

Annual Theme Scope & Cycle



Preteen
2026-2027

One Priority

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39 NIV

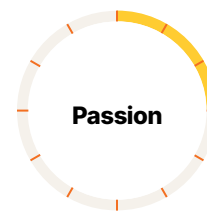
Three Relational Motives



Move kids to **love God** by inciting wonder.



Move kids to **love life** by provoking discovery.*



Move kids to **love others** by fueling passion.

Nine Core Insights

Design of God's Creation

What I see around me reveals a Creator who cares about me.

Identity based on God's Image

I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth.

Connection because of God's Love

I live in pursuit of an infinite God who desires an eternal relationship with me.

Faith in God's Son

I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn't make sense.

Transformation by the power of God's Spirit

God's Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus.

Truth according to God's Message

What Jesus said and did impacts how I should respond to God's Word in my everyday life.

Restoration through participating in God's Story

I am designed to participate in God's story to restore a broken and hurting world.

Compassion that reflects God's Character

My faith in Christ is revealed by my compassion and care for others.

Community in the context of God's Family

I choose to live in the complexities of family and community because God values them.

Basic Truths

In the elementary school years kids will grow in trust, the revelation of Jesus' salvation, and in the Holy Spirit.

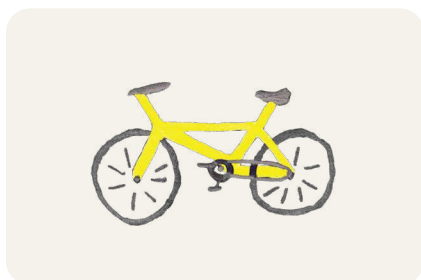
God is good, so I can trust Him no matter what.

God loves me so much that He sent Jesus to rescue me.

The Holy Spirit helps me live and love like Jesus.

The Elementary Phase

Kindergarten–Fifth Grade



What is a phase?

A phase is a timeframe in a kid's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future.

At each phase, your job is simple . . .

Know what can be expected of them and know how they think so they will hear what you say and know what to do.

**It's just a phase,
don't miss it.**

Thinks like . . .

An elementary schooler thinks like a scientist.

Scientists understand the world through concrete evidence they can test repeatedly.

Like scientists, elementary schoolers learn best when they can observe something in their present environment. They are concrete thinkers and need repetition and clear application. The more frequently a new concept can be connected to everyday experience, the better.

How they relate to God . . .

God's story inspires my story.

Kids who think like scientists love stories. They relate to a God who heals the sick, conquers evil, explains mysteries, performs miracles, overcomes death, and teaches them how to win at life.

Wants to know . . .

In the elementary years, a child develops skills and competencies that equip their future.

The way a child resolves the "Do I have . . ." questions of each phase provides them with critical knowledge and resources.

The best way to resolve an elementary schooler's relational questions is to consistently engage their interests.

Do I have your attention?

In kindergarten and first grade, a child craves adult attention and approval. When adults demonstrate interest in kids' progress, kids improve abilities.

Do I have what it takes?

In second and third grade, a kid wants to know how their abilities compare with peers. When adults praise kids' persistence and efforts, kids broaden competence.

Do I have friends?

In fourth and fifth grade, a kid begins to prioritize friends in a new way. When adults make introductions and include peers, kids develop friendships.

Scope & Cycle

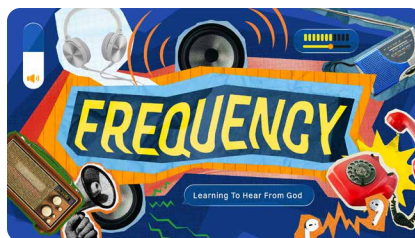
➔ Preteen

The Scope & Cycle document is your teaching road map, including monthly overviews for the whole year. This plan is based on theological foundations and phase research.

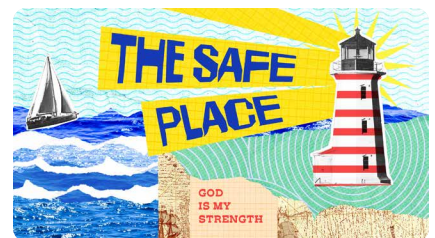
August



September



October



November



December



January



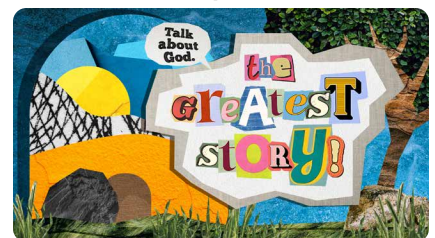
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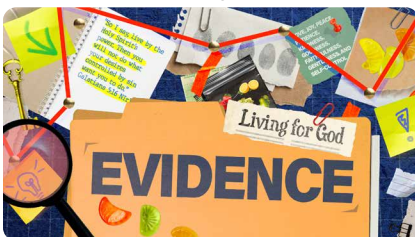
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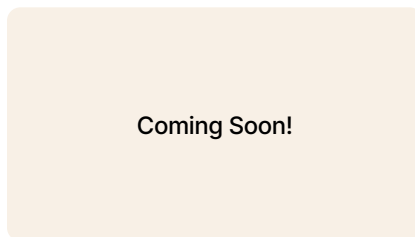
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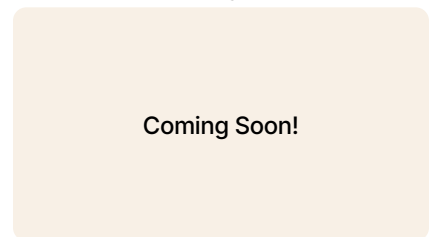
May



June



July



Masterpiece

Made by God



Week One: Image of God

Conversation Starter: What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-30; Colossians 1:15

Suggested Virtue: Uniqueness

Week Two: Created for a Purpose

Conversation Starter: What purpose did God make you for?

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; 1 Timothy 4:12

Suggested Virtue: Confidence

Week Three: In All Things God Works for Good

Conversation Starter: What do you need to trust God with?

Scripture: Romans 8:28-29

Suggested Virtue: Trust

Memory Verse

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.

Psalm 139:14 NIRV

Week Four: Woman at the Well

Conversation Starter: What does it mean to value others?

Scripture: John 4

Suggested Virtue: Respect

Week Five: Gifted Together (Building the Tabernacle)

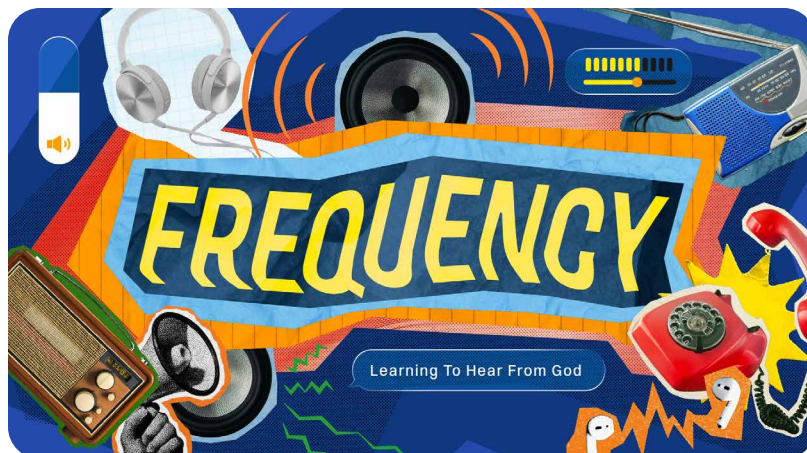
Conversation Starter: What gifts can you use to build God's kingdom?

Scripture: Exodus 25:8-9; 39:42-43

Suggested Virtue: Cooperation

Frequency

Learning to hear
from God



Faith Skill

Hear from God

Memory Verse

“My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.”

