

## Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2022, Week 1

**Today's Bible Story:** Unforgetful You (Abraham and Isaac) • *Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-7*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Trust God even when you have to wait.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIRV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Trust—Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

**Video (Media Package):** Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

**Video:** Theme Loop

### OPENER

**AUDIO:** *Circus music*

**LEADER:** "Hello, everyone, and welcome to KIDZONE'S SPLASH Three-Ring Circus!"

**SLIDE:** *Three-Ring Circus*

"That's right. All month long, we're here to enjoy KIDZONE- " circus style!? There's a lot to love about the circus, from the acrobats . . .

**SLIDE:** *Acrobats*

"To the silly clowns . . .

**SLIDE:** *Clowns*

"To the tightrope walkers!

**SLIDE:** *Tightrope Walkers*

**AUDIO:** *Music fades*

"You know, we can learn a lot from these brave souls on the high wire. Look at how they're daring to trust! That's what we're talking about this month: TRUST.

**Video (Media Package):** Theme Transition to Virtue

**"Trust is putting your confidence in someone you can depend on.**

**Video (Media Package):** Virtue Transition to Theme

"We can always put our trust in God, and hopefully we can trust each other, too! That's what you'll need to do for our game today. **You'll need to trust each other as you work together to win our Three-Ring Circus Relay!**

*Hold up three hula hoops.*

“As you can see, I’ve got three rings. (*Move to set them down in the course.*) When it’s your turn, you need to step inside the ring, pull it up, and hula for five seconds. Be sure to count out loud to make sure it’s really five!

“Then you’ll drop the ring and move to the next one. You’ll pick this one up and roll it around the room, like this.

*Demonstrate walking and rolling the hula hoop. Show the kids how to follow the tape around the room and back to the starting spot.*

“Once you get the ring back to its original position, drop it and move to the third ring. When you get to it, shout ‘GO,’ and the next person on your team can start. As each person on your team makes it to the third ring, you’ll all stand there and wait on the rest of your team. Once everyone has made it to the third ring, you’ll grab each other’s hands, and without breaking hands, you need to step through the hula hoop and move it all the way down the line.

*Bring up a couple of kids to demonstrate this move.*

“Does anyone have any questions?

*If you have enough kids and space to divide into two teams, do so. Explain that the first team that gets the hula hoop all the way down to the last person in line, wins. If you don’t have enough kids or space, make it a race against the clock.*

“Everyone, line up behind the starting line. On your mark, get set, GO!

**AUDIO: Circus music**

*If you’re having everyone race together against the clock, set a timer on your phone.*

*Comment on the action. When the kids start hula-hooping at the first ring, clap your hands and count to five out loud to make sure they take their time.*

*Watch the team(s) to make sure the next person doesn’t start until their teammate gets to the third ring and shouts, “GO!”*

*When the game ends, celebrate the winning team or celebrate if you beat the clock together.*

“Way to kick off this three-ring circus with a bang, everyone! You can stay on your feet, because now it’s time for us to sing and worship God together.”

## WORSHIP

**LEADER:** “Before we get started, let’s watch this together.

Video (Media Package): Live Loud Video from Get Reel

Video: Theme Loop

“Our memory verse this month is a great reminder of what it means to trust God. It’s Proverbs 3:5.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5, NIV)”*

“Our God is ALWAYS trustworthy. We can trust God over and over and over again. Let’s lift our voices and worship God now!

Video (Media Package): “Over and Over” Dance Moves Music Video

Video: Theme Loop

“We can keep going, no matter how hard it gets—no matter how long things seem to be taking—because God is with us! **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what.** Let’s keep worshipping God and shout it out. We’re never gonna give up!

Video: “Never Gonna Give Up”

Video: Theme Loop

“Life is so much better when we trust God, isn’t it? I love worshipping with all of you. You can have a seat.”

## BIBLE STORY

### SETTING UP THE STORY

*Stand behind the table, next to the globe.*

**LEADER:** “In the beginning, God made an amazing world.

*Spin the globe.*

“But sin entered the world. People turned away from God.

“Still, God had a plan to make things right again. God picked one man to be a special part of God’s plan. This man’s name was Abram, which God later changed to Abraham. And his wife’s name was Sarai. God later changed her name to Sarah.

*Stand the action figures representing Abraham and Sarah on the table.*

“God promised Abraham that he’d have more kids than there are stars in the sky . . . and the whole world would be blessed through his family! This was definitely surprising news, because Abraham and Sarah were both old enough to be great-grandparents!

*Hold up the Abraham and Sarah action figures. Look at each of them as you shrug.*

“Could they really have a baby at their age?

“But Abraham and Sarah continued to wait.

