



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You
Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way
God comforts you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

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**

Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Spotlight or Nightlight?
Application Activity: 5-4-3-2-1
Memory Verse Activity: Searching for the Light
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the comfort and compassion you have experienced lately in your life. Ask God to help you show the kids Jesus' example of comforting words and presence that they can extend to others.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You
Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, prepared black poster board from previous weeks, cotton balls, and glue (or self-adhesive pom-poms); *Optional:* black poster board, pencil, neon dot stickers, neon-colored liquid chalk markers, and white crayons or colored pencils

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way
God comforts you.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids to small group with a fist bump or high five.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the prepared poster board from the previous weeks.
 - *NOTE: If you do not have the poster board from previous weeks:*
 - Choose one kid to write the word "SHINE" with a pencil in large letters.
 - Invite other kids to cover the letters with neon dot stickers.
 - If time allows, invite kids to use the chalk markers to write or draw one thing they did to shine God's light this past week.
 - If time allows, invite kids to use the white crayons or markers to draw stars, sparkles, and other designs.
- Instruct the kids to create a comfortable frame around the edge of the entire poster board by gluing cotton balls (or sticking the pom-poms).
- As kids work, ask: "What is something that makes you 'comfortable'?" (like sweatpants and beanbag chairs)

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, Nlrv

NOTE: Kids will be adding to the poster board each week this month, so set it aside and store it in a safe place for the following week.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Two sets of prepared comfortable items

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Direct each team to line up on the same side of your group space.
- Place a pile of the comfy items across from each team's line on the other side of your group space.
- When you say, "Live Bright," instruct the first kid on each team to run to their team's pile, put on the clothes or hold all the items, and say "I'm so comfy" before putting them back in the pile, returning to their team's line, and tagging the next kid in line to repeat, and so on.
- Celebrate the first team to have all their members complete the relay as the winners.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You

Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way
God comforts you.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow, you all really did look so comfy! It's interesting the things that make us feel comforted or comfortable. What's the most comfortable thing to you? *(Invite responses.)* There are times when you just need something comfy! **[Transition]** While bunny slippers, fluffy pillows, and other comfy items are great, we have another gift for comfort that is greater than all the others. Let's discover more about where comfort comes from!"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, NIV

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.



WEEK
FOUR

SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP

K-5

STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



* 1. SPOTLIGHT OR NIGHTLIGHT?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "Spotlight or Nightlight Paddles" Activity Page, "Spotlight or Nightlight Scenarios" Activity Page, scissors, glue sticks, large craft sticks, tape, and coloring materials

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You

Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way
God comforts you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the marked Bible to read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 out loud to the group (or invite a kid who would like to read out loud to read the verses to the group).
- Ask:
 - Who do these verses tell us comforts us in times of trouble? (*God*)
 - Because God comforts us, what can we do? (*comfort others*)
- Give each kid a "Spotlight or Nightlight Paddles" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Set out the glue sticks and coloring materials.
- Direct kids to cut out their paddle, and fold it along the dotted line.
- Next, have them tape a large craft stick between them, glue the craft stick in place, then color the symbols however they'd like.
- When everyone has finished their paddle, instruct the kids to form a circle.
- Explain that after you read a scenario, kids will decide if it's a Spotlight situation (fun or exciting), or a Nightlight situation (a little scary or uncomfortable) by holding up their paddles.
- Read the scenarios (one by one) from the "Spotlight or Nightlight Scenarios" Activity Page, pausing for kids to respond each time.
- After each scenario, invite kids to share what makes each scenario a Spotlight or Nightlight scenario.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God made each of us unique! So what might be a Nightlight situation for you—talking in front of your whole class or going to a new sport—might be a Spotlight situation for someone else. All comfort comes from God. God sees when we're in trouble and gives us comfort and compassion. Because of that, we can offer compassion to others and help to meet their needs. It's like a gift we can give.

"Jesus showed us what God's comfort looks like with the way He treated people. When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to be with us when we walk through hard times. God has compassion on us and shows us how we can love others. You can **comfort others the way God comforts you**. We can be compassionate to those around us even if what they're going through seems 'not a big deal' to us. If someone needs comfort, that's because their situation is a big deal to them, and that means it's a big deal to God, and should be a big deal to us, so we can help comfort them."



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



2. 5-4-3-2-1

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Felt, permanent (or fabric) markers, pencils or pens, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the felt and pencils/pens.
- Invite each kid to choose a color of felt and a pencil or pen.
- Instruct kids to lay their non-dominant hand flat on the felt, fingers spread out.
- Direct the kids to trace their hand on the felt.
 - Kids can trace their own hands or work with a partner to do so.
- When kids finish tracing, give each one a pair of scissors to cut out their felt hand shapes.
- When kids finish cutting, give each one a permanent (or fabric) marker.
- Direct kids to write a number inside each finger on their felt hands:
 - 1 on the index finger
 - 2 on the second finger
 - 3 on the ring finger
 - 4 on the pinky
 - 5 on the thumb
- Instruct kids to draw a heart on their palm.
- When kids have finished their numbers and heart, direct them to flip the hand over, and draw the following inside each finger:
 - eyes on the thumb
 - ear or a music note on the pinky
 - small hand or paw print on the ring finger
 - nose or flowers on the second finger
 - a smiley face on the index finger
- Tell kids to write their names somewhere on the felt, then set aside the felt hands for the Pray and Dismiss activity.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You

Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way
God comforts you.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Matthew 5:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we feel like we need comfort and to calm down, we can think of what God has given us. Our senses can help us notice what God has made and done to remind us of the care and compassion God has for us. We can also use our senses to notice when someone around us might need comfort.

