

K-3rd

Large Group

April — Week 2

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Kids arrival : 9:25 / 11:10

Play high-pitch music as kids arrive

Countdown : 9:30 / 11:15

Start the countdown with excitement!

Large Group : 9:30-9:55 / 11:15-11:40

- Opener
- Bible Story
- Talk It Out!
- Memory Verse
- Prayer

Transition to Small group : 9:55-10:00
/11:40-11:45

Kids move with their leader to small groups

Small group : 10:00-10:25 / 11:45-12:10

Creating a safe place to connect.

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

On the Road to Emmaus
• **Luke 24:13-35**

Bottom Line



Memory Verse



OPENER

① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.
SLIDE → Theme

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown
Optional Video → Theme Intro

“Hey, everybody! Welcome to church! I’m so excited you’re here today because we’re in the middle of our Block Party theme! That means every week, we’re celebrating the joy Jesus gives us, and honestly, you all bring the party with you. Just look around ... this room is full of energy already!

“I hope you came ready to laugh, cheer, and maybe get a little silly, because today is all about discovering the kind of joy that never runs out. Not the kind of joy you get from candy or winning a game ... but the kind of joy that comes from knowing Jesus. And trust me, He has some awesome things to show us today.

“But before we jump into anything else, we need to warm up with a game. And not just any game. This one just might be one of the silliest Block Party games ever!

SLIDE → Game_Party Hat Stack Attack Title

““This game is called ‘Party Hat Stack Attack’! Right in the middle of the room is where our Hat Wearers will stand. And on both ends of the room, we’ve got a stack of party hats waiting for our Hat Runners.

“Here’s how it works. We’re going to split six kids into two teams, Team One and Team Two. Each team will choose one person to be the Hat Wearer. Hat Wearers, once you step into the middle of the room, we will put one hat on your head. Then you must stay still—no walking around, no using your hands, and no using the little string on the hat.

“The other two kids on the team will be the two Hat Runners. Hat Runners will start at your team’s hat pile. When I say go, the runners will grab one hat from their team’s pile, run it to the Hat Wearer, and carefully stack it on top of the hat they’re already wearing. Then the two Hat Runners will run back to the pile of hats and do it again.

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10 MINUTES

OPENER

“And this is very important—if the stack of hats falls off the Hat Wearer’s head, your team has to start over! We’ll keep going until the timer runs out, and whichever team stacks the most hats wins!

“All right, I’m going to need six volunteers. Raise your hand if you’d like to play!

(Choose six volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and divide them into two teams of three.)

“Awesome, we have our volunteers! Okay, one of you on each team will be the Hat Wearer. If you’re a Hat Wearer, come stand right here in the middle of the room. Let’s get a hat and put it on you. The other two kids on each team will be Hat Runners. If you’re a Hat Runner, go ahead and line up next to your hat piles. Everybody else, get ready to cheer them on!

“Hat Wearers, ready? Hat Runners, ready?

“On your mark ... get set ... GO!

Optional Video → 2-Minute Countdown

(Play the game. Make sure the Hat Runners are only grabbing one hat at a time, that the Hat Wearers aren’t touching their hats or moving around, and that if the stack of hats falls off the Hat Wearer, the Hat Runners are to start stacking the hats over again.)

(Cheer on the teams as they play and involve the audience.)

(Once the two-minute timer is up ...)

“Five, four, three, two, one ... STOP!

“Freeze! No more stacking! Looks like our winner today is [Team Name]! Great job! You can all take a seat.

(Repeat for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.)

“You all worked together so well today! This month, we’re continuing to learn about joy. And guess what? Today we’re talking about something really important: how God has a bigger story, even when we can’t see the whole picture. And that even if we don’t know all the details, we can still have joy.

Story

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Story Lab W2

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- The two friends started their day sad and confused because they only saw a few pieces, just like our drawings at the beginning.
- When all the pieces came together, the whole picture became clear.
- That's what Jesus did for them. He helped them understand the bigger picture. When they realized Jesus was alive and part of God's bigger story, their confusion turned to excitement and their sadness turned to joy.
- When you only see one little part, things can feel confusing. But when you remember that there is a bigger story, it can help you find joy.
- BL: You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story."

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story."

SLIDE -> Memory Verse



5 MINUTES

TALK IT OUT



Now, before we move on, I have a question for you... (lean in and whisper) do you know what time it is?

It's time to... (pause, cup your hand to your ear) **TALK IT OUT!**

That means it's your turn to do the talking! You get to share your thoughts, ask questions, and see how this story connects to YOUR life.

So, let's put on our 'thinking caps' ... zip up our listening ears... and get ready to Talk. It. Out!"

SLIDE -> Talk It Out

Talk It Out Questions

✔ Question 1

Why did Jesus' friends feel sad and confused?

Answer: They didn't understand God's plan.

✔ Question 2

What did Jesus do when He talked with His friends?

Answer: He helped them understand the Bible.

✔ Question 3

What does the puzzle teach us?

Answer: God's story has many pieces. He is always working.

✔ Question 4

Why were the friends joyful when Jesus was alive?

Answer: Jesus defeated death and gave hope.

✔ Question 5

What does "bigger story" mean?

Answer: God is working, even when we don't see it.

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5 MINUTES

Prayer

Prayer

“Jesus, thank You for writing the best story of all, and that we are living in it! When things get hard or confusing, help us remember that You are good and are working for good. Help us be encouraged by the bigger story You are writing. Help us find joy as we turn our hearts to Your presence with us. We want to go through all of life aware of You and of Your bigger story! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.
AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.
SLIDE -> Theme
Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop