

K-4 | W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2026, Week 2

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

Bottom Line: You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • *Philippians 4:4 NIV*

Leader Summary-

In Week 2, two Jesus followers travel the road to Emmaus on Sunday afternoon. While they tried to make sense of all that had happened—spoiler alert!—Jesus Himself joined them on the road. Though they didn't realize it was Him, Jesus explained how God's whole story fit together. And then, when He broke bread with them at dinner, they finally understood who He was! [BOTTOM LINE] You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Small Group (20minutes)

Connect Time

Large Group (30minutes)

Countdown and Welcome

Large Group Game

Worship

Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Basic Truth and Story Review

Activity 1

Activity 2

Prayer

Home:

Devotionals for Kids



Bible Story

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

Conversation Starter

How does knowing that Jesus is alive bring you joy?

Bottom Line

You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Monthly Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! • *Philippians 4:4 NIV*

5 min

Connect Time

5 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

-  Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks 1
-  Fun, upbeat music 1

What You Do:

- From doors opening to start of large group - Greet and intentionally engage with students, following the KidCity check-in procedures.

Connect time is spent building relationships with some intentional connecting with kids before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or playing or just sit and listen to each other). You can ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group..

5 min

Large Group

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Game

What You Need

 Floor Tape or Velcro	2
 Stacks of blue, pink, and green sticky note (smaller sticky notes work best 1 3/8 x 1 7/8 in)	2
 Joy print printable	2
 wall tape	1

Cue countdown video and invite kids to sit down with their group leaders.

(SLIDE: Theme)

"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! We are going to have a lot of fun today, so first let's go over our KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) - Supplies

"Now, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today:(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

What You Do:

- Print the two "JOY" papers that are provided on 11 x 17-inch paper. (They are called "JOY print" printables.)
- Place a starting line with floor tape or velcro at both ends of the room.
- Place a pile of sticky notes on both starting lines—one blue, pink, and green stack for each team.
- Tape the two "JOY" papers on a wall in the middle of the room at kids' height.

"I love seeing your faces each week. Some of you came in smiling, some of you came in sleepy, and some of you came in ready to run around! No matter how you feel when you walk in, you're in the right place. We're going to have so much fun today!

"You know what's really cool about joy? Joy is something God gives us on the inside. It's bigger than being happy. Joy lasts even on days when things feel confusing or a little tricky. And speaking of joy, today's game is called ...

SLIDE: Joy Run Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

"JOY RUN"! Everyone, take a look at these posters. These are our 'JOY' posters. They're covered with blue, pink, and green circles. At the two starting lines, we've got stacks of sticky notes.

"We're going to split into two teams, and you all are going to help finish out our 'JOY' posters!

"When I say 'GO,' one friend from each team will grab ONE sticky note, and then run to their team's 'JOY' poster. Your job is to match the color of your sticky note to the same color circle on the poster. Blue goes on blue, purple goes on purple, orange goes on orange.

"After you place your sticky note on the matching circle, run all the way back to your team and tag the next teammate. We'll keep going until the timer runs out, and the first team to fill in all the dots and make the word 'JOY' wins.

"Every time someone places another sticky note on a matching circle, the picture will be clearer. The more circles that are covered, the more you'll see. And when it's full, you'll see the word JOY. It's going to be fun!

"Alright, let's choose our teams. I'm going to need eight volunteers, so raise your hand if you'd like to play the game.

(Choose eight volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and split them into two teams of four. Send each team to a different starting line on either side of the room and stand in a single file line.)

"Okay, teams, are you ready? On your mark ... get set ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

Optional Video: 2-Minute Countdown

(Play the game. Make sure the kids are only grabbing ONE sticky note at a time to add to the "JOY" paper.)

(Encourage each team as they race and involve the audience.)

"Keep going! Match those colors. You're doing great. Look, the picture is starting to show up!

(When the two-minute countdown is up ...)

"And five, four, three, two, one ... stop!

"Wow, great job, teams. It looks like [Name of Team] won this one! And look at the posters in the middle of the room! As each team matched the colors, the whole word appeared, and now you can see the word 'JOY'!

