

2-3 | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 2

Bible Story: The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*
Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.
Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

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

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Run to the Gold (K-1st grade), Add to the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Talents Door Hanger (K-1st grade), Do the Wave (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Cup Stack (K-1st grade), Keychain Coins (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Conversation Starter

"What has God given you?"

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 NIV






5 min

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Yellow cardstock	Several
	1-inch to 2-inch circle punch or scissors	1
	Latex-free balloons	Several
	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	1



EveryChild tips

- *This game can be played while kids sit in chairs and try to keep the balloon up while picking up coins from a table in front of them.*
- *Provide noise-cancelling headphones to anyone who is sensitive to balloons popping.*

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Cut twenty-five or more yellow circles with the circle punch/scissors.
- Scatter the yellow circle "coins" on the floor in one part of your activity area.
- Blow up the balloon(s), and tie the end in a knot.

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 one kid to come stand at the coins, and give them the balloon.
- Explain the game: "When I say, 'Go,' bop your balloon into the air, and reach down and collect some coins. Continue to bop the balloon once each time you collect coins. Keep going until you've collected all the coins. But if the balloon hits the ground, your turn is over."
- On "Go," let the first kid start while the other kids watch and cheer them on.
- Once the balloon hits the ground, help the kid count how many coins they collected, then return the coins to the ground for the next kid to have a turn.
- Cheer for everyone's effort.
- Continue until every kid has had a turn.
- For a fun twist, let two kids go at the same time, and see who can collect the most coins with one balloon bop.

What You Say:

"Great job collecting all those coins! It was tough to keep your balloon up and collect coins at the same time. Jesus told stories or parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told about some people who were given something valuable, like gold coins. Let's go find out what they did with what they were given!"




5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Add to the Story | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Play-Doh® in a variety of colors	1
 Paper plates	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 25:14-30 NIV, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Give each kid a paper plate and some Play-Doh®.
- Explain that you're going to tell the Bible Story together, and their job is to make the things from the story with Play-Doh®.
- Say: "In our story, a rich man gave his servants bags of gold to take care of while he went on a long journey. To the first servant, the rich man gave five bags of gold. Can you make five little coins with your Play-Doh®?"
- Say: "Another servant got two bags of gold. Can you make two little coins?"
- Say: "The last servant got one bag of gold. He dug a hole and hid it! Can you make a little hole and hide one coin?"
- Say: "The first servant who had five bags of gold used his gold and made more! Can you make five more coins to put with those first five coins you made?"
- Say: "The second servant who had two bags of gold used his gold and made more! Can you make two more coins to put with those first two coins you made?"
- Let the kids show you their creations at each step.
- Say: "When the rich man, who is also called the master, came back from his long journey, he was so happy that the two servants had used what he had given them and made more gold! But he was very sad about the one servant who hid his one bag of gold. The master took that bag of gold from that servant and gave it to the first servant who had made five more bags of gold."

What You Say:

"Look at all your amazing creations! Jesus told this story to teach us something true about God's kingdom. The master in the story Jesus told was going on a long journey, and he wanted his servants to do something great with what he had left them. When the master came back, he was so happy with the servants who had done great things with the bags of gold he had given them!

"Just like the master in this story, Jesus, our master, has gone on a long journey, but He is coming back! Jesus, our master, is in heaven now, but He's coming back! And when He comes back, He's going to live with us forever. But in the meantime, He invites us to use every single thing He has given us to do things that make Him happy—just like the first two servants did. They loved their master, and so they used whatever the

master gave them to make him happy. They weren't afraid to use what their master had given them.

"God has given us all amazing gifts—like our talents, our time, and our smiles—and He is so happy when we use them! And He will do great kingdom things when we use them! ***[Bottom Line]*** **God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."**

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Do the Wave | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed



EveryChild tips

- *Do the wave by only raising hands in the air if some kids are unable to stand.*

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Show them how to do “the wave.” Start by standing and raising your arms up high, then have the person next to you do it, and so on around the circle.
- Practice doing the wave a few times.
- After the kids get the hang of it, ask some questions while you do the wave.
- *(Do the wave.)* “How can you use your hands to help at home?”
- *(Do the wave.)* “How can you use your smile to be kind at school?”
- *(Do the wave.)* “How can you use your feet to go play with someone who is lonely?”

What You Say:

“That looked so cool! When you do your part, the wave just keeps growing and going all the way around the room. It’s like that when we use what God has given us. When you use your hands to help, or your smile to be kind, that goodness can spread to other people!”

