

# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>

**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PRESCHOOL** AGES  
3&4  
**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

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### We know you care about kids...

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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, Preschool/Ages 3 & 4, Summer

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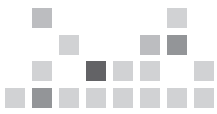
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# The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

Obedience is something young children are working on. They're just beginning to understand that certain actions lead to certain responses. Use this lesson to help your children understand that following directions brings gladness and satisfaction for both the one making the request and the one obeying, and we obey God because he knows what's best.



► **Bible Point**  
Obey God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Obedience Steps</b> Follow directions while wearing tissue boxes on their feet.	Bible, 2 empty tissue boxes, scissors	In 2 tissue boxes, cut holes large enough for children to get their feet through with their shoes on.
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Get father and son puppets from Theo.	CD player, Theo puppet, tape, scissors, 2 craft sticks, rubber band <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Abraham and Isaac" figures 	Cut out the Abraham and Isaac figures, and tape a craft stick to each one to create puppets. Use a rubber band to attach the puppets to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Where Is the Sacrifice?</b> Listen to puppets tell about Abraham and Isaac.	Bible, blocks, "Abraham and Isaac" puppets from the Puppy Pointers activity	

**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**  
Children will obey God and the adults in charge of them.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Obedient Paths</b> Glue paper pieces to a path showing how they'll obey.</p>	My Bible Hugs, construction paper, several pairs of scissors, glue	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Obedience Snack</b> Give up half of their snacks as an act of obedience.</p>	O-shaped cereal, resealable plastic bags, stickers, antibacterial gel (optional)	Arrange with another leader for your children to come to his or her group to share the snacks.
	<p><b>Center 3: Dramatic Obedience</b> Retell what they learned about Abraham and Isaac with puppets.</p>	"Abraham and Isaac" puppets from the Puppy Pointers activity	
	<p><b>Center 4: Obedience Sheep</b> Make 3-D sheep from paper bags.</p>	2 white paper lunch bags per child, newspaper, white yarn, black markers, tape, scissors, copies of the white strips handout and the sheep ears handout (at the end of the lesson)	Copy and cut handout pages so each child has 2 strips and 2 ears.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Say a prayer together.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs	Tear out the Parent Letter in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

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



# God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

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

## A Preface for Today's Material

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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 Obey's God's Command to Sacrifice His Son

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

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

## Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Good Morning and Welcome" (track 2),  
"As I Have Loved You"  
(John 13:34) (track 5)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Good Morning and Welcome" (track 2 on the CD). As children sing, encourage them to greet their friends using actions mentioned in the song: shake hands, high five, bow down, and group hug.


 **Good morning and welcome to God's house.**  
**Good morning and welcome, my friend.**  
**Good morning and welcome to God's house.**  
**Now [shake hands] and greet a new friend.**

[Shake hands; shake hands.]  
[Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**  
[Shake hands; shake hands.]  
[Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**

*(Repeat from beginning with different actions.)*

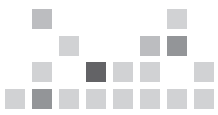
Say: **Today we'll learn why we ► OBEY GOD. That means we do what God says is best. Let's sing about God's command that we love one another.**

Lead children in singing "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 5 on the CD). Encourage them to shout "Love one another" at the appropriate times during the song and to pat the backs of the children near them.

 **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.)*







**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.

Say: **This week we’ll learn that we ► OBEY GOD because he knows what’s best for us. We obeyed God today as we sang to him and showed love to our friends. Today we’ll hear how a man named Abraham obeyed God, even when it was hard.**

**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Obedience Steps

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to James 1:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). This means we can ask God to help us know how to make good choices and he’ll help us. Let’s say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).**

Say: **Today we’re learning to ► OBEY GOD. Our Key Verse tells us that we can even ask God to help us obey him, our parents, and our teachers. Let’s play a game to practice obeying.**

Invite one child to slip the tissue boxes onto his or her feet like shoes. Have the other children think of two directions that child must obey—for example: walk backward, go to the door, hop on one foot, spin around in a circle, or take three steps forward. Then have the child say the Key Verse: Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5). Let kids take turns wearing the tissue boxes as shoes while the other children give them three directions, including the final direction to say the Key Verse.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like trying to obey our commands in this activity?  
How was that like or unlike obeying God, our parents, and our teachers?**



### Obedience Steps Supplies

Bible  
2 empty tissue boxes  
scissors

### Obedience Steps Easy Prep

In 2 tissue boxes, cut holes large enough for children to get their feet through with their shoes on.





