

FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**[®]



**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 1 & 2
TEACHER GUIDE**

Group

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Group

group.com/sunday-school

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 1 & 2, Summer

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Credits

Contributing Authors: Debbie Gowensmith, Scott M. Kinner, Kelly Martin, Janet R. Reeves, Donna Simcoe, Amy Simpson

Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Deborah Helmers, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

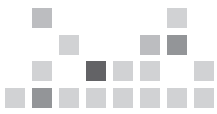
Illustrators: Alan Flinn and Jan Knudson

Cover Photography: © iStockphoto.com/vnosokin

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ISBN 978-1-4707-7351-9

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction 4

The Lessons

Lesson 1: God Tests Abraham—Genesis 22:1-18 5

Lesson 2: Isaac Marries Rebekah—Genesis 24 15

Lesson 3: Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac—Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40 25

Lesson 4: Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel—Genesis 29:15-30 35

Lesson 5: Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams—Genesis 37:1-11 47

Lesson 6: Joseph’s Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery—Genesis 37:12-36 57

Lesson 7: Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge—Genesis 39:20–41:49 69

Lesson 8: Joseph Forgives His Brothers—Genesis 42–45 79

Lesson 9: God Protects Moses—Exodus 1:1–2:10 87

Lesson 10: Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush—Exodus 2:11–3:20 97

Lesson 11: The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment—Exodus 5:1–6:1 109

Lesson 12: God Sends Plagues on Egypt—Exodus 7:8–10:29 119

Lesson 13: The Israelites Escape From Egypt—Exodus 11:1–12:36 131



The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



No doubt about it, the world is changing. Families used to go to church every week. Kids used to have longer attention spans. Teachers used to have more time to prepare. And didn't our budgets used to be bigger?

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date. But there's one thing that's never changed: the need to grow families closer to Jesus.

That's why we created FaithWeaver NOW®, and it's different from anything you've ever seen before!

It combines Sunday school with family ministry. ■■■■

Sure, you've seen Sunday school aimed at families. But FaithWeaver NOW actually hits the target by having everyone in the family learning about the same Scripture each week.

It's simpler and easier. ■■■■

Sometimes change is a wonderful thing. Gone are the days when you needed to spend hours preparing your lessons and hunting for supplies. FaithWeaver NOW will have you and your team ready to go in a snap.

It's made for NOW. ■■■■

Life is complicated and full of distractions. FaithWeaver NOW keeps faith on track through even the most frenzied lifestyles.

What makes FaithWeaver NOW the perfect curriculum for TODAY's church?

Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.

Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.

Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.

Kids see God in their everyday world.

The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.

You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.



Create a vibrant family ministry that's new...that's wow...that's NOW. FaithWeaver NOW gives you a fresh strategy for being more successful than ever in bringing families closer to Jesus.

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.






God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

First- and second-graders are eager to please teachers and other adults, but they're also beginning to recognize their roles in relation to their peers. They may be drawn to please their peers more than adults at times. Use this lesson to help children understand that it's always best to obey God because he loves them and knows what's best for them.



► **Bible Point**
Obey God.


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Key Verse Hunt <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Obey instructions to find papers with a special message.	CD player, slips of paper, pen Teacher Pack: CD	Write the Key Verse on slips of paper—1 slip per child. Fold the slips, and hide them in the room where you meet.
2 Bible Exploration	A Gift From God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Receive a gift, learn that Isaac was a gift to Abraham, and listen to God's instructions to Abraham.	Bible, CD player, 1 individually wrapped treat per child Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline	
	Giving It Up <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make altars, and give up their snacks before getting them back.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, individually wrapped treats from the "A Gift From God" activity, antibacterial gel (optional)	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Key Verse
"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will practice obeying God and will ask for God's help with difficult things.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Act of Obedience <i>(about 15 min.)</i> “Sacrifice” an act of disobedience.</p>	<p>CD player, markers, altars from the “Giving It Up” activity, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Fun	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Fun	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Fun student book.

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You might be surprised that you've been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. Rest assured that for this age level, we've chosen to focus on the importance of God's sovereignty and Abraham's obedience. Help kids understand that God's will is best for them.

A Preface for Today's Material

This account may seem horrifying if one doesn't study it carefully. It's hard to understand how our good God could command a parent to sacrifice a child. But if we examine the text, we can take comfort in knowing that God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The whole event was designed to test Abraham; it was a chance for him to grow his faith and learn about God's faithfulness.

Abraham Obeys God's Command to Sacrifice His Son

Isaac was the embodiment of all of God's promises to Abraham. However, no matter how surprised or saddened he must have been, Abraham obeyed. The Bible says he set out the next day. When Abraham knew what God wanted him to do, he set out to do it.

Abraham's faith in God and his willingness to obey are truly amazing. Not only was he willing to sacrifice his son, but he maintained faith in God's promise about Isaac. He said to his servants, "We will come back to you" (Genesis 22:5). Somehow Abraham was confident that in spite of this recent command, God would preserve Isaac, through whom God had promised to make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens!

Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions

flooded his mind: "What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I'm serving abandon me now after all these promises?" Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn't God's after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.

Isaac Also Obeyed God

The Bible tells us nothing of Isaac's thoughts or feelings during this trip. He must have noticed that his father was behaving strangely. But Isaac showed faith, too. He submitted to being placed on the altar in obedience to God's command.

The Jesus Connection

God loves us and he loved Abraham. God's test helped Abraham realize his own commitment to God, and the tests in our lives can help strengthen and deepen our faith, too.

How can you trust God in the middle of trials and difficulty? Invite God into your decisions and challenges and trust him to lead you no matter what the road ahead looks like. You can write your prayer below.





Key Verse Hunt Supplies

CD player
slips of paper
pen

Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust and Obey"
(track 2)

Key Verse Hunt Easy Prep

Write the Key Verse
on slips of paper—1
slip per child. Fold the
slips, and hide them all
together in the room
where you meet.

1 GETTING STARTED

Key Verse Hunt

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and say: **Let's play a game.** Have the children form a single-file line. **In this game you'll have to listen carefully and obey my directions so you can find a special message.** Give kids directions for walking around the room—for example, "Walk five steps forward. Now turn to your right and walk 10 steps forward." Give visual cues to your first- and second-graders that haven't mastered the difference between "right" and "left." As the children walk around the room, softly play the song "Trust and Obey" (track 2 on the CD).

After a few minutes, direct kids to the hidden Key Verse slips. When each child has a copy of the Key Verse, have kids sit in a circle. Instruct them not to unfold their papers.

Say: **Your papers contain a special message that tells a good reason for obeying God.** Have kids unfold their papers and find the special message. Read aloud the Key Verse message as kids follow along: **"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32).**

Say: **This means that God wants us to pay attention to him and do our best to do what he says. When the verse says not to turn aside to the right or left, it's just saying that God wants us to go in the direction he tells us to go and not a different direction.** Have children repeat the verse with you several times: **"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to obey my directions in this game?**
- How was our game like or unlike the way you obey God?**
- What things can you do this week to be careful to do what God says?**

Say: **In our activity, when you didn't make up your own directions but trusted mine, you found the special message. In the same way, when we trust that God leads us in the right direction, he leads us to what's best for us. We ► OBEY GOD because we know he'll take care of us. We'll read in the Bible today about a man who trusted God enough to obey even when God's instructions didn't make sense to him.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Gift From God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 22:1-18, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear about a man named Abraham and how he obeyed God.**

Show kids the "God Tests Abraham" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **God gave Abraham a really great gift—a son who he named Isaac. Let's pretend we're getting a special gift from God.** Give each child an individually wrapped treat, and ask kids not to open or eat their treats yet.

Say: **Think about a gift you got that was so important to you—it was something you waited for and was really special.** Pause. **Tell a friend how you took care of that gift.** Allow time.

Say: **Just like your gift was special to you, Isaac was very special to Abraham. God told Abraham that Isaac would have children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Then when Isaac was older, God asked Abraham to do a strange thing. Listen carefully, and try to imagine how Abraham felt.**

Play "God Tests Abraham" (track 3 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was surprising to you about what God asked Abraham to do?**
- What was surprising about how Abraham responded?**
- What does Abraham's response teach you about trusting God?**

Say: **The special treat I gave you wasn't nearly as important as the gift God gave Abraham, so we can understand that what God asked Abraham wasn't easy to obey. But Abraham trusted God, so he obeyed God without questioning him. In the same way, we can ► OBEY GOD even when he asks us to do something we don't understand. We can trust that God knows what's best for us and will take care of us every day.** Have the children hold on to their treats, still not eating them.



A Gift From God Supplies

.....
Bible
CD player
1 individually wrapped
treat per child
Teacher Pack
CD: "God Tests
Abraham" (track 3)
Bible Timeline





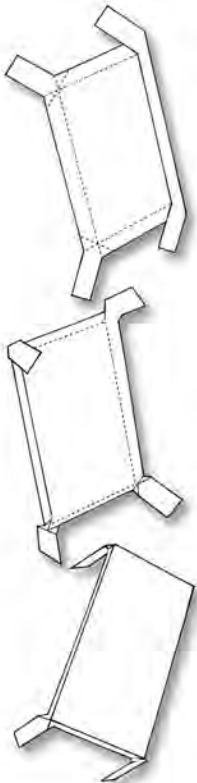
Giving It Up Supplies

Bibles
My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors
individually wrapped
treats from the “A Gift
From God” activity
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Giving It Up Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT



Summer Quarter

Giving It Up

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 22, and show children the page. Say: **The Bible tells us that Abraham got up early to take his son to the mountains. It took them three days to walk to the mountains. Let's carry our special treats around the room three times and think about Abraham's journey to the mountains to sacrifice his son.**

Distribute Bibles and this week's My Bible Fun pages, and have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **When Abraham and Isaac came to the right place, Abraham built an altar, which is kind of like a special table where Abraham could sacrifice Isaac to God. Let's build our own altars.**

Distribute scissors, and have kids turn to the “Altar” section on their My Bible Fun pages. Show children how to cut out the altar and fold the edges and corners so the altar will stand up.

Have kids save the cut-off pieces with the Family Fun and Daily Challenge to take home. Have them place their standing altars in front of them.

Say: **Let's read from the Bible what happened next.** Read aloud Genesis 22:9-10 as children follow along. Then ask children to give up their treats by placing them on the altars they made.

Say: **Try to be like Abraham, who obeyed God when he was asked to give up his son.** Pause. **Now tell a friend near you what it's like to give up your treat.** Allow time.

Say: **Let's find out what happened next.** Read aloud Genesis 22:11-12 as children follow along. Then say: **I'm proud of you for waiting. Let's clean our hands, and then you may eat your treats.** Have kids clean their hands and then enjoy their treats.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to get your treats back after giving them up?
Tell about a time it was really hard to give up something.
Why do you want to obey God even when it's really hard?**

Say: **Abraham trusted God so much that he was willing to sacrifice his son. Today when we gave up our treats, we learned, in a small way, what it was like for Abraham to give up his son. In our lives, sometimes we may not want to ► OBEY GOD, but we know that he'll always give us what's best for us, just like he did for Abraham. This week, let's do our best to trust and ► OBEY GOD.**

Lesson 1 ■■■ Grades 1 & 2





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Act of Obedience


What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we heard about how Abraham obeyed God when God asked him to do something really hard. Abraham knew that God loved and knew him well, so he trusted God. God also loves *us* and knows what's best for *us*. We can show that we trust God when we obey him.

Have kids pick up their altars and look at them. Then say: **God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. Think about something God asks you to do that's hard for you to obey.** If needed, give examples such as listening to parents or being kind to siblings.

Say: **Draw a picture on your altar to show how you want to ► OBEY GOD this week.** Allow time. Then invite kids to share what they drew.

Say: **Let's sing a song to remind us to trust and ► OBEY GOD with the things we drew on our altars.** Hand out copies of the lyrics page, and then play "Trust and Obey" (track 2 on the CD). Invite children to sing along.

 **When we walk with the Lord** (*walk in place*)
In the light of his Word, (*point up*)
What a glory he sheds on our way! (*shake hands*)
While we do his good will, (*put hands on hips*)
He abides with us still (*hug self*)
And with all who will trust and obey. (*put right hand to heart*)

Trust and obey, (*nod head*)
For there's no other way (*shake head "no"*)
To be happy in Jesus, (*smile*)
But to trust and obey. (*put right hand to heart*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Trust and Obey" by John H. Stammis.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Why is it difficult to trust and obey sometimes?



Acts of Obedience Supplies

- CD player
- markers
- altars from the "Giving It Up" activity
- 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Trust and Obey" (track 2)





Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun

Why do you think God asks you to do these difficult things?
How can you trust God to help you obey him?

Say: Like Abraham, we're willing to ► OBEY GOD. This week as we make choices, let's remember how much God loves us and that he always asks us to do what's best for us.

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how we ► OBEY GOD.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Obey your parents when they ask you to do something—the first time!**
- Write a letter to God thanking him for helping you obey.**
- Put your altar in your bedroom, and pray to God each morning for help obeying him.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: Abraham loved and trusted God so much that even when it was hard, he obeyed God. Like Abraham, we can love, trust, and ► OBEY GOD because we know that God will always do what's best for us. This week, let's ► OBEY GOD by following through on our Daily Challenges.



Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we obey God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he knows what's best for us. Pray: **God, we know that you love us very much. We know that when we obey you, we're always doing what's best for us. Help us obey you this week.** Encourage the children to pray silently for about 30 seconds about ways they want to obey. Then close the prayer: **In Jesus' name, amen.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
My Bible Fun

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Fun student book.





Lyrics ■■■■

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord (*walk in place*)
In the light of his Word, (*point up*)
What a glory he sheds on our way! (*shake hands*)
While we do his good will, (*put hands on hips*)
He abides with us still (*hug self*)
And with all who will trust and obey. (*put right hand to heart*)

Trust and obey, (*nod head*)
For there's no other way (*shake head "no"*)
To be happy in Jesus, (*smile*)
But to trust and obey. (*put right hand to heart*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Trust and Obey" by John H. Stammers.





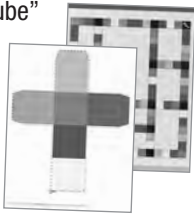

Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

First- and second-graders have some level of independence, but in the bigger things, they generally follow adults' directions. And although the idea of following God's direction may be a bit too abstract for them, they do understand the basic reasons for following authority figures' guidance. Use this lesson to help kids understand that they can pray to God for direction in their lives and he'll lead them.



► **Bible Point**
Pray for God's direction.


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Hide and Seek <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game to try to find others, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, blindfold	
2 Bible Exploration	Which Way Do I Go? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of asking directions.	Bible, paper, pens, scissors, tape Teacher Pack: "Game Board," "Color Cube" 	Assemble the "Color Cube" using tape. Cut out 1 small square of paper per child, about 1 inch by 1 inch.
	Looking for a Wife <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Show how they'd make a promise and try to find Isaac's wife.	Bibles Teacher Pack: "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	
	Success! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make "jewelry."	Bible, My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, tape	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Key Verse
"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will seek God's direction in their lives.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	We Can Seek God's Direction <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to people who asked God for direction, and ask for God's direction themselves.	CD player, My Bible Fun, markers Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Hide and Seek Supplies

Bible
blindfold

1 GETTING STARTED

Hide and Seek

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, open your Bible to James 1:5, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today helps us know how to ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION. It says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **Let's play a game to help us understand our Key Verse today. First I need someone to be the Seeker.** Choose one child. **To seek means to look for something. In our game, our Seeker will seek and find as many of you as possible in one minute.**

Show the blindfold. **Here's the catch: The Seeker will be blindfolded, and all of you can only take baby steps to try to stay away from the Seeker.** Have the kids practice walking with baby steps. Then say: **If the Seeker tags you, move to the wall and sit down.** Show kids places they can sit against the wall that are outside the playing area.

Check that kids understand the rules; then blindfold the Seeker and begin play. Remind kids that everyone but the Seeker has to take baby steps. After a minute, remove the blindfold, and count how many children the Seeker tagged. Then choose a new Seeker and play again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like trying to seek others when you were blindfolded?

What might make this game easier for the Seeker?

Tell about a time you felt you didn't know where to go or what to do in life.

How can you seek God in times like this?

Say: **In our game, it was difficult for our Seeker to know where to go or what to do, but if we changed the rules, the Seekers could've seen others or asked for help. When we don't know where to go in life or what to do, we can seek God's help. When we ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, he'll help us see things we couldn't see before, and he'll help us know what to do. Today we'll hear how God helped some people in the Bible know what to do.**





2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Which Way Do I Go?

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 24, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear how Abraham wanted his son Isaac to have a wife. He sent his servant to a different town to find a wife for Isaac, and the servant prayed to God for direction.**

Set out the "Game Board." Give each child a paper square, and have children write their initials on their own squares. If you have more than 10 children, have them form pairs or groups of three and use only one of their squares.

Say: **Let's see what it's like to ask directions.** Have kids put their paper squares near "Start" on the "Game Board." Then say: **When it's your turn, roll the "Color Cube." You'll go to the first square that matches the color facing up on the "Color Cube."** Check for understanding. Then say: **If you get to a black square marking an intersection, you have to ask for directions again. That means you'll roll the "Color Cube" until the side facing up matches one of the colors next to the black square. After you land on that color, it's the next person's turn. Let's play!**

Start the game. Since "Start" is on a black square, kids must roll the "Color Cube" until they roll one of the colors next to the black square. When kids reach another black square, say: **Stopping on the black square to see which direction to go is kind of like what happened in Genesis 24—Abraham's servant stopped to pray to God for direction when he needed God's help.**

Play for about five minutes or until a child nears "Finish," and then stop the game. The point of the game is simply to practice asking directions, not to finish. Say: **We'll learn today how God helped Abraham's servant find a wife for Isaac. The servant prayed for God's direction, and God answered him.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to follow the "Color Cube" for directions in this game?**
- How was that like or unlike trying to figure out the right things to do in your life?**
- Why do you want to never stop seeking God's direction?**

Say: **Like Abraham's servant did, we can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION in our lives. And like in the game we just played, we don't always know which way God will tell us to go. But we can always trust him to show us the best way to go.**



Which Way Do I Go? Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- pens
- scissors
- tape

Teacher Pack

- "Game Board"
- "Color Cube"

Which Way Do I Go? Easy Prep

Assemble the "Color Cube" using tape. Cut out 1 small square of paper per child, about 1 inch by 1 inch.





Looking for a Wife Supplies

Bibles

Teacher Pack

“The Servant Finds
Rebekah” poster (from
the Big Bible Poster
Pack)

Looking for a Wife

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Show “The Servant Finds Rebekah” poster. Say: **We learned that Abraham’s servant prayed for God’s direction, and God answered him. Let’s hear exactly what happened in Genesis 24.** Distribute Bibles, and have children open them to Genesis 24:1.

Read aloud verses 1-4 while kids follow along. Explain that in Bible times, when a person made a promise to another, the person put a hand under the other person’s thigh. Have kids show how they make serious promises—for example, they might cross their hearts.

Say: **Abraham’s servant took many gifts for Isaac’s future wife, and he traveled a long way. Let’s play a game to help us understand the servant’s experience.** Assign one child to be the “Servant.” Then secretly tell another child that he or she is to play the role of Isaac’s unknown wife—only this person should know he or she is “Isaac’s Wife.” Explain that everyone will walk around and that Isaac’s Wife will wink at everyone except the Servant.

Say: **If someone winks at you, sit down in the circle without letting anyone know who winked at you. Isaac’s Wife won’t wink at the Servant, and the Servant will try to figure out who Isaac’s Wife is.** Check for understanding, and then have kids play. Let several children be the Servant and Isaac’s Wife, as time allows.

Say: **Abraham’s servant had a very difficult task. He had to find a woman he’d never even met. Let’s read in our Bibles to find out what Abraham’s servant did.**

Invite a child to read aloud Genesis 24:12-14.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to find Isaac’s Wife in this game?

