

FAITHWEAVER

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

**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 5 & 6
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.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 5 & 6, Summer

Copyright © 2000 and 2015 Group Publishing, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.



When you see the OK TO COPY icon, this means permission to photocopy the page from FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum for Grades 5 & 6, Summer, is granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. group.com

Credits

Contributing Authors: Tim Baker, Mikal Keefer, Julie Mieklejohn, Michael D. Warden, Paul Woods

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

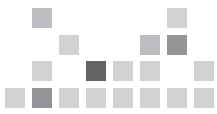
Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Cover Photography: © iStockphoto/Matthew Scherf & Aleks Le

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com.

ISBN 978-1-4707-7355-7

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 67

Lesson 8: Joseph Forgives His Brothers—Genesis 42–45 75

Lesson 9: God Protects Moses—Exodus 1:1–2:10 85

Lesson 10: Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush—Exodus 2:11–3:20 95

Lesson 11: The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment—Exodus 5:1–6:1 105

Lesson 12: God Sends Plagues on Egypt—Exodus 7:8–10:29 117

Lesson 13: The Israelites Escape From Egypt—Exodus 11:1–12:36 127



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

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to wander from their parents' control. They're trying new things—including some things that their parents have told them not to do. As you lead this lesson, remember that kids are learning the importance of obedience. Use this lesson to help kids learn that obedience matters and it's what keeps them in line with God's plans for their lives.



► **Bible Point**
Obey God.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Obedience Rodeo <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game of obedience.	Bible Buzz, paper, 2 rolls of crepe paper, 10 pennies, paper cup, markers, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Create three stations. They'll be called Rodeos in the activity. At Rodeo 1, set up a cup with 10 pennies in it. Put markers and paper at Rodeo 2. Put 2 rolls of crepe paper at Rodeo 3.
2 Bible Exploration	Hard of Hearing <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make presentations to people who don't hear well, and consider Abraham's obedience.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, paper, markers Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	

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. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Preteens will obey God even when it's hard.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	The Heart of the Matter <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Struggle with disobedience to learn why obedience matters.	Bibles, scissors, CD player Teacher Pack: “To Obey or Not to Obey” poster, CD 	
	Tearing It Out <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Choose a way they’ll obey God in their lives this week.	paper, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz, shapes from the “Tearing It Out” activity	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



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 Abraham must have been, Abraham obeyed. The Bible says he set out the very 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.





Obedience Rodeo Supplies

Bible Buzz

paper
2 rolls of crepe paper
10 pennies
paper cup
markers
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Rodeo Music"
(track 2)

Obedience Rodeo Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Create three stations. They'll be called Rodeos in the activity. At Rodeo 1, set up a cup with 10 pennies in it. Put markers and paper at Rodeo 2. Put 2 rolls of crepe paper at Rodeo 3.

1 GETTING STARTED

Obedience Rodeo

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Today we're going to learn about obedience. Let's have an Obedience Rodeo to practice doing what someone else says. Get in pairs and decide who'll be the Horse and who'll be the Cowboy.** Allow time.

Say: **Horses, stand in front of the Cowboys. Cowboys will order the Horses around. If the Cowboy says "left," the Horse will turn left. If the Cowboy says "right," then the Horse will turn right. When the Horses arrive at the rodeo stops, the Cowboys will order the Horses to follow the directions at each stop.**

Show kids the three Rodeos you set up earlier, and tell them they're going to stop at each rodeo. Say: **Oh, and because you're Horses and Cowboys, you'll need to gallop while you move.**

At each Rodeo, you'll have to follow special instructions using the supplies there. Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages. **Cowboys, use the instructions on the section called "Obedience Rodeo" on your Bible Buzz pages to tell your Horses what to do.**

These are the instructions on the Bible Buzz pages:

- Rodeo 1: Remove one penny from the cup and push it 3 feet using your nose.
- Rodeo 2: Hold the marker with your toes to write the name of your Cowboy.
- Rodeo 3: Wrap the crepe paper around your head so you look like a mummy.

Say: **Everybody ready? Move 'em out!** As kids travel between Rodeo stops, play "Rodeo Music" (track 2 on the CD). Repeat the song as necessary.

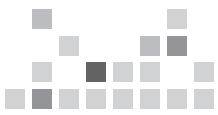
When kids have completed all their tasks, have the Cowboys direct their Horses to the center of the room and sit down.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like doing this unusual rodeo?
How did you decide whether to obey or disobey your Cowboy?
How was obeying in this activity like or unlike obeying in real-life situations?**



Say: In our rodeo, some of you had to obey some pretty ridiculous requests. Sometimes it might seem like being obedient means we have to walk around like a Horse, doing whatever we're commanded. But God made his commands knowing what's best for us. When we ► OBEY GOD, we acknowledge that God knows better than us and we can save ourselves a lot of pain and difficulty. Let's learn about Abraham and how he obeyed God in everything.



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Hard of Hearing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute Bibles, and have kids look up Genesis 22:1-18. Show kids the "God Tests Abraham" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **We're going to find out about how God told Abraham to do something that sounded crazy, but Abraham obeyed anyway and God took care of him and his son, Isaac.**

You've been asked to give a speech about this passage to a group of people who struggle with obedience and seem to have a very difficult time obeying authority figures. The people in this group are also hard of hearing, so the leader wants you to read the passage and use a silent speech to report on Abraham's acts of obedience. Your entire group must create a silent speech and then create ways to communicate Abraham's obedience without talking.

Have kids get into groups of four, and give each group a piece of paper and markers. Direct kids to the "Investigating Abe's Obedience" section on their Bible Buzz pages to help them read through the passage, discuss it, and get them thinking about what to include in their silent speeches.

When kids have finished, say: **Choose a Director for your team. You all must obey the Director and follow his or her instructions without arguing.** Ask groups to take several minutes to follow the Director's instructions for how to present their silent speeches. Kids can draw, use hand motions, or mime. When groups have finished, have them present their silent speeches.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to obey your Director even if you wanted to do something different?

How was your obedience like Abraham's obedience to God?

Hard of Hearing Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- paper
- markers
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline





The Heart of the Matter Supplies

Bibles
scissors
CD player
Teacher Pack
“To Obey or Not to Obey” poster
CD: “Family Love Pass”
(track 7)

Say: **You guys did a great job helping those disobedient people understand how Abraham obeyed God. God chose to test Abraham’s obedience in an unusual way. God was pleased when Abraham chose to obey God, even when it must have been hard. We ► OBEY GOD, too. Let’s explore how we can please God with obedience in our lives.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

The Heart of the Matter

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn in their Bibles to the Key Verse, Deuteronomy 5:32-33. Say: **Our Key Verse says, “So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).** Have kids repeat the verse with you.

Say: **Just like our Key Verse says, it’s best for us to ► OBEY GOD. God wanted Abraham’s obedience just as much as he wants our obedience today.**

Have a couple of kids cut the pictures from the “To Obey or Not to Obey” poster and scatter the pieces around on the floor of the room. Form up to eight groups. Play “Family Love Pass” (track 7 on the CD) as groups send a representative to wander around the room. Pause the CD at random intervals. When it stops, each representative will choose the closest picture. Have kids discuss the questions below. Then have each group choose a new representative who will place the picture on the floor. Play the music again. When you stop the music, have each representative pick up another picture, and have kids discuss the following questions together. Repeat these steps as many times as you want to.

Ask:

**Tell about how this picture does or doesn’t show what the Key Verse says. How might the action in each picture affect the life of the person making these choices?
How might the action in each picture affect the lives of others around that person?
Why is it important for you to obey God?**

Have kids break from their groups and form pairs.

Ask:

What’s one area in which you do really well at walking in the way the Lord has commanded?





Say: **Pray for one another about ways you can walk in God’s ways more each day. Pray the Key Verse for one another.** Allow time.

Say: **God doesn’t ask us to obey to be mean, though. He always has a purpose.**

Talk With Kids

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did you decide which way to walk, whether to turn to the right or the left?

How did that impact whether you got an obedient or disobedient picture?

What does it mean to walk in God’s way and not turn to the right or left?

What’s different about evaluating someone else’s actions versus evaluating your own?

What’s an area of your life in which God wants you to work on obeying him?

Say: **You evaluated different pictures to determine whether they followed God’s will or not. God made each of us with a purpose, and when we obey God, we can find out what kind of masterpiece he wants to make of our lives. We ► OBEY GOD just like Abraham did, and we’ll find out what amazing things God does with our obedience.**

Tearing It Out

What You’ll Do

Say: **God wants us to obey him. Sometimes that may be easy. Other times it will be very difficult. But, like Abraham, we ► OBEY GOD no matter what the cost.**

Have kids each find a place in the room to be alone. Say: **God’s call for us to obey isn’t a general command. God tells us specifically how we need to obey. God wants us to obey him with everything in our lives. God asks us to look closely at our lives and search for areas in which we aren’t obeying him. I’d like you to do that now.**

Play “Somber Music” (track 19 on the CD). Distribute one sheet of paper to each preteen. Ask kids to think about their lives and look for areas in which they know they can obey God better. Give kids a few minutes to think, and then instruct them to tear their papers into something that represents that area of their lives. For example, kids who think they could obey God better by obeying their parents better might tear their paper into stick figures of their parents. As preteens are thinking, replay the song “Somber Music” (track 19) softly in the background.

Gather kids back together to learn a song about obedience. Have them bring their paper tear-outs with them. Play “Trust and Obey” (track 4 on the CD). As the song plays, have kids each write on the back of their paper tear-out one way they’re going to carry out this obedience this week.



Tearing It Out Supplies

paper
pens
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Somber Music”
(track 19), “Trust and Obey” (track 4)





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What thoughts did you have about how you can obey better?
What did the shape you tore out represent to you?
In what ways could you allow God to change that part of your life?**

Say: **When we ► OBEY GOD, it pleases God. God has plans for us, and he wants to help us. If we trust that God's ways are better and we obey, great things will happen. In specific times like we thought of just now, our obedience makes a difference in our hearts. Our obedience helps our hearts change toward God. Abraham's obedience helped him follow God, and he saw God's glorious plan for his life through his obedience.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can ► OBEY GOD this week.**

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

The next time your parents ask you to do something, obey them without hesitating or arguing.

One way God wants us to obey is by loving a neighbor. Ask an elderly friend or neighbor what he or she needs help with. Within reason, do whatever the person mentions.

God's greatest commandment is to love God. One way we do that is by spending time with God. Choose a time to meet with God without any interruptions or distractions.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.



Say: **We can ► OBEY GOD in everything we do. Abraham obeyed God and saw God step into his life in a mighty way. Let's ► OBEY GOD this week as we follow 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 obedience. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids form pairs and use the shapes they tore out to pray for each other about an area in which they need God's help with obedience.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Buzz shapes from the "Tearing It Out" activity

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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





Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

Hormones are powerful forces in the lives of many preteens. A discussion about dating or marriage might be of great interest to some of your kids and embarrassing to others. In most cases, kids this age will be intrigued by a lesson about marriage. Many kids this age wonder about God’s plans for their future, specifically related to relationships with the opposite sex. This topic can help guide kids into a deeper understanding of the importance of praying for God’s direction in all areas of their lives. Use this lesson to help kids remember to rely on God for direction in all things and wait patiently for God’s answer.



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

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
Preteens will seek God’s wisdom.
.....

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Describe the Perfect Husband or Wife <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Brainstorm about the ideal husband or wife, and decide who they would trust to pick out this person.	pens, 1 small pad of sticky notes for every 3 kids, tape, poster board, marker	Tape the poster board to a wall in your meeting area.
2 Bible Exploration	A Marriage Made by Prayer <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Create a drama to depict the Bible passage, and then pretend to be a movie critic.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper, craft supplies, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

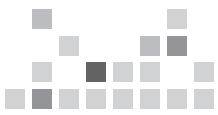
Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God's Venn Diagram <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a Venn diagram to better understand how and when to seek God's direction.	poster board, marker, paper, pens	
	Wisdom Prayer <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Sing a song and pray for one another.	Bible Buzz, pens, timer, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	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.*





Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24



The Servant’s Oath

.....

As we pick up with Abraham and Isaac, we find that Abraham’s wife, Isaac’s mother, Sarah, has died. Abraham is 140 years old. Isaac is about 40 and has not yet married. Abraham was determined that Isaac would not marry someone from the lands around him and that only a wife from Abraham’s own people would do. Abraham likely felt too old to make the journey, and he probably didn’t want his son Isaac to leave him. So he chose to send his trusted servant, who is often assumed to be Eliezer (Genesis 15:2).

Eliezer’s response may have indicated the seriousness of the oath he was taking—he wanted to be sure he could be freed from the oath if the chosen woman wouldn’t come with him.

In response Abraham reiterated his insistence that Isaac remain in Canaan. Perhaps Abraham feared that if Isaac returned to his family’s homeland, he would hesitate to return to Canaan, since he knew that Abraham might die soon and he would be left alone.

The Servant’s Prayer

.....

Eliezer’s journey was about 800 to 1,000 miles each way and would likely have taken a couple of months—perhaps longer—each way. Notice what Eliezer did first when he arrived at his destination: He prayed. All we know about Eliezer is that he was from Damascus (Genesis 15:2), and he had faith in God. His prayer shows that he knew he needed direction from God.

Notice that “before he had finished praying,” Rebekah appeared. God helped Eliezer immediately! Rebekah did precisely what Eliezer had described in his prayer, and he confirmed that she was the right person by asking whose daughter she was. Then he praised and worshipped God!

The Servant’s Reward

.....

The pieces of jewelry Eliezer immediately gave Rebekah were gifts of great value and were apparently given as an expression of kindness, not as a dowry for her marriage to Isaac.

In agreeing to go with Eliezer to marry Isaac, Rebekah expressed great faith of her own. She was giving up an elaborate wedding near her home, she was giving up everything familiar to her, she was promising to marry a man she had never seen, and she was committing to live nearly a thousand miles away from her family.

The Jesus Connection

.....

Eliezer showed tremendous faith in God through his journey and by praying as soon as he arrived. Eliezer prayed in faith and Rebekah acted without hesitation based on faith. How can you promote this kind of faith into your life? You can write your prayer in the space below.





Describe the Perfect Husband or Wife Supplies

pens
1 small pad of sticky notes for every 3 kids
tape
poster board
marker

Describe the Perfect Husband or Wife Easy Prep

Tape the poster board to a wall in your meeting area.

1 GETTING STARTED

Describe the Perfect Husband or Wife

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Form same-sex trios, provide pens, and ask trios to sit together. Distribute a small sticky note pad to each trio. Using your best game-show-host voice, introduce the following activity.

Say: **It's time to play *Describe the Perfect Husband or Wife!* That's right—it's time to describe the man or woman of your dreams! Guys, on the sticky notes I gave you, describe the perfect wife. Is she smart? silly? beautiful? not so beautiful? tall? short? Does she love God? Does she enjoy sports? Does she work outside the home or work at home? The choice is up to you!**

Girls, on the sticky notes I gave you, describe the perfect husband. Is he tall? short? handsome? Does he enjoy sports? Does he have a great job? Does he love God? Does he bring home flowers every day? The choice is up to you!

Instruct trios to write just one quality on each sticky note. They can come up with as many descriptions of the perfect husband or wife as possible in three minutes. Say: **Ready? Go!**

While kids work, draw a line down the middle of the poster board and write "Perfect Husband" on one side and "Perfect Wife" on the other. When three minutes have passed, ask each trio to send a representative to the poster board with the trio's completed sticky notes. Instruct trio representatives to read each sticky note aloud and stick descriptions to the corresponding sides.

Say: **In some cultures, marriages are arranged, which means someone else picks out your husband or wife. You don't meet your spouse before your wedding. Let's pick a husband or wife for each other.** Have kids come to the poster boards and remove sticky notes to give to their trio members.

Once kids are back in their trios, say: **Give each person the qualities of a husband or wife that you chose for them at the board.**

Using your best game-show-host voice again, say: **There you have it! Your future husbands and wives have been chosen for you with care and deliberation! Have a wonderful life!**

Gather kids together.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be given a spouse without your choice in the matter?**
- Tell about a time you didn't have much choice about something that happened to you.**
- What's something you're okay with not deciding for yourself?**

Say: **We had to let other people choose our spouses for us in this game, and that's exactly what Isaac had to do in the Bible. His dad's servant traveled far away to choose a wife for him. Abraham's servant prayed for God's wisdom to make the right choice. In everything we do, we can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION. Whether it's a really, really important decision like choosing a spouse or if you're trying to decide what sports to play, you can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION in everything.**

.....

BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Marriage Made by Prayer

What You'll Do

Explain to kids that they have the opportunity of a lifetime: to be in the premiere production of *Isaac's Big Surprise*, a surefire megahit—Broadway, Hollywood, a made-for-TV movie. They're set for life!

Form groups of five, and cast these roles for each group: Scriptwriter, Prop Creator, Servant, Rebekah, and Narrator. (The Scriptwriter and Prop Creator can be Abraham and Isaac when those roles are needed.)

Make sure each group has a Bible, paper, and a pen. Set out craft supplies. Have kids find Genesis 24 in their Bibles. Say: **After you read each section of our passage, the Scriptwriter will provide lines for the rest of the group based on the text in the Bible. Your Prop Creator will use the craft supplies to fill any prop requirements for your movie. As you read the Bible, your Scriptwriter can write which lines from the Bible you want to use (with input from others) and you'll all plan out that scene for the movie. Use your movie to emphasize areas of the passage that stand out to your group the most.**

Have kids read Genesis 24:1-9, make a note of what lines to use, and plan their scene. Repeat this process for the following sections, stopping after each one for groups to plan that scene:

- Genesis 24:10-27
- Genesis 24:28-33



A Marriage Made by Prayer Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - Bible Buzz
 - pens
 - paper
 - craft supplies
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Hollywood Music Intro" (track 5)

A Marriage Made by Prayer Easy Prep

.....

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





Genesis 24:34-53
 Genesis 24:54-61
 Genesis 24:62-67

When time's up, gather all the kids together and have groups each act out their movies. Play "Hollywood Music Intro" (track 5 on the CD) at the beginning of each group's movie.

Give kids pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have them find the "Drama Review Column." Say: **Individually write a review of what we read by filling in the "Drama Review Column."** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

When we talk to God today, does he respond the same way he did in the Bible passage we read? Why or why not?
Tell about a time you asked for God's guidance. How did God respond to you?
Tell about a time you followed God's guidance. What was it like?

Say: **God helped Isaac marry the right person, and Isaac trusted God to take care of him. Just like God guided Isaac, Rebekah, Abraham, and the servant, God hasn't left us to wander in the dark when it comes to making decisions. God wants us to seek his direction because he knows everything that's happening and he loves you dearly. Let's talk more about how we can ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God's Venn Diagram

God's Venn Diagram Supplies

poster board
 marker
 paper
 pens

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Isaac and Rebekah's marriage was the result of many people following God's guidance. I imagine you're glad that you don't have to worry about getting married to a complete stranger, but God still offers guidance today.** Use the groups from the previous activity. Give each group a piece of paper and pen, and direct kids to spend five minutes brainstorming ways they can seek God's guidance and areas of life in which they think they need his guidance. Allow time.

Sit somewhere that kids can all see you, and hold a piece of poster board and a marker. When kids have brainstormed for about five minutes, get their attention and say: **I heard lots of good ideas out there. Let's see if we can make sense of these things.** Draw a Venn diagram on the poster board using two large circles that have a large overlap in the middle. Label one side "Ways to Seek God's Guidance" and the other side "Times I





Need God’s Guidance.” Have kids share their group’s best ideas and help you figure out where to put each thing they’re listing. At the end, you may have a lot of things in the overlap area.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What’s one way you see on this diagram that you can use in your own life to seek God’s guidance for your life?
Do you think God can guide you on big and small things in your life? Why or why not?**

Say: **There are so many ways to seek God’s guidance, and we can see from our diagram how those fit with times we need his guidance. Prayer is a pretty direct route to seeking God’s guidance. Abraham’s servant, Rebekah, and many other people prayed, and God guided them all to orchestrate a wonderful answer to their prayers. You can ► PRAY FOR GOD’S DIRECTION any time, any place.**

Wisdom Prayer

What You’ll Do

Provide pens, and ask kids to find the “For Your Information” survey on their Bible Buzz pages.

Ask:

What’s one question you wish you could have an immediate and direct answer to?

Say: **Those are some great questions! Adults want God’s guidance, too. A survey asked adults what they’d ask God if they knew they’d get a quick answer. Please fill in what percentage of adults you think would ask each of the questions listed. The percentages add up to 100 percent. You’ll have 90 seconds to make your guesses.**

When 90 seconds have passed, point out the answers on the other side of the Bible Buzz page, near the bottom on the right side. Allow time for kids to compare their answers with the answers found there.

Have kids form pairs and find the Key Verse, James 1:5, on their Bible Buzz pages: “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.” Ask for a willing preteen to read the verse aloud while kids follow along.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page. Ask kids to stay in their pairs as you lead them in singing “If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5) (track 6 on the CD). When it ends, start the track again, and kids can pray for each other until it ends. Then start it again, and




Wisdom Prayer Supplies

-
- Bible Buzz
 - pens
 - timer
 - copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this lesson)
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5) (track 6)





ask kids to quietly pray for themselves—to patiently ask God for wisdom to make good decisions and for courage to follow what God wants them to do.

 **If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God.
If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God,**

**Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault,
Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault.
And it will be given to him.**

(Repeat from beginning.)

“If Anyone Lacks Wisdom” (James 1:5) by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Were you surprised by any of the survey responses? Explain.
What was it like to pray for someone else to have wisdom? to have
someone else pray for you? to pray for yourself?
What’s one area of your life in which you need God’s wisdom and direction?
In what ways do your past experiences with asking God for wisdom
encourage or discourage you from asking again?**

Say: **We may or may not be as concerned as the adults about some of these survey responses. But we all have concerns of our own—and we have a way to get guidance for those concerns. Whether or not you’ve had an easy time asking God for direction in your life before, God does want to help you. Isaac, Rebekah, and Abraham’s servant all patiently prayed for direction from God, and God answered their prayers. Sometimes we lack patience to wait for God’s answer or courage to do what he asks. But when we ► PRAY FOR GOD’S DIRECTION, he’ll show us what to do at the right time, and he’ll help us take the steps he shows us.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: **Let’s think this week about how we can ► PRAY FOR GOD’S DIRECTION.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Summer Quarter

Lesson 2  Grades 5 & 6



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

When you face a decision that's difficult to make, spend time asking God for wisdom. Then wait patiently for God to guide you.

Set an alarm 10 minutes early one morning this week. Use that time to pray for God's wisdom and direction for your life.

Text a friend about an area of your life in which you need God's wisdom.

Ask your friend to pray with you this week, and text your friend as God gives you wisdom. Look back later at the texts you've sent back and forth and remember that God gives wisdom to those who ask.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Isaac and Rebekah trusted God to give them wisdom and to give direction to those around them. Through their faith, patience, and courage, God beautifully arranged everything for Isaac and Rebekah to fall in love. We can wait patiently, too, and respond with courage when we ► PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION by following through with 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 praying for direction. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids form trios. In each trio, have kids pray for God's direction for the person next to them. Close by asking God to lead all of the kids through wisdom.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**If Anyone Lacks Wisdom (James 1:5)**

If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God.
If anyone lacks wisdom,
He should ask God,

Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault,
Who gives generously to all
Without finding fault.
And it will be given to him.

(Repeat from beginning.)


"If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

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

Fifth- and sixth-graders are grappling with the concept of honesty. They're learning that they can be dishonest and not get caught. Remember the importance that this lesson has. As you help the kids understand why honesty is important, they'll learn that this attribute is essential in living a life of integrity.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>True or False? <i>(about 10 min.)</i></p> <p>See if they can tell whether statements are true or false.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Family Court <i>(about 25 min.)</i></p> <p>Try a case to discover who was dishonest.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline</p> 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **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
Preteens will show honesty in their lives, even when it's difficult.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Running Mouth <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Chase a “mouth” and try to stick lies on it.</p>	<p>several sticky note pads, pens, CD player, two 12-inch pieces of yarn Teacher Pack: “Giant Mouth” mask, CD</p> 	<p>Punch out the mouth from the card. Then turn the mouth mask over so the mouth faces away from you. Insert string or yarn through the two small holes on the sides of the mask, and knot the ends on the front of the mask. Punch out the eye holes.</p>
	<p>Detestable or Delightful? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Taste foods that are “detestable” and “delightful” as they learn the Key Verse.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens, paper, 2 containers of cut-up delightful foods (such as peaches, apples, or cake), 2 containers of cut-up detestable foods (such as raw onions, beets, or lemons), 4 small paper bags, wet wipes</p>	<p>Cut food into easy-to-eat chunks. Place the containers of food into the paper bags so kids can’t see the foods.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens</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.





True or False? Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

True or False? Easy Prep

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

Family Court Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Mystery Music"
(track 13)
Bible Timeline

1 GETTING STARTED

True or False?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages and pens. Have kids form pairs and find the "Is It True?" section. Say: **Today I'd like to see if you can tell the difference between what's true and what's false. In your pairs, read the questions from "Is It True?" on your Bible Buzz page to your partner. Cover the answers or fold the paper over, and write down both of your answers to each question. Feel free to discuss your answers with your partner. After you've gone through all the questions, compare your answers with the ones on the side of your Bible Buzz page. See which of you guessed right more often.**

Give pairs a few minutes to answer the questions. When pairs have finished, let them check their answers, and then have each pair report which partner got the most right.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What helped you know which statements were lies?
How do you react when you find out you believed a lie?
Do you think lying is always wrong? Why or why not?**

Say: **You just evaluated some truths and lies. It can be hard to tell the difference between truth and lies, but we know that ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. We can tell the truth and ask God to help us know the difference between truth and lies. Now let's explore a situation in the Bible in which a man was dishonest with his dad and brother.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Family Court

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the "Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac" picture on the Bible Timeline.





Say: **There’s a new reality TV show—*Family Court*—which will cast you in various roles in the courtroom. You’re all being asked to try out for it. For tryouts, you’ll try a case based on a specific passage from the Bible.** Form four groups. Assign the following roles to the various groups: Prosecuting Attorney, Plaintiff, Defense Attorney, and Defendant. Explain that the roles are defined on the Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **Jacob will be the Defendant. The Defense Attorney will help represent Jacob and build a case for his innocence, based on other people’s actions. The Plaintiff will be three people: Isaac, Rebekah, and Esau. The Plaintiff is accusing the Defendant. The Prosecuting Attorney will represent the Plaintiff.**

Direct kids to the “Tracking Honesty” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Give each group a Bible, and instruct groups to follow the directions on their Bible Buzz pages. Allow several minutes for groups to assemble their arguments and accusations. Play “Mystery Music” (track 13 on the CD) as kids work. When kids finish, bring them together and have groups sit in a courtroom setting.

Say: **Let’s begin this Family Court case. Court is in session.** Invite each group to present its argument in turn. Then allow time for groups to debate with each other respectfully. Allow 10 minutes for all presentations, moving presenters along as necessary.

Say: **You presented very intriguing arguments, and you brought up some very good points about the people in this passage.** Have everyone sit in the center of the meeting area together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of the way this family treated each other?**
- How is this like or unlike the way your family treats one another?**
- Tell about a time you got something you wanted, but you got it because you were dishonest. How did that feel?**
- What advice would you give yourself the next time you’re tempted to try to gain something through dishonesty?**

Say: **Jacob’s dishonest actions changed his future as well as Esau’s. We may have pretended to give a verdict about Jacob’s actions, but only God knows everything that was going on in that situation. Here’s what we know for sure: ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. God wants us to be honest because when we’re dishonest, we damage people, just as Jacob’s actions damaged his family.**





Running Mouth Supplies

several sticky note pads
pens
CD player
two 12-inch pieces of
yarn

Teacher Pack

“Giant Mouth” mask
CD: “Big Band Music”
(track 8)

Running Mouth Easy Prep

Punch out the mouth from the card. Then turn the mouth mask over so the mouth faces away from you. Insert string or yarn through the two small holes on the sides of the mask, and knot the ends on the front of the mask. Punch out the eye holes.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Running Mouth

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Select one preteen to be the “Mouth” for this activity, and have the rest of the kids get in pairs. Show kids the “Giant Mouth” mask. Tell kids they’re going to think up lies that they hear (perhaps even things they tell themselves), such as “You’re dumb” or “You can’t do that,” and write one lie on each of the sticky notes you’ll give them. Distribute pens and sticky notes, and give pairs one minute to think up their words and write them. After pairs finish, help the Mouth put on the “Giant Mouth” mask.

Say: Let’s learn about how we can avoid telling lies. You’ll try to place your sticky notes on the Mouth, but the Mouth is going to run and avoid getting your lie placed on it. You have 30 seconds to see how many words you can place.

Give kids the signal to begin. As kids are attempting to place their sticky notes, play “Big Band Music” (track 8 on the CD). Play a few times, allowing the track to finish each round. Choose a new Mouth at the end of each round.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to chase the Mouth with lies? to run from lies?

What’s it like to try to avoid lies in your own life? How does it or doesn’t it feel like running from lies in our activity?

Tell about a time a lie affected your life.

In what ways can God help you be truthful with yourself and others?

Say: We tried to make lies stick to a Mouth, and sometimes we’re tempted to let lies come from our mouths. You can run away from lies like the Mouth ran away from us, and no matter what you face, God can help you overcome with honesty. Jacob’s lies may have started from a place of insecurity in his heart. He ended up making a big mess of everything with lies. ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. Let’s find out what God thinks of the difference between honesty and dishonesty.

Detestable or Delightful?

Tip Since kids will be eating foods without even seeing them first, please be extra vigilant to ensure you know what kids' food allergies are beforehand. Inquire with kids before having them proceed with this activity, and make modifications as necessary to ensure everyone's safety.

What You'll Do

Have kids find the Key Verse, Proverbs 12:22, on their Bible Buzz pages, and have a willing preteen read the verse aloud: "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful."

Ask:

How do your feelings about lying versus honesty seem the same or similar to what this verse says about God's opinions?

Say: **To help us understand how God feels about lying and honesty, we're going to taste different foods. You won't know whether you're going to try something detestable or delightful.**

Form four groups, and distribute pens and paper. Say: **We all have foods that we detest or delight in. Anyone who is brave enough to try something without looking at it first, close your eyes!** Allow time. Check with kids about potential food allergies, and make changes as needed to ensure everyone's safety. Distribute wet wipes to each group, and give a container of one kind of food to someone with his or her eyes open in each group. That person will be the taste-test Supervisor. Anyone else who has their eyes open will write down the reactions of the people testing the foods. Say: **If you have your eyes open, don't say anything that'll indicate what your group members are about to eat. Supervisors, use wet wipes to clean your hands, and then give a piece of the food in your container to each person whose eyes are closed.** Have kids wait until everyone on their team is ready and then try their food item together. Then have kids discuss these questions in their groups.

Ask:

**How does it taste?
Would you compare the taste of it to how God sees lying or how God sees honesty? Why?
Is that the same as or different from your experiences with dishonesty or honesty? Why or why not?**

After each willing preteen has tasted the food and answered your questions, sit together in a circle.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.



Detestable or Delightful? Supplies

Bible Buzz

pens

paper

2 containers of cut-up delightful foods (such as peaches, apples, or cake)

2 containers of cut-up detestable foods (such as raw onions, beets, or lemons)

4 small paper bags

wet wipes

! ALLERGY ALERT

Detestable or Delightful? Easy Prep

Cut food into easy-to-eat chunks. Place the containers of food into the paper bags so kids can't see the foods.





Ask:

**What's the most detestable thing you've ever tasted?
How is that like or unlike how God feels about lying?
What does it mean that God delights in the truth?
How can you take more delight in the truth?**

Say: **You bravely tested some detestable and delightful foods that helped you see God's view of honesty and dishonesty. ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD.** God loves it when we're honest. Jacob's family sure didn't grasp the importance of honesty, and sometimes we struggle with it, too. Sometimes being honest means we're going to get into trouble for something we've done. But God still delights in honesty.

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can remember this week that ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD.**

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

- Go back to someone you've lied to recently and tell that person the truth. Don't forget to apologize for lying in the first place.**
- Write the Key Verse on an index card and decorate it with drawings of things that are delightful to you. Hang it up somewhere you'll see it often. Remember the Key Verse any time you see any of the things you drew on the index card.**
- Encourage your friends to stand up for the truth, even if it's difficult.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.