(Repeat the game for as many rounds as time allows. Remove the sticky notes, and ask for eight new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"That was fun. Great job, everyone. You know, this game reminds me that when we only see a tiny piece of something, it can feel confusing. But when we see the whole picture, everything makes sense. And that's true with God too. God sees the BIG story, and when we remember that, we can have joy. That's our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

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

"Say that with me, everyone!"

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

"Great job today, friends! Let's go learn more about what that means!"

11 min

Worship

3 min

Alive

"Let's keep the joy going! I love getting to worship with you because when we sing to God, we're celebrating who He is and everything He's

What You Need

No supplies needed

3 min

The Joy**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse**What You Need**

No supplies needed

done. And today, we're remembering something amazing: Jesus is alive, and there's a bigger story God is telling!

SONG: "Alive" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

SONG: "The Joy"

"Wow, friends ... that was incredible! You weren't just singing, you were worshipping with your whole hearts. God loves that! He loves hearing your voices, but He loves seeing your joy even more. When you worship, it makes God smile because He knows you're choosing to celebrate Him."

"You know, one of the best things about following Jesus is that we never have to wonder if joy will run out. Joy isn't just a happy feeling—it's something God builds inside us because we belong to Him. And our Memory Verse this month reminds us of that amazing truth.

"Our Memory Verse is found in Philippians 4:4. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER: *"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)*

"Now, let's say it together, nice and loud!"

LEADER: *"Always be joyful."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Always be joyful."*

LEADER: *"Because you belong to the Lord."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Because you belong to the Lord."*

LEADER: *"I will say it again."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"I will say it again."*

LEADER: *"Be joyful!"*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Be joyful!"*

LEADER: *"Philippians 4:4!"*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Philippians 4:4!"*

LEADER: "Great job, everyone! When we say this verse, we're reminding our hearts that God is always with us and He's always working. Even when we don't understand what's happening yet, God sees the bigger story. And that means we can choose joy, not just today, but every day, because we belong to Him.

Now let's listen to our story."

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

Basic Truth Slide: Leave on the screen when kids go back to their small groups.

"So what's our response? Well, it was pretty incredible that Jesus showed up in Person to these two friends. But it's even more amazing that Jesus explained exactly how everything in Scripture pointed to Him! Cleopas and his friend were living in a bigger story, and we are too!

"So no matter what's going on, you can have joy because there's a bigger story!

"As people, we usually focus on our little piece of the story: that test that didn't go so well. The mean thing your friend just said. How you're going to have to start at a new school where you don't know anyone.

"We all face difficult or confusing things like that every single day. But God has given us a huge gift: we get to know the bigger story. And the bigger story is this: God made each one of us to be His close friends. God loves us so much that, from the beginning when we brought on the terrible curse of sin, He worked out a plan to rescue us from it so we could be close to Him. And that plan was Jesus!

"God worked for years and years to bring Jesus to Earth!

"When Jesus gave up His life and then rose again, He defeated the power of sin and death. He broke that curse of sin we were under. Now, when we believe in Jesus and accept what He's done for us, we can be forgiven and be close friends with God. We can go through all of our lives as God's close friends.

"And God has promised to make everything right in the end! God is going to end pain, sickness, and death—forever! It's the best story that's ever been told. And it's all true. We're living in God's Big Story right now! God is so good and He loves you so much!

"This doesn't mean that you won't face hard times or that you can't be sad and angry sometimes. But it does mean that you go through it all with Him.

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"That's an incredible reason for joy!

"Let's talk to the God who is with you through every hard thing and who is working to make everything right in the end! Let's talk to the God who is writing the best story!

"We're going to pray but here is the basic truth slide, look over them, which truth goes with our story. Take a look, we will keep this slide on the screen, when you go to small group, the first thing you talk about is what basic truth do you see in the story."

"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."

(Dismiss kids to their small groups.)

