



WEEK  
**ONE**  
JULY 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Salvation Is Here**  
Salvation Is God's Gift  
Ephesians 2:8-9

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is a gift for everyone.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."  
Ephesians 2:8, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### 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**

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 ("Happy Day - Remix" from *Happy Day (Remix) single*, and "Movin' Me" from *Ready, Set, Move!*)  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

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

**Bible Story Review:** Jesus Is a Gift for Everyone (*k-1st grade*), Team Feud (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
**Application Activity:** EVERYONE (*k-1st grade*), Share and Grow (*2nd-3rd grade*)  
**Memory Verse Activity:** It Is God's Gift (*k-1st grade*), God's Grace Is for Everyone (*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



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### BIBLE VERSES:

Ephesians 2:8-9

### HOST SUPPLIES

- Masking or gaffer's tape to divide the room in half
- Plastic cups (one per kid plus extras) in stacks for each small group
- Host's phone

### STORRY SUPPLIES

- Host
- Table
- Toy cash register
- Several toys that look new
- Oversized price tags attached to the toys, with approximate prices written on them
- Brown paper bag
- Large gift bow

### WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**AUDIO:**

**AUDIO:**

### 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**

*Host enters.*



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** “Hi, everybody! I’m [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here at [your environment’s name]. All summer long, we’re talking about faith.

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

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

**“Faith is trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

“Even if we can’t see Jesus with our eyes, we can put faith in Jesus and believe that He is always with us. We can follow Jesus’ example with the way we show love and kindness to others. We can share His love here, there, and everywhere!

“Now, one thing I CAN see is that we’ve got a lot of fun planned for today. Our theme this summer is ‘Ready, Set, Move.’ So let’s play a fun game that will get EVERYBODY moving!

“This game is called ‘Up or Down,’ and it’s pretty awesome! You might notice that our room is divided in half. (Reference the tape line on the floor.) Each half of the room is a team, so you’ll need to work together with your team!

*Hold up a stack of cups.*

“Before we begin, I need everyone to take one cup from your Small Group Leader and set it on the floor in front of you.

*Give a stack of cups to each Small Group Leader. Allow time for each kid to get a cup.*

“Nice work, everyone! (Hold up a cup.) Now, you might have noticed that some of you put your cups right side up (hold the cup upright), and some of you put them upside down. (Hold the cup upside down.)

“If you’re on this half of the room (point to one side of the line), your goal in this game is to stand all of the cups right side up. (Demonstrate with the cup.) But if you’re on this half of the room (point to the other side of the line), your goal is to stand all of the cups upside down. (Demonstrate with the cup.)

“When I say ‘Ready, Set, Move,’ you’ll move around the room and try to flip as many cups as you can—either right side up or upside down. You can flip cups on either side of the line. When time’s up, we’ll have one leader count the cups in the room that are right side up, and another leader count the cups that are upside down. If there are more right-side-up cups, this team wins. (Point to the first side.) If there are more upside-down cups, this team wins. (Point to the other side.)



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10 MINUTES

“Now, before we start, I want to let you know about a couple of rules we’ll ALL need to follow. The first person to touch the cup gets to flip it. So you can’t take a cup out of someone else’s hand. And you can’t flip the same cup twice in a row. You have to leave it with which ever way it landed (right side up or upside down). You have to go flip another one before coming back to flip the same cup again. Oh—and this one’s very important. Make sure to watch where you’re going so you don’t bump into someone else. Walk, don’t run!

“Okay, let’s get this game started. We’ll put one minute on the clock. Ready, set, move!

**AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

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

*If you’re not using an on-screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for 60 seconds.*

*Comment on the action as kids play the game. After 60 seconds, stop the game (“Hands in the air!”). Ask a leader from team #1 to count how many cups are upright, and ask a leader from team #2 to count how many cups are upside down. Continue to play music while they do this. When they finish, ask each of them to announce their number, and declare the winning team.*

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

“That was incredible! And soooooo fun! Both teams did an awesome job. You were really MOVING! Now, let’s see how quickly you can stack those cups and give them back to your leader. Ready? Go!

*Collect the stacks of cups from the Small Group Leaders.*

“Great job, everyone! Let’s all jump up on our feet and get ready to sing and dance as we worship God together.”

## **WORSHIP**

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**AUDIO:**

**AUDIO:**



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25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! We've been moving through God's Big Story for a while now.

*If you're using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can reference it here as you recap.*

"We've heard lots of amazing stories about God and God's people, the Israelites. *(Hold up Bible.)* In the New Testament, we've discovered how Jesus came to be our Savior.

"After Jesus died, came back to life, then returned to heaven, the early church grew quickly. More and more people put their faith in Jesus and spent their lives following Him.

"An early follower of Jesus named Paul traveled thousands of miles to tell people about Jesus.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1 (PAUL)**

"There he is! *(Pause.)* Paul started many new churches, including one in a city called Ephesus."

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (CITY OF EPHESUS)**

### PAUL'S WORDS

**STORYTELLER:** "The people of Ephesus came from lots of different backgrounds and cultures. There were Jewish people and non-Jewish people, rich people and poor people. All these different people in the church in Ephesus were learning what it meant to follow Jesus—together!

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3 (PAUL IN EPHESUS)**

"Paul had been to Ephesus two times. The first time was a short visit, but the second time he stayed for more than two years! During this time, many people decided to follow Jesus and were baptized.