Say: **Jacob's family had a big problem with dishonesty. We can live in honesty by asking Jesus to give us strength and help us be more like him. We can remember that ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD by following through with 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 honesty. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Invite kids to form groups of four and each share an area in which he or she needs God's help with honesty. Have kids pray together in their groups.



Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to understand that life isn't always fair or easy. They may have already experienced abuse from parents or other adults, or bullying from their peers. Certainly they have seen acts of abuse and violence played out on television. As they see and experience hard times, they'll no doubt ask why God allows such bad things to happen. Use this lesson to help kids learn to trust God to use hard times for good. As they discover that God can use hard times for good purposes, kids can begin to make sense of the hard times they see or experience firsthand.



► **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
Preteens will trust God to use hard times to help them grow.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>Doughnut Resistance <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Search for a box of doughnuts while blindfolded.</p>	<p>1 box of doughnuts with only enough doughnuts for about 1/3 of your group, extra doughnuts (enough for everyone else), 3 blindfolds, CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Hide the extra doughnuts somewhere that kids won't see them.</p>
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Alternative Perspectives <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Explore the Bible passage, and write letters of complaint.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens, paper, tape</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	It All Works Together <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Sing the Key Verse song while overcoming an obstacle.	Bible Buzz, chairs, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
	My Chosen Response <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Choose a response for a tough time they're facing.	Bible Buzz, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	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.



Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jacob Flees From Esau to Uncle Laban

After fleeing from his brother, Esau, Jacob headed to the land of his ancestors, and there he found his uncle Laban. Laban welcomed him into his home, and Jacob fell in love with Rachel.

Jacob Marries Leah, But Loves Rachel

No one knows for sure the meaning of Scripture’s description of Leah’s eyes as “weak.” Some suggest that she was nearsighted; others say that her eyes lacked the sparkle or fire that was considered a sign of great beauty in that culture. Still others think the Hebrew word translated as “weak” could also be translated as “delicate” or “gentle,” indicating that Leah had some beauty but it paled by comparison to Rachel’s overwhelming beauty. Whatever Leah’s eyes were like, Jacob definitely preferred Rachel!

Reading through the passage raises at least a couple of questions: *Why did Jacob have to work seven years to “earn” his wife?* Jacob may have used this method because he wasn’t able to give Laban a dowry, as was customarily given to the father of the bride.

How could Jacob have slept with Leah without knowing she wasn’t Rachel? Remember that this event happened before the invention of electric lights, so it would have been very dark once the weak lamps were extinguished. Also Leah might have tried to make the deception succeed. Finally, Jacob’s senses may have been dulled by eating and drinking during the wedding feast.

Because multiple wives were common in that culture, Laban agreed to let Jacob take Rachel as his second wife after just one week—if Jacob worked another seven years for Laban. This was not your average honeymoon.

Jacob Keeps His Word to Laban

So Jacob continued to work for Laban. Jacob fulfilled his promise. Perhaps this shows some growth in Jacob. Perhaps years of hardship had curbed his deceptive ways—after all, he could have taken his two wives and run before the second set of seven years was up. Perhaps he realized that God was teaching him patience and faithfulness through the hard times that came into his life.

Hard times come. How we respond to them may influence how God helps us through them. When we trust in God, he will never let us down.

The Jesus Connection

We all go through hard times. No one has ever faced as many difficulties as Jesus did while he was here walking among humankind. God sees our hearts and he wants to help us grow in character and closeness to him. The more we allow God to shape our responses and attitudes, the closer we can draw to him and the more able we are to walk through hard times with faith and perseverance while trusting him. What are some ways you can ask God to help you change your attitude toward hard times? You can write your prayer below.





Doughnut Resistance Supplies

1 box of doughnuts with only enough doughnuts for about $\frac{1}{3}$ of your group extra doughnuts (enough for everyone else)

3 blindfolds
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Doughnut Search Music" (track 9)

ALLERGY ALERT

Doughnut Resistance Easy Prep

Hide the extra doughnuts somewhere that kids won't see them.

1 GETTING STARTED

Doughnut Resistance

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Form three groups, and ask each group to choose a Representative to send to the front of the room. Blindfold the Representatives, and have them stand in the center of the room. Quietly bring out a box of doughnuts, and set it in an out-of-the-way place somewhere in the room. Explain to the groups that the box doesn't contain enough doughnuts for everyone, so you've devised this contest to see who gets to enjoy them.

Say: **On "go," the three Representatives will begin to scour the room in search of the doughnuts. The rest of you can't say anything to your group's Representative or try to direct him or her in any way. However, you can speak to the other groups' Representatives to try to throw them off or discourage them. Remember, they know you're trying to throw them off, so you have to be clever in what you say. The only rules in this contest are that you can't touch any of the Representatives and you may not use any put-downs in any way. The group whose Representative finds the doughnuts first gets to share the doughnuts.**

Once groups understand the rules, say: **Go!** Play "Doughnut Search Music" (track 9 on the CD). When the song ends or when one of the Representatives finds the doughnuts, stop the music and gather everyone together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Allow the winning group to enjoy the spoils of their victory while you lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was difficult about this contest?
Do you think the outcome was fair? Why or why not?**

Say: **I happen to have brought enough doughnuts for everyone, actually.** Bring out the rest of the doughnuts. Have kids enjoy the treats while you continue the discussion.

Ask:

**What sorts of obstacles did you deal with in this contest?
Describe what it's like to have other people try to keep you from succeeding in your goal.
How is that like what happens when you face hard times in real life?
Do you think difficult experiences can be good for you? Why or why not?**



Say: **This little contest of ours gives us a taste of how frustrating it can be to face hard times. God allows all of us to go through difficult times. But why? Today we'll hear about some tough times Jacob faced as we learn that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Alternative Perspectives

What You'll Do

Have students form groups of three, and give each group pens, paper, and the Bible Buzz pages. Assign each trio one of these people: Jacob, Leah, or Rachel.

Say: **Your team will be advocates for whichever person you've been assigned. As you read, take notes that will help you represent that person's side. Then discuss the questions listed on the Bible Buzz pages to help your group understand that person better.**

Read the following paraphrase of Genesis 29:15-30.

Jacob had been working for his uncle Laban for a while. Jacob wanted to marry one of Laban's daughters. Leah, the older daughter, hadn't really made much of an impression on Jacob—and then there was Rachel, the younger daughter. Jacob was totally smitten with Rachel, and she liked him, too. Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he promised to work for *seven years* to be able to marry her. Seven years later, Laban planned a great wedding. But instead of giving the young Rachel to Jacob, he gave him Leah!

Laban was dishonest, and while he let Jacob marry Rachel a week later, he made him work *another seven years*.

Direct kids' attention to the "Complaint Form" on their Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **As advocates for the person you've been assigned, fill out the Complaint Form on your Bible Buzz page. On the form, explain what unfair things Laban has done, how his actions have made things difficult for your client, and what you think he should do to fix the problem. As you write, keep in mind that Laban can be hardheaded about these things, so make your complaint as direct and persuasive as possible.**

When trios have completed their complaint forms, write "Laban" in large letters on a sheet of paper. Tape the paper to yourself.

Alternative Perspectives Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens
paper
tape

Alternative Perspectives Easy Prep

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





Say: **Now that you've written your letters of complaint, I'm going to give you a chance to deliver them directly to the source. From here on out, I'm going to be Laban. As you can tell, I'm a tough person who isn't willing to listen to your complaint. But you have to make me listen. Your trio's job is to read your letter of complaint to me and try to get me to respond in any way whatsoever. Maybe you can get me to talk. That would be wonderful. Or maybe you could get me to smile. That would be something. But, to be honest, I doubt that anything can make me respond. I'll probably just sit there and ignore you.**

Have trios take turns coming to the front of the room to deliver their letters of complaint to Laban. After all the trios have delivered their letters, remove the "Laban" sign and announce that Laban has left. Gather all the trios together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think of Jacob's complaint with Laban?

What do you think of Leah's complaint?

What do you think of Rachel's complaint?

Do you think they all had good reason to be angry or frustrated with Laban?

Why or why not?

What do you think of the way Jacob, Leah, and Rachel responded in the Bible?

Say: **Jacob, Leah, and Rachel's struggles helped them grow. When we deal with hard times by looking for God's presence and guidance, we're never disappointed—he's right by us all the time. It may seem strange to think about hard times being good for you. But ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. Through the trials they endured, God brought great wealth and prosperity to Jacob, Leah, and Rachel.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

It All Works Together

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students find the Key Verse, Romans 8:28, on their Bible Buzz pages: "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." Ask someone to read the verse aloud.

Say: **Let's celebrate this awesome truth!** Have kids quickly create a line of chairs in the middle of the room that stretches from one wall to the other. When the wall of chairs is complete, gather kids on one side of the wall.

It All Works Together Supplies

Bible Buzz

chairs

CD player

copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "God Works for the
Good" (Romans 8:28)
(track 10)





Ask:

What does our Key Verse mean in your life?

Say: **This verse can help us always remember that no matter what we face, God is going to work it out for our good. ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. Let's celebrate this awesome truth by singing about it. As we sing, let's work together to get to the other side of the room without touching the chairs with your hands and without going around them. Keep singing the whole time.**

Distribute copies of the lyrics page to help kids learn the words to the song. Lead kids in singing "God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) (track 10 on the CD). Then have them try to cross the room.



(Chorus)

**And we know, we know
That in all things
God works for the good
Of those who love him.**

(Repeat.)

**Who have been called
According to his purpose.
Who have been called
According to his purpose.**

**If you understand
It's in his command
To work things out for his children.
That is you!
That is me!**

(Repeat chorus 3x.)

**And we know, we know
That in all things
God works for the good
Of those who love him,
Who love him.**

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

While kids sing the song, have them work together to get everyone to the other side of the room without touching the wall of chairs or going around it. For example, smaller kids could crawl under the chairs, and then they could help lift other kids over the wall. Or for a really simple solution, kids could use their shoes (removed from their feet) or other accessories to move or lift chairs together so the chairs are no longer an obstacle. Give suggestions if kids seem stuck, and discourage dangerous ideas such as jumping over the chairs.





My Chosen Response Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's something good that happened because of the challenge you faced together just now?

Tell about a time you saw God bring good from a tough situation.

What can you do when you're going through something tough to be sure you're showing faith in the truth of this verse?

What do you hope will happen the next time you trust God to make something good come from a difficult situation?

Say: **It's amazing what you can accomplish when you approach a tough situation with a good attitude and a willingness to help others. Jacob, Leah, and Rachel encountered some really tough times that made the rest of their lives more difficult. Even in the middle of that, God still took care of all of them and helped them become an important nation. We can always trust that ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. We'll find that things don't seem so bad when we look for God in the hard times.**

My Chosen Response

What You'll Do

Say: **We've seen how Jacob faced a tough situation by choosing to have a good attitude about it. But note that Jacob *chose* his attitude. We may not be able to change the tough situations in our lives, but we can choose how we'll respond. Right now I'm going to give you an opportunity to choose how you'll respond in a tough situation you might be facing.**

Have kids find the "My Story" part of the "Response Chooser" section on their Bible Buzz pages, and make sure everyone has a pen.

Say: **Think about a tough situation you're facing right now. In the space under "My Story," write a brief description of that situation.**

Allow students several minutes to complete their writing about their situations.

Say: **Now fill out the four pieces in the middle of the Response Chooser. Write in each space one idea for a response you would want to choose to have in a tough situation in the future.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How have you approached this difficult situation in your life so far?

How does your reaction compare with what God asks you to do?



In what way does the situation seem different if you think you're able to choose your attitude?

Say: **Jacob, Leah, and Rachel** faced hard times, but God turned their bad situation around for something good. It may seem difficult or strange to think of changing your response to a bad situation. It's more common for us to want to change the situation itself. But you can trust that God is going to get you through this situation.
▶ **GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.**



4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can trust that ▶ **GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.** Choose at least one of the responses you wrote on the "Response Chooser" on your Bible Buzz page as your Daily Challenge, and write a prayer to God under "My Commitment" to tell God your commitment.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Jacob, Rachel, and Leah** all went through tough times, and God was there guiding them and helping them grow. ▶ **GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW, too.** Let's trust God with our hard times this week by following through with our Daily Challenges.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about help in hard times. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids form small groups and pray for each other about the tough time they talked about in the “My Chosen Response” activity.





Lyrics ■■■■

God Works for the Good (Romans 8:28)

(Chorus)

**And we know, we know
That in all things
God works for the good
Of those who love him.**

(Repeat.)

**Who have been called
According to his purpose.
Who have been called
According to his purpose.**

**If you understand
It's in his command
To work things out for his children.
That is you!
That is me!**

(Repeat chorus 3x.)

**And we know, we know
That in all things
God works for the good
Of those who love him,
Who love him.**

"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

Joseph's family set the bar pretty low when it comes to defining dysfunction. Brothers who sell each other into slavery, a father who openly favors one child over the others—this is almost a made-for-TV movie. And it may feel familiar to some of your kids. Be sensitive to your preteens' family situations as you present this lesson. Use this lesson to help kids see how they can show Jesus' love to their family members in any situation.



► 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


Preteens will show love to their family members.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sitcom Families <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Compare their families with various sitcom or movie families.	paper, pens	
2 Bible Exploration	Joseph—the Terrible, Rotten Little Brother <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Rank Joseph's likability, and discuss how they can be more loving to their own families.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, tape measure (10 feet or more)	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Table Talk <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore how they feel about their own families, and learn the Key Verse.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Family Love <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Rate how they love their families, and choose a way they can love them better.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, CD player, pens Teacher Pack: CD, "Jesus' Love" cards</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>Bible Buzz, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>tape measure (10 feet or more)</p>	

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.





Sitcom Families Supplies

paper
pens

1 GETTING STARTED

Sitcom Families

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Form groups of five. Distribute paper and pens to each group. Say: **Today we're going to talk about showing love to our families. We all have some kind of family, and we know of other families. Let's pretend that each group here is a family. Take a few minutes to give your family a last name. Write your last name at the top of your paper.** Allow time.

Say: **Draw a line down the middle of your paper, and think of a TV or movie family that your pretend family is like. Write the similarities between the people in your group and the family you thought of in one column and the differences in the other.** Allow time.

Have kids discuss ways they wish their actual families were more like their Sitcom Families and why, or ways they're glad their families are different from their Sitcom Families.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What seems strange to you about pretending to be part of a family that doesn't exist?

How well do the attributes of your Sitcom Family line up with how God wants families to treat each other?

What's the hardest thing for you to like about someone in your family?

Say: **Television shows only one side of things. Whether we're in a really fantastic family or one that has some difficult things going on, we know the people in our families are a lot more complex than what we see on TV. God knows us so well that he knows our thoughts before we even think them. He knows everyone in our families that well, too. God made us to ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. Let's find out about a family in the Bible that had a hard time showing love.**

2

 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Joseph—the Terrible, Rotten Little Brother

What You'll Do

Give kids each a pen and this week's Bible Buzz page. Ask them to form pairs and sit where they can talk together without disrupting others, and give each pair a Bible. Have kids find the "Joseph Report" section on their Bible Buzz pages, and give them a little time to look at the questions so they know what they'll be looking for as they read.

Say: Read Genesis 37:1-11. Then in your pairs fill in the Joseph Report. Discuss your answers and work together on the first two questions, but answer the third one yourself, without discussing it with your partner. You'll have six minutes to work.

Lay out the tape measure to 10 feet. When six minutes have passed, ask them to—without speaking—go to the tape measure and line up by the number they selected in the third question. Ask kids to remain standing by the number they chose as each explains his or her choice.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Explain what you think about Joseph's brothers' feelings toward him. Which of Joseph's actions do you like the most? the least? What do you think about Jacob favoring Joseph?

Have kids sit with you in a circle.

Say: There's no question about it: Joseph wasn't an easy brother to love. As one of the youngest, he had a special relationship with his father, one of privilege and honor. No wonder his older brothers were jealous. Plus, announcing his dreams didn't make Joseph popular with his brothers. And the brothers' anger and jealousy didn't help them care about Joseph.

Ask someone to read aloud Romans 12:15. Set out the tape measure again, and have kids stand along it from 1 to 10 to rank how well Joseph's family did at showing this verse. Have them stand there as they discuss the first question below.

