

# 3-5's | W5

## Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 5

**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

*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.

### Small Group (15 minutes)

**Social: Providing time for fun interaction**

Seat at the Table

Set the Table

Heart STEAM

### 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**

Verse Up High

Order of the Story

What Foods Do You Eat?

All the Helpers

Jesus Cares about Everyone

Journal and Prayer

### Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

### \*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

## Seat at the Table | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

### What You Need

-  Chairs 1
-  Music player 1
-  Fun, upbeat music 1

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Set the chairs in a line back-to-back in an open space. Make sure to have one chair for every child.

*During the Activity:* Play the music and encourage children to dance or walk around the chairs. When the music stops, let everyone find a seat. In this game, no chairs will be removed. Continue playing as time and interest allow.

*After the Activity:* Introduce the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come stand around the chairs and let's play a game!"





*During the Activity:* "When you hear the music, I want you to dance or walk around the chairs going this way. (*Demonstrate.*) Ready, (*start the music*) let's go! (*Allow children to go around a time or two, then pause the music.*) The music stopped, find a seat. (*Pause.*) Fantastic! Stand up and let's play again! (*Repeat as time and interest allow.*) Hooray! Everyone found a seat!"

*After the Activity:* "In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear about a man named Matthew. He made some wrong choices, but Jesus loved him anyway and wanted to eat dinner with him. We'll learn that at the table with Jesus, there is a seat for everyone."

5 min

## Jesus Cares About Everyone | Made to Create

### What You Need

|   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
|  | "Jesus Cares About Everyone" Activity Page | 1       |
|  | Cardstock                                  | 1       |
|  | Crayons or washable markers                | Several |
|  | Permanent marker                           | 1       |

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Print "Jesus Cares About Everyone" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to color the people on their paper. In the blank spot, ask children to draw themselves.

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

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Everyone, come to the table and let's get creative!"







*During the Activity:* "We've been learning about the people who Jesus cares about. People in villages, towns, and countrysides. People who are sick, no matter what day of the week. People who have done bad things. People everywhere! Your paper has a lot of different people on it and Jesus cares about every one of them! Color each of the people you see on your paper. *(Pause.)* Great job! There is one space that is waiting for you to draw a really special person—draw you! *(Pause.)* Jesus cares about you because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!** What amazing pictures!"

*After the Activity:* "Jesus loved Matthew and his friends, even though they had done wrong things. Jesus loves us too, no matter what. Who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!** Who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

5 min

## Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

### What You Need

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  | "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder | 1 |
|  | Cardstock                                | 1 |
|  | Bible                                    | 1 |
|  | Journal                                  | 1 |
|  | Fun-shaped pen                           | 1 |
|  | Reward sticker or hand stamp             | 1 |

*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:* If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, Print "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18.

Encourage the children to pretend to eat as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

*During the Activity:* Review the Bible Story and the Memory Verse Hand Motions, then ask the children to help you make a list in the journal of people you'd like to have dinner with.

*After the Activity:* Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "It's Small Group time! Today, we are going to pretend to eat your favorite food as we walk to our Small Group spot! I'm going to eat a bowl of spaghetti! Pretend to swirl the fork. What are you eating? Yum! What about an ice cream cone? Hooray! We made it! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

*During the Activity: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)* "In our Bible Story today, Jesus went right up to Matthew the tax collector's booth and told him to 'Follow me.' And Matthew did! Matthew got up and left his tax booth behind. He went home and prepared a festive meal for Jesus. Matthew was so excited that he even invited other tax collectors and friends so they could meet Jesus too! Jesus and the disciples sat down to eat with Matthew and all of Matthew's friends. It was a big party, and all of Matthew's friends got to spend time with Jesus. Jesus loved Matthew and his friends, even though they had done wrong things. Jesus loves us too, no matter what. Tell me, who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.** Great job, everyone!"

