

# Bright Side: Find the Light in the Dark

WEEK  
**ONE**

APRIL 2019

GRADES  
**4-5**

SMALL GROUP

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

# 252 PRETEEN

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**ONE**

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HOME

## BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

## MEMORY VERSE

**"In this world you will have trouble.  
But be encouraged! I have won  
the battle over the world."**  
John 16:33b, NIV

## LIFE APP

**Hope—Believing that  
something good can come  
out of something bad**

## KEY QUESTION

**How do you react when  
bad things happen?**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

For Leaders Only  
Create the Environment  
Monthly Overview

**15**  
MIN

### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just For Fun  
Get Your Head in the Game

**25**  
MIN

### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Communication  
Prayer

**10**  
MIN

### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

"I Trust in You" from *Every Beat*  
"You Are My Hope" from *Every Beat*  
"Good Always" from *Every Beat*

**25**  
MIN

### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Extension  
Discussion Questions  
Verses to Take with You  
Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

GodTime  
Parent Cue

## GETTING READY

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

#### 1. JUST FOR FUN

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- An offering container
- A chair with a back

#### 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Notecards
- Pens

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Two hula-hoops (if hoops are not available, create a two-foot square on the floor using painter's tape.)
- Black sticky notes or paper squares; enough to fill the center of both hula-hoops
- Yellow sticky notes or paper squares; enough to fill the center of both hula-hoops

*Note:* Look ahead to next week's "Just for Fun" and consider collecting the sticky notes to reuse in place of plastic Easter eggs.

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible
- "Lip Sticks" Activity Page printed on cardstock
- Tape
- Crafts sticks
- Tape the end of a craft stick to the back of each card to provide a way for students to hold the "Lip Stick" in front of their mouths.

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible

#### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Five rolls of duct or masking tape
- Bibles
- "Verses to Take with You" Activity Page; five for each group
- Write one of the following references on the line at the top of each activity page:
  - John 16:33b
  - Ephesians 6:10
  - Psalm 28:7
  - Matthew 19:26
  - Romans 15:13

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible

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## GETTING READY, CONTINUED

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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45



## EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

## MEMORY VERSE

**"In this world you will have trouble.  
But be encouraged! I have won  
the battle over the world."**  
John 16:33b, NIV

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take a few minutes to pray for your students; especially ones who you know are currently going through really difficult situations. Pray that they would grasp the truth that God is always with them in the midst of heavy or messy life circumstances and that provides hope.*

## LIFE APP

**Hope**—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

### 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, chair with a back

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Invite** students to put their offerings in the offering container.
- **Challenge** the group to attempt the following tasks:
  - **TASK 1:** Stand with toes and forehead against a wall. With hands braced against the wall, move your feet out from the wall two-foot lengths (four might be needed for kids whose feet are smaller). Place your hands at your sides then without moving your arms or feet try to stand up straight.
  - **TASK 2:** Pair up. Have one partner sit down and place his hand on top of his own head while the other student grasps his partner's arm as close to the elbow as possible. Slowly try to lift the partner's hand off his head.
  - **TASK 3:** Pair up. One partner sits up straight in a chair (one that has a back) with hands folded in his lap. The other partner should press his finger against the forehead of the person that's seated, and challenge him to try to stand up.
  - **TASK 4:** Pair up (small kids with bigger, if possible). The stronger or older student should stand with arms extended in front of his chest, one fist on top of the other. Challenge him to keep his fists held tightly in this position as the other partner tries to separate the fists by pushing sideways on the back of each fist using a quick strike with his or her index finger.
- If done correctly, each challenge is physically impossible due to the force of gravity, our center of balance, and other weird science stuff.

## KEY QUESTION

**How do you react when bad things happen?**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45



## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

## MEMORY VERSE

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## LIFE APP

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## KEY QUESTION

**How do you react when  
bad things happen?**

## BASIC TRUTH

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## 2. GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Notecards, pen

### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Ask** students to brainstorm things that are powerful.
- **Write** each of their ideas on a separate notecard.
  - If needed, interject a few additional suggestions that students might not come up with on their own.
  - For example, words, technology, anger, hot sauce, or a chainsaw.
  - The group will likely have named GOD or JESUS, but if not be sure to include them in the list.
- **Place** all the cards face down on the floor.
- **Invite** two students to each turn over one card and then decide which of the two is more powerful and why. Remove the cards after each turn.
- **Repeat** until everyone has had at least one turn. Encourage students to turn over a different combination of cards each time.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are a lot of things in our world that are powerful, but our great God is above them all. That's something we should never forget no matter what happens. The Bible is full of evidence of God's strength. In Large Group, we'll hear one of the most amazing stories of all."