Ask:

Compare Joseph's actions and his family's actions with the verse we just heard. What stands out to you?



Joseph—the Terrible, Rotten Little Brother Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens
tape measure (10 feet or more)

Joseph—the Terrible, Rotten Little Brother Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz book.



Go to a place on the tape measure that shows how closely your actions toward your family compare with those of Joseph's family. Now compare your actions with the Bible verse we just read. One is not at all, and 10 is exactly like it. What are some ways you struggle to show love to your family? How can this verse encourage or help you?

Say: None of the people in Joseph's family seemed too concerned about doing exactly what God wanted, and they seemed pretty difficult to love. We all have family members who aren't easy to love sometimes. We all *are* family members who aren't easy to love sometimes, too. Yet God says to ► **SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.** God expects us to love each other, to honor our parents, and to treat each other well. Let's explore this more.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Table Talk

Table Talk Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens
CD player
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "As I Have Loved
You" (John 13:34)
(track 11)

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's admit it: Sometimes family members aren't easy to love—maybe our parents when they discipline us, a brother or sister who's grumpy, or us when we're grumpy. Let's do a quick check to see how we're feeling about our own families right now.**

Have kids find "Our Family Table" on their Bible Buzz pages. Say: **See the table there? Let's say it's the table where your family gathers to eat. Write your name on one of the chairs; then put the names of your family members on the other chairs. If you don't live with some of them, that's okay—put their names on chairs anyway.**

Give kids a minute to fill out their family members' names on the chairs.

Say: **Now look at the Symbol Key next to the table. The key explains the three types of arrows you can use to show how you feel about each of your family members. Draw one type of arrow from you to each family member to indicate how you feel about that person. If you have a large family, you'll have lots of arrows. You won't have to share this with anyone if you don't want to, so be honest with yourself.**


Give kids several minutes to record how their family members relate to each other.

Say: **I know you love your families, but I'm guessing you probably don't all have solid lines between you and each of your family members. That means there's room for improvement when it comes to how we show love to our families. Even if we think the other person isn't being fair, we can humbly love our family members when it's difficult.**



Have preteens find the Key Verse, John 13:34, on their Bible Buzz pages, and ask someone to read it aloud: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Distribute copies of the lyrics page. Say: **Let’s sing a song to help us remember the Key Verse. As you sing, think about the meaning of the words and how you can show love to your family.** Lead the kids in singing “As I Have Loved You” (John 13:34) (track 11 on the CD).

 **A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you.
A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you.**

**Love one another.
Love one another.
Love one another.
Love one another.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you.
A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you,
As I have loved you,
As I have loved you.**

“As I Have Loved You” (John 13:34) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does the verse we just sang have to do with you and your family?**
- Think about the chairs you wrote your family members’ names on. How do you know you love the people in your family?**
- In what ways can you recognize your part in some of the relationships that don’t seem to be going as well right now?**
- Why is it important to love others in our families?**
- What can you do to show Jesus’ love in your family?**

Say: **There will be many different things throughout our lives that challenge our ability to show Jesus’ love to people. Sometimes that can be difficult to do, but it’s exactly what God wants us to do. Joseph’s family sure struggled with showing God’s love to one another, but no matter what’s going on, we can**

► SHOW JESUS’ LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.





Family Love Supplies

Bible Buzz

CD player

pens

Teacher Pack

CD: "Family Love Pass"

(track 7)

"Jesus' Love" cards

Family Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Separate the "Jesus' Love" cards, and distribute a pen and one card to each of the kids. Have kids spend a couple of minutes drawing a simple picture of one way they might show love in their families. Instruct kids to keep the drawings simple and easy to understand.

Say: **Sit in a circle with your "Jesus' Love" card, Bible Buzz page, and pen nearby. Hold your card with the colorful side up, and when I turn on the music, pass the cards around the circle. When the music stops, look at the drawing on the card you have. Think about how you could show love to someone in your family that way. On the "Our Family Table" section on your Bible Buzz page, write near someone's name one sentence about how you could show love this way.** Play "Family Love Pass" (track 7 on the CD), pausing at random intervals.

Continue playing as time permits. Start the track over if necessary.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you hope will happen if you show love toward your family in the ways you wrote down?

What would happen if someone did those things for you?

How can God help you love your family?

Say: **You may have seen some new ideas for how to show love to your family. No matter what, it's good for us to think more about ways to show love. Joseph's family clearly spent more time thinking about themselves than thinking about how to love one another, and nothing great came of that. Sometimes loving family members isn't easy. But God tells us that we**
► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

pens



Write a card to tell someone in your family how much you love him or her. Come up with a bunch of things you appreciate about a family member. Paint or draw a picture that depicts some of those things. Give your picture to that person. Spend time with that family member doing something he or she wants to do. Don't complain or show disappointment if it's not exactly your idea.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Joseph's family dynamic was entirely messy. No matter what someone else does, Jesus can help us show his love to the people in our families. We can ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about loving their families. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Set out the tape measure, and have kids stand along the line. Ask kids to pray silently about a way they can show Jesus' love in their families. When kids are done, have them move one step toward the 10 side of the line. Then close the prayer time by thanking God for each person and his or her family.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
tape measure (10 feet or more)



**Lyrics** ■■■■**As I Have Loved You (John 13:34)**

A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you.
A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you.

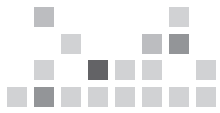
Love one another.
Love one another.
Love one another.
Love one another.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you.
A new command I give to you:
Love one another as I have loved you,
As I have loved you,
As I have loved you.

"As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**OK
TO COPY**



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

Preteens are testing the waters, learning what works and what doesn’t. They’re at a junction in life where an increasing number of decisions are being left up to them. As they encounter these decisions, it’s a critical time to discuss making right choices—both knowing what right choices are and knowing how to make them. Use this lesson to help kids realize the deep and abiding importance of doing what’s right—not out of fear but through faith in God.



► Bible Point

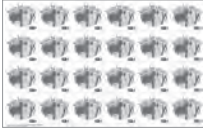
God wants us to do what’s right.

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

Preteens will choose to do right when confronted with questionable situations.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Action Auction <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Bid on basic items they have a need for.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens, scissors, mouthwash, brush/comb, sunglasses, folder, bandage, shoes, at least 2 copies per preteen of the “Funny Money” handout (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: “Inside Information” cards</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Separate the “Inside Information” cards. Cut apart the copies of “Funny Money.”</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Tough Choices <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Discover five decision points in Genesis 37:12-36—the account of Joseph’s sale into slavery.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Words and Actions <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to follow a leader's directions, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible Buzz	
	Peer Pressure Review <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decide what's right to do in four situations.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz	

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



Joseph’s Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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. Possibly it was his turn to check on distant flocks; in any case, he didn’t witness his brothers’ next act. 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. Whatever the motive, 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

There was certainly a lot behind the brothers’ actions that resulted in Joseph’s slavery. But 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.





Action Auction Supplies

Bible Buzz

pens
scissors
mouthwash
brush/comb
sunglasses
folder
bandage
shoes
at least 2 copies per preteen of the “Funny Money” handout (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

“Inside Information” cards

Action Auction Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
Separate the “Inside Information” cards.
Cut apart the copies of “Funny Money.”

1 GETTING STARTED

Action Auction

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Set out the mouthwash, brush/comb, sunglasses, folder, bandage, and shoes in a prominent place, and invite kids to come by and look at the items. Say: **As you look at these items, think about which ones you might be interested in bidding on right now.** Distribute this week’s Bible Buzz pages and pens.

Say: **Welcome to the Action Temporary Auction! In case you don’t know, at an auction you bid money to buy something. The Auctioneer—that’s me—suggests a price, and if you’re willing to pay it, you raise your hand. Then the Auctioneer suggests a higher price, and if you still want the item, you raise your hand. The price keeps going up until nobody is willing to pay more. Then the item is sold to the highest bidder, and you can keep it until the end of the activity.**

I’m going to hand out some cards and money. Don’t let anyone know how much money you have, and don’t let anyone see your card! Distribute the “Funny Money,” but don’t give kids the same amount. Distribute the “Inside Information” cards equally to kids. Each card repeats four times. This will create bidding wars—a good thing for this activity!

Say: **The card tells you a special secret that will help you know when to bid for an item. And the money is what you’ll need to buy the item. You can’t bid more money than you have in your hand.** Allow a minute for kids to read and understand what their “Inside Information” cards mean.

Say: **And just so you don’t get carried away and bid too much on something you want, jot down the top amount you’re willing to bid on the “Bidder’s Notes” section on your Bible Buzz page before you bid.** Allow time.

Point to the mouthwash. Say: **Ladies and gentlemen, let the auction begin! We’re going to auction off some rather basic items that may seem random unless you happen to have recently realized a serious need for one of them. First, we have for sale this positively essential mouthwash. Don’t get caught with powerfully stinky breath—this mouthwash is yours for a starting bid of just \$10. Do I hear \$10? Yes? \$20?**

Push up the bidding as high as possible before declaring a winning bid. Then cover these items:

Here’s a perfectly useful brush/comb—with a starting bid of just \$20!





Now, sight-enhancing sunglasses for sale! Ladies and gentlemen, a starting bid of just \$10 for the visual assistance you need.
 One organization-enhancing folder—with a starting bid of just \$10!
 A super-duper, handy, helpful bandage. That oughta be worth at least \$20.
 A foot-shielding pair of shoes. Anything’s gotta be better than nothing, right? Starting bid of only \$20.

After the auction, have kids gather around you, and collect the items from the auction winners.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to participate in this auction?
- How did you decide how much to bid and when to stop?
- What helped you know what to bid on and what you wanted to let go?
- How is that like or unlike knowing whether you’re doing something that’s right or wrong in a real-life situation?
- In this game, the cards may’ve influenced your decision-making. What influences your decisions in real-life situations?

Say: You bid for things you believed you needed. But today we’ll hear about someone being sold into slavery in the Bible. The price: 20 shekels of silver, which was less than what a slave was typically sold for at that time. And what’s really bad about this situation is that it was his brothers who sold him as a slave! They had chances to stop before doing it—but they didn’t make good choices. We’ll learn that ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT.** And we’ll explore how we can be sure to make the right choice every time!

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Tough Choices

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Provide Bibles, pens, and paper. Have kids form groups of five and find the “Decision Points” on their Bible Buzz pages. Have groups turn to Genesis 37:12-36 in their Bibles.

Say: You’re going to be writers today as we read the Bible passage together. In your group, read the Bible passage and then write a choose-your-own-adventure story line that shows the people in the passage doing what’s right. There are five different decision points in our Bible passage. At each of those points, you’ll stop and record a possible outcome of the decision facing the Bible people, and then you’ll choose a different group member to read the next section of the passage.



**Tough Choices
Supplies**

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- paper





Have groups follow the directions on the “Decision Points” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Allow four minutes per decision point, and tell kids to switch every four minutes. Read Genesis 37:33-36 aloud to help kids finish the events in the Bible passage.

Say: **Other than Reuben, Joseph’s brothers didn’t seem to care much about doing what was right. And though Reuben tried to help, he didn’t stand up to his brothers. Anger and jealousy kept the brothers from doing the right thing. And once they started making bad decisions, it was easy to continue making bad decisions. You’ve all faced decisions about right and wrong, and you know how bad choices can pile up. Let’s talk about what you can take away from what happened between Joseph and his brothers.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to think of good choices that the brothers could make and then read about the choices they made?

What’s it like to be tempted to do something wrong?

How can God help you break through the temptation and choose what’s right in a situation that you struggle with?

Say: **When we’re angry and jealous, we sometimes treat others badly without pausing to ask what the right thing would be. When we make one bad decision, it’s easy to lie to cover it up; then we get trapped in our lies. And sometimes even when we know the right thing to do, we don’t stand up and do it. But God wants us to trust him to help us do what’s right. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT—even when doing right isn’t popular or easy. Let’s explore this more.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Words and Actions

What You’ll Do

Have kids stand up. Say: **We’re going to play a game of gesturing. Follow along carefully!**

Have kids follow you as you make the symbol for “scout’s honor” (hold up the three middle fingers together and fold the other fingers together with the thumb). Keeping your fingers in this arrangement, say: **Hold the scout’s honor hand gesture to your chin.** As you say that, move your hand that’s making the gesture to your cheek. Kids will most likely follow what you did rather than what you said. Continue giving directions for where to move their hands. Sometimes give the correct direction, and other times do something different from what you say.

Words and Actions
Supplies

Bible Buzz





Allow a few different kids to lead the group as time allows. Then have kids find the Key Verse, 1 John 3:18, on their Bible Buzz pages: “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” Have kids read the Key Verse aloud in unison.

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that our actions are more important than our words when we show love to others, and we know that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT with our actions *and* our words.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids form pairs. Lead pairs in this discussion.

Ask:

- Talk about a time your words and actions contradicted each other.**
- What’s the matter with saying the right thing but not having actions that line up?**
- Explain whether you think it’s better to show love in actions than words.**
- How can you let God help you do what’s right with your actions and words?**

Say: **In our activity, it was easier to follow the leader when words and actions matched, but most of the time, you followed the actions of the leader. Our Key Verse tells us that God wants us to use actions to love people. Actions indicate what’s in our hearts more deeply than words do. We can see from the example of Joseph and his brothers that not having love in our hearts can lead to disaster. Doing the right thing involves more than talking about it. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT. That means we turn our words into actions and actually make right choices.**

Peer Pressure Review

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **There are lots of times we aren’t sure what to do in a situation. If someone suddenly fell over and we had to do emergency brain surgery, which one of us would know what to do? None of us, so let’s hope it doesn’t happen!**

Other times we know what to do, but we have a hard time doing it. Why? Usually because we’re afraid of what others will think of us. It’s called peer pressure, and if we let it, peer pressure can control our lives.

Have kids form trios.

Say: **We’ll listen to four questionable situations on a CD. I’ll pause after each one so you can discuss what you heard. The question you’ll answer after each situation is “How do we do what’s right?”**

Play the first segment of “Doing What’s Right” (track 12 on the CD). After the first segment, pause the CD and allow one minute for trios to discuss. Then ask for willing kids to briefly share insights from their conversations. Resume playing the CD for the second and third segments, pausing for discussion and sharing.



Peer Pressure Review Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Doing What’s Right” (track 12)





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

When is it hardest for you to make the right choice?

Tell about one way you've seen someone make a decision to do what's right.

How can you know what's right when you're faced with a tough choice?

Say: **Joseph and his brothers provide a good example of what can happen when we choose to do things our way instead of God's way. Just like the situations you all talked about, every day we're faced with the choice of whether or not we'll do what God wants. While you can't change other people's choices, you *can* change your own actions. God loves us, and ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can remember this week that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**

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

If your friends encourage you to do something that you know is wrong, suggest a different idea. Then stick to your idea.

When a family member does something that makes you mad, find a way to show that person love instead of choosing to get revenge.

Make a reminder you'll carry with you to help you remember to make the right choice every time you're faced with a tough situation.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens



Say: **Joseph’s brothers gave in to temptation to do wrong things because they weren’t following God in their hearts. Let’s remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT by following through with 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 doing what’s right. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids find a space alone and take their Bible Buzz pages with them. Say: **Sit down and read the Key Verse to yourself quietly, and then close your eyes. Pray quietly, asking God to help you do what’s right. Take a few moments after your prayer to be quiet. With your eyes still closed, let God show you an action you can do that will remind you to do what’s right.** Allow time.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Buzz



Funny Money



Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to understand what it means to take on greater personal responsibilities, both at home and at school. They're beginning to strike out on their own and try new things. Friends and social groups consume more time, and they're beginning to see their lives as places of possibility. Use this lesson to help kids realize that as life takes on new meaning and new excitement, they can serve God in any capacity.



