone?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God is always with you.

HOST

- Four or five kid volunteers
- Swipeout! Obstacles
 - Two folding tables
 - One oversized beachball
 - Cones
 - Four or five Tricycles or scooters
 - Four to eight hula hoops
 - One balance beam
 - One broomstick

STORY

- One volunteer
- One blindfold
- Swipeout! Obstacles

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 MAY

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- All month long, we will be focusing on the message of J =KADA=F ; =
- For HOSTS and COMMUNICATORS, please be ready to share your own stories of J =KADA=F ; = while

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- Preteen Girls Hang Event: Paint Party 'LG < 9Q 'j ge) * h %

- SUMMER CAMPS - Still time to sign up

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing

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
PRETEEN

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 KEY QUESTION

When have you felt alone?

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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: Never Gonna Stop Singing

AUDIO:

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, holiday (National Lemonade Day, School Principals' Day, World Tuna Day, Star Wars Day, Cinco de Mayo, National Space 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.



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OPENER

HOST: "Good morning and welcome! Each of you came down [Name of street], passed by [Name of a couple of businesses], and made the turn into the [Name of Church] parking lot! You got out of your motorized vehicle and ran into [Name of Environment]! Good thing too because on this day, a few of you brave people will put your bodies on the line to test yourselves on the most difficult obstacle course ever built. EVER! All contestants will try. Most will fail. Some will face barely noticeable, non-life-threatening injuries. AND . . . only one will win!

"Welcome to a ONE-OF-A-KIND obstacle course encompassing this entire room called, Swipeout!"

SLIDE: "SWIPEOUT!" TITLE

"I realize this room is not short on capable individuals, but are there any willing competitors with us today?"

Host selects 4-5 volunteers and brings them to the stage.

"This course is simple. Around the room you'll notice several challenges. You must complete each challenge before continuing through the course. If you do not complete a challenge or if you step out of bounds, you'll be eliminated! The first person to make two laps around the room is our undisputed WORLD SWIPEOUT CHAMPION!"

Host takes a moment to explain the unique obstacles created in the environment. Host guides the competitors to the starting line.

"When you hear the music, you can start! Make sense? Any questions? (Pause for response.) Excellent! Then let's play SWIPEOUT!"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host directs non-participating kids into the center of the room. Volunteers race around the room and accomplish simple obstacles such as crawling under a number of folding tables, dodging oversized rolling beach balls, riding tricycles through cones, high kneeling through the hula hoops, and walking across a balance beam. Host hypes up the winner at the end of the relay and directs all volunteers back to their seats.

HOST: "Wow! Wow! Wow! That race was much closer than I expected! To all of our competitors, congratulations! Well done, and better luck next time. And to our brand-new WORLD SWIPEOUT CHAMPION, let's give a rowdy round of applause. (Pause for response.) That was fantastic!"

Host exits



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

NOTE: The Introduction uses the obstacle course from the opening activity. If for whatever reason you choose not to use the opening activity, you will need some sort of obstacle course for someone to run.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "What's up, everyone? It is so good to have all of you joining us today. Whenever we get to gather in one big room, it's a great day. Why? Because together we can worship, play, and grow in our relationships with God. Together we can learn with our Small Groups in the same space. The alternative, where we are alone, can make life more difficult. Let me show you what I mean. Would anyone like to help me on the stage with a difficult task? (Pause for response.)"

Communicator selects one kid or Small Group Leader to come to the stage.

"Thanks for joining me on stage. Earlier today, we watched several of our friends race around the room in the SWIPEOUT obstacle course."

SLIDE: SWIPEOUT TITLE

"The competitors faced a number of obstacles they needed to overcome. Competitors could watch other opponents' strategies to facing the challenges and use them to improve their own. Obviously, only one person won the competition, but they all were able to experience the thrill and camaraderie of running the course together.

(To Volunteer) "Here's your challenge. Race through the course one more time and complete all the tasks without skipping or avoiding any of the difficulties, all on your own. AND, to make it just a little more challenging, you'll need to complete one lap in 30 seconds or less. How does that sound? (Pause for response.) Yeah, it does sound tricky. But I think you're up for it! Ok, let's go ahead and get you into position at the starting line. (Back to the room) Everyone else, you can help me countdown. Ready? (Beat) WAIT! I forgot one little detail. [Volunteer's Name], I also . . . need you to wear this blindfold!"

Communicator places blindfold on the volunteer. Quietly have a Small Group Leader next to the volunteer the entire time to protect the volunteer. Another option is to have volunteer race backwards around the course.

"Now you are ready to race. Let's get 30 seconds on the clock! Ready? Count of three: Three. Two. One. GO!"

OPTIONAL VIDEO: 30-SECOND COUNTDOWN

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

Communicator allows volunteer to race their way around the track. Communicator or spotter stands ready to intervene or redirect volunteer to protect volunteer. Volunteer should fail.



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TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Excellent job! That was a very impressive attempt to complete a hard task all alone! How about a round of applause for our brave volunteer as they head back to their seat!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator collects the blindfold and directs volunteer back to their seat.

"That was incredible! You know, what I love most about [Name of Volunteer]'s attempt was the fact they never gave up! Even as time started to expire, our fearless volunteer worked hard to complete the course all alone.

"What would it look like if we ran through life like [Name of Volunteer] ran that course? When I look back on my life, the moments it was easiest to quit or give up were the times I felt all alone and didn't know what would happen next. Maybe this is true for you as well.