John 10:27 NIV

Week One: How to Hear from God

Conversation Starter: What does it look like for you to hear from God?

Scripture: John 10:1-4, 14-16; Psalm 1:1-3; Romans 1:19-20

Suggested Virtue: Hope

Week Two: How to Read the Bible

Conversation Starter: What do you want to learn from the Bible?

Scripture: Matthew 6:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Suggested Virtue: Knowledge

Week Three: The Vine and the Branches

Conversation Starter: What is standing in the way of you and Jesus?

Scripture: John 15:1-11

Suggested Virtue: Faith

Week Four: The Lord Calls Out to Samuel

Conversation Starter: What are you going to ask God to speak to you about?

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3

Suggested Virtue: Trust

The Safe Place

God is My Strength



Memory Verse

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

Psalm 46:1 NIV

Week One: Israel Captures Jericho

Conversation Starter: What is a battle that God can help you with?

Scripture: Joshua 6:1-16, 20

Suggested Virtue: Courage

Week Two: A Gold Statue and a Blazing Furnace

Conversation Starter: What things have you seen that are wrong or broken?

Scripture: Daniel 3

Suggested Virtue: Integrity

Week Three: Jesus Calms the Storm

Conversation Starter: What is something you can trust God with right now?

Scripture: Mark 4:36-41

Suggested Virtue: Trust

Week Four: Jesus Has Won the Battle

Conversation Starter: How does believing Jesus wins change how you see things?

Scripture: John 16:33; Revelation 19:11-16

Suggested Virtue: Hope

The Great Gratitude Challenge

Thanking God for Every Good Thing

Memory Verse

Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows.

James 1:17 NIV



Week One: Every Good Gift Is From God

Conversation Starter: What can you thank God for?

Scripture: James 1:17; Philippians 4:8

Suggested Virtue: Gratitude

Week Two: Always Something to Be Grateful for

Conversation Starter: What can you thank God for, even when life feels hard?

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
(supporting: 2 Corinthians 4:17)

Suggested Virtue: Gratitude

Week Three: Jesus Heals Ten Men

Conversation Starter: What are ways you can remember to thank God?

Scripture: Luke 17:11-17

Suggested Virtue: Gratitude

Week Four: Feast of Booths

Conversation Starter: How can you celebrate what God has done?

Scripture: Nehemiah 3:13-18
(supporting: Leviticus 23:33-34)

Suggested Virtue: Joy

Week Five: God's Plan to Send Jesus

Conversation Starter: What are you hoping for?

Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7;
Isaiah 7:14-15

Suggested Virtue: Hope

The Promise

Celebrating the Gift of God's Son



Memory Verse

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

Week One: An Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph

Conversation Starter: Where do you need peace?

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Suggested Virtue: Peace

Week Two: Jesus Is Born

Conversation Starter: Where do you need joy?

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Suggested Virtue: Joy

Week Three: Shepherds

Conversation Starter: Where have you experienced God's love in your life?

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Suggested Virtue: Love

Week Four: Jesus Brings Life

Conversation Starter: What is something good in your life?

Scripture: John 10:10

Suggested Virtue: Christmas

24/7

You can pray to God anytime.



Week One: The Lord's Prayer

Conversation Starter: How can you grow in talking with God?

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

Suggested Virtue: Knowledge

Week Two: Emotions in the Psalms

Conversation Starter: What emotion can you talk with God about today?

Scripture: Psalm 22; 35; 56; 100

Suggested Virtue: Integrity

Week Three: How Jesus Prayed

Conversation Starter: What are times during the day you can connect with God?

Scripture: Matthew 14; Mark 1; Luke 6; 1 Thessalonians 5 (supporting: Matthew 26; John 17:11)

Suggested Virtue: Faith

Week Four: Hannah Prays for a Son

Conversation Starter: What keeps you from being persistent in prayer?

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1-2:1-11

Suggested Virtue: Commitment

Week Five: Hezekiah's Prayer

Conversation Starter: What can you talk to God about this week?