► 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


Preteens will serve God.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>Acts of Service <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Do acts of service for others while following a path to find treats.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, 1 copy per preteen of creative directions for a route to the treats, index cards, treats and paper cups for each preteen, paper trash, pitcher of water, paper, pens Teacher Pack: “Serving Station” signs</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Prepare a table of treats in a different part of the building from your meeting area. Place the “Serving Station” signs along the route. At the first sign, leave the paper trash. At the second sign, place two or three chairs and pieces of paper. At the third sign, place cups and a pitcher of water. At the fourth sign, place index cards and pens.</p>
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Solve a Mystery <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Explore Joseph’s life in a mixed-up way.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Chores for God <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create comic strips of mundane chores, and learn the Key Verse.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, 10 index cards, pen, paper, 5 sets of colored pencils Teacher Pack: “Mundane Chore” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the “Mundane Chore” cards.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: “Mundane Chore” cards</p>	

***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.





Acts of Service Supplies

Bible Buzz

1 copy per preteen of creative directions for a route to the treats
index cards
treats and paper cups for each preteen
paper trash
pitcher of water
paper
pens

Teacher Pack

“Serving Station” signs

! ALLERGY ALERT

Acts of Service Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Prepare a table of treats in a different part of the building from your meeting area. Place the “Serving Station” signs along the route. At the first sign, leave the paper trash. At the second sign, place two or three chairs and pieces of paper. At the third sign, place cups and a pitcher of water. At the fourth sign, place index cards and pens.

1 GETTING STARTED

Acts of Service

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Distribute this week’s Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **Somewhere in this building, I’ve prepared a table of treats for you. But to get to it, you must complete four acts of service. You’ll complete your acts of service on your way to the treats.**

In a moment, I’ll give you the secret directions to the table of treats. As you follow the route, you’ll come across four “Serving Station” signs. Whenever you find one, stop and perform the act of service according to the instructions on the sign.

Give each person a copy of the directions. Have kids travel in pairs, and make sure they don’t leave without their Bible Buzz pages. Once all the kids have left the room, quickly take an alternate route to the table of treats you’ve prepared.

As kids arrive at the table of treats, ask them whether they completed the tasks at all four Serving Stations. Collect the thank-you cards that kids wrote, and pass them on to your pastor later. Allow kids to enjoy the treats while you wait for everyone to arrive. Provide pens, and have kids write a summary of their serving experiences in the “Serving on the Go” section on their Bible Buzz pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Was it hard to take time to complete each of the Serving Stations when you knew there were treats waiting for you? Why or why not?

How was stopping at the Serving Stations like stopping to serve others as we go through real life?

Why is it hard to take time to serve others sometimes?

Say: **Our little adventure is kind of a model for real life. We each go on our way, trying to get through the day at school or trying to get something done at home. But all along the way, stuff happens that interrupts us. A friend may call you on the phone, or your mom might ask you to do something for her. Today we’re going to explore how we can turn those frustrating interruptions into something good because ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Solve a Mystery

What You'll Do

Show kids the “Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge” picture on the Bible Timeline.

Form five groups, give each group a Bible, and assign each group one of the colored short plays from “A Mystery of Order” on their Bible Buzz pages. Make sure kids understand that the short plays are not in the correct order.

Say: To solve the mystery of how God uses us to make a difference, we’re going to explore the life of Joseph and ask the question “How did God use Joseph?” Then we’ll take the insights we learn and apply them to our own lives.

Instruct groups to each read their assigned short plays and work together to come up with a quick re-enactment of their portion of Joseph’s life. As kids work, play “Mysterious Music” (track 3 on the CD).

When groups have prepared their re-enactments, have them take turns acting out their assigned short plays. Before groups begin, have the kids try to guess what portion of Joseph’s life events they’re acting out (the first portion, the second portion, the third portion, and so on). Have groups present their short plays in the order they think is most accurate.

Give each group one of the following sections to read:

- Red short play: Genesis 39:20-23
- Brown short play: Genesis 40:1-22
- Green short play: Genesis 41:1-8
- Yellow short play: Genesis 41:9-32
- Blue short play: Genesis 41:41-49

Based on the biblical account and their verse references, have groups rearrange their short plays in the correct order (if they weren’t already ordered correctly). Then have groups act out their short plays again, this time in the correct order. Once the entire passage has been successfully and accurately acted out, gather everyone together.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What about Joseph’s actions does or doesn’t fit the situations he faced?**
- How do you think he was able to react that way to those situations?**
- What’s your biggest challenge when you try to serve God in tough situations?**



Solve a Mystery Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - Bible Buzz
 - pens
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “Mysterious Music”
(track 3)
 - Bible Timeline





Chores for God Supplies

Bible Buzz

10 index cards

pen

paper

5 sets of colored pencils

Teacher Pack

“Mundane Chore” cards

Chores for God Easy Prep

Separate the “Mundane
Chore” cards.

How can you rely on God to help you focus on serving him when things get tough in your life?

Say: **Joseph’s life had a lot of unexpected twists and turns, and throughout it all, Joseph continued to focus on how he could serve God. Joseph faced a lot of crummy situations, and yet he continued to praise God and serve him. Joseph’s actions were backward from how people usually respond to such things. We can choose to react backward too, and ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE no matter what our personal circumstances are.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Chores for God

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Form groups of five. Number the members of the groups from 1 to 5. Give each group a “Mundane Chore” card, a piece of paper per preteen, and a set of colored pencils. Hang on to the “Mundane Chore” cards that say “New Attitude” at the top.

Say: **Pretend you were just asked to do the chore on your card. In your group, decide how you’d perform that job. What kind of attitude would you honestly have? How would you feel as you did that job? What would you be thinking while you were doing it? Be honest—think about the ways you normally react to unexpected chores.**

Create a comic strip that shows someone doing the job with your actions and thoughts. Maybe the character in your comic strip does the job and whines about it. Or maybe your comic strip shows someone putting it off and putting it off as long as possible.

Give groups up to five minutes to decide how they’d react and for each preteen to create a comic strip. Then have groups present their comic strips to the rest of the group. After groups have presented, discuss the following questions.

Ask:

**How did you react the last time someone asked you to do the chore on your card or another chore you don’t enjoy?
How would you change your attitude if God asked you to do the same thing?**

Have kids find the Key Verse, Colossians 3:23, on their Bible Buzz pages. Ask them to read the verse in their groups: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”





Say: ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.** Let’s pretend that God asked you to do the same thing that was on your card. What would change? Your attitude? The amount of complaining? How quickly you accomplish the task?

I’m going to give you another card now. This time it shows how God might ask you to do the same job to make a difference. Write a new comic strip based on the new information.

Give each group its corresponding “Mundane Chore” card with “New Attitude” at the top and another piece of paper per preteen. Give kids up to five minutes to work on their comic strips. As they work, go to each group to offer help. When kids have finished creating, have them present their new comic strips to the whole group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did your comic strips change when you saw that God was using you to make a difference?

What does it mean to do things as if working for God and not for man?

Why does it matter whether your work is obviously making a difference or not?

In what ways can you serve God with a good attitude in your everyday life?

Say: **You drew comic strips today that depict some fairly mundane tasks. While there are lots of exciting things God might ask us to do, there are plenty of less-than-glamorous things we’ll need to do, too. And sometimes we’ll have to do things we simply don’t like to do. Joseph served God in terrible conditions and situations, and then when he was elevated to a really great place in life, he kept on serving God. So even in the mundane tasks, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE and in anything we do.**

Set the cards aside for use in the closing prayer.

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think this week about how ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.**

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



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

Bible Buzz
pens





Choose a task you dislike that you do regularly, and plan to do that task in an attitude of service toward God next time. Notice how this time was different from other times you've done that task.

Do something extra (wash the car, feed your baby brother or sister, or help with laundry) for a family member. As you help that person, dedicate your service to God.

Write a song to go with the Key Verse. Sing the Key Verse song you wrote when you're doing something for God this week.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Joseph served God in every situation he faced. Whether he was in a dungeon or at the right hand of Pharaoh, Joseph served God. It doesn't matter whether we're doing something that's an obvious act of service to God or if we're just brushing our teeth, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids gather in five groups again, and give out one pair of "Mundane Chore" cards to each group. Have kids pray together about the things they'll do this week, asking God to help them serve him in everything they do.

Weaving Faith at
Home
Supplies

Teacher Pack

"Mundane Chore" cards




Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to understand the deep level of forgiveness that's required to live in the world. Since they were young children, they've understood what forgiveness is, but their world is getting ever bigger. And with the widening of their worldview comes the knowledge that there are a lot of people in the world who do wrong things. Use this lesson to help kids realize the gravity of forgiveness—it's more than just words.



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


LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Advice Column <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Answer letters from people who want to forgive.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens, tape Teacher Pack: "Dear Blabby's Answer Column" poster</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Tape the "Dear Blabby's Answer Column" poster to a wall.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Joseph Forgives <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover how Joseph forgave his brothers.</p>	<p>Bibles, pens, Bible Buzz</p>	
	<p>Songs of Forgiveness <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write a song about forgiveness while contemplating Joseph's attitude.</p>	<p>paper, pens</p>	

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
Preteens will forgive those who have hurt them.

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





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Moving Songs <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create movements based on the Key Verse song.	Bible Buzz, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	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 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.





Advice Column Supplies

Bible Buzz

pens

tape

Teacher Pack

“Dear Blabby’s Answer
Column” poster

Advice Column Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8
pages from each Bible
Buzz student book.

Tape the “Dear Blabby’s
Answer Column” poster
to a wall.

1

GETTING STARTED

Advice Column

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

Point out the “Dear Blabby’s Answer Column” poster. Distribute this week’s Bible Buzz pages and pens, and have kids find the “Dear Blabby’s Answer Column” section.

Say: **You’re no longer fifth- and sixth-graders. You’re all named Blabby, and you’re well-known advice-givers. Read the letter I assign you, and formulate an answer based on your years of living and your expert opinion.**

Have kids get into groups of four, and assign one letter from the “Dear Blabby’s Answer Column” poster to each group. It’s okay if several groups share the same letter. Instruct groups to read their letter and each respond with advice on how to forgive in the “Dear Blabby’s Answer Column” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Allow time. Then have each group read its letter aloud and share one response.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What factors did you consider as you decided how to give advice on forgiveness?

Why do you think forgiveness is easy or difficult?

Tell about a time you forgave someone.

Is forgiveness always the right response when someone does something wrong? Explain.

Say: **The people you wrote to have real reasons for their frustrations. Even if we have a real reason to be upset, God tells us that it’s best for us to forgive someone else. Today we’re going to talk about forgiveness. We’ll learn that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE as he forgives us. God’s forgiveness for us is a perfect model for how we can forgive other people.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Joseph Forgives

What You'll Do

Say: **Most of Joseph's family turned against him, but he ended up more powerful than they could've imagined. Let's discover what he did when he had a chance to be in control of his family's fate.**

Instruct kids to get into four groups, and assign each group one of the following passages: Genesis 42; 43; 44; or 45. Have kids find the "Chapters on Joseph's Forgiveness" section on their Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **Analyze the passage I've assigned your group. Each group's analysis will be used by the other groups, so be sure to work carefully.**

Allow several minutes for groups to read and analyze their passages. When they've finished, have each group get together with another group and share their findings. When they've finished sharing their findings with that group, have each group get together with another group and share their findings with them. Continue this process until all groups have filled in all parts of the "Chapters on Joseph's Forgiveness" section on their Bible Buzz pages.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the way Joseph waited to tell his brothers who he was?**
- How can you tell Joseph forgave his brothers?**
- How can you tell if you've forgiven someone or not?**
- What's the hardest thing about forgiving someone?**
- What's the best thing about forgiveness?**

Say: **In Genesis 45:3-4 Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers. It must have been an incredible moment! Joseph was eager to forgive them. He demonstrated an incredible example of forgiveness. Joseph didn't just forget what happened; he forgave his brothers. Forgiveness means acknowledging what happened and being able to let the person who hurt you (and yourself) be free from that. Only God can really facilitate forgiveness in our hearts because ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**



Joseph Forgives Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - pens
 - Bible Buzz





Songs of Forgiveness Supplies

pens
paper

Moving Songs Supplies

Bible Buzz
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Forgive"
(Colossians 3:13)
(track 15)

Songs of Forgiveness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form groups of three, and distribute paper and pens. Say: **Think about the passages you studied, and write a song about forgiveness that's inspired by Joseph's actions.**

Have kids write their songs in their trios. As kids work on their songs, go between the trios, asking kids to tell you what stands out to them most about Joseph's forgiveness.

When they've finished, have willing trios present their songs to the entire group. Encourage the group to be respectful of the songs that are being sung (or spoken) by their peers. If kids have a chorus that repeats, allow any willing kids to join in while other kids present their songs.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does your song convey forgiveness?**
- Which of Joseph's actions or motives stands out to you most?**
- Which aspect of forgiveness do you think is the most powerful?**
- Why does it matter whether you forgive or not?**

Say: **When Joseph forgave his brothers for hurting him, he was doing what God wanted him to do. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior and friend, God forgives us for everything we've ever done or will do wrong. Let's see how we can extend forgiveness to others in our lives.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Moving Songs


What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids get into pairs. Have pairs find the Key Verse, Colossians 3:13, on their Bible Buzz pages and read it aloud to each other: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." In their pairs, have kids make a brief hand-play that helps them remember the Key Verse. Allow time for kids to make up their hand-plays and act them out a few times together.

Say: **I'm going to play the Key Verse song for you, and then you'll create skits that communicate the meaning of the song. Use the hand-plays you just created and build from there. You can move more than your hands. Then work as larger groups**



to make one big skit for the song. Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play the song “Forgive” (Colossians 3:13) (track 15 on the CD). Play the song once as kids follow along with their lyrics. Then play it again a couple of times so kids can create skits to the music.

 **Bear with each other and forgive
Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.
Bear with each other and forgive
Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.**

**Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
Forgive as the Lord forgave you—YEAH!**

**Bear with each other and forgive
Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.
Bear with each other and forgive
Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.
Bear with each other and forgive
Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.**

“Forgive” (Colossians 3:13) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

After kids have created their skits, play the song through one more time. Allow all groups to do their motions at the same time. Encourage kids to watch others do their motions and see how the meaning of the verse is portrayed in movement.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What aspect of your skit is the best picture of forgiveness?**
- In what ways do you need God’s help with forgiveness?**
- Is forgiveness something you can do on your own? Why or why not?**
- Tell about a time you had difficulty forgiving someone.**
- Tell about something you’ve been forgiven for.**
- Talk to the person next to you about a way you can trust God to help you forgive.**

Say: **There will be lots of times in life when we face people who’ve done something wrong and lots of times when we ask for forgiveness. That’s just part of life. We need God’s strength and grace to help us forgive others. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE instead of getting revenge, just as Joseph did.**





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

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

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

Are you mad at a family member for doing something that hurt you (or even hurt your things)? Ask God to help you talk to that family member this week and forgive him or her.

Ask God to help you write a note to a friend who's hurt you. In the note, tell that person that you forgive him or her and want to keep your friendship growing.

When you're tempted to get even with someone this week, talk to God about how you feel and ask him to help you forgive that person instead; then talk to that person and forgive him or her right away.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Joseph understood the importance of forgiveness. God helped him forgive his brothers even when they'd done horrible things to him. Let's remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about forgiving others. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids form trios and sit together. Have each of the kids in the trios pray for the person to his or her right to be able to let go and forgive others. When kids finish praying, invite them to all jump up and say, “Thank you, Jesus, for forgiving us!”





Lyrics

Forgive (Colossians 3:13)

Bear with each other and forgive
 Whatever grievances
 You may have against one another.
 Bear with each other and forgive
 Whatever grievances
 You may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
 Forgive as the Lord forgave you—YEAH!

Bear with each other and forgive
 Whatever grievances
 You may have against one another.
 Bear with each other and forgive
 Whatever grievances
 You may have against one another.
 Bear with each other and forgive
 Whatever grievances
 You may have against one another.

“Forgive” (Colossians 3:13) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

 **OK
 TO COPY**





God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

More than ever before, fifth- and sixth-graders lack a sense of security or safety in their daily lives. They see the violence and injury done to young people all over the world every day, and as they journey through normal stages of development, they also wonder whether they might be the next target on some lunatic’s list. Use this lesson to help kids understand that although God doesn’t promise to keep them from facing danger, God does promise to protect them in the midst of it.



► **Bible Point**
God protects us.

