

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl • *Matthew 13:44-46 (Supporting: Matthew 4:18-22)*

Bottom Line: Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

Conversation Starter: What is most important?

Monthly Memory Verse: "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • *Matthew 6:10 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

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

The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl
• *Matthew 13:44-46 (Supporting: Matthew 4:18-22)*

Bottom Line

Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

Monthly Memory Verse

"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • *Matthew 6:10 NIRV*

Conversation Starter

What is most important?





5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Small treats (gold coins; Jolly Ranchers®; stickers; small, fun erasers)	0
	Roll of plastic wrap	1
	Dice	2

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Roll one treat multiple times with plastic wrap, then enclose another treat and wrap several times.
- Wrap five or more treats per kid, creating a large, multi-layered ball of plastic wrap.

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.
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give the plastic-wrap ball to the first person and the dice to the person on their right.
- On "Go," the kid with the dice will roll as the kid with the plastic wrap ball starts unwrapping as fast as they can.
- The kid with the dice rolls until they get doubles and yells, "Doubles!" at which point the kid unwrapping has to stop. That kid gets to keep any treats they uncover.
- The dice and the plastic ball get moved to the person beside them. Repeat until the entire ball is unwrapped.

What You Say:

"That was intense! It's so exciting when you find one of those treats hidden in there. It feels like finding treasure! Today's Bible Story is all about finding a treasure so valuable, so important, it changes everything. Let's go find out what it is."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension

What You Need

 Bibles

0

 Floor tape

1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up Matthew 13:44-46 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.

- Talk about how Jesus used parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Ask, "What did you learn from these parables?"
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Lead the group in a "Hard Choices" game.
- Create a line in the middle of your activity area with floor tape.
- Present the group with a series of "Would You Rather?" questions where both options are good.
- "Would you rather have ice cream or cake for dessert for the rest of your life?"
- "Would you rather get a brand-new bike or a brand-new video game console?"
- "Would you rather be famous for being an amazing athlete or a famous musician?"
- With each question, signify which side represents which answer.
- The kids should move to the side that represents their answer.
- After discussing a few fun choices, transition to the Bible Story.
- Ask: "The men in the parables, and the disciples like Peter and Andrew, made a hard choice. They had good things—jobs, boats, and families. Why did they leave all of it to follow Jesus?"
- Discuss the idea that they recognized Jesus and His kingdom were infinitely more valuable than anything else they had.
- Ask: "What is most important?"

What You Say:

"Those were some tough choices! It's hard to pick between two good things. Every single one of those things is good. God made you to love them. But none of them is the *most* important thing.

"Jesus used stories called parables to explain what God's kingdom is like and how it grows. Today, we heard two of those stories. When Jesus' closest friends wanted to know more about God's kingdom, Jesus told them, *'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field'* (Matthew 13:44 NIV). Jesus said that truly finding God's kingdom is more exciting and more valuable than golden treasure. In fact, it's worth giving up all the other important things to keep this one thing. The man in the story knew that God's kingdom was the most valuable treasure he could ever find. That's why he gave up everything for it. There is nothing in the whole world more important than loving God and His kingdom.

"Jesus told another parable to show how valuable God's kingdom is. He said, *'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl'* (Matthew 13:45-46 NIV). In this case, the man was actually looking for treasure—a super-valuable pearl. And as in the first parable, when he found that treasure, he went and sold everything he owned to be able to buy this one, perfect pearl.

"Like that treasure and that pearl, God and His kingdom are more important than anything else. But the men in our stories realized they had found something that wasn't just good, it was the BEST. They found the ultimate treasure. They understood that **[Bottom Line] loving God and His kingdom is most important.**"





5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

What You Need

	Paper	0
	Writing supplies	0
	"Find the Hidden Treasure" Activity Page	0
	"Find the Hidden Treasure Key" Activity Page	1



EveryChild tips

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

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure" on paper, one per kid.
- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Challenge kids to make as many words as possible from the letters given. What two words are the most important?

What You Say:

"Great job! You made lots of words from those letters. There were two important words you could spell with those letters. Raise your hand if you made the word 'kingdom.' *(Pause.)* Awesome! The other really important word is a name. It's whose kingdom we're learning about. *(Pause.)* That's right! God! Raise your hand if you made the word 'God.' Fantastic, everybody!

