



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**I Choose You**  
God Chooses Abram  
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you made a plan?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God has a plan to show  
love to the world.

### 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, NIV

### HOST SUPPLIES

None

### STORY SUPPLIES

- Week 4 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

**15**  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### **STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways** **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener  
Worship ("Live Your Love" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*,  
"How Amazing" from *Everything to Me*, and "We  
Believe" from *Kidmin Worship Vol. 4*)  
Bible Story (Communicator Script)  
Key Question  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and  
Discussion Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



A love story  
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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Love**—Showing others how  
much they matter to you

### 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:**

**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 is happening culturally or currently, the latest video game or movie launches, and so on. Host tells them how excited they are 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! How many of you are back in school? (pause.) Is that a good thing . . . or a bad thing? I mean, good, because you get to see friends and see how everyone has changed over the summer. And maybe bad because math, or some other subject you don't love so much."



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“It might be the end of summer and the beginning of school, but the fun is just beginning around here! It is time for another EPIC challenge. This time it’s a “Choose Your Own Adventure.” Do they still have those books? I used to read them when I was your age! They’re the kind of books where you have to make decisions along the way and each choice takes you to a different page scattered through the book? Those were so fun!

“Today I have an epic “Choose Your Own Adventure” story . . . and I need a volunteer.

**SLIDE: “CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE” TITLE**

*Choose a willing volunteer. The game is an interactive slides presentation.*

*“(to volunteer) As you read each slide, you’ll see two options. You get to choose which one, and you get to determine the path of the story! When you choose, it will reveal the next part of the story with new options. You can play until you get to a final slide that ends the story! Let’s try it!*

**SLIDE: CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE 1-15**

*Play the game. When finished, choose a new volunteer and run it again. There are multiple outcomes and endings. Explore them all!*

“That was so much fun! Ahh, the memories. Those books would take me to the ruins of a Mayan temple or to the future with flying cars—such fun stories.



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Welcome, welcome, welcome! It’s the last weekend of the month, and we’ve saved something super cool for you. Before we get to it, I have a question. Have you ever had to step out of your comfort zone and do something that felt . . . risky? Or uncomfortable? Or maybe even downright scary?”

*Take a few stories as you have time. Share a personal story of risking something or trying something new. It could be a story about being somewhere out of your comfort zone or having to make a choice that made you feel uncomfortable or scared.*

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Unexpected things happen. There’s a famous saying about it that says ‘expect the unexpected.’ Even the Boy Scouts’ motto is, “Be prepared.” Life happens, things change, and it’s not always what we expect or even what we want.

“Whenever unexpected things happen, they don’t really seem like part of the plan, do they? But what if they could be seen as part of the plan? What if the thing you thought was so unexpected was exactly what needed to happen to get you where you needed to go in the first place?”

“Good question. Let’s look to see what we can learn from someone in the Bible who had something unexpected happen to them, too.

### TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Our story today is from Genesis, and wow, does this story take a hard left turn. But to move forward with the story today, we first need to look back. If you’ve been here the past few weeks you might remember how we discovered that God created the world and everything within it, and God saw that it was good, pleasing—paradise even. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden until they ate the fruit of the tree and disobeyed God’s instructions. Sin entered the world, and people no longer had a perfect relationship with God or with each other.

“The sin that entered the world began to spread and work its way into everything.

“We see it in the quarreling of Adam and Eve’s children. And despite all of the violence, God allowed their families to continue to grow. Tribes and cities began to fill the earth, but sadly things were not getting better. In fact, they were getting worse. Most people just looked out for themselves, rather than loving God or loving each other.

“But there was one man, Noah, who was still loving God and doing what was right even when it seemed like nobody else on earth was. So God decided to start over with Noah. The earth had become so corrupt it needed a reset. God could have just put an end to everything, but God still loved the people, and He wanted to give them a chance through Noah’s family.

