

Preteen | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Woman at the Well • John 4

Bottom Line: Jesus values everyone.

Conversation Starter: What does it mean to value others?

Monthly Memory Verse: How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. • Psalm 139:14 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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

- Opening Activity

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

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

Woman at the Well • John 4

Conversation Starter

What does it mean to value others?

Bottom Line

Jesus values everyone.

Memory Verse

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. • Psalm 139:14 NIV

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen - Opening Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Table	1
	Painter's tape	Several
	Plastic cups in two different colors	Several
	Plastic water bottles (partially filled with water)	1



EveryChild tips

- *If bottle flipping is too challenging or frustrating, allow players to get three attempts before their turn is over.*
- **Groups**
- **Creating a Safe Place to Connect**
- **25 minutes**
- Groups 1/5

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Create a large Tic-Tac-Toe grid in the middle of the table with tape.
- Stack nine cups of each color, and place one stack on either side of the Tic-Tac-Toe grid.
- Set one bottle on either side.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain the game: "We're playing Tic-Tac-Toe, but to place your mark (*hold up a cup*), you have to successfully flip a water bottle and have it land upright."
- Say: "Both teams will be flipping their bottles at the same time. Once you have successfully flipped and landed your team's bottle, you may place a cup in a square, then the next player from your team may play."
- Continue playing until one team gets three in a row—straight down, across, or diagonal.

What You Say:

"That took some serious skill! It's fun to try and land the perfect flip. In our Bible Story today, Jesus met a woman at a well, and the conversation they had changed her life forever. It's a story that shows us something powerful about who Jesus values. Let's go find out more!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen - Bible Story Extension

What You Need

 Bibles

1

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Have every kid open their Bible to John chapter 4.
- Explain that you're going to recap parts of the story of the woman at the well, but you're going to leave some key words blank.
- Their job is to follow along in their Bibles and shout out the missing word when you pause.
- Read through a recap like the one below, pausing dramatically at the blanks.
- "Jesus and His disciples were traveling through a region called _____. (*Samaria*) Most Jewish people would go the long way around, but Jesus went right through it. He sat down by a _____ while His disciples went to get food. (*well*) A Samaritan woman came to get water, and Jesus surprised her by asking for a _____. (*drink*) The woman was shocked because Jews and Samaritans were _____. (*enemies*) Jesus told her about a special kind of water called _____ water. (*living*) He explained that anyone who drank this water would never be _____ again. (*thirsty*) Jesus showed her that He knew everything about her, and He even told her that He was the _____, the Savior God had promised. (*Messiah*) She was so excited that she left her water jar and ran back to her _____ (*town*) to tell everyone she had met Jesus!"

What You Say:

"Great job filling in the blanks! It's a powerful story. Jesus went out of His way to talk to someone whom everyone else ignored. He crossed social and cultural lines to have a conversation with her. Why do you think He did that? Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus values everyone**. He wanted her, and all of us, to know that no one is an outsider to Him. He loves everyone so much that He gave His life to rescue them. **[Bottom Line] Jesus values everyone**, no matter who they are, where they live, or what they've done."

Groups 3/5

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

What You Need

	Balloons	Several
	Plastic cups	Several
	Smiley-face stickers	Several



EveryChild tips

- If a kid is anxious about being the center of attention as the "stacker," let them be part of a two-person stacking team.
- Groups 2/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Inflate balloons and tie a knot in the end, two per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a stack of 10-15 plastic cups and a sheet of smiley-face stickers.
- Have kids place one sticker on the bottom of each cup to represent different people.
- Explain the challenge: "Each team will have one player be the 'stacker.' They will bop the balloon in the air and try to stack as many cups as possible before the balloon hits the ground."
- When the balloon hits the floor, count how many cups they stacked.
- Continue until everyone on your team has had a turn.

What You Say:

"That was awesome! It's a great reminder for us. Our goal as followers of Jesus is to make sure everyone is included and everyone is loved, because **[Bottom Line] Jesus values everyone**. It's not about picking and choosing who we are kind to. It's about showing God's love to every single person, because every single person is valuable to Him.

"Jesus valued people beyond what our earthly idea of value is. We value others due to status, titles, what they can do, or what they own. But Jesus assigns heaven's value to everyone. What that means is Jesus saw and sees everyone through the eyes of God's immeasurable love. When we come close to Jesus and follow Him, He can help us assign heaven's value to everyone because we can't do it on our own. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you."

