



WEEK
TWO
MAY 2026

SMALL GROUP
PRESCHOOL

BIG IDEA

I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

BIBLE

Peter and the Prison Break
Acts 12:1-19

MEMORY VERSE

“Never stop praying.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NirV)

SCHEDULE: PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES 15-20 minutes LARGE GROUP LESSON 20-25 minutes
SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: 25-35 minutes (15 minute rotations)

LARGE GROUP

Slide: Show “Lights, Camera, Action!” title graphic

Music: (Optional) Play upbeat music (song in preservice) as children enter the storytelling area

WELCOME & WORSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome – smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you’re glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. Invite the kids to worship with you. There are instruments and ribbons under the desk for you to use anytime. Please remind them:

- Worship is a way to show God how much you love Him and to thank Him for all He has done.
- Worship makes God happy. God loves it when we sing and pray to Him
- Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (Clap on each number.)

Digs a hole right under me. (Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)

Slowly I start sinking down. (Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)

Until I’m sitting on the ground. (Sit down on ground or chair.)

BIBLE STORY | Peter and the Prison Break, Acts 12:1-19

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the fruit snacks during the Bible Story Rules video, remind them to hold their trash till the end of the story.

Say, before the Video:

- Hello, everybody! Today is such a wonderful day! Do you know why? Because we get to make a Bible story movie at church with our friends! In just a little bit, we’re going to make our very own movie about today’s Bible story
- Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

STORY TIME RULES

Video: Play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN



Video: Play “Topher Time” video (Bible Story)

PRAYER

“Open shut them, open shut them, give your hands a clap. Open shut them, open shut them, place your hands in your lap”

- Let’s say a prayer right now and thank Jesus for hearing us when we talk to Him. (Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)
- Dear Jesus, Thank You for hearing my prayers. I’m so glad I can talk to You. Anytime, anywhere, and about anything. I love You, Jesus! Amen.

SMALL GROUP

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

Say: “We learned that we can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything—and today we have a new memory verse about praying! Let’s practice it with some fun activities. You can choose one or try them all!”

Verse: “Never stop praying.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NirV)

“Teach It with Motions”

- Say the verse slowly
- Add motions:
 - **Never** → shake head
 - **Stop** → hand out
 - **Praying** → fold hands
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:17** → open hands like a book
- Do it 3 times together
- ☞ Keep it upbeat: “Let’s do it again!”

“Say It Like…”

Repeat the verse in silly ways:

- Whisper
- Loud
- Silly voice
- Robot
- Choose your own
- ☞ Always do motions with each version

“Freeze Dance Verse”

- Play music, kids dance
- Stop music → freeze → say the verse with motions
- ☞ Repeat 2–3 rounds

“Challenge Round”

Pick one:

- Say it super fast
- Say it super slow
- Say it with eyes closed
- Say it without you leading

Finish with:

☞ “WOW! You learned it!!”

★ **Bonus Trick** (Works REALLY well)

Throughout the rest of your time together:

- Randomly say: “**Never...**”
- Let kids shout: “**STOP PRAYING!**”

Kids love completing it—and it locks it into memory.

“Wake Up, Peter!”

Focus: Angel waking Peter

How to play:

- Kids pretend to sleep
- Leader gently says: “Peter, wake up!”

- Kids jump up, stretch, and say:
☞ “**God set Peter free!**” or
“**God hears my prayers!**”



SMALL GROUP

MOTHER'S DAY HANDPRINT CRAFT STATIONS

1. Prep Station

- Papers laid out and labeled with names (Let them write their own name)
 - Sleeves rolled up
 - **Say:** "Today is a very special day called Mother's Day. It's a day when we celebrate our moms and all the people who take care of us and love us so much. We get to say 'thank you' for all the hugs, help, and love they give us every day. Today, we're making something special just for them!"
 - We're making a flower for Mommy!
- ☞ Keep kids moving—don't let them linger here.

