

W4 May 24 K-5

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 4

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Leader Summary - Here meet Saul, now called Paul. After many years of traveling and starting new churches, Paul has been arrested, and he's sent to Rome for trial. Along the way, Paul faces a two-week storm at sea, shipwreck, and snakebite. But through it all, he continues to trust and listen to God. [BOTTOM LINE] Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Small Group 9:15/11:00 (20minutes)

Connect Time

Large Group 9:35/11:20 (30minutes)

Countdown and Welcome

Large Group Game

Worship

Story

Prayer

Small Group 10:05/11:50 (25 minutes)

Basic Truth and Story Review

Activity 1

Activity 2

Prayer

Home:

Devotionals for Kids



Bible Story

Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Conversation Starter

How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

Bottom Line

Don't give up on 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

20 min

Connect Time

9:15/11:00

20 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

 (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

1

What You Do:

From doors opening to start of large group - Play intro music in the background as you greet and intentionally engage with students, following the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks.

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..

15 min

Large Group

9:35/11:20

5 min

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

Game | Avalanche Dash!

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Video: Countdown

Video: Theme Intro

(Things to have ready: Supplies for snowball game)

"Hey, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today! Go ahead and get comfortable, take a look around, and give someone near you a friendly wave or high-five. It's awesome to see so many faces ready for another adventure together!

"Every time we gather, we're stepping into another part of our 'TREK,' our big journey of learning what it means to keep going with God. The full name of our series this month is 'TREK: Don't Stop, Don't Give Up—God's with You!' And let me tell you ... Today's trek is a wild one. If you like action, surprises, and plot twists, then you picked the perfect day to be here. We are going to play a game today, but first let's go over our KidCity Expectations."

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

"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"

(SLIDE: Baptism Sunday)

"Today is baptism Sunday! Those getting baptized today are sharing with our church family that they've decided to follow Jesus. Is there anyone in our class getting baptized today? If you can, stay after service with your families and celebrate those getting baptized."






"Today's game is called 'Avalanche Dash!'

SLIDE: Avalanche Dash! Title

"We're going to have two teams. One team will start on one side of the room in their safe zone, and the other team on the other side of the room in their safe zone. The space in the middle is the avalanche zone.

"When I say 'GO,' your entire team has to sprint from one safe zone to the other while our leaders throw these.

What You Need

	Floor tape or velcro	1
	fake snowballs	50
	buckets to hold snowballs	2
	pre-determined leaders to throw snowballs	4
	kid volunteers (10 per team) (Adjust the number depending on the size of your group!)	20

(Hold up paper snowballs.)

"These are our snowballs. And we've got our handy dandy snowball throwers right here—our leaders!

"If you get hit while you're running through the avalanche zone, you are OUT for the rest of the game. That's it. Process of elimination. You can take a seat and cheer your team on for the rest of the game.

"We're going to do three dashes. After three rounds, the team with the most players still standing wins. But if one team gets completely eliminated before that, the game ends immediately. Everybody got it?

"Okay, let's pick our teams! I need 20 volunteers. Raise your hand if you'd like to play!

(Pick 20 volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and divide them into two teams of ten.)

"Let's go ahead and get set up! Teams, head to your safe zones.

"Everybody ready? Leaders, snowballs ready? Teams ready?

ROUND 1

"3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Play the game. Players try to run to the opposite safe zone without getting hit, and leaders throw the paper snowballs.)

"Move, move, move! Oh, that was close!

(Once each team has tried to make it to the safe zone on the opposite side of the room ...)

"And FREEZE! Everybody, stop! If you got hit, you're out! Head back to your seats and cheer for your team!

"Alright. Let's reset for round two. Remaining players, return to your safe zones!

(If needed, refill the buckets with the paper snowballs.)

ROUND 2

"Okay, this is where it gets harder. Fewer people. More pressure. Less room for mistakes.

"Leaders ready? Teams ready?

"On your mark ... get set ... GO!

(Play the game. Players try to run to the opposite safe zone without getting hit, and leaders throw the paper snowballs.)

"Don't slow down now! Run! Run! Run!

(Once each team has tried to make it to the safe zone on the opposite side of the room ...)

"And FREEZE! If you got hit, you're out! Head back to your seats and cheer for your team!

"Okay, teams! Let's reset for our third and final round. Remaining players, return to your safe zones!

(If needed, refill the buckets with the paper snowballs.)

FINAL ROUND

"This is it! The final round! Teams ready? Leaders ready?

"Here's the final countdown! 3 ... 2 ...1 ... GO!