"Our world sends us a lot of scrambled messages about what should be important: money, popularity, being the best at everything. But Jesus gives us a clear message: **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important.**

"So make getting to know God and His kingdom the most important thing in your life. You can do this by making spending time with God the most important thing you do. You can make it a priority to spend time with God every day—and you can get to know who He is by reading the Bible.

"And you can go through every day with Him as your closest friend too. Since God is the most important, talk to Him about absolutely everything. As you go through life, you can say, 'God, I loved that breakfast so much,' Or, 'God, I'm really nervous about swim practice.' Or, 'God, is there anything You would like me to do here?'

"You can also show that God is most important by living like Jesus. Since Jesus is loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind, then God's kingdom is like that too. We can be loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind everywhere we go to show that God's kingdom is the most important.

"Invite God to be part of everything in your life—at home, at school, or wherever you are. **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important** and the most incredible adventure of your life."

[Make It Personal] *(Share how you have to make a choice in your life to show that God is most important. You can say something like: "For me, sometimes my phone can be a distraction. It's easy to spend a lot of time scrolling. I have to make a choice to put it down and spend time reading my Bible or praying to remind myself of what the real treasure is. It's a choice I have to make every day.")*








5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

What You Need

	Bibles	0
	Avery® Labels #5160	0
	Seashells (big enough for labels)	0
	Paper plates	0
	Paint pens in a variety of colors	Several
	Hand wipes	Several
	"Shell Verse" Activity Page	0

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Shell Verse" on label paper, one label per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse 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 seashell and paper plate.
- Ask kids to decorate the inside of their seashell, then add the label.

What You Say:

"These shells remind me of our Bible Story and how the man looked and looked for the most special pearl. Did you know that pearls grow in oysters, clams, and even mussels? Those are ocean creatures with a soft body hidden inside two hard shells hinged together so they can open and close.

"Your shells turned out really cool! Keep them somewhere special this week. When you see it, remember our Memory Verse that's on it. Our Memory Verse is a prayer that reminds us to focus on the greatest treasure: God's kingdom. God's kingdom is the most incredible, valuable treasure there is because the kingdom comes wherever God is. There is nothing in the whole world more important than learning to know and love God and to live in God's kingdom."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- Why did the men in the parables that Jesus told sell everything?
- Why did the disciples follow Jesus right away?
- What are some things we love?
- What is most important?
- How can we show God is most important?

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 Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- Small treats (gold coins; Jolly Ranchers®; stickers; small, fun erasers), five per kid
- Roll of plastic wrap, one roll per Small Group
- Dice, two per Small Group

What You Do:

- Roll one treat multiple times with plastic wrap, then enclose another treat and wrap several times.
- Wrap five treats per kid, creating a large, multi-layered ball of plastic wrap.

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:

- "Find the Hidden Treasure" Activity Page, one per kid
- "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Paper, one piece per kid and Small Group
- Writing supplies, one per kid

What You Do:

- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure" on paper, one per kid.
- Print "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" on paper, one per Small Group.

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- Floor tape, one roll per Small Group

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 Create

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid
- "Shell Verse" Activity Page, one per kid
- Avery® Labels #5160, one label per kid
- Seashells (big enough for labels), one per kid
- Paper plates, one per kid
- Paint pens in a variety of colors, several per kid
- Hand wipes, one package per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Shell Verse" on label paper, one label per kid.

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

- Jar, one per Small Group
- Index cards or slips of paper, one per kid
- Writing supplies, 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 Play

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Small treats (gold coins; Jolly Ranchers®; stickers; small, fun erasers)	0
3. Roll of plastic wrap	1
4. Dice	2

Preteen – Bible Story Extension

	Quantity
1. Bibles	0
2. Floor tape	1

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Paper	0
2. Writing supplies	0
3. "Find the Hidden Treasure" Activity Page	0
4. "Find the Hidden Treasure Key" Activity Page	1

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

	Quantity
1. Bibles	0
2. Avery® Labels #5160	0
3. Seashells (big enough for labels)	0
4. Paper plates	0
5. Paint pens in a variety of colors	Several
6. Hand wipes	Several
7. "Shell Verse" Activity Page	0

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

	Quantity
1. Jar	1
2. Index cards or slips of paper	0
3. Writing supplies	0