SLIDE: Basic Truth

5 min

Small Group Time

5 min

Basic Truth & Bible Story Review

What You Need

 Basic Truth Slide printout 1

5 min

Activity 1

5 min

Help to See

What You Need

 "Small Picture Answers" Activity Page 1
taped to the walls

Spend 5 minutes at the start of small group time looking at the Basic Truth statements and discuss which basic truth fits into the story and why

What You Do:

- Show kids how to make binoculars with their hands and cup them around their eyes.
- Explain that you are going to ask a question, and the answer is hidden somewhere in the room. They are to use their binoculars to find the answer!
- Ask a question: "Who was walking with the two friends?" (*Find the "Jesus" picture.*)
- Ask a question: "What did Jesus and the two friends eat?" (*Find the "bread" picture.*)
- Ask a question: "What book tells us the true story of God?" (*Find the "Bible" picture.*)
- Ask: "Who died and came back to life?" (*Find the "Jesus" picture.*)

What You Say:

"You found all the answers! Sometimes when bad things happen, it's like we can't see clearly. We only see the sad part of the story. But God wants us to use our 'faith binoculars' to see the bigger story.

"And the bigger story that we are living in is this: Jesus gave His life to pay for sin, and in the end, He's going to make everything right. We can live with Him forever! That's the story that the two friends on the walk to Emmaus were living in, and it's the Big Beautiful Story that we are living in too!

"It's the best story that's ever been told. And it's all true. So when things get hard, and they will, remember that there is a bigger story! Ask Jesus to remind you that He is with you every step of the way, and ask Him to help you trust that the hard that you are going through right now!

3rd - 5th grade discussion questions:

Ask a couple of these questions:

- If you were walking with Jesus, what questions would you ask Him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to show up right in the middle of the two friends' sadness instead of waiting until they felt better?

5 min

Activity 2

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

 Bibles	1
 Peep	1
 Memory Verse poster	1

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Pray

- How do you think Cleopas and his friend were different after their walk with Jesus compared to before it?
- How does knowing that Jesus is alive help you have joy—even in confusing or painful times?
- What is one way you can look for God's bigger story this week?

"God is always working on His bigger story. He is working for good—a forever good. And let that bring you joy! **[Bottom Line]** You can have joy because there's a bigger story."

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4
- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
- Pass the peep around the circle.
- When the leader says, "stop", instruct the kid holding the peep to stand up and read or repeat after the leader and say the Memory Verse: *"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! Philippians 4:4."*
- If they need help the group can say the Memory Verse with them.
- Start passing again and continue playing.

What You Say:

"You guys are pros at this verse! The first part says: *'Always be joyful.'* That sounds impossible, right? How can we be joyful when bad things happen? The key is the next part: *'because you belong to the Lord.'* Because we belong to God, we are part of His story.

"We're living in God's big story right now! This doesn't mean that you won't face hard times or that you can't ever be sad or angry. But it does mean that you go through it all with God. That gives us a deep joy that doesn't go away, even on bad days. That's why **[Bottom Line]** you can have joy because there's a bigger story!"

What You Say:

"In our Bible Story today, Jesus took the bread and gave thanks to God for it. As He broke the bread and handed a piece to each of the friends,

What You Need

No supplies needed

something incredible happened: God opened their eyes to recognize Jesus! Let's thank God for Jesus and His big story.
Dear God, thank You that You're always with us. Thank You that even when we're sad, we can have joy because we are a part of the best story ever that You are writing! Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Rescuer. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Welcome Time Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks | 1 |
| 2. | Fun, upbeat music | 1 |

Game Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Floor Tape or Velcro | 2 |
| 2. | Stacks of blue, pink, and green sticky note (smaller sticky notes work best 1 3/8 x 1 7/8 in) | 2 |
| 3. | Joy print printable | 2 |
| 4. | wall tape | 1 |

Basic Truth & Bible Story Review Quantity

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Basic Truth Slide printout | 1 |
|----|----------------------------|---|

Help to See Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | "Small Picture Answers" Activity Page taped to the walls | 1 |
|----|--|---|

Memory Verse Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Bibles | 1 |
| 2. | Peep | 1 |
| 3. | Memory Verse poster | 1 |