

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Take Care of You Creation Genesis 1–2

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made us to take care of each other.

HOST SUPPLIES

- Female Small Group Leader
- Bible
- Choose Your Own Adventure book (a real one, or a book with a simple paper cover with "Choose Your Own Adventure" written on it)
- Printed script
- Safari vest
- Safari hat
- Backpack
- Table
- Prop box labeled #1, containing swim goggles and a small length of climbing rope
- Prop box labeled #2, containing a magnifying glass and a large plastic bug
- Prop box labeled #3, containing a flashlight and several artificial leaves
- "Week 2 Timeline Image" printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

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



SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction Early Arriver Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35 MIN STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God Welcome/Opener Worship ("Love One Another" from Make a Move and "How Amazing" from Everything to Me) Bible Story Bottom Line Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP

25

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect
Bible Story Review: Things God Made Relay (k-1st grade), Name That Animal! (2nd-3rd grade)
Application Activity: How to Care (k-1st grade), Wear to Care (2nd-3rd grade)
Memory Verse Activity: Pass the Hearts Verse (k-1st grade), Get Creative (2nd-3rd grade)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email) Devotionals for Kids Parent Cue App



PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME	
		25 MINUTES	10 MINUTES			

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God made us to take care of each other.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIrV

STORRY SUPPLIES

- Table
- 10 different bags (such as paper lunch bags or gift bags), each labeled with a number
 - Bag #1: flashlight, already turned on
 - Bag #2: water bottle
 - Bag #3: printed picture of the sky ("Sky Picture" from the LG Assets PDF)
 - Bag #4: clear plastic bag full of dirt (such as topsoil)
 - Bag #5: small potted plant
 - Bag #6: toy sun and moon
 - Bag #7: toy fish and bird
 - Bag #8: toy animal(s)—i.e. land animals
 - Bag #9: hand mirror
 - Bag #10: trowel (or other small gardening tool)

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:

AUDIO:

Host enters, holding a Choose Your Own Adventure book. (This can be an actual CYOA book or a book with a simple paper cover and "Choose Your Own Adventure" written on it.)

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everybody! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here with me today at [your environment's name]. This month, we're talking about something that's pretty epic. We're talking about love!

"Specifically, we're talking about GOD's love, which we can read about in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) God has been showing love to people all throughout history. In fact, you might say God's story is a love story for the ages!

"We're also talking about how WE can show love today. We know what it's like to be loved by God, and that makes us want to show love to others. You see, this is what love is all about.

SLIDE: VIRTUE OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Love is showing others how much they matter to you.





SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"Speaking of love, today I brought an epic book that I really love!

Hold up the book.

"Have you ever read a *Choose Your Own Adventure* book? There were lots of these books when I was a kid. They were some of my favorite books because

I got to decide what would happen next in the story. You read to a certain point in the story, then the book gives you choices of what could happen next. You choose what you want the character to do next by turning to another page. (*Flip a few pages.*) It's fun to find out what happens as a result of the choices you made. Pretty cool, huh?

"I thought it might be fun if we created our own *Choose Your Own Adventure* story today! First, we'll need an adult volunteer.

Choose a female Small Group Leader to join you on the stage.

"[Leader's name], thanks for helping. I need you to please act-out whatever happens in our story with whatever props we give you.

"Since this is a *Choose Your Own Adventure* story, there's no telling WHAT will happen! This is going to be epic! In fact, let's play some epic adventure music while we read.

AUDIO: ADVENTUROUS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "THE DOOR IN THE AIR" BY HARRY GREGSON-WILLIAMS)—PLAY THROUGHOUT THE STORY, REPEATING IF NEEDED

"Perfect! Let's begin.

Read from the printed script. (Feel free to use the leader's real name instead of "Zoey" if you prefer.)

Zoey's Jungle Trek

Story section 1:

"One day, in a jungle far away, there was a brave explorer named Zoey. Zoey had been training to hike through the jungle for a while, but the day had finally come to put all that practice to work. She would hike through the jungle and climb Mount Everett. It was no Everest, but it would still be a challenging climb. When Zoey got to the top of the mountain, she would light a small fire that would signal the helicopter to come and pick her up. Zoey put on her safari gear to prepare for the trek.

Give the safari vest, safari hat, and backpack to the leader.

"As Zoey began the adventure, there were all kinds of jungle sounds. Bugs, animals, and birds were all around. Before long, Zoey came to a rushing river. She knew she needed to get to the other side of the river to continue the journey. So . . . how should Zoey cross the river? Let's open box number one to see the choices.



Choose a kid to come up and open box #1 to reveal a pair of goggles and a climbing rope. Send the kid back to his/her seat.

"Okay, we've got a choice to make. Does Zoey use the goggles and swim across the river? Or does she use the rope to swing from a tree to cross the river?

Have the kids vote for the two options with applause. Then give the item (goggles or rope) to the leader, and continue the story below with the version the kids chose.

(If the kids chose the goggles)

"Zoey had taken swim lessons as a young kid. She knew she was a strong swimmer, so she decided to use the goggles and swim across the river. How hard could it be? Well, as soon as Zoey started to swim across the river, she noticed lots of tiny fish swimming all around her. At first, she thought they were really cute little fish, but then they got closer and closer. Then they started using their tiny little fins like feathers to tickle her! Zoey giggled and giggled and giggled . . . and we all know how hard it is to swim when you're laughing hysterically! Well, Zoey started swimming as fast as she possibly could, and she made it safely to the other side. Whew! What a relief! She made it across, but she needed a minute to catch her breath before going on. (Skip to Story section 2.)

(If the kids chose the rope)

"Zoey decided to try something she saw once on TV. She tossed one end of a rope over a large tree limb. Once she had secured the rope with a knot, she got a running start, grabbed the rope, and proceeded to swing to the other side of the river. But as she started swinging, the rope began to unravel! Oh, no! Would she fall into the water? Zoey did the only thing she knew to do. She swung her legs hard. Took the biggest jump of her life. And landed safely on the other side of the river. She fell to her knees, out of breath, and rested for a minute. **(Skip to Story section 2.)**

Story section 2:

"Determined to complete the journey, Zoey stood up and started hiking again. She had conquered the first challenge, and it wasn't long before she came upon the second one. Zoey had been hiking through the jungle for several hours, and she was really hungry. She knew that she needed to eat something that would give her strength for the next part of the journey. She sat down on a rock and opened her backpack. But she noticed there was a hole in the bottom of her backpack, and her food had fallen out! Oh, no! Zoey had another choice to make, which really means that WE have another choice to make!

"Let's open box number two to see what the choices are.

Choose a kid to come up and open box #2, to reveal a magnifying glass and a large plastic bug. Send the kid back to his/her seat.

"Okay, Zoey still has a magnifying glass in one of the pockets of her backpack. Does she use the magnifying glass to retrace her steps and try to find the food that fell out of her backpack? Or does she decide to find some insects she can eat instead?

Have the kids vote for the two options with applause. Then give the item (magnifying glass or bug) to the leader, and continue the story below with the version the kids chose.



(If the kids chose the magnifying glass)

"Zoey decided she would go back and look for the food that fell out of her backpack. She retraced her steps, doing her best to remember which way she came from. She started hearing some strange sounds. As she continued to walk, the noises got louder. Just then, Zoey saw her granola bars and fruit lying on the ground—right next to a couple of raccoons! They were trying to open a granola bar so they could eat it. Zoey had to think fast. She picked up two sticks and hit the sticks together to make a loud sound. The raccoons were frightened by the sound and ran off. Zoey grabbed her food and ate it quickly before the animals could return. **(Skip to Story section 3.)**

(If the kids chose the bug)

"During one week of Zoey's nature training, she had learned that some insects were safe to eat and could provide the nutrients her body needed to survive. She began looking around to find an insect she could eat. She looked and looked and looked, and she finally found a log with some bugs under it. Just as she reached for one, she saw something out of the corner of her eye. There, beside a tree, were the snacks that had fallen out of her backpack! Zoey ran over to the tree, grabbed her granola bars and fruit, and ate quickly. **(Skip to Story section 3.)**

Story section 3:

"Zoey enjoyed her snack then jumped up on her feet, ready to continue the journey. She had been looking forward to this trip for a long time, and she didn't want anything to get in the way of her completing her goal. She began the steep climb to the top of Mount Everett. After several hours and lots of water breaks, Zoey approached the top of the mountain. She couldn't believe the view! It was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen! Zoey enjoyed the view for a few minutes, then she decided it was time to start a fire to signal the helicopter to come get her. She gathered some small pieces of wood then reached into her bag to find the matches. But she had forgotten about the hole in the bottom of the bag. The matches were gone—and it was getting dark! There was no way she could go back and search for them. Now Zoey had another choice to make.