"Think to yourself about the past few years or so. Have there ever been times you have felt so alone in what you were doing that you wanted to give up? Maybe you were the kid walking into a new school in a new town. Maybe you fumbled the football on your flag football team and the other team scored the game-winning touchdown. Maybe your mom asked you to clean the bathroom, without any help!

"Whatever these moments might look like for you, we can't escape them. They will happen from time to time. We'll feel completely on our own, and it will be hard. When that happens, what do we do? How do we face the difficult times? Do we give up or figure out how to show some resilience? Great questions!

"When we have questions like this, the first place we should turn is the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who had personal experiences with God. And God inspired them to write down those stories so we could learn from them all these years later. Let's head to the Bible now!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "We start in the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament. Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus inviting people to follow Him. Twelve of these men were Jesus' disciples. They traveled with Jesus from town to town, learning from Him and helping Him however they could. For three years, they witnessed His miracles and heard His teachings. In time, they grew to be Jesus' closest friends. They came to understand that Jesus was and is God's Son, the Savior of the World.

"However, the Jewish religious leaders did not share the disciples' love for Jesus. In fact, during Passover week, the religious leaders arrested Jesus, put Him through a rigged trial, and sentenced Him to death. Jesus died a painful, public death on the cross.

"At the time, the disciples must have felt pain, confusion, and loneliness as their leader was gone. But even in the darkest, most difficult moment, God was still present and at work. God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. Then, over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to approximately 500 people, including His disciples.

"In Matthew 28, we read how Jesus gave His disciples a really big job. Check out what He told them:"

Open the Bible to Matthew 28:18-20 (NIRV) and read.



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“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.”

“Jesus gave His disciples a massive job: to share the way of Jesus with everyone! Sure, this included their family and friends, but it also included strangers, people in distant lands, and nations who spoke different languages!

Communicator walks off stage to the SWIPEOUT Obstacle Course. Places blindfold over eyes and attempts to navigate first obstacle while talking.

“When Jesus gave them a big job to do, I can imagine some of His friends felt a little panicked about the uncertainty and maybe overwhelmed. I’m sure they couldn’t imagine doing this without Jesus to help them.

“However, Jesus didn’t leave His friends alone and blindfolded to complete the task. God had a plan that was much bigger than any of them could have imagined.

Communicator removes blindfold and returns to the stage.

“Jesus promised to send some help for this big job. In Acts 1, we read what He said.”

Open the Bible to Acts 1:4a (NIRV) and read.

“Do not leave Jerusalem . . . Wait for the gift my Father promised.”

Continue with Acts 1:8 (NIRV) and read.

“But 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.”

“After this, Jesus was taken up to heaven. With that, the disciples were without Jesus by their side, and they had a huge job to work on. But just as Jesus told them, the disciples waited in Jerusalem. At this time, one of the major festivals was happening in Jerusalem called Pentecost. And within a short time, they discovered how Jesus would give them His power.

“In Acts, we read:”

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

“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.

“If that wasn’t enough, because of the Holy Spirit, many of Jesus’ followers were able to speak and understand languages they had not known before! This turned out to be pretty important. During Pentecost, Jews traveled from all over the world, filling the streets with families and festivities. These people spoke many languages from wherever they lived. They were hearing their own languages spoken! A huge crowd gathered.



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"Sure enough, Peter, one of Jesus' close friends, began to address the crowd. He told them about Jesus and what He had done. God's Spirit was so powerful that 3,000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized that day!

"The early church grew quickly. The believers shared their lives—studying, worshiping, and eating together. Sure, they had challenges, but the believers knew that the power of God's Spirit could carry them through anything!"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "What an incredible story, right? Jesus came back to life, proving He is the Son of God. Then, Jesus said it was time to take His message of hope to the world. He gave the disciples a mission to make more disciples all across the world!

Communicator steps off the stage and begins to walk through the SWIPEOUT Obstacle Course while talking through the challenges.

"This mission was full of challenges way more difficult than this SWIPEOUT course. The disciples would face hostilities and unseen dangers. The believers would have to figure out how to work through language and cultural barriers. As more people started to believe in Jesus, they would have to figure out how to organize churches. While sharing Jesus with others, many would end up facing prison and much worse.

"But God sent them help so they wouldn't have to face their impossible mission alone—God's Holy Spirit. That meant that God would be with Jesus' followers to work in and through them! We can see the power of God's Spirit when the disciples led thousands to Christ at Pentecost! God would be with them every step of the way!

"And you know what else? Throughout our lives, we will face difficult situations. There will be times in life when it will seem impossible to keep going. We'll want to give up, but in those times, we need to remember this truth: God is with us, too. God is with me and you through the Holy Spirit! When we walk into a new school, God is with us. When we fumble the football, God is with us. No matter what is happening, we don't have to face those situations alone. We can trust God no matter what.

"Obviously, this doesn't mean life will be perfect and without challenges. But it does mean we don't have to face them alone."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "This can be difficult to think about; that's why I'm really excited you get to spend some time talking through this with your small groups. As you head to groups in just a moment, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"When have you felt alone?" Like it or not, every single person in the room will face challenges throughout their lives. Some of you may be dealing with something hard right now. We believe your small groups can be the best place to explore this topic more. You're not alone. God is with you, and we are, too! Before we head out, let's pray and thank God for sending us the Holy Spirit to help us face whatever life throws at us. 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