(Play the game. Players try to run to the opposite safe zone without getting hit, and leaders throw the paper snowballs.)

(Once each team has tried to make it to the safe zone on the opposite side of the room ...)

"And STOP! Let's count which team has the most players still standing.

(Count the remaining players and announce the winning team.)

"That was fun! Great job to both teams and all of our players! You guys can take your seats.

"Wow, that got intense fast, didn't it? People got knocked out. The pressure built. And maybe ... just maybe, some of you thought, 'This isn't fair,' or 'I'm done!' Has anyone ever felt like that while playing a game?

(Pause for responses.)

"Oh, I have for sure. But that's not just a feeling we can have during a game. It's actually very easy to start feeling like that in our day-to-day lives!

"That's what it feels like when bad things happen in real life. When problems pile up. When things don't go the way you hoped. When it feels easier to quit than to keep trusting God.

"In our true story from the Bible today, we're going to talk about someone who went through a series of hard things, but he still chose not to give up on God.

"And that's what our Bottom Line is about today! Let's check it out.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

11 min

Worship

9:45/11:30

4 min

Alive | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Way Maker | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

2 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

[Bottom Line] "Don't give up on God when bad things happen. Say that with me!"

"Don't give up on God when bad things happen."

"Great job, friends! Thanks for playing our game with me today!"

We've created these worship resources to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids by incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month.

"Hey, friends! Before we sing, let's take a second to think about something amazing: Jesus knows you, He cares about you, and He loves spending this time with you. When we sing, we're not just making noise; we're telling Jesus, 'I trust You,' and 'I'm glad You're with me.'"

"Now let's take a look at our Memory Verse for this month! It's found in Galatians 6:9. I'll read it first, and then I'll lead you through it!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER: "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"

"Now, let me guide you through it! Let's say it nice and loud!"

KIDS: "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"

"If we don't give up doing good, God promises that we will gather something good!"

5 min

Bible Story

9:55/11:40

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

8 min

Closing

10:05/11:50

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "When we look at Paul's story, it reminds us that bad things can happen, even when we're doing everything right. Paul was following God, helping people, and spreading the good news about Jesus, and he still ended up caught in a terrible storm as a prisoner. But Paul didn't give up on God. He trusted that God was with him, even when everything around him felt out of control. That's something we can learn from too because there will be moments in our own lives when things don't go the way we hoped or planned. But no matter what we are going through, God is still good and is still working for good.

"Think back to the paper shapes we used earlier. Sometimes we feel like that first shape—the triangle. Life puts pressure on us, and we crumble fast. Maybe something scary happens, or something unfair, or something confusing, and it feels like we break right away. Other times, we might feel like the accordion shape. We hold up for a little while, trying to be strong, but eventually, the pressure gets to us. And that's okay because all of us feel that way sometimes. We aren't meant to handle everything in our own strength.

"But trusting God is like that final paper shape, the one that stayed standing even with the weight of the book on top. It doesn't mean the pressure goes away. It doesn't mean things are easy. But it does mean we have something stronger holding us up. When we trust God—when we turn to Him in the middle of scary or confusing moments—His strength supports us in a way our own strength never can.

"So when bad things happen, when you feel worried, when something goes wrong at school, when you're hurt, or when life feels heavy, remember that God didn't leave Paul in the storm, and He won't leave you either. He can give you courage when you're afraid, peace when you're stressed, and hope when you're tired. You don't have to be the

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

strongest. You just need to lean on the One who is strong enough to hold you up.

"Let's take a few moments to be quiet and let our hearts be still while we pray. Everyone take a deep breath in ... and let it out. That's great. Now let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You so much that You're always with us. When we face hard things, please help us trust that You're still with us and that You're working things out for good. Remind us that in the end, You will make everything right. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismissal Instructions:

"You are going to go to your small groups and look at the Basic truths and talk about which of the basic truths go with the story we just heard."

SLIDE: Basic Truth Slide

5 min


Small Group

10:10/11:55

5 min

Basic Truth and Story Review

What You Need

-  Basic Truth print out (found in Small Group Bin) 1

What You Do:

Start your small group time looking at the Basic Truth statements. Discuss which basic truth fits into the story and why. Listen to the kid's different ideas.

I am made by God to be unique (one of a kind.)
I am made by God to reflect His image (act like Him.)
I am made by God to worship Him (to live in a way that shows Him love and honor.

I am loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others, and love life.

I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.
I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.
I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

I am made for a purpose, so I have value.
I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.
I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.




