

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 24, 2026

Bible Story: Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Bottom Line: Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Conversation Starter: How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

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:

- Dry Erase Board
- Dry Erase Marker

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Ask the group to make a collaborative list of things they would want to have if they were stranded on a deserted island. Write down all the suggestions on the dry erase board.
- Encourage kids to debate and discuss as a group what they want the final ten items to be until they all agree.
- After they have their list of ten, present a new challenge: “A wave just washed away eight of your items! You can only keep two. As a group, decide which two items are the most essential for survival.”
- Listen to their reasoning as they narrow down their choices.

What You Say:

“That got pretty serious at the end! It’s tough to choose when you have limited resources. You have to think about what will *really* help you persevere. In our Bible Story today, Paul and 275 other people got stranded after a shipwreck on an island, and they had to figure out how to survive. But Paul had one thing that was more important than anything on your list. Let’s go find out what it was.”

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. Take a Snapshot

Live for God | Application Activity
Made to Explore

What You Need:

- “Don't Give Up Challenge” Activity Page
- Paper
- Pencils

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Don't Give Up Challenge” on paper, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Explain that the goal for each puzzle is to connect the same color dots without crossing over any lines.
- Give kids several minutes to work on their puzzles.
- As they work, encourage them by saying things like, “That one is tough, but don't give up!” or “What's another way you could try that?”
- After a while, gather the group and talk about the experience. Ask: “How did it feel when you got to the harder puzzles? What made you want to give up? What helped you keep trying?”

What You Say:

“Those last puzzles were really hard! It's frustrating when you try and try and can't seem to solve something. Life can feel like that sometimes. We face problems that seem impossible. Maybe a kid at school keeps picking on you, or your parents argue a lot. Maybe your best friend invites someone else to spend the night instead of you. Those are really hard things. But God is always right there, working behind the scenes. God has promised to make everything right in the end, even if we don't get to see that right away. Paul's story shows us that even in the middle of a literal shipwreck, God is still there and still working for good. We might not see the solution right away, but our job is to persevere and keep trusting Him. **[Bottom Line] Don't give up on God when bad things happen.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time about how you turned to God when things got hard. You can share something like: “I was working on a project recently that just kept going wrong. I was so frustrated and ready to quit. But I remembered this verse about not getting tired of doing good. I took a break, prayed, and asked God for a new perspective. It didn't magically get easy, but God gave me the perseverance I needed to finish it.”)

2. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bibles
- “Origami Boat Directions” Activity Page
- Paper
- Scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Origami Boat Directions” on paper, one per Small Group.
- Cut paper into a square, one per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- As a group, talk through the key moments of Paul’s shipwreck story:
 - The journey to Rome by ship
 - Paul’s warning to the ship’s crew about the journey being hard
 - The storm hitting and lasting for days
 - The angel’s promise to Paul
 - Paul trusting God in the storm
 - The shipwreck on the island of Malta
 - The snake bite and Paul’s survival
- While you discuss the story, lead the kids step-by-step through the process of folding their paper into an origami boat.
- Encourage them to help each other as they follow the instructions.

What You Say:

“Nice work on those boats! It took some focus to get all those folds right. Paul’s journey was anything but smooth—it was full of storms and unexpected problems. But through it all, what was the one thing he never did? (*Give up on God.*) Exactly! He persevered. He kept trusting that God was still good and was still at work. That’s our challenge too: **[Bottom Line] don’t give up on God when bad things happen.**

“So what does this mean for us? Well, you may never be shipwrecked or bitten by a deadly snake, but when you’re disappointed or sad, it’s still easy to feel like God is nowhere to be found. The truth is that God loves us deeply and is *always* with us, whether we feel like it or not. We can look back and see all the ways God has worked in the past and know He’s still at work right now. So remember, **[Bottom Line] don’t give up on God when bad things happen.**”

3. 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 Paul trusted God even when everyone else felt hopeless during the storm? What do you think helped him stay calm?
 - What does this story show us about God's promises? How did God keep His promise to Paul?
 - Paul thanked God and ate food while the storm was still happening. Why do you think gratitude is important even when life is hard?
 - What are some "storms" kids your age might face today? (*School stress, friendships, family problems, fear, etc.*)
 - What does "not giving up on God" actually look like in everyday life for a preteen? What are some practical examples?

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Spring-loaded clothespins
- Fine-tip permanent markers

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a clothespin and a marker.
- Instruct them to write the phrase “God is always with you” on their clothespin. They can decorate it if they’d like.
- Explain the “secret mission” for the week: They are to take this clothespin and secretly clip it onto the backpack, jacket, or another belonging of someone they know who might need some encouragement.
- Challenge them that every time they see that person this week, they should say a silent prayer for them, asking God to help that person persevere and remember He is with them.
- Close in prayer together.

What You Say:

“This is a cool way to be a secret encouragement for someone this week. It’s a way to help someone else persevere, just like Paul encouraged the men on the ship. Let’s pray for the people who will receive these pins.”

Prayer:

“God, thank You for being with us in the middle of storms. Please encourage the friends and family members who will get these prayer pins this week. Help them to feel Your presence and not to give up. And help us to be people who, like Paul, show others what it looks like to trust You, even when things are hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”