"The Bible verse we are learning talks about how big Jesus' love is for us. It says, '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*) Let's stand up and say it again. '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*)

Wow! That was fantastic! (*Give fist bumps.*) I think you're ready to try and say that by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we'll take turns saying our Bible verse. Who's ready to try and say it by yourself? I

have my stickers/handstamp ready! *(Pause.)* Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is a (sticker/stamp) for you! *(Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.)* I am very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your (sticker/stamp). One, two, three! *(Pause to look.)* Yay! *(Clap.)*

"Now, let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Open journal.)* Today, we're going to make a list of people we'd like to have dinner with. When I say your name, tell me one person you'd like to have dinner with and I will write it by your name." *(Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

*After the Activity:* "This is a great list of people! *(Hold up journal.)* Would anyone like to pray before I pray? *(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)* Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us that we can love and care for everyone! Jesus had dinner with Matthew and his tax collector friends because Jesus wants everyone to follow Him! Jesus loved Matthew and his friends, even though they had done wrong things. Jesus loves us too, no matter what. Thank you for *(say each child's name)* and *(read the list the children made)* that they'd like to have dinner with. Help us to love and care for all people just like Jesus does. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

# Getting Ready | 3-5's Small Group

## GETTING READY

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

### Social

#### 1. Seat at the Table

*Made to Move*

##### What You Need:

- Chairs, one per child
- Music player, one per Small Group
- Fun, upbeat music, one per Small Group

##### What You Do:

- Set the chairs in a line back-to-back in an open, make sure to have one chair for every child.

#### 2. Set the Table

*Made to Play*

##### What You Need:

- "Set the Table" Activity Page, six per Small Group
- 11-inch x 17-inch paper, six per Small Group
- Picnic basket or similar, one per Small Group
- Dessert-size paper plate, six per Small Group
- Paper napkin, six per Small Group
- Paper cup, six per Small Group
- Plastic spoon, six per Small Group
- *Optional: Butcher paper, permanent marker, and masking tape in place of the "Set the Table" Activity Page and 11-inch x 17-inch paper.*

##### What You Do:

- Print "Set the Table" on 11-inch x 17-inch paper, six per Small Group.
- Place at each spot around the table.
- Place the other supplies in the basket and set nearby.
- *Optional: Place a piece of butcher paper on the table and secure it with masking tape. At each spot around the table draw a rectangle for a placemat, a circle on the rectangle for the plate, a smaller circle at the top right-hand corner for the cup, a small rectangle or triangle for the napkin on the left side of the plate circle, and a spoon outline on the right side of the plate circle.*

#### 3. Heart STEAM

*Made to Explore*

##### What You Need:

- Paper towels, several per Small Group
- Wax paper, one per Small Group
- Plastic punch cups, one for every three child
- Liquid food coloring, one per Small Group
- Water, one per Small Group
- Pipettes, one per child
- Large, shallow plastic bin or tray, one per Small Group

- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group

**Optional EveryChild Supplies:**

- Spoons

**What You Do:**

- Cut approximately twenty 3" hearts out of the paper towels.
- Cut approximately five 3" hearts from the wax paper.
- Spread the hearts out in the bottom of the bin/tray.
- Spread out the tablecloth and put the bin/tray on top.
- Fill cups about halfway with water, four per Small Group.
- Add food coloring to each cup.
- Place pipettes nearby.
- *Note: Prepare extra hearts to repeat the activity if desired.*

**Groups**

**Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

**1. Verse Up High**

**Hear from God | Memory Verse Review**

*Made to Explore*

**What You Need:**

- Party blowers, several per Small Group
- Paper heart confetti, one small bag per Small Group

**Optional EveryChild Supplies:**

- Noise-cancelling headphones

**What You Do:**

- Prepare several party blowers by sliding hearts into the different layers of the party blower

**2. Order of the Story**

**Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

*Made to Play*

**What You Need:**

- "Order of the Story" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Cardstock, five pieces per Small Group

**What You Do:**

- Print "Order of the Story" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.

