

Today's Suggested Schedule— October 4th, 2026

Bible Story: Israel Captures Jericho • Joshua 6:1-16,20

Bottom Line: God is strong, so I can be brave.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.* • Psalm 46:1 NIV

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver /

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Teaching (Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Reinforcement Activity

Prayer Journal

TAKE HOME

Devotional Page

Opening / Early Arriver Activity

What You Need:

-  Plastic cups
-  Ping pong balls
-  Straws
-  Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Stack the cups into a small “wall” or tower on a table or floor space.
- Use tape to mark a line on the ground for kids to stand behind.
- Place the balls and straws nearby.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Say: “Today we’re going to try a challenge called ‘Crash the Wall!’”
- Explain the rules:
 - Kids will take turns trying to knock down the wall.
 - Each round will use a different method.
 - The goal is to knock over as many cups as possible.
- Round 1: Straw Blow
 - Place a cup wall several inches away from the kids.
 - Have kids blow through straws to try to knock cups down.
 - Encourage teamwork and cheering for one another.
- Round 2: Roll the Ball
 - Rebuild the wall.
 - Let kids gently roll a ball from a marked line to knock the cups over.
- Round 3: Distance Challenge
 - Move the throwing or rolling line farther away.
 - Allow kids to toss or roll the ball toward the wall.
- Continue playing additional rounds if time allows.
 - One Breath Challenge – Kids only get one big breath through the straw before the next person goes.
 - Backward Roll – Kids roll the ball while facing the opposite direction or through their legs.
 - Silent Round – Kids must complete the challenge without talking, connecting to following instructions carefully.
- Between rounds, rebuild the wall together.

What You Say:

“That wall was pretty tough to knock down sometimes, wasn’t it? Some of you probably thought, ‘There’s no way I can do this!’ But little by little, the wall started to fall. Today we’re going to hear about a city called Jericho. Jericho had huge walls around it. The walls were strong and tall, and God’s people probably wondered how they could ever get through them. But God showed them something important: they didn’t win the battle because they were strong enough. They won because God is strong. Sometimes we face things that feel big or difficult, too. Maybe it’s something scary, something new, or something that feels impossible to handle on your own. But the good news is that we don’t have to rely

only on ourselves. God is stronger than anything we face. And because He is strong, we can be brave. That's our Bottom Line today: ***[Bottom Line]* God is strong, so I can be brave.**"

LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

1. Introduce/Remind kids about the
 - a. Monthly Theme
 - b. Monthly Memory Verse
 - c. Today's Bottom Line
2. Play Worship Songs
3. Allow kids to grab a snack
4. Play Teaching Video
5. Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

1. Quiet Challenge

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play

What You Need:

-  Floor tape
-  Plastic cups

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use tape to create a starting line on the floor.

During the Activity:

- Gather kids together in an open area.
- Say: “We’re going to play a game called the ‘Quiet Challenge!’ In this game, you’ll have to follow directions very carefully – while staying completely silent.”
- Explain the rules:
 - Kids must complete each challenge without talking.
 - If someone talks, the round starts over.
 - Encourage kids to pay close attention and work together quietly.
- Begin with simple challenges:
 - Walk to the wall and back silently.
 - Hop three times.
 - Sit down and stand back up.
 - Balance on one foot for five seconds.
- Continue with a few more difficult or silly challenges:
 - Carry a 3-cup pyramid across the room without dropping it.
 - Kids pretend to carry an enormous heavy rock across the room as quietly as possible.
 - March in slow motion.
 - Walk backward carefully.
 - Kids pair up silently and copy each other’s slow movements like a mirror.
 - Freeze in place when the leader raises a hand.
- Celebrate successful silent rounds together.
- If time allows, let kids suggest a silent challenge for the group.

What You Say:

“That was harder than it sounded! Most of us are used to talking when we work together! But in this game, you had to listen carefully and follow instructions, even when the directions seemed a little unusual. In today’s Bible Story, God gave Joshua and the Israelites some very unusual instructions too. God told them to march around the city of Jericho once a day for six days. Then on the seventh day, they were supposed to march around it seven times. And during most of the marching, they had to stay quiet! Imagine how strange that must have felt. The people inside Jericho were probably watching and wondering, ‘What are they doing?’ Joshua and the Israelites could have decided God’s instructions didn’t make sense. They could have tried to do things their own way instead. But they trusted that God knew what He was doing. And because they obeyed Him, God did something only He could do – the walls of Jericho came crashing down! Sometimes God asks us to trust Him even when we don’t fully understand what He’s doing. We may not see the whole plan yet. But we can remember that God is strong, wise, and always with us. Because **[Bottom Line] God is strong, we can be brave.**”

2. Built to Be Strong

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Explore

What You Need:

-  "Built to Be Strong" Activity Page
-  Paper
-  Index cards
-  Tape
-  Cardstock or lightweight cardboard
-  Small object to place on top (beanbag, small cup, or toy figure)

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Built to Be Strong" on paper, one per Small Group.
- Set out building supplies.

