

Today's Suggested Schedule— September 13, 2026

Bible Story: How to Read the Bible • *Matthew 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Bottom Line: I can learn to know God through the Bible.

Monthly Memory Verse: *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 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 Move

What You Need:

- ☐ Floor tape

EveryChild Supplies

- ☐ Green piece of paper as a visual cue

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use tape to mark a start and finish line on the floor.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Once most kids arrive, instruct kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder behind the line.
- Say "Alright, let's see who came ready to listen today. I've got a challenge for you! The goal of this game is to make it to the finish line by listening carefully and only stepping when you hear the right word. The word you're listening for is the word DAY. So, once we start, every time you hear the word DAY, take one step forward. Let's see how well you can listen!"
- Round 1
 - "On the first DAY, God made light."
 - "On the second DAY, God made the sky."
 - "On the third DAY, God made land and plants."
 - "On the fourth DAY, God made the sun, moon, and stars."
 - "On the fifth DAY, God made animals in the water and sky."
- Have kids return to the starting line.
- Say: "Wow, you all really got the hang of this! Well done! But maybe that was a little too easy. Let's make it even more of a challenge this round. Are you ready?!"
- Round 2
 - "Every DAY, you can learn something new."
 - "Some DAYs are busy, and some DAYs are quiet."
 - "God is with you every single DAY."
 - "There are DAYs when things feel easy, and DAYs when they feel hard."
 - "You can take time to learn about God every DAY."
- Have kids return to the starting line.
- Say: "That round was definitely a bit more difficult. But you all did great! Who is ready for the final round? It might be tricky! Listen closely so you don't miss it!"
- Round 3
 - "Yesterday was a great DAY, and toDAY is a new DAY."
 - "One DAYy, you might help someone in a big way."
 - "God speaks to you every DAY, even when it's quiet."
 - "There might be a DAY when you don't notice – but God is still speaking every DAY."
 - "Any DAY is a good DAY to read the Bible and learn about God."
- Direct kids to sit down

What You Say:

“You all did a great job listening and moving! Some of those were easy, and some made you really pay attention. You had to listen carefully, so you didn’t miss the word ‘*day*.’ Every single day, we hear lots of words and voices. Some are loud, and some are quiet. Some are easy to notice, and some take practice to hear. Jesus said we can ask God for our *daily bread*. That means not just food for our bodies – but what our hearts need too. One of the main ways God gives us what we need is through the Bible. When we read the Bible, we’re learning what God says and what matters to Him. It’s one of the clearest ways we can hear from God. The Bible teaches us what is true, helps us make wise choices, and shows us who God is. And just like this game, listening takes practice. The more we spend time reading the Bible, the more we begin to recognize what God is saying. Let’s get ready to learn more!”

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. Puzzle Piece Review

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

What You Need:

- ☐ "Puzzle Piece Review" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ *Optional: Pencil*

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Puzzle Piece Review" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- *Optional: Lightly mark the back of pieces with numbers to help guide assembly if needed.*
- *Optional: Print an additional "Puzzle Piece Review" Activity Page. Cut and assemble for a visual example.*

During the Activity:

- Gather kids in a circle on the floor.
- Place the mixed-up puzzle pieces in the center of your area.
- Say: "Today we're going to build something together. It's a puzzle, but not just any puzzle! Each piece tells us something true about the Bible. As we put the pieces together, we're going to see a bigger picture of what the Bible is and why it matters."
- Let each kid pick one to two puzzle pieces or pair up with a buddy, depending on the number of kids in the group.
- Say: "Take a look at your piece. If you can read it, try reading it quietly to yourself. If you're not sure what it says, that's okay – I'll help you."
- Go around the group and help each kid read their piece
- Say: "Now let's work together to put all the pieces together. Each piece is important, just like every part of the Bible is important."
- Invite kids to begin assembling the puzzle
- As they work, you may guide with prompts such as:
 - "Where do you think your piece might go?"
 - "Does anyone see pieces that might fit together?"
 - "Let's help each other. This is something we're building together!"
- Keep the focus on collaboration over speed. If kids finish quickly, invite them to go back through the pieces and choose one truth to share or explain in their own words.

What You Say:

"Look at what you built together! Each piece mattered – but it wasn't complete on its own. When you put the pieces together, it really started to make sense. That's what the Bible is like. It's made up of many parts, but they all connect to tell one big story. God used different people, at different times, to give us the Bible, and every part helps us understand more about Him. Some parts are stories, some are instructions, some are prayers, but all of it helps us see who God is and how He works. And when you read the Bible, you're not just learning information – you're getting to know God Himself! So remember, you can learn to know God through the Bible, and **[Bottom Line] I can learn to know God through the Bible.**"

2. Pack Your Bag

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Imagine

What You Need:

- ☐ Backpack, tote bag, or something similar
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Bookmark
- ☐ Highlighter
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Pen/pencil

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Place the bag where all the kids can see it.
- Set out cards and markers.
- Place a few example items nearby for visual support.

