

2s | W5

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 5

Today's Bible Story: Matthew's Dinner • Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32
Jesus never stops caring.

Key Question: Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line: Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse: *How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.* • Ephesians 3:18 NIV

Note: This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional EveryChild tips. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

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.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Follow Jesus
Coin Press*
Cooking Dinner

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship
Bible Story
Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Stir the Soup
Story Bag
Come to Dinner
You, and You, and You

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

Matthew's Dinner • Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32
Jesus never stops caring.

Key Question

Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line

Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse

How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. • Ephesians 3:18 NIV





15 min

Social

5 min

Follow Jesus | Made to Move

What You Need

-  "Follow Jesus" Activity Page 1
-  Cardstock 1
-  Jumbo craft stick 1
-  Masking tape 1



- Children can wave or roll along with a helper.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Follow Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape the picture of Jesus to the top of the craft stick.

During the Activity: Hold the Jesus figure up and walk around the room slowly with the children.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's go on a walk and follow Jesus. (*Hold up the picture of Jesus.*) When I say, 'Come follow Jesus!' you can walk behind me.





During the Activity: "Listen for your name! (*Start walking.*) [Child's name], (*hold the picture of Jesus up high*) come follow Jesus! [Child's name], (*hold the picture of Jesus up high*) come follow Jesus! (*Continue to walk slowly until all the children are walking with you.*) Great job following Jesus!"

After the Activity: "Today in our true Bible Story, we are going to hear about a man named Matthew who followed Jesus too! Let's go find out more about Matthew."

5 min

Coin Press | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"Allergy Alert Poster"	1
	Cardstock,	2
	Muffin tin Play-Doh®	Several
	Large toy coins	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place a medium-sized blob of Play-Doh and a coin at each spot around the table.

During the Activity: Encourage children to press the coin into the Play-Doh and explore the impression the coin leaves. Ask children to remove the coin and press the other side as well as the sides into the Play-Doh.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's flatten our blobs of Play-Doh. I have something fun for us to explore today."






During the Activity: "Great job! Now take the coin and put it on your Play-Doh, and press down. (Pause.) Lift off the coin and tell me what you see. (Pause for responses.) Wow! You made an impression of the coin! Turn the coin over and let's press that side into the Play-Doh. (Pause.) Lift it off. You made an impression of the other side! That's so cool! Roll your dough into a ball and flatten it out again. (Pause.) How many coin impressions can you fit on your dough? (Pause.) That's so many coins!"

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a man named Matthew who was a tax collector. That means he went around the town and collected coins from the people who lived there. But Matthew took more than he was supposed to. Let's go hear how Jesus cared about Matthew."

5 min

Cooking Dinner | Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 Play kitchen	1
 Toy pots and pans	Several
 Toy plates and cups	Several
 Toy food	Several
 Optional: Chef hats	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather children in the home living or kitchen center of your activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage children to cook a wonderful meal and pretend to eat together. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over here with me. We are going to pretend to be chefs and make a wonderful meal together! Will you help me? *(Pause for responses.)* Great! Let's get started!"

During the Activity: "Let's cook something yummy! *(Pause.)* Is it ready? *(Pause for responses.)* Yay! Let's put the food on the table and we can sit down and enjoy! Find a seat and let's thank God for the food. *(Encourage any children who want to, to bless the food.)* So nice! Everyone, remember to only pretend you are eating the food. *(Pause.)* That was yummy food!"

After the Activity: "Today in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a man named Matthew. He made some wrong choices, but Jesus loved him anyway and wanted to eat dinner with him. Let's go hear more about Matthew and his dinner with Jesus."

20 min

Groups

5 min

Stir the Soup | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

👤	"Stir the Soup" Activity Page	1
👤	"Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page	1
👤	Cardstock	3
🏠	Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent	1
👤	Large pot	1
👤	Spoon or ladle	1
👤	Scissors	1
👤	Optional: Laminate pouches	Several

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Stir the Soup" on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group. Print "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child. Place the cards in the pot, put the spoon/ladle in the pot and place in the middle of your activity area. Ask children to sit in a circle with you around the pot. Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to pull out a veggie card, and the leader will read the words and the child will lead the kids in doing the motion on the card. Continue until all the cards are pulled. Put the verse cards in order, then do the motions as you say the verse. Place the cards back in the pot, give it a stir, and repeat. Make sure all the children have a chance to pull a card. Give each child a sticker.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit in a circle with me around this big soup pot. Let's do the motions as we say our Memory Verse. Ready? Here we go! 'How wide (*stretch arms out wide*) and long (*stretch arms forward*) and high (*reach arms up*) and deep (*crouch down low*) is the love of Christ. (*Hug yourself.*) Ephesians 3:18 (*open hands like a book*). Great job!"