"Let's open box number three to see what her choices are.

Choose a kid to come up and open box #3 to reveal a flashlight and a handful of (fake) leaves. Send the kid back to his/her seat.

"Zoey still has a flashlight in her pocket. Should she use her flashlight to try to signal the helicopter? Or should she gather some leaves together and go to sleep, then try to signal the helicopter in the morning?

Have the kids vote for the two options with applause. Then give the item(s) (flashlight or leaves) to the leader and continue the story below with the version the kids chose.

(If the kids chose the flashlight)

"Zoey raised the flashlight high above her head. She remembered the secret code that would let the pilot know for sure that it was her: two long flashes and three short flashes. She summoned all her courage. Struck a VERY dramatic pose. Then she shined the flashlight for all the world to see: two long flashes and three short ones. (*Pause.*) Zoey stopped and listened carefully. In the distance, she could hear the sound of the helicopter coming to get her! (*Skip to Story section 4.*)



(If the kids chose the leaves)

"Zoey figured it was smarter to wait until morning to try to call for the helicopter. She gathered some leaves and made a nice pillow for her head. She lay down and made a surprisingly comfortable bed for herself there on the mountaintop. As she slept, she might have even snored a little bit. (*Pause.*) In the morning, Zoey got up and stretched. She knew that the helicopter would be looking for her. So she did the only thing she knew to do. She performed some of her best ballet dance moves across the mountaintop. She leaped and twirled until the pilot was sure to see her far below. Sure enough, she could hear the sound of the helicopter in the distance, coming to get her! (*Skip to Story section 4.*)

Story section 4:

"Zoey had survived her jungle trek! She had learned some new things along the way, too. The helicopter arrived and took her back to headquarters where her friends and family were waiting to celebrate her. The end.

Set the script down.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

"Wow! That was epic and so, so fun! Thanks for helping me tell that story! Let's give [leader's name] a huge round of applause.

Leader goes back to her seat.

Host: move the prop boxes off the table and set the ten bags on the table for the Bible story.



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! It's great to be here with you as we journey through God's Big Story in the Bible. (Hold up Bible.)

"God's story really is a love story for the ages! And it all began when God created the world. In the very beginning, there was nothing. No trees, no mountains, no stars, nothing. Nothing . . . except God. Then God created the world out of LOVE.

"Today, I want to tell you all about it, and I'll need help from some of you.

Bring up ten kids and give each of them a numbered bag. Line the kids up across the stage in numerical order, left to right (from the audience's perspective).

(to the kid helpers) "Thank you for helping! When I point to you, you can pull out whatever is in your bag and hold it up for everyone to see. Cool? Cool."

GOD CREATES THE WORLD

STORYTELLER: (to audience) "God began by creating LIGHT.

Point to the kid with bag #1. The kid holds up the flashlight which is already on.

"Thanks, [kid's name]. (to audience) Of course, God created way more light than that! But you get the idea.

Open the Bible to Genesis 1:3-4 (NIrV) and read.

"God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness.

"Next, God separated the waters.

Point to the kid with bag #2. The kid holds up the water bottle.

"And God made the sky.

Point to the kid with bag #3. The kid holds up the picture of the sky.

(*Reference the picture of the sky.*) "Now obviously, there's no way we could capture the HUGENESS of the whole sky in a picture. (*Reference the water bottle.*) And this isn't really the kind of water we're talking about, is it? We're talking about huge oceans with massive amounts of water!

"Next, God created dry ground.



Point to the kid with bag #4. The kid holds up the plastic bag full of dirt.

"God created plants and trees with different kinds of fruit growing on them.

