

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Bottom Line: Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Conversation Starter: How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

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

Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Conversation Starter

How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

Bottom Line

Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

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 Move

What You Need

 Offering container	1
 Paper	1
 Writing supplies	Several

What You Do:

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.
- Ask the group to make a collaborative list of things they would want to have if they were stranded on a deserted island. Write down all the suggestions.
- Encourage kids to debate and discuss as a group what they want the final ten items to be until they all agree.
- After they have their list of ten, present a new challenge: "A wave just washed away eight of your items! You can only keep two. As a group, decide which two items are the most essential for survival."
- Listen to their reasoning as they narrow down their choices.

What You Say:

"That got pretty serious at the end! It's tough to choose when you have limited resources. You have to think about what will *really* help you persevere. In our Bible Story today, Paul and 275 other people got stranded after a shipwreck on an island, and they had to figure out how to survive. But Paul had one thing that was more important than anything on your list. Let's go find out what it was."






5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

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

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Origami Boat Directions" Activity Page	1
 Paper	1
 Scissors	Several
 Optional: Shallow plastic bin, water, and a plastic tablecloth or tarp	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Origami Boat Directions" on paper, one per Small Group.
- Cut paper into a square, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- As a group, talk through the key moments of Paul's shipwreck story:
 - The journey to Rome by ship
 - Paul's warning to the ship's crew about the journey being hard
 - The storm hitting and lasting for days
 - The angel's promise to Paul
 - Paul trusting God in the storm
 - The shipwreck on the island of Malta
 - The snake bite and Paul's survival
- While you discuss the story, lead the kids step-by-step through the process of folding their paper into an origami boat.
- Encourage them to help each other as they follow the instructions.
- *Optional: When the boats are complete, let the kids test them in a tub of water to see if they float.*

What You Say:

"Nice work on those boats! It took some focus to get all those folds right. Paul's journey was anything but smooth—it was full of storms and unexpected problems. But through it all, what was the one thing he never did? (*Give up on God.*) Exactly! He persevered. He kept trusting that God was still good and was still at work. That's our challenge too: **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**

"So what does this mean for us? Well, you may never be shipwrecked or bitten by a deadly snake, but when you're disappointed or sad, it's still easy to feel like God is nowhere to be found. The truth is that God loves us deeply and is *always* with us, whether we feel like it or not. We can look back and see all the ways God has worked in the past and know He's still at work right now. So remember, **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"





5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

What You Need

	"Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page	1
	Paper	1
	Clipboards	1
	Pencils	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Don't Give Up Challenge" on paper, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Explain that the goal for each puzzle is to connect the same color dots without crossing over any lines.
- Give kids several minutes to work on their puzzles.
- As they work, encourage them by saying things like, "That one is tough, but don't give up!" or "What's another way you could try that?"
- After a while, gather the group and talk about the experience. Ask: "How did it feel when you got to the harder puzzles? What made you want to give up? What helped you keep trying?"

What You Say:

"Those last puzzles were really hard! It's frustrating when you try and try and can't seem to solve something. Life can feel like that sometimes. We face problems that seem impossible. Maybe a kid at school keeps picking on you, or your parents argue a lot. Maybe your best friend invites someone else to spend the night instead of you. Those are really hard things. But God is always right there, working behind the scenes. God has promised to make everything right in the end, even if we don't get to see that right away. Paul's story shows us that even in the middle of a literal shipwreck, God is still there and still working for good. We might not see the solution right away, but our job is to persevere and keep trusting Him. **[Bottom Line] Don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time about how you turned to God when things got hard. You can share something like: "I was working on a project recently that just kept going wrong. I was so frustrated and ready to quit. But I remembered this verse about not getting tired of doing good. I took a break, prayed, and asked God for a new perspective. It didn't magically get easy, but God gave me the perseverance I needed to finish it.")




5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Construction paper, a variety of colors	25
 Floor tape	1



EveryChild tips

- Allow kids to be the ones to call out the color.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Create a 5 x 5 grid on the floor with the construction paper, with space in between each piece of paper. Use at least two of each color.
- Secure each piece of paper with floor tape.

