

## Today's Suggested Schedule—May 17, 2026

**Bible Story:** Paul Becomes a Believer | Ananias Helps Paul • Acts 9:1-31

**Bottom Line:** God can help you see things in a new way.

**Conversation Starter:** When have you discovered something new about God?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZj> 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

## Social

### Providing Time for Fun Interaction

15 minutes

#### Opening Activity

##### Made to Move

#### What You Need:

- Floor tape
- Blindfold
- Timer (or smartphone or watch)

#### What You Do:

##### *Before the Activity:*

- Create a large square on the floor (about 18"x18") with floor tape.

##### *During the Activity:*

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Ask for one volunteer who will be blindfolded. Pick a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised.
- Stand the blindfolded kid in the center of the square.
- Explain the challenge: "Your goal is to march in place for 30 seconds without going outside the square while blindfolded."
- Time each kid for 30 seconds while they march.
- When the time is up, instruct them to take off the blindfold to see where they ended up.
- Continue the activity with each kid who wants to play. Talk about why it's so difficult to stay in one place when you can't see your surroundings.

#### What You Say:

"It's almost impossible to stay in the right spot when you can't see, isn't it? You lose your sense of direction. You think you're staying still, but you're drifting off course. In our Bible Story today, we'll meet a man named Saul who had an experience that literally made him go blind. It forced him to stop and see his life from a completely different perspective. Let's go find out what happened."

## **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.**

## Groups

### Creating a Safe Place to Connect

#### 1. Shake the Scales Off

Talk about God | Bible Story Review  
Made to Move

##### What You Need:

- Bible
- Sticky notes

##### What You Do:

*During the Activity:*

- Open your Bible and show the kids where the story is written. (Acts 9:1-31).
- Review the Bible Story with the kids by sharing the following points:
  - There was a man named Saul who thought he was helping God by arresting followers of Jesus.
  - While Saul was on his way to the city of Damascus to arrest Jesus-followers, Jesus appeared to him in a bright light! Jesus told Saul that Saul wasn't helping Him at all!
  - Saul tried to open his eyes, but he couldn't see.
  - Saul's friends led him into the city. For three days, he prayed, and he didn't eat or drink anything.
  - God told one of His followers, Ananias, to go and help Saul see again.
  - Ananias didn't want to go! He had heard that Saul had done terrible things to Jesus' followers.
  - But Ananias listened to God, went to the house where Saul was staying, and prayed for Saul.
  - Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.
  - Saul realized that he should be Jesus' friend, not His enemy!
  - Saul started going around telling everyone, "Jesus loves you! Follow Him!"
- Ask the kids what they remember about Saul from the Bible Story. Remind them that when Jesus appeared to Saul, he was blinded.
- Ask for a volunteer to be Saul, and pick one from the kids who have their hands raised. Gently place several sticky notes over their eyes and on their arms and shirt, like "scales."
- Say, "When Saul couldn't see, he had to wait for three days. He prayed, and he didn't eat anything. Then God sent a man named Ananias to help him."
- Choose another child to be Ananias. Have "Ananias" come and gently take the sticky notes off the other volunteer's eyes.
- Say, "The Bible says it was like scales had fallen from Saul's eyes, and he could see again!"
- Now, give all the kids a few sticky notes and let them stick them on themselves.
- On the count of three, challenge everyone to shake, wiggle, and dance to "shake the scales off" without using their hands.

##### What You Say:

"Great dancing and shaking, everyone! It feels good to get those sticky scales off so you can see! When the scales fell from Saul's eyes, he showed that he saw Jesus in a new way. He understood that Jesus was God's Son!

“There was someone else who learned to see something in a new way—Ananias. Ananias was scared because he had heard how Saul treated Jesus’ followers. But God told him to go, so he listened. When Ananias got there, the Bible says: *He placed his hands on Saul. “Brother Saul,” he said, “you saw the Lord Jesus. He appeared to you on the road as you were coming here. He has sent me so that you will be able to see again. You will be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Right away something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes. And he could see again (Acts 9:17b-18a NIV).* Ananias trusted God and went to help someone who was his enemy. And, eventually, God would work through Saul to do great things!

“Sometimes we think we know things, but God can help us see those things in new ways. Saul thought Jesus-followers were a lost cause. Ananias thought Saul was a lost cause. But both men listened to God, and God showed both men something. And God can show you new things too! **[Bottom Line]** **God can help you see things in a new way.”**

## 2. Discussion Questions

### Talk about God | Bible Story Review

#### Made to Connect

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
  - Why do you think Jesus chose to appear to Saul in such a dramatic way (a blinding light and speaking voice) instead of in a quieter way, like a dream?
  - When Jesus told Ananias to go to Saul, Ananias argued at first. Why was it so hard for him to believe Saul could change?
  - Right after Saul could see again, he immediately began preaching about Jesus. Why do you think Saul didn't hesitate or wait?
  - Why do you think God didn't just fix Saul instantly, but instead used Ananias—a regular Jesus-follower—to be part of Saul's healing?
  - After Saul's transformation, the church continued to grow. How did Saul's new mission help spread the message of Jesus even further?

### 3. Verses to Take with You

#### Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

#### Made to Connect

#### What You Need:

- Bibles

#### What You Do:

*During the Activity:*

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Explain that you're going to say the verse using a simple rhythm.
- Lead them in the pattern: **clap, clap, snap** (or **pat knees, pat knees, clap** for non-snappers).
- Once they have the rhythm, start adding the words. Try to fit two words of the verse into each beat.
  - **(clap, clap)** Let us **(snap)** not
  - **(clap, clap)** become **(snap)** tired
  - **(clap, clap)** of doing **(snap)** good.
  - And so on ...
- Go through the whole verse several times, getting faster as you go.

#### What You Say:

“Awesome job! That rhythm helps get the Memory Verse stuck in your head. This verse is all about perseverance. Saul, who you might also know as Paul, had a hard life, but he never gave up doing good. He persevered because he knew God was with him and had helped him see everything in a new way. When you feel like giving up, remembering **[Bottom Line] God can help you see things in a new way** can give you the strength to persevere.”

#### 4. Make It Personal with Prayer

##### Pray to God | Prayer Activity

##### Made to Reflect

##### What You Need:

- Music player
- Soft worship music
- Paper
- Coloring supplies

##### What You Do:

##### *During the Activity:*

- Play some soft worship music in the background.
- Tell the kids that for the next few minutes, you're going to have some quiet time to pray.
- Explain that they can pray by drawing or designing something on their paper.
- Give them a prompt: "Think about a situation or a person in your life that you need to see in a new way. Ask God to help you see that situation or person the way He does. Draw or write about that."
- Allow for several minutes of quiet, independent reflection and creation.

##### What You Say:

"Sometimes the best prayers are the ones we don't say out loud. God knows our hearts, and He sees what you've created. Let's close our time together in prayer."

##### Prayer:

"God, thank You for the story of Saul. It reminds us that You can change anyone and that You can help us see things differently. Please help us to see the situations we just drew about—and the people involved—the way You do. Give us new eyes to see the world with Your love and grace. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."