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
tape  
scissors  
2 craft sticks  
rubber band

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)  
"Abraham and Isaac"  
figures

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Cut out the Abraham and Isaac figures, and tape a craft stick to each one to create puppets. Use a rubber band to attach the puppets to Theo's paw.

### Why do you like that God will help you obey?

Say: **Some of the directions we gave you were not easy to follow, were they? But when we're following God's directions, we can ask God for help. Today we'll learn more about what it means to ► OBEY GOD, and we'll see how a man and his son obeyed.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** I brought puppets of a man and a boy because you said you were going to read in the Bible about a father and a son.

**Teacher:** That was so thoughtful of you, Theo.

**Theo:** Thank you. I try to be. My dad tells me to be kind to others, and I know I'm supposed to obey him.

**Teacher:** That's just like our Bible Point today, Theo. We're learning that God wants us to obey what he tells us. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► OBEY GOD.)*

**Theo:** Wow, just like my dad says to obey him.

**Teacher:** That's right, Theo! And one way we can obey God is to obey our parents and teachers, too.

**Theo:** Thanks for sharing that with me. My dad told me to come straight home after I brought these puppets to you, so I better go now.

**Teacher:** Okay. Thanks for stopping by to see us and for the puppets. *(Remove the puppets from Theo's paw.)* Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you think it's important that Theo obeyed his dad?**

**Tell some ways you obey your parents.**

**Why do you think it's important to obey your parents?**

Say: **Today we'll hear about a man in the Bible who obeyed God like Theo obeys his dad. The man knew it was important to ► OBEY GOD. And today as we see how he obeyed, we'll learn that God wants us to obey our parents and other adults, too.**

## Bible Time: Where Is the Sacrifice?

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 22, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll learn what it means to ► OBEY GOD.**

Begin with the Abraham and Isaac puppets behind your back, one in each hand. Every time you read the part of Abraham, present the Abraham puppet and use a deep voice as you speak. Every time you read the part of Isaac, present the Isaac puppet and use a higher-pitched voice for a young boy.

Say: **Abraham was a man who loved God and did what God told him to do. Let's find out how Abraham obeyed God when he took his son, Isaac, up the mountain to worship God.**

Leader: **God had promised Abraham a son for a very long time. Tell a friend near you about something you waited a long time for.** Allow time. Then say: **Abraham waited for years and years to have a son, and he loved Isaac so much.**

Isaac: **My dad played with me and talked to me; he taught me about God and how it pleases God when we obey him.**

Leader: **Tell a friend near you the Bible Point: ► OBEY GOD.** Allow time.

Abraham: **I was so happy when God finally gave me a son. I loved my son, Isaac, so much. I wanted to obey God, and I taught my son, Isaac, to obey God, too. But one day, God asked me to do a very hard thing. He said, "Abraham, if you really love me, give Isaac back to me."**

Leader: **Think about a time you had to give something back—maybe a treat or special toy.** Allow time. **What was it like to give up that thing?** Let several children answer.

Isaac: **Well, my dad, Abraham, obeyed, and we started the trip to the mountain that God told my dad to go to.** Have the kids stand and march as if traveling up a steep mountain.

Abraham: **I knew God loved me and I could trust him, even though this would be hard. I knew it was important for me to obey God.**

Leader: **When Isaac and Abraham got to the mountain, they made a special pile of stones and wood.** Have kids build a small altar out of blocks. Make sure each child is able to put at least one or two blocks on the pile.



