

K-5 | July 12th W2

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 2

Leader Summary - Through this story, Jesus challenges His followers to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. Kids will discover that they can use everything, from their stuff to their time to their talents, to help grow God's kingdom. [BOTTOM LINE] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

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 Parable of the Bags of Gold • Matthew 25:14-30 NIV

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Conversation Starter

"What has God given you?"

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 NIV

5 min

Connect Time

9:15/11:00

5 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

 (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

1

5 min

Large Group

9:35/11:20

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.

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

(SLIDE: Theme)

"Hey, everyone! Welcome back KidCity! It's summertime, which means new adventures! If this is your first time, welcome—I'm so glad you are here! This whole summer, we've been talking about God's kingdom. The name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

We are going to have a lot of fun today, 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

5 min

Game - Kingdom Quest 4 Corners

What You Need

 Image printouts (map, compass, shield and gold) 1

What You Say:

"What is God's kingdom? Well, it's anywhere that God reigns! It's anywhere where He is seen as King and His good ways are lived out. God is loving, joyful, patient, kind, honest, trustworthy—all of these amazing things. God's kingdom is good because He is so good! We want His good kingdom everywhere. That's the Kingdom Quest we're on—to show off God's good kingdom!"

"And since we're on a Kingdom Quest, I have a game for us today that's called ... 'Kingdom Quest Switch!'"

SLIDE: Kingdom Quest Switch! Title

"We have four corners one is a map, the next is a shield, next a compass, and the last corner is gold. Pick a small group leader who will be 'It.'"

"It' will close their eyes and give you 15 seconds to move to a corner. Then they will shout out one of the quest items... If you're in that corner, you will come sit in the middle of the room. And we will play until we get down to the last 2 people. Let's have fun. And remember... being safe and kind are two of our rules."

"Amazing work! What a great job! And great listening, everyone!"

(Continue with more rounds as time allows)

"That was so much fun! Let's take a look at our Bottom Line for today. It tells us something amazing Jesus wants us to know about God's kingdom."

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you. Can you say that with me?"

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."

"Nice job! Now let's get ready to learn more about God's kingdom together!"

10 min

Worship

5 min

Closer & King Of My Heart | Worship Song

What You Say:


"Hey, everyone! Before we sing today, I want to talk for a minute about something really important: worship. Worship isn't just music. It's not just singing loudly or knowing all the motions. Worship is when we turn our attention toward God and say with our hearts, 'You are good. You are King. And I want to follow You.'"

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse**What You Need**

 Large Group leader has Bible Open to verse 1

What You Say:

"That was amazing worship, let's look at our Memory Verse for the month, found in Romans 14:17. I'll read it first, and then I'll lead you through it!! These are words Paul, an author of many books in the New Testament, wrote about God's kingdom."

"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV)."

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

LEADER: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking."

KIDS AND LEADER: "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking."

LEADER: "It is about doing what is right"

KIDS AND LEADER: "It is about doing what is right"

LEADER: "and having peace and joy."

KIDS AND LEADER: "and having peace and joy."

LEADER: "All this comes through the Holy Spirit."

KIDS AND LEADER: "All this comes through the Holy Spirit."

LEADER: "Romans 14:17!"

KIDS AND LEADER: "Romans 14:17!"

"Great job! We don't get those good things in our lives by trying harder ... we get them because they're gifts from the Holy Spirit. As you keep in step with the Spirit, your life will be filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. God's Spirit will grow these good things because He is good! This verse is a reminder that we aren't on our own. When you need help doing what's right ... the Holy Spirit can guide you. When you need peace because something feels stressful ... the Holy Spirit can calm you. When you need joy because you're having a tough day ... the Holy Spirit can bring you joy."

"And here's something simple you can do this week: If you start to feel frustrated, worried, or unsure, stop for a moment, and whisper this verse to yourself. You can even say, 'God, please help me.' God loves to help us!

"Let's all look towards the screens and focus on our Bible Story."

10 min

Bible Story
9:55/11:40

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video**What You Need**

No supplies needed

5 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

What You Say:

"This is the part Jesus wants us to understand: God doesn't want what He gives us to stay locked away. He doesn't want our gifts, our talents, our kindness, or our chances to help others to stay hidden. When we bring those things out, when we actually use what God has placed in our hands, His kingdom grows.

"I encourage you not to hide what God has given you. Use every single thing you have in a way you know would make Him happy. But don't do good things with your gifts to try to earn God's love. God already loves you—so much so that Jesus paid for your sins!

"But do use every last thing God has given you—not to try to earn His love, but to make Him happy. Maybe He has put you on the swim team this summer. You can ask, 'Okay, Jesus, how can I use this time on the team to make You happy?' Maybe you can encourage a teammate who isn't really very good at backstroke. Maybe swimming is really hard for you, and you show faithfulness by trying again. Maybe if you're really good and win all the time, you can be humble even though you're so fast!

"Or maybe you really like to bake, and when you look in the pantry, you find all the ingredients to bake cookies. You can ask yourself, 'How can I make Jesus happy with those ingredients and my baking skills?' Maybe bake some cookies and share them with a lonely neighbor. Or share them with your brother or sister, who is really hard to get along with sometimes.

"Think of every single thing you have and ask: 'How can I make God's mile with this?' He's given you great things, and you can use them well until He gets back!