5 min

Activity 1

5 min

K- 2nd | Just Keep Dancing

What You Need

-  per cut "Just Keep Dancing" Activity Page printed on cardstock 1
-  Clear tape 2
-  one strip of blue, pink, red, and green 1

What You Do:



During the Activity:

- Give each kid one white, one blue, one pink, one green, and one red paper strips from "Just Keep Dancing."
- Ask kids to find the blue strip. Show them how to tape the ends of this strip to the white strip with the **Bottom Line** on it. This should create an upside-down "U" shape, like legs.
- Ask kids to find pink strip. Show kids how to roll strip into a circle and help connect the ends of each strip with a piece of tape.
- Attach the number pink rolled strip to the center of the upside-down "U" shape, for the body.
- Attach the green strip to the center of the rolled number two strip, for the arms.
- Ask kids to draw a simple face on the red strip, then roll and attach the red strip to make the head.
- Once the person is assembled, show the kids how to hold the white bottom line strip and gently move it and bend it back and forth to make their person dance.

What You Say:

3rd - 5th | Don't Give Up

What You Need

	"Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page	1
	Pencils	1

"Look at your amazing dancing people! They just keep moving, and they don't give up. This can be a reminder of perseverance for us this week. When you're disappointed or sad, it's easy to feel like God is nowhere to be found. The truth is that God loves us deeply and is *always* with us, whether or not we feel like it.

"So what does it look like to not give up on God? When you feel like it's just too hard and you don't see what God is doing, choose to talk to God anyway. Tell Him how you feel. You can say, 'God, this is tough. I don't get it! I really need Your help right now.' Paul kept going on his trek because He trusted God, and we can too. Remember, **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"

What You Do:

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?"

Ask 2 or 3 of 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?

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.**"



5 min

Activity 2

5 min

Stormy Verse

What You Need

-  Bibles 1 for every 2 kids 1
-  Memory Verse Poster 1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every two kids a Bible and direct them to look up Galatians 6:9.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse.
- Read the verse aloud to the group.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Tell the kids you're going to make a "sound storm" together while you say the verse.
- Assign each kid a storm sound to make with their body. (K/1 do one sound at a time)
 - Some kids can rub their hands together to make a "wind" sound.
 - Some kids can snap their fingers to make a "raindrop" sound.
 - Some kids can gently tap the table or floor to make a "pitter-patter" sound.
 - Some kids can clap every once in a while to make a "thunder" sound.
- Practice making the storm sounds all together, starting quietly and gradually getting louder.
- Once the storm is going, say the Memory Verse loudly over the sounds: *"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!"*
- Try it a few times, letting the storm get quiet and then loud again.

What You Say:

"Great job making that storm! Even when the storm was loud, we could still hear the truth from God's Word. Over and over, through every difficulty he faced, Paul chose to keep trusting God and what God said. You can do the same thing! When life feels stormy and hard, you can remember God's truth, like our Memory Verse. Let the truth be loud in your heart. Our Memory Verse can help us remember not to give up. **[Bottom Line] Don't give up on God when bad things happen."**

5 min

Prayer Time

5 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Even when we have hard things to do, God helps us stay afloat. He helps us keep going. God loves it when we talk to Him—even when we're frustrated or mad. So, stay with it. Keep talking to God. Keep listening. And you'll find that you can face the hard things and make it to the other side because God is with you, no matter what. Let's pray and ask God to help us with our hard things this week."

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for being with us when things are hard. Please help us with our hard things this week. Help us to remember Paul's story and not give up. We know that You're always with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Welcome Time Quantity

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC) | 1 |
|----|------------------------|---|

Game | Avalanche Dash! Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Floor tape or velcro | 1 |
| 2. | fake snowballs | 50 |
| 3. | buckets to hold snowballs | 2 |
| 4. | pre-determined leaders to throw snowballs | 4 |
| 5. | kid volunteers (10 per team) (Adjust the number depending on the size of your group!) | 20 |

Basic Truth and Story Review Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Basic Truth print out (found in Small Group Bin) | 1 |
|----|--|---|

K- 2nd | Just Keep Dancing Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | per cut "Just Keep Dancing" Activity Page printed on cardstock | 1 |
| 2. | Clear tape | 2 |
| 3. | one strip of blue, pink, red, and green | 1 |

3rd - 5th | Don't Give Up Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | "Don't Give Up Challenge" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. | Pencils | 1 |

Stormy Verse Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | Bibles 1 for every 2 kids | 1 |
| 2. | Memory Verse Poster | 1 |