

W3 June 21 K-5

Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2026, Week 3

Leader Summary - Kids will learn that both the older son and the younger son in this story turned away from their Father's love. And whether they have run from God in their actions or just in their hearts, kids will discover that God will always welcome them home the moment they turn to Him. [BOTTOM LINE] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

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

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

The Story of the Lost Son • *Luke 15:11-32*

Bottom Line

God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

Monthly Memory Verse:

"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIV

20 min

Connect Time

9:15/11:00

20 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

 (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

1

15 min

Large Group

9:35/11:20

5 min

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

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..

Video: Countdown

Slide: Theme intro

"Hey, everyone! Welcome back to KidCity! I'm so glad you're here today. If this is your first time, we're especially happy you joined us! You came on a great day because our Kingdom Quest keeps getting better and better!

"We've been learning about God's kingdom all month long, and the full title of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Seeking the Greatest Treasure.'

We are going to have a lot of fun today, so 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

10 min

Game | Rock, Paper, Scissors Showdown!

What You Need

No supplies needed

3. Have Fun"

Slide: Theme

"God is good, kind, just, trustworthy, and patient—among other things! And His kingdom is anywhere where He reigns. The kingdom is where the ways of the King are the way things run! And we want Him to spread that good kingdom everywhere!

"Today, we're going to talk about how **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be a part of His kingdom.**

"But before we jump into anything, we need to wake up our minds, our muscles, and our super-fast reaction skills. Everybody, stand up!

"I'm going to make a motion, and you copy it as fast as you can. Here we go!

"Tap your shoulders!

(Pause while kids copy the motion.)

"Spin around one time!

(Pause while kids copy the motion.)

"Reach up like you're grabbing treasure off a tall shelf!

(Pause while kids copy the motion.)

"Duck like a low branch is coming!

(Pause while kids copy the motion.)

"Nice job! Your reflexes are looking sharp.

"Now you're officially warmed up ... which means you're ready for today's game! And this one is epic.

"Today's challenge is called ... 'Rock, Paper, Scissors Showdown!'

SLIDE: Rock, Paper, Scissors Showdown! Title

"Here's how it works: Everyone gets to play! You'll partner up with someone else and play one round of Rock, Paper, Scissors. The winner of that round moves on to face another winner. If the round is a tie because you both made the same move, you and your partner can stay paired up for another round. And if you lose, no worries—you become a cheerleader for the person who beat you!

"We'll keep going until we narrow it all the way down to our final two players!

"Sound good? Okay, everybody, partner up! And if you don't have a partner, raise your hand, and a leader will help you!

(Pause while kids pair up.)

"Alright, hands ready! Make your move when I say, 'Shoot!' Rock ... paper ... scissors ... SHOOT!

15 min

Worship

9:45/11:30

5 min

Roll with You | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

My Everything | Worship Song


What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

 Large Group leader has Bible Open to verse 1

(Have leaders help monitor the game. Play multiple rounds until there is one pair of kids left. The winner of that round wins the game.)

"And we have our champion! Congrats, [Kid's Name]! Let's give them a huge round of applause! That was so fun!

"Looks like it's time to check out our Bottom Line for today! It will help us understand something huge about God's kingdom. We mentioned it earlier, but here's what it says:

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom."

HOST: "We will learn more about that soon! Great job today, friends!"

"One of the best things we get to do together is worship God. When we worship, we're reminding our hearts who God is, and we're telling Him, 'You're my King, and I trust You!'

"Let's start with a song that reminds us that no matter what happens in life, we can choose to stay with God. Stand up and sing it out!

What To Do:

Large Group leader has Bible Open

"Our Memory Verse this month is found in Matthew 6:10. I'll read it first, and then I will lead you through it!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

'May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven' (Matthew 6:10 NIV).'

"Now, let me lead you through it! Repeat after me—nice and loud!"

"May your kingdom come."

KIDS: "May your kingdom come."

"May what you want to happen."

KIDS: "May what you want to happen."

"be done."

KIDS: "be done."

"on earth as it is done in heaven."

KIDS: "on earth as it is done in heaven."

"Matthew 6:10!"

KIDS: "Matthew 6:10!"

"Great job, everyone! And remember, this isn't just a verse to memorize. It's a prayer you can pray anywhere, anytime. God hears you. And when we pray this verse, we're asking Him to bring His kingdom close—in our hearts, in our friendships, and everywhere we go."

20 min

Bible Story

9:55/11:40

10 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min


Closing

10:05/11:50

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

 Large Group leader has Bible Open to story 1

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

What To Do:

Large Group leader has Bible Open to *Luke 15:11-32*

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

"Sometimes, we're like the younger son. We do what we want instead of what God wants. We don't feel like we've earned God's love. But that's the whole point! You can't earn God's love. God loves you because He made you. God's love is deeper than your greatest sins or your biggest mess-up. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less. And the moment you turn back to God, you'll find that He's running to meet you. God is so excited when you return to His love that all of heaven celebrates! God wants you close to Him!

"But sometimes, we're like the older son. We think that others don't deserve God's love because of what they've done. Or we feel like we've done all the right things and earned God's love, so we deserve for Him to give us what we want. But you can't earn God's love in those times, either! God wants you to rest in His love and in all the good things He's already given you. And then you can pass on that love to other people when they mess up.