### Bible Time: Where Is the Sacrifice? Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - blocks
  - "Abraham and Isaac" puppets from the "Puppy Pointers" activity





Isaac: God knew that my dad obeyed, so God rewarded him. God put an animal in the bushes that we could give to God instead, so my dad didn't have to give me up after all.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time your parents rewarded you for obeying them. What things can you do that would please God?**

Say: **God was very happy that Abraham obeyed him. Like Abraham did, it's important that we ► OBEY GOD when he asks us to do something for him. One way we can ► OBEY GOD is by obeying our parents. Let's learn more about obeying God.**

**4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE**

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ **CENTER 1:**

**Obedient Paths**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 1 page from My Bible Hugs, a sheet of construction paper, and a pair of scissors. Set glue on the table for children to share.

Say: **Today we heard how Abraham obeyed God and why we want to ► OBEY GOD. Let's use our My Bible Fun pages to show some ways we can obey God this week.**

Point out each of the pictures, and help kids discuss why each picture shows a way to obey God. Then have kids choose one of the options. Say: **Cut small pieces from your construction paper, and glue them on the path from the boy and girl (point out the top picture symbolizing the children in your group) to the way you want to ► OBEY GOD this week.** Check for understanding, and then help kids cut small pieces. Help each child glue pieces along one of the paths.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

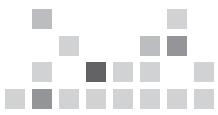
**Center 1: Obedient Paths Supplies**

- My Bible Hugs
- construction paper
- several pairs of scissors
- glue

**Center 1: Obedient Paths Easy Prep**

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.





Ask:

Tell why you chose the way you chose.  
What can you do to remember to ► OBEY GOD this week?

Say: God is happy when we obey our moms and dads because when we do, we also ► OBEY GOD. Abraham obeyed God when it was really, really hard, and so can we. Let's remember that God wants what's best for us, so it's always best to obey him.

■ CENTER 2:

## Obedience Snack

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we heard how Abraham obeyed God, and for our snack activity, we'll practice obeying.

Give each child two resealable plastic bags, and let children decorate the bags with stickers. As children work, put some O-shaped cereal in each bag. Each child will keep one bag and give one away to a child in the other group.

Say: Just as Abraham was willing to give up his son, Isaac, to be obedient, we're going to give up one of our snacks. When we ► OBEY GOD, it makes him very happy. Take your children to deliver their extra snacks to the chosen group.

When you return to your room, have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Lead them in a prayer, and then let them eat their cereal.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to give up one of your snacks?  
Why do you obey God even when it's hard?

Say: It's hard to give up things we love, like it may have been for you to give up your snacks. Abraham was ready to give up his son when God asked him to. Like Abraham, we can ► OBEY GOD by doing what he asks us to do even when it's hard.

■ CENTER 3:

## Dramatic Obedience

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we're learning all kinds of ways we can ► OBEY GOD. Let's use the Abraham and Isaac puppets to help us remember how Abraham obeyed God.



### Center 2: Obedience Snack Supplies

O-shaped cereal  
resealable plastic bags  
stickers  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### ! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

### Center 2: Obedience Snack Easy Prep

Arrange with another leader for your children to come to his or her group to share the snacks.

### Center 3: Dramatic Obedience Supplies

"Abraham and Isaac"  
puppets from the  
Puppy Pointers activity





### Center 4: Obedience Sheep Supplies

2 white paper lunch  
bags per child  
newspaper  
white yarn  
black markers  
tape  
scissors  
copies of the white  
strips handout and the  
sheep ears handout (at  
the end of the lesson)

### Center 4: Obedience Sheep Easy Prep

Copy and cut handout  
pages so each child has  
2 strips and 2 ears.

Allow the children to take turns using the “Abraham and Isaac” puppets to retell how Abraham obeyed God. After each child has a turn, have him or her tell a way he or she will obey God this week. Have the other children applaud each of the participants for their efforts.

Say: **When we have a choice to ► OBEY GOD and obey our parents, we can remember how Abraham obeyed. It makes God happy when we obey. Let’s do our best to ► OBEY GOD this week.**

### ■ CENTER 4:

## Obedience Sheep

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s make a craft to help us practice obeying.**

Give each child two white paper lunch sacks and a couple of sheets of newspaper. Have children crumple the newspaper and stuff it into one of the sacks.

