



WEEK  
**ONE**

OCTOBER 2023

LARGE GROUP

**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Just the Way You Are**  
A Tree and Its Fruit  
Luke 6:43-45 (John 15:1-17)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be truthful with your whole life.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Anyone who lives without blame  
walks away safely. But anyone  
who takes a crooked path  
will get caught."**  
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Integrity—Choosing to be  
truthful in whatever you  
say and do**

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

### WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

#### 1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Kid contestants (one per small group)
- Ball pit balls (one per small group)—ideally, multicolored, so the kids can tell them apart
- Empty pizza boxes (one per small group)
- Masking or gaffer's tape

#### 3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- Large potted plant (or you could use a tall artificial tree)
- Several "Rotten Apple Cutouts" and "Good Apple Cutouts," printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF and cut out individually
- Individual hole punch
- Several green craft stems (a.k.a. pipe cleaners)

**John 15:5 (NirV)**  
**Luke 6:45 (NirV)**  
**Luke 6:43-44 (NirV)**



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Integrity—Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do**

### 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 KIDS ENTER.**  
**SLIDE: THEME**  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters.

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

### OPENER

**HOST:** "Hi, everybody! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here today at [your environment's name]! This month, we're talking about integrity.

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

**"Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.**

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

"It means that you're DRIVEN to live your life in a truthful way. It means telling the truth, and it also means being truthful on the inside—because what's inside matters most! God made us to live with integrity, and God can help us be who we are on the inside AND the outside.

"To start our time together, I've got a fun racing game for us to play. I'll need some very DRIVEN volunteers who are ready to race toward the finish line. I'll pick one person from each small group. Raise your hand if you want to play.

*Bring up one kid from each small group.*

*(to the contestants)* "Okay, friends, you can stand on this side of the room behind the tape line. I've got a ball for each of you . . . and a pizza box.

*Have the kids line up along the starting tapeline. Give each of them a ball pit ball and an empty pizza box.*

"You'll use the pizza box to create wind that will move the ball, like this.



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Demonstrate so the kids see what to do.*

“The first person to get their ball across the finish line—without touching it—wins. *(to audience)* Everyone else, be sure to cheer for all of our contestants, and especially your friend from your group!

“Racers, are you ready? Start your engines . . . and . . . GO!

**AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (SUGGESTION: “LIFE IS A HIGHWAY” BY RASCAL FLATTS)**

*Provide funny commentary as the race plays out.*

*If possible, let all of the contestants cross the finish line before you end the game. Collect the game supplies as you dismiss the contestants to their seats.*

“That was AMAZING! Let’s give all of our volunteers a hand as they head back to their seats. And let’s ALL jump up on our feet and get ready to sing, dance, and worship God together.”



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Hi, everyone! I love that we have this time together to sing and praise God with everything we have. I want to worship God with all of my life. This song is about how we were made to worship God. Come on—let’s sing it!

**AUDIO:** *“ALL THE THINGS” / TRACK 7 FROM LITTLE PRAISE PARTY: OUT OF THIS WORLD*  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** *“ALL THE THINGS” LIVE LYRICS VIDEO*

“Yes—we can worship God always. You sounded amazing on that one. Before we continue in worship, let’s watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** *LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL*

“In Psalm 13:6, David wrote: *‘I will sing praise to the Lord. He has been so good to me.’* (NirV) This new song is called ‘Sing Your Praise.’ As we sing, we can celebrate what God has done in our lives. God is always good . . . and with God’s help, we can live a life of goodness and love. Sing along once you catch on.”

**AUDIO:** *“SING YOUR PRAISE” / TRACK 2 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU*  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** *“SING YOUR PRAISE” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO*



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## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, everyone! It's great to be here with you as we talk about how we can live with integrity. Do you remember what integrity means?"

SLIDE: VIRTUE

**"Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.**

"That's the way God made us to live. And in fact, it's the way Jesus lived!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

"When Jesus lived on the earth, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. And in everything He said and did, Jesus showed people what God is like. Over and over, Jesus reminded people that what matters most to God is what's on the inside.

"Jesus had chosen 12 men to be His closest followers and help Him in His work. One time, when Jesus came down from the mountain with His disciples, a big crowd gathered. People had come from all over to hear Jesus teach and be healed. They listened closely as Jesus taught them many things."

### TREES AND FRUIT

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus often used word pictures and examples to help people understand the things He was saying. On this particular day, Jesus used an example of trees and fruit to help the people understand something important about the way we should live.

"Here's what Jesus said.

*Open the Bible to Luke 6:43-44 (NirV) and read.*

*A good tree doesn't bear bad fruit. And a bad tree doesn't bear good fruit. You can tell each tree by the kind of fruit it bears. People do not pick figs from thorns. And they don't pick grapes from bushes.*

"Okay. Let's think about what that means. I've got this plant here.

*Set the plant on the table.*

"Now, this isn't a fruit tree like Jesus talked about. But let's pretend it's (pause like you're thinking) an apple tree.

"Here, let me add some fruit so you can see it growing.

*Start to attach a few rotten apple cutouts to the plant.*



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**25 MINUTES**

*(Look at the audience, not the tree.) "There. That's a good-looking apple tree, don't you think? (Pause for response.) Wait. Is something wrong? (Pause for response.) OHHH! You're right. (Hold up one of the rotten apple cutouts.) This fruit doesn't look good at all.*

*Remove all of the rotten apple cutouts from the plant.*

"I guess this tree isn't as healthy as I thought. It's kind of like what Jesus said.

*Open the Bible to Luke 6:43-44 (NirV) and read.*

*A good tree doesn't bear bad fruit. And a bad tree doesn't bear good fruit. You can tell each tree by the kind of fruit it bears. People do not pick figs from thorns. And they don't pick grapes from bushes."*

**INSIDE AND OUTSIDE**

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus used the example of a fruit tree to explain that whatever is INside of us is what's going to show up on the OUTside—in the way we speak and act and treat other people.

"An unhealthy tree doesn't grow good fruit. In the same way, if we're feeling bad and unhappy on the inside, we'll probably complain and grumble on the outside. We won't act with kindness.

"Jesus said it this way.

*Open the Bible to Luke 6:45 (NirV) and read.*

*A good man says good things. These come from the good that is stored up in his heart. An evil man says evil things. These come from the evil that is stored up in his heart. A person's mouth says everything that is in their heart.*

"There you have it. Who we are on the inside will ALWAYS show up on the outside."

**THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES**

**STORYTELLER:** "So how do we make sure that we're healthy on the inside? How do we make sure that only GOOD things come out of us on the outside? How do we make sure that we're showing love and kindness with the way we live each day? (Pause.) We need to stay connected to Jesus.

"There was another time when Jesus spoke to His disciples and talked about plants as a way to help them understand what He was saying. This happened the night before He was arrested and gave up His life. Jesus said this to His friends.

*Open the Bible to John 15:5 (NirV) and read.*

*I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.*

"Let me read that again.

*I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.*



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“Jesus said that we should ‘remain joined’ to Him. THEN our lives will show good things on the outside.

*Walk to the plant.*

“What do you think would happen if I went to this plant and cut off one of the branches? Do you think that branch could survive? (Pause.) Nope! The branch has to be connected to the rest of the plant in order to grow and be healthy.

“Just like a branch has to be connected to the vine, or tree trunk, to survive, we were designed to stay connected to Jesus. When we spend time learning more about Jesus and talking with Him in prayer, things start to change inside us. Over time, we become like good branches. We grow good fruit.

*Attach a few good apple cutouts to the plant.*

“There. That’s looking much better, don’t you think?”

*Walk to the front of the stage as you wrap up.*

**WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “As you can see, our integrity starts with our relationship with Jesus. If we have a strong relationship with Jesus, then we’ll be truthful, inside and out. We’ll show Jesus’ love with the way we live and the way we treat people every day.

“Here’s what we need to remember today.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“Be truthful with your whole life.**

“What we say and do matters a lot, because it shows what’s really in our hearts on the inside. Of course, that doesn’t mean that we’ll never mess up or say or do something hurtful. We all make mistakes and bad choices from time to time. But if we stay connected to Jesus, then MOST of the time, our words and actions will be loving. And if we mess up, we can go right to Jesus and ask Him for help.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us live with integrity.”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**PRAY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, we want to be truthful with our whole lives. And we need Your help to do that. We are so thankful that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** Please work in our lives on the INSIDE so that we can show Your love to everyone on the OUTSIDE. Help us stay connected to You so that we can live each day with integrity. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “Wow. I think the next time I pick up a piece of fruit, I’ll remember what Jesus said. He said that we need to stay connected to Him. Then we’ll be healthy on the inside so we can show His love on the outside—the way a tree grows good fruit on its branches!

“If we choose to follow Jesus and stay connected to Him every day, then we can be truthful with EVERYTHING in our lives.

“This is our challenge as we spend this month talking about integrity.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“Be truthful with your whole life.**

“We know that if we want to live with integrity, we need to stay connected to Jesus. But how can we do that? Can anyone raise your hand and tell me one of the ways we can stay connected to Jesus?”

*Take a few answers from the kids.*

“One thing that helps ME to stay connected to Jesus is . . .

*Share an example of a way you personally stay connected to Jesus. Then, if they haven’t already been mentioned, you can add: read or listen to Scripture, spend time in prayer, write in a journal, talk about Jesus with other believers, etc.*

“The more you connect with Jesus, the more you’ll be able to live truthfully—inside and out!

“We have a memory verse this month that will help us remember what integrity is all about. It’s Proverbs 10:9.

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

*Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. (Proverbs 10:9, NIV)*

“I know I don’t want to take a crooked path. I want to be truthful with my whole life. How about you? *(Pause for response.)* Awesome. You can head to Small Group now and talk about that with your leader and your friends. I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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