**3. What Foods Do You Eat?\***

**Live for God | Application Activity**

*Made to Think*

**What You Need:**

- Butcher Paper, one per Small Group
- Washable markers, several per Small Group
- *Optional: "Allergy Alert Poster", cardstock, period typical food to choose from: pita-style bread, fish: small, salted, or dried fish, olives, figs, dates, grapes, pomegranates, and cheese.*

**What You Do:**

- Cover the table with paper and place the markers on the table.
- *Optional: Print "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and list the chosen items and post at the door.*

**4. All the Helpers****Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Move***What You Need:**

- "All the Helpers Stickers" Activity Page, one sticker per child
- Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent, one sticker per child

**What You Do:**

- Print "All the Helpers" on label paper, one label per child.
- Give each child a sticker, placing it on their hand. Make sure each child has a match.

**5. Jesus Cares About Everyone****Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Create***What You Need:**

- "Jesus Cares About Everyone" Activity Page, one per child
- Cardstock, one per child
- Crayons or washable markers, several per child
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group

**What You Do:**

- Print "Jesus Cares About Everyone" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**6. Journal and Prayer****Pray to God | Prayer Activity***Made to Reflect***What You Need:**

- "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, one per Small Group
- Bible, one per Small Group
- Journal, one per Small Group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per Small Group
- Reward sticker or hand stamp, one per child

**What You Do:**

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, Print "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.
- Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18.

**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](https://bit.ly/FL_HatsOff)

# Supplies

## Seat at the Table | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

|                      | Quantity |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1. Chairs            | 1        |
| 2. Music player      | 1        |
| 3. Fun, upbeat music | 1        |

## Set the Table | Made to Play

|   | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "Set the Table" Activity Page  | 6        |
| 2. 11-inch x 17-inch paper  | 6        |
| 3. Picnic basket or similar   | 1        |
| 4. Dessert-size paper plate   | 6        |
| 5. Paper napkin   | 6        |
| 6. Paper cup  | 6        |
| 7. Plastic spoon  | 6        |
| 8. Optional: Butcher paper, permanent marker, and masking tape in place of the "Set the Table" Activity Page and 11-inch x 17-inch paper. | Several  |

## What Foods Do You Eat?\* | Made to Think

|  | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Butcher Paper   | 1        |
| 2. Washable markers  | Several  |
| 3. Optional: "Allergy Alert Poster", cardstock, period typical food to choose from: pita-style bread, fish: small, salted, or dried fish, olives, figs, dates, grapes, pomegranates, and cheese. | Several  |

## All the Helpers | Made to Move \*Uses Minimal Supplies

|  | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. All the Helpers Stickers" Activity Page | 1        |
| 2. Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent      | 1        |

## Jesus Cares About Everyone | Made to Create

|   | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "Jesus Cares About Everyone" Activity Page | 1        |
| 2. Cardstock                                  | 1        |
| 3. Crayons or washable markers                | Several  |
| 4. Permanent marker                           | 1        |

| Heart STEAM   Made to Explore                        | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Paper towels                                      | Several  |
| 2. Wax paper   | 1        |
| 3. Plastic punch cups (one for every three children) | 1        |
| 4. Liquid food coloring                              | 1        |
| 5. Water,  | 1        |
| 6. Pipettes  | 1        |
| 7. Large, shallow plastic bin or tray                | 1        |
| 8. Plastic tablecloth                                | 1        |
| 9. Scissors  | 1        |
| 10. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Spoons             | Several  |

| Verse Up High   Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies       | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Party blowers   | Several  |
| 2. Paper heart confetti, small bag                           | 1        |
| 3. Optional EveryChild Supplies: Noise-cancelling headphones | Several  |

| Order of the Story   Made to Play     | Quantity |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. "Order of the Story" Activity Page | 1        |
| 2. Cardstock                          | 5        |

| Journal and Prayer   Made to Reflect        | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder | 1        |
| 2. Cardstock                                | 1        |
| 3. Bible                                    | 1        |
| 4. Journal                                  | 1        |
| 5. Fun-shaped pen                           | 1        |
| 6. Reward sticker or hand stamp             | 1        |