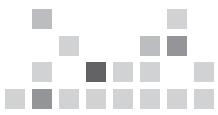
What was it like to be Isaac’s Wife in this game?

Why do you think it was important for both the servant and Isaac’s wife to seek God?

When are some times in your life that you can pray to God for direction?

Say: **In our game we were all looking carefully for Isaac’s Wife. In life, when we ► PRAY FOR GOD’S DIRECTION, it helps us look carefully and pay attention to what he’s telling us. Abraham’s servant knew that God gives wisdom, so he prayed to God for direction, too. This week, let’s look to God all the time to see where he wants to take us.**





Success!

What You'll Do

Say: **We learned that Abraham’s servant prayed to God for direction, and when he did, God answered him. Abraham’s servant asked for God to bring a woman who would give him and his camels some water to drink—and that’s what God did. A woman named Rebekah came to the spring where the servant was, and she gave him and his camels some water to drink. Tell a friend what you think about how God answered the servant’s prayer.** Allow time.

Say: **Let’s see what the servant did next.** Read aloud Genesis 24:22-26. Then say: **Tell a friend what you think about how the servant responded to God’s direction.** Allow time.

Say: **Abraham’s servant was so happy that God answered his prayer. The servant gave Rebekah beautiful jewelry and asked her to be Isaac’s wife. Let’s make some beautiful jewelry to celebrate that God answered the servant’s prayer when he asked God for direction.**

Distribute this week’s My Bible Fun pages and scissors. Have kids cut out the bracelets in the “Gifts for Rebekah” section. Then have kids get in pairs and take turns telling some things they can pray to God for direction about. After each child shares, have the child tape a bracelet on his or her partner.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you needed God’s help with making a choice.**
- What would you like to pray to God about this week?**
- Why do you know God answers prayers like this?**

Say: **Just as you gave your gifts and told how you can pray to God for direction, Abraham’s servant gave Rebekah gifts and told her family how he prayed for God’s direction. When Rebekah and her family heard how God answered the servant’s prayer, Rebekah agreed to be Isaac’s wife. God answered their prayers, and when we ► PRAY FOR GOD’S DIRECTION, he helps us make choices too.**



Success! Supplies

.....
Bible
My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors
tape

Success! Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Lesson 2
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.





We Can Seek God's Direction Supplies

CD player
My Bible Fun
markers

Teacher Pack

CD: "Martin Luther"
(track 6); "Friend in
Trouble" (track 7);
"If Anyone Lacks
Wisdom" (James 1:5)
(track 4); "Thankful"
(track 5)

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

We Can Seek God's Direction

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Abraham's servant isn't the only one who has asked God for direction. We can read about many people in the Bible who prayed to God for direction. Not only that, but many people all over the world still ask God for direction today. Let's hear about one well-known man named Martin Luther.**

Play "Martin Luther" (track 6 on the CD). Then say: **Tell a friend about a time God caught your attention in a big way.** Allow time.

Say: **When we ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, he doesn't always answer us in the way we'd think. He can answer us in all kinds of ways. Let's hear from another person.**

Play "Friend in Trouble" (track 7 on the CD). Then say: **Tell a friend about a time someone else helped you look to God to make a choice.** Allow time.

Point out the "God Gives Direction" section on the My Bible Fun page. Guide kids through reflection on when they need God's direction and how they can seek it. Allow time for kids to answer the questions. As kids work, play "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 4 on the CD) and "Thankful" (track 5 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION in any situation in our lives. And we know that he'll answer us, like he answered the people we heard from today and like he answered Abraham's servant. Let's seek God this week in the ways we wrote down on our My Bible Fun pages.**

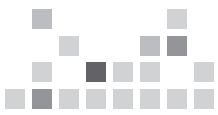
4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION this week. As this week's Daily Challenge, try to follow through on seeking God's direction in at least one of the three ways you wrote on your My Bible Fun page.**





Tell kids how you'll seek God's direction. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **Just as Abraham's servant prayed for God's direction, every day we can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION by following through on the way we said we'd seek God this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we can pray for God's direction. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he listens when we pray to him for direction. As you pray, tell God something you need direction for this week, and give each child a chance to pray about one thing as well. Then pray: **God, we know you'll give us direction, like you gave Abraham's servant direction. Help us listen to you. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40


First- and second-graders crave affirmation and are still somewhat self-centered in their view of the world. As a result, they may be tempted to lie in a situation rather than risk adult disapproval. Use this lesson to help children understand that God wants the truth but his love for them is steadfast no matter what the situation.



► **Bible Point**
Honesty is important to God.

Key Verse
“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful” (Proverbs 12:22).


Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will practice honesty in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Guess Who <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pretend to be someone else, and learn the Key Verse.		
2 Bible Exploration	Family Drama <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn who Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob were before hearing how the family’s problems began.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, several pairs of scissors, tape Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Jacob or Esau? <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Try to guess some items, and learn how Jacob was dishonest.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, orange, apple, chocolate bar, small ruler	Peel the orange, and wrap the orange peel around the apple. Remove the wrapper from the chocolate bar, and place the wrapper around a small ruler. Hide the wrapped apple and ruler.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>People Puppets <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make puppets.</p>	<p>paper lunch bags, markers, glue, scissors Teacher Pack: “Honest Lips” poster</p>	<p>Cut out the lips from the “Honest Lips” poster.</p> 
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-40

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Broken Family History

Abraham lived another 35 years after Isaac’s marriage, and during that time he took a new wife who bore him six more children. After he died, he was buried with Sarah. It’s interesting to note that he was buried by Isaac and Ishmael. Abraham had left all of his possessions to Isaac even though Ishmael was his firstborn. But apparently the two were able to put aside their differences to honor their departed father.

In the meantime, Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys, Jacob and Esau. Esau, the firstborn, was Isaac’s favorite, and Jacob was Rebekah’s favorite. Such favoritism seldom leads to a healthy home life.

Jacob Extorts Esau’s Birthright

The first deception we see between Jacob and Esau is Jacob’s act of extortion. When Esau came in hungry from the fields and demanded some of the stew Jacob was cooking, Jacob quickly responded that he would exchange the stew for Esau’s birthright. Jacob’s quick response indicates that he may have been scheming to steal the birthright, which was considered a precious gift from God. It entitled Esau to a double portion of the inheritance and made him the head of the family. When Esau swore the oath that Jacob demanded, he entered a legal agreement giving up that birthright. He gave up all that God had given him as the firstborn.

Jacob Defrauds Esau of Isaac’s Blessing

Though Esau had lost the birthright, Isaac was still determined to give him the fatherly blessing before he died. Rebekah initiated the second deception. We should consider that Rebekah might have thought she was doing her part to make sure that God’s message

to her (described in Genesis 25:23) came true. God had promised that the older of her twin sons would serve the younger. Whatever her motives, she helped Jacob deceive his aged father into giving him the blessing intended for Esau.

This deception devastated the family. Esau vowed to kill Jacob as soon as their father died (Genesis 27:41). Jacob had to flee the land, never to see his mother alive again.

God Worked in the Broken Family

God’s will was accomplished even though it was done through human deceit and dishonesty. God can work through broken, imperfect people to do his will, but he still expects and wants us to live with integrity and to strive for purity. Jacob’s family was shattered by his dishonesty, but God still brought a nation from that family.

The Jesus Connection

God can work in any situation. Despite our fallen nature, God sent Jesus to bridge the chasm between us and our holy God. With the Holy Spirit alive in us, we can live in honesty and truth in all things. What is one area of your life in which you can ask God to help you live in total honesty? You can write your prayer in the space below.





1 GETTING STARTED

Guess Who

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and have kids form pairs. Say: **When I say “go,” find three different people and introduce yourself. But here’s the catch: Don’t introduce yourself with your own name—use the other person’s name to introduce yourself. When you introduce yourself, you’ll pretend to be the other person by saying his or her name and one thing about that person.** Give an example using the kids in your group, such as “If Karl were pretending to be Tony, he could say, ‘My name is Tony, and my favorite sport is soccer.’ ”

Check for understanding, and then say: **Go!** Encourage kids to introduce themselves to at least three other people.

Say: **That was just a silly activity that we could have fun doing because we knew that everyone was pretending. But today we’re going to hear about someone who did that for real, and it was not meant to be a silly game. The person lied on purpose, and it hurt his family a lot.**

Our Key Verse today tells us that God hates it when we choose to lie, like the man in our Bible passage did, and is very happy when we’re honest. It says, “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful” (Proverbs 12:22). Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What’s the difference between play-acting and really trying to convince people you’re someone you’re not?

What do you think about what our verse says about lying?

Why do you want to be honest in your life?

Say: **Today we’ll hear about a man who convinced his dad that he was someone he wasn’t—what he did was a lie. God doesn’t like for us to lie. Our Bible Point tells us that ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. And God always knows the truth. Let’s learn more about honesty.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Family Drama

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 25:27-34, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll read in the Bible about a family with two brothers who didn't always get along very well.** Show the Bible Timeline, and point out the "Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac" section.

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and scissors, and point out the "Bible Figures" section. Have kids cut out the figures. Help them pronounce the names, and explain that Isaac was the father, Rebekah was the mother, and Esau and Jacob were twin brothers. Show kids how to tape the bottom portion of each figure as a circle so it stands up on its own.

Have kids set each figure on its starting space on the "Getting Ahead" section of the My Bible Fun pages. Say: **We'll use this chart to help us remember what happened with each of the family members—and who is ahead of whom.**

Say: **Since Esau was born before Jacob, Esau was considered the oldest son. In Bible times, being the oldest son gave you some special privileges.** Have kids move their Esau figures one space ahead of their Jacob figures.

Say: **Let's hear how this family's trouble started.** Play "Birthright Swap" (track 8 on the CD). Then have kids move Jacob one step ahead of Esau since Jacob convinced Esau to give him the privileges of an older son.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain who you hoped would be ahead on our chart.**
- Tell about a time you tried to get ahead of someone. What did you do to get ahead?**
- What's wrong with being dishonest to get ahead?**
- Why does knowing God will take care of you help you be honest?**

Say: **Our Bible Point tells us that ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. Sometimes we might want something so badly that we stretch the truth or we take advantage of someone to get what we want. But God wants us to remember that he'll always take care of us and give us the best—and he doesn't want us to be dishonest, ever. Let's hear what happened next between the two brothers.**



Family Drama Supplies

-
- Bible
 - My Bible Fun
 - CD player
 - several pairs of scissors
 - tape
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Birthright Swap" (track 8)
 - Bible Timeline

Family Drama Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Jacob or Esau? Supplies

Bibles
My Bible Fun
orange
apple
chocolate bar
small ruler

Jacob or Esau? Easy Prep

Peel the orange, and wrap the orange peel around the apple. Remove the wrapper from the chocolate bar, and place the wrapper around a small ruler. Hide the wrapped apple and ruler.

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Jacob or Esau?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute Bibles, and help kids open them to Genesis 27:1-4. Say: **Esau gave his birthright to Jacob but didn't tell Isaac. Let's hear what Esau did when their dad, Isaac, planned to give that birthright to Esau.** Have kids follow along as you read aloud Genesis 27:1-4.

Have children move Esau forward on the "Getting Ahead" chart on the My Bible Fun page. Say: **Esau planned to take the birthright even though he'd agreed to give it to Jacob. Maybe Esau didn't say anything out loud that was a lie, but he was dishonest with Jacob when he agreed to something he didn't plan to do, and when he didn't tell his dad about the agreement, his silence was like lying.**

Have kids move the figures on their My Bible Fun pages; they should move back anyone who was hurt by Esau's lie. Remind kids to consider Rebekah's and Isaac's feelings, too.

Show kids Genesis 27:5-17 in the Bible. Then say: **When Rebekah heard that Esau was going to get the birthright, she helped Jacob get meat, prepare a meal, and dress like Esau so he could go to Isaac and get the birthright before Esau could. She even put goatskins on Jacob's neck and hands so he would seem hairy like his brother, Esau.**

Have kids move the figures on their My Bible Fun pages; they should move back anyone who was hurt by Jacob's lie. Again, remind kids to consider Isaac and Rebekah.

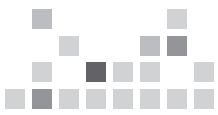
Say: **Talk to a friend near you about whether you think dressing up as Esau was the right way for Jacob to deal with Esau's lie.** Allow time, and then say: **When Jacob went to Isaac with the food, Jacob told Isaac, "I am Esau." Isaac wasn't sure whom he was talking to since he heard Jacob's voice. But remember that Jacob was wearing Esau's clothes and hairy goatskins on his arms. Let's see what happened when Jacob went to see his father, Isaac.**

Remind kids that Isaac was blind, so they'll need to close their eyes throughout the entire experiment. Explain that you'll allow each person to touch and smell two items, and then everyone will have a chance to guess what the items are.

Take the apple wrapped in orange peel to each child. Hold it under the child's nose, allowing the child to smell. Then place the child's hand on the orange peel, allowing the child to touch. After each child has smelled and touched the wrapped apple, repeat the exercise with the ruler wrapped in the candy bar wrapper. Afterward, have kids open their eyes and guess what the two items are. Then show kids the two items.

Say: **This is kind of like what happened when Jacob went to see Isaac. Isaac felt the hair and smelled the clothing just as you felt and smelled the orange peel and chocolate bar wrapper. Isaac thought he was really talking to Esau. He wanted to give the birthright to Esau, but he ended up giving it to Jacob.**





Have kids move the figures on their My Bible Fun pages; they should move back anyone who was hurt by Jacob’s lie. Again, remind kids to consider Isaac and Rebekah.

Say: **When Esau came back, it was too late. Isaac had already given the birthright to Jacob. Isaac was very upset to find out he’d been lied to, and so was Esau.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when you found out what our items really were? Think about your life and Jacob’s family. How does lying affect people’s relationships?**
- What are some ways you can be honest with your friends and family?**

Say: ► **HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. As you were moving your figures around, you always knew about the family’s lies. In the same way, God always knows the truth. God wants us to be honest so we can avoid some of the pain and hard feelings that lies caused among Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob.**

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

People Puppets

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We’re learning today why ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. We heard how several people in a family hurt each other by being dishonest. Let’s make puppets that we can take home so we can share with our families why we want to be honest all the time.**

Show kids how to put a hand inside a paper lunch bag and move the fold at the bottom of the bag as a mouth. Then let each child choose one person from the Bible passage to portray: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, or Jacob. Have kids decorate their bags to look like the people they chose. Also, have them each glue an “Honest Lips” cutout inside the “mouth” of the puppet so the Key Verse is visible when the puppet’s mouth is opened.

Have kids get in pairs. Say: **Tell your partner who your puppet represents and what happened from that person’s point of view.** Allow time.



**People Puppets
Supplies**

- paper lunch bags
- markers
- glue
- scissors

Teacher Pack
“Honest Lips” poster

**People Puppets
Easy Prep**

Cut out the lips from the “Honest Lips” poster.





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How did playing with your puppets help you think of how those people were hurt?

If you're comfortable, tell about a time you hurt someone with dishonesty. Why do you think honesty is so important?

Say: **When we think of different people's perspectives, like we did with our puppets today, it can help us understand why ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. The family we heard about today was really hurt by all the lies, but they didn't need to be. God wants us to be honest because he knows that dishonesty really hurts others.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Use your puppet to tell someone why ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD.

Ask God to help you be honest, even when it may seem hard to tell the truth.

At the end of the day, tell your mom or dad about everything you did that day. Pray together and thank God for helping you be open and honest with your parents.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun



Say: **Just as dishonesty hurt Jacob and Esau’s family, it hurts our relationships with friends and family. That’s why ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. Do your best to be honest this week as you follow through on our Daily Challenges.**



Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how honesty is important to God. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he always takes care of us and always gives us what’s best for us. Thank him that we can be honest all the time because we trust that he’ll make everything okay in our lives. Pray: **God, we want to be honest with you and with everyone in our lives. We know how much dishonesty hurts everyone involved. Please forgive us for being dishonest in the past.** Pause and allow kids to silently confess to God. Then pray: **Thank you that because of Jesus, you forgive us. Help us be honest this week, even when it’s hard.** Pause and allow kids to silently tell God how they want to be honest this week. Then close the prayer: **Thank you that you always help us be honest. In Jesus’ name, amen.**





Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30

Young children still view the happenings of life in terms of their most immediate authority figures—parents, grandparents, and teachers. Everything that happens in their lives—the food they eat, the places they go, the people they meet—children see as an outreach of the people they know best. Use this lesson to teach kids that there’s someone even bigger and smarter than their parents, and that this loving God who made and cherishes them is in control of their lives.



► Bible Point

God uses hard times to help us grow.

Key Verse

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Weaving Faith Into Life


Kids will rely on God to help them through hard times.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Have a Ball! <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Play a game that gets increasingly harder.	balls	
2 Bible Exploration	Moving On <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear how Jacob moved to Laban’s house.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Jacob Gets Married <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn how Jacob married Leah and then Rachel.	CD player, 1 snack item per child, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD	
	Who’s There? <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Play a game to see how Jacob was tricked.	dark sheet, tape	Hang the sheet across a corner of your room.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Hard Times <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw or write about hard times they've faced.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, crayons, pens</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
	<p>Romans 8:28 Puzzle <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and make puzzles to help understand it.</p>	<p>Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, construction paper, several pairs of scissors, glue, crayons, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "Romans 8:28 Puzzle Punch-Outs"</p>	
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Have a Ball! Supplies

balls

1 GETTING STARTED

Have a Ball!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and have kids form two single-file lines. Say: **Let's play a game. This is how to play: I'll give the first person in each line a ball, and that person will pass the ball over his or her head to the next person in line. The next person in line will pass the ball under his or her legs to the next person. You'll continue that pattern—over the head and then under the legs—until the ball gets to the end of the line.** Demonstrate the process for kids. Then say: **The last person in line will run to the front of the line, hand the first person the ball, and run back to the end of the line. You'll keep playing until I say stop.** Have a group of four kids demonstrate so kids know exactly what to do.

Have kids play, and after the second round, begin introducing more and more balls into play. After adding several balls to each line, play will become somewhat frenzied. Stop play after a few minutes.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

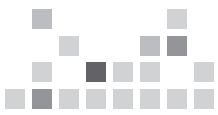
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was this game like for you as we added more balls?
Tell about a time things felt crazy or out of control in your life.
What are some ways God can help you in times like that?**

Say: **Our game became harder and harder to play as I added the balls. Sometimes in life we have to go through situations that are hard to handle, just as in our game. No one likes to go through hard times, but hard times happen to everyone. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. Today we'll read in the Bible about someone who was going through a hard time. Let's hear what happened.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Moving On

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 29:15-30, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear what happened to a man named Jacob and how God used a hard time in his life to help him grow. Tell a friend near you about a time that was hard for you.** Allow time.

Say: **Jacob had a twin brother named Esau. Jacob tricked Esau and their dad, Isaac, so that he could get all the blessings and privileges of an older brother. It was a really big deal, and Esau was so mad that Jacob's mom, Rebekah, told Jacob to leave for a while. So Jacob went to visit his uncle, Laban, who lived very far away. Let's pretend to travel a very long distance.** Lead children around the room twice.

