

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule April 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

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: Headband Story (K-1st grade), Sculpted Creations (2nd-3rd grade)

Application Activity: Grouped Together (K-1st grade), Jesus in Many Languages (2nd-3rd grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Joyful Jump (K-1st grade), To the Beat (2nd-3rd grade)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

Conversation Starter

When have you experienced joy in your life?

Bottom Line

The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

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
-  Plastic cups 1
-  Ping-pong balls 1
-  Party blowers 1
-  Table 1
-  Timer (or smartphone or watch) 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:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the group into teams.
- Give each kid a party blower.
- Explain the challenge: Using *only* the air from the party blower (no hands!), they are to knock the ping-pong balls off the cups.
- They are to get close enough for the party blower to extend and hit the ball.
- Time each team to see how fast they can knock all three off.

What You Say:

"That was a blast! It took a lot of air power to play that game. In our true story from the Bible today, the disciples experienced a different kind of power, something that sounded like a mighty rushing wind. It was the arrival of the Holy Spirit! Let's go find out how that changed everything."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  "Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page 1
-  Coloring supplies Several



EveryChild Tips

- Provide adaptive tools.
- Encourage kids to work in pairs and support one another.

What You Do:

- Read Acts 2:1-4 out loud to the group. Explain that this is part of the story of what happened at Pentecost when God sent His Holy Spirit.
- Give each kid a comic strip page from the "Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to draw the pictures for each panel.
- The captions should outline the story:
 1. The disciples were waiting and praying together.
 2. Suddenly, a sound like a mighty wind filled the house!
 3. Something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues separated and came to rest on each of them.
 4. They started speaking in different languages!
 5. Peter told the crowd about Jesus.
 6. 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!
- Encourage the kids to be creative with how they show the wind and fire.
- Let them share their comics with a partner.

What You Say:

"Your comics really bring the story to life! Can you imagine being there? It must have been so amazing. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to do things they couldn't do before—things like speaking new languages and being bold enough to preach to thousands.

"That same Holy Spirit, God's very Spirit, lives in us today! When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. But it takes practice to learn to listen and follow God's Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to you in nudges throughout your day, sometimes He brings words to your mind, sometimes He will make words in the Bible jump right off the page, and you know they're just for you. Sometimes He speaks through worship song lyrics that shoot straight to your heart.

"There are a lot of different ways that the God who goes with you everywhere will speak to you! He will send truths from heaven right to your heart! **[Bottom Line] The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Connect

What You Need

-  Prepared balloons (deflated with hearts drawn on them) 1
-  Prepared paper plates that are taped to the wall at different heights Several



EveryChild Tips

- For kids with limited motor strength, allow a buddy to help hold or release the balloon.
- For kids who struggle blowing up balloons, pre-blow balloons and clip them so the kid can simply release them.
- Some kids may not want to participate or may need to leave the room for this activity if they are sensitive to balloons.

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of three and assign each group a paper plate target.
- Show kids the paper plate targets across the room and explain that it represents people God wants us to reach with His love and joy.
- Give each kid a balloon and instruct kids to blow up their balloon until they see the special image—a heart!
- When everyone is ready, say: “On the count of three, let your balloon go and see if it can fly toward the target!”
- Allow several attempts so kids can adjust how much air they blow into the balloon and how they release it.

What You Say:

“Look at what happened every time you blew up your balloon. You saw the heart shape on the balloon, which reminds us of love. When you let the balloon go, it flew toward the target. Some balloons flew straight. Some spun around. Some went sideways. But eventually, they all moved because something inside them pushed them.

“That’s exactly what happened at Pentecost. Jesus’ followers were waiting and praying, and then the Holy Spirit filled them. When the Holy Spirit filled them, amazing things started happening. They had courage. They spoke languages they didn’t know. They shared Jesus boldly with people who had never heard the message of Jesus before.

“The Holy Spirit does the same thing in you. When you follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives inside you. He is God in you! He fills your heart with things you can’t create on your own—like love, peace, patience, and especially joy.