Say: **Please listen to my directions and obey them so your project will look like a sheep when we’re done.**

**First, pull your second sack over the open end of your first sack.** Help children pull the second sack over the open end of the sack with the newspaper inside. Put a line of tape around the inside edge to hold the sack in place.

Say: **Now tie a piece of yarn around it.** Show children how to tie the yarn tightly around the sacks about 4 inches from one end to create a head. Then help them as they work.

Distribute the paper strips and ears. Show kids how to bend the ends of the paper strips. Then say: **Put tape on the bent parts of your paper strips, and stick them to the bottom of your bag to make legs.** Help each child tape two legs to the bottom of his or her bag.

Say: **Finally, tape two ears to the sides of your sheep’s head.** Have each child tape one ear to each side of his or her sheep’s head. Then have kids draw eyes and mouths with black markers.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you think I asked you to obey my directions when we were making our sheep?**  
**Why is it good for you to obey God?**

Say: **What God asked Abraham to do might not have made much sense to Abraham, but even so, Abraham obeyed God. And when he did, God made sure everything turned out as it should. When we ► OBEY GOD, he takes care of us, too.**



# 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that it's important for us to ► OBEY GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to obey God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Share a toy with a friend, and then tell how Abraham obeyed God by giving up Isaac.**

**Obey God by doing the thing you committed to on the front of the My Bible Hugs page.**

Say: **If you want to share a toy, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to follow through on your My Bible Fun commitment, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Say: **Tell God how you want to obey him this week.** Allow time. **Ask him to help you obey.** Allow time. Then close the prayer.



### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Hugs

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the letter to parents in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

## 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.

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).





# SHEEP EARS



**OK**  
**TO COPY**






# Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

Finding God’s direction doesn’t take long prayers or a theological degree. Young children can pray for and receive direction from the Lord, even though their prayers may be short, choppy, spontaneous, or even silly. Use this lesson to encourage your children to ask God what to do every day.



► **Bible Point**  
Pray to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Where Should We Go?</b> Play a game of searching for a crown.	Bible <b>Teacher Pack:</b> royal crown	Hide the royal crown in your room.
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Learn about how to make important decisions.	CD player, Theo puppet, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, wedding ring	Tie the wedding ring to Theo’s paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Who Will She Be?</b> Act out what happened with Rebekah, and find out how God helped the servant.	Bible, disposable cups <b>Teacher Pack:</b> bracelets, “The Servant Finds Rebekah” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

**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**  
Children will pray to God for help and direction.

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

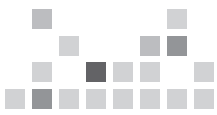




LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Mini Puppet Stage</b> Use puppets to tell the Bible passage.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, markers, scissors, 2 large craft sticks per child</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut slits along the dotted lines on each page.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Well! Oh, Well! Snack</b> Build a well, and count scoops of water and snacks.</p>	<p>dishpans, water, tarp, blocks, spoons, cups, trail mix, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Fill 1 dishpan with water and another with trail mix, and set them on a tarp spread on the floor.</p>
	<p><b>Center 3: Ten Camels</b> Count as Rebekah gives the camels water.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
	<p><b>Center 4: Merry Maracas</b> Make maracas, and sing a song.</p>	<p>1 plastic container or empty bottle with lid for each child, small funnel, pebbles, craft glue, stickers</p>	
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Say a prayer together.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





# Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## The Servant's Oath

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: “Good Morning and Welcome” (track 2), “This Is My Commandment” (track 3)

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

# Welcome and Celebrate



**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

## What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing “Good Morning and Welcome” (track 2 on the CD). As children sing, encourage them to greet their friends using actions mentioned in the song: shake hands, high five, bow down, and group hug.



**Good morning and welcome to God’s house.**

**Good morning and welcome, my friend.**

**Good morning and welcome to God’s house.**

**Now [shake hands] and greet a new friend.**

[Shake hands; shake hands.]

[Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**

[Shake hands; shake hands.]

[Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**

*(Repeat from beginning with different actions.)*

Say: **Today we’ll learn that when we ► PRAY TO GOD, we can pray about all kinds of things—and we can even pray for other people. When we pray for others, that’s a way to show love to them. Let’s sing about loving one another.**

Lead children in singing “This Is My Commandment” (track 3 on the CD). Have kids stand in a circle and hold hands as you lead them in singing.



**This is my commandment**

**That you love one another,**

**That your joy may be full.**

**This is my commandment**

**That you love one another,**

**That your joy may be full.**





That your joy may be full.  
That your joy may be full.  
This is my commandment  
That you love one another,  
That your joy may be full.

(Repeat.)

Say: This week we'll learn that we ► PRAY TO GOD for all sorts of reasons. We'll hear how some people in the Bible prayed to God for help and he helped them. Let's hear more about that.

**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Where Should We Go?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to James 1:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). This means we can ask God to help us know how to make good choices and he'll help us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).**

Say: **Let's play a game today to help us understand our Key Verse. Wisdom is being smart. It's knowing how to do something. We can ask God for wisdom every time we're not sure how to do something.**

To begin the game, tell children they'll be looking for a crown. Explain that as they move around the room, they can ask you if they're "hot" or "cold." Tell them that hot means they're very close to the object and cold means they're far away. After the children play, have them cover their eyes as you hide the crown again. Repeat the game as time allows.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to search for the crown?**
- Tell a friend about something you know a lot about.**
- What are some ways you could help someone with all that you know?**
- What do you like about God knowing everything?**



### Where Should We Go? Supplies

Bible  
**Teacher Pack**  
royal crown

### Where Should We Go? Easy Prep

Hide the royal crown in your room.





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
string  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)  
wedding ring

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the wedding ring to  
Theo's paw.

Say: **You listened to my wisdom to find the crown. God gives us his wisdom in the Bible. And when we ► PRAY TO GOD, he gives us wisdom, too. Today we'll hear how some people in the Bible asked God for wisdom by praying and he helped them know what to do.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** This is a wedding ring.

**Teacher:** Why do you have a wedding ring? Are you getting married?

**Theo:** Not yet. I'm trying to decide who I want to get married to.

**Teacher:** Oh, that's an important decision. It reminds me of our Bible Point today—because when we have important decisions to make, we can ask God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► PRAY TO GOD.)*

**Theo:** Wow, I'm so glad you have God to help you with important decisions. It's really hard to make decisions on my own.

**Teacher:** It sure is, Theo! And the great thing about praying to God is that God wants us to ask him for help with big and little things.

**Theo:** You sure do have a great God. I'm going to run back in my house and see if my parents can help me make a good decision.

**Teacher:** Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

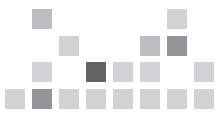
**What seemed important about Theo's decision?**

**Tell about a time you made a decision.**

**What kinds of decisions can you pray to God about?**

Say: **Theo had a really important decision to make, just like we have decisions to**





make every day. And when we do, we can ► **PRAY TO GOD** for help. Today we'll hear how some people in the Bible prayed to God for help.

## Bible Time: Who Will She Be?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Genesis 24, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Let's learn more about why we ► PRAY TO GOD.**

**Abraham told his servant to find a wife for his son, Isaac. Abraham wanted Isaac to marry a girl from his hometown that was far away, and he made his servant promise that he would find the right girl for Isaac. So the servant left with special gifts for this special girl. He took beautiful bracelets!** Let children pass around the bracelets.

Say: **As the servant got close to the city where Abraham told him he would find the girl, he stopped and prayed.** Have the children kneel in the circle and pretend to be praying like the servant.

Say: **He asked God for help with choosing the right girl for Isaac; he asked God to have the right girl come to the well to give water to him and to his 10 camels.** Set out "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster.

Say: **Before Abraham's servant finished praying, Rebekah came to get water from the well.** Give children cups, and encourage them to pretend to pull water from the well in the poster.