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

## LIVE FOR GOD APPLICATION ACTIVITY



## PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

### BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

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### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Hula-hoops or tape, black sticky notes or paper squares, yellow sticky notes or paper squares

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Form** at least two teams.
- **Give** each team a Hula-Hoop and black sticky notes (or paper squares).
- **Challenge** teams to be the first to fill the center of their hoop with the sticky notes.
- **Declare a winner** then ask students to take turns telling about a "dark" time in their lives when they were disappointed, sad, or going through a tough situation.
  - It could be a recent event or something that happened in the past.
  - How did they feel going through that hard time?
- **Repeat** the race, but this time use the yellow sticky notes or paper squares.
- **Declare** a second winner then ask students to go back to the stories they shared and tell how the event turned out for good in some way.
  - Was there a bright side?
  - Did they learn to trust God in a new way?
  - Did they learn something as they went through it?

*Note: Look ahead to next week's "Just for Fun" and consider collecting the sticky notes to reuse in place of plastic Easter eggs.*

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Life is filled with dark days and bright days, ups and downs, highs and lows. Many times, things happen that are out of our control. However, there IS one thing that's always IN our control—the way we react to those situations whether they're good or bad. For followers of Jesus, there's always hope even on the darkest days. This month we're going to discover that in Jesus there's always a BRIGHT SIDE."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



## IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

### BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

### MEMORY VERSE

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### LIFE APP

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### KEY QUESTION

**How do you react when  
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### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, prepared "Lip Sticks"

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Place** each of the "Lip Sticks" face up on the floor then gather around.
- **Review** the Bible story by selecting and reading aloud key portions of your choosing from John 11:1-45.
- **Pause** the story to let students interject what they think the characters may have been thinking and feeling at that time.
- **Invite** the group to choose one of the "Lip Sticks" to hold in front of their mouths as they share.
- At the end of the review, **read John 11:45** then ask . . .
  - Why do you think the people in this verse believed in Jesus?
  - If you had been there when this miracle took place, what would you be thinking or feeling?
  - Why do you think Jesus waited until Lazarus was dead for several days before He came?
  - How can this story give you hope when you're in a tough situation?



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

## TALK ABOUT GOD BIBLE STORY REVIEW



## CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

### BIBLE STORY

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### KEY QUESTION

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bad things happen?

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### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- **Read** John 11:4 aloud. What are some ways that sickness, suffering, or other tough situations bring glory to God?
- If God is powerful enough to bring a dead person like Lazarus back to life, what does that tell you about Him?
- If God is super-powerful, why do you think He doesn't bring all the people we love back to life again or make every sick person well?
- How do you react when bad things happen?
- What helps you when you need to trust God in tough situations? **[Make it Personal]** (Give students an example from your own life of what helps you to trust God in difficult circumstances. Is there a particular verse you recite over and over to yourself? Is there a friend who continually reminds you to take comfort in God's power?)

## HEAR FROM GOD MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



## EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

### BIBLE STORY

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John 11:1-45

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### KEY QUESTION

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### 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, pens, "Verses to Take with You" Activity Page, tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- **Give** students a Bible, pen, and a copy of the "Verses to Take with You" Activity Page. If you have more than five students, allow them to work in pairs or groups of three.
- **Ask** students to look up and read the verse written at the top of their Activity Page then finish one or more of the sentences in their own words.
- **When everyone is finished**, bring students together then ask them to read their verses to the whole group and share what they wrote.
- **For your reference**, here is the NIV translation of the verses students will be looking up:
  - John 16:33b: *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."*
  - Ephesians 6:10: *"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."*
  - Psalm 28:7: *"The Lord gives me strength. He is like a shield the keeps me safe. My heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart jumps for joy, and with my song I praise him."*
  - Matthew 19:26: *"Jesus looked at them and said, "With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible."*
  - Romans 15:13: *May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.*
- **Give** students (or each group of students) a roll of tape and challenge them to come up with a way to make the sheet of paper they used in this activity hold a Bible at least four-inches above the floor or tabletop.
  - If successful, up the challenge by adding more Bibles.

*Note: If students don't come up with a strategy that works, suggest they roll the paper into a tube about the size of paper towel roll and secure it with tape. Another method is to fold the paper like a fan.*

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"No one would expect a sheet of paper to hold up under the weight of a heavy book, but we just proved it can. You might not think that you're able to be

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HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR**  
**FROM GOD**  
MEMORY VERSE  
ACTIVITY



**EXPLORE**

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

strong in your faith when you're facing a tough time, but you can. When you feel weak and without hope, remember how powerful God is. Ask Him to help you trust Him even when life doesn't make sense. When you do, God gets the credit in a big way."

## PRAY TO GOD PRAYER ACTIVITY



## REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

### BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

### MEMORY VERSE

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### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- **Invite** students to share a personal struggle of their own or a difficult time that a friend or family member is going through right now.
- **Encourage** them to think of something they learned about hope today as they pray for the people who were mentioned.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear Jesus, you have told us to expect some tough times. Help us remember that You are greater than our most gigantic problem. You can make dead things alive again, so we know that You have the power to give us hope on our dark days. Help us remember how powerful you are. Amen."