Say: **Jacob's parents also told him to look for a woman to marry while he was there. Let's listen to what happened, and as we do, let's help Jacob with all the hard work.** Play "Jacob Finds a Job" (track 9 on the CD). Lead kids in "helping" Jacob with the hard work. For example, when Jacob talks about hauling water, pretend to carry water and pour it into a trough. When he talks about feeding the animals, pretend to scatter feed on the ground. And when he talks about harvesting grain, pretend to spear hay with a pitchfork and throw it into a pile. Each sound effect lasts about 15 to 20 seconds.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about Jacob pledging to work for seven years?**
- Tell about a time you said you would do something hard to get what you wanted.**
- What did you learn from the hard work?**

Say: **Whether or not you've had a chance to work hard for something you wanted, working for seven years to marry Rachel probably seems to us like it would be a really hard time for Jacob. But ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. The Bible tells us that when we love God, he works everything out—even hard times—for our good. Let's see what happens to Jacob next.**



Moving On Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Jacob Finds a Job"
(track 9)





Jacob Gets Married Supplies

CD player
1 snack item per child
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Jacob Gets
Married" (track 10),
"Jacob Gets Married...
Again!" (track 11)



Who's There? Supplies

dark sheet
tape

Who's There? Easy Prep

Hang the sheet across a
corner of your room.

Jacob Gets Married

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jacob pledged to work for seven years just so he could marry Rachel, the woman he loved. Let's see if all that hard work paid off.**

Play "Jacob Gets Married" (track 10 on the CD).

Say: **Since Laban and his family are getting ready for a feast, let's have something to eat ourselves!** Distribute the snacks you brought for kids, and let them eat as you play "Jacob Gets Married...Again!" (track 11 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about how Laban tricked Jacob?

Tell about a time someone tricked you.

What are some ways you can respond like Jacob did?

Say: **Jacob worked for seven years so he could marry Rachel, only to be tricked. But he responded to Laban by agreeing to work another seven years so he could marry Rachel. He knew that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. Like Jacob, we can trust God to take care of us when things happen in our lives that surprise or hurt us.**

Who's There?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **It seems strange to think that Jacob was tricked like that. Let's see how that might have happened.** Have kids form two groups. Have kids from one group stand behind the sheet, while kids from the other group sit in front of the sheet and close their eyes.

Say: **Our friends behind the sheet will take turns saying a few simple words or phrases such as "Hello" or "How are you?" Then everyone in front of the sheet will try to guess who's speaking.** Quietly tell the kids behind the sheet to whisper or try to disguise their voices. Have the other children try to guess who's speaking. Then let groups switch roles.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like trying to guess who was speaking?
Tell about something hard that you have to do in your life right now.
What can you do to show God you trust him as you do that hard thing?**

Say: **God was with Jacob during his hard times, and God is with you during your hard times. Knowing that God helps you during hard times is so important. Our Bible Point for today tells us that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.**

3**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Hard Times

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages, crayons, and pens. Point out the "Hard Times" section.

Say: **Think of a time in your life that was hard for you, and draw a picture of that time inside the puzzle piece on the bottom of the page.**

Give kids several minutes to draw. Then have kids form pairs and explain their pictures to their partners.

Say: **Now think of a hard time you might be facing soon. Maybe you have a test in school this week, or maybe someone in your family is sick. At the top of the page in the "Dear God" section, write a letter to God, asking him to help you during the hard time you're facing.**

When kids finish writing, have them explain to their partners what they wrote.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Hard times happen to everyone, but God will help you when you have hard times. God knows all about what's happening in your life. In fact, he loves you so much that if you trust him, he'll work everything out—even the hard times—for your good. Remember, our Bible Point for today tells us that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW, just as he did for Jacob.**

**Hard Times
Supplies**

My Bible Fun
crayons
pens

**Hard Times
Easy Prep**

Tear out the Lesson 4
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.





Romans 8:28 Puzzle Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
CD player
construction paper
several pairs of scissors
glue
crayons
1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) (track 12)
"Romans 8:28 Puzzle Punch-Outs"

Romans 8:28 Puzzle

What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning that ► **GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.** Our Key Verse today can help us remember that God always works for our good.

Open your Bible to Romans 8:28, and show it to kids. Then read aloud the verse: "**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose**" (Romans 8:28). Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **This verse says that in all things—both good and hard times—God will work everything out for your good, as long as you love him. And he has a plan and purpose for your life. When we're going through hard times, it can be tough to see what good things God has planned. But God sees the bigger picture. He knows what he wants for our whole lives, not just the little bit we can see right now.**

Let's sing a song to help us remember that. Give each child a copy of the lyrics page. Then play "God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) (track 12 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and doing the motions.

(Chorus)

And we know, we know *(point to head)*
That in all things *(stretch arms high)*
God works for the good *(give thumbs-up)*
Of those who love him. *(touch hand to heart)*
(Repeat.)

Who have been called *(put hands on hips)*
According to his purpose. *(point upward)*
Who have been called *(put hands on hips)*
According to his purpose. *(point upward)*
If you understand *(point to head)*
It's in his command *(shake finger)*
To work things out for his children. *(give thumbs-up)*
That is you! *(point at each other)*
That is me! *(point at self)*

(Repeat chorus 3x.)

And we know, we know *(point to head)*
That in all things *(stretch arms high)*
God works for the good *(give thumbs-up)*
Of those who love him, *(touch hand to heart)*
Who love him. *(pat heart)*

"God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Show the “Romans 8:28 Puzzle Punch-Out.” Say: **Even though we can only see today, like one piece of a puzzle, God knows how the whole picture will fit together.** Punch out the three punch-out pieces from the page.

Set out construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons, and the Romans 8:28 puzzle shapes. Have each child trace the punch-out shapes onto construction paper. Then have kids cut out the shapes. As they work, encourage kids to talk about things in their lives that don’t seem to make sense at the moment.

When kids finish cutting out the three shapes, give each child another sheet of construction paper. Let kids gently try to fit their puzzle pieces together without glue.

Say: **These puzzle pieces don’t form a complete picture, do they? That’s how our lives may seem sometimes. But we can’t see the whole picture like God can.**

Have kids cut out the puzzle piece they drew on from the “Hard Times” section on their My Bible Fun pages.

Say: **Today we learned that God helped Jacob through hard times, and Jacob ended up having good things happen—he got to marry Rachel. We may not be able to see how hard times fit into our lives, but our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.**



Have each child use the puzzle piece from the My Bible Fun page to make a complete puzzle with the traced punch-out pieces. As kids work, say: **This puzzle piece shows a picture of a hard time you went through. You may not have known what purpose that hard time had in your life, but God knew. And he’s able to use that hard time for your good.** If necessary, show kids how the puzzle pieces fit together to form a large heart. Have kids each glue the heart to a sheet of construction paper.





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to try to fit the puzzle together?
How is that like or unlike trying to understand hard times in your life?
Why can you trust God in hard times?**

Say: **Just as your puzzle wasn't complete without the "Hard Times" piece from your My Bible Fun page, sometimes God uses hard times to complete parts of our lives. But God always helps us during hard times, just as he helped Jacob. This week when you come across something that's hard, remember that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW and trust him to work things for your good.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Plant some seeds in your yard, and thank God for using hard times to help you grow.

The next time you argue with a friend at school, ask God to help you see him working in the hard times.

With a parent, take flowers to someone in the hospital, and tell that person that God helps us grow in hard times.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.





Say: **Just as God did in Jacob's life, ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. This week, let's remember that God works for our good as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**



Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God uses hard times to help us grow. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that when we love him, he always works for our good. Give each child a chance to thank God for working for his or her good and give an example if they choose to share. Then close the prayer by praying: **God, we know you have a plan and a purpose for us, even when we're going through a hard time in our lives. Help us trust you. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Lyrics

God Works for the Good (Romans 8:28)

(Chorus)

And we know, we know *(point to head)*

That in all things *(stretch arms high)*

God works for the good *(give thumbs-up)*

Of those who love him. *(touch hand to heart)*

(Repeat.)

Who have been called *(put hands on hips)*

According to his purpose. *(point upward)*

Who have been called *(put hands on hips)*

According to his purpose. *(point upward)*

If you understand *(point to head)*

It's in his command *(shake finger)*

To work things out for his children. *(give thumbs-up)*

That is you! *(point at each other)*

That is me! *(point at self)*

(Repeat chorus 3x.)

And we know, we know *(point to head)*

That in all things *(stretch arms high)*

God works for the good *(give thumbs-up)*

Of those who love him, *(touch hand to heart)*



Who love him. *(pat heart)*

"God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**OK
TO COPY**

Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams Genesis 37:1-11

First- and second-graders are developing a strong sense of competition with others, not only on the playground but at home as well. Use this lesson to help kids learn to relate to their siblings as God wants them to—with love and forgiveness.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Color Cube Capers <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to hit a target by themselves and then with help.	Bible, paper wad, tape Teacher Pack: “Game Board,” “Color Cube”	Tape the “Game Board” to a wall. Tape the “Color Cube” together as directed. 
2 Bible Exploration	A Family Built <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Listen to an imaginary account of Joseph’s family.	CD player, 1 wooden block per child Teacher Pack: CD	
	A Family Broken <i>(about 15 min.)</i> See how anger and jealousy affected Joseph’s family.	Bible, structure of blocks from “A Family Built” activity Teacher Pack: “Game Board,” “Joseph and His Brothers” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

Show Jesus’ love in our families.

Key Verse

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will show love to their families.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	House of Love <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and then draw pictures of their families and write kind words.	Bible, My Bible Fun, crayons, scissors	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Rebuilt With Love <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Rebuild the structure of blocks while singing the Key Verse song.	Bible, CD player, 1 wooden block per child Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams

Genesis 37:1-11

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jacob Favors Joseph Over His Other Children

It's interesting that Jacob's display of favoritism toward his son Joseph ravaged his family in the same way his mother's, Rebekah's, favoritism toward Jacob had ruined Jacob's family of origin. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph had been born to him in his old age and because he was borne by Rachel, Jacob's most beloved wife—even more favoritism. Joseph's "bad report" about his brothers (Genesis 37:2) only made things worse, fueling Jacob's preference for Joseph and his brothers' resentment toward him. The richly ornamented robe further intensified the brothers' feelings.

Joseph's Coat Creates Jealousy

The relationship between Joseph and his brothers was bad enough before Joseph began having dreams indicating that he would rule over his brothers. The eldest would naturally and culturally have held the role of family leader. For one of the youngest sons in line to claim such a position surely infuriated the other brothers. Joseph even incurred the rebuke of his father when he described these dreams.

Joseph's Favored Position Creates Resentment

From our point in history, we know what Joseph's dreams foretold. But Joseph's brothers didn't have our perspective. Their hatred of Joseph probably caused them to suspect that he was inventing these dreams in order to put his brothers down and to flaunt his father's favoritism.

How Not to Treat Other Family Members

Although God ultimately reconciled the members of this family, the events in this passage serve as a model of how not to treat family members. None of the members of this family really loved the others as they should have. Joseph, his brothers, and their father all contributed to the rift between Joseph and the brothers. To honor God, family members must show God's love to one another. For Jacob, that might have meant showing love equally to all of his sons. For Joseph, that might have meant keeping his dreams to himself, even if the dreams truly were messages from God. And for the brothers, it might have meant loving Joseph in spite of their father's favoritism and Joseph's attitude. No matter what or who the problem is within our families, God wants us to love our families with the same love he shows for us.

The Jesus Connection

Our families are the closest relationships we have. Whether we like it or not, the people in our families are going to be part of our lives in some way for the duration of our existence. That makes families the perfect place to begin to show God's love. We can let God shape our reactions toward family members in large and small ways. What are some ways you can ask God to help you show love in your family? You can write your prayer below.





Color Cube Capers Supplies

Bible
paper wad
tape

Teacher Pack
“Game Board”
“Color Cube”

Color Cube Capers Easy Prep

Tape the “Game Board”
to a wall. Tape the
“Color Cube” together
as directed.

1 GETTING STARTED

Color Cube Capers

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and say: **Let’s play a game.** Point out the “Game Board” on the wall, and say: **Line up single file in front of this game board.** Make sure the first person is about 5 feet from the “Game Board” and the line goes straight back from there.

Hand the first person in line the “Color Cube” and a paper wad. Say: **On your turn, roll the “Color Cube” and then toss the paper wad at the “Game Board” to try to hit the same color as that which you rolled. You’ll have five seconds to try to hit the right color, and you can toss the paper wad as many times as you want to within the five seconds.** Check for understanding.

Say: **One last rule for our game: When tossing the paper wad, you must stand with your back to the “Game Board,” and no one may help you.** Give each child five seconds to play.

Say: **Now let’s try this game again, but this time let’s see what it’s like to have some help.** Have the children get into “families” of three to five. Ask the families to line up together with the first group in line at least 5 feet from the “Game Board.”

Say: **In each family, one member will roll the “Color Cube,” one member will toss the paper wad, one or two members will help the tosser aim, one member will retrieve the paper wad, and all members will call out encouragement to one another.** Give each family five seconds to toss the paper wad.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was the game like for you when you were alone?**
- What was it like to try this as a family?**
- How was the game like or unlike being part of a family?**
- What things do your real family members help you with?**

Say: **God knew that we’d do better in life with caring, loving help. He created families to provide a lot of that help. Like in our game, our whole experience is better when we work together with kindness and love. God asks us to ► SHOW JESUS’ LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES because he knows that’s what’s best for us. Today**





we'll learn about a family that was jealous and angry instead of loving. As you learn, think about the difference it would have made if the family members had treated one another with love.



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

A Family Built

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle, and distribute at least one wooden block to each child. Say: **Today we're learning to ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. Let's start by hearing about a boy named Joseph and his family. As you listen, find at least one good thing that came from the family's time together.**

Play "Joseph's Family" (track 13 on the CD).

Say: **You'll each have a chance to tell one good thing that came from the family's time together. When it's your turn, place your block in the center of our circle.** Ask each child to name one way the family members benefited from being part of the family. For example, kids might mention that the family members helped one another with work. As kids add blocks, encourage them to build a strong structure. You can help them decide where to put the blocks so the structure stands strong.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did we do to make our building strong?**
- What good things happen in your family to make it strong?**
- What can you do to show Jesus' love in your family?**

Say: **A family is built by doing things for and with one another and by loving and taking care of each other. Like the building we built, it gets bigger and stronger as we ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. The boy, Joseph, who we just heard about, is actually like a man named Joseph in the Bible. But something very bad happened in his life when his family stopped showing love and started treating one another with anger and jealousy. Let's hear what happened.**

A Family Built Supplies

- CD player
- 1 wooden block per child
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Joseph's Family" (track 13)





A Family Broken Supplies

Bible
structure of blocks
from "A Family Built"
activity

Teacher Pack

"Game Board"
"Joseph and His
Brothers" poster (from
the Big Bible Poster
Pack)

A Family Broken

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 37:1-11, and show kids the passage. Then show the "Joseph and His Brothers" poster. Say: **As we hear what happened to Joseph in the Bible, we'll see what happens when we don't ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.**

Read aloud Genesis 37:1-4. Invite a child to come to the middle and wear the "Game Board" around his or her shoulders like a cape. Say: **Let's pretend our friend here is Joseph and that he's wearing the colorful robe his father gave him.**

Say: **Tell a friend about a time you had trouble being kind to your family.** Allow time. Then say: **Joseph's brothers were so jealous that they couldn't say a kind word to him. Let's do the opposite of the brothers right now.** Have the children demonstrate love by saying kind things to the child wearing the "colorful robe." If time allows, let several children play the role of Joseph. Then set aside the "Game Board."

Say: **Tell a friend why you like it when your family is kind to you and you're kind to your family.** Allow time. Then say: **It's kind words and actions that make a family strong. Let's hear what the brothers did next.** Read aloud Genesis 37:5-8.

Have a child remove a block from the middle of the structure. Say: **The brothers' jealousy hurt the family.**

Read aloud Genesis 37:9-11. Invite a different child to take away a block from the bottom of the structure. Invite more children to remove blocks until the structure has been destroyed. Say: **The hatred in the family was so bad that it destroyed their family. We built this structure to represent a family of love. It was strong when we shared positive things that encourage and love the people in a family. But now it's destroyed.**

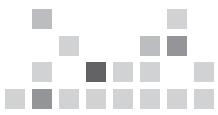
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about something important to you that was destroyed.
Why do you think jealousy or hatred destroys a family?
Tell about a time you were really upset with a family member.
When you feel like that, what can you do to show love?**

Say: **Joseph and his brothers had so many reasons to be happy with their family. But instead of focusing on loving one another, Joseph's brothers let jealousy and hatred break down the family, just as our building broke down. As we see how Joseph's brothers hurt their family, we can remember why we want to ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

House of Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we heard how a family was hurt when they didn't love each other. When Jesus lived on earth, he commanded us to love. In fact, that's what our Key Verse today says.** Open your Bible to John 13:34, and show children the verse. Read aloud the Key Verse: **"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).** Have kids repeat the verse aloud with you several times.

Say: **Let's create our own houses of love to help us remember why it's important that we love our families instead of letting jealousy and hatred break them down like in Joseph's family.**

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and crayons, and point out the "House of Love Door Hanger" section. Point out the Key Verse at the bottom of the page, and invite a child to read it to the group. Then say: **In the windows, draw your family members.** If children have large families, they can draw more than one family member in a window. Allow time.

Say: **Now that you have your whole family in your house of love, write or draw one special thing about each person. For example, if your brother helps you with math, you can write "math," or if your sister makes you laugh, you can draw a smiley face.** Point out the section below the windows, and help kids think of ideas as they work. If children have more windows than people in their families, have them write or draw in the other windows what they love about their families—for example, "help one another" or "stick up for one another."

When kids finish, form them into groups of five and let them introduce their families to their small groups.

Distribute scissors, and have kids cut the house from the page. Then have kids cut out the hole as indicated on the page so they can hang their pages on their doors.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to think of kind things about your family members?**
- How is Joseph's family like or unlike yours?**
- How can you react differently in your family from the way Joseph's brothers did?**



House of Love Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Fun
- crayons
- scissors

House of Love Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Rebuilt With Love Supplies

Bible
CD player
1 wooden block per
child

Teacher Pack

CD: "As I Have Loved
You" (John 13:34)
(track 14)

Say: Jealousy and hatred really hurt Joseph's family, and they hurt our families, too. That's why Jesus commands us to love others. We have a choice to focus on the great things about our family members, like the things we wrote on our door hangers, or to be angry. Let's hang our door hangers in our homes to remind us why we ► **SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.**

Rebuilt With Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **Today we're learning that we ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. Let's think of ways we can really love each of our family members.**

Give each child a wooden block. Say: **Think of someone in your family who you haven't been kind to lately. What are some things you can do to show love to that person? Don't answer now—think about it silently.**

Say: **Let's rebuild a strong building with our blocks. I'll play a song about our Key Verse, and as you listen, tell God what you want to do to show love to your family. Then ask God to help you. When you're ready, bring your block to the middle of our circle and help us build a strong building.**

Play "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 14 on the CD). Encourage the children to sit quietly as they listen to the song so everyone has a chance to pray and add a block.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Thanks for taking the time to think and pray about ways we can ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. As we learned in the Bible about Joseph and his family, it's not always easy, and sometimes we may feel we have a good reason to be angry. But we know that Jesus' commandment to love each other is the best way to live and to make our families strong and happy.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Give a sibling your allowance, and tell that sibling you love him or her.**
- Tell each of your family members something you love about them.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun





Visit a nursing home with a parent, and spend time with someone who doesn't have a lot of family to show him or her love.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **When we don't show love and kindness to our families, it really hurts us, just like it hurt Joseph's family. This week, let's do our best to ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we show love to our families. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for our families and asking him to help us love them. Give each child a chance to ask God for help with loving his or her family by mentioning a way to do so. For example, a child might say, "God, help me love my brother by letting him play with my favorite toy sometimes." Then close the prayer. Pray: **God, we know you want us to love others as Jesus loved us. Help us let go of our anger and do our best to love our families. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery Genesis 37:12-36

First- and second-graders are just beginning to learn that they can choose right from wrong on their own. Until now, doing right meant obeying parents, teachers, or baby sitters. As children become less dependent on adult guidance, however, playmates may influence them to try new things—things that God doesn't approve of. Use this lesson to help children want to do what God says.