Say: **Not only did Rebekah give the servant some water without even being asked, but she also asked to give his 10 camels water, just as the servant had prayed!** Have the children use their cups to pretend to pour water into the trough to share with the camels. As they pretend to pour the water, encourage them to say: ► **PRAY TO GOD.**

Say: **The servant went to Rebekah's house and asked her parents if she could marry Isaac and live far away. Rebekah and her parents agreed to let her go and marry Isaac, so the servant gave Rebekah the beautiful bracelets.** Let the children take turns trying on the bracelets.

Say: **Then they left to go back to where Abraham and Isaac lived.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you think of how God answered the servant's prayer?  
Think of a time you had to make a choice between two different toys or playing with two different friends. What was it like to choose?**



### Bible Time: Who Will She Be? Supplies

- Bible
- disposable cups
- Teacher Pack**
- bracelets
- "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





### Center 1: Mini Puppet Stage Supplies

My Bible Hugs markers  
scissors  
2 large craft sticks per child

### Center 1: Mini Puppet Stage Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut slits along the dotted lines on each page.

Why do you think it's important to ask God for help when we have to make choices?

Say: Abraham's servant had to make a very important decision, and he prayed for God's help. Like that, we can ► **PRAY TO GOD** for big and little things, and God will help us.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Mini Puppet Stage

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 2 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Let's make a puppet theater to help us remember how God helped the people in the Bible when they prayed to him for help and wisdom.**

Give each child two large craft sticks, and have kids draw a face on each with a marker. Tell the children to make one puppet the servant and the other Rebekah.

Encourage children to use the "puppet theater" on the My Bible Hugs page to tell how Abraham's servant found Rebekah. As they tell how Rebekah gave water to the 10 camels, let them find and count each hidden camel around the puppet theater.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you like about how God helped Abraham's servant and Rebekah?  
What things can we ask God to help us with?**

Say: **When we ► PRAY TO GOD, he promises to give us wisdom. The people we heard about in the Bible today prayed, and God gave them wisdom. This week as we make decisions, let's ► PRAY TO GOD for help and wisdom.**





**CENTER 2:**

# Well! Oh, Well! Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down on the tarp for the snack. Say: **God helped Abraham's servant find a wife for Isaac at a well. Her name was Rebekah, and she gave Abraham's servant and his camels some water to drink.**

Have children build wells out of blocks around the dishpans. Then let them count spoonfuls of water into cups for their pretend camels. Let them count spoonfuls of trail mix into separate cups.

## Talk With Kids

Say: **We can ► PRAY TO GOD, and he'll hear us and answer our prayers. Like Abraham's servant prayed, we can pray, too, when we need help or wisdom.** Have children serve their cups of trail mix to someone else, but have them keep the cups of water for themselves. Then pray, and allow children to enjoy the snack.


**CENTER 3:**

# Ten Camels

## What You'll Do

Say: **Rebekah gave water to Abraham's servant so his 10 camels could have something to drink. Let's sing a song about that.**

Have children sit in a circle, and tell them to hold up 10 fingers and then count backward with their fingers as they sing "Ten Camels." Play "Ten Camels" (track 6 on the CD).

 **Ten camels to drink at the well, ten camels to drink.  
You draw some water and give one a sip,  
Nine camels to drink at the well. (Take one finger away.)  
(Continue counting backward from 10 until all the camels have had a drink.)**

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's so great about how Rebekah helped all those camels?**
- What are some ways God helps you?**
- What can God help you with this week?**

Say: **Rebekah helped all 10 of the servant's camels. When we ► PRAY TO GOD, he will help us even more than any person could. This week, let's bring our troubles to God and watch for him to help us.**



### Center 2: Well! Oh, Well! Snack Supplies

- dishpans
- water
- tarp
- blocks
- spoons
- cups
- trail mix
- antibacterial gel (optional)

### **! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 2: Well! Oh, Well! Snack Easy Prep

Fill one dishpan with water and another with trail mix, and set them on a tarp spread on the floor.

### Center 3: Ten Camels Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Ten Camels" (track 6)





### Center 4: Merry Maracas Supplies

1 plastic container or empty bottle with lid for each child  
small funnel  
pebbles  
craft glue  
stickers

## CENTER 4: Merry Maracas


### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a plastic container with a lid. Help each child place the funnel into the top and then pour in some pebbles. Use glue to close the containers tightly.