“Sadly, even after the time of Noah, the people continued turning away from God, trying to make a name for themselves. The whole world seems to be a bit of a mess. Again. People chose the wrong path in this grand Choose Your Own Adventure story called life. So, what now?”



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"As always, God had a plan, a plan to show mankind just how much He loves them and how committed He still is to the world and to the people He has made. And that plan started with a guy named Abram. You might know him as Abraham.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:1 (NirV) and read.*

*"The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you."*

"No introduction. No, 'Hey, how you doing Abe?' Just, 'Go.' Leave everything—your homeland, your comfort, your security, and your safety.

"Understand this: in the ancient world there was no police or home security systems. You had to depend on other people, other members of your tribe to protect you and carry out justice if you were wronged. God was asking Abram to do something really big—to leave the security of the tribe and go it alone. Plus, we don't even know if Abram really knew much about God yet!

"So God spoke to Abram and asked him to leave everything without even telling Abram where he was going. Should Abram . . .

**SLIDE: ABRAM CHOICE #1**

*Read the slide aloud.*

"A. Go like God asked or B. Pretend he didn't hear the instructions and not go. Anyone here ever pretend not to hear your parents telling you to do something? (pause) Yeah, I thought so. What did Abram do? What do you think?

*Pause for responses.*

"I know you know what the right answer is . . . but what if we went with B? What do you think would happen?

*Pause for responses.*

"If Abram went on his way, pretending he didn't hear, I'm guessing God would've spoken a bit more loudly or even done something that really got his attention, like knocking him off a horse and blinding him. That happened, by the way, to the apostle Paul. God isn't above knocking you on your rear to get you to pay attention.

"But you're right. It's A.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:4a (NirV) and read.*

*"So Abram went, just as the Lord had told him."*

"Just like that! He just obeyed and went. No muss, no fuss. If you're wondering why God asked Abram to leave, it's found in the two verses before this one.



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"This was God speaking to Abram. He said,

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:2-3 (NirV) and read.*

*"I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you. I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you."*

God was putting Abram at the center of His plan to bless the world. God was working to bring the world back into a relationship with Himself . . . and that plan started with Abram!

"So, Abram, at the sprightly young age of 75, left home and took his wife and his nephew, Lot, with him. They headed for the land of Canaan.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:6-7a (NirV) and read.*

*"Abram traveled through the land. He went as far as the large tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were living in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram at Shechem. He said, "I will give this land to your family who comes after you."*

There's a lot to unpack in that promise. The first thing was that Abram was going to have kids—and this land was going to be theirs. Another thing was that it implied that Abram might not be the one to see it happen. 'To your family who comes after you,' God said. And it was true. It would be many years after. It's quite possible that Abram thought things would be different. After all, God told Abram that his family would be a great nation, would be blessed, and would bless the rest of the world. Maybe Abram thought it would happen immediately.

"Armed with this new knowledge and promise, what should Abram do? Should he . . .

**SLIDE: ABRAM CHOICE #2**

*(reading)* A. Return back home and attempt to get back everything he left, or B. Continue moving forward. What do you all think?

*Pause for responses.*

"Again . . . I can hear you know the right answer. But let's just imagine A for a second! What might that look like, and what might happen?"

*Pause for responses.*

"Again, God will always find a way to continue the plan. But Abram . . . and his family . . . would totally be missing out on being a huge part of it. But you all chose A, and so did Abram. Let's see what happened from here.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 12:7b-8 (NirV) and read.*



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*“So Abram built an altar there to honor the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there, Abram went on toward the hills east of Bethel. He set up his tent there . . . Abram built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord.”*

“I hope you’re catching the amazing part of this story, kids. Through it all, through the changes, the decisions, the altered plans and leaving everything behind, Abram was still trusting where God was leading.

“As the years went by, God continued to bless Abram. It wasn’t all smooth sailing, believe me . . . and Abram didn’t always get it right. Through it all, God continued to make it clear to Abram that he could trust God’s plan.