"These hands we made can help us remember to thank God for five different things whenever we're feeling overwhelmed: 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can touch, 2 things you can smell, and 1 thing you can taste.

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time that you found comfort in something God has made or enjoyment of what God has given us. Share how noticing these things has helped you offer comfort to others.)



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(2. 5-4-3-2-1, CONTINUED)

“These hands we made will also be able to provide comfort for someone else. **Comfort others the way God comforts you.** We can comfort others with our words by reminding them of another time they overcame something hard. If someone is hurt or really upset, you could go get an adult to help too.”



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



3. SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles (marked at Matthew 5:16), and "Searching for the Light" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Scatter the lightbulb cutouts (both colors) from the "Searching for the Light" Activity Pages around your group space.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign each team one of the lightbulb colors.
- When you say, "Go," instruct the teams to spread out and gather all their team's color lightbulbs, then come back together as a team.
- Say "Go" to start the game.
- When teams have gathered all their lightbulb cutouts, challenge them to arrange them in verse order.
- For older kids, set out a marked Bible for them to reference.
- For younger kids, point out the numbers on the lightbulb cutouts to help them put them in order.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You

Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way
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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Matthew 5:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our Memory Verse tells us the 'good things' we do can cause people to thank God. One of those things is helping comfort our friends and family, classmates and neighbors, small group buddies, and teammates. We all go through hard times, and everyone needs encouragement sometimes.

"Because God shows us compassion and comforts us in a lot of different ways, we have many options on how we can comfort those around us. You wouldn't comfort your little cousin who dropped his ice cream the same way you would comfort a friend who is having a hard time in school. You wouldn't comfort your sibling who was sad about feeling sick the same way you'd comfort a teammate who didn't make a goal. You can **comfort others the way God comforts you.**"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How can you show someone you care?
- What is one way you feel God comforts you when you are facing something sad or difficult?
- How can you use those experiences to **comfort others the way God comforts you?**



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Completed hands from the 5-4-3-2-1 Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid their completed hand from the 5-4-3-2-1 Activity.
- Instruct the kids to put their "hands" in the circle, and then take them out while cheering "Comfort!"
- Invite kids to do it again, this time whispering "Comfort!"
- Repeat, varying the way you say "Comfort!"—inviting kids to come up with different suggestions of how they can say the word.
- Direct the kids to hold their felt hands with one of their own as you pray.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are so many ways God shows us comfort and compassion, and so many ways we can **comfort others the way God comforts us.**

"Dear God, thank You for comforting us through all the troubles we might face, and in so many different ways. Thank You for showing us how to comfort others by following You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, send the felt hands home with the kids, and invite them to talk to adults about the way God comforts us. *NOTE: If a child has shared a particular fear or anxiety, share that with their grown-up to discuss it.*

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You
Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Comfort others the way
God comforts you.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Prepared black poster board from previous weeks
- Cotton balls (or self-adhesive pom-poms), enough to frame the poster board for each Small Group
- Glue (or self-adhesive pom-poms), enough for each Small Group to share
- **NOTE:** If you do not have the poster board from previous weeks, you'll need:
 - Black poster board, one for each Small Group
 - Pencil, one for each Small Group
 - Neon dot stickers, enough for each Small Group to share
 - Neon-colored liquid chalk markers, enough for each Small Group to share
 - White crayons or colored pencils, one for each kid
- **NOTE:** Kids will be adding to the poster board each week this month, so be prepared to store it in a safe place for the following week.

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Variety of "comfy" clothes or items; for example: bathrobe, slippers, blankets, stuffed animals, sleep mask, etc.—two sets of each item for each Small Group
 - **NOTE:** Make sure you have the same number of items for two teams.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story

applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. SPOTLIGHT OR NIGHTLIGHT?

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, one for each Small Group
- Print "Spotlight or Nightlight Paddles" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Print "Spotlight or Nightlight Scenarios" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each kid
- Glue sticks, enough for each Small Group to share
- Large craft sticks, one for each kid
- Tape (clear), one-two rolls for each Small Group
- Coloring materials, enough for each Small Group to share

2. 5-4-3-2-1

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Felt (in a variety of colors), one square for each kid
- Permanent (or fabric) markers, one for each kid
- Pencils or pens, one for each kid
- Scissors, one pair for each kid

3. SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles (marked at Matthew 5:16), two for each Small Group
- Print "Searching for the Light" Activity Pages (Older or Younger versions, depending on your group) on two



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

different colors of cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Completed hands from the 5-4-3-2-1 Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**