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.
- Instruct the kids to stand on the outside of the colored grid.
- First, say the Memory Verse, Galatians 6:9, together as a group.
- Explain the game: You will call out a color. All the kids must find a square of that color and step on it.
- Then, you will call out a line from the Memory Verse. The kids will repeat it back to you.
- Next, call out a different color and the next line of the verse.
- For a challenge, call out two colors they have to touch (one hand, one foot) while saying the verse, or have them hop from color to color as they recite the verse.

What You Say:

"Great job! You had to stay focused to keep up. That's what perseverance is—staying focused on doing good, even when it's hard or you get tired. Our Memory Verse is a promise that if we keep going, there will be a harvest. We will see the good results of our faithfulness. Over and over, through every difficulty he faced, Paul chose to keep trusting God and keep going. In time, Paul shared the good news about Jesus with so many people! Through the work of Paul, the Church grew

with more and more believers! So, **[Bottom Line]** don't give up on God when bad things happen."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask these questions and discuss:

- Why do you think Paul trusted God even when everyone else felt hopeless during the storm? What do you think helped him stay calm?
- What does this story show us about God's promises? How did God keep His promise to Paul?
- Paul thanked God and ate food while the storm was still happening. Why do you think gratitude is important even when life is hard?
- What are some "storms" kids your age might face today? (*School stress, friendships, family problems, fear, etc.*)
- What does "not giving up on God" actually look like in everyday life for a preteen? What are some practical examples?



5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Spring-loaded clothespins 1
-  Fine-tip permanent markers 1



EveryChild tips

- Pre-write the phrase on the clothespins for kids who may have difficulty with fine motor writing. They can still decorate it with dots or patterns.
- If the “secret” part of the mission causes anxiety for a kid, give them the option to give their pin directly to the person and tell them they will be praying for them.

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a clothespin and a marker.
- Instruct them to write the phrase “God is always with you” on their clothespin. They can decorate it if they’d like.
- Explain the “secret mission” for the week: They are to take this clothespin and secretly clip it onto the backpack, jacket, or another belonging of someone they know who might need some encouragement.
- Challenge them that every time they see that person this week, they should say a silent prayer for them, asking God to help that person persevere and remember He is with them.
- Close in prayer together.

What You Say:

“This is a cool way to be a secret encouragement for someone this week. It’s a way to help someone else persevere, just like Paul encouraged the men on the ship. Let’s pray for the people who will receive these pins.”

Prayer:

“God, thank You for being with us in the middle of storms. Please encourage the friends and family members who will get these prayer pins this week. Help them to feel Your presence and not to give up. And help us to be people who, like Paul, show others what it looks like to trust You, even when things are hard. 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
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Writing supplies, several per Small Group

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- "Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page, one per kid
- Paper, one piece per kid
- Clipboards, one per kid
- Pencils, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Don't Give Up Challenge" on paper, one per kid.

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Origami Boat Directions" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid and Small Group
- Scissors, one pair per Small Group
- *Optional: Shallow plastic bin, water, and a plastic tablecloth or tarp*

What You Do:

- Print "Origami Boat Directions" on paper, one per Small Group.
- Cut paper into a square, one per kid.

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 Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid

- Construction paper, a variety of colors, twenty-five pieces per Small Group
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:*Before the Activity:*

- Create a 5 x 5 grid on the floor with the construction paper, with space in between each piece of paper. Use at least two of each color.
- Secure each piece of paper with floor tape.

5. Make It Personal with Prayer**Pray to God | Prayer Activity****Made to Reflect****What You Need:**

- Spring-loaded clothespins, one per kid
- Fine-tip permanent markers, one per 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**.

Supplies

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Paper	1
3. Writing supplies	Several

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

	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Origami Boat Directions" Activity Page	1
3. Paper	1
4. Scissors	Several
5. Optional: Shallow plastic bin, water, and a plastic tablecloth or tarp	Several

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Explore

	Quantity
1. "Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page	1
2. Paper	1
3. Clipboards	1
4. Pencils	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Construction paper, a variety of colors	25
3. Floor tape	1

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Spring-loaded clothespins	1
2. Fine-tip permanent markers	1