“The only problem was that in this great big God plan were kids. God promised to bless Abram’s children and their children, and they were to be given a land promised to them. But Abram and his wife, Sarai, didn’t have kids. Worse still, Sarai couldn’t bear children. Even more worse than that, they were super old! They were getting up into their late 80s and 90s!

“But God never wavered. He came to Abram again and told him . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 15:1b (NIV) and read.*

*“Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward.”*

“It had been quite some time—years, in fact—since that initial moment when Abram stepped out in faith. Still, no child. Still, no family. I’m sure there were days when Abram wondered if he heard God correctly. He believed, in fact, that at his age he would just die and everything would just be passed down to a servant and the promise God gave him would end.

“But God never wavered. He came to Abram again and told him . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 15:4 (NIV) and read.*

*“When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have.”*

“In other words, ‘Abram, don’t worry. It won’t all go to a servant. A son will come. Yes . . . even to an old guy like you!’ And then God gave Abram the most remarkable visual burned into his mind.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 15:5 (NIV) and read.*

*“The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That’s how many children will be born into your family.””*

“Wow. That was the future picture of a huge family and a huge promise. In the natural, Abram was old. His wife was old and couldn’t have kids. Yet God was telling him completely the opposite. If you were Abram, what choice do you choose?

**SLIDE: ABRAM CHOICE #3**



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*“(reading) A. Believe what God says or B. Doubt what God says. Hmmm . . . I know this one seems like it has a really obvious answer, but put yourselves in Abram’s sandals for a moment. It’s been literally years. Abram was old. Plus, he wasn’t really any closer to the promise right now than he was years ago. What do you think?”*

*Pause for responses.*

*“Some of us would’ve doubted, but Abram didn’t.*

*Open the Bible to Genesis 15:6 (NIV) and read.*

*“‘Abram believed the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abram because he believed. So, Abram’s faith made him right with the Lord.’*

*“Abram believed God! And this made God so happy to see Abram’s faith. You see, Abram had the kind of relationship, a right relationship, that God was working to bring all people into. Abram loved God that much . . . so much that he was willing to trust His plan even when it didn’t seem to make sense. The really cool thing that we can see today is that we KNOW God’s promise to Abram came true!*

**SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 4 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.*

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** *“Abram and Sarai eventually did have a son. God made good on His promise. And the son’s name? Isaac. It means ‘laughter.’ Sarai named Isaac “laughter” because it was so funny that God had given her a baby even though she was super-old. Tell me God doesn’t have a sense of humor.*

*“When God has a plan, nothing can get in the way of that plan. But the hard part is we may not always be able to understand it. Things get delayed. There are wrong or seemingly wrong turns. There are ‘unexpected stops’ in the plan. I’m sure Abram had a lot of unexpected moments when he had to consider if he heard wrong or took a wrong turn. But in the end God was leading Abram right where He wanted him to be. God had a plan to show His love to the entire world. All Abram had to do was trust. And eventually, Jesus came from Abram’s family and completely blessed the world with the gift of His own life!*

*“Maybe you have had an unexpected stop along the way—a time that is hard for you to understand what God might be doing or how He could use it. Maybe you had to move away from the friends you loved to a new place to start over. Maybe you suffered an injury in the middle of a successful sport season. Maybe you hit a rough patch when it seemed like nothing was easy and it made you feel down. Sometimes our plans don’t go, well, as planned—and sometimes what we are experiencing seems like it makes no sense. In the midst of that, look for what it means to trust God, but also look at what it means to show love to Him and the people around you. It is possible that you ended up where you are for that very reason!”*

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** *“Today as you head to your Small Groups, I want you to think about this question:*





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**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

**“When have you made a plan?** And furthermore, what happens when the plans you’ve made don’t go according to plan? What happens when God interrupts your plans and takes you in a completely different direction? How do you respond? You’ll dig into these questions and more in your Small Group, but before we head there, let’s pray. Let’s let God know that you will trust and follow. God will lead you where you need to go. 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**