

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Jesus Chooses Levi • *Luke 5:27-32*

Conversion Starter: What does it look like to live for God?

Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* • 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

SLIDE: Theme

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

LEADER: "Welcome, everyone! Can you believe we are already on Week 4 of Game Plan?"

"If you haven't joined us, let me bring you up to speed! This month, we're training with a Game Plan to grow stronger every day in our friendship with God. This Game Plan has four parts—talk about God, pray to God, hear from God, and live for God!

"We've been learning so much. If God taught you something this month, throw a hand up. (*Put your hand in the air, and pause for responses.*)

"Love it. We're closing out the theme today, and we have one more thing to unpack, and it's so good! We're going to learn about how we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**"

WORSHIP

LEADER: "Hi, everyone! We're going into a time of worship. Worship is so important. We do this for many reasons, but one is to acknowledge that God is King. He is on the throne. No one is above Him. We understand God is King—everything else doesn't even come close to being like Him. He is above it all. While we sing this first song, be reminded that God should not just be a part of your life. He should be everything.

Video: "Your Ways Better" Dance Moves Video

"It's always so good to worship with you all! Let's talk about our Memory Verse now—it's the part of God's truth from the Bible that we're going to try to get into our heads and hearts this month.

"Our Memory Verse talks about training; training shows up in daily choices that you keep doing over and over. The Bible says training to follow God helps us now and also for the life to come. That's why we worship, and why we learn to live for God. This month's Memory Verse is 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV). I'll read it, and then we can say it together.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)*

“Let’s say it together.”

KIDS AND LEADER: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8 (NirV)*

LEADER: “This connects to our story today. Matthew said yes to Jesus and started living for God. Training in following Jesus looks like that kind of daily yes. It’s choosing to follow Him every single day. It helps right now in your choices, and it shapes your future with God. Great job, everyone!”

VIDEO: *So and So Show*

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Our Bottom Line for today is: **[Bottom Line] Practice living for God.** Matthew said yes to Jesus. That yes changed his daily choices. Living for God is not about being perfect. It’s just choosing to say, ‘Jesus, I want to follow You and do what You do.’

Here’s what you can do:

1) Start with a yes.

“When you wake up, pray one simple line: ‘Jesus, I say yes to You today. Help me live for You.’

2) Leave something behind.

“Matthew left his booth. What is one thing you can leave today so you can follow Jesus more clearly?

- Maybe it’s a conversation in the cafeteria or at recess that becomes mean and hurtful.
- Maybe it’s a show or video that keeps pushing you toward stuff you know is wrong.
- Maybe it’s the habit of snapping back when someone upsets you.

“Sometimes you just have to walk away from things that you know might keep you from following Jesus.

3) Invite someone close to Jesus.

“Matthew hosted a meal so his friends could meet Jesus. You can do that in your world.

- Sit with someone new at lunch.
- Invite a friend to church.
- Tell a friend why you trust Jesus when life is hard.

4) Reset fast when you mess up.

“Living for God is not never failing. It’s choosing to turn back quickly. If you blow it, pray, ‘Jesus, I am sorry. Please forgive me. Help me make it right.’ Then get back to following Him.

“If you’ve never before fully chosen to follow Jesus, and accepted Him as your Savior. You can! If you want to commit your life to following Him, talk to a leader or a parent. We would love to pray with you.

LANDING

LEADER: “Two minutes from now, you will head to group and then right back into normal life, buses, hallways, chats, and chores. Before you move, what can you start doing this week to live for God? Is it telling the truth, choosing kindness online, inviting a friend to church, or stopping listening to certain music that pulls you the wrong way? Name your two choices in your head now, and be ready to share.

“That’s thinking about our Conversation Starter for this week.

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

[Conversation Starter] “What does it look like to live for God?”

“How are you going to live this week, and what are you going to leave behind? Let’s pray before you go.

PRAYER

COMMUNICATOR: “Jesus, we love You so much. Thank You that You see us, that You love us. Thank You, Jesus, that You came to help the sick people. Thank You that You died for us on a cross, and then rose again so that we could be freed from sin and be Your close friend forever. We want to follow You today. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group