► Bible Point


God wants us to do what's right.

Key Verse

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will strive to do what's right at home, in school, and with their friends.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	On the Level <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Compare being truthful to using a carpenter's level.	Bible, carpenter's level	
2 Bible Exploration	A Hurtful Choice <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Re-enact how Joseph's brothers decided to throw him in a well.	Bible	
	Into the Well <i>(about 5 min.)</i> "Throw" Joseph into a well.	masking tape	Make a masking-tape circle on the floor to represent the well.
	After the Well <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Continue acting out how Joseph's brothers threw him in a well.	My Bible Fun, scissors, crayons Teacher Pack: "Actions and Truth" poster 	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Cut the "Actions and Truth" poster into its four sections.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Actions and Truth <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pass special messages around a circle, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible	
	Do-Right Hands <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make a reminder to use hands to do right.	construction paper, several pairs of scissors, glue, crayons	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You may be surprised you've been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. Rest assured that for this age level, we've chosen to focus on why it's important for kids to do what's right. The material of this lesson may seem fairly heavy, but the focus and the point is to keep God's priorities first in our lives.

Joseph's Brothers Have Had Enough

All of the events described in last week's lesson—Joseph's bad report to his father about his brothers, Jacob's favoritism toward Joseph, and the dreams Joseph described in which his family bowed down to him—set the stage for the events described in this week's passage.

The Brothers Put Joseph Into a Cistern

Reuben, the oldest brother, was the first to show concern for Joseph's life. As the oldest brother and leader of the family, Reuben would likely be the one to bring the deceitful report of his brother's demise to their aging father. His plan to put Joseph in a cistern (probably a dry well) in the desert and rescue him later may have been suspected by some of the other brothers. Scripture doesn't say that the brothers enthusiastically supported his plan; they just did what the eldest brother suggested, as younger brothers would be expected to do.

The Brothers Sell Joseph to Traders

When the traders came along, Genesis 37:29 indicates that Reuben was not present. Judah suddenly suggested that they spare Joseph's life. We don't know if this suggestion was prompted by pangs of guilt, the appeal of money, or a desire to punish

Joseph even more severely by making a slave of him. The decision was made, and Joseph was gone before Reuben returned. When he found that Joseph was gone, Reuben was grief-stricken, anguishing over what to do next and, no doubt, what to tell his father.

The Brothers Lie to Jacob About What Happened to Joseph

When the brothers returned to their father, they were careful not to lie. They simply showed Jacob the bloody coat and asked if it was Joseph's. Perhaps they felt their deceit would be less evil if they allowed Jacob to assume that Joseph had been ripped apart by an animal.

Whatever their motives, both Reuben and Judah tried to save Joseph's life, and God used their efforts to bring about his plan. What the other brothers intended for evil, God ultimately used for enormous good by using Joseph to save Jacob's family and much of the region from starvation.

The Jesus Connection

God wants us to do what's right no matter what seems justified to us. Humans allowed sin to enter our hearts, but God still chose to save us with the most radical sacrifice that's ever been made.

We can look at God's extravagant example of forgiveness and remember to ask him to help us do what's right in any situation. What's one way you can trust God to help you do what's right? You can write your prayer in the space below.





On the Level Supplies

Bible
carpenter's level

1 GETTING STARTED

On the Level

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and put kids in groups of three. Then show the carpenter's level. Say: **Talk in your groups about what you think this is and how it's used.** Allow time. Then let groups report back to everyone.

Say: **A carpenter's level, like this one, is used to tell carpenters and builders if the things they're building are straight and even.**

Set the level on a table. Point to the air bubble. Be sure every child has a chance to view the bubble. Say: **If the air bubble is sitting between these two lines, we know the table is level.**

Let children determine if the table is level or not. Then give each child the opportunity to check to see if something else in the room is level. If you have more than 10 children, have kids work in their groups of three to check objects in the room. Then gather children together again.

Say: **Carpenters and cabinetmakers know how important it is to build straight homes and furniture. They rely on their levels to help them. We have a level, too. Our level helps us know what's right.**

Show your Bible. Say: **God's Word, the Bible, is our level. If we want to know what's right, we can look in the Bible for the answers. If we want to know what's true, we check the Bible.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

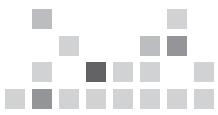
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What difference does it make if something is level?**
- What difference does it make if we know right from wrong?**
- When are some times you could use your Bible this week?**

Say: **Just as it's important that things like tables are level, it's important that we know right from wrong so that we can live better lives. Today we'll hear about some brothers who needed to compare their actions to what God's Word says is right. As we hear about some of their mistakes, we'll begin to understand why**
► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

A Hurtful Choice

What You'll Do

Have kids return to their groups of three. Say: **Today we'll hear about a man named Joseph and his brothers. As we hear what happened, follow me—I'll lead you in acting out what happened.**

Open your Bible to Genesis 37:12-36, and show kids the passage. Say: **Joseph's brothers were really angry with him because he was their dad's favorite son. Their dad, Jacob, gave Joseph a beautiful new robe to wear, and the brothers were so jealous that they wanted to kill him! That's out-of-control angry. Tell the people in your group about a time you were really angry.** Allow time.

Say: **Even when we're angry, ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. In your group, tell some good choices you can make when you're angry.** Allow time.

Say: **As I said, Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. Joseph often stayed home while his brothers cared for sheep far from home. One day, Jacob told Joseph to go check on his brothers and report back home.** Lead groups twice around the room, calling, "Brothers, where are you?"

Say: **Joseph went to find his brothers in a place called Shechem (SHEK-uhm). But he couldn't find them there. A man from the area saw Joseph and told him that his brothers had moved on, and he pointed in the direction of Dothan (DOH-thuhn).** Point with an outstretched arm. Have the kids place their hands above their eyes as if looking into the distance.

Say: **Joseph left to search for his brothers again.** Lead children around the room again.

Say: **Joseph's brothers saw him coming. They saw his new robe and were angry.** Have the children show their angriest faces.

Say: **Joseph's brothers whispered among themselves. They were so angry that they wanted to kill Joseph.** Lead kids in whispering behind their hands.

Say: **But Joseph's oldest brother, Reuben, knew that killing Joseph would be wrong. He said, "Don't kill him." Lead kids in shaking their heads and forefingers "no." "We'll just throw Joseph in a well instead."**



A Hurtful Choice Supplies

.....
Bible





Into the Well Supplies

masking tape

Into the Well Easy Prep

Make a masking-tape circle on the floor to represent the well.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What's surprising about how the brothers were acting?

When you get really angry, how can you tell whether the way you're acting is right or wrong?

What kinds of things happen when you choose to do something you know isn't right?

Say: **Joseph's brothers were so out-of-control angry that they wanted to kill their brother. Sometimes we get angry or jealous of our family members, too, but we know that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. Just as we could control our actions in this activity, we have a choice to control what we do when we're angry.**

Into the Well

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather kids around the tape circle on the floor. Choose a child to be Joseph. Let the remaining children be the brothers.

Say: **Let's say this tape circle is the well. If you're one of Joseph's brothers, you'll try to get him to step into this well. You may not touch Joseph in any way. Instead, you'll have to work together to find another way to get him to step in the well. Joseph can't touch you or any of the walls in the room. He can't stand still either. He has to keep moving, trying to stay away from the well.**

Play the game three or four times, choosing a different child to play Joseph each time. Then gather children in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to be one of Joseph's brothers?

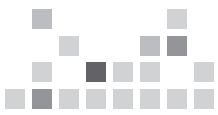
What was it like to be Joseph?

Tell about a time someone did something really hurtful to you.

Why do you think everyone feels bad when someone does the wrong thing?

Say: **Joseph's brothers trapped him in a well. As we read in the Bible, we'll find that at least one of them felt really bad about it. God knows how it hurts us whether we're doing something wrong or someone else is doing something wrong to us. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT because it's always what's best for us. Let's go back to the Bible to see what happened after Joseph's brothers put him in the well.**





After the Well

What You'll Do

Say: **After the brothers threw Joseph in the well, Reuben left for awhile. Reuben actually planned to come back later to rescue Joseph from the well, but while Reuben was gone, Joseph's brothers sold Joseph to the slave traders to get rid of him once and for all.** Lead children in pretending to count money and then in waving goodbye to an imaginary Joseph.

Say: **When Reuben came back and learned what his brothers had done, he was sad.** Shake head slowly. **As the brothers walked home, they worried about what their dad would say.** Lead groups in walking slowly around the room in the opposite direction from before. Stroke your chin and look worried as you walk.

Say: **When the brothers got home, they made another bad decision—they decided not to tell Jacob what they had done. To keep their dad from finding out what they had done to Joseph, the brothers let their father think that a wild animal had eaten Joseph.** Make clawing, wild-animal gestures with your hands.

Say: **Because Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, Jacob was very, very sad. In fact, he said he would be sad until the day he died.** Pretend to wipe tears from your eyes.

Say: **Doing what's right includes telling the truth—the whole truth. And doing what's right also means *doing* the right thing, not just *saying* the right thing. I'll show you what I mean.**

Have kids form four groups. Give one section of the "Actions and Truth" poster to each group.

Say: **The children in your pictures are using words in loving ways. Everything they're saying is good. But *showing* love for others is important, too. We can't just say we love someone—our actions have to show we're telling the truth.**

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and crayons, and point out the "Actions Speak Louder Than Words" section. Say: **In your group, look at the poster picture I gave you, and think of ways the children pictured there can show love instead of talking about it.** Allow time. Then say: **Now, in the space on your My Bible Fun page, draw a picture of a young person showing love in that situation.** Help kids think of ideas. For example, the girl who's telling her mother she loves her could hand her some flowers or give her a hug.

Invite each group to share its ideas about each section of the poster, and have kids draw pictures for the remaining sections on their My Bible Fun pages.



After the Well Supplies

My Bible Fun
scissors
crayons

Teacher Pack
"Actions and Truth"
poster

After the Well Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Cut the "Actions and Truth" poster into its four sections.





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How easy or hard was it to think of ways to do right rather than just talk about it?

How easy or hard is it to do the right thing when you're faced with a decision?

How can you get help from God when you have a decision like that to make?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** Joseph's brothers made a poor choice when they threw their brother in the well. Reuben made a poor choice, too. Though he tried to save Joseph by throwing him in a well instead of killing him, he didn't tell his brothers he was planning to save Joseph later. Reuben didn't tell the whole truth. He could've tried to get them to stop by being honest. We can be different from Joseph's brothers, and when we have a choice to make, we can do what we know is right rather than just talk about it.

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Actions and Truth

Actions and Truth
Supplies

Bible

What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning that ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT**—and that means our actions are right, not just the things we say. Let's learn our **Key Verse, which helps us know how to do right.** Open your Bible to 1 John 3:18, and show kids the verse. Say: **It says, "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).** Lead kids in repeating the Key Verse with you several times.

Say: **Let's play a game now that will help us remember what this verse means.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **I'll whisper something in someone's ear. Then that person will whisper the same thing in the next person's ear, and so on. The last person to hear the news will say it aloud to the rest of us.**

Whisper "Jesus loves you, and so do I!" to the person sitting next to you. When everyone has had a chance to hear the message and the last person has said it aloud, continue.

Say: **Now I'm going to pass a message around the circle in a different way. After you receive the message, pass it along to the person sitting next to you. Let's try it again!**





Give the child next to you a big hug or a high five, and say, “I’m so glad you’re here today!” Have kids pass this message to one another until everyone in the circle has received a hug or high five.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was different about our two messages?**
- What do you think is the difference between saying something and doing it?**
- Tell about a time you *did* the right thing rather than just *talked* about it.**
- What are some things you can do this week to show you want to do the right thing?**

Say: **Unlike Joseph’s brothers, we know ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT. We know that the Bible is always right, so we can always rely on the Bible to tell us the right thing to do! And like in our game, we don’t just want to *talk* about the right thing—we want to *do* it. Let’s say our Key Verse together again.**
 Lead kids in saying the Key Verse aloud together again: **“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).**

Do-Right Hands

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Give each child a sheet of brightly colored construction paper. Help children trace around the outlines of both of their hands. Let children cut out their hand shapes.

Say: **When Reuben tried to help Joseph, he told his brothers not to lay a hand on Joseph. Reuben didn’t want his brothers to use their hands to do something wrong. He wanted them to do what was right. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT.**

Think about how you can do what’s right when you have a choice. Allow time, and then have kids share their ideas. On the hands, have the kids draw pictures or write words that can help them make right choices.

Help each child glue his or her hand shapes to a lighter color of construction paper, arranging the hand shapes side by side, thumbs pointing toward each other. Help children print “My Do-Right Hands” at the top of the page.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Even if we can understand why Joseph’s brothers were angry, we know what they chose to do was wrong. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT. And he’ll help us when we look to him and when we read his Word.**



Do-Right Hands Supplies

-
- construction paper
 - several pairs of scissors
 - glue
 - crayons





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Help your mom and dad clean the house, and tell them that God wants us to do what's right.

Be nice to your siblings—without being asked—and tell them that God wants us to do what's right.

Tell the truth even when it's hard, and remember that it makes God happy when you do what's right.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **Like Joseph's brothers, we always have a choice to do what's right. This week, let's remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and how they learned that God wants us to do what's right. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for giving us the Bible so we can know what's right. Give each child a chance to ask God for help with doing the right thing this week. Encourage kids to be specific. For example, a child may say, "God, please help me be nice to my brother even when he's mean to me." Then close the



prayer. Pray: **God, you want us to do what's right because it's always what's best for us. We know that it hurts others and it hurts us when we make choices we know are wrong. Help us make good choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

First- and second-graders want acceptance. They want to be chosen in games and for tasks in your small group. They may also be concerned with not being liked by both peers and teachers. Use this lesson to help kids understand that no matter what else happens, God made them perfectly and can use each of them uniquely as they serve him.



► Bible Point


We can serve God anywhere.

Key Verse

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will serve God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Put Me in Charge! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a fun game about how they would treat others if they were in charge.</p>		
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Joseph Does His Thing <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore how Joseph just did what came naturally to him and how God used that.</p>	<p>Bible, crackers, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline</p> 	
	<p>God Can Use Me <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make pictures of vines and grape clusters.</p>	<p>1 sheet of heavy paper and 3 chenille wires per child, tape, markers, washable stamp pad, wet wipes</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Whatever You Do <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and look at what it means to do our best by participating in a couple of races.	Bible	
	With All My Heart <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures of things they can do for God.	My Bible Fun, markers	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Worked in Joseph’s Life

After Joseph was taken as a slave to Egypt, he became a servant in the house of Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials. Joseph proved himself a faithful servant, and Potiphar eventually put him in charge of his household. Then Joseph was unjustly accused of making advances toward Potiphar’s wife and was thrown in prison.

God had a plan for Joseph and continued to fulfill that plan even when Joseph was in prison for something he hadn’t done. It was with God’s help that Joseph interpreted the dreams that eventually gained his release.

God Blessed Egypt Through Joseph

Pharaoh’s “wise men” were people he paid to advise him, and they often claimed supernatural powers. However, they had no idea how to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams. Only God who gives dreams can truly interpret them, and Joseph was God’s instrument. Not only did Joseph interpret the dreams, but he also advised Pharaoh how to avoid devastation in Egypt.

It must have been quite evident that God was working through Joseph. Remember that Joseph was a foreigner. Furthermore, he was only 30 years old and, as far as we know, had correctly interpreted only two other dreams. Yet the ruler of Egypt chose this young Hebrew to become second in command, placing the welfare of all of Egypt in Joseph’s hands.

Joseph Remained Faithful to God

Joseph’s name change and his marriage to an Egyptian woman signaled Joseph’s acceptance

into the ruling class of Egypt. However, despite his marriage to the daughter of a pagan priest and his allegiance to Pharaoh, Joseph remained true to God, and God blessed his efforts by producing abundance in Egypt. Joseph even honored God in the naming of his two sons (Genesis 41:50-52). God didn’t forget Joseph, and Joseph didn’t forget God!

Think about Joseph’s opportunities to reject God. It would have been easy to give up on God when his brothers sold him into slavery or when God allowed him to be unjustly imprisoned. And when he was elevated to second in command in the kingdom of Egypt, Joseph could have felt he no longer needed God. But because Joseph remained true to God, God was able to use him in mighty ways. And when we remain true to that same God, he can use us to bring blessings to people wherever he leads us.

The Jesus Connection

As we love and serve God, we grow in the strength and character of Christ. God uses growing Christians to make a difference in the lives of people everywhere. Are you aware of the difference you are making in the lives of your kids? Take a quiet moment to pray for your group. God is working in the things you can obviously see, and you can keep surrendering your life to God in the difficult areas just as Joseph did. You can write your prayer on the lines below.





1 GETTING STARTED

Put Me in Charge!

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and put kids in groups of four. Then say: **In your group, share what you want to be when you grow up. Then take charge and tell your group members how to act out the job you want. For example, if you want to be a baseball player, tell your group members to pretend to be playing at various field positions. Or if you want to be a pilot, tell your group members to pretend to fly a plane as your copilot.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be in charge?
- Tell about a time you got to be in charge in your life.
- What talents or skills did you use in that situation?
- How can you use those talents or skills to serve God?

Say: **Today we'll hear how God used an ordinary man in big ways. The man did his best to use his skills and to make right choices. We'll learn how we can use our skills to serve God, too. Just as we were in charge in our groups today, God might put us in charge in big or little ways in our lives. But instead of focusing on being in charge, let's remember that ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Joseph Does His Thing

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Open your Bible to Genesis 39:20–41:49, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll learn how God used Joseph. Joseph was in prison, but the person in charge of the prison liked him, so he put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners.**

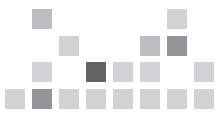
Say: **Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker were put in prison, too, while Joseph was in**

Joseph Does His Thing Supplies

- Bible
- crackers
- antibacterial gel (optional)

Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

ALLERGY ALERT



charge. One night, both the cupbearer and the baker had dreams. Let's pretend to sleep. Close your eyes and picture the dreams the cupbearer and baker had as I describe them. Have the kids find space in your room to lie on the floor and close their eyes.

Say: **The cupbearer dreamed about a vine with three branches. The vine grew grape clusters as he watched. The cupbearer took some grapes off the vine, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and gave the cup to Pharaoh. Pause. Now open your eyes and sit up. Pause. The cupbearer asked Joseph what the dream meant. Tell a friend what you think the dream meant. Allow time.**

Say: **Sometimes dreams seem weird or like they don't mean anything at all. Tell a friend about a weird or silly dream you've had. Allow time.**

Say: **When Joseph heard the dream, he knew what it meant. Joseph told the cupbearer that the three branches represented three days, and that in three days the cupbearer would have his old job back with Pharaoh. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when this happened and to tell Pharaoh about him so he could get out of prison.**

Have kids lie on the floor again and close their eyes. Say: **Imagine the baker's dream: He had three baskets on his head, and the baskets were filled with all kinds of baked goods. Then some birds came down and ate all the bread that was in the baskets.**

Have kids open their eyes and sit up. Give each child a few crackers. Say: **Since birds came and ate all the baker's bread, let's nibble the crackers like birds.**

Say: **Joseph also knew what the baker's dream meant. He told the baker that Pharaoh was not happy with him and that he would not get his old job back.**

Say: **Three days later, it was Pharaoh's birthday, and he had a feast for his officials. At that time, Pharaoh gave the cupbearer his job back, just as Joseph had said would happen. And, just as Joseph had said, the baker didn't get his job back. Tell a friend what you think of how Joseph was right about the dreams. Allow time.**

Say: **The cupbearer forgot to tell Pharaoh about Joseph, so Joseph had to stay in prison for another two years. But then Pharaoh had two dreams. Lie down and close your eyes so you can picture Pharaoh's dreams. Allow time.**

Say: **In the first dream, he saw seven fat and healthy cows standing by a big river called the Nile. And then he saw seven skinny, ugly cows come along and eat the fat cows. Pause.**

Say: **Now clear your mind so you can picture the second dream. Pause. In that dream, Pharaoh saw seven heads of grain, or plants that were growing really well and looked good to eat. Then he saw seven really thin heads of grain that looked really bad come and eat the seven good heads of grain. Have the kids open their eyes and sit up.**





Say: **Tell a friend what you think Pharaoh’s dreams could’ve meant.** Allow time.

