



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Go the Distance

Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin  
Acts 3:1-4:21

### 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.

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you decided to keep going?

### SMALL GROUP

15  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even when it gets tough.

### LARGE GROUP

35  
MIN

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

##### - HAPPY MAY

- J =KADA=F ; =Ñ ? ] IIf \_ 'ZY[ c'nh'o` ] f'kge ] l' af \_ \_ ] Ik'qgm \ go f

- 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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- SUMMER CAMPS - Still time to sign up

- LAUNCH happens NEXT WEEK May 22... so we'll say goodbye to 6th grade and hello to a new group of 4th graders

#### - 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

### HOST

- Approximately 10-12 lemons
- Two balance beams or 2x4 boards (Approx 8' each in length)
- Four fourth grade volunteers
- Four fifth grade volunteers
- Two beachballs
- One bowl for the lemons
- Two buckets
- One small round table

### STORY

- Communicator
- Bible
- Bounce Back Inflatable Punching Bag Toy



WEEK  
**TWO**  
MAY 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Go the Distance**  
Peter and John Are Taken  
to the Sanhedrin  
Acts 3:1-4:21

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you decided  
to keep going?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even when  
it gets tough.

### 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: Let Go**

**AUDIO: There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do**

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 (Mother's Day, National Clean Your Room Day, National Apple Pie 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: "WAHOO! I AM SOOO GLAD YOU ARE HERE! EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. Can you tell I'm excited? I mean, you could be other places today, but you're not! You're in [Name of Environment] where we take lemons and make them into . . . a game!"**



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*Host holds up a couple of lemons for the audience to see.*

“That’s right, sometimes it will feel as though the world is hurling lemons at you. But we in [Name of Environment] want to turn them into the greatest relay OF ALL TIME called LEMONS WITH NO AID!”

**SLIDE: “LEMONS WITH NO AID” TITLE**

“To play this game, I need four fourth graders and four fifth graders eager to compete! Any takers?”

*Host selects four fourth graders and four fifth graders. Host brings volunteers to the stage.*

*NOTE: If you also have sixth graders in your room, you can add a third team to the game. Just be sure to have enough lemons for everyone.*

“This will be a classic fourth versus fifth challenge. To play this game, the two teams will start on opposite sides of the stage. One person from each team will use their team’s balance beam to approach the center stage. Once you make it to the center stage, you’ll grab ONE lemon, return to your group on the balance beam, drop the lemon in your team’s bucket, and go to the end of the line. The next person in line goes across the balance beam once the first person has dropped their lemon in the team bucket.

“Sounds easy, right? NOT SO FAST! The audience will have two beach balls. The audience will try to hit the people on the balance beam with the beach ball! If you are hit with a beach ball while on the balance beam, you will be e-LEMON-ated with no aid! If you fall off the balance beam before you reach the end, you will be e-LEMON-ated with no aid! If you are e-LEMON-ated, you must return to your seat in the audience! Dramatic, I know! So don’t fall off the beam and avoid the beach balls at all costs!

“The team with the most lemons in their bucket after 60 seconds will be the LEMONS WITH NO AID CHAMPION! And you all in the audience, be sure to cheer for the kids in your grade! Make sense? Any questions? (Pause for response.) Great! Let’s play!”

**AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC**

*Host lines up the teams and distributes the beach balls to the audience. If someone falls off the balance beam or gets hit with a beach ball, host dramatically eliminates the volunteer from the game. The team must continue on without the eliminated player. If an entire team is eliminated, the opposite team continues until time expires. Once time expires, host counts the lemons to determine the winner.*

“WOW, WOW, WOW! That was incredible. One team came up short but isn’t SOUR. They likely found this game to be FRUITLESS. However, there was one team that was simply the ZEST! Let’s go crazy for our LEMONS WITH NO AID CHAMPION! (Pause for response.)



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everybody. Wow, I’m so glad each of you have made it to [Name of Environment] today. Some of you just experienced an incredible week. Maybe you won the baseball tournament yesterday, or you nailed your first piano recital solo. If I just described your week, good for you! It would be so awesome if everyone’s week has been perfect. Unfortunately, that isn’t always the case. Chances are some of you might have had a more difficult week. Maybe you didn’t do as well as you thought you would math test. Maybe you learned a friend is moving away this summer. Maybe you just felt down and not motivated to do anything. These can be hard weeks for sure.”