“Just like the balloon couldn’t move without something inside it, you can’t live out God’s purpose without the Holy Spirit helping you from the inside out. The more you rely on the Holy Spirit, the more His fruit, including joy, shows up in the way you live your life. You can ask the Holy Spirit to help you, guide you, and fill you with joy, because **[Bottom Line] the Holy Spirit gives you joy.**”

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Sticky notes	Several
	Blindfold	1



EveryChild Tips

- Allow kids to participate without the blindfold or without spinning if that makes them uncomfortable.

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.
- Blindfold one kid.
- Spin them around gently.
- The goal is for them to stick a "pointer" sticky note (or just their hand) onto the sticky notes on the wall that have phrases of the Memory Verse on them.
- Whatever note they touch, the group is to read that phrase loud and joyfully!
- Then, take the blindfold off, and continue the same process with another kid.
- After each kid who wants to has had a chance to go, encourage the group to work together to put the notes in the correct order on the wall.
- Read the whole verse together.

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! This verse is a command—'Be joyful!' But it's also a promise. We can be joyful because we belong to the Lord. It's not about forcing a smile when we're sad; it's about knowing deep down that God loves us and He is with us. It's easy to forget that we have such an amazing Helper, but remember this: the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you. It's breathtaking! And the more that you remember that the Holy Spirit is with you, the more your life will be filled with joy ... even in the middle of difficult times. God's Spirit gives you joy that lasts."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What's the difference between being happy and having joy?
- What's one thing you want to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with today?
- Before that Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit, the believers were waiting without knowing what would happen. How would YOU feel waiting for something God promised but didn't explain?
- Why does God choose to work through us instead of doing everything Himself?
- Since the Holy Spirit lives in you as a follower of Jesus, what are some ways you hear His voice?

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."

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of one person they know who needs to know that God is with them. It could be a friend, a family member, or someone they know who is lonely.
- Instruct the kids to write the name of that person on a sticky note.
- Invite them to stick their note onto the posterboard cross.
- Gather around and pray for these people.

What You Say:

"Look at all these people! Jesus sent us to share the good news of His great love with everyone, everywhere. Let's pray that these people will feel God's presence and love this week.

"God, thank You for Your promise to always be with us. Please help the people on these notes know that You love them. Use us to share Your love and joy with them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | Preteen Small Group

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 Move

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Table, one for each Small Group
- Party blowers, one for every kid
- Solo® cups, three for each Small Group
- Ping-pong balls, three for each Small Group
- Timer (or smartphone, or watch), one for each Small Group
- *Before group time:*
 - *Set up the three cups upside down on one end of a table.*
 - *Balance a ping-pong ball on top of each cup.*
 -

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:

- Deflated balloons, one for each kid
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Black permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Paper plates, one plate for every three kids
- *Before group time:*
 - *Draw a heart on each balloon.*
 - *Draw smiley faces or stick people on paper plates, one for every three kids.*
- *Tape the paper plates on the wall across the room at different heights.*

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible
-

Print "Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid

- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share

EveryChild Supplies

- Adaptive tools

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 Play

What You Need:

- Bibles, one for every kid
- Sticky notes, at least one for every kid
- *Before group time:*
- *Write phrases of the Memory Verse on separate sticky notes.*
- "Always be joyful"
- "because you belong"
- "to the Lord."
- "I will say it again."
- "Be joyful!"
- "Philippians 4:4"
- *Stick them on the wall in a mixed-up order.*

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, 1 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 resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

Preteen Social Activity Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Offering container	1
2.	Plastic cups	1
3.	Ping-pong balls	1
4.	Party blowers	1
5.	Table	1
6.	Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1

Preteen – Bible Story Extension Made to Create		Quantity
1.	Bible	1
2.	"Pentecost Comic Strip" Activity Page	1
3.	Coloring supplies	Several

Preteen – Take a Snapshot Made to Connect		Quantity
1.	Prepared balloons (deflated with hearts drawn on them)	1
2.	Prepared paper plates that are taped to the wall at different heights	Several

Preteen – Verses to Take with You Made to Play		Quantity
1.	Bibles	1
2.	Sticky notes	Several
3.	Blindfold	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