“God wants you to use everything, absolutely everything, you have in a way you know would make Him happy. Maybe you’re really good at building LEGOs®, but your little brother, who loves LEGOs®, isn’t. You can ask, ‘Okay, Jesus, how can I use this ability to make You happy?’ Maybe you can patiently help your brother with something he’s trying to build or make something for him out of the extra LEGO® bin you have

“God has given you so many good things, and it makes Him so happy when you use them. Maybe you can use the strong muscles God gave you to pull a trash can in for a neighbor. Maybe you can use the sorting skills God gave you to help your family organize their messy canned food cabinet. As you use whatever God has given you, wherever He has put you, it makes Him so happy! And He will do great kingdom things as you use what He’s given you. **[Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you use what He’s given you.**”












5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Keychain Coins | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Paper	Several
	1 ½-inch circle punch or scissors	1
	Mod Podge® container	1
	Small paper bowls	0
	Wax paper	1
	2-inch wooden circles with holes	1
	4-inch bead ball keychains	1
	Metallic gold and silver paint pens	1
	Paintbrushes	1
	Hand wipes	1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Keychain Coins” on paper and cut, one cutout per kid.
- Pour a small amount of Mod Podge® in each bowl, one for every three kids.
- Tear wax paper into 6-inch strips

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible, and direct them to look up Romans 14:17.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to put their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a piece of wax paper, a wooden circle, a bead ball keychain, and a paint pen.
- Encourage kids to decorate both sides of their wooden circle with paint pens.
- Show kids how to run their keychain through the hole and clasp.
- Ask kids to apply a thin coat of Mod Podge® on one side. Place the paper cutout from the “Keychain Coins” Activity Page on top of the coated wooden circle, then brush with another thin coat of Mod Podge®.
- Say the Memory Verse out loud together as the kids work.
- Set aside to dry.

What You Say:

“These keychains are so cool! They remind us of the parable of the bags of gold. Jesus taught His disciples about God’s kingdom. Jesus wanted them to know that when we live in God’s kingdom, we’re called to use

what we've been given to love God and love others, and God will do great kingdom things with what we do.

"The rich man in the story knew his servants were good at different things, so he gave them different amounts of money to take care of while he was gone. The rich man wanted his servants to use that money to make even more money for him. The first two doubled the amount of money they were given, but the third buried the money in the ground because he was afraid. So the rich man took the one bag of money from that servant and gave it to the servant with ten bags of gold.

"Jesus, our master, has gone away to heaven, but He's coming back. And in the meantime, God wants you to use everything—absolutely everything—He's given you, and He will do great kingdom things with it. As we see from our Memory Verse, that kingdom God is growing is full of good things—like things that are right, peace, and joy! ***[Bottom Line]*** God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."

5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Say: "God has given each of us special gifts and talents. Let's make a list!"
- Go around the circle, and help each kid name one thing they're good at. (e.g., "You are a great builder!" "You have a super kind smile!" "You are a fast runner!")
- After everyone has been named, close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Let's pray together and thank God for giving us all these wonderful gifts."

Getting Ready | 23

Small Group

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

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Yellow cardstock, several pieces per Small Group
- 1-inch to 2-inch circle punch or scissors, one per Small Group
- Latex-free balloons, several per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies:

- *Noise-cancelling headphones*

What You Do:

- Cut twenty-five or more yellow circles with the circle punch/scissors.
- Scatter the yellow circle "coins" on the floor in one part of your activity area.
- Blow up the balloon(s), and tie the end in a knot.

GROUPS:

1. Add to the Story

[Talk about God \ | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- Play-Doh® in a variety of colors, one per kid
- Paper plates, one per kid

2. Do the Wave

[Live for God \ | Application Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

3. Keychain Coins

[Hear from God \ | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Keychain Coins" Activity Page, one cutout per kid
- Paper, several pieces per Small Group
- 1 ½-inch circle punch or scissors, one per Small Group
- Mod Podge®, one container per Small Group
- Small paper bowls, one for every three kids
- Wax paper, one box per Small Group
- 2-inch wooden circles with holes, one per kid
- 4-inch bead ball keychains, one per kid
- Metallic gold and silver paint pens, one per kid
- Paintbrushes, one per kid
- Hand wipes, one package per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Keychain Coins" on paper and cut, one cutout per kid.
- Pour a small amount of Mod Podge® in each bowl, one for every three kids.
- Tear wax paper into 6-inch strips

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God \ | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

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:

- EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

1.	Offering container	1
2.	Yellow cardstock	Several
3.	1-inch to 2-inch circle punch or scissors	1
4.	Latex-free balloons	Several
5.	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones	1

23 – Add to the Story | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies* Quantity

1.	Bible	1
2.	Play-Doh® in a variety of colors	1
3.	Paper plates	1

23 – Keychain Coins | Made to Create Quantity

1.	Bibles	1
2.	Paper	Several
3.	1 ½-inch circle punch or scissors	1
4.	Mod Podge® container	1
5.	Small paper bowls	0
6.	Wax paper	1
7.	2-inch wooden circles with holes	1
8.	4-inch bead ball keychains	1
9.	Metallic gold and silver paint pens	1
10.	Paintbrushes	1
11.	Hand wipes	1