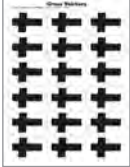
Key Verse
“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Preteens will trust God for his protection.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Light-Bulb Bowling <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Wrap light bulbs in a protective covering, and then play games with them.	Bible Buzz; 3 plastic cups, plastic grocery bags, roll of tape, 1 light bulb, and 1 resealable plastic bag for every 4 kids; CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Pieced Together <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Draw pictures depicting parts of the Bible passage; then combine them.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pencils, thin-tipped markers	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Bodyguard Tag <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game about God's protection, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible Buzz Teacher Pack: "Cross" stickers 	
	God Protects You <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Fill out cards describing how God protects them, and collect the cards in a basket.	Bible Buzz, index cards, pens, basket, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	basket with kids' index cards from the "God Protects You" activity	

***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.





Light-Bulb Bowling Supplies

Bible Buzz

3 plastic cups, plastic grocery bags, roll of tape, 1 light bulb, and 1 resealable plastic bag for every 4 kids

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Game Music" (track 14)

Light-Bulb Bowling Easy Prep

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

1 GETTING STARTED

Light-Bulb Bowling

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Form teams of four, and give each team a light bulb, a resealable plastic bag, tape, and plastic grocery bags. Direct kids to the "Light-Bulb Bowling" section on their Bible Buzz pages, and have teams work together to brainstorm ideas and draw diagrams for how they'll protect their light bulb in a bowling game. After a few minutes, have each team create a protective shield around its light bulb by placing it inside the resealable plastic bag and then using the other supplies as they choose. Allow time.

When kids are done, say: **Let the games begin!** Play "Game Music" (track 14 on the CD) as kids play. Have teams form circles and use the light bulbs they've prepared to play Hot Potato or Catch. Any time the light bulb is dropped, have kids stop and check to see if it's still intact. If it is, they can keep playing, but if it's broken, they're done.

After allowing them to play for a few minutes, have teams join together to play Light-Bulb Bowling. To play, have kids take turns "bowling" their light bulbs across the floor toward cups they set up in an approximate bowling pin formation. After each time players bowl or toss the light bulb, stop the action, and have teams open their bags and check to see whether their light bulbs are broken. Have kids repackage their bulbs if they're not broken and stop playing if their bulbs did break.

Congratulate teams whose protective shields worked; then collect the light bulbs and other supplies, disposing carefully of any broken bulbs.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

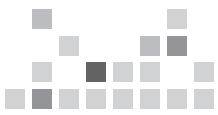
Ask:

Are you surprised your light bulb was (or wasn't) destroyed? Why?

How well could you protect this light bulb from a 100-foot drop? being hit by a car?

How is the way we protected the light bulbs similar to or different from the way God protects us?

Say: **The Bible says God is able to protect us, but that doesn't mean we're always like these light bulbs, wrapped in some kind of protective shield. God's protection doesn't always work like that—in fact, sometimes God's protection works in ways we might never expect. No matter what we're doing, if we're following God, we're in the best place possible. Today we're going to examine how God protected Moses. We'll also discover some ways ► GOD PROTECTS US.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Pieced Together

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form four groups, and assign each group one of these passages: Exodus 1:1-7; 1:8-14; 1:15-22; or 2:1-10. Have kids turn to the “Framing Moses” section on their Bible Buzz pages, and provide them with pencils and thin-tipped markers.

Say: **As we look at what happened to Moses, we have an advantage over all the people who lived in Moses’ time: We can see everything from beginning to end. That makes it easier to see how God protected Moses and his family even when circumstances seemed anything but safe. Let’s explore this event in pieces.**

Take turns in your group so everyone who wants to read part of the passage has a turn. Then draw a picture in the “Framing Moses” section of your Bible Buzz page that depicts what happened in your assigned passage.

When kids have finished, have them form new groups of four comprising one member from each of the previous groups. Have each group member explain his or her drawing to the rest of the new group in turn so that the group ends up telling all of what happened to Moses in Exodus 1:1–2:10.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What stands out to you about the ways God protected Moses?**
- Tell about a time God protected you or someone you know.**
- Tell about a time you weren’t sure a situation would turn out well. Looking back, how did God protect or help you?**
- What’s different about knowing the whole chain of events versus having faith before knowing the outcome?**

Say: ► **GOD PROTECTS US. But trying to understand how God protects us is kind of like trying to understand an entire scenario by looking at only one small part. We can draw pictures and explain what we see happening right now, but it’s hard to predict what God is going to do in the next “frame” of our lives—especially when we’re facing difficult or even dangerous circumstances. All we can be sure of is that God is able to protect us and we can trust God no matter what we face.**



Pieced Together Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - Bible Buzz
 - pencils
 - thin-tipped markers





Bodyguard Tag Supplies

Bible Buzz

Teacher Pack

“Cross” stickers

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Bodyguard Tag

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's play a game that illustrates one way ► GOD PROTECTS US.**

Ask for a willing preteen to be the Tagger. Then form teams of three. Have two people in each trio act as bodyguards for the third, who will be the Targets for the Tagger. Give each Target a “Cross” sticker to stick on his or her forehead.

Say: **On “go,” we'll play a game of Tag. The Tagger will try to tag anyone who has a cross on his or her forehead. Each Target will have two bodyguards who must stay between the Tagger and their Target, so that the Tagger can't touch anyone who wears a cross. If the Tagger does manage to touch someone with a cross, those two will change places, and the game will continue.**

Once kids understand the rules, start the game. After five minutes or so, stop the action, and gather everyone together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

In what ways were the bodyguards in this game like or unlike the way God protects you?

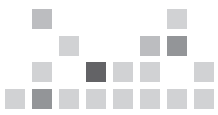
Have kids find the Key Verse, Psalm 46:1, on their Bible Buzz pages: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Read the verse as they all follow along. Have kids repeat the verse a few times so everyone has a couple of turns.

Ask:

**What can our Key Verse teach us about how God protects us?
In what ways do you think God does and doesn't protect you?
What are some good things to remember when you pray for God's protection?**

Say: **In this game, the Targets had to be careful to keep their distance from the Tagger, but they had bodyguards, too. God may not keep us from facing danger, and we still have to make good choices when faced with difficult circumstances, but in the middle of it all, ► GOD PROTECTS US. God protected Moses, even when Moses was faced with great danger.**






God Protects You

What You'll Do

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and lead kids in singing "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) (track 16 on the CD).

 **If there's one thing we can count on,
It's that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because**

**Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him. Yeah!**

**If there's one thing we can count on,
It's that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because**

**Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.**

**Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.**

"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have kids form a circle. Set a basket in the middle of the circle. Give each person a pen and an index card. Say: **On your card, write "One way God protects me is..." These will be read aloud, so keep that in mind. When I play the music, complete this statement on your index cards. When you're done, fold up your index card and place it in the basket.**



God Protects You Supplies

-
- Bible Buzz
 - index cards
 - pens
 - basket
 - CD player
 - copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this lesson)
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "We Can Trust Him"
(Psalm 33:4) (track 16)





Again play “We Can Trust Him” (Psalm 33:4) (track 16 on the CD). When everyone has finished, stop the music and read aloud several of the responses kids wrote. Then sing the song together again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What does it mean to you to know that God protects you?

What makes it difficult to remember that God is always protecting you?

What’s one area of your life in which you need to know God will protect you?

How much do you trust God to protect you?

Say: ► **GOD PROTECTS US** in many different ways. God protected Moses in a very uncertain situation, and he can protect us, too. I’m sure we’re all facing something in our lives right now for which we need God’s protection. Maybe you need God to protect you in a frightening situation at home. Or you need God to protect you as you face something you’re nervous about. No matter what situation you’re facing, you can trust God to protect you.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how we can trust that ► GOD PROTECTS US this week.**

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

Draw a picture of something you’re afraid of or nervous about. Write the words of Psalm 46:1 at the bottom of it. Put this reminder somewhere you’ll see it and remember that God will protect you in that situation.

Whenever you feel like you need God’s protection, read from any of these Psalms: Psalm 3, 12, 37, 42, or 91. Remember what God did in the passages you read, and remember that he’s with you today.

Take your index card from the “God Protects You” activity. Keep this card with you this week, and look at it when you’re afraid or worried about something.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Moses was just a baby—he could hardly protect himself. God was there with Moses, protecting him and preparing him for a future that would change history. Let's follow through on our Daily Challenges this week to help ourselves remember to trust that ► GOD PROTECTS US.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's protection. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Have kids go back to the basket and take out their index cards. Have them form groups of three and sit together. Invite kids to briefly talk about what they wrote on their cards and then pray for God's protection over their friends this week.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
basket with kids' index cards from the "God Protects You" activity





Lyrics

We Can Trust Him (Psalm 33:4)

If there's one thing we can count on,
It's that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him. Yeah!

If there's one thing we can count on,
It's that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.

"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

OK
TO COPY



Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–3:20

Fifth- and sixth-graders struggle constantly with self-image. They often feel as though they're not good enough, and they may feel as though they'll never have anything of worth to contribute to the world. This frequently manifests itself in quite the opposite outward reaction. Kids with low self-esteem may present themselves with overconfidence and bravado. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God made them the way they are, with priceless, wonderful gifts, and God will provide a way for them to utilize their gifts in his service.



► 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

Preteens will allow God to use them to do his work.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Wanted: One Available Person (about 15 min.) Read "want ads" and decide how an available person might respond.</p>	<p>scissors Teacher Pack: "Want Ad" cards, "Want Ad Response" cards</p> 	<p>Separate the "Want Ad Response" cards and shuffle them. Cut apart the "Want Ad" cards.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>God Chooses Moses (about 25 min.) Read Exodus 2:11–3:20, and write want ads Moses might have answered.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>What's Your Availability Quotient? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Take a quiz to discover how available they are.</p>	Bible Buzz, pens	
	<p>Use Me <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write a prayer by personalizing the Key Verse.</p>	Bible Buzz, paper, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Buzz, pens	
	<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.





Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–3:20

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Moses Succeeds and Fails in Egypt

Being trained in Pharaoh's court didn't extinguish Moses' Hebrew upbringing. It's clear from Exodus 2:11 that Moses considered himself a Hebrew rather than the Egyptian most people thought he was. This fact is emphasized in Hebrews 11:24-26. As Moses went out among the Hebrews, he must have been thinking about how he could help his people escape the oppression they were enduring.

Moses Escapes to Midian

It may seem strange that in the desert of Midian, Moses came across a priest who followed God, but Reuel (later called Jethro) was likely a descendant of Abraham through one of Abraham's concubines.

We don't know how threatening the shepherds were to the daughters of Reuel, but the women reported that Moses had rescued them. From the Bible text it seems as if events happened quickly, but it's likely that Moses received Reuel's daughter, Zipporah, as his wife after a lengthy stay with the family. However, Moses didn't feel at home in Midian. When his first son was born, the name he gave the child meant "banishment." Moses knew that his place was in Egypt with the Hebrew people.

Moses Goes to Mount Horeb

The mountain where God met Moses at the burning bush is the same mountain on which God delivered the Ten Commandments to Moses years later. God got Moses' attention with a burning bush that didn't burn up. Sometimes it takes drastic measures to get our attention! Moses investigated and listened when God spoke. God had heard his people's cries from Egypt and was ready to send the leader he had prepared to rescue them.

God Calls Moses to Serve

Though he still identified with the Hebrew people, Moses no longer saw himself as their savior. Moses' objection was met with a simple statement from God: "I will be with you." The path God described to Moses was a difficult one. Moses would face opposition from his own people as well as from Pharaoh. To his many objections God responded with a reminder of who God is—"I am"—the God of Moses' forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When Moses realized that his God had chosen him, he was willing to obey. And when he obeyed in faith, God used him mightily.

The Jesus Connection

Many people struggle with feelings of uselessness. Thankfully, Jesus will joyfully and purposefully use anyone who is willing to follow and serve him.

Moses set aside his doubts and accepted that God had chosen him for a special task. Do you have a failure or experience that you feel has disqualified you from fully serving God? Confess your concern to God, and allow him to encourage you with the truth. You can write your prayer on the lines below.





**Wanted: One Available
Person
Supplies**

scissors

Teacher Pack

“Want Ad” cards

“Want Ad Response”
cards

**Wanted: One Available
Person
Easy Prep**

Separate the “Want Ad
Response” cards and
shuffle them. Cut apart
the “Want Ad” cards.

**1 GETTING
STARTED**

Wanted: One Available Person

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form five groups. Say: **Have any of you ever used Craigslist to find something? Or maybe you know of someone who's used it to find a job, a car, or something else? Craigslist is a website that provides want ads and seller ads. I'm going to give each group a want ad. Read your want ad, and discuss how you might respond to it.**

Give each group one of the “Want Ad” cards, and give groups a few minutes to read the ads and decide on a response.

Say: **You've decided on a response, but you're going to have to reply based on whatever response you draw from this deck. These cards say either “Available” or “Not Available.” When you've drawn a card, go back to your group and create a live freeze-frame scene to demonstrate how someone might give that response to the ad. Select a spokesperson for your group to read your ad aloud and then narrate the scene. To create your scene, you'll think of three or four still poses that show a reason or excuse for your response. Your responses can be a bit ridiculous. You'll have two minutes to create your scenes. Make sure that each person in your group is involved in all freeze-frames of your scene.**

Give groups two minutes to create their freeze-frame scenes, and then have groups read their ads aloud and show their scenes, one at a time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did you originally decide your response to the ad?

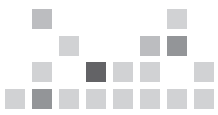
Tell about a time you were available to help someone in need. How did you decide to help?

How is being available to help people similar to being available for God to use you?

Say: **You may not realize it, but you make decisions all the time about your availability to God and other people. God has big plans for all of your lives, and we can make ourselves more available for God. Today we're going to discover that**

► **GOD CAN USE US.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God Chooses Moses

What You'll Do

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, pens, and Bibles. Have kids form groups of four.

Say: **Now let's learn about a man God chose to do a big job.**

Each group will read all the following sections of the passage: Exodus 2:11-15; 2:16-25; 3:1-6; and 3:7-20.

Say: **You've been assigned the task of helping Moses get a job. With your group, read each section of the Bible passage listed on your Bible Buzz page. After each section, in the "Help Wanted" column, write one type of job Moses is qualified for based on what you read. Discuss words that describe Moses' qualifications such as his attitude and actions that would help Moses get the job.**

When they finish reading and discussing Moses' qualifications, have each group collaborate to write a want ad for Moses on their Bible Buzz pages on the want ad with their passage on it.

Give groups a few minutes to create their ads. Then have one or two groups give a brief summary of one of their sections and present one want ad to the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What obstacles to being available did Moses face?**
- What ways do you hope God will use you?**
- Moses didn't believe he could do what God wanted him to do, but God had prepared him. What insecurities do you face about your ability to be used by God?**
- How can you let God help you get past those insecurities so he can use you?**

Say: ► **GOD CAN USE US to accomplish big things for him. Even Moses, one of the most famous leaders, had insecurities and concerns. God had prepared him for exactly what he was going to do, but Moses wasn't sure he would be able to do it well enough. It's up to us to listen and act on what God tells us to do.**



God Chooses Moses Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens

God Chooses Moses Easy Prep

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





What's Your Availability Quotient? Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Use Me Supplies

Bible Buzz
paper
pens
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Strength I Need" (Philippians 4:13) (track 17)

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

What's Your Availability Quotient?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Direct kids to the "How Available Am I?" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Have kids form pairs, and make sure each person has a pen.

Say: **Think about how available you are to God. Take a few minutes, on your own, to answer the questions. When you've finished, score yourself.**

Give pairs a few minutes to fill in and score their own quizzes; then have them share their answers with their partners.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Do you think you're available to do God's work? Explain.**
- What are some obstacles to being available that you face?**
- What did the answers and scores tell you about yourself?**
- What can you do to be more available?**
- What can you do to discover how God may want to use you?**

Say: **God told Moses his plan to make something amazing happen, and Moses had a hard time believing and understanding all of it. Believe it or not, in every situation and moment of your day, God wants to use you. ► GOD CAN USE US to bless someone as we have a conversation or to show his love when we help our parents with housework. All those small ways that God can use you can add up to big change. If you want God to use you, the best thing you can do is spend time listening and talking to God.**

Use Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find the Key Verse, Philippians 4:13, on their Bible Buzz pages: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Ask a preteen to read Philippians 4:13 aloud while students follow along.

Ask:


- What do you feel like you can't do on your own?**
- How do you think God can help you with that?**





Say: **In a moment, you'll each write a short prayer to God. To inspire you, let's first sing a song based on our Key Verse.**

Distribute copies of the lyrics page. Lead kids in singing "The Strength I Need" (Philippians 4:13) (track 17 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.

