



WEEK
FOUR
OCTOBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

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

Too Much
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

God's power has given us
everything we need to lead
a godly life.
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's
best even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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: Balloon Bop
Application Activity: Know When to Stop
Memory Verse Activity: Pace Yourself
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

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on all the good things God has given us to enjoy. Ask God to help your group develop self-control to know when to stop. Pray that kids would trust God enough to do what's best, even when they don't want to.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Too Much

Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, and plastic cups; *Optional:* deflated balloons for the Opening Activity and Balloon Bop Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the cups.
- Instruct the kids to work together to stack the cups and build the tallest tower they can without knocking it over.
- Encourage kids to count the cups as they add them so they know how many they were able to successfully stack before they fell.
- Repeat as time allows.
- For each round, challenge the kids to stack more cups than before.
- *Optional:* Ask older kids to help you blow up and tie balloons for the Opening Activity and Balloon Bop Activity.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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best even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



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: Balloons (in two different colors)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to stand in a big circle.
- Divide your group into two teams by assigning every other kid to Team 1 or Team 2.
 - *NOTE: Each team will be standing next to someone in the circle from the opposite team.*
 - Example: Team 1 kid, Team 2 kid, Team 1 kid, Team 2 kid, etc.
- If balloons are not yet inflated, blow at least two of them up (one of each color), and tie the ends.
- Assign one color balloon to each team.
- Share the Round 1 instructions with the group:
 - In Round 1, instruct Team 1 to work together to tap their color balloon and keep it in the air while Team 2 members keep their hands to their sides.
 - End Round 1 when the balloon touches the ground.
 - When Round 1 ends, collect Team 1's balloon and set it aside.
- Begin Round 1.
- After Round 1 ends, share the Round 2 instructions with the group:
 - Begin Round 2, with the same instructions for Team 2.
 - Direct Team 2 to work together to tap their color balloon and keep it in the air while Team 1 members keep their hands to their sides.
 - When Round 2 ends, collect Team 2's balloon and set it aside.
- Begin Round 2.
- After Round 2, if time allows, explain Round 3:
 - Both teams attempt to tap their color balloon and keep it in the air.
 - If a kid from one team taps the other team's balloon, direct that kid to sit down and share that they're out.
 - The team who keeps their colored balloon in the air the longest, wins!
- Return both balloons to the circle and begin Round 3, if time allows.
- *NOTE: Set the balloons aside for the Balloon Bop Activity.*

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was harder than it looked! If the balloon came near you and it wasn't your team's turn, it was probably hard to stand as still as a statue! That took a lot of self-control. **[Transition]** Today we'll discover just how important it is to show self-control!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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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. BALLOON BOP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Proverbs 25:16, and balloons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask a younger kid to open the marked Bible to Proverbs 25:16.
- Choose an older kid who would like to read the verse aloud to the group.
- If balloons are not yet inflated, blow them up and tie the ends.
- Inform the kids they will tap a balloon and shout out something they love every time they tap the balloon. For example:
 - candy
 - pizza
 - chips
 - iPad
 - TV
 - toys
 - shopping, etc.
- Start the game off with one balloon, then add another, and another.
- Keep adding balloons for the kids to attempt to keep in the air while sharing things they love.
- When the balloons start dropping, call for the kids to freeze!
- Collect the balloons and set them aside.
- Read Proverbs 25:16 again.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our game was fun and pretty simple with one or two balloons! But once we added more and more, it became almost impossible to keep them in the air! It's just like in the verse we heard today! Do you think the verse we heard about is just about honey? *(Invite responses.)*

"Our verse in Proverbs might seem kind of silly, but it's a good reminder that we need to **know when to stop!** Too much of any of the good things that were mentioned in our game can turn out to be a bad thing if we aren't careful. You've probably never eaten so much honey that it made you sick, but we all have a time when we should've stopped but we didn't. Thankfully, we aren't left on our own when it comes to self-control! As followers of Jesus, we have His Spirit to help us **know when to stop.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about an age-appropriate time as a kid when you didn't practice self-control. Maybe you ate too much ice cream and got sick, or spent too long playing video games. What happened? How could some self-control and knowing when to stop have helped in that situation?)