Scripture: 2 Kings 19:9-37; 20:1-11 (supporting: 2 Kings 18)

Suggested Virtue: Confidence

Faith Skill

Pray to God

Memory Verse

Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him.

Philippians 4:6 NIV

Side by Side

God made us to help each other.



Week One: Two Are Better Than One (Ecclesiastes 4)

Adam and Eve

Conversation Starter: What is something you need help with?

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:8-10, 12; Genesis 2:18-24

Suggested Virtue: Friendship

Week Two: Barnabas Encourages

Conversation Starter: Who can you encourage?

Scripture: Acts 4:36-37; 9:27; 11:22-26

(supporting: Acts 15:36-39)

Suggested Virtue: Compassion

Week Three: Abigail Intervenes | Live at Peace

Conversation Starter: Where can you make peace?

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25:1-38; Romans 12:18

Suggested Virtue: Peace

Week Four: Early Church

Conversation Starter: Who needs your help?

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Suggested Virtue: Cooperation

Memory Verse

Two people are better than one.

Ecclesiastes 4:9a NIV

The Greatest Rescue

How Jesus Came to Save Us



Memory Verse

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life in Him."

John 3:16 NIV

Week One: Cleansing the Temple

Conversation Starter: What things do you see that are wrong or broken?

Scripture: Matthew 21:12-17 (supporting Matthew 21:1-11)

Suggested Virtue: Integrity

Week Two: Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Conversation Starter: How can you show Jesus He is valuable?

Scripture: Mark 14:1-9

(supporting: Mark 11:27-33; 12:13-17, 28-34)

Suggested Virtue: Commitment

Week Three: Palm Sunday + Lord's Supper

Conversation Starter: What has Jesus done for you?

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11; 26:17-30

Suggested Virtue: Gratitude

Week Four: Easter

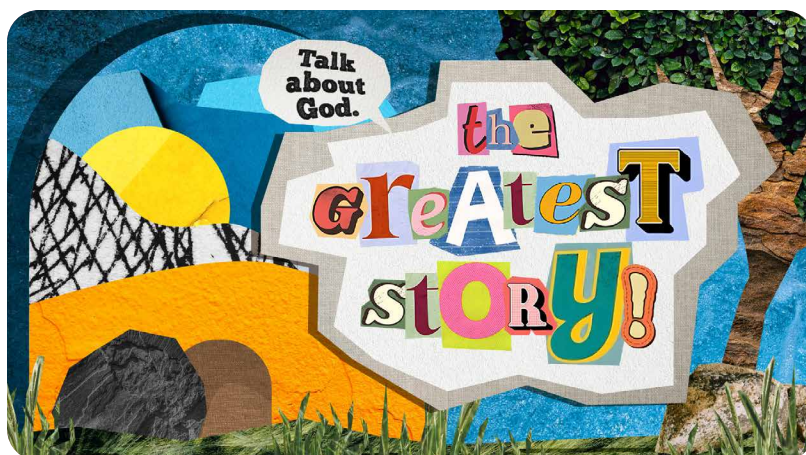
Conversation Starter: How does knowing Jesus is alive change the way you live?

Scripture: John 18-20:18

Suggested Virtue: Easter

The Greatest Story

Talk about God



Faith Skill

Talk About God

Memory Verse

"So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19 NIV

Week One: Great Commission

Conversation Starter: How can you share the Good News about Jesus?

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 (supporting: Mark 1:1, 14-15)

Suggested Virtue: Perseverance

Week Two: Ananias

Conversation Starter: When is it hard to talk about God?

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19

Suggested Virtue: Courage

Week Three: Paul and Silas Are Thrown in Prison

Conversation Starter: How can you share what Jesus has done for you?

