

# Preteen | W2

## Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 2

**Bible Story:** On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

### 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 minutes)

#### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

### Large Group (35 minutes)

#### Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

#### Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Bigger Story Joy (K-1st grade), Two Kids and a Stuffie (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Walk the Walk (K-1st grade), Help to See (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Freeze Memory Verse (K-1st grade), Joy Uncovered (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



### Bible Story

On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

### Conversation Starter

How does knowing that Jesus is alive bring you joy?

### Bottom Line

You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NlrV*

5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Prepared "Road to Emmaus Puzzle" Activity Page puzzle pieces in a resealable bag	1



### EveryChild Tips

Provide visual pictures to cue kids of an item for those who may struggle to think on the spot.

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, give them one puzzle piece each.
- Ask them to look at their piece and try to guess what the whole picture is.
- Say, "Can you tell what the picture is just by looking at your one piece?"
- After everyone has arrived and guessed, instruct the kids to put all their puzzle pieces together to reveal the full picture.

### What You Say:

"Great job, everyone! It was pretty hard to guess the picture from just one little piece, right? It looked like a blob or a random line. But when we put it all together, we saw the big picture. Life can be like that. Sometimes we can only see one sad or confusing piece, and we forget there's a bigger story God is telling. Let's dive into today's Bible Story about two friends who needed help seeing the big picture."

5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

### What You Need

 Bible	1
 Blindfold	0
 Prepared tape maze on the floor	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Provide gloves for kids with sensory sensitivities.

### What You Do:

- Ask for volunteers and choose two from the kids who have their hands raised.
- Choose one volunteer to be the "traveler" and blindfold them.
- Choose the other volunteer to be the "guide."
- The guide must use only their voice to direct the traveler through the maze from start to finish. (e.g., "Take two steps forward." "Stop." "Turn left." "Turn right.")
- The rest of the group must stay silent.
- Continue with more rounds if time allows. Ask for two new volunteers at the start of each round.

### What You Say:

"Wow, great job, you guys! Navigating that maze without seeing was tough, right? The traveler had to trust the guide who could see the whole path—the bigger picture. In our Bible Story today, Cleopas and his friend were the travelers, and they were lost in their sadness. They thought the story was over. But Jesus came alongside them as a guide. He walked with them and showed them the bigger story, which was that He, the Messiah, HAD to suffer on the cross and rise again. It was all part of God's rescue plan. When Jesus gave up His life and then rose again on the third day, He defeated the power of sin and death. Now when we believe in Jesus and accept what He's done for us, we can be forgiven and walk in close relationship with God forever. When the two friends saw the big picture, their sadness turned to joy! And just like them, **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story.**"

5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

No supplies needed



### EveryChild Tips

- *Remind kids to select a motion that all kids in the group are able to do.*

### What You Do:

- Invite the group to stand in a circle.
- Explain that one person is going to do a very small, subtle motion (like winking their eye, wiggling their finger, tapping their toe, or twitching their nose).
- Instruct the rest of the group to watch closely to “see” what the person is doing.
- Ask for volunteers and choose one kid from those with their hands raised. Instruct the volunteer to begin their motion.
- When someone thinks they spot what it is, direct them to shout, “I SEE! I SEE!” and identify the motion.
- If they’re right, they get to be the next person to do a motion.
- If the group can’t guess after a minute, the person reveals their motion, and you say, “We needed help to see!”
- Play several rounds. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.

### What You Say:

“Great job! You all had to look really closely to see what was happening, right? In our Bible Story today, the two friends walked with Jesus for miles but didn’t recognize Him. They needed help to see the truth. As people, we usually focus on our little piece of the story, like that test that didn’t go so well, or the mean thing your friend just said, or how you have to start at a new school where you don’t know anyone. We all face difficult or confusing things like that every single day. But God has given us a huge gift: we get to know the bigger story that we’re living in.

“And the bigger story is this: God loves us so much that, from the very beginning, He had a plan to rescue us from the terrible curse of sin so we could be close to Him. All of history points to the time that God sent Jesus to rescue us. Sometimes we get so focused on our problems or sadness that we miss what God is doing. And that’s when we need to remember to step back and look for the bigger story. God is ALWAYS working, even when we can’t see it at first, and that’s why **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there’s a bigger story!**”

5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Sandal or shoe	1
 Music player	1
 Fun, upbeat music	1
 EveryChild Supplies: Stop sign	1



### EveryChild Tips

- Use a stop sign or other visual cue to signal when it is time to stop.