Say: **When Pharaoh told his magicians and wise men about the dreams, no one could tell him what they meant. Then the cupbearer remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about Joseph, and Pharaoh sent for Joseph to help.**

God used Joseph to help Pharaoh understand the dreams. He told Pharaoh that both dreams meant the same thing—that there’d be seven good years in the land with plenty of food for everyone. Then there’d be seven really bad years of no food. Joseph told Pharaoh to save up food during the seven good years so there’d be food during the following seven years.

Show the “Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge” section on the Bible Timeline. Say: **Pharaoh saw that God had made Joseph very wise, so he put Joseph in charge of the palace. Only Pharaoh himself was higher in authority than Joseph, so Joseph was in charge of all of Egypt.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to try to understand all the dreams we heard in this activity?

Why do you think it’s so special that Joseph knew exactly what the dreams meant?

Tell about a time you got to use a special talent.

Why is it important to use our talents to serve God?

Say: **Joseph was in prison, but God used him to make a difference. And when Joseph used his talents for God, God brought great things into his life. God wants us to serve him, too, and ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE—even a place that doesn’t seem so great. No matter where we are, God wants us to use the things he’s given us to serve him.**

God Can Use Me

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **After Joseph met the king’s cupbearer in prison, God used Joseph to interpret a special dream for Pharaoh. Let’s make pictures to remind us that like Joseph, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE, and God will use us, too.**

Give each child one piece of heavy paper and three chenille wires. Help kids write “God Can Use Me!” on the bottom of their papers. Then help kids tape the chenille wires to the page to look like branches. Have them draw squiggly lines to look like vines near the branches. Then have children use their thumbs and the stamp pad to make clusters of grapes on their pages. Have kids use wet wipes to clean their thumbs.

God Can Use Me Supplies

1 sheet of heavy paper
and 3 chenille wires
per child
tape
markers
washable stamp pad
wet wipes





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What talents or skills did you have to use to make your special craft?
- What are some other ways you could use those skills to serve God?

Say: Just as Joseph used skills God gave him, you can use your skills to serve God. And ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE**—it doesn't have to be at church or with our families; it can be at school, at the park, or at the store. Take your picture home, and hang it in your house somewhere. When you look at your picture, tell yourself, "God can use me!"



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Whatever You Do

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: No matter who we are or where we are, we can serve God. Our Key Verse today reminds us that when we serve him, he wants us to do it with all our heart.

Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).** Have kids repeat the Key Verse with you several times.

Say: **Let's think about what it means to work at something with all our heart. Find a partner and tell about a time you didn't try your best. Explain what happened.** Allow time.

Whatever You Do Supplies

Bible





Say: **Now tell your partner about a time you did try your best. What happened then?**
Allow time.

Say: **Let's have a race to see the difference between the two.** Have the kids line up at one wall, and explain that they'll all race to the other wall. If your space isn't open enough for a race with all your kids, do races in shifts. You can also have kids race doing something other than running, such as hopping, skipping, or crawling. Once you've specified what kids will do, say: **In this first race, don't do your best—just put in half the effort. Ready?** Check for understanding, and then have all the kids race to the wall opposite where they're standing.

After all the kids have a chance to race using only half their effort, have kids race doing their very best. Encourage all the kids to cheer everyone on for doing their best. Shift the focus to the effort kids put in rather than who wins.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to race when you weren't giving your best? when you were giving your best?

Why do you want to give your best when you serve God?

Why do you think God wants you to give your best, even when you're not using your favorite talents or skills?

Say: **Like Joseph, we can give our best to serve God. Whether we're doing something we love or we're just helping our parents or teachers with things they've asked us to do, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE—and we can do it with all our heart.**

With All My Heart

What You'll Do

Say: **I want you to think of something you can do with all your heart for God. Find a partner, and share with each other what you thought of.** Allow time.

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and markers, and point out the "With All My Heart" section.

Say: **Draw a picture of something you want to do for God.** Encourage kids to think about things they're good at, such as playing a sport, drawing, or singing. Also have them think of things others might need their help with. Praise kids for things they've done to serve God, whether tasks they chose or didn't choose, and help them understand that God uses them when they serve him.

Put kids in pairs, and let partners explain their drawings to each other. Then let children explain their partners' pictures to the rest of the group.

With All My Heart Supplies

My Bible Fun
markers

With All My Heart Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE**, and we can do it with all our heart. Just as Joseph served God when he had a chance, we can look for chances to serve God everywhere.

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE**.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Ask a parent to help you donate some of your clothes to a local shelter, and thank God for using you to make a difference.

Write down three ways you can serve God in your family—perhaps it's by helping with dinner one night a week, taking on some extra chores, or helping in the yard.

Invite a new friend to church with you, and show him or her Jesus' love.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: Today we learned how Joseph served God while in prison, and we learned that ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE**, too. This week, look for ways to serve God as you follow through on our Daily Challenges.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we can serve God anywhere. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he gives us skills and talents so we can serve him. Give each child a chance to tell a way he or she wants to serve God this week. If time allows, let kids also tell a way they can serve God with all their heart. Then pray: **God, you’re the best. We love you so much, and we want to serve you. We know you always have our best in mind, and as we serve you, we want to give our best, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

Acceptance and approval are important to first- and second-graders. As children become more aware of what they do wrong and the consequences of those wrongdoings, it's important that they know they're forgiven and accepted when they confess. Use this lesson to help children understand that it's important that they forgive others, just as they've been forgiven by Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Getting Even <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Talk with partners about forgiveness.		
2 Bible Exploration	Forgiveness: From Judah's View <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Draw pictures in clay as they listen to Genesis 42–45.	Bible, CD player, clay, pencils Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	I Forgive You <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Practice forgiving others.	Bible, My Bible Fun, pencils	Tear out the Lesson 8 from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Forgiveness Flowers <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make bouquets.	Bible, CD player, 3 oz. paper cups, clay, brown construction paper, several pairs of scissors, green chenille wires Teacher Pack: CD, flower leis	Cut off the flowers from the flower leis.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **Bible Point**
God wants us to forgive.

Key Verse
“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will forgive others.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Famine Opens the Door to Reconciliation

Joseph’s interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams was correct, and the seven years of abundance in Egypt were followed by seven years of famine. The famine was widespread, affecting all the other lands in the region. But because of God’s wisdom relayed through Joseph, Egypt had plenty of food. And people from many countries came to Egypt to buy grain.

Jacob’s question in Genesis 42:1 demonstrates the desperation of his family’s situation. Without food from Egypt, Jacob and his family would starve. So 10 sons went to Egypt. However, Benjamin, the youngest, stayed home. With Joseph gone, Benjamin was the only tie Jacob still had to his beloved Rachel, who had died at Benjamin’s birth (Genesis 35:16-18).

Joseph Tests His Brothers

One might think that the brothers would have recognized Joseph when they first saw him. However, it had been more than 20 years since they had seen him, and Joseph was a young man when he was sold into slavery. And even if the brothers had noticed a resemblance, they would quickly have rejected any notion that the slave they had sold to the Midianites could have become a ruler in Egypt.

Why did Joseph put his brothers through all the testing and struggle? Revenge would have been out of character for the Joseph described elsewhere in Scripture. Instead, it was likely to help the brothers come to terms with their guilt for what they had done to him. He may also have wanted to see if they had changed their way of treating others. When Judah offered himself in Benjamin’s place to protect Benjamin and save his father from further grief, Joseph apparently saw that he had accomplished his purpose.

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

When Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, their terror was justified. They remembered all too vividly what they had done to their brother. They knew what Joseph had put them through already. They saw the power Joseph wielded throughout Egypt. In spite of the difficulties Joseph had undergone, he realized that God had sent him to Egypt for a purpose. Joseph knew that his dreams were coming true as his brothers bowed to him, but instead of lording his power over them, he saved their lives from the famine that would have killed them. Not only did Joseph send food, but Pharaoh also sent carts and provisions so that all of Joseph’s family could come to Egypt.

The Jesus Connection

As Christians growing in relationship with Jesus, we enjoy the protection and promises of our forgiving God. Therefore, it’s necessary and natural that we forgive those who hurt or offend us.

As servants in God’s kingdom, it’s important that we forgive those who wrong us. Consider the trials that Joseph endured. Reread his account, and ask God for the same strength and wisdom he gave Joseph. You can write your prayer on the lines below.





1 GETTING STARTED

Getting Even

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and put kids in pairs. Say: **Tell your partner what you think is the absolute worst thing anybody could do to you.** Allow time.

Say: **Now tell what you might want to do or say to the person who did that thing to you.** Allow time.

Say: **Now tell your partner about a time you did something mean to someone else. Tell how the person reacted.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Is it always easy to forgive when someone does something mean to you?

Explain.

Tell about a time someone forgave you.

Why do you think God wants us to forgive others?

Say: **Today we'll read in the Bible about a man named Joseph who forgave his brothers after they sold him into slavery. We can't say exactly how Joseph felt, but it sounds like a pretty hard situation to be in. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE like Joseph did—even when it's really hard.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Forgiveness: From Judah's View

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 42–45, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll learn about a man named Joseph. His brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him into slavery. He ended up in prison, but eventually because God used him to explain a dream, the Pharaoh of Egypt put him in control of everything in the land. Imagine going all the way from being sold by your brothers to being a leader of a country.**

Forgiveness: From Judah's View Supplies

Bible
CD player
clay
pencils

Teacher Pack

CD: "Judah's View,
Part One" (track 15);
"Judah's View, Part
Two" (track 16)





Give each child a lump of clay and a pencil. Say: **As we hear what happened to Joseph next, let's draw pictures in our clay to show the scenes.** Have kids flatten their lumps of clay. Show them how to use their pencils to draw pictures in the clay.

Play "Judah's View, Part One" (track 15 on the CD). Pause the CD for one minute each time the CD indicates, and encourage kids to draw the current scene.

After track 15 is over, pause the CD and say: **Our Bible Point for today says that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. Let's find out what Joseph does. Ready?**

Play "Judah's View, Part Two" (track 16 on the CD). Pause the CD for one minute each time the CD indicates, and encourage kids to draw the current scene.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which scene was hardest for you to show in the clay? Explain.**
- What are some reasons it could've been hard for Joseph to forgive?**
- Tell about a time it was hard for you to forgive someone.**
- Why do you want to forgive?**

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. Not only did Joseph forgive his brothers, but he had all of his family come and live near him so he could take care of them. As you think of someone you can forgive, erase the picture in your clay. Allow time. Forgiveness is like erasing the mean things other people do to us. That's what Joseph did for his brothers, and that's what you can do for people who hurt you.**

Collect the clay to use later in the lesson.



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

I Forgive You

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and pencils, and point out the "I Will Forgive" section.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE, just as Joseph forgave his brothers. You have two areas on your My Bible Fun pages—as I tell you about two different situations, draw a picture that shows how the person could forgive.** Check for understanding. Then read aloud the following scenarios. Allow time for kids to draw after each scenario. Then ask them to explain their drawings to the rest of the group.



I Forgive You Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Fun pencils

I Forgive You Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8 from each My Bible Fun student book.





Scenario 1: You and your brother have always had your own rooms. After your baby sister was born, your mom and dad told you that you had to share your room with your little brother. You're mad at your mom and dad for making you share. How do you forgive them?

Scenario 2: Your best friend made fun of something you made in class, and it really hurt your feelings. How do you forgive him or her?

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Explain in which scenario it seems harder to forgive.
Why do you think some things are harder for you to forgive than others?
How can the example of Joseph in the Bible help you forgive others?**

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE** everyone—for anything they do to hurt us. Joseph gave us a good example of forgiving his family for something that was really hard. But God is the best example because when we believe in Jesus, he forgives us for everything—even the very worst stuff we do. This week, let's do our best to forgive others like God forgives us.

Forgiveness Flowers

Forgiveness Flowers Supplies

Bible
CD player
3 oz. paper cups
clay
brown construction paper
several pairs of scissors
green chenille wires
Teacher Pack
CD: "Forgive"
(Colossians 3:13)
(track 17)
flower leis

Forgiveness Flowers Easy Prep

Cut off the flowers from the flower leis.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's learn our **Key Verse** to help us remember that ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Open your Bible to Colossians 3:13, and show kids the verse. Then read the verse aloud: **"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you"** (Colossians 3:13). A grievance is when we're angry because someone's done something bad to us. So our **Key Verse** tells us to forgive each other no matter what people do to us. And it reminds us to forgive because God forgave us first. Let's repeat our **Key Verse** together: **"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you"** (Colossians 3:13). Have kids repeat the verse after you several times.

Say: God always forgives us when we ask him to. And ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE** others like that. You may think someone has done something really awful, and you may want to get even, but that isn't what God wants you to do. God wants you to forgive the person, just as Joseph forgave his brothers and just as God forgives you.

Let's make something to remind us to forgive others even when it's hard. We'll make bouquets of Forgiveness Flowers.

Distribute the flowers from the leis evenly among the children. Set out brown construction





paper, green chenille wires, 3 oz. paper cups, and lumps of clay. Say: **It takes work to grow a seed into a beautiful flower. And to forgive someone, we have to put some thought into it, and we have to work to grow that relationship again. But when we really forgive someone, it can turn into a beautiful thing—like a beautiful flower.**



Show kids how to cut the chenille wires to varying lengths and thread a wire stem through the center of a flower, folding the stem over at the top. Then let each child press the flower stems into a lump of clay inside his or her cup. Finally, give each child half a sheet of brown construction paper. Let kids tear and crumple the brown paper and then press the paper wads into the cups as “dirt.”

As kids work, play “Forgive” (Colossians 3:13) (track 17 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it mean to you to forgive?**
- Tell about some ways you might forgive this week.**

Say: **From Joseph’s example today, we learned that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. Take your bouquet of Forgiveness Flowers home with you. Each time you forgive someone, draw a smiley face on a petal of one of the flowers. Pretty soon you’ll have a whole bouquet of Forgiveness Flowers!**





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Pray and ask God to help you forgive someone who's hurt your feelings, and then tell that person you forgive him or her.

Each time you forgive someone, draw a smiley face on a petal of your Forgiveness Flowers, and remember how Joseph forgave his brothers, too.

Write a note to God thanking him for the gift of forgiveness, and then draw a picture underneath your note that shows how it makes you feel when you're forgiven.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

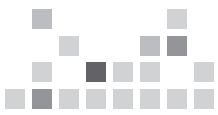
Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers for something really big—his brothers sold him into slavery. This week, remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God wants us to forgive. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Have kids get in pairs and share some ways they've been forgiven. Then lead kids in praying. Pray: **Dear God, please help us remember how Joseph forgave his brothers, even when he had the chance to get even. Help us forgive people who are mean to us even when it's hard. Thank you for always forgiving us when we ask. In Jesus' name, amen.**



God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10


First- and second-graders are struggling for independence but still have a lot of fears. First-graders may forge ahead and end up in some trouble, but second-graders are a little more cautious. Be aware that the fears of a second-grader can be self-protecting. Use this lesson to help show both first- and second-graders that God will protect them by using people in their own lives, such as parents, older siblings, teachers, and church friends.



► **Bible Point**
God protects us.

Key Verse
“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will trust God to protect them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Baby Brigade <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a version of Keep Away with a baby doll.	CD player, doll Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	More and More and More Israelites! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn who God used to protect the Israelites and Moses.	Bible, 1 bottle of bubbles and 1 bubble wand per child Teacher Pack: “The Princess Finds Moses” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	
	Safe and Sound <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Interactively listen to what happened with baby Moses.	My Bible Fun, crayons	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Basket of Worries <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create baskets and put worries in them.</p>	<p>Bible, My Bible Fun, crayons, several pairs of scissors, tape Teacher Pack: 1 copy per child of the “Basket of Worries” pattern</p>	
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>baskets from the “Basket of Worries” activity</p>	

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Pharaoh Feels Threatened by the Hebrews

In the 400 years that had passed since Joseph helped rule Egypt, the Israelites had grown so numerous that the ruler of the mighty kingdom of Egypt felt threatened by them.

The fact that the “new king” didn’t know about Joseph probably wasn’t a result of ignorance. The Hebrew wording indicates that the king didn’t want to acknowledge Joseph’s contributions to Egyptian history. “Forgetting” about Joseph may have been convenient because this new king wanted to suppress the Israelites for fear they would conspire with his enemies against him.

From examples in history, the king’s oppression of the Israelites should have had two effects. First, it should have slowed their growth, since a population almost always grows more slowly under oppression. And second, it should have broken the Israelites’ spirits and eliminated the desire to rebel. However, Pharaoh’s plan didn’t work. The Hebrew people continued to multiply as God continued to fulfill his plan among them.

The Midwives Remain Faithful and Are Blessed

The midwives who received Pharaoh’s instructions to kill Hebrew male babies (Exodus 1:15-16) were likely supervisors of many Hebrew midwives. It’s interesting to note that after 400 years of living in Egypt, Hebrew midwives still “feared God.”

These midwives disobeyed an earthly authority to follow God’s will for his people. God was kind to the midwives because they followed him and did what was right for God’s people.

God Protects Baby Moses

We tend to picture Moses’ mother just setting him afloat on the Nile, praying and hoping that someone would find him and save him. However, the Bible makes it clear that Moses’ mother intentionally chose the exact place and time in which to surrender Moses. Pharaoh had decreed that any Egyptian who found a Hebrew male baby must throw the baby into the Nile. Only someone of influence with Pharaoh could save a Hebrew baby from death, and Moses’ mother apparently knew where and when someone like that bathed. So Moses’ discovery by Pharaoh’s daughter was no accident; it was part of his mother’s plan as well as God’s!

God protected Moses from certain death. And God prepared Moses with both a God-honoring upbringing and a royal education in Pharaoh’s court.

The Jesus Connection

God doesn’t promise to protect us from all harm that comes our way. But he does say that no matter what happens in this life, God ultimately protects us.

When Moses’ life was threatened, God protected him in a most creative way. Can you recall the supernatural protection of God in your life or the life of someone you know? Thank God today for his love and protection over you. You can write your prayer in the spaces below.





Baby Brigade Supplies

CD player
doll

Teacher Pack

CD: "Game Music"
(track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Baby Brigade

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and say: **Let's play a game. Who wants to be the "Catcher"?** Invite one child to take that role, and have the rest of the kids stand in a circle.

Show kids the doll. Say: **To play, you'll pass the baby behind your back and try to keep our Catcher from seeing who has the baby.** Help kids understand that they'll want to keep their hands behind their backs and pretend they're holding something during the game.

Say: **When you have the baby, try to pass it to the next person before the Catcher catches you with it. If the Catcher catches you with the baby, you'll become the Catcher.** Check for understanding, and then have the Catcher close his or her eyes. Give the baby to a child in the circle.

Play "Game Music" (track 18 on the CD) while the kids play the game.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:


**What was it like trying to keep the baby from the Catcher?
How is that like God protecting you from dangerous things?
Tell about someone in your life who protects you.
How do you know God protects you?**

Say: **Our Bible Point for today tells us that ► GOD PROTECTS US. Today we'll hear how God protected a baby named Moses. We'll talk about the things God did and the people he used to make sure baby Moses was safe. And we'll learn that God protects us, too, in many different ways.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

More and More and More Israelites!

