

Today's Suggested Schedule—August 2, 2026

Bible Story: Image of God • *Genesis 1:26-30, Colossians 1:15*

Bottom Line: I am made in the image of God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* • Psalm 139:14 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

Social Opening Activity Made to Play

What You Need:

- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Coloring supplies

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Give each kid a paper plate and some coloring supplies.
- Instruct the kids to place the paper plate on top of their head and hold it there with one hand.
- Tell them they are going to draw a self-portrait (a picture of themselves) on the plate—but they can't look!
- Guide them step-by-step: "Draw your eyes. Now draw your nose. Add a big smile! Now draw your hair. Don't forget your ears!"
- Have everyone take the plates off their heads and look at their masterpieces. *(Expect a lot of laughter as eyes and noses are floating off the faces!)*

What You Say:

"These portraits are hilarious! It's really hard to draw something when you can't see what you're doing, isn't it? Well, when God created you, He wasn't guessing or drawing in the dark. He designed every single part of you perfectly and on purpose. He picked your hair color, the shape of your nose, and your smile. But the most amazing part is that you are made in God's image. God made you to reflect Him, to show the world what He is like. You are not an accident; you are God's masterpiece! **[Bottom Line] I am made in the image of God.**"

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

1. Creation Bingo

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play

What You Need:

- ☐ “Creation Bingo” Activity Page
- ☐ “Creation Bingo Calling Cards” Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Bingo placeholders/markers (buttons or pom-poms)
- ☐ Small containers or bowls

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Creation Bingo” on cardstock and cut, one card per kid.
- Print “Creation Bingo Calling Cards” on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Open the Bible to Genesis 1:26-30. Read it out loud to the kids.
- Then summarize the key points of the passage with thoughts like:
 - The first book of Genesis—which is the first book in the entire Bible—tells about God making the universe and everything in it.
 - When God made people, they were His most special creation! And we can learn a lot about who we are based on the first people God created.
 - As we see from these verses in Genesis, God made you in His image—that means you reflect Him to the world!
- Then turn to Colossians 1:15, and read it out loud to the kids.
 - Summarize it by saying: “God didn’t want us to wonder what He is like—what image we are supposed to reflect! So Jesus came, and He is the exact image of God because He is God!”
- Give each kid a bingo card and a handful of placeholders/markers in a small container/bowl.
- Point out the middle space. Say: “Before we start, everyone put a marker on the middle space. What does it say? ‘God’s most special creation.’ Who is that? *(Pause.)* That’s right, YOU! People!”
- Pull a calling card, and announce the creation item (e.g., “The sun!”). If kids have it on their board, they cover it with a placeholder/marker.
- Play until someone gets five in a row and yells, “CREATION!” (or “BINGO!”). Play a few rounds as time allows, having kids clear their boards between rounds. If time and interest allow, play different versions, like four corners or blackout.

What You Say:

“God made the light and dark, the skies, the sun, moon, and stars, the land, the plants, the fish, and the animals. And He said they were all good! But when God made people, He did something completely different. In Genesis 1:26-27 NIV, *God said, ‘Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created*

human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female.

“God made people in His image. God made you and delights in what you look like. But being created in the image of God goes much deeper. In fact, God made every single one of us in His image! The image of God is what God put inside of you, in your heart and soul and mind. It means that you—and every one of us—are able to show something of who God is to the world around us.

“The God of the entire universe created us to be like Himself. God didn’t have to make us, but He did. He loved us before we even existed, and then, to top it off, He made us in His image! That’s why that middle space on your board is so important. Out of the whole universe, you are God’s most special creation. Because **[Bottom Line] I am made in the image of God.**”

2. Verse Pop-Up

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Move

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ “Verse Pop-Up” Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Verse Pop-Up” on cardstock, one set per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible, and direct them to look up Psalm 139:14.
- 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.
- Divide the kids into 5 groups. Assign each group a section of the Memory Verse, and give them the corresponding Activity Page.
 - Group 1: How you made me is amazing and wonderful.
 - Group 2: I praise you for that.
 - Group 3: What you have done is wonderful.
 - Group 4: I know that very well.
 - Group 5: Psalm 139:14 NlrV
- Explain the rules: When it's their group's turn, they must pop up (stand up quickly), shout their part of the Memory Verse, and sit right back down.
- Point to Group 1 to start, then go around the room until the verse is complete.
- Do it again, but challenge them to go faster. Keep doing rounds and speeding up the pace each time until they are popping up and down as fast as they can!

What You Say:

“Whew, that was a workout! You all did a fantastic job saying our Memory Verse: *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well* (Psalm 139:14 NlrV). God didn't just make the mountains and the oceans; He made *you*. He loved you before you even existed. God made you in His image! Now, this doesn't mean you look exactly like God on the outside. Your hair color and the shape of your nose and your smile—those are great! God made you and delights in what you look like. But being created in the image of God goes much deeper. In fact, God made every single one of us in His image! The image of God is what God put inside of you, in your heart and soul and mind. It means that you, and every one of us, are able to show something of

who God is to the world around us. God made you wonderful, and God does not make mistakes! Let's praise God for that this week!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *In place of standing and sitting, adapt the motion to be raising hands or another movement so all kids can participate.*

3. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need:

- ☐ Flashlight (make sure it has fresh batteries)

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a large circle on the floor.
- Turn the flashlight on, and place it flat in the middle of the circle.
- Explain that a flashlight's job is to shine light into the darkness. Because we are made in God's image, our job is to "reflect" God's light—which means we show the world what God is like! Jesus was the perfect example of God's image, so we know exactly what God is like.
- Spin the flashlight. When it stops spinning, whoever the beam of light is pointing at gets to share one way they want to become more like Jesus this week. (e.g., "I can forgive my brother," "I can share my toys," "I can help my mom clean up," "I can be kind to someone sitting alone at lunch")
- That kid then gets to go to the center and spin the flashlight for the next round.
- Play until everyone has had a chance to share.

What You Say:

"You guys came up with some brilliant ways to be like Jesus. Jesus is God's Son, and He showed us perfectly what God is like. When you choose to be kind, or helpful, or patient, you are acting like Jesus. You are shining God's light for everyone around you to see! We were made to be like a mirror, reflecting what God is like. We literally carry God's image to the world around us. In this way, we can shine God's light and grow His kingdom.

"Being made in the image of God is who you are. Nothing you do will ever change that. This week, I challenge you to look for ways to reflect God's love to your friends and family, because **[Bottom Line] I am made in the image of God.**"

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for making the whole world and everything in it. Thank You for creating us, Your most special creation, in Your image. Help us to be like a mirror, shining Your light and showing everyone Your kindness and love this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive, remind each kid that the way God made them is amazing and wonderful. They are made in the image of God, and God does not make mistakes!