*NOTE: For the next part of the script, Communicator tells a personal story of giving up. The following is an example of the type of story to tell. Alternatively, you can share the following story as a hypothetical situation.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “In fact, I’ve faced some hard weeks, too! Growing up, I had a younger brother. There were moments growing up he was pretty cool. But most of the time, I thought he was a little annoying. Why? Because he always wanted to do what I was doing. If I was gaming, he would want to play the game against me. Of course, I let him play with me sometimes, and of course I always won. But other times I just wanted to play alone. If my friends and I were playing a board game, he would want to join in. Again, I always won. (beat) In fact, I don’t recall my younger brother ever beating me in anything . . . except this one time.

“In our backyard, we had a large concrete pad with a basketball hoop. I spent many hours working on my jump shot. This one time I was feeling nice and let my little brother play with me. He insisted we play one-on-one. I didn’t mind beating him one more time, so I obliged. However, this time was different. My brother was shooting lights out. In fact, he didn’t miss a single shot. His layups, jumpers, and even his ugly trick shots were all finding their way through the basketball net. Nothing, and I do mean NOTHING, was going my way. I dribbled the ball off my foot out-of-bounds. My brother blocked one of my layups. I would attempt to steal the ball and get burned in the process. Near the end of the game, it was plain to see he was going to beat me. And can I be honest really quick? I couldn’t bear the thought of losing to my little brother. It would be a dark stain on my big brother resume that would be unbearable. So—I did the unthinkable. I gave up. Actually, I drop kicked the basketball into the neighbor’s yard before we could finish the game. There was no WAY I was gonna let my bother ACTUALLY beat me.”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Yeah, this was not my finest moment. Losing to my brother in basketball caused me to do something I rarely admit to doing—give up. I was in a situation that was not going my way, and punting the basketball as hard as I could seemed like the best option. In that moment, I did not have the resilience to keep playing. Nothing in me wanted to finish the game or even bounce back for a rematch. I was done.

“Of course, something like that feels silly—a pick-up ball game with a sibling. But what about a situation that feels more significant? Many of you have faced difficulties throughout your lives, and those moments were overwhelming. Sometimes facing hardships can feel like getting knocked down with no way to get back up.”

*Communicator pushes bounce back punching bag toy over to the ground. Toy should bounce back up.*



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“Nobody desires to be knocked down in life, but it’s in those hard seasons when you had to make the conscious decision to either quit or persevere.”

*Communicator pushes bounce back punching bag toy over to the ground with each of the following examples.*

“These are the moments when your new coach is yelling at you and you’re not sure you want to play the sport ever again. Hardships include the times your friends excluded you from the birthday party accidentally, and you start to question if this friend group is worth hanging around.

“What are the things you face at school or at home that make you want to give up? We all have experienced and will continue to experience these moments, but when those experiences occur, how should you respond? Is giving up an acceptable response?

“These are difficult questions to answer and require a fair amount of wisdom. Anytime I have big questions like this, I love to turn to the Bible. I’m really excited you’re here as we will look at a time when a couple of guys we read about in the New Testament who faced a difficult situation and were forced to decide if they should give up or keep going. Let’s check it out now!”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “If you were here last week, you’ll remember we talked about how Jesus gave His disciples a really big job—to make more disciples of Jesus all over the world! God sent them help to accomplish this mission, His Holy Spirit. And with the Holy Spirit’s help, the disciples began sharing Jesus with others. Many new believers made the decision to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives! Through the power of God’s Spirit, the brand-new church was growing.

“Today, we head back to the book of Acts and pick up where we left off last week. At this time, devout Jews walked to the temple and observed three times of prayer each day: morning, afternoon, and evening. One day, Peter and John were walking to the temple for the afternoon prayer. On their way, they were going to enter the temple through a gate called Beautiful, where a man sat asking for help. The man was born with a condition that prevented him from walking. Each day, he was carried to the gate called Beautiful to ask for money for things like food and clothing. While Peter and John were walking by, the man called out to them.

“Listen to how Peter responded:

*Open the Bible to Acts 3:6 (NIRV) and read.*

*“I don’t have any silver or gold. But I’ll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk.”*

“At that moment, Peter helped the man to his feet, and he began to walk. His walk quickly turned into jumping and dancing and praising God!”