### What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

**Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
- Pass the sandal or shoe around the circle while the music plays.
- When the music stops, instruct the kid holding the sandal to stand up and say the Memory Verse: "Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! Philippians 4:4."
- If they need help, the group can say the Memory Verse with them.
- Start the music again and continue playing.

### What You Say:

"You guys are pros at this verse! The first part says: 'Always be joyful.' That sounds impossible, right? How can we be joyful when bad things happen? The key is the next part: 'because you belong to the Lord.' Because we belong to God, we are part of His story.

"We're living in God's big story right now! This doesn't mean that you won't face hard times or that you can't ever be sad or angry. But it does mean that you go through it all with God. That gives us a deep joy that doesn't go away, even on bad days. That's why **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because there's a bigger story!**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

Ask these questions:

- If you were walking with Jesus, what questions would you ask Him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to show up right in the middle of the two friends' sadness instead of waiting until they felt better?
- How do you think Cleopas and his friend were different after their walk with Jesus compared to before it?
- How does knowing that Jesus is alive help you have joy—even in confusing or painful times?
- What is one way you can look for God's bigger story this week?

5 min

# Prayer

5 min

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

-  Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1 1
-  Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1) 1
-  Tape 1
-  Sticky notes 1
-  Writing supplies 1



### EveryChild Tips

- For the sticky note prayer, if a child is uncomfortable sharing a hardship, allow them to write a prayer for someone else or simply write: "God knows."

## Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a sticky note and something to write with.
- Ask kids to think of something in their life that they need Jesus' help with.
- Instruct them to write it on the sticky note (or draw a symbol for it if they're more comfortable with that).
- Explain that we're going to give these things to God, trusting that He is writing a bigger story.
- Invite them to stick their notes onto the cross on the wall.
- Gather around the cross.

### What You Say:

"God sees every one of these sticky notes. He knows it's hard. But just like He turned the sadness of the cross into the joy of the resurrection, He is working toward that good story you are living in. Let's pray together and trust Him with our stories.

"God, thank You that You see the whole picture. Thank You that You're writing a good story. We give You these hard things today. Help us to trust You. Fill us with Your joy, and remind us that You are with us, You will help us, and You are always working for good. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

### GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

#### Social

#### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

##### 15 Minutes

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

#### Opening Activity

*Made to Play*

#### What You Need:

- Offering container

- Print "Road to Emmaus" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out, one set of puzzle pieces for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Resealable bag, one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Put the puzzle pieces in the resealable bag so one piece is ready to give to each kid as they enter the room.*

## 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.)**

#### 1. Take a Snapshot

##### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

##### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Blindfold, one for each Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
- *Create a "maze" on the floor with tape in an area that works for your space. It should be wide enough to walk through but have twists, turns, and dead ends.*

#### 3. Discussion Questions

##### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

*Made to Connect*

##### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### 4. Verses to Take with You

##### Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

*Made to Connect*

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Sandal or shoe, one for each Small Group
- Music player, one for each Small Group
- Fun, upbeat music

##### **EveryChild Supplies:**

- Stop sign

#### 5. Make It Personal with Prayer

##### Pray to God | Prayer Activity

*Made to Reflect***What You Need:**

- Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1, one for each Small Group
- Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1), one for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Sticky notes, one for every kid
- Writing supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- *Before group time:*
- *Tape the posterboard cross from Week 1 to the wall at a kid's height.*
- *If you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1, make a new one—draw a large cross on the posterboard and cut out, one for each Small Group. Tape to the wall at a kid's height.*

**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 resources: **Parent Cue App**.

# Supplies

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Prepared "Road to Emmaus Puzzle" Activity Page puzzle pieces in a resealable bag	1

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Blindfold	0
3. Prepared tape maze on the floor	1

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Sandal or shoe	1
3. Music player	1
4. Fun, upbeat music	1
5. EveryChild Supplies: Stop sign	1

## Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Prepared posterboard cross from Week 1	1
2. Posterboard (for a new cross if you don't have the posterboard cross from Week 1)	1
3. Tape	1
4. Sticky notes	1
5. Writing supplies	1