2. Paint Station (Adult-assisted)

- Use sponge or brush to apply a thin layer of paint to the hand
 - Do one child at a time (way easier)
- ☞ Tip: Hold their fingers open while painting so you don't get a blob

3. Print Station (Key moment)

- Guide their hand onto the paper (over the stem)
 - Press:
 - Palm first
 - Then gently press each finger
- ☞ **Say:** "Press... press... press!" so they stay still for a second

4. Clean-Up Station (immediate!)

- Baby wipes ready
- ☞ This station needs to be FAST or you'll get paint everywhere

Flow (how kids move)

- One child per station
 - As soon as they print → straight to cleanup
 - Next child steps in immediately
- ☞ You want a steady rhythm, not a crowd

Pro tips that will save you

- Do NOT let kids touch the paint themselves (chaos multiplier x10)
- Use washable tempera only
- Have a drying area ready (table or floor space)
- Keep a few extra prints ready in case one goes wrong

Reality check

Some prints will be Crooked or Smudged or Missing a finger
...and parents will still LOVE them.



LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
ACTION!



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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Oddly enough, in a world filled with technology meant to connect people, our lives are more isolated than ever. That was the finding of political scientist Robert Putnam in his book *Bowling Alone*. In the book, Putnam highlighted the decline of organizational groups in the United States and found that, instead of joining communal activities such as bowling leagues, people were becoming individual islands. Moreover, researchers have found that this isolation isn't without consequences. Studies show that it negatively affects both our mental and physical well-being.

There's another book, though, that warns about the negative effects of isolation – the Bible. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to “not give up meeting together...instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope.” One another – it's the Biblical remedy for isolation. In fact, the phrase “one another” is used 100 times in the New Testament alone. Two of those times are found in James 5:16, which says, “Confess your sins to one another. Pray for one another so that you might be healed.”

Too often, we fight our sins and carry our burdens alone, in isolation from the community that God has given us. And the effect is predictable – we habitually give in to temptation and collapse under the weight of our burdens. We wonder where God is and why He doesn't help more, all the while ignoring the very instrument He uses to assist us – the Church, the body of believers. One another.

God didn't design us to “bowl alone.” By His very triune nature, God lives in community, and He has designed us to do the same. So make the godly resolve to confess your struggles and shortcomings to someone you trust. Invite someone who lives in spiritual community with you to share your burdens. And most importantly, be the “one another” for all those who need the healing powers of prayer.

David Rausch

Go Tell It LLC Founder and Creator



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SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Being a Part of a Kid's Pit Crew

Life can be rough sometimes. We all get our fair share of bumps and bruises along the way, but wouldn't it be nice if life had a pit stop that you could pull into so you could get four new tires and a tank of gas? As rough as we think we have it, kids have it just as bad (and sometimes worse). And for a lot of them, their time with you at church is the closest thing they'll get to a pit stop. Every week they do a lap around life's track, enduring emotional and spiritual bumps and bruises, before they come screeching into your presence. This is your chance to bang out some dents and refuel those kids for another lap. One of the best ways to do that is with words of encouragement. Don't know what to say? Start with this:

Call out the truth in them. How often do you notice or think something positive about someone, but fail to share it with them? If all you did was to give voice to the wonderful things you notice or think about the kids in your group, you would light up their week. More than that, you'll be helping them to form a positive identity that will stick with them for life!

I'm glad to see you. If kids know that their presence brings joy to people, they'll want to come back over and over again. A simple "I'm glad to see you" reinforces that they're someone worth knowing.

I missed you last time. If one of the kids in your group was gone the last time you served, let them know you noticed. This will help your kids realize they're an integral part of the community.

Great answer! I like how you think! Unfortunately, kids are far more prone to hearing someone tell them they're "dumb" than they are to having someone call out their brilliance. When you bring positive attention to a kid's answer and thought process, it encourages them to participate all the more in the future. Positive reinforcement helps to produce great thinkers.

Develop an arsenal of encouragement. Have some "go-to" words of encouragement that will brighten your kid's day. Like these: God thinks you're awesome! Way to go! You're a really cool kid! Great idea! You're the best! That was awesome! Nice try! You're a lot of fun! You make me smile! I can't wait to see you again!