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

What You Need

	Bibles	1
	Balloons	Several
	Permanent marker	Several
	EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones	Several



EveryChild tips

- Provide noise-canceling headphones for kids anxious about balloons popping.
- **[Make It Personal]** (Share a kid-appropriate time when you learned to value someone, like Jesus does. You can share something like: "There have been times when it was really hard for me to love someone because they were unkind to me. But then I remember that Jesus loved me even when I didn't deserve it. Remembering that helps me see that everyone is made in the image of God, and I can show them they are valuable to God.")
- Groups 5/5

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Inflate the balloons—for Psalm 139:14, you'll need about 25 balloons.
- Write one word or short phrase of the Memory Verse on each balloon.
- Mix up the balloons, and scatter them around the room.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Psalm 139:14 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.
- Assign each kid one or two words from the verse to go find. They'll need to check each balloon until they find their assigned word(s).
- On "Go," have them search for their balloons.
- Once all the balloons are found, the kids must work together as a group to line up in the correct order to spell out the verse.
- Once they're in order, have them hold up their balloons and say the verse together.

What You Say:

"You did it! It took some searching and a lot of cooperation to get that verse together. God made each and every person. God made each person unique and wonderful. Our eyes are made wonderful, and our hair is made wonderful. God gave us each wonderful talents and abilities. God made each of us on purpose and for a purpose, and God does not make mistakes. So remember, every person you meet— at school, on the team, at the store, or at the park—is made in the image of God. Everyone is wonderfully made, and **[Bottom Line]** Jesus values everyone!"

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- Why do you think Jesus chose to talk to someone others avoided—and what does that show about what God values?
- Who are the people in your life or school who might feel left out or judged—and what would it look like to treat them the way Jesus did?
- Why do you think the woman at the well ran back to tell everyone about Jesus instead of hiding her story? What does that say about how Jesus changed her?
- Jesus sees everyone with “heaven’s value” that isn’t based on status or popularity. What are some ways we might accidentally value people the world’s way instead of Jesus’ way?
- **[Conversation Starter] What does it mean to value others?**

Groups 4/5

Made to Connect

During the Activity:

- Have every kid open their Bible to John chapter 4.
- Explain that you’re going to recap parts of the story of the woman at the well, but you’re going to leave some key words blank.
- Their job is to follow along in their Bibles and shout out the missing word when you pause.
- Read through a recap like the one below, pausing dramatically at the blanks.
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What You Say:

"Great job filling in the blanks! It's a powerful story. Jesus went out of His way to talk to someone whom everyone else ignored. He crossed social and cultural lines to have a conversation with her. Why do you think He did that? Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus values everyone**. He wanted her, and all of us, to know that no one is an outsider to Him. He loves everyone so much that He gave His life to rescue them. **[Bottom Line] Jesus values everyone**, no matter who they are, where they live, or what they've done."

Groups 3/5

Getting Ready | Preteen 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
- Table, one per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Plastic cups in two different colors, nine of each color per Small Group
- Plastic water bottles (partially filled with water), two per Small Group

What You Do:

- Create a large Tic-Tac-Toe grid in the middle of the table with tape.
- Stack nine cups of each color, and place one stack on either side of the Tic-Tac-Toe grid.
- Set one bottle on either side of the Tic-Tac-Toe grid.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Balloons, two per Small Group
- Plastic cups, 20-30 per Small Group
- Smiley-face stickers, 20-30 per Small Group

What You Do:

- Inflate balloons and tie a knot in the end, two per Small Group.

2. Bible Story Extension

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid

3. Discussion Questions

Made to Connect

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

Made to Move**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one per kid
- Balloons, twenty-five per Small Group
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Inflate the balloons—for Psalm 139:14, you'll need about 25 balloons.
- Write one word or short phrase of the Memory Verse on each balloon.
- Mix up the balloons, and scatter them around the room.

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

Made to Reflect**What You Need:**

- Paper, one piece per kid
- Pens, 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 - Opening Activity | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Offering container	1
2. Table	1
3. Painter's tape	Several
4. Plastic cups in two different colors	Several
5. Plastic water bottles (partially filled with water)	1

Preteen - Bible Story Extension

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1

Preteen - Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

	Quantity
1. Balloons	Several
2. Plastic cups	Several
3. Smiley-face stickers	Several

Preteen - Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

	Quantity
1. Bibles	1
2. Balloons	Several
3. Permanent marker	Several
4. EveryChild Supplies: Noise-canceling headphones	Several

Preteen - Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect *Uses Minimal Supplies*

	Quantity
1. Paper	1
2. Pens	1