"Several years after his stay in Ephesus, Paul was arrested for preaching about Jesus, and he ended up living as a prisoner in Rome.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4 (PAUL IN ROME)**

"While he was there, he wrote a letter to the people in Ephesus.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5 (PAUL WRITING)**

"That letter is what we call the book of Ephesians in our Bible today! *(Hold up Bible.)*

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**



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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

"In the book of Ephesians, Paul wrote something about faith that's really important. Listen closely while I read it to you.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIRV) and read.*

*"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it."*

### **SALVATION IS GOD'S GIFT**

**STORYTELLER:** "Okay, let's talk about those verses for a second. Paul said that salvation is God's GIFT.

"I know 'salvation' is a pretty big word. But really, it's all about what Jesus did for us. You see, we've all made bad choices and done things that we know are wrong. That's called 'sin.' Unfortunately, every person has done wrong things. Every person has sinned.

"But here's the really amazing part! Jesus paid the price for our sin when He died on the cross. He did that for us. He made a way for us to be saved so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. God offers salvation to each one of us as a complete and total gift! It's not about us doing good things to try to earn God's love. We already know how much God loves us because of what Jesus did FOR us. And all we have to do is put our faith in Him. What Jesus did for us is a gift!

"Let me read Paul's words again.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIRV) and read.*

*"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it."*

*Host enters.*

"Oh—hi, [Host' name]. What a pleasant surprise!"

**HOST:** "Hi, [Storyteller's name]. I'm sorry to interrupt. I was just listening to you talk about how salvation is God's gift to us, which is really, really awesome."

**STORYTELLER:** "Yep. It really is!"

**HOST:** "I was thinking, maybe I could act something out that will help us understand what God has done for us by giving us such an amazing gift."

**STORYTELLER:** "Well, sure! What did you have in mind?"

### **AN UNEXPECTED GIFT**

**HOST:** "Okay, great! Picture this. We're in a store. Hang on just one second.

*Host sets out the table and puts the toy cash register on top as well as a few toys with oversized price tags on them. Host then stands behind the table as though they're a shop owner.*





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"There! Perfect.

(to Storyteller) "Oh, hello, friend! Thanks for coming into my shop today."

*Storyteller looks confused, then plays along.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Who, me? Oh, well sure! It's a very cool shop."

**HOST:** "Thank you. Do you see anything you really like?"

**STORYTELLER:** "I mean . . . all of these items are so good. (to audience) What do you think? Which of these things would YOU want to have? (Pause for response then speak to Host.) I'd probably say the [item's name]."

**HOST:** "Great choice. That's really valuable, you know.

*Host puts the item in the paper bag.*

"So did you bring your money to buy it?"

*Storyteller looks panicked.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Uh, oh. I don't have any money. (Pause.) I guess I can't . . ."

**HOST:** "Don't worry, my friend. You don't have to pay anything. This super-awesome [item's name] is yours.

*Host puts a bow on the paper bag and hands it to Storyteller. Storyteller looks overjoyed.*

"Consider it . . . a gift. (Pause.) AND . . . scene."

*Host does the "AND scene" motion, lowering and closing their hand in front of their face.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow. That was fun, [Host's name]! (Pause.) Of course, what Jesus did for us is like, a billion times better and more valuable than a/an [item's name]."

**HOST:** "Of course."

**STORYTELLER:** "But that's the right idea. We don't have to do anything to EARN God's love and forgiveness. We just need to put our faith in Jesus and believe that He died on the cross for us. That's why salvation is a gift."

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "[Host's name], do you mind reading Paul's words for us one more time?"

**HOST:** "I'd love to.

*Storyteller: Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:8-9 (NirV) and hand it to the Host to read.*



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25 MINUTES

*“God’s grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn’t come from anything you do. It is God’s gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it.”*

**STORYTELLER:** “It’s really incredible, if you think about it. God offers this amazing gift to EVERYONE. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’re from, how you speak, what you look like, or what you’ve done. God’s love is for you. God’s forgiveness is for you. God sent Jesus for you!

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“Jesus is a gift for everyone.**

“Let’s pray and thank God for that.”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You so much for the gift of Jesus! Thank You for making a way for us to have a relationship with You that will last forever. It’s so good to know that we don’t have to try to earn Your love. You simply love us, and that’s why You sent Jesus for us. Help us live each day with faith and remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## CLOSER

*Host stays on stage as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “That is such an amazing truth that Paul shared with the people in Ephesus: our salvation is a gift from God!

**SLIDE: GOD’S BIG STORY TIMELINE**

**SLIDE: WEEK 1 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.*

“We don’t have to do enough good things to get God to love us. God already loved us enough to send Jesus FOR us.

“Jesus came and showed love to everyone He met. He taught amazing things about God. He performed miracles and healed people. He died on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven. He did that for me, you, and everyone in the whole world!

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“Jesus is a gift for everyone.**





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25 MINUTES

“Here’s the really cool part. The way we receive that amazing gift is by putting our faith in Jesus. I’ve done that, and you can, too! Be sure to talk to your parent or Small Group Leader if you want to know more about how you can put your faith in Jesus as your Savior.

“Every day of your life, your faith can grow as you understand more and more about what Jesus has done for you.

*Share an example/story of how your faith has grown since you’ve chosen to follow Jesus.*

“It’s really cool to talk to people who have been following Jesus for a while—to hear how they’ve put their faith in Jesus and how their faith has grown and gotten stronger. You might talk to a parent, a grandparent, or your Small Group Leader. Be sure to ask them questions and listen to their story of faith!

“In Small Group you’ll get to talk some more about why Jesus is such an amazing gift. Before you go, though, let’s learn our memory verse for this month, Ephesians 2:8. This is the same part of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that we just read together. Say it with me.”

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

**HOST AND KIDS:** “God’s grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn’t come from anything you do. It is God’s gift.” (Ephesians 2:8, NIRV)

**HOST:** “That’s so good! Have fun in Small Group, and 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**