During the Activity:

- Hold up the bag.
- Say: "Have you ever packed a bag for a trip or for school?"
- Allow two to three responses.
- Say: "When you pack a bag, you choose things that will help you be ready for what's ahead. Today, we're going to pack this bag with things that can help us learn about God by reading the Bible."
- Hold up the Bible. Say: "This is the most important thing – the Bible! This is where we learn what God says and who He is." Place the Bible in the bag.
- Hold up the bookmark. Say: "This bookmark can help us remember where we are reading so we can keep going." Place the bookmark in the bag.
- Hold up the highlighter. Say: "We can highlight verses in the Bible that we want to remember." Place the highlighter in the bag.
- Hold up the journal and a pen/pencil. Say: "We can write or draw what we learn about God and how He is speaking to us." Place the journal and pen/pencil in the bag.
- Say: "All of these things can help us get ready, but the most important part is actually reading and listening. Now it's your turn. What would YOU pack to help you learn from the Bible? It could be something you use, something you do, or something that helps you remember to read. It could be something that we put in this bag, or something new! It could even be a person who helps read the Bible to you."
- Give each kid a card.
- Say: "Write or draw your ideas."
- Walk around and guide kids as needed.
 - "Where could you read the Bible?"
 - "When could you read it?"
 - "Who could help you?"
- After a few minutes, say: "Let's add your ideas to the bag too!"
- Allow kids to come up one at a time and share what is on their card and then put it into the bag.

- Affirm each kid briefly as they share.
- Hold up the full bag.
- Say: “Look at everything in this bag. These are all great things that can help you get ready to read the Bible!”

What You Say:

“Packing a bag helps you get ready for something important. In the same way, we can choose to be ready to read the Bible and learn from it. All of these ideas you came up with can help you get started, but what matters most is that you actually take time to open the Bible and read it. And as you read, you can pause and think, ‘What is God showing me about who He is?’ or ‘What is He helping me understand?’ You don’t have to understand everything right away. You just start, ask questions, and keep going! And as you do that, you begin to learn more about who God is and what He is like. That’s something we can all do this week. **[Bottom Line] I can learn to know God through the Bible.**”

3. Scripture Stack

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity Made to Play

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Write one word of the Memory Verse on each cup:
 - My
 - sheep
 - listen
 - to
 - my
 - voice;
 - I
 - know
 - them,
 - and
 - they
 - follow
 - me.
 - John
 - 10:27
- Stack cups in a single tower with words mixed up

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up John 10:27.
- 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.
- Hold up the stack of cups. Say: "These cups have the words of our Memory Verse – but they're all mixed up! We're going to work together to stack them into a pyramid in the correct order. We'll start with five cups on the bottom, then four, then three, then two, and one on top."
- Unstack and spread cups out where kids can see all of them.
- Say: "Let's find the very first word of the verse. Does anyone think they might know which word is first?"
- Invite kids up one at a time as they recognize the right words. Allow kids to use their Bibles if they wish.
- Continue building left to right until five cups form the base.
- Say: "Great! Now let's build the next row with four cups."
- Invite kids to continue placing cups in order.
- Continue pattern. Say: "Let's keep building three on this row. Now two more. And one on top to finish it!"
- Keep reinforcing the verse as you go.
- Once finished, point from bottom to top. Say: "Let's read the whole verse together from the bottom to the top."

What You Say:

“You all worked together to stack our Memory Verse – and the more you practiced, the easier it became to put it in the right order. That’s how it works with the Bible too. The more you read it and hear it, the more familiar it becomes. And the more familiar it becomes, the easier it is to recognize what God is saying. God will never say something that goes against what we read in the Bible. So, when you know what is true, it helps you know when something you’re thinking or hearing matches who God is. Over time, reading the Bible helps you recognize God’s voice in everyday life – in your thoughts, your choices, and the way you treat others. So this week, keep practicing. Even a little time in the Bible can help you hear from God more clearly. **[Bottom Line] I can learn to know God through the Bible.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Poster board or foam board

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Write at the top of the poster board: “God, help me learn...”
- Place the poster board where all kids can reach it.
- Set out sticky notes and coloring supplies.

During the Activity:

- Say: “Today we’ve talked about how the Bible helps us learn who God is. And when we pray, we can ask God to help us understand and learn more.”
- Hold up a sticky note. “Each of you will have a sticky note where you will finish the sentence: ‘God, help me learn...’ You can write or draw something you want God to help you learn from the Bible this week.”
- You can give examples such as:
 - “God, help me read my Bible this week.”
 - “God, help me learn more about You.”
 - “God, help me listen to You.”
 - “God, help me make good choices.”
- Hand out sticky notes and coloring supplies.
- Say: “Take a couple of minutes to write or draw your prayer.”
- Walk around and offer support if needed.
- Say: “When you’re ready, come stick your prayer on the board.”
- After all sticky notes are posted, you may read two to three aloud.

What You Say:

“These are all great prayers. You’re asking God to help you learn and that’s exactly what He wants to do. When you read the Bible, you’re not doing it alone. God is with you, and He helps you understand what you’re reading. And you can talk to Him anytime. You don’t need special words. You can talk to God like a friend – honest, simple, and from your heart. This week, when you read the Bible, you can ask God, ‘Help me understand. Show me who You are.’ Then take a moment to read and listen. Even if it’s just a few minutes, that time matters. God can use it to help you grow and to help you hear His voice more clearly. Let’s talk to Him now.”

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible. Thank You that it teaches us what is true and helps us know who You are. Thank You for each of these prayers. You know what every person here wants to learn. Please help us understand Your Word. Help us keep reading, keep asking questions, and keep listening to You. We want to know You better. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, give each kid a DEVOTIONAL PAGE to take home and remind the kids to make time to read their Bible and listen for God’s voice this week!