During the Activity: "Let's stir the pot and see what's inside. Stir, stir, stir. (*Lift the spoon/ladle with one veggie on it.*) [Child's name], come see what's in my spoon/ladle. Hold it up for all our friends to see. (*Pause.*) You found a [vegetable], and it has part of our Memory Verse on it! Let's see what it says. (*Read the card.*) Can you lead our friends in doing the motions for that part of our verse? (*Pause.*) Great job! (*Continue until each card is pulled.*) Now let's put our verse cards in order. (*Pause.*) Let's say our verse and do the motions together. 'How wide (*stretch arms out wide*) and long (*stretch arms forward*) and high (*reach arms up*) and deep (*crouch down low*) is the love of Christ. (*Hug yourself.*) Ephesians 3:18 (*open hands like a book*). Great job, everyone!" (*Repeat until every child has a turn.*)

After the Activity: "We stirred our soup and practiced our Memory Verse. Jesus' love is so big. Jesus loved Matthew when others didn't! Jesus cared for Matthew and his friends, and He cares for us, too. **Who does Jesus care about? [Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone."**

5 min

Story Bag | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 Small bag	1
 Toy money	1
 Smiley face ball	1
 Toy food item	1
 Heart (plush or foam)	1
 Optional: Ball pit ball and a permanent marker in place of a smiley face ball.	Several

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the items in the bag. Gather the children around you. Allow the children to take turns reaching into the bag, one at a time, to take an item out. Repeat the part of the story written below that goes with each item. Once all of the items have been pulled out, put them back in the bag and repeat as long as time and interest allow.

During the Activity: Give each child a heart sticker and encourage them to move to the picture any way they want then add a heart sticker to the woman's picture. Review the Bible Story.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come sit with me. I have a story bag for us to explore today!"

During the Activity: "Do you know what a story bag is? *(Pause.)* A story bag has things inside of it that will help us tell today's Bible Story. Will you help pull things out of my story bag so we can tell today's story? *(Pause.)* Great! Here we go! [Child's name], reach into the bag and pull one thing out. *(Pause then follow with one of the prompts below.)*

"You found money! Matthew was a tax collector and took people's money. People did not want to be Matthew's friend because he took more money than he should have.

"A smiley face ball! Jesus went to Matthew and said, 'Follow me.' Jesus wanted Matthew to be His friend even though he had done something wrong. Matthew stopped taking money from people and followed Jesus.

"You got food. Jesus went to Matthew's house for dinner. Matthew invited lots of his tax collector friends to dinner too. People wondered why Jesus wanted to be friends with Matthew even though he had done something wrong.

"A heart! Matthew and Jesus became close friends. Matthew followed Jesus and was one of His twelve disciples. Matthew helped other people be friends with Jesus, too."





After the Activity: "Jesus wanted to be friends with Matthew because Jesus cared about him. **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone,** everywhere. That means Jesus loves and cares about us too! Who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone."**

5 min

Come to Dinner | Made to Move

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Tablecloth or picnic blanket 1
-  Music player 1
-  Fun, upbeat preschool music 1
-  Dinner bell or hand bell 1



- Encourage seated movement with hands or clapping.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Spread out the tablecloth or picnic blanket on the floor. Have music and a dinner bell ready.

During the Activity: Invite children to walk, dance, or wiggle around the blanket while music plays. When the dinner bell rings, everyone stops and sits on the blanket. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We have a big dinner blanket right here! When the music plays, let's move around it. But when you hear the dinner bell, come sit with me on the blanket."







During the Activity: "Everybody ready? Let's go! (*Play music.*) Dance all around the blanket. (*Ring the bell.*) Did you hear the bell ring-a-ling? That's our cue to stop and sit on the blanket. (*Pause.*) It's dinner time! Let's do it again! (*Repeat as time and interest allow.*) That was so much fun, friends!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible Story today, we learned about Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector, and people didn't like him very much. But Jesus walked right up to Matthew and said, 'Follow Me.' Then Matthew had a big dinner for Jesus and invited all his friends. Some people didn't think Jesus should eat with people who had done wrong things, but **[Bottom Line]** Jesus cares about everyone! Who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line]** Jesus cares about everyone."

5 min

You, and You, and You | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"You, and You, and You" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	1
	Crayons or washable markers	Several
	People or smiley face stickers	Several
	Permanent marker	1
	Scissors	1



- Provide adaptive coloring tools like chunky crayons or dot markers.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "You, and You, and You" on cardstock, one per child. Fold and cut each child's paper and write their name on it.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color the outside of their heart then ask children to open their heart and decorate the inside with people stickers.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Look at your paper! Wow! It's a heart! Hearts make us think of love. We're going to decorate these hearts today and turn them into something special!"