Point to the kid with bag #5. The kid holds up the potted plant.

"And imagine this—God created the sun, moon, and stars!

Point to the kid with bag #6. The kid holds up the toy sun and moon.

"God was creating amazing, amazing things, and it was about to get even BETTER! God created fish and birds.

Point to the kid with bag #7. The kid holds up the toy fish and bird.

"God created animals that live on the land.

Point to the kid with bag #8. The kid holds up the toy animal(s).

"God made EVERY kind of animal, creature, or bug you can think of! (*to audience*) When I count to three, I want each of you to yell out the name of one animal. One, two, three. (*Pause for response.*) Wow! That's a lot of animals, creatures, and bugs. God made ALL of them!"

ADAM AND EVE

STORYTELLER: "Then God made the most amazing creation of all.

Point to the kid with bag #9. The kid holds up the hand mirror.

(to the kid) "Go ahead and take a look in the mirror, [kid's name]. What do you see? (Pause for response.) You. A person! You see, after God made all the animals, God made PEOPLE.

"God made a man: Adam. God put Adam in the garden to farm the land and take care of it.

Point to the kid with bag #10. The kid holds up the trowel.

"God also brought all the animals to Adam so that Adam could name them. That's pretty cool to imagine!

"But Adam didn't have a helper that was right for him. So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While Adam was sleeping, God created a woman: Eve."

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

STORYTELLER: "Listen to God's words that are recorded here in the first chapter of Genesis.

Open the Bible to Genesis 1:26-27 (NIrV) and read.

"God said, 'Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that



25 MINUTES

move along the ground.' So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female.

"God told Adam and Eve to have children and take care of the earth—including all the animals that lived on the land.

"And listen to this part again. God created human beings in his own likeness. (Genesis 1:27, NIrV)

(*Reference the mirror that kid #9 is holding.*) "You see, Adam and Eve were made in the image of God. They were made to REFLECT what God is like.

"Everything God had made was very, very good. God had created everything we know and everything we see, out of love. Finally . . . after God had made the whole world, animals, and people . . . God rested.

(to the kid volunteers) "Thank you all for helping me tell the story today! You can put your items back in the bags, then leave your bag here on the table. (to audience) Let's give them a big hand as they head back to their seats!"

Collect the bags on the table as you dismiss the kids to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "God created EVERYTHING in this amazing world out of love. God made PEOPLE to show love. Remember . . .

Open the Bible to Genesis 1:27 (NIrV) and read.

"God created human beings in his own likeness.

"Adam and Eve were made in the image of God. They were made to show God's love—by taking care of each other and taking care of the world God had created.

"In fact, all of us today are made in the image of God. We were made to REFLECT what God is like, for the whole world to see. We were made to share God's love with the world! We were made to take care of each other. And that's what we need to remember today.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"God made us to take care of each other.

"Let's pray."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for all the amazing things You created. Thank You so much for making us in Your image! It's so cool to know that we can show the world what You're like with the way we show love each day. Please show us how we can do that, God. Please help us care for each other the way You care for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "What an EPIC story! God made a beautiful world. And God did it all out of love.

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE SLIDE: WEEK 2 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"Not only that, God gave people the job of taking CARE of this world and taking care of each other. That was true for Adam and Eve, and it's true for us today. We need other people. We need people to take care of us, and we need people that we can take care of, too.

"That might seem like a lot. But with God's help, we can do it!

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"God made us to take care of each other.

"This is something that Jesus said is super-important. In fact, Jesus said it's the MOST important thing for us to love God and love others. We can show how much we love God by the way we show love to other people.

"So how do we do that, exactly? Well, we can start by thinking, **[Basic Truth] 'I should treat others the way I want** to be treated.' If someone looks sad, we can brighten their day by being willing to listen or maybe by asking them if they want to play. We can give someone a hug or a cool fist bump. We can draw a picture to cheer someone up. When we do those things, we might think it's just a simple way of being nice. But really, it's a great way that we can take CARE of someone. It's a way to show love, because you're showing someone with your actions how much they matter to you.

"Let's go to our small groups so we can talk more about how to take care of the people around us. I'll see you next time!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT. SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP