



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**All About Soul**  
Think About These Things  
Philippians 4:8

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Focus on what's true.

### 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 need to make the wise choice.**

### 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
- Six simple "ramps": foam boards propped up with books, boxes, or other objects
- Lots of ball pit balls—ideally in just two colors, but you can also adapt the game if they're multicolored (see "What You Do")
- Six buckets or laundry baskets to hold the ball pit balls
- One inflatable circular pool float—ideally one that looks like a tire, like these: <https://bit.ly/3oLkke6> (note: this can be one of the floats you used for the other games this month)

#### 3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- Two large, clear containers (for example, empty cheese ball containers); these should be able to fit about 10 to 15 ball pit balls before overflowing
- About 20 to 30 (total) ball pit balls in two different colors—10 to 15 of each color (from the Opener)
- Two buckets to carry the ball pit balls

**Philippians 4:8 (NIV)**



WHAT'S INSIDE  
MATTERS MOST

WEEK  
**FIVE**  
OCTOBER 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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### BASIC TRUTH

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### 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, friends! I'm so glad you're here! Can anybody raise your hand and tell me what we've been talking about this month? *(Pause for response.)* That's right! 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's important that we tell the truth, and it's also important that we LIVE in a truthful way. That means we love God and want to follow God on the IN-side. And that shows up with the way we share God's love on the OUT-side.

"When you have integrity, you're DRIVEN by your relationship with God. So we've got another fun game to play today that has to do with cars and driving. This game is again between this side of the room and this side. *(Reference both sides of the room.)* And this time, ALL of you will get to play!

*Walk over to the ramps and the tire float set up in the middle of the room.*

"As you can see, we have six different ramps here—three for each team. These ramps are all facing the tire in the middle. For this game, your goal is to pick up a ball and roll it onto the ramp to try to launch it up and into the tire. *(Demonstrate.)* Then go to the back of the line, because it's the next person's turn.



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"This side will be using the [color] ball pit balls, and this side will be using the [color] ones.

*Note: If possible, it would be ideal if you have only two colors of ball pit balls—one for each team. That way it will be really easy to tell which team has more inside the "tire" at the end.*

*Or you could split the colors up (for example: yellow and blue for team one and red and green for team two). Either way, make sure that you have a bucket next to each ramp with ONLY ball pit balls that are in that team's color.*

"At the end of the game, we'll see which team has more ball pit balls in the tire. That team is our winner!

"Small Group Leaders, while we play the game, I'd love it if you could pick up the balls that miss and put them back in each team's buckets. Thank you!

"Okay, everybody line up behind one of your team's ramps and let's get started. Remember, one roll per person, then go to the back of the line. Let's see if anyone can make it into the tire. Three, two, one, GO!

**AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "YOU MIGHT THINK" BY WEEZER)**

*Comment on the action as the kids play the game. Make sure they're following the rules (one roll per person, then go to the back of the line).*

*During the game, Small Group Leaders collect the balls that miss and put them back in the teams' buckets.*

*End the game after you're sure that all kids have had at least one turn. Then count up the number of balls for each team that made it inside the tire and declare the winning team.*

"THAT. WAS. AMAZING. Seriously, great job, everybody! And special thanks to our leaders for refilling your buckets. Now let's stand up so we can sing and worship God together."

*Host: Clear away the game supplies.*



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## BIBLE STORY

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit..*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! All month, we've been talking about how God made us to live with integrity. God made us to be truthful in everything we say and do. And God can help us live that way every day.

"There's something we can do that will help us live with integrity, and it has to do with what we THINK about. (*Hold up Bible.*) The apostle Paul actually wrote about this idea in a letter that we call the book of Philippians.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1 (PAUL WRITING)*

"This was a letter that Paul wrote to the Jesus-followers in a place called Philippi."

### THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS

**STORYTELLER:** "Paul had spent several months in Philippi, as the new church grew in the home of a woman named Lydia. But years later, Paul was arrested for telling people about Jesus. He was taken as a prisoner to Rome. During this time, Paul wrote letters to the churches he had helped start in different places.

"In the church in Philippi, the new believers were growing in their love for Jesus and each other. Toward the end of his letter, Paul reminded the Philippians how they could keep growing in their relationship with Jesus.

"Listen to what he wrote.

*Open the Bible to Philippians 4:8 (NirV) and read.*

*Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things."*

*SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND*

### FILLING OUR MINDS, PART 1

**STORYTELLER:** "Okay. So let's imagine this is your mind.

*Set one of the clear containers on the table.*

"You get to choose what goes into your mind. You get to decide if you'll fill your mind with good things or bad things. We'll use [color] for the good things, because it's my favorite color. (*Hold up a ball pit ball in that color.*) We'll use [color] for the bad things.

"First, let's think of some things we SHOULDN'T put in our minds. Here's an example. If we watch something that we're not supposed to watch.

*SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (KID WATCHING TV)*



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*Put a few ball pit balls of the “bad” color in the container.*

“Or maybe we listen to someone who’s saying mean things about someone else.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3 (OTHER KID WHISPERING IN KID’S EAR)**

*Put a few more ball pit balls of the “bad” color in the container.*

“Or maybe we get really mad at someone, and we just keep thinking about all the mean things we want to do to the person who made us angry.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4 (KID THINKING ABOUT BEING MEAN)**

*Put a few more ball pit balls of the “bad” color in the clear container. It should be full at this point.*

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

“Without even really thinking about it, we can let bad thoughts into our minds. And then, before we know it, our minds are FULL of those bad things. When our minds are full of bad things, what do you think happens?”

*Try to put in one more ball pit ball of the “bad” color, and it “overflows.”*

“Bad things come out. We’ll say mean words. We’ll do things that hurt people’s feelings. We might even say things that aren’t true. If we’re thinking bad things on the INside, then it’s pretty difficult to act with kindness, goodness, and love on the OUTside.”

## **FILLING OUR MINDS, PART 2**

**STORYTELLER:** “But there’s a much better way! There’s something we can do to keep our thoughts focused on Jesus.

*Set the other clear container on the table.*

“Remember what Paul said in his letter.

*Open the Bible to Philippians 4:8 (NIV) and read.*

*Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things.*

“We have to CHOOSE every single day what we put into our minds. For example . . .

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5 (KID PRAYING)**

“You can pray and talk to God when you’re feeling angry or frustrated. You can remember that God loves you and is always there for you. You can ask God to help you show love instead of acting out of anger.

*Put a few ball pit balls of the “good” color in the new container.*



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**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 6 (KID READING THE BIBLE)**

“You can read or listen to the Bible or ask your parent or older brother or sister to read it to you. In the Bible, you can see how God has always been faithful and true. You can read stories of other people who trusted God, even during difficult times.

*Put a few more ball pit balls of the “good” color in the new container.*

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 7 (KID LOOKING AT A DRAWING FROM A FRIEND)**

“You can also think about good things that God has given you—like your family and friends. You can think about how thankful you are to have them in your life.

*Put a few more ball pit balls of the “good” color in the new container. It should be full at this point.*

“When you fill your mind with those good thoughts, then good things will come out in the way you live each day.

*Try to put in one more ball pit ball of the “good” color, and it “overflows.”*

“You’ll be full of God’s love, which will make you want to SHARE God’s love with other people.

“And here’s the thing. Even if you find yourself in one of those situations we talked about earlier, where something not-so-good is happening around you . . .

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 8 (KID TURNING OFF TV)**

“You can turn off the TV.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 9 (KID WALKING AWAY)**

“You can walk away instead of being part of making fun of someone else.

“You can say ‘no’ to those bad thoughts.

*Pick up one of the “bad” color ball pit balls and try to put it in the “good” container. It falls out.*

“Look—when we fill our minds with good things, there’s NO ROOM for the bad things!”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Walk in front of the table as you wrap up.*

**WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Let’s remember what Paul wrote to the Philippians. We should focus our minds on things that are true . . . noble, right, and pure . . . lovely and worthy of respect . . . excellent or worthy of praise.



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"We need to fill our minds with these GOOD things that help us grow in our relationship with God. That could come from praying, reading the Bible, or talking to other people who can encourage us in what we believe. Then we'll be able to show love to other people because we're so full of God's love on the inside.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

"Let's **focus on what's true**. Say that with me."

**KIDS AND STORYTELLER: "Focus on what's true."**

**STORYTELLER:** "Great job. Let's pray and talk to God together."

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, please help us fill our minds with good things, so there's not even any room for the bad things. We know that we can easily get distracted, and our thoughts can get filled by things that we know aren't right or good for us. We need Your help, God, to keep our minds focused on You. Help us **focus on what's true**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "I know I'll be thinking a lot about Paul's wise words. It's good to stop and think about what kinds of thoughts tend to run through your head. Are your thoughts helpful? Are they kind? Are they full of God's love?"

"God can help us replace our bad thoughts with GOOD thoughts about Who God is . . . how much God loves us . . . and the good things around us.

"If we fill our minds with the right things, then we'll be able to share God's goodness and love with the way we live each day. So let's do this.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Focus on what's true.**

"When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to guide you. We need help from God's Spirit to be able to change the way we think and the kinds of things we think about. The Holy Spirit can help us focus on what's true and what matters most: loving God and loving other people.

"So if you're having trouble, ask God to help you focus on what's true, right, and excellent. And pay attention to the things you're watching and listening to. Those things affect what you think about and how you see the world.

"You can head to Small Group now and talk about how you can **focus on what's true**. I bet you and your friends can come up with some great ideas. 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**