Say: **Today we're learning that we can ► PRAY TO GOD. When we pray, he'll show us what to do or he'll help us with what we need. We can use our maracas we just made as we sing a song about that. But first let's decorate them.**

Let the children decorate their maracas with stickers. Then say: **We can celebrate that God will hear us when we pray to him.**

Have the children shake their maracas as they sing "Merry Maracas" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" (not on the CD).

 **God shows us his way,  
We ask God every day.  
God helps us know just where to go;  
God shows us the way.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think about celebrating that we can ► PRAY TO GOD?  
What things do you have to celebrate about God?**

Say: **Isaac, Rebekah, Abraham, and Abraham's servant all had something to celebrate—God answered their prayers and helped Isaac and Rebekah get married. Like them, we can celebrate all that God does to help and direct us. When we ► PRAY TO GOD, he always answers us.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► PRAY TO GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to pray to God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Ask your mom or dad to pray with you when you have a decision to make. Every time you get into a car to go somewhere, remember that you can pray to God and he’ll show you the way.**

Say: **If you want to pray with your parents, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to think about how God helps you, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down. Say: **God loves us. When we pray, he’ll help us with little and big things. What are some things you can ► PRAY TO GOD about this week?** Encourage kids to add things they want God to help them with. Then close the prayer.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).







# Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

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

**D**iscerning truth from fiction is a difficult thing for young children. They're just beginning to understand the difference between reality and make-believe. Many young children will tell a lie because either they're just "pretending" or they don't want to get in trouble. Use this lesson to help children understand that Jesus always tells us the truth and it makes him happy when we also tell the truth.



### ► Bible Point

God wants us to tell the truth.

### 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


Children will practice telling the truth even when they don't want to.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Tricky Treats</b> Learn the Key Verse, and receive a "treat" they're not expecting.	Bible, large empty potato chip canister, 1 piece of candy for each child	Fill the potato chip canister with candy and put the lid on it.
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Learn about the Bible passage.	CD player, Theo puppet, small strip of felt, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tie the felt strip to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Jacob Tricks His Brother</b> Learn how Jacob lied to his brother and father.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



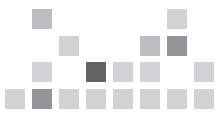


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Truth Badges</b> Decorate pictures and Truth Officer badges.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, white glue, colored pencils, several pairs of scissors, 1-inch strip of felt per child, 1 safety pin per child</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Happy Orange Snack</b> Eat orange “smiles.”</p>	<p>3 orange slices per child, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p><b>Center 3: Match the Truth</b> Find matching cards to match the truth.</p>	<p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Truth Seed Matching” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the cards.</p>
	<p><b>Center 4: Truth Wind Whirls</b> Make “truth” wind streamers.</p>	<p>six 2- to 3-foot-long crepe paper streamers per child, stapler</p>	
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Ask God to help them speak the truth.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Good Morning and Welcome" (track 2), "Tell the Truth" (track 7)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Good Morning and Welcome" (track 2 on the CD). As children sing, encourage them to greet their friends using actions mentioned in the song: shake hands, high five, bow down, and group hug.


 **Good morning and welcome to God's house.**  
**Good morning and welcome, my friend.**  
**Good morning and welcome to God's house.**  
**Now [shake hands] and greet a new friend.**

[Shake hands; shake hands.]  
 [Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**  
 [Shake hands; shake hands.]  
 [Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**

*(Repeat from beginning with different actions.)*

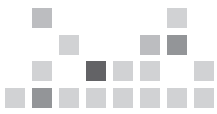
Say: **Today we'll learn that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. Let's sing a song about that now.**

Lead children in singing "Tell the Truth" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Lead children in singing and doing the motions.

 **Oh, God is happy when we tell the truth. (smile)**  
**Oh, God is happy when we tell the truth. (smile)**  
**God is happy when we're truthful, (smile)**  
**When we lie it makes him sad. (frown)**  
**Oh, God is happy when we tell the truth. (smile)**

**Oh, God is happy when we tell the truth. (clap hands twice)**  
**Oh, God is happy when we tell the truth. (stomp feet twice)**  
**God is happy when we're truthful; (turn around once to your right)**





When we lie it makes him sad. (*frown*)

Oh, God is happy when we tell the truth. (*give high fives to friend on left and right*)

Say: Just like our song said, ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.** Today we'll hear about some people who didn't tell the truth and it hurt their family a lot. Like them, when we don't tell the truth, it hurts others. Let's do our best to always tell the truth.