Distribute paper and pens. Say: **Write a prayer asking God to use you to do his will.** Offer these prayer starters to help kids find a starting place:

- God, I feel weak because...**
- God, give me strength to...**
- God, use me by...**
- God, help me be willing to...**

Say: **After you finish writing your prayer, take a minute to read the prayer to God silently.** Allow time. After kids finish, have them form pairs and discuss why they chose to write what they did.

Talk With Kids 

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways do you feel like God may have prepared you to do his will?**
- Based on what our Key Verse says, how might God use you?**
- What can you do to remind yourself to let God use you this week?**





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Say: ► **GOD CAN USE US** all the time. You wrote prayers asking God to use you to do his will, and you can trust him to do just that. God used Moses to do things Moses never thought would be possible. You might be surprised one day at what plans God has for your life. For now, we can be sure that God has plans for helping us grow closer to him in every moment of our lives.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can remember this week that ► GOD CAN USE US.**

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

Talk to a leader at church about something you can do to help at church this week.

Invite a non-Christian friend to church this week.

Use one of your special talents and gifts to serve others in your family or community this week.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **Moses wasn't so sure God could use him, but God was sure. Let's think about how ► GOD CAN USE US as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.**





Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids form pairs. Have pairs pray for each other to see God at work in every area of their lives this week—especially the things that don’t seem important.





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

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to deal with more “adult” problems and issues, but they lack the power over their own lives that they need to fully manage those issues. Use this lesson to help your preteens see that no matter how little influence they may feel they have in any situation, they can always put their hope in God and he’ll care for them.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Alternating Authors <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game of Telephone storytelling.	pens, paper, timer	
2 Bible Exploration	The Color of Hope <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read Exodus 5:1–6:1, and experience the frustrations shown in the passage.	Bible, cookies Teacher Pack: “Expression Color” cards 	Separate the “Expression Color” cards.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **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
Preteens will place their hope in God during situations that seem hopeless.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Letter to Myself <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write a letter of encouragement and hope to their future selves.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	Living in Hope <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Read the Key Verse, and interview each other about out-of-control situations in their lives.	Bible Buzz, pens, paper, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz	

***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.





Alternating Authors Supplies

pens
paper
timer

1 GETTING STARTED

Alternating Authors

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Ask:

Tell about a time you felt that things in your life were out of your control. How did you respond?

Say: **Today we're going to discuss several situations in which people's lives were out of control and the ways they responded. Let's start by telling an out-of-control kind of story together.**

Have kids sit in one big circle, and distribute a pen and piece of paper to each person. Ask kids to write their names in small letters on the top of their pages.

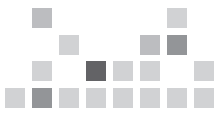
Say: **You're going to collaborate as you write a story, but you can't discuss your story with your collaborators or even read the entire thing. Take two minutes to write two or three sentences to start a story about someone who's having an out-of-control kind of day. Ready? Go.**

After two minutes, have each person stop writing, draw a line under the last line of writing, and pass the story to the person on his or her right. Say: **Quickly read the sentences above the line. It's okay if the person didn't finish a sentence. You get to pick up where your neighbor left off. Start writing below the line, even if you're finishing a sentence from above. You can change where this story is going or keep going; just make sure you get at least a couple of sentences written, too. When you're done, this time you'll fold the paper so the person after you can read only what you've written and not the beginning of the story.**

Keep timing for two minutes of writing, and then have kids pass the stories to the right after they've folded the page over so only the most recent writing shows. Allow several passes (as time permits), and let kids know when it's two passes from when they need to wrap up their stories.

When kids are finished with their stories, have them pass the papers back to the original storytellers. Say: **Read through your story and see how it changed from what you were initially imagining.** Allow time. Say: **Form groups of four and read your story to your group. After you read your story, share what you think about how it was changed from your original intention.** Allow time for groups to hear all four stories and share their thoughts.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What did you discover about your response to a situation that’s out of your control?

In what way was this like or unlike how you often respond to real-life situations that don’t go the way you’d like them to?

What way would you like to respond to situations that are out of your control?

Say: **Some of your stories veered pretty far off the course you initially intended. This activity may’ve been fun for a lot of you, but when our lives take a turn off the course we plan, it can be more challenging to keep our attitudes right and our focus on God. ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM all the time, and that’s especially important when things are out of our control. Let’s hear about some people from the Bible who had to deal with out-of-control situations in their lives.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

The Color of Hope

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Distribute Bibles, and have kids form groups of six. Place the “Expression Color” cards where you can reach them easily.

Say: **I’ll read the Bible passage. When I pause the reading, I’ll give you a direction. As a group, you need to follow that direction as quickly and accurately as possible. I’ll give you feedback on how well you met my expectations as you go along.**

Read aloud Exodus 5:1-5, and then tell kids to stand up and do five jumping jacks in unison with their group. Act unimpressed with their efforts to work in unison—as Pharaoh was. When they’ve finished, have kids discuss how they’re feeling after that experience. Show each “Expression Color” card, and have kids raise their hands when you show a color that reflects the way they feel. After about a minute, continue reading as they follow along.

Read aloud Exodus 5:6-11, and say: **Find someone in another group, and say something encouraging to him or her. When you’re done, run back to your seat and spin around five times before sitting down.** Act unimpressed as kids go along—make them redo their spins, tell them you aren’t sure they actually spun around five times, and so on. When they reach their seats, have kids discuss how they’re feeling after that experience. Show each “Expression Color” card, and have kids raise their hands when you show a color that reflects the way they feel. After about a minute, continue reading as they follow along.



**The Color of Hope
Supplies**

- Bible
- cookies
- Teacher Pack**
- “Expression Color” cards

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**

**The Color of Hope
Easy Prep**

- Separate the “Expression Color” cards.





Read aloud Exodus 5:12-14, and say: **Now you need to jump-rope five times for every member of your group. Go!** When kids ask for a jump-rope, tell them they need to stop complaining and accomplish this task without a jump-rope. After a couple of minutes, have kids discuss how they're feeling after that experience. Show each "Expression Color" card, and have kids raise their hands when you show a color that reflects the way they feel. After about a minute, continue reading as they follow along.

Read aloud Exodus 5:15-18, and say: **I expect you to find a way to cross the room without touching the floor. You have two minutes to figure it out.** Put pressure on groups about the dwindling time remaining for completing their task. Point out any time that someone touches the floor in any way and make them start over. After a couple of minutes, have kids discuss how they're feeling after that experience. Shuffle through the "Expression Color" cards, showing them each one. Have kids raise their hands when you show a color that reflects the way they feel. After about a minute, continue reading as they follow along.

Read aloud Exodus 5:19-23, and say: **Your final task is to convince me to give you treats. Brainstorm ideas with your groups and try them out.** As kids approach you asking for treats, turn down all of their requests and instead tell them they have to clean up any trash they can find in the room. After a couple of minutes, have kids discuss how they're feeling after that experience. Show each "Expression Color" card, and have kids raise their hands when you show a color that reflects the way they feel. After about a minute, read Exodus 6:1.

Distribute the cookies, and let kids enjoy them.

Talk With Kids

Lead all of the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to be punished for your attempts to follow my instructions?
How is that like or unlike what the Israelites experienced?
What difference do you think it could make if you place your hope in the
Lord when hard times happen?**

Say: **You can place your hope in God no matter what situation you're facing. God is with you always, and he can help you face struggles and challenges every day. The more you draw close to God, the more you'll find yourself being able to work through hard times. The Israelites lost sight of God in the middle of their hard times, but God was still there. At the end of the passage, he told them he would have the victory and glory of making it so Pharaoh would make them leave. ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM in every situation.**





3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Letter to Myself

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages. Have kids find the "A Letter of Hope" section and follow the instructions there. After kids have written their letters, have a few willing kids share their letters with the whole group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is the most encouraging thing you wrote to your future self?**
- What about hoping in God encourages you when you face difficult times?**
- In what ways can you change your perspective so you hope in God right away when hard times come?**

Say: **We all struggle with placing all of our hope in God when hard times come. It can be really easy to get wrapped up in the difficulty, like the Israelites did, and forget to see the ways God is with us in those times. We can choose how we respond in hard times. Let's encourage one another to remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.**

Living in Hope

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find the Key Verse, Isaiah 40:31, on their Bible Buzz pages, and ask kids to read this together: "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."

Say: **Now let's learn more about how we can place our hope in God in our own lives.**

Have kids form pairs. Direct kids to the "Hopeful Interview" section on their Bible Buzz pages, and provide each pair with pens and paper.

Say: **Take turns following the instructions to interview each other. When you're done, tell your partner one way you think they could remember to hope in God in that situation.** Let partners take one minute each for each question on their interview. Let kids know to switch as the minutes pass.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page. Lead kids in singing "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 20 on the CD) together. Encourage kids to follow along with the lyrics.



Letter to Myself Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Letter to Myself Easy Prep

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

Living in Hope Supplies


Bible Buzz
pens
paper
CD player
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 20)





 Who can soar on wings like eagles?
 Who can run and not grow weary?
 Who can walk and not be faint?

(Chorus)

**Those who hope in the Lord
 Will renew their strength.
 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.**

(Chorus.)

**I wanna soar on wings like eagles!
 I wanna run and not grow weary;
 I wanna walk and not be faint.**

(Chorus.)

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

According to our Key Verse, what difference can it make if we respond by putting our hope in the Lord when our lives seem hopeless and out of control?

Tell about one way you can put your hope in the Lord the next time you face something difficult, discouraging, or hopeless.

What was it like to listen and encourage one another to hope in God?

What makes it easy or difficult for you to hope in God when you're in the middle of a tough situation?

What's one way you can help yourself remember to hope in God when things get tough?

Say: Facing sad or hopeless times is a part of life. You're old enough to have experienced some of those times, and you certainly will face more in the future. It's important to know what to do with those times when they come. ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. We can do that in our own lives, and we can encourage others to do the same. The Israelites needed a lot of reassurance from God, and he was there to deliver them from the difficult times they were facing.





You encouraged one another, and that’s a huge part of how we can remember to hope in the Lord. The Israelites had Moses to remind them to hope in God, and even Moses talked to God and asked God for encouragement. God is always close to us, and ► **GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.** Let’s find some ways to put these thoughts into practice this week.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: **Let’s think about how we can remember this week that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.**

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

Draw a picture of a situation you face that seems hopeless. Then write down three hopeful things God could do in that situation.

Sing “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) as a prayer, thanking God for giving you hope.

Write the Key Verse in your own words, and keep it with you. Look at your verse whenever you find yourself in a hopeless or out-of-control situation.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **The Israelites struggled with placing their hope in God, but God was with them anyway. They endured really difficult times, and we will, too, during our lives. Let’s remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM by following through with our Daily Challenges.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens



**Weaving Faith at
Home
Supplies**

Bible Buzz

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids form pairs and read “A Litany of Hope” on their Bible Buzz pages together responsively as a closing prayer.



Lyrics ■■■■

Those Who Hope (Isaiah 40:31)

Who can soar on wings like eagles?
Who can run and not grow weary?
Who can walk and not be faint?

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord
Will renew their strength.
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.

(Chorus.)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles!
I wanna run and not grow weary;
I wanna walk and not be faint.

(Chorus.)

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



OK
TO COPY



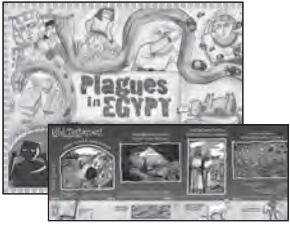
God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8–10:29

Fifth- and sixth-graders are just beginning to understand key elements of the world they live in. Power is something that many of them know about because of the tangible impact of electricity. But few understand invisible concepts such as “God’s power.” Use this lesson to help kids understand God’s power to help them through fears in their own lives.



► **Bible Point**
God uses his power to help us.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Rate the Power <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to sounds and rate their power.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Plague Reporting <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Examine the first nine plagues while researching and reporting the events.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, tape Teacher Pack: “Plagues in Egypt” poster, Bible Timeline</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p>

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
Preteens will notice ways God is using his power in their lives.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God's Hands <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Stick fears to balloons, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible Buzz, 1 balloon and marker per 3 kids, sticky notes, pens, tape, pin	
	Power Surge! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Brainstorm and discuss ways God's power is used in their lives.	Bible Buzz, pens, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Rate the Power Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Power Sounds"
(track 21)

Plague Reporting Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens
tape

Teacher Pack

"Plagues in Egypt"
poster
Bible Timeline

Plague Reporting Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

1

GETTING STARTED

Rate the Power

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids gather in the center of the room.

Say: **Try to rate these sounds based on how powerful you think they are. First, you'll need to identify what sound you're hearing; then you'll need to rate it. If you think the object is very powerful—a 9 or 10 on a scale of 1 to 10—stand on the left side of the room. If you don't think it's powerful—a 1 or 2—stand on the right side of the room. If you think it's kind of powerful—a 4 or 5—stand somewhere in the middle.**

Play "Power Sounds" (track 21 on the CD). After each sound, pause the CD, and ask kids to share why they voted the way they did. Repeat this process until you've played all of the sounds.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Is it easy or hard to determine something's power just from listening to it?

Why?

What does it take for something to be powerful? Explain.

What are some ways power can be used?

Say: **Power is something we use every day for computers, lights, even the hot water in our homes. Governments have power, and your authority figures have power, too. There are things we're afraid of because we think they may be more powerful than we are. The reality is that nothing is more powerful than God, and ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US. Today we're going to explore in the Bible a time God showed some of his power. We'll see God's ultimate power used in a variety of ways.**

2

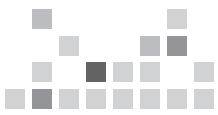
BIBLE EXPLORATION

Plague Reporting

What You'll Do

Show kids the "God Sends Plagues on Egypt" picture on the Bible Timeline. Have kids





form nine groups (it's okay if a group is only one person), and number them from one to nine. Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the "Surveying the Plagues" section. Say: **You'll see beside the picture of the notepad a list of Bible verses. Your number corresponds with the plague you'll read about.** Provide Bibles and pens to groups.

Say: **Your groups are news teams researching the strange plagues happening to Egypt. Using your Bibles, follow the instructions under Step 1 in the "Surveying the Plagues" section of your Bible Buzz pages. You'll have eight minutes to do Step 1.** Give groups about eight minutes to work.

Say: **Think about how to follow the directions for Step 2 of "Surveying the Plagues." You'll have about four minutes to work. Plan out what you'll say.** Allow time.

Say: **Now go to Step 3 of "Surveying the Plagues." As you go through this, decide on some sound effects and motions you could use to portray what was going on in your plague.** Allow about two minutes.

When kids are done, have groups stand in a line in order from groups one to nine, and say: **When I point to you, make the sound effects and motions of your plague.** Point at each group individually, and then go back and forth having kids make the sound effects and motions as you point to them and stopping when you point to them if they're already making noise. This will illustrate the chaos of the plagues.

When you're done, sit with kids near the "Plagues in Egypt" poster. Go through the plagues, having each group make the sound of the plague they had when you point to it and having someone from that group give a brief description of the plague.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did God display his power through the plagues? Explain.

Which plague do you think is the worst?

Why did you choose the plague you chose as the worst?

What's one way you've seen God's power in the world recently?

In what way can you let God's power comfort and help you in times of difficulty?

Say: **God used his power to convince Pharaoh that it was time to let the Israelites go. ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US today, just as he used it to help the Israelites. God's power can be seen in many ways, such as people recovering from sickness, people being saved from calamity, and even in things like powerful thunderstorms. When we're afraid, we can remember that God is more powerful than anything else on this earth.**





God's Hands Supplies

Bible Buzz

1 balloon and marker
per 3 kids
sticky notes
pens
tape
pin

BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God's Hands

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wants us to know about his power because he doesn't just use it to make a point. ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.**

Have kids find the Key Verse, Isaiah 41:10, on their Bible Buzz pages: "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."

Ask a willing preteen to read the Key Verse aloud. Then have kids get into trios. Distribute one balloon and a marker to each trio. Instruct trios to inflate and tie off their balloons. Ask each trio to write on the balloon a one-sentence description of how God's power can help them, based on the Key Verse. For example, kids might write something like "I won't fear because God is using his power to protect me." When trios have finished, have them present their descriptions to the rest of the group.

