

# Preteen | W2

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

**Bible Story:** Philip and the Man from Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

**Bottom Line:** Keep following God, even when you have questions.

**Conversation Starter:** What questions do you have about God?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIRV

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 about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

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

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

### Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



### Bible Story

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

### Conversation Starter

What questions do you have about God?

### Bottom Line

Keep following God, even when you have questions.

### Monthly Memory Verse

*Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIRV








5 min

# Social

5 min

## Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

### What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Plastic straw	1
 Balloons	1
 Long piece of string or yarn	2
 Tape	Several
 Scissors	1
 Chairs	2

### What You Do:

#### *Before the Activity:*

- Tie one end of the string to the back of a chair and place it on one side of the activity area in an open area—the area should be large enough for one kid to stand on each side of the string.
- Cut a straw into two-inch pieces, one piece per Small Group.
- Thread one two-inch piece of straw onto the string, then tie the other end of the string to the other chair, making sure the string is pulled taut between the two chairs.

#### *During the Activity:*

- 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.
- Gather the kids in the activity area and give each kid a balloon.
- Have one kid blow up their balloon and pinch the end together while you help tape their balloon to the piece of straw.
- Position the kid and the balloon on one side of the string, and ask for a volunteer to be the “runner.” Place the “runner” on the other side of the string.
- Explain that this balloon is a “rocket.” One kid will be the “launcher,” and the “runner” will run alongside the balloon as it moves.
- The “launcher” lets the balloon loose, sending the “rocket” down the string.
- As the rocket launches, the “runner” runs alongside it.
- Let kids take turns being the “launcher” and the “runner.”

### What You Say:

“Wow, that rocket is fast! You had to be quick to keep up with it. In our Bible Story today, the Holy Spirit directed a follower of Jesus named Philip to run alongside a chariot to do something really important. Let’s go find out why.”






5 min

# Bible Story Review

5 min

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

 Bibles	1
 "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page	1
 Paper	1
 Painter's tape	1
 Scissors	1

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Print "Bible Story Clues" on paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Put cards from the "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page in different "stations" around the room with a Bible or two (e.g., Station 1: Acts 8:26; Station 2: Acts 8:29, etc.).

#### During the Activity:

- Ask one of the Review Questions from the Bible Story out loud that are listed below. The Review Question will correspond to one of the cards from the "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page. (e.g., "What did the angel tell Philip to do?")
- When you say "Go," kids run to the different stations and look up the Bible verse on the clue card to see if their clue answers the question you asked.
- The first kid to find the correct station and run back to you with the right answer wins a point.
- Continue until you've asked all of the Review Questions below.

### Review Questions

What did the Ethiopian man want to do once he learned about Jesus? (Acts 8:36-37)

What did the angel tell Philip to do? (Acts 8:26)

How did the man from Ethiopia respond when Philip asked if he understood what he was reading? (Acts 8:30b-31)

Who spoke to Philip and told him to go to the chariot and stay near it? (Acts 8:29)

What was the Ethiopian man reading about in the book of Isaiah? (Acts 8:32b-35)

### What You Say:

"Great job! You had to really search for those answers. The man from Ethiopia was searching for answers too. He was reading God's Word, but he didn't understand it. He persevered—he didn't give up. And because God cared about him so much, God sent Philip to help him.

*"Acts 8:26 says: An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. 'Go south to the desert road,' he said. 'It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' Now, I'm sure Philip had questions about this. After all, he was busy doing God's work in Samaria! But Philip trusted God and set off to where God told him to go. As Philip was on his journey, he saw a chariot on the road. Acts 8:29 says: The Holy Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot. Stay near it.' Philip hurried to the chariot, and when he got there, he saw the Ethiopian man reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip climbed up into the chariot and found out what the official was reading.*

"The man asked questions, and Philip was able to help him understand what he was reading and the good news about Jesus. Right away, the

man wanted to be baptized because he believed in and wanted to follow Jesus! The Ethiopian official then continued his trip home, filled with joy. God had sent someone right to his chariot to answer his questions! This is a great reminder to ***[Bottom Line]*** **keep following God, even when you have questions."**

5 min

# Application Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

### What You Need

 Paper	Several
 Stapler	1
 Coloring supplies	Several



- For kids who struggle with writing, allow them to draw their questions instead. A picture of a storm could represent a question about why bad things happen.
- Offer to be a “scribe” for any student who would rather dictate their question to you privately.

### What You Do:

#### During the Activity:

- Give each kid a few sheets of paper. Show them how to fold them in half and staple them together to create a small journal.
- Have kids decorate the front cover with the title “My Big Questions About God.”
- Explain that this journal is a safe place for them to write down any questions they have about God, faith, the Bible, or anything else.
- Give them a few minutes of quiet time to write down their first question. Assure them that no question is silly or off-limits.
- If they're comfortable, invite one or two kids to share a question they wrote down.

### What You Say:

“It’s so important to have a place to ask your questions. Don’t ever stop being curious about God! The man in our Bible Story had questions about God, and his perseverance in seeking answers led him to the best news in the world. God isn’t afraid of your questions. In fact, He welcomes them!

“The Ethiopian man had some huge questions. Somehow, he had come to trust in the One True God. But he hadn’t heard about Jesus, so the words of the prophet Isaiah were confusing to him. The official traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship God and probably hoped to get his questions answered there! But even though he still didn’t understand, he continued to study and ask. God was pleased with the Ethiopian man for asking questions and sent Philip right to where the man was to answer those questions.