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

"Because just like the master in the story, Jesus, our wise master who left us with so many gifts, is coming back. He wants to see what we've done with all the gifts He's given us. That might sound scary, but you never have to be afraid, because God loves you, He is always with you, and He wants to see you do great things with what He's given you. God will help you use your gifts to do great kingdom things! Ask Him to help you think of things to do if you need it!

"Let's take a quiet moment to talk to God."

What You Say:

"God, we don't want to hide what You've given us. We want to use it to make You happy, just like the first two servants did. When we feel scared or unsure, please help us be brave. Help us to love You and make You smile with what You've given us. Show us how to use our gifts to love others and do great kingdom things. Thank You for always being with us and helping us every step of the way. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."


SLIDE: Basic Truth Slide

Small Group

10:10/11:55

Basic Truth & Bible 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.

Activity 1

Get to the Gold

What You Need

-  Bible marked at Matthew 25:14-30 NIV 1
-  Run to the Gold Activity Pages 1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Scatter the pages on the floor.

During the Activity:

- Gather the kids in the center of the designated small group area.
- Open the Bible and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Say: "We're going to talk about this story in the Bible that Jesus told to help us understand God's kingdom. When I get to a key part, move to the picture that shows what I'm talking about."
- "The story starts with a rich man giving bags of gold to his servants. Mountain climb to that picture!"
- "Two of the servants used the gold to make more. Take giant steps to the picture of the men working!"
- "But one servant did something different. He dug a hole in the ground and hid his gold. Jump to that picture!"
- "When the rich man came back, was he happy with the first two servants? Yes! Skip to the happy face!"
- "Was he happy with the servant who hid the gold? No! Tip toe to the sad face!"

3rd-5th Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the master in the Bible Story gave different amounts to each servant? Does that seem fair?
- What mattered more to the master—the amount of money the servants earned, or the fact that they were faithful with what they were given? Why?
- The third servant acted out of fear. What are some things that can make us afraid to use our talents or speak up for God or use the opportunities God has given us?
- **What has God given you?**
- How can trusting God help you take brave steps to use what He's given you?

What You Say:

"Great job reviewing all the parts of our Bible Story! Jesus wanted us to know that when we live in God's kingdom, we're called to use what we've been given to love God and love others. In the story that Jesus told, a rich man, the master, was going on a long journey, so he left three servants in charge of some gold.

"When the rich man came back from his journey, two servants had used the gold the master had given them to make more gold! The master was so happy. But the third servant hid the gold while the master was gone. He didn't use the gold the master had given him. And the master was so sad."

"Jesus told us this story to tell us something true about His kingdom. Jesus is the master, and He has gone away for a little while. He's in heaven, but He's coming back! And in the meantime, He wants us to use everything He has given us, absolutely everything, to do things that make Him happy—just like the first two servants did.

"God gives us all amazing gifts, like our talents, our time, and our smiles, and He is so happy when we use them! And He does great kingdom things when we do! **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.**"

5 min

Activity 2

5 min






Memory Verse Cup Stack

What You Do:

- Pass Bibles out to kids.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses with kindergartners and 1st Grade: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number.

What You Need

 Bibles marked at Romans 14:17	1
 Plastic cups	10
 Avery Label 8160	1
 Timer (or smartphone or watch)	1
 memory verse poster	1

Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 2nd-5th 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. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book's name. When the kids 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 right 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.
- Mix up the cups.
- Challenge the kids to work together to stack the cups into a pyramid with the verse in the correct order from the bottom up.
- Once the pyramid is built, read the verse together.
- Knock it down and challenge them to build it again, but even faster this time.
- **3rd-5th Grade if time allows**
- Ask them to think about the Memory Verse in terms of "Who," "What," and "Where."
- **WHO** does this verse apply to? (*me, Christians, everyone*)
- **WHAT** does this verse tell me to focus on? (*doing what is right, having peace, having joy*)
- **WHERE** can I live this out this week? (*at home, at school, on my team, etc.*)

What You Say:

"Awesome teamwork! You built a great Memory Verse tower. Let's say our verse together one more time: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).*

"God's kingdom is full of good things because He is so good! Today's Bible Story teaches us that when we use what God has given us—our gifts and talents—to help others, we are doing what is right and spreading God's peace and joy. You are showing people God's kingdom! No matter what God has given you, He wants you to use it all to show people His kingdom. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.**"

Prayer

Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

"Let's pray together."

What You Need

No supplies needed

"God, thank You for giving us so many good gifts. Forgive us for the times when we're afraid to use them, or we forget they're from You. Help each of us with the challenge we're taking home this week. Give us the courage to 'invest' our talents and our time for You so You can grow Y our kingdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. A men."

Supplies

Welcome Time

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

Game - Kingdom Quest 4 Corners

- | | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Image printouts (map, compass, shield and gold) | 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 & Bible Story Review

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

Get to the Gold

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. Bible marked at Matthew 25:14-30 NIV | 1 |
| 2. Run to the Gold Activity Pages | 1 |

Memory Verse Cup Stack

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Bibles marked at Romans 14:17 | 1 |
| 2. Plastic cups | 10 |
| 3. Avery Label 8160 | 1 |
| 4. Timer (or smartphone or watch) | 1 |
| 5. memory verse poster | 1 |