Scripture: Acts 16:16-40 (supporting: Luke 12:11-12)

Suggested Virtue: Faith

Week Four: Paul Preaches in Athens

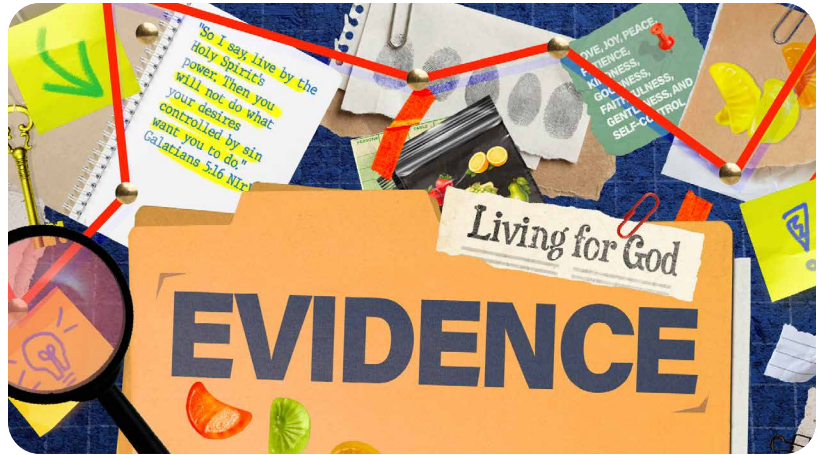
Conversation Starter: Who could you tell about Jesus?

Scripture: Acts 17:16-34 (supporting: 1 Peter 3:15)

Suggested Virtue: Wisdom

The Evidence

Living for God



Faith Skill

Live For God

Memory Verse

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

Week One: Patience | David Waits to Be King

Conversation Starter: What is something you are waiting for?

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-5
(supporting: Psalm 27:13-14)

Suggested Virtue: Patience

Week Two: Self-Control | Peter

Conversation Starter: Where do you need self-control?

Scripture: Luke 22:47-53; 1 Peter 5:8

Suggested Virtue: Self-Control

Week Three: Kindness | Peter and John

Conversation Starter: How can you be kind to the people in your life?

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

Suggested Virtue: Kindness

Week Four: Faithfulness | Dorcas and Lydia

Conversation Starter: What do you have that you can use for God?

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43; 16:11-15

Suggested Virtue: Commitment

Week Five: Joy | James

Conversation Starter: How can you choose joy this week?

Scripture: James 1:1-4 (supporting: John 16:33)

Suggested Virtue: Joy

Statement of Faith

About God

There is one, and only one, living and true God, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is just, powerful, good, and holy. God is infinite in love. Through love, God creates, sustains, suffers, judges, rescues, liberates, redeems, reconciles, and reigns.

About Jesus

God became human in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead, and on the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. The death and resurrection of Jesus offers redemption for humanity and the world.

About The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, the fully divine Spirit of God, whose present activity is to guide, to convict, to comfort, to transform, and to strengthen. The Spirit bestows gifts, and cultivates the character and mind of Christ in believers for use in and through the Church.

About The Bible

The Holy Scripture was written under the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is accurate, reliable, and authoritative. It is the primary authority for all Christian faith and practice. The Scripture reveals the character of God, the nature of humanity, and the primacy of Jesus.

About Salvation

Jesus, being fully God and fully human, was born, lived, died, and rose again. It is only through Christ Jesus that humanity can find complete forgiveness, reconciliation, and wholeness. Anyone who accepts the free gift of salvation made possible through Christ Jesus is welcome into the Kingdom of Heaven now and forever.

About People

All people are made in God's image, and like God, have the capacity to love, to care, to communicate, and to create. All people have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The fall of humanity distorted creation and separated all people from God. Because of the fall, humans often feel isolated, angry, inadequate, ashamed, or overwhelmed by the constant awareness that all is not as it should be.

About The Church

The Church is the body of Christ, an extension of Christ's life and ministry in the world today. It includes the redeemed of all ages, races, genders, and nations. Because of Jesus, with the guidance of the Spirit, believers are invited to participate in the work of the Church. Jesus prayed for unity in the Church, and our Christian unity gives evidence of God to every generation.

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