During the Activity:

- Gather kids around the supplies.
- Say: "Today we're going to build a structure strong enough to hold something on top of it." Show kids the small object (beanbag, small cup, or toy figure) that will go on top of the structure and say: "This is the treasure our structure has to hold!"
- Hold up the Activity Page, but set it aside dramatically.
- Say: "Honestly, I probably don't even need the instructions. I'm pretty sure I already know the best way to build this."
- Begin building the structure incorrectly in an exaggerated, silly way:
 - Stack pieces unevenly.
 - Ignore supports.
 - Pretend everything is going perfectly.
- Narrate confidently as you build:
 - "Wow. This looks extremely stable."
 - "Professional builders would probably ask me for advice."
 - "Nothing could possibly go wrong here."
- Place the object on top and allow the structure to collapse or wobble dramatically.
- Say: "Okay, okay ... maybe my way was not the best way. Turns out, building something strong is harder than it looks."
- Pick up the Activity Page.
- Say: "Let's try this again – but this time, let's actually follow the instructions."
- Read the instructions step-by-step and invite kids to help rebuild the structure correctly.
- Guide kids through the process or allow 1-2 kids to help read the instructions:
 - Roll or fold the cards into strong supports.
 - Tape the shapes together.
 - Stand them upright in a triangle shape.
 - Place the flat platform across the top.
- Ask questions as kids build:
 - "Why do you think this feels stronger?"
 - "What happens when we follow the instructions carefully?"
 - "What makes the structure more stable?"
- Once complete, carefully place the object on top.

- Gently test the structure by lightly tapping the table or blowing air toward it.
- Celebrate the successful build together.

What You Say:

“That structure worked MUCH better the second time, didn’t it? At first, I tried to do things my own way. I thought I knew best, but the structure wasn’t strong enough to hold the weight. When we slowed down and followed the instructions, the structure became much stronger and more stable. Joshua and the Israelites had a choice like that too. God gave them instructions for Jericho that probably sounded unusual. March around the city? Stay quiet? Blow trumpets? It didn’t seem like a very strong battle plan. But Joshua trusted that God’s way was better than his own ideas. And when God’s people obeyed Him, God showed His power in a way no one could ignore. It can be tempting to think we have to handle everything by ourselves. We may think we know the best way to fix a problem, face a fear, or stay in control. But eventually, our own strength runs out. But here’s the really good news: God never runs out of strength. When we trust Him and follow His ways, He helps us stand strong – even when life feels heavy or difficult. And here’s something important: bravery does not mean pretending you are strong enough by yourself. Real bravery is trusting the God who is already strong. **[Bottom Line] God is strong, so I can be brave.**”

3. Safe Place

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Create

What You Need:

-  Bibles
-  “Safe Place” Activity Page
-  Cardstock
-  Coloring supplies

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Safe Place” on cardstock, one per kid.
- Set out coloring supplies.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Psalm 46:1.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Repeat 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 “Safe Place” Activity Page.
- Say: “Today you’re going to create your own reminder that God is your safe place.”
- Explain the activity:
 - Kids will color the Activity Page.
 - They will fold their paper along the two lines to allow it to stand.
 - When completed, the activity will create a small “safe place” reminder featuring the Memory Verse.
- As kids work, ask questions like:
 - “What are some places that make you feel safe?”
 - “What do you think it means that God is our refuge?”
 - “When do you need God’s strength the most?”
- Once kids finish, invite them to read the Memory Verse together one more time.

What You Say:

“You all created some awesome safe places today! Most of us feel calmer when we have a place where we feel protected and cared for. In our Memory Verse, the Bible says that God is our refuge and strength. A refuge is a safe place – somewhere you can run when you need help or protection. When Joshua and the Israelites faced the huge walls of Jericho, they could have felt afraid or overwhelmed. But God reminded them that He was with them. They did not have to depend only on their own strength because God was fighting for them. Sometimes we face things that feel big or scary too. Maybe it’s

something hard at school, a new situation, or something that makes you nervous. In those moments, you can remember that God is your refuge. He is your safe place. He stays close to you, helps you, and gives you strength when you need it. And because ***[Bottom Line]* God is strong, you can be brave.** Every time you see your project this week, let it remind you that you never face hard things alone!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

What You Need:

- Index cards
- Coloring supplies
- Small bag, basket, or container

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle or spread out with personal space.
- Say: “Today we talked about how God is strong, so we can be brave. Sometimes there are things in our lives that feel big, difficult, or scary. But we don’t have to carry those things all by ourselves.”
- Hold up the bag or container.
- Say: “This bag is going to remind us that we can give our worries, fears, and hard things to God.”
- Pass out index cards and coloring supplies.
- Say: “Think about something that feels hard, scary, or overwhelming to you right now. It could be something at school, at home, or something you’re nervous about. You can write or draw whatever comes to mind.”
- Allow kids time to write or draw quietly.
- Once kids finish, invite them one at a time to place their index card into the bag or container and give it to God.
- Keep sharing optional.
- Once everyone has finished, hold the bag/container while you pray.

Prayer:

“God, thank You that You are stronger than anything we face. Thank You that we don’t have to carry our fears and worries by ourselves. Help us trust You with the hard things in our lives. Remind us that You are always with us and that You will give us strength when we need it. Help us be brave because You are strong. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

What You Say:

“When Joshua and the Israelites stood in front of Jericho, the walls probably looked impossible to overcome. But God didn’t ask them to defeat Jericho using only their own strength. He asked them to trust Him. God was *already* fighting for them. Sometimes the hard things in our lives can feel big too. We may feel nervous, overwhelmed, or unsure what to do. But when we talk to God, it reminds us that we don’t have to carry those things alone. When we pray, we can give our fears, worries, and struggles to God because He cares about us! Putting your paper in the bag today was a simple way to practice trusting God with something difficult. Every time you feel afraid this week, remember that God is with you, God is strong, and you can trust Him with whatever you face. Let’s say our Bottom Line together one last time: **[Bottom Line] God is strong, so I can be brave.**”

*As adults arrive to pick up, **hand out week 1 devotional page** and remind the kids that **God is stronger than anything they face this week!***