 **Tip** This is a complicated subject, especially for children with people in their lives who may abuse them. Ultimately God does protect us, but that doesn't mean nothing bad will ever happen in our lives. In a group of this age that meets once a week, you won't be able to hash out all the details of what this means for kids. If you suspect child abuse, aside from reporting it, do what you can to support and protect the child within your reach, and trust God to protect the child through other means as well.

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 1:1–2:10, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll see how God used different people to protect the Israelites and baby Moses.**

Distribute the bottles of bubbles and bubble wands to the kids. Say: **Listen to what happened in the Bible, and when you hear me mention that there were *more and more and more Israelites*, blow as many bubbles as you can.** Help kids understand that they'll blow bubbles when you mention the phrase but they must stop as soon as you tell them to stop. Explain that they'll have several opportunities to blow bubbles.

Say: **There was a new king in Egypt. He was very upset about how many Israelites there were in his land. It just seemed like there were *more and more and more Israelites* (have kids blow bubbles) **all the time.****

The king decided that he needed to do something about the Israelites before there were even *more and more and more Israelites*. Have kids blow bubbles. **The king decided to make the Israelites slaves and made them work very, very hard. But no matter how hard the king made them work, there were *more and more and more Israelites!*** Have kids blow bubbles.

Then the king asked two women who were midwives—people who help babies be born—to do something really terrible. The king told them to not let any Israelite boy babies live. Have the kids attempt to “protect” the bubbles by holding them in their hands.

But the midwives did something really good. They didn't do what the king said because they knew it would make God unhappy. They let the boy babies live. Then there were *more and more and more Israelites*. Have kids blow bubbles.

Collect the bottles of bubbles, and put them out of reach.



More and More and More Israelites! Supplies

Bible
1 bottle of bubbles and
1 bubble wand per
child

Teacher Pack
“The Princess Finds Moses” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Safe and Sound Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons

Safe and Sound Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson
9 pages from each
My Bible Fun student
book.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What did you think as we blew all the bubbles?

What were you thinking as you tried to protect the bubbles?

Explain what you think about the midwives protecting the babies.

Explain what you think and how you feel about God protecting you.

Say: **Just as there were so many bubbles in our room while we heard about the Israelites, the number of Israelites in Egypt was growing quickly. That scared the king of Egypt, so he tried to get rid of them. Even though the Israelites may have wanted to hide or protect themselves, they didn't need to be scared, because God protected them through the midwives. We know ► GOD PROTECTS US. We don't need to be scared, because God is strong and he'll always take care of us.**

Safe and Sound

What You'll Do ■■■■

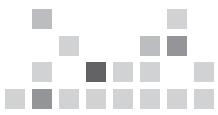
Say: **Today we're hearing how ► GOD PROTECTS US. In Exodus, the Bible tells us how God protected a baby named Moses. When you think of babies, what do you think of? Allow time, and when you hear a child mention crying, continue. That's right—babies cry! Let's help protect baby Moses from the king of Egypt as we listen to what happened. Every time you hear me say "Moses," say "shhhh" to keep baby Moses from crying and being heard by the king. Ready? Here we go.**

When Moses (pause) was born, his mother had to hide him to keep him safe from the new king. But after three months, she couldn't hide Moses (pause) safely anymore, so she had to do something else. She prepared a little basket for Moses (pause) and made sure he was safe, warm, and comfortable. Then she placed the basket, with Moses (pause) inside, in the reeds in the Nile River. Moses' (pause) sister, Miriam, hid nearby to see what would happen to her brother.

The king's daughter was at the river that day, and she was walking beside the reeds, right where baby Moses (pause) was! Miriam wondered if the king's daughter would find Moses. (Pause.) The king's daughter *did* find the basket with baby Moses (pause) in it. She knew he was an Israelite baby, but she felt sorry for Moses (pause) and wanted to keep him. And you know what's really neat? Moses' (pause) own mother got to take care of him!

You see, when the king's daughter said she needed someone to take care of Moses (pause), Miriam jumped from behind the reeds and said her mother would be able to take care of Moses. (Pause.) So his very own mother got to take care of Moses (pause), and the king's daughter paid her to do it! Wasn't that great? And the king's daughter named the baby Moses (pause), which means "I drew him out of the water." God really protected baby Moses. (Pause.) Let's think about how ► GOD PROTECTS US, too.





Distribute this week’s My Bible Fun pages and crayons, and point out the “God Protects Moses, God Protects Me!” section.

Say: **Think of a way God protects you or your family. Then draw a picture of that way.**

Give kids time to draw. Then have kids share what they drew with the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to try to protect Moses in this activity?**
- Tell about a time you tried to protect someone else.**
- What did you like about how God protected Moses?**
- How does what happened to Moses help you trust God to protect you and people you love?**

Say: **God protected Moses in a unique and special way—and not only did it work out well for Moses, but his mother and family even got to be with him as he grew up. ► GOD PROTECTS US, too. He has a plan for each of us, and he’ll protect each of us in unique ways.**

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Basket of Worries

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Moses’ mother was very worried about her baby boy and wanted to protect him, so she placed him in a basket and trusted God to take care of him. Today we’re going to make baskets and then put things we’re worried about inside the baskets.**

Give each child a copy of the “Basket of Worries” pattern.

Follow these directions to lead kids in making baskets:

1. Cut the strip with the Key Verse from the sheet, and then cut the patterned square from the rest of the page.
2. With the basket pattern facing away from you, fold two opposite corners of the square to meet in the middle, crease the folds, and then unfold.
3. Fold the other two opposite corners of the square to meet in the middle, crease the folds, and then unfold. Steps 2 and 3 will provide a center point in the square for the steps that follow.
4. Fold in the four corners of the square again so the four points meet. Don’t unfold this time.



**Basket of Worries
Supplies**

- Bible
- My Bible Fun crayons
- several pairs of scissors
- tape

Teacher Pack

- 1 copy per child of the “Basket of Worries” pattern





5. Fold the four new corners of the square toward the middle so those four points meet.
6. Then fold two opposite corners out.
7. Lift up one of the other folded triangles and the two flaps under it, and tape the flaps to the triangle in an upright position. Repeat the process with the other side of the basket.
8. Fold the corners of the basket so you have a square container.
9. Tape the strip with the Key Verse written on it to the untaped sides of the basket to form a handle.

Point out that the Key Verse is written on the handle of the basket. Then open your Bible to Psalm 46:1, and show kids the verse. Read the verse aloud: **“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1)**. Have kids repeat the Key Verse aloud a few times.

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that God is always there to help us. Think of something you’re worried about and want God’s protection for. It could be something about starting school or something your mom or dad wants you to do, such as learning how to swim.** Allow time.

Have kids look at the “No More Worry” section of their My Bible Fun pages. Say: **Our Key Verse reminds us that God is really strong, and he’s always with us—so we don’t need to worry. We can trust him to protect us.** Have each child draw on the baby’s blanket a picture of the situation they’re worried about. Give kids a few minutes to draw. Then show them how to cut off the bottom section of the page along the cut line and then cut out the rectangle around the baby.

Have kids form pairs, and say: **Explain to your partner what you just drew. Then place your picture inside your basket to show that you’re giving God your worries. You can keep your basket as a reminder that even though some things in life can be scary, we can give our worries to God because ► GOD PROTECTS US.** Allow time.

Say: **Pray with your partner, thanking God for being your refuge and strength, your ever-present help in trouble.**



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What were you thinking as you gave your worries to God by putting them in the basket?

Tell about how God has been your ever-present help in trouble.

What can you do to show God you trust him to protect you?

Say: **When Moses' mother put him in the basket, she had to trust God to protect him. Like that, we can do our best to let go of our worries and trust God to protect us. Even though we can't expect to never have any bad things happen in our lives, we can know that ► GOD PROTECTS US. He'll take care of us as we trust and wait for him to do great things like he did with Moses.**

4

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD PROTECTS US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Ask your mom or dad to take you on a walk to a place you've never been before. Pray together before you go, asking God to protect you on your walk.

The next time you hear a dog barking to protect its owners, thank God for being your protector.

Say a prayer for each of your family members, and then remind them that they can trust God to take care of them all day, every day.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
baskets from the "Basket of Worries" activity

Say: **God protected Moses and the Israelites. This week, show you trust that GOD PROTECTS US** by following through on our Daily Challenges. ►

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God protects us. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for his protection. Have kids hold their baskets as you pray for their worries. Pray: **God, you're strong and always with us. We know that you'll always protect us. Help us trust you. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–3:20


In the first and second grades, most children are probably just beginning to think about their spiritual connection to God. Therefore, they're not going to understand how God can use them personally. Use this lesson to help children realize that God is always with them and will help children be useful to him.



► **Bible Point**
God can use us.

Key Verse
"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will let God use them to help their families and friends.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Homemade Burning Bush <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Gather branches and twigs, and then build a bush.	newspaper, red and orange markers, tape, branches and twigs	
	Moses Encounters God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Take a journey to the burning bush, and practice introducing themselves.	Bible, CD player, burning bush from the "Homemade Burning Bush" activity Teacher Pack: CD, "Moses Sees the Burning Bush" (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	
2 Bible Exploration	God Calls Moses <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Hear God call Moses, and play Charades.	Bible, CD player, pencils, paper, bowl, whiteboard, dry-erase marker Teacher Pack: CD	
	An Edible Burning Bush <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create snacks that resemble burning bushes.	graham crackers, marshmallows, red and green food coloring, coconut, chocolate pudding cups, paper plates, spoons, bowls, antibacterial gel (optional)	Use the food coloring to make about 1 tablespoon of red coconut and 1 tablespoon of green coconut per child, and put each in a separate bowl.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God Can Use Me <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find ways God can use them.	My Bible Fun, pencils	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Limbo <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game that requires help from a friend, and learn the Key Verse.	CD player, one 24-inch piece of rope for every 2 children, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Homemade Burning Bush Supplies

newspaper
red and orange markers
tape
branches and twigs

Moses Encounters God Supplies

Bible
CD player
burning bush from the
“Homemade Burning Bush” activity

Teacher Pack

CD: “Voice of God”
(track 20)
“Moses Sees the Burning Bush” (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

1 GETTING STARTED

Homemade Burning Bush

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and then lead your group outside the church. Have each child gather a few twigs and branches from the ground. Make sure some branches still have leaves on them. Then return to your meeting area with the twigs and branches.

Say: **Today we'll hear how God appeared to a man named Moses in a bush that was on fire! Let's start our lesson by building a burning bush.**

Distribute some newspaper pages to each child. Have kids use red and orange markers to add splashes of color to the paper and then loosely crumple each sheet of paper into a round shape. Tape the paper bunches together into a bush shape, and place it in the corner of the room. Help the children place the branches they gathered around the paper bush.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **As we learn today that ► GOD CAN USE US, we'll see how God caught Moses' attention by appearing in a burning bush—and how God encouraged Moses to do what God asked him to do. Like Moses, we can be confident that God will help us do whatever he asks.**

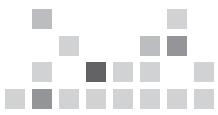
2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Moses Encounters God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 2:11–3:20, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll hear how God used an ordinary man. This man, named Moses, was born in a time when the leader of the area was having all the Israelite baby boys killed, but God protected Moses because he had a special purpose for him. Moses wasn't a perfect man, but God still loved him and could use him. God has a special purpose for you, and he can use you, too. Tell a neighbor what you think about God using *you!* Allow time.**





Say: **Maybe, like Moses, you don't think God could use someone like you, but he can and he will. Let's see what happened with Moses.** Read aloud Exodus 3:1 from your Bible.

Say: **Since Moses was a shepherd leading his flock, let's pretend to be sheep and shepherds.** Have kids form two groups: the Sheep and the Shepherds. Have the Sheep get down on all fours and "baa," and have the Shepherds lead the Sheep once around the room. Then read aloud Exodus 3:2-3.

Show the "Moses Sees the Burning Bush" poster. Then lead the kids to the burning bush you made in the "Homemade Burning Bush" activity. While the kids are looking at the bush, play "Voice of God" (track 20 on the CD). Direct the children to take off their shoes and sit in a circle by the bush.

Say: **God got Moses' attention because he wanted to use Moses. And God wants to use us, too. One way he can use us is when we're friendly and welcoming to new kids in our group or at school. God uses people to show love to newcomers or people who feel left out.** Invite a child to help you with a demonstration, and have that child stand next to you.

Say: **Let's pretend that [child's name] is brand new to our group. This is how I would introduce her to you. Good morning, everyone. We have a new friend with us today. Her name is [child's name], and she's from [name a distant city]. Her family just moved to our neighborhood. Can we all make [child's name] feel welcome?** Have the kids say "Hi, [child's name]" all together.

Say: **Now it's your turn. Let's all practice introducing ourselves to each other and making others feel welcome.**

Have kids form pairs. Tell them to pretend they don't know each other and to take turns introducing themselves.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was surprising or unusual about how God got Moses' attention?

Tell about a time God got your attention.

Think about what we did in our activity. What are some reasons God might get your attention?

Tell as many ways as you can that God can use you.

Say: **Moses was afraid when he heard God talking to him from the burning bush—which isn't a surprise considering the situation. Whether we're a little afraid to do what God asks us to do or we're afraid in a situation, like being new to a church or school, we can know that God is always with us and he'll help us. ► GOD CAN USE US anytime, anywhere, and in any situation.**





God Calls Moses Supplies

Bible
CD player
pencils
paper
bowl
whiteboard
dry-erase marker

Teacher Pack

CD: "God Calls Moses, Part One" (track 21);
"God Calls Moses, Part Two" (track 22)

God Calls Moses

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's hear what God called Moses to do.** Play "God Calls Moses, Part One" (track 21 on the CD). Then read aloud Exodus 3:11.

Say: **Tell a neighbor what you think of Moses' response to God.** Allow time, and then let kids share their thoughts.

Say: **Think about something that would make you really nervous, like teaching Sunday school or praying in front of your entire school at an assembly.** Allow time.

Distribute pencils and paper. Tell kids to write or draw their biggest fears on their papers. Put all of the responses in a bowl.

Say: **Let's play a game called Charades. We'll act out the fears you wrote without using any words.** Check for understanding.

Let children come forward one at a time and each pull a piece of paper from the bowl. Encourage them to use silent actions to portray what's on the paper. For example, if "praying in front of the school" is the fear, a child's movements might be hands folded and head bowed for the word *praying*. For the word *church*, he or she might draw the outline of a steeple in the air. As kids say the right words, write them on a whiteboard. Continue having kids guess the fears as time allows.

Say: **We all have some pretty big fears. God was asking Moses to do something pretty scary—but it was also really important. Let's listen to what God said to Moses about his fears.**

Play "God Calls Moses, Part Two" (track 22 on the CD).

Say: **Moses said, "You know, God, you can't use me, because I'm nobody." And God said, "Yes, I can because I will be with you!"**

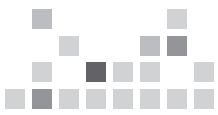
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like for you to hear everyone's fears, including Moses'?
Tell about a time you had a fear but you still took a chance.
What helps you do what God asks, even when it's not comfortable?

Say: **What God asked of Moses wasn't comfortable for him, but God told Moses he could do what God asked because God would be with him. Just as God was with Moses, he's with you, too! He's always with you! And like God used Moses to talk to Pharaoh, ► GOD CAN USE US.**



An Edible Burning Bush

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Say: **Let's make burning bushes so you can tell someone in your family what happened with Moses while you share a special treat.**

Set out the bowls of coconut. Give each child a graham cracker, a chocolate pudding cup, two marshmallows, a paper plate, and a spoon. Have each child break a graham cracker in half to make one snack for himself or herself and one for a family member.

Say: **First let's make some dirt on the ground.** Have kids spread some pudding on both halves of the graham crackers. Ensure they don't use all of their pudding.

Say: **Now let's make our bushes.** Have kids dip their marshmallows in the pudding to cover them in brown and then place one marshmallow on each graham cracker. Then have kids sprinkle some green coconut over the brown marshmallows.

Say: **God got Moses' attention by appearing in a burning bush. Let's make our bushes look like they're on fire.** Have kids sprinkle red coconut over the bushes.

Lead kids in praying for the snack. Then say: **Let's enjoy one treat now, and we'll each take one home so we can tell a family member what we learned about how God used Moses.** Encourage kids to give their extra treats to their parents and explain that God can use each member of their family.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some special things about you and your family?**
- Tell about a time God used you or a family member.**
- How will you help your family understand that ► GOD CAN USE US?**

Say: **God used Moses, and he can use you, too! Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD CAN USE US, even when we don't expect it or if we think we don't have the talents or abilities. God can use anyone, and he wants us to listen to him so he can use us and our families.**



An Edible Burning Bush Supplies

- graham crackers
- marshmallows
- red and green food coloring
- coconut
- chocolate pudding cups
- paper plates
- spoons
- bowls
- antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

An Edible Burning Bush Easy Prep

Use the food coloring to make about 1 tablespoon of red coconut and 1 tablespoon of green coconut per child, and put each in a separate bowl.





God Can Use Me Supplies

My Bible Fun
pencils

God Can Use Me Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 10
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

Limbo Supplies

CD player
one 24-inch piece
of rope for every 2
children
1 copy per child of the
lyrics page (at the end
of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Strength I
Need" (Philippians
4:13) (track 19)

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God Can Use Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and pencils, and point out the "God Can Use Me" section.

Say: **Each of these pictures shows a person who needs some help. For example, look at the picture of the mom standing in a messy room. In that situation, how could God use you to help?** Let several children share.

Say: **In the empty box that connects with the picture, draw a way God can use you to help the person.** Encourage kids to do this for each of the pictures, and then let kids tell ways they came up with.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Tell about a time you needed help.

Explain what difference it's made to you when someone's helped you.

Why do you think helping others is a way God can use us?

Say: **God uses us to do lots of different things. He used Moses by sending him to talk to Pharaoh. And he uses you and me by asking us to help our parents and to be kind to others. He gives us strength when we let him use us to do good things. Let's watch for ways ► GOD CAN USE US this week and take the chance to help others when we can.**

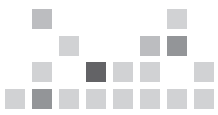
Limbo

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show it to kids. Say: **Moses didn't think he could do what God asked, but God helped him know that God could use him to do anything. Our Key Verse gives us courage to do what God asks when he wants to use us. It says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).** Have kids repeat the Key Verse with you several times.

Say: **We can always remember that God is strong, and when he gives us strength, we can do anything. Let's sing a song to help us remember that we can do everything with Jesus' strength.**





Give each child a copy of the lyrics page, and then play “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13) (track 19 on the CD).

 **I can do everything,
Everything through him
Who gives me strength.
Oh-oh, oh-oh,
The strength I need,
The strength I need.**
(Repeat.)

**So we sing
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me the strength I need, you see.
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me all the strength I need.**

**Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me the strength I need, you see.
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me, he gives me the strength I need.
You give me the strength I need.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

You give me the strength I need.

“The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13) by Ben Glover. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Let’s take it one step further to see our Key Verse in action. Let’s play Limbo.**

Have kids form pairs. Hand each pair a piece of rope. Tell them to have one person hold one end of the rope while the other person goes under the rope. Play “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13) while they play.

Because one person can’t hold a rope straight horizontally, kids will begin complaining that it won’t work.

After a few minutes, say: **Let’s try it a different way.**

Have kids get into groups of four. Two of the people can hold the rope ends while the other two go under the rope. Have them say the Key Verse as a group as each person goes under the rope. Let them take turns holding the rope and going under it. Encourage kids to lower the rope closer to the floor each time.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Why was the game easier the second time?

Think back to what God told Moses when Moses said he couldn't do what God asked. How was our Limbo game like or unlike that?

How did God use us to help our friends?