“Like that man, you can keep following God, even when you have questions! And while you follow, you can keep asking those questions too. See, God doesn’t get irritated or angry when we ask questions. In fact, God LOVES when we ask questions. God wants to be your close, close friend, and when you ask questions about Him, it shows you want to know Him more! And He loves that! So if you have hard questions about God, trust that God hears you and keep asking! There are so many important questions to ask. And remember, **[Bottom Line] keep following God, even when you have questions.**”

**[Make It Personal] (Share about some of the questions you personally have about God. For example, you could say: “I have a journal like this too. One question I wrote down a while ago was, ‘God, why do You let bad things happen to good people?’ I don’t have a perfect answer, but writing it down helped me talk to God about it honestly.”)**




5 min

# Memory Verse Activity

5 min

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

### What You Need

	Bibles	1
	"Emoji Verse" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Scissors	1

### What You Do:

#### Before the Activity:

- Print "Emoji Verse" on paper and cut, one set per kid.

#### During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 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 out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a set of the five emoji cards.
- Explain that they are going to "translate" the Memory Verse into emojis.
- Read the verse phrase by phrase and have the kids hold up the emoji that best fits each phrase.
  - "Let us not become tired" (👉)
  - "of doing good." (👉M)
  - "At the right time" (👉)
  - "we will gather a crop" (👉>)
  - "if we don't give up." (👉L)
- Once complete, challenge the kids to lay the emojis in the correct order and say the Memory Verse together.

### What You Say:

"That was a fun way to think about our Memory Verse! This verse is the ultimate message of perseverance. It's a promise from God that our efforts in 'doing good' are never wasted. So even when you have questions or when things are hard, don't give up. **[Bottom Line] Keep following God, even when you have questions.**"

5 min

# Discussion Questions

5 min

## Preteen Discussion Questions

### What You Need

No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask these questions and discuss:

- When you have questions about God, who can you ask?
- What if you don't get answers to the questions you have—what can you do?
- What truths do you know about God? How can knowing these truths help you while you wait to find answers to questions you may have?
- What do you do when you have questions about God that don't really have answers?





5 min

# Prayer

5 min

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

### What You Need

 Air popcorn popper	1
 Popcorn kernels, one cup	1
 Bowl	1
 Extension cord	1

### What You Do:

#### *During the Activity:*

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle in the activity area.
- Set up the air popcorn popper in the middle of the group.
- Explain that for this prayer time, each kernel of popcorn represents a prayer.
- Go around the circle and have each person name one person or one thing they want to pray for. It could be a question they have, a friend who needs help, something they're thankful for, etc.
- For each prayer request, drop a kernel of popcorn into the popper.
- Once all the requests have been shared, turn on the popper.
- As the popcorn pops and fills the bowl, explain that this is like our prayers rising up to God. The more we pray, the more we see God work.
- Close in prayer, then enjoy the popcorn snack together as a group.

### What You Say:

"Look at all that popcorn! Each piece represents a prayer. We can talk to God about anything and everything! God hears every single prayer request and every single question. So keep praying, and keep asking questions. Sometimes you may have to wait a long time for an answer. And sometimes you may not get the answer you wanted. But through it all, you can trust that God loves you more than you can imagine, He hears you every time you ask Him a question, and He will give you everything you need to know for right now. Let's thank Him for that."

### Prayer:

"God, thank You that You are a God who invites us to ask questions. Thank You for not being distant or scary. Help us to be like the man from Ethiopia—to keep searching and keep asking. And when we have those hard questions, help us to persevere and trust that You're always with us. 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:

#### Opening Activity Made to Move

##### What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Plastic straw, one per Small Group
- Balloons, one per kid
- Long piece of string or yarn, one per Small Group
- Tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group
- Chairs, two per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Tie one end of the string to the back of a chair and place it on one side of the activity area in an open area—the area should be large enough for one kid to stand on each side of the string.
- Cut a straw into two-inch pieces, one piece per Small Group.
- Thread the two-inch piece of straw onto the string, then tie the other end of the string to the other chair, making sure the string is pulled taut between the two chairs.

### GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

#### 1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

##### Made to Create

##### What You Need:

- Paper, a few sheets per kid
- Stapler, one per Small Group
- Coloring supplies, several per Small Group

#### 2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

##### Made to Play

##### What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Print "Bible Story Clues" on paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Put cards from the "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page in different "stations" around the room with a Bible or two (e.g., Station 1: Acts 8:26; Station 2: Acts 8:29, etc.).

#### 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 per kid
- "Emoji Verse" Activity Page, one set per kid
- Paper, 1/4 piece per kid
- Scissors, one per Small Group

###### What You Do:

- Print "Emoji Verse" on paper and cut, one set per kid.

#### 5. Make It Personal with Prayer

##### Pray to God | Prayer Activity Made to Reflect

###### What You Need:

- Air popcorn popper, one per Small Group
- Popcorn kernels, one cup per Small Group
- Bowl, one per Small Group
- Extension cord, one per Small Group

#### 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 straw	1
3. Balloons	1
4. Long piece of string or yarn	2
5. Tape	Several
6. Scissors	1
7. Chairs	2

## Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Create \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. "Bible Story Clues" Activity Page	1
3. Paper	1
4. Painter's tape	1
5. Scissors	1

## Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. Paper	Several
2. Stapler	1
3. Coloring supplies	Several

## Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies\*

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. "Emoji Verse" Activity Page	1
3. Paper	1
4. Scissors	1

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

	Quantity
1. Air popcorn popper	1
2. Popcorn kernels, one cup	1
3. Bowl	1
4. Extension cord	1