During the Activity: "Use the crayons/markers to decorate the outside of your hearts. *(Pause.)* Wonderful! Now open your heart and fill it with these people/smiley face stickers. *(Pause.)* Wow! You added lots and lots and lots of people to your heart. Jesus loves all kinds of people because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we learned about a tax collector named Matthew. Most people stayed away from tax collectors. But not Jesus! Jesus loves and cares about everyone. Jesus went right up to Matthew and said, 'Follow Me!' And Matthew did! Then he had a big dinner with Jesus and invited all his friends. Some people thought Jesus shouldn't be with those people, but Jesus heard them and said that He came because He wants everyone to follow Him! Jesus never stops caring. Look at all the people in your heart. Jesus cares about every single one of them. And He cares about YOU! Who cares about everyone? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

Getting Ready | 2's Small Group

GETTING READY

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

Social

1. Follow Jesus

Made to Move

What You Need:

- "Follow Jesus" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, one per Small Group
- Jumbo craft stick, one per Small Group
- Masking tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Follow Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Tape the picture of Jesus to the top of the craft stick.

2. Coin Press*

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "Allergy Alert Poster", one per Small Group
- Cardstock, one per Small Group
- Play-Doh®, several per Small Group
- Large toy coins, one per child

What You Do:

- Place a medium-sized blob of Play-Doh and a coin at each spot around the table.

3. Cooking Dinner

Made to Imagine

What You Need:

- Play kitchen, one per Small Group
- Toy pots and pans, several per Small Group
- Toy plates and cups, several per Small Group
- Toy food, several per Small Group
- *Optional: Chef hats*

Groups

1. Stir the Soup

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "Stir the Soup" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, three per Small Group
- Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent, one label per child
- Large pot, one per Small Group
- Spoon or ladle, one per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group

- *Optional: Laminate pouches*

What You Do:

- Print "Stir the Soup" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Print "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child.
- Place the cards in the pot, put the spoon/ladle in the pot and place in the middle of your activity area.

2. Story Bag**Talk about God | Bible Story Review***Made to Imagine***What You Need:**

- Small bag, one per Small Group
- Toy money, several per Small Group
- Smiley face ball, one per Small Group
- Toy food item, one per Small Group
- Heart (plush or foam), one per Small Group
- *Optional: Ball pit ball and a permanent marker in place of a smiley face ball.*

What You Do:

- Place the items in the bag.

3. Come to Dinner**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Move***What You Need:**

- Tablecloth or picnic blanket, one per Small Group
- Music player, one per Small Group
- Fun, upbeat preschool music, one per Small Group
- Dinner bell or hand bell, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Spread out the tablecloth or picnic blanket on the floor.
- Have music and a dinner bell ready.

4. You, and You, and You**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Create***What You Need:**

- "You, and You, and You" Activity Page, one per child
- Cardstock, one per child
- Crayons or washable markers, several per child
- People or smiley face stickers, several per child
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group
- Scissors, one per child

What You Do:

- Print "You, and You, and You" on cardstock, one per child.
- Fold and cut each child's paper and write their name on it.

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue Card.
- Print the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Print "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App**.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
bit.ly/FL_HatsOff

Supplies

Follow Jesus Made to Move	Quantity
1. "Follow Jesus" Activity Page	1
2. Cardstock	1
3. Jumbo craft stick	1
4. Masking tape	1

Coin Press Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. "Allergy Alert Poster"	1
2. Cardstock,	2
3. Muffin tinPlay-Doh®	Several
4. Large toy coins	1

Cooking Dinner Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. Play kitchen	1
2. Toy pots and pans	Several
3. Toy plates and cups	Several
4. Toy food	Several
5. Optional: Chef hats	Several

Story Bag Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. Small bag	1
2. Toy money	1
3. Smiley face ball	1
4. Toy food item	1
5. Heart (plush or foam)	1
6. Optional: Ball pit ball and a permanent marker in place of a smiley face ball.	Several

Come to Dinner Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. Tablecloth or picnic blanket	1
2. Music player	1
3. Fun, upbeat preschool music	1
4. Dinner bell or hand bell	1

You, and You, and You Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies	Quantity
1. "You, and You, and You" Activity Page	1
2. Cardstock	1
3. Crayons or washable markers	Several
4. People or smiley face stickers	Several
5. Permanent marker	1
6. Scissors	1

Stir the Soup | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies **Quantity**

1.	"Stir the Soup" Activity Page	1
2.	"Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page	1
3.	Cardstock	3
4.	Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent	1
5.	Large pot	1
6.	Spoon or ladle	1
7.	Scissors	1
8.	Optional: Laminate pouches	Several