Say: **God is always guiding us and protecting us. No matter what we're afraid of, God is there. Think about everything we've talked about today. What are you afraid of? I'll give you a moment to think about that.**

Distribute sticky notes and pens to trios, and have kids write their fears on the sticky notes. Have them place their sticky notes on their balloons and tape their balloons to the wall of your room.

Say: **When God's power is released, it wipes away our fear.** Use the pin to pop all of the balloons. The sticky notes will fall to the floor like confetti.

Say: **God doesn't want us to fear anything. God uses his power to comfort us and free us from our fears and the things that bind us. Let's pray and ask God to protect us right now.**

Allow kids to pray, asking God to protect them.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

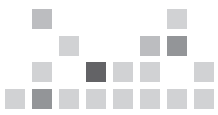
What was it like to see your fears fall to the floor?

What's the most difficult part of trusting God when you're afraid?

What difference does it make to you to know God is protecting you?

In what ways can you let the reality of God protecting you bring you comfort?





Say: **Just like your fears hit the floor because I popped the balloon, when you leave your fears with God, you can let go of them completely. ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US in any situation. We can trust that no matter what’s going on, God is using his power for his purpose and our good, just as God used his power to help the Israelites.**

Power Surge

What You’ll Do

Have kids remain in their trios.


Say: **God’s power comes to us in big and small ways each day.**

Have kids find “Power Surge Needed!” on their Bible Buzz pages. Say: **With your trio, brainstorm areas in which you might need God’s power daily. Maybe you have trouble getting along with a sibling and you need God’s power to help you show Jesus’ love. Or you might need God’s power to help you stay focused at school. You might even just need God to help you remember to help out at home.**

Give trios several minutes to come up with ideas. Have them come up with at least one idea to write in each light bulb on the page. If they’re struggling to come up with enough ideas, push them to think more specifically.

When trios have filled their light bulbs, take a few minutes to go over what all the trios came up with. Have each trio read one idea at a time, going from trio to trio until all ideas have been shared.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page. Lead kids in singing “We Can Trust Him” (Psalm 33:4) (track 16 on the CD).

 **If there’s one thing we can count on,
It’s that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because**

**Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him. We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him. Yeah!**

**If there’s one thing we can count on,
It’s that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because**



Power Surge Supplies

-
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “We Can Trust Him”
(Psalm 33:4) (track 16)





Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
 We can trust him.
 We can trust him.
 Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
 We can trust him.
 We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
 We can trust him.
 We can trust him.
 Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
 We can trust him.
 We can trust him.
 We can trust him.
 We can trust him.

“We Can Trust Him” (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

When the song ends, collect the lyrics to hand out again in the closing prayer.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What’s easy or difficult about trusting God’s power to protect you? Explain.
What do you think about asking God to help you with small concerns?
Tell about something you trust God with right now.
What’s one way you hope to see God’s power?

Say: **God’s power is strong enough for any situation, and God cares about any power need we have, no matter how big or small. ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.** God used his power to show the Israelites that he could take care of them in any situation, and through his power, they were freed from slavery. And God’s power is active in our lives, too.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: **Let’s think about how we can remember this week that ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens





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

Write a praise song to show God how amazed you are by his power in your life and to thank God for using his power to help you.

Write down every time you see God’s power at work in your life this week. Remember to write the big and small things. Then write a thank-you note, praising God for using his power in your life.

Send an email or text message to a friend to tell him or her how God uses his power in your life.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **God sent plagues on Egypt and showed everyone—even people who believed in other gods—his wondrous power. Let’s see how ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US as we follow through with 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 God’s power. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Hand out copies of the lyrics for kids to use as they sing “We Can Trust Him” (Psalm 33:4) (track 16 on the CD) as a closing prayer.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
CD player
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack

“We Can Trust Him”
(Psalm 33:4) (track 16)





Lyrics

We Can Trust Him (Psalm 33:4)

If there's one thing we can count on,
It's that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him. We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him. Yeah!

If there's one thing we can count on,
It's that God will never let us down, and
We can trust everything he does.
He keeps his promises.
We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.

"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

OK
TO COPY




The Israelites Escape From Egypt

Exodus 11:1–12:36

Students at this age are just beginning to understand what bondage is like. Until now, they’ve understood bondage in a more tangible sense—like being in jail—but they’re now grasping what it means to be bound by sin. They’re realizing how their sin can stifle their relationships with God and others. Use this lesson to help kids understand the freedom that comes from walking with Jesus.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus sets us free.


LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Freeing the Chickens <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out a drama, and discuss freedom.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>The Last Plague <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Act out the last plague and the Passover.</p>	<p>Bibles, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, “Plagues in Egypt” poster</p> 	

Key Verse
“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Preteens will turn to Jesus for freedom from sins and burdens in their lives.

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



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Ancient Freedom <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss moving and what that involves.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	Am I Free? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Discover things they need freedom from.	Bible Buzz, pens, sticky notes, tape Teacher Pack: "Set Free!" poster 	Hang the "Set Free!" poster in an accessible place.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	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.



The Israelites Escape From Egypt

Exodus 11:1–12:36

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Sends the Last Plague: Death

One of the first things to notice is that the last plague is the only one in which God required that his people respond in a particular way to be safe from the plague. While there’s not direct information about how every plague affected Israel, we do know that the plague that killed many of the Egyptians’ animals didn’t kill the Israelites’ livestock (Exodus 9:1-6). We also know that the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was not hit by the plague of hail or the plague of darkness (Exodus 9:26; 10:23). However, up to this point, the protection God provided for the Israelites didn’t require any faith or action on their part. They had seen the devastation of the Egyptians compared to their own safety; they had seen God’s power at work. It was time for them to exhibit some faith!

God Requires the Blood of an Innocent Lamb

The act of faith required of the Israelites was the sacrifice of an innocent lamb, whose blood was to be displayed on the doorposts. The lamb died in place of the firstborn child. This sacrifice became a symbol that the Israelites understood: An innocent life had to be taken to spare them from death. Although they didn’t understand it at the time, that sacrifice looked forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who shed his blood and died so that all who believe in him might be saved from spiritual death and eternity apart from God.

For over 400 years, the people of Israel had lived in a foreign land, and they must have been very familiar with the Egyptians’ gods. But through the plagues, God showed the Hebrews what he could and would do for them. When the time came for them to step out in an act of faith, they were ready.

Death Passes Over the Israelites

On that horrible and wonderful night, “the Lord kept vigil” (Exodus 12:42) to free his people from slavery in Egypt. It’s wonderful to know that we serve a God who keeps a vigil over us, freeing us from sin through his Son, Jesus, and protecting us from those who would draw us away from him.

The Jesus Connection

Everyone needs God’s help and power to survive the difficulties of life. Jesus empowers his followers and helps his friends!

Waiting on God’s timing is difficult for most Christians. For people in our culture and mind-set, it’s unnatural to take time and wait for anything. We like to take matters into our own hands. That can be problematic when the hands we’re taking from are God’s. He’s able to do anything and everything. Take a moment to pray about something you’re waiting for. Ask God to give you the patience and faith to wait for his perfect timing. You can write your prayer on the lines below.





Freeing the Chickens Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “The Farmer
and the Chickens”
(track 23)

The Last Plague Supplies

Bibles

pens

CD player

Teacher Pack:

CD: “Midnight Chime”

(track 24)

“Plagues in Egypt”
poster

1

GETTING STARTED

Freeing the Chickens

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **I’m going to play a story from a CD, and I’d like you to act it out. But first I need to assign some actors.**

Have kids gather in one area of the room, and tell them that they’re the Chickens. Select one preteen to be the Farmer. Play “The Farmer and the Chickens” (track 23 on the CD), and have kids act out their parts. It’s fine if they want to be a little silly; this story is a silly introduction to today’s passage and point.

When the CD ends, have kids spend a minute deciding on an ending for the story and quickly act it out for you—their audience.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to pretend to be such confused and mistreated chickens?
How ridiculous was it for the chickens to want freedom?
What does freedom mean to you?**

Say: **It may seem ridiculous to talk about chickens obtaining freedom. But the farmer had the same attitude as the Egyptian Pharaoh had about the Hebrew people. They were held captive for more than 400 years, and Pharaoh saw no point in giving them freedom. Today we’re going to explore how God freed the Israelites from Pharaoh’s hold. As we examine the passage, we’ll learn how ► JESUS SETS US FREE.**

2

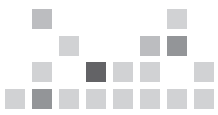
BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Last Plague

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Direct kids’ attention to the “Plagues in Egypt” poster. Point out the tenth and final plague, the plague of death, on the poster.





Say: **God did big stuff to get Pharaoh's attention.** Read through the passage, following the prompts noted here.

Read Exodus 11:1-5, and have all of the firstborn kids in your group lie down. They can't interact—they're dead.

Have kids wail as you read Exodus 11:6.

Read aloud Exodus 11:7-10, and have kids all stop wailing and the firstborn kids get back up.

Read aloud Exodus 12:1-6, and then ask:

If you have a pet at home, describe how your family cares for it.

Say: **God asked the Israelites to care for the lambs for fourteen days before slaughtering them to illustrate how one day, God would send his precious Son, Jesus, to die for us all. But the Israelites didn't know that was what was going on yet.**

Read aloud Exodus 12:7, and have kids pretend to paint door frames in the air.

Read aloud Exodus 12:8-11, gather everyone around, and have them act out the meal.

Read aloud Exodus 12:12-13, and then have kids form two groups: the Israelites and the Egyptians. Have the groups act out what happens to the two groups in this section.

Get kids' attention again, and read aloud Exodus 12:14-20. Then ask:

Tell a partner about something your family celebrates, and discuss why you celebrate that event.

Say: **This is how God made his people free and called them to himself, and they celebrated the events that made them God's special people. This celebration was very special for God and the Israelites, and around Easter time, many Jews still celebrate the Passover. What's really cool is how Jesus is our Passover lamb and he keeps the judgment for our actions from condemning us. We celebrate because**
▶ **JESUS SETS US FREE.**

Ask:

What's one thing your family does to celebrate Jesus at Easter?

Say: **God told the Israelites what he planned to do. Let's keep reading to find out more.** Read aloud Exodus 12:21-28. Have kids each remove a shoe, pretend it's the Passover lamb, and follow the instructions Moses gave to the elders.

Darken the room, and play the "Midnight Chime" segment (track 24 on the CD). As the clock chimes 12 times, read aloud Exodus 12:29-30. The track will last long enough for you to read the passage at a comfortable pace.





When the clock finishes striking midnight, jump up urgently and say: **Hurry! Grab your stuff! We're free!** (Take a deep breath.) **Pharaoh just said to Moses and Aaron, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested." They want us to hurry and get out of here because they're afraid they'll all die! Hurry. We have to go now!**

Tell the kids to quickly gather their Bibles and hurry out of the room. Have them follow you outside or to another room if possible. Otherwise, stand up and walk to a different part of your room. Have kids sit huddled together as you read Exodus 12:31-32.

Ask:

Thinking about what Pharaoh and Egypt had been through, what do you think it means that Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to bless him?

Divide the group in half again, Egyptians and Israelites. Have the firstborn kids in the Egyptian half lie down and pretend to be dead while the others wail and are sad. Read Exodus 12:33-36, having the Israelites do what the passage says they did and reminding the mourning Egyptians to respond as they did in the Bible.

Close your Bible, and gather kids around you. Say: **Only God could have caused the Egyptians to want to help the Israelites. Only God could have done the amazing miracles that happened throughout Egypt, and only God could have freed his people as he did. God set all of this up to free the Israelites and set the stage for Jesus to come to earth and free us all from sin. Physical freedom is nothing compared with freedom from sin!**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think of the connection between the first Passover and Easter?

What was it like to leave our meeting room suddenly and come here?

How willing are you to do what God asks you to do?

What's your reaction to the news that you've been set free from sin?

Does it make a difference in the way you live to know that Jesus freed you from sin?

Say: **The Egyptians and Israelites had been living near each other for more than 400 years. God did unimaginable things to free his people. Just like God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God went to great lengths so that ► JESUS SETS US FREE from sin. We all have a choice about what we'll do with that freedom. Just as we responded suddenly when we left our room, we can give our lives to Jesus and let him change us, and he's there at any time.**

Have kids gather their supplies and return to the meeting area if you left.





3

**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Ancient Freedom

What You'll Do

Have kids form pairs and discuss the following questions:

Ask:

- How difficult might it have been for the Israelites to move to a new place after being in captivity for so long?**
- Tell about a time you had to move or make a change in your life that you weren't expecting.**
- What's it like when someone you know has to move or make a change?**

Say: Let's explore what it means to move and make changes in our lives. We've all been through some kind of change during our lives. Maybe your best friend moved away, your family moved to a different place, or you changed schools. For us to better understand what the Israelites were going through, we can think about our own life changes.

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages and pens, and instruct pairs to find the "Moving Day!" section. Have pairs join with another pair and work through the first question. Groups will talk about their answers, but each individual can write whatever he or she wants. When pairs have finished with the first question, have them stand up and yell "We're moving!" as a signal to let other pairs know they're available to work through the next question. Have pairs continue switching until they've worked through all of the questions on the Bible Buzz page. When pairs have finished, continue.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What freedoms do you have?**
- How might you describe freedom to someone who's never been free?**
- What are some of the things you're thankful Jesus has freed you from?**
- Tell about an area of your life that's different because of the freedom you have in Jesus.**
- What's one way you'd like to internalize the importance of your freedom in Jesus?**

Say: The Israelites needed to be saved from their slavery, so God freed them. We needed to have a way to be free from sin, so ► JESUS SETS US FREE. We have sin in our hearts because we're human, and that sin separates us from God. When Jesus died for us, it meant that we had a choice and we can be close to God again. Let's explore what freedom in Jesus looks like a bit more.



Ancient Freedom Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Ancient Freedom Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 13
pages from each Bible
Buzz student book.





Am I Free? Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens
sticky notes
tape

Teacher Pack

“Set Free!” poster

Am I Free? Easy Prep

Hang the “Set Free!”
poster in an accessible
place.

Am I Free?

What You'll Do

Have kids each find a space to be alone by themselves. Make sure everyone has a Bible Buzz page and a pen.

Say: **Look at the “Got Freedom?” section on your Bible Buzz pages. For the things in your life that you aren’t free from, put a check mark on the right side by each phrase. For the things that you are free from, put a check mark on the left side by each phrase.**

When all the kids have placed their check marks, ask them to take a few minutes to write a letter to God about the things they need freedom from. When kids are done, sit together in a circle.

Say: **God can set us free from anything. Let’s discover how many things God can free us from.**

Have kids get in groups of four. Ask groups to brainstorm about all the things they might need freedom from. Groups can use ideas they listed earlier or others they think of. Give each group a pad of small sticky notes on which to write their ideas. They’ll stick the sticky notes all over the words “Set Free!” on the “Set Free!” poster. Allow time.

Ask kids to take turns running to the poster to each tear off a sticky note. After each person tears off a sticky note, have kids shout “Set free!” with you.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What’s the difference between the things you need to be freed from and the bondage the Israelites experienced?

What can you do this week to be free from something that seems to cause you problems?

What does it mean that Jesus wants us to be free?

What’s one way you can open your life to the freedom Jesus has to offer you?

Say: ► **JESUS SETS US FREE from whatever binds us: sins, worries, and burdens. It might not be comfortable, but sometimes we have to think about the sins and burdens we have in our lives in order to tell Jesus we want to be free from them. The Israelites waited more than 400 years to be free, but we can be free just by talking to God and letting him change our hearts.**





4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can be thankful this week that ► JESUS SETS US FREE.**

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

If you're not a Christian (or if you're not sure), talk to a Christian adult about what it means to be free from sin and be a Christian. Then ask Jesus to free you from your sins.

On a separate sheet of paper, write down each time you feel worried or nervous about something this week. Each time you write something down, spend 20 seconds asking Jesus to free you from that burden. Then tear up the sheet of paper with your burden on it.

If you already feel like you've been freed from your sins and burdens, draw or paint a picture that shows what it feels like to be free.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the 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, place, and other ideas.

Say: **God helped the Israelites escape from slavery in Egypt, and he's powerful enough to set us free in our lives, too. Let's be thankful that ► JESUS SETS US FREE by following through with our Daily Challenges.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about freedom in Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Invite kids into a time of personal prayer. Allow time for kids to pray silently about freedom in Jesus. Close the prayer time by thanking Jesus for freedom from sin and for each person in your group.