“As you can imagine, a crowd gathered to witness the man on two feet praising God, a man who hadn’t been able to walk just minutes before. Peter began to tell the people all about Jesus! As hundreds gathered to listen, many of them believed. However, the religious leaders, who would have been present for afternoon prayers, were not happy with Peter and John’s words. Both men were seized and thrown into jail for the night!”



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*Communicator pushes bounce back punching bag toy over to the ground and HOLDS IT ON THE GROUND.*

"This was a difficult situation when Peter and John likely felt knocked down simply for speaking the truth! The next morning, Peter and John were brought before the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law, which included the high priest, Annas. The religious leaders invited the man who could now walk to stand with them. The high priest wanted to know by what power and through what name Peter and John had healed the man. This is a moment in Peter and John's lives when they had the choice to quit or persevere. They were faced with the choice to stop talking about Jesus or to continue to tell others what they knew to be true.

"God's Spirit filled Peter and gave him bold words to speak. Quitting was not an option! Peter confidently said,

*Open the Bible to Acts 4:10-12 (NirV) and read.*

*"Then listen to this, you and all the people of Israel! You nailed Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. It is through Jesus' name that this man stands healed in front of you. Scripture says that Jesus is "the stone you builders did not accept. But it has become the most important stone of all." You can't be saved by believing in anyone else. God has given people no other name under heaven that will save them.*

*Communicator releases the bounce back punching bag toy to stand back upright.*

"The religious leaders didn't quite know how to respond. Peter and John had been with Jesus, and the man standing before them was healed! So they sent Peter and John away while they discussed the matter. They needed the two to stop talking about Jesus immediately! Nobody could deny the healing of the man because so many saw it happen. The high priest, Annas, and the other leaders called Peter and John before them once more and commanded the two to not speak or teach in the name of Jesus!"

*Communicator pushes bounce back punching bag toy over to the ground and HOLDS IT ON THE GROUND.*

"Once again, Peter and John were faced with a difficult situation. Should they give up on the mission Jesus had given them or defy the religious leaders by continuing to tell others about Jesus? Check this out!"

*Open the Bible to Acts 4:19-20 (NirV) and read*

*"But Peter and John replied, "Which is right from God's point of view? Should we listen to you? Or should we listen to God? You be the judges! There is nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard."*

"Once again, Peter and John boldly spoke the truth!"

*Communicator releases the bounce back punching bag toy to stand back upright.*

"The leaders couldn't figure out how to punish Peter and John, especially since all of the people were praising God for what had happened. So the leaders let Peter and John go. Both men returned to their friends and their mission of sharing Jesus with others!"





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## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “What an example of resilience! Peter and John, through the power of the Holy Spirit, helped a man at the temple gate and healed the man’s legs! A large crowd saw this man stand up dancing and praising God! Peter took the opportunity to tell them about Jesus! And when the religious leaders tried to punish Peter and John for teaching about Jesus, instead giving up or throwing in the towel, they continued to rely on God’s Spirit to speak boldly about Jesus. They kept going! Even when they were verbally told to stop talking about Jesus, they refused!

“And you know what’s crazy? We are part of Peter and John’s legacy! The reason you and I know about Jesus is because people like Peter and John continued to tell Jesus’ story even when they faced hardship! They may have been knocked down, BUT they continued to get back up and do what’s right!”

*Communicator pushes bounce back punching bag toy over to the ground. Toy should bounce back up.*

“Life will get hard for all of us from time to time. When things get tough—like when you’re struggling to get along with someone at school or when a close family member gets really sick—you might be tempted to give up. I completely understand! I’ve been there, too! But giving up in every situation that’s difficult could be a huge mistake. When we keep going, it gives us the chance to depend on God and trust Him through the difficulty. In the process, you may learn something you never knew or make a new friend or impact the world for Jesus in unexpected ways!”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you reflect on your life, I imagine you’ve had some really great moments full of fun and laughter. But you’ve also had moments of sadness and difficulty. I’d guess many of you decided to keep going during the hardship, even if you wanted to give up. As we head to our small groups, we want you to think about this one question:

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**“When have you decided to keep going?”** Maybe it was a long time ago, or maybe it was last week. When did you decide to get back up after life knocked you down? I’m really excited about the conversations you are about to have with your Small Groups! Let’s pray and ask God for the strength to show resilience when we’re feeling knocked down. 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**