Say: **When we try to do things on our own, sometimes we feel like it's impossible, but our Key Verse says that we can do all things with God's help! Because God is always with us, ► GOD CAN USE US to do anything, anywhere!**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD CAN USE US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Each morning, ask God to use you that day in a special way.

When your mom or dad needs help around the house, offer to help without them having to ask you.

Share your burning bush snack with a parent and tell how God can use you and your family.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **God used Moses even when Moses didn't think he was good enough to do what God asked. Remember this week that ► GOD CAN USE US as you follow through on our Daily Challenges.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God can use us. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he’s always with us and asking him to remind us that we have strength to do anything through him. Ask kids to share some of their fears, and then invite the other children to pray for them. Then close the prayer. Pray: **God, we want you to use us. Help us listen to you and trust that you’ll give us the strength we need to do what you say. In Jesus’ name, amen.**





Lyrics

The Strength I Need (Philippians 4:13)

I can do everything,
 Everything through him
 Who gives me strength.
 Oh-oh, oh-oh,
 The strength I need,
 The strength I need.
(Repeat.)

So we sing
 Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
 Jesus gives me the strength I need, you see.
 Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
 Jesus gives me all the strength I need.

Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
 Jesus gives me the strength I need, you see.
 Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
 Jesus gives me, he gives me the strength I need.
 You give me the strength I need.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

You give me the strength I need.

"The Strength I Need" (Philippians 4:13) by Ben Glover. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**OK
 TO COPY**





The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment

Exodus 5:1–6:1

First- and second-graders understand the concept of hope—at least in a limited sense. They hope they get nice presents for Christmas or they hope their friends will invite them to birthday parties. Use this lesson to help kids understand that they can put their hope in God and he will sustain and renew them—all because of his great love for them!



► Bible Point


God wants us to hope in him.

Key Verse

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will put their hope in God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What Is Hope? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss the meaning of <i>hope</i> , and learn the Key Verse in song form.	Bible, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Moses Talks With Pharaoh <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Hear what happened when Moses asked Pharaoh to set the Israelites free, and play a game to understand what slaves are.	Bible Teacher Pack: “The Israelites Work Hard” (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	
	Making Bricks <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make bricks.	Bibles, 2 paper lunch sacks per child, markers, stapler, newspaper, watch	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>My Journal Page <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write or draw pictures about times in life that seem unfair.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, crayons</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment

Exodus 5:1–6:1

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Setting the Stage

Before going to Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron had met with the elders of Israel. Upon seeing the miracles Moses performed and hearing that God was concerned about them, they bowed down and worshipped (Exodus 4:29-31).

Conflict Begins Between Pharaoh and Moses

In view of common practices of the day, Moses' request for his people to go to the desert to worship God was quite reasonable. However, Pharaoh's response to Moses is understandable. Pharaoh had gods of his own. He knew nothing of Israel's God and looked upon the Lord as a third-rate god since his people were enslaved.

The "straw" that the Israelites were forced to gather for making bricks was likely the stubble that remained after grain was reaped. The Israelites used this stubble in the bricks to make them stronger, much as steel mesh or fibers are used to strengthen concrete slabs today.

Moses Shows Frustration to God

It's easy to criticize the Hebrew foremen for their lack of faith when they lashed out at Moses and Aaron, but they were really caught in the middle. They tried to get their own people to meet the quotas of bricks, and when the quotas were missed, the foremen were beaten. They had never seen the Lord's power, so they had no way to know if he could rescue them.

Moses, however, had seen God's power at the burning bush. God had performed miracles before his eyes. His plea to God was sincere: Why have you let this happen? His complaint was not an accusation, but a simple statement of fact. The people had not been freed!

God Encourages Moses

The Lord's response reminded Moses of the purpose of the rescue. The rescue was intended to show Egypt and the world who God is and to demonstrate his power. Yes, God was certainly concerned with the Israelites' cries. But God answered in a way that would show the world that he truly is God. Essentially he told Moses, "Relax and watch. Just wait until you see what I'm going to do!"

Sometimes God's working isn't easy to see, and we easily become discouraged. But we have this account and many others to remind us of God's power and the love he demonstrates for his people. Why shouldn't we hope in God?

The Jesus Connection

God doesn't promise his followers a trouble-free life, but in a growing relationship with Jesus, we have hope—even in difficult circumstances.

The Hebrews lost hope, and we can certainly understand why! Yet God never stopped planning for their future. What are you hoping for today? Remember that God is working out your future—even when it seems impossible. Thank Jesus for his constant involvement in the events of your life. You can write your prayer in the spaces below.





What Is Hope? Supplies

Bible
CD player
1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 24)

1 GETTING STARTED

What Is Hope?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and have kids get in pairs. Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. Tell your partner what things you're hopeful about. Talk about what you think hope means.** Allow time. Then let several kids share, and help them understand that *hope* is the desire and belief that something is true or something will happen.

Say: **Think about a time in your life something was going wrong. Maybe you were really sick or you were fighting with your brothers and sisters or you got in trouble with your mom and dad. Discuss with your partner what helped you feel better.** Allow time. Then let several kids share.

Say: **Sometimes when it seems that everything is going wrong, we start to lose hope. But God wants us to know that we can always have hope because he'll always, always, always take care of us. Let's learn our Key Verse to help us remember that.** Open your Bible to Isaiah 40:31, and show it to kids. Then say: **Our Key Verse says, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that when we put our hope in God, he'll help us be strong—we'll be able to continue through anything that comes our way. Let's sing a song about that.**

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 24 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and doing the hand motions.



Who can soar on wings like eagles? (*spread arms and rotate from the waist as if flying*)

Who can run and not grow weary? (*run in place*)

Who can walk and not be faint? (*walk in place while shaking head "no" and fanning face with hand*)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord (*stand straight*)

Will renew their strength. (*make muscles*)



Those who hope in the Lord *(stand straight)*
Will renew their strength. *(make muscles)*

They'll soar on wings like eagles. *(spread arms and rotate from the waist as if flying)*
They will run and not grow weary. *(run in place)*
They will walk and not be faint. *(walk in place while shaking head "no" and fanning face with hand)*

(Repeat chorus)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles. *(spread arms and rotate from the waist as if flying)*
I wanna run and not grow weary. *(run in place)*
I wanna walk and not be faint. *(walk in place while shaking head "no" and fanning face with hand)*

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Isn't it wonderful that when we hope in God, he helps us? He stays with us and makes us strong. He carries us through the hard times. Our Bible Point for today tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What were you thinking when you heard that God can give you hope?
Tell about a time trusting God gave you hope.**

Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn about a time of trouble for the Israelite people. They were making bricks for Pharaoh, but one day he got angry. He made life really hard for them. The Israelites complained, but God wanted them to put their hope in him. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. Let's learn what happened to the Israelites.**





Moses Talks With Pharaoh Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack

“The Israelites Work Hard” (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Moses Talks With Pharaoh

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 5:1–6:1, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. Exodus 5 and 6 tell how the Pharaoh of Egypt was treating God's people really badly, and some of them were really discouraged. They felt stuck, but God wanted them to know they could have hope because he would always take care of them.**

Put kids in pairs. Allow time for kids to share in their pairs about times they've felt stuck. Then say: **Moses and Aaron were leaders of God's people at the time, so God sent them to talk to Pharaoh. Let's hear what happened.**

Read aloud Exodus 5:1-5. Then say: **God's people, the Israelites, were working very hard, and Pharaoh wouldn't let them go. Let's get a little idea of what it's like to work very hard and run out of energy.** Have kids do some physical activities such as push-ups, sit-ups, or jumping jacks. Have them continue until they really start to feel a loss of energy. Then have them sit.

Show “The Israelites Work Hard” poster. Say: **Let's hear what Pharaoh did next.** Read aloud Exodus 5:6-9. Then say: **Pharaoh made the Israelites work even harder. He said they were lazy. Because they were slaves, they didn't think they could do anything about it.** Have kids talk in their pairs about what they know about slaves.

Say: **Let's play a game to help us understand what being enslaved is. We'll take turns being Israelites and Pharaoh. The Pharaoh gets to tell the Israelites what to do, and the Israelites must obey the Pharaoh.**

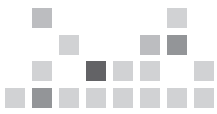
Have kids remain in pairs, and explain that the person wearing the most blue in each pair will be the Pharaoh. You might suggest to the Pharaoh some orders, such as “Polish my shoes” or “Get me some food.” After about three minutes, let partners switch roles. After another three minutes, ask kids to have a seat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about your experience in both our activities.
Why do you think what happened to the Israelites seemed wrong?
Tell about something wrong that happened to you or someone you know.
What helped you get through what happened?**



Say: **The Israelites were working hard, but because they were enslaved, they had to obey Pharaoh when he demanded that they work even harder. The problem is that what Pharaoh had asked the Israelites to do was impossible. Our activities felt really hard for us and maybe even seemed impossible. In our lives, sometimes things happen that feel the same. But when we find ourselves in situations like that, ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM—and we know he’ll take care of us.**

Making Bricks

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Since the Israelite slaves had to make bricks, and since we were pretending to be the Israelites, let’s make some bricks.**

Distribute the supplies, and demonstrate how to make a brick: Open a lunch sack, and place it on its side with the opening facing you. Quickly stuff a piece of newspaper into the sack. Tell kids they must fill the entire sack as quickly as possible. When the sack is full, staple it closed. Say: **We’ll call the brick finished when you place your Bible on it and the brick holds the Bible up.** Show kids what you mean by placing your Bible on the brick you just made.

Say: **I’ll time how long it takes for us to make bricks, so work quickly!** Time the kids as they work. Note the time it takes for the fastest child to finish a brick.

When the kids finish making their first bricks, collect the newspaper. Leave some pieces on the floor scattered about, but remove the bulk of the paper. Have kids write their names on their bricks.

Say: **This time we’re going to make bricks without the newspaper, just as the Israelites had to make bricks without straw. You’ll have to look elsewhere for something to stuff in your sack. And you’ll have a time limit. It took us [the time you recorded] to make the first bricks. That’s how long you’ll have to make the next bricks.**

Time kids as they attempt to make the second bricks. Tell kids to stop when time is up. Ask kids to place their Bibles on the second bricks, and see if any bricks are complete.

Say: **When the Israelites couldn’t make all the bricks their bosses told them to make, they told Pharaoh the job was impossible, but again he called them lazy. The people were very upset, but God told them that he’d take care of them.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like making the second bricks?**
- How do you think that was like or unlike the Israelites’ situation?**
- Why is it important to hope in God in hard times?**



Making Bricks Supplies

- Bibles
- 2 paper lunch sacks per child
- markers
- stapler
- newspaper
- watch





My Journal Page Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons

My Journal Page Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 11
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

Say: **Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. Sometimes really hard things happen, but God has a really great plan. He knew everything that would happen with the Israelites—and he knew he’d free them from slavery under Pharaoh. He’ll take care of us, too. We can put our hope in him, and he’ll always come through.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

My Journal Page

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute this week’s My Bible Fun pages and crayons, and point out the “My Journal Page” section.

Say: **It was very unfair of Pharaoh to expect God’s people to do the same work without all of the supplies. Think about a time you were treated unfairly. Maybe you were punished for something you didn’t do or you were told to clean up someone else’s mess. At the top of the page, write or draw about that time.** Allow time.

Say: **Tell a friend about what you drew.** Allow time.

Say: **There are lots of times things seem unfair. The Israelites were treated unfairly, but God asked them to continue to hope in him. God’s always there, and he’ll always help you. Think about a time you can put your hope in God. Maybe something is worrying you right now—something at school or at home. At the bottom of your page, write or draw about that situation.** Allow time.

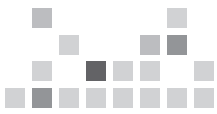
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How can putting your hope in God help the situation you just wrote or drew about?

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. He knows the big picture. When we’re really having a hard time, the best thing we can do is go to God and trust that he’ll take care of us.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Each night before you go to bed, ask God to help you put your hope in him when you face a tough situation.

Tell a friend about Jesus, explaining that he is our hope and he loves each and every one of us.

Pray for each of your family members, asking God to help them put their hope in him.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **God is strong, and he has a great plan for us. This week, let's remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God wants us to hope in him. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he has a great plan for us and is always with us, taking care of us. Have kids get in pairs and share worries with each other. Invite kids to pray for each other, and then close the prayer. Pray: **God, help us put our hope in you every day. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun





Lyrics

Those Who Hope (Isaiah 40:31)

Who can soar on wings like eagles? *(spread arms and rotate from the waist as if flying)*

Who can run and not grow weary? *(run in place)*

Who can walk and not be faint? *(walk in place while shaking head “no” and fanning face with hand)*

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord *(stand straight)*

Will renew their strength. *(make muscles)*

Those who hope in the Lord *(stand straight)*

Will renew their strength. *(make muscles)*

They’ll soar on wings like eagles. *(spread arms and rotate from the waist as if flying)*

They will run and not grow weary. *(run in place)*

They will walk and not be faint. *(walk in place while shaking head “no” and fanning face with hand)*

(Repeat chorus)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles. *(spread arms and rotate from the waist as if flying)*

I wanna run and not grow weary. *(run in place)*

I wanna walk and not be faint. *(walk in place while shaking head “no” and fanning face with hand)*

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

“Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.







God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8–10:29

Since first- and second-graders are concrete thinkers, it might be hard for children to “see” God. And if they can’t “see” God, they won’t understand that he’s powerful and that he uses his power to take care of us every day. Use this lesson to help children realize that God is with us always and that he uses his power in mighty and wonderful ways.



► **Bible Point**
God uses his power to help us.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	The Picnic <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw a mural of things that can ruin a picnic.	markers, extra large white sheets of paper, tape	Tape the white paper to the wall to create a large canvas.
2 Bible Exploration	So Many Frogs <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Try to walk across the room without stepping on frogs.	Bible, CD player, several pairs of scissors, pencils, brown and green construction paper, blindfolds Teacher Pack: CD, sheet of frog stencils, Bible Timeline	
	Triage Center <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Bandage their “diseases,” and play Simon Says.	CD player, bandages, slips of paper, pen, cup Teacher Pack: CD	
	Darkness <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Tell what happened with the Israelites while in the dark.	CD player, flashlight, black trash bags, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Tape the trash bags over the windows to darken the room.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God Is With Us <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Draw pictures of times God uses his power to help us, make medallions, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, markers, glue, 2 feet of yarn per child, hole punch, 1 copy per child of the Circle handout (at the end of the lesson)	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Key Verse
“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will rely on God’s power to help them.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





The Picnic Supplies

markers
extra large white sheets
of paper
tape

The Picnic Easy Prep

Tape the white paper to the wall to create a large canvas.

1 GETTING STARTED

The Picnic

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and say: **What kinds of things do people take on a picnic?** Allow several kids to share, and as they do, have them draw the items on the white canvas to create a picnic scene.

Say: **Picnics are a lot of fun. But they can get ruined pretty easily. Draw on our wall mural some things that can ruin a picnic.** Encourage kids to draw things that make your picnic scene look ruined. For example, they could draw ants, flies, all sorts of bugs, thunderstorms, or wild animals running off with the food.

Say: **Normally one fly or one ant is not a problem. It takes a lot of flies to create a real problem. Make sure you draw plenty of those pesky insects!** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What were you thinking when our nice picnic scene turned into an attack of bugs?

Tell about an outdoor picnic or event that got ruined.

What can you do in times like those?

Say: **It's no fun when something good turns into something so bad. Sometimes we don't really know why things turn bad, and other times they turn bad because of bad decisions we make. In the Bible today, we'll hear about how the ruler of Egypt ignored God and refused to listen to him, so God used his power to show the ruler that he needed to listen to God. And through what God did, he helped the Israelites. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US, too. Let's hear more about that.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

So Many Frogs

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 7:8–10:29, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we're learning how God used his power to help the Israelites. At that time the Pharaoh was treating the Israelites really badly. He made them slaves, which means they had to work very hard without getting paid anything. God told Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, but Pharaoh said no and treated them even more badly. Let's see what God did.**

Ask kids to tell of times they felt they were treated unfairly. As each child shares an experience, have him or her punch out a frog from the sheet of frog stencils. Say: **What do you think all these frogs are for?** Allow kids to make guesses. Then say: **As we hear what God did, we'll learn where the frogs come in. But before we can hear what happened, we'll need a lot more frogs.** Give kids construction paper, scissors, and pencils. Encourage them to use the frog stencils to create as many frogs as they can in a few minutes.

Say: **Pharaoh had made life really miserable for the Israelites. And when Pharaoh wouldn't listen to God, God made life miserable for Pharaoh and his people. God sent plagues on Pharaoh and his people—which means he sent big disasters on the land where they lived. He sent 10 in all. First he turned all of the water in Egypt into blood. Pharaoh and his people had no water to drink, cook with, or bathe in for seven days.**

Show kids the “God Sends Plagues on Egypt” section of the Bible Timeline. Then have kids spread the frogs out over the floor. Say: **The second plague God sent was frogs. God sent so many frogs to the homes of Pharaoh's people that they couldn't see the floors or the walls. There were frogs everywhere! They couldn't walk without stepping on frogs. Let's try to walk across the room without stepping on the frogs.**

Have kids get in pairs, and blindfold one person in each pair. Have the child not wearing a blindfold help his or her partner cross the room without stepping on any frogs. If a blindfolded person steps on a frog, the “seeing” partner will pick it up. Play “Frog Sounds” (track 25 on the CD) as kids attempt to cross. After pairs have crossed the room, have them count the frogs they picked up. Then let partners switch roles.



So Many Frogs Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- several pairs of scissors
- pencils
- brown and green construction paper
- blindfolds
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Frog Sounds” (track 25)
- sheet of frog stencils
- Bible Timeline





Triage Center Supplies

CD player
bandages
slips of paper
pen
cup

Teacher Pack

CD: "Triage Sounds"
(track 26)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like trying to avoid all the frogs in our activity?
What do you think seems so bad about the plagues we heard about?
What do you think of God's power after hearing about these plagues?**

Say: **Both the first and second plagues sound pretty miserable. God really wanted to get Pharaoh's attention so he'd let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go, so God used his power and sent more plagues. Let's keep listening so we can learn how ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US, too!**

Triage Center

What You'll Do

Say: **After the frogs, God sent gnats and then flies. There were so many flies in Egypt that people couldn't see through them! Then God made all of the animals sick. Next God sent the plague of boils, which were big horrible sores that could affect any part of the body.**

Give each child a slip of paper and a pencil. Say: **On your slip of paper, write how you think a boil might bother you a lot. Then fold the paper and put it in this cup.** Show the cup, and help kids think of things to write, such as "your right arm is hurt" or "you can't see out of one eye."

Say: **Let's use the injuries we wrote to play a game like Simon Says.** Have each child choose a piece of paper from the cup. Say: **The paper tells you where the plague of boils has affected you.** Have kids help each other put bandages where their bodies were affected. Then say: **As you play Simon Says, you can't use any of your bandaged body parts. So if I say "Take two steps forward" and your leg is bandaged, you have to hop on your good leg or crawl two places forward.** Check for understanding. Then lead kids in playing. Play "Triage Sounds" (track 26 on the CD) during the activity. When the track is over, stop the game.

Say: **So even after the water turned to blood; the city was flooded with frogs, gnats, and flies; the animals got sick; and the people got huge sores all over their bodies—Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. He was very stubborn. So God sent hail and then locusts, which are big bugs that eat all the plants in sight. In our activity, we pretended to have one injured body part and it made things hard, but think of having boils all over your body, on top of all these other plagues God sent!**

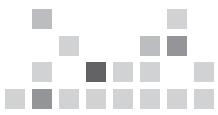
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like not to be able to use all of your body in this game?





Tell about a time everything seemed to go wrong.
How can knowing how powerful God is remind you that he can take care of you?