*Set both Abraham and Sarah on the revolving turntable/lazy Susan.*

“In fact, they waited for years (*begin to turn the turntable*) . . . and years (*continue turning*) . . . and they still didn’t have kids.”

### THREE STRANGERS

**LEADER:** “One day, when Abraham was 99 years old, God met with him again.

*Stop turning the turntable. Take the Abraham and Sarah action figures off the turntable and set them on the table.*

“It was the hottest part of the day, and Abraham was sitting in the shade of his tent. He saw three men standing nearby.

*Pull out three more action figures and set them on the table, grouped tightly together, across from Abraham and Sarah.*

“Abraham went to greet the men and bowed low to show them honor.

*Make the Abraham action figure bow.*

“Listen to what he said.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 18:4-5 (NirV) and read.*

***“Let me get you some water. Then all of you can wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat to give you strength. Then you can go on your way. I want to do this for you now that you have come to me.***

“Now, making a fancy meal back then was a lot more work than just heating something in the microwave. Abraham found Sarah in the tent and asked her to bake some bread. Not only that, he had a whole meal prepared for the three visitors.

*Pull out the small cereal box and set it in front of the three figures.*

“Abraham served the meal to the three men. While they ate, Abraham stood under a nearby tree.”

### **SARAH LAUGHS**

**LEADER:** “Eventually, the men asked Abraham where Sarah was, and Abraham told them she was in the tent. Listen to what one of the men said next!

*Hold up one of the three action figures. Open the Bible to Genesis 18:10 (NirV) and read.*

***“I will surely return to you about this time next year. Your wife Sarah will have a son.***

“Wow! Can you imagine? This was big news! Even though God had promised Abraham that he would have a big family, there had to be a part of Abraham and Sarah that doubted they could have children after they had waited so many years.

“Sure enough, check out Sarah’s response. You’d better believe she was listening in on this conversation!

*Hold up the Sarah action figure. Open the Bible to Genesis 18:12 (NirV) and read.*

“So she laughed to herself. She thought, ‘I’m worn out, and my husband is old. Can I really know the joy of having a baby?’

“It seemed impossible to Sarah that she could have a baby in her old age.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 18:13-14 (NirV) and read.*

“Then the Lord said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, “Will I really have a baby, now that I am old?” Is anything too hard for me? I will return to you at the appointed time next year. Sarah will have a son.’

“Sarah was afraid and said she didn’t laugh. But the Lord said that she did.”

*Put the three action figures and the cereal box back into the prop box.*

## ISAAC IS BORN

*Put the Abraham and Sarah figures back on the turntable. Turn the turntable around a time or two.*

**LEADER:** “Abraham and Sarah waited some more. And just as God had promised, Sarah DID become pregnant. One year later, Sarah gave birth to a boy, Isaac.

*Put the action figure representing Isaac on the turntable with Abraham and Sarah.*

*Stop the turntable and hold up the Sarah action figure.*

“After Isaac was born, Sarah said . . .

*Open the Bible to Genesis 21:6 (NirV) and read.*

*“God has given laughter to me. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.*

“Well, you heard what she said. I think we all need to laugh with Sarah. Ready, set, go!

*Hold up the Sarah action figure and make her “laugh” while the audience laughs.*

“Great job, everyone. After all that had happened, Sarah was laughing now—with JOY! She was old, but here she was taking care of a baby, just like God had promised.”

*Put the action figures back in the prop box. Walk in front of the table as you wrap up.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time for God’s promise to come true. Can you imagine how it felt for them to wait all those years?

“But here’s the awesome thing. God is always trustworthy. God promised Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through his family. And that promise took hundreds of years to come true. But in the end, the whole world WAS AND IS blessed because of one of Abraham’s descendants. Yes, I’m talking about Jesus! Jesus Himself was part of Abraham’s family line.

“It’s important to remember that you can trust God all the time—especially when you have to wait.

Video: Bible Story

Video: Theme Loop

**LEADER:** “We all know how it feels to wait for things. Sometimes, you might have to wait for your turn at bat. Maybe you’re waiting to be old enough to try out for your favorite sport. And sometimes waiting seems even bigger than that. Like maybe you’re waiting because your friend is really sick, and you’re hoping she’ll get better. Maybe you’re waiting for your mom to get a new job. But even while you’re waiting, you can trust that God is still there and God still cares about you!

“Here’s some really good news. We don’t have to wait to go to Small Group. We can do that right now! Let’s head over and talk some more about how we can trust God while we wait.”

## PRAY

**LEADER:** “Dear God, thank You for this amazing story of Abraham and Sarah that reminds us that we can trust You. Even when we have to wait. Waiting is NOT easy, though. So please give each of us in this room the strength to trust You and wait on You. Help us remember how You keep Your promises, just like we can see in Abraham and Sarah’s story. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”