"No matter who you are or what you've done—no matter whether you're like the older son or the younger son—God loves you. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to make a way for you to be close to Him because God wants everyone to be a part of His kingdom.

"Let's take a quiet moment together to pray and thank God for that. You can bow your heads and close your eyes.

PRAYER

"God, thank You that Your kingdom is open. You don't close the door on us when we mess up, or when we get angry, or when we feel far away. Your heart is full of love, and You want every single person to come close to You. Thank You that You welcome us like the father welcomed his son—with open arms.

"Help us remember that Your kingdom is for everyone. Help us treat people with the same love, kindness, and forgiveness You show us. Help us come to You when we mess up ... and help us celebrate when others come close to You too. God, thank You for inviting us into Your family. 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

10 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

5 min

Activity 1

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  Coloring supplies Several
-  "Road Map" Activity Page 1
-  "Lost Son" Activity Page 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.

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Ask kids to color their "Road Map" and "Lost Son" cutout.
- Show kids where to fold the tab at the bottom of their son cutout and tape a paperclip to the bottom of the tab.
- Open the Bible to Luke 15:11-32. Show the kids where the story is in the Bible.
- Retell the story, having the kids move the son along the path as you go.
- "The younger son asked for his share of the family's money and left his father's house." (*Kids move their puppet away from the house.*)
- "He went far away and spent all the money."
- "He got so hungry, he had to get a job working with pigs!" (*Kids move puppet to the pigs.*)
- "He was so sad. He decided to go home." (*Kids start moving the puppet back to the house.*)
- "His father saw him, ran to him, and gave him a big hug!" (*Kids move the puppet back to the house.*)
- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
- Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What did He want us to learn?
- Have you ever felt like the older brother in the story?
- Have you ever done something wrong? Is there anything you could do to make God stop loving you?
- What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?

5 min

Activity 2

5 min

Hand Clap Game

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

"You did a great job showing the son's journey! In the story that Jesus told, the younger son took his part of the family money and left home. He used the money to buy whatever he wanted when he wanted it. So when a famine came, and there was very little food, the young man had no money left. He couldn't buy food to eat. He went from living the party life to starving in a very short time. In fact, the younger son became so desperate that he went to work feeding pigs. This was one of the worst jobs a Jewish young man could do, since pigs were considered to be 'unclean.' But the son was so very hungry that he actually wanted to eat the slop he gave to the pigs! That's when he hit rock bottom.

"The younger son finally understood how he had messed up. But he thought he would need to earn his way back into his father's house. He probably practiced his speech all the way home. But when he approached his father's house, his father ran to him and welcomed his son home before even hearing a word of apology.

"Even though the son made bad choices and got lost, the father honored the son with a robe and ring and sandals and threw an epic welcome home party. The father in the story was so happy because his lost son came home! Jesus told this story to show us that's what God is like. No matter what we do, God always wants us to come back to Him. **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.**"

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to join you sitting in a circle on the floor or around a table.
- Teach them a simple, repeating hand-motion pattern. For example: Slap your lap twice, clap your hands twice, snap your fingers twice. (*Slap, Slap, Clap, Clap, Snap, Snap.*)
- Practice the pattern together until everyone gets the rhythm.
- Explain the challenge: "We're going to pass the motion around the circle. We can't stop until everyone has done it!"
- Start the motion. The person to your right joins in on the next beat, then the next person, and so on, until the whole circle is doing the hand motions together.
- Try it a few times, and celebrate when the whole group is moving together.

What You Say:

"That was awesome! Look how we all worked together to do the same motion. Our circle wasn't complete until everyone joined in. That reminds me of God's kingdom. God wants everyone to be in His family. He doesn't want anyone to be left out.

"Sometimes, we're like the younger son from the Bible Story. We do what we want instead of what God wants. We don't feel like we've earned God's love. But that's the whole point! You can't earn God's love. God's love is deeper than your greatest sins or your biggest mess-up. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less. And the moment you turn back to God, you'll find that He's running to meet you. God is so excited when you return to His love that all of heaven celebrates!

"And sometimes, we're like the older son from the Bible Story. We feel like we've done all the right things and earned God's love, so we deserve for Him to give us what we want. But you can't earn God's love in those times either! God wants you to rest in His love and all the good things He's already given you. And then you can pass on that love to other people when they mess up. Remember, God loves everyone, no matter what! And **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.**"

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Pray

What You Need

No supplies needed

"God, we celebrate You! Thank You for being a good Father who welcomes us home. Thank You for all the amazing things You're doing in our lives that we wrote on this poster. We praise You because You are good, and You are forgiving. Help us to have hearts like Yours and to welcome everyone, because we know You want everyone to be part of Your kingdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Welcome Time

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

Memory Verse

- | | Quantity |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Large Group leader has Bible Open to verse | 1 |

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

- | | Quantity |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Large Group leader has Bible Open to story | 1 |

Basic Truth and Story Review

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

Activity 1

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bible | 1 |
| 2. Coloring supplies | Several |
| 3. "Road Map" Activity Page | 1 |
| 4. "Lost Son" Activity Page | 1 |