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



2. KNOW WHEN TO STOP [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Playing cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into teams of five to play a game called "35."
 - It's okay if some teams only have 3-4 kids.
- Give each team a deck of cards.
- Choose an older kid in each team to remove all face cards (Ace, Jack, Queens, and Kings) from the deck.
- Share that the goal of the game is to be the closest team to reach 35 points without going over.
- Instruct each team to select a kid to pass out the cards.
- Direct the kid passing out the cards to deal one card to each person on their team by laying it down, face up, in front of them.
- Instruct each team to add up the numbers on their team's cards together to see if they made it exactly to 35.
 - If the team's cards don't add up to 35, allow the kid passing out the cards to flip over one more card for that entire team to add to their team's current score.
 - The team closest to 35 points without going over wins!
- After two to three rounds, prompt teams to collect their cards.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"In this game, you had to **know when to stop** asking for cards so you didn't go over the point limit. Can you think of any examples of a time in your life when it was important to **know when to stop**? (Invite responses.)

"It can be hard to stop, especially if we really love the thing we're doing, but we can trust God and ask for help to practice self-control. God has given us the Holy Spirit to guide and help us to stop."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

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

- Why is it hard to stop?
- Have you ever seen someone else show self-control, choosing to stop before they'd gone too far? What happened?
- What are some good things that could become a problem without self-control?



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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. PACE YOURSELF

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, and playing cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to 2 Peter 1:3a.
- Choose a kid who would like to read the first part of the verse aloud to the group.
- Repeat the first part of the verse together a few times aloud.
- Invite the kids to form a close circle.
- Deal out all the cards in one deck to the kids around the circle.
 - It's okay if some kids have more cards than others.
- Explain that kids will all recite the words of the Memory Verse as they take turns laying down a card for each word.
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Direct that kid to put down one card as the group says the first word of the verse.
- Encourage the next kid to put down one card as the group says the second word of the verse.
- Continue this way around the circle, restarting the verse as needed.
- As kids run out of cards, share that they're out.
- Continue until there is one kid left.
- Declare the kid who is remaining as the winner.
- Restart the game as time allows.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We paced ourselves in this game, putting down one card for each word in the Memory Verse. What are some other ways you may need God's help to show self-control? (*Invite responses.*) Maybe when riding our bikes, we might need to slow down so we don't get hurt! When we're eating something we love, we may need to slow down. Remember, God's power has given us everything we need to practice self-control so we can **know when to stop.**"



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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: Index cards, and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an index card and a pencil.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on their cards.
- Direct the kids to pass their card to the kid on their left.
- Give the kids a few minutes to pray for the friend on their card, that they would **know when to stop** as they practice self-control.
- Close the group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Too Much
Too Much of a Good Thing
Proverbs 25:16

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for all the kids here today and for the opportunity to pray for each other. Help each one of us to **know when to stop** this week so that we protect ourselves and the people around us. We want to trust You in all things. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Know when to stop.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share the verse from Proverbs that we talked about today as we practice self-control so we **know when to stop**.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.
2 Peter 1:3a, NlrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Plastic cups, 30 or so for each Small Group
- *Optional: deflated balloons for the Opening Activity and the Balloon Bop Activity, possibly seven for each Small Group (in at least two colors)*
 - *Be sure to blow up extra balloons in the event of popping.*

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:

- Balloons in different colors; one of each color, at least two for each Small Group
 - *Be sure to blow up extra balloons in the event of popping.*

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. BALLOON BOP

[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 Proverbs 25:16, one for each Small Group
- Balloons, five to seven in any color for each Small Group

2. KNOW WHEN TO STOP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Playing cards, one deck for every 3-5 kids

3. PACE YOURSELF

[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:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Playing cards, one deck 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:

- Index cards, one for each kid
- Pencils, one for each kid

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.**