Say: **All these plagues seem scary, but they can also remind us that God will always take care of us. God sent the plagues to help the Israelites because Pharaoh was treating them so badly. He sent them to get Pharaoh’s attention so he’d let the Israelites go. In our lives, when things are hard or going badly, we can go to God and know that ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.**

Darkness

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Warn the children that you’re going to turn out the lights.

Turn on a flashlight, and then turn off the room lights. Play “Night Sounds” (track 23 on the CD).

Say: **The ninth plague God sent to Egypt was darkness. He made it so dark that people couldn’t see their hands in front of their faces.** Let the children know that you’re going to turn the flashlight off for a short time. Turn the flashlight off, and ask kids to be very quiet and then to describe what the darkness is like.

Say: **During the plague of darkness, God took away the moon and the stars, too! God covered Egypt in total darkness for three days. There was not even any light inside their houses. Three whole days! But the Israelites had the sun and the stars where they lived as normal.**

Turn the room lights back on.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like for you in the dark?**
- Tell about a time you were in the dark.**
- Why do you know God can protect you even in the dark?**

Say: **I bet the Israelites were very impressed with God’s power! Even though he sent all those plagues on Pharaoh’s people, he took care of the Israelites. Like that, our Bible point tells us that ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US. Whatever we’re going through this week, let’s remember that God is so powerful that he can always take care of us.**



Darkness Supplies

- CD player
- flashlight
- black trash bags
- tape

Teacher Pack

- CD: “Night Sounds” (track 23)

Darkness Easy Prep

- Tape the trash bags over the windows to darken the room.





God Is With Us Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors
markers
glue
2 feet of yarn per child
hole punch
1 copy per child of the
Circle handout (at the
end of the lesson)

God Is With Us Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God Is With Us

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wanted the Israelites to see how powerful he is. And he wanted them to trust him to take care of them. God wants us to trust him to take care of us, too.**

Open your Bible to Isaiah 41:10, and show the verse to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse tells us to trust God. It says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages, scissors, and markers. Point out the "God Is With Us" section. Say: **Our Key Verse reminds us not to be scared at all. It tells us God will make us strong and he'll take care of us.**

Think about some times you need God. Think of those times you're afraid or things aren't going your way. Have kids draw pictures of those times in the pie-shaped spaces. Then have them cut out the pie pieces and the small circle with the words "God Uses His Power" on it.

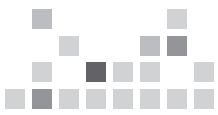
Say: **Let's make medallions to remind us that God is powerful and he'll always be there to help us, like he was there to help the Israelites.** Distribute the Circle handouts, 2-foot lengths of yarn, and glue. Have kids cut out the circles. Then help kids glue the pie pieces onto the big circle. Help kids glue the small circles in the center of the big circles from the circle pages. The result should resemble a wheel with four spokes. Have each child punch a hole in his or her large circle. Then show kids how to thread the yarn through the hole and tie the ends together.

Say: **Look at your medallion. Each piece you drew on says, "I need God when..."** Invite a child to read aloud the small circle. Then let kids put the medallions around their necks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **God protected the Israelites with his power. ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US, too. He helps us when we're afraid by being with us and giving us strength. Let's say our Key Verse one more time.** Repeat Isaiah 41:10 aloud with kids: **"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).**





4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Each night before you go to bed, draw a picture of how God used his power to help you that day. Hang the pictures on your wall as a reminder.

Help a neighbor do some chores around the house, and tell your neighbor that God helps us every day.

Lend your medallion to someone who seems sad or hurt. Tell the person that God is powerful and can help him or her. Then do your best to be a good friend to that person.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **God did some really powerful things to help the Israelites. And he loves us just as much and will help us. Remember this week that ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US as you follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God helps us. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he's more powerful than we can imagine and that we can trust and believe that he'll always use that power to help and protect us. Invite children to share prayer requests, and then pray for God's



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun



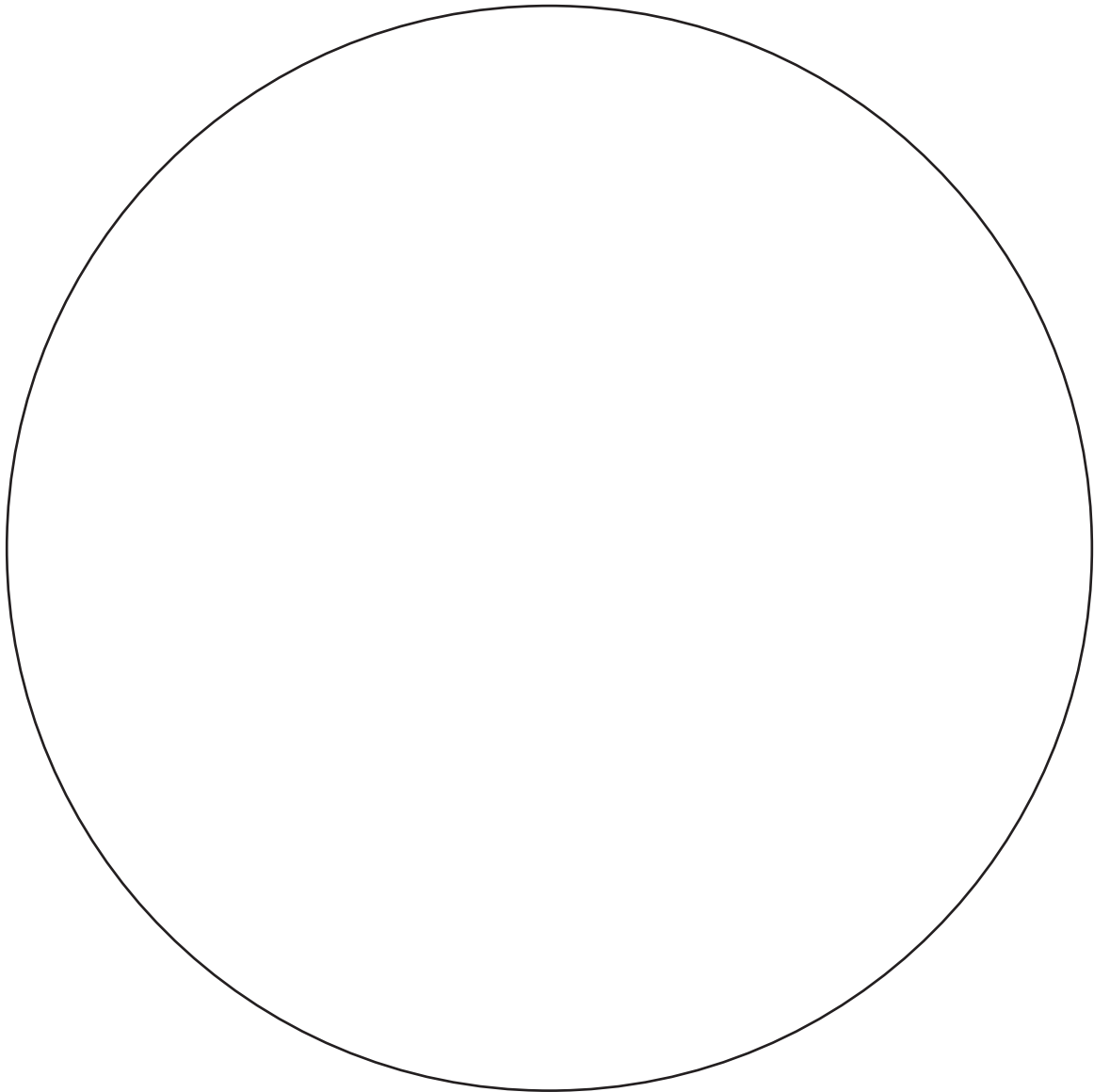


powerful help with those things. Then close the prayer. Pray: **God, we know you'll use your power to help us whenever we need help. Help us look to you when we're sad or in trouble. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Circle



OK
TO COPY





The Israelites Escape From Egypt

Exodus 11:1–12:36


First- and second-graders make—and break—promises on a regular basis. And they experience people letting them down in big and small ways in their own lives. Likely, they equate their experiences with people to how they expect God to take care of them. Use this lesson to help children understand that God doesn't break his promises—that he will take care of them and set them free.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus sets us free.


Key Verse
“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will thank Jesus for setting them free.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Free Indeed <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Sing and do a freedom activity to understand the Key Verse.	Bible	
2 Bible Exploration	God Honors Faith <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Be protected from water as they learn how God protected the Israelites.	Bible, tarp, spray bottle full of water	Hang the tarp so all the kids can fit under it.
	Moving Day <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn how abundant freedom in Jesus is.	My Bible Fun, markers Teacher Pack: “The Israelites Leave Egypt” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Faces of Freedom <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw faces and words.	Bible, My Bible Fun, markers	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>God Sets Me Free <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make reminders that Jesus sets people free.</p>	<p>white, brown, and gray construction paper; several pairs of scissors; glue; markers Teacher Pack: sheet of key stencils</p>	<p>Cut 6 strips of gray construction paper per child; keep each sheet horizontal as you cut vertically.</p> 
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Free Indeed Supplies

Bible

1 GETTING STARTED

Free Indeed

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together, and put kids in pairs. Have kids stand with their partners.

Say: **Today we'll learn that ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Our Key Verse helps us understand that even more. Let's try something.** Have one child in each pair stand behind the other child's back. Have the child standing in back lightly hold the other child's arms behind his or her back. Have the children stand there captive for about 30 seconds, and then have all the kids say the Bible Point (► **JESUS SETS US FREE**) as the children in back let go of their partners' arms. Then have kids switch roles.


Open your Bible to John 8:36, and show kids the verse. Say: **Our Key Verse says, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **This verse is talking about Jesus when it says the "Son." It helps people know that they're really free when they believe in Jesus. ► JESUS SETS US FREE because he forgives us of all the things we did that were wrong in the past and that we'll do in the future. Sin holds us down like chains keeping us from being able to move.**

When we're held down and Jesus frees us, it can make us want to jump and sing. Think now about something in your life that made you feel really weighed down. Allow time. Then think about how it was or what it would feel like to be completely free of that weight. What would you do? Jump up and down, do a happy wiggle, or sing as loud as you can? Let kids share.

Say: **Let's sing a song about how Jesus sets us free and how joyful we are to be free.**

Teach the following song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

 **So if the Son sets you free,
Sets you free,
Sets you free—
So if the Son sets you free,
You will be free indeed.**

Once the children have a good feel for the words, have them get into groups of three or four. Say: **Show the others in your group what you like to do when you feel free**





of something that's been weighing you down. Then use those actions to make motions for the song we just learned. Allow time, and then let kids show the rest of your group the motions they made up for the song.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be set free when your partner let go of your arms?
- Tell about a time you felt freed from something.
- What can you do to show Jesus you know he's set you free?

Say: Today we're learning that God set the Israelites free from Egypt. And ► **JESUS SETS US FREE** from sin when we ask him to. In our activity we felt what it was like to be set free, and we remembered times in our lives we were set free. Let's remember this week what an amazing thing it is that ► **JESUS SETS US FREE.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God Honors Faith

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids sit away from the tarp area. Open your Bible to Exodus 11:1–12:36, and show it to kids. Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus sets us free. We'll read in the Bible how God set the Israelites free. They were living in Egypt as slaves, and the leader of Egypt, or Pharaoh, and his people were treating the Israelites really badly. When Moses, the leader of the Israelites, asked Pharaoh to let them go free, Pharaoh said no and treated the Israelites even more badly. So God sent 10 plagues, or horrible disasters, on the Egyptians.**

Have kids move underneath the tarp. Say: **Even though the Israelites lived in the same land as the Egyptians, God protected the Israelites from all the plagues, kind of like this tarp will protect us as we hear what happened.**

Each time a plague hit the Egyptians, Pharaoh still said he wouldn't let God's people go—even after all the water in the rivers had turned to blood (spray water above the tarp so kids don't get hit by the water); **the ground had been covered in frogs** (spray water above the tarp); **people and their crops were attacked by swarms of gnats** (spray water above the tarp), **flies** (spray water above the tarp), **and locusts** (spray water above the tarp); **the animals had gotten sick** (spray water above the tarp); **people had broken out with huge sores** (spray water above the tarp); **it had hailed tremendously** (spray water above the tarp); **and all the light had left the land** (spray water above the tarp), **even the light from the moon and stars** (spray water above the tarp).



**God Honors Faith
Supplies**

- Bible
- tarp
- spray bottle full of water

**God Honors Faith
Easy Prep**

Hang the tarp so all the kids can fit under it.





Say: **But when God sent the tenth and last plague, Pharaoh finally decided to let the Israelites go** (spray water above the tarp).

Say: **Before God sent the last plague, he told the Israelites they'd be safe if they did what he said. So the people did what God said—the Israelite families each cooked a perfect lamb and used its blood to paint the tops and sides of their doorways. The blood was a sign that the people inside were Israelites so the danger would pass over the house** (spray water above the tarp). **That night, God punished the Egyptians** (spray water above the tarp). **But the Israelites were untouched.**

Have the kids move out from under the tarp and observe the water they were protected from. Then have them sit away from the tarp.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What were you thinking when you realized you were protected from the water?

How was that like or unlike how the Israelites were protected?

Explain what qualities could've been good for the Israelites to have in this situation.

Say: **The Israelites had to be brave and obedient in this situation. And their faith was very important because it showed they believed God would protect them. God honors our faith and helps us and protects us. God wants us to have faith. One way we can show that we have faith is by believing in God's Son, Jesus! When we believe in him, ► JESUS SETS US FREE!**

Moving Day

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Kind of like the tarp protected you from the water, God kept the Israelites safe. God protected them because they showed faith by believing what he said. And he told them to always remember how he saved the Israelites that night.**

Distribute this week's My Bible Fun pages and markers, and point out the "Moving Day" section.

Show "The Israelites Leave Egypt" poster. Say: **When Pharaoh learned how powerful God is, he was afraid. To keep God from sending any more trouble, Pharaoh let God's people go free. Pharaoh and his people were so afraid that they wanted the Israelites to leave right away! "Go and worship your God," he said. "And remember to bless me."**

Moving Day Supplies

My Bible Fun
markers

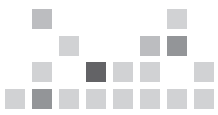
Teacher Pack

"The Israelites Leave
Egypt" poster (from
the Big Bible Poster
Pack)

Moving Day Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 13
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.





Say: **Think about what you'd want to pack if you had to leave in a hurry like the Israelites did.** Distribute colored markers, and let kids write or draw their answers inside the suitcase pictured on their pages. Encourage kids to draw small and leave room in the suitcases for more items.

Say: **God told the Israelites to ask the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing. The Egyptians gave them everything they wanted. They wanted to please Israel's God. They wanted the Israelites to go away fast! Draw as many more items you'd want to take as you can fit—fill your suitcases completely.** Allow time. Let kids draw items on top of other items so the suitcases look completely full.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What kinds of things did you first include in your suitcase?**
- What did you include after you heard that the Israelites got what they asked for from the Egyptians?**
- Tell how you think Jesus has set you free in your life.**
- What would you think if I told you that Jesus' freedom is even more wonderful than we can imagine?**

Say: **When the Israelites went free, they didn't have to leave with nothing. And they didn't even have to leave with only the things they absolutely needed. God provided through the Egyptians giving them whatever they asked for. ► JESUS SETS US FREE like that. When we believe in him, he sets us free in such an amazing way that he fulfills all our desires.**

Faces of Freedom

What You'll Do

Say: **The Bible tells us that the Israelites packed and left as quickly as they could. Listen to what the Bible says.** Read aloud Exodus 12:34-36. **God set them free and provided for all their needs so they wouldn't have to go back. When God sets people free, they're free indeed!**

Think of a time you felt free—maybe you were cooped up inside for a long time because of bad weather and you finally got outside to play, or you finished a school year, ready for the summer. Show me with your face how you felt. Allow time. Then say: **Those must've been great times for you. Let's think about what the Israelites were freed from: They were working for free, they were owned by the Egyptians, and they were treated very poorly. It was a really, really hard life. Show me what you think their faces could've looked like when they were free and leaving Egypt.** Allow time.

Invite children to tell why they made the faces they chose. Then direct kids' attention to the "Faces of Freedom" section on the My Bible Fun page.



Faces of Freedom Supplies

-
- Bible
 - My Bible Fun markers





Say: **The Israelites in this picture don't have any faces. Draw some of the faces you saw in our group just now.** Allow time.

Say: **Now think of some words you've said when you finally felt free from something. Write some of your ideas in the word bubbles on your page.** Allow time.

Help children print difficult words, if necessary. Invite kids to explain their drawings and ideas to the whole group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think of the Israelites being freed from such a horrible life?**
- What do you want to be free from?**
- What's so great about being freed by Jesus?**

Say: **God set his people free. They were free indeed! And ► JESUS SETS US FREE, too, when we believe in him! Whatever things make us feel trapped or chained down, Jesus frees us into a better life by forgiving our sins.**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God Sets Me Free

God Sets Me Free Supplies

.....

white, brown, and gray
construction paper
several pairs of scissors
glue
markers

Teacher Pack
sheet of key stencils

God Sets Me Free Easy Prep

.....

Cut 6 strips of gray
construction paper per
child; keep each sheet
horizontal as you cut
vertically.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that just as God set the Israelites free from Egypt, ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Let's make a craft to think about what that means.**

Give each child a sheet of white construction paper and six gray paper strips. Have each child place the white construction paper horizontally and draw a picture of himself or herself on the white construction paper. Say: **Think of something you've done that you knew was wrong. You don't have to tell us now—just think of it.** Allow time. **Now for that one thing, glue a jail bar over your picture.** Have kids place the strips vertically, gluing only the very top and bottom of a bar. It will be as if one jail bar is in front of each child's picture. Then say: **Sin, or things we do wrong, can make us like slaves who are stuck.** Show children how to arrange the strips across the construction paper to make the bars of a jail. Have them use all of them on the page, gluing only the very top and bottom of each bar.

Say: **Living with sin in our lives is like being in jail. Sin keeps us from being the good and loving people that God wants his children to be. God set his people, the Israelites, free from slavery in Egypt. And when we believe in Jesus, he sets us free from sin.**



Pass the sheet of key stencils around your group, and let the first 12 kids take one. Have them trace a key onto brown construction paper and then pass the keys to others in the group so they can do it. Kids can also trace keys from the sheet. Help children each cut out a key.

Say: **Jesus is the key that sets us free from the jail of sin. If we ask Jesus to set us free, then we'll be free indeed.** Let kids tear off any bars that cover the pictures of themselves. Then have them each glue a key next to the pictures of themselves. Help them print on the keys "Jesus Sets Me Free!"

Ask:

**What was it like to tear the jail bars from in front of your picture?
How was that like or unlike believing in Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus died on the cross to set us free from sin. He is the key to being forgiven. When we ask him to forgive our sins and we believe that he does so, we're free from sin indeed. Just like the Israelites were set free from a life of slavery, ► JESUS SETS US FREE when we believe in him.**

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► JESUS SETS US FREE.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

Make a paper chain, and hang it in your room. Each morning, take a link off the chain and thank God for sending Jesus to set us free.

Ask a parent to help you catch a butterfly outside. Pray and thank Jesus for setting you free as you release the butterfly.

Tell a friend about Jesus, and share how Jesus has set you free.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun





Say: **God set the Israelites free, and through his Son, Jesus, he set us free. This week, remember and share with everyone that ► JESUS SETS US FREE as you follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how Jesus sets us free. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for setting us free when we believe in Jesus. Let children tell Jesus they believe in him and want to be free, too, if they would like to. Pray: **Thank you, our powerful God, for setting your people free. Thank you for keeping your promises. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross to free us from our sins. Help us live for you each day. Help us be the people you want us to be. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