**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Tricky Treats

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 8:28, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means God makes things work for your best when you love him. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).**

Display the potato chip can where the children can see it. Ask the children to guess what might be inside the canister.

Say: **Now you can take turns saying the verse by yourself. As you say the verse, you may take a "treat" from my can.** Let each child take a piece of candy as he or she attempts to say the verse. Assist those who need help saying the verse. Make sure each child has a turn.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when you pulled candy from the chip can?
- Tell about a time you were surprised.
- What are some good ways God could surprise you?

Say: **God works for your good when you love him. Sometimes that can mean that he surprises us with things we don't expect—but they're always for our best. Today we'll hear about a man who surprised his family when he didn't tell the truth to them. We'll learn how much ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

### Tricky Treats Supplies

- Bible
- large empty potato chip canister
- 1 piece of candy for each child

### Tricky Treats Easy Prep

Fill the potato chip canister with candy and put the lid on it.

**! ALLERGY  
ALERT**





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
small strip of felt  
string

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the felt strip to  
Theo's paw.

## 3

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** I brought a piece of felt.

**Teacher:** Wow, that's neat, Theo. Why did you bring that today?

**Theo:** It feels good when I put it against my skin.

*(Pass around the felt so children can feel it.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, your felt reminds me of what we'll read in the Bible today. There was a man who put fur on his hands to make them feel different so he could trick his father.

**Theo:** Oh! That's not good. I always tell the truth to my dad.

**Teacher:** That's very good. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**)*

**Theo:** Wow! Thank you for reminding me how important it is to tell the truth. I'm going to run and put my felt back at my house.

**Teacher:** You're welcome, Theo. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

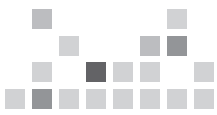
Ask:

**Why is it good that Theo said he never lies to his dad?**

**Why do you want to tell the truth to your parents?**

Say: **Just like Theo said, it's really important that we tell the truth. When we don't, it really hurts the people in our lives—and we'll learn how one family was really hurt by lies. ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH** because it's what's best for us. Let's find out what happened.**





# Bible Time: Jacob Tricks His Brother

## What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 25, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **This week we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

**The Bible tells us that a man named Isaac married a woman, Rebekah, and they had twin boys named Esau and Jacob. When the boys grew up, Jacob, the younger brother, tricked his older brother, Esau, into giving up his birthright and his dad's special blessing.**

Say: **Let's listen to what happened and act it out as we do.** Play "Jacob Tricks His Brother" (track 8 on the CD), and lead kids in acting it out.

After the CD tells how Esau came in hungry, have kids pretend to stir big pots of soup.

After the CD tells that Esau ate and then left, have kids pretend to gobble down food as if they're starving.

After the CD tells how Jacob got ready to trick Isaac, have kids pretend to put on Esau's clothes and cover their hands with fur like Jacob.

After the CD tells how Isaac used his senses to decide whether it was Esau, have kids pretend to smell and feel each other's arms.

When the track finishes, have kids pretend to be Isaac and Esau when they found out what Jacob did.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think it was wrong for Jacob to do what he did?**
- Tell about a time you were tricked.**
- How does that make you want to tell the truth to others?**

Say: **It always hurts when someone tricks us, so we can understand how Esau and Isaac felt hurt. That's one reason ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH—because it hurts others when we don't.**



### Bible Time: Jacob Tricks His Brother Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - CD player
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Jacob Tricks His Brother" (track 8)





### Center 1: Truth Badges Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
white glue  
colored pencils  
several pairs of scissors  
1-inch strip of felt per child  
1 safety pin per child

### Center 1: Truth Badges Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 3 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Truth Badges

### What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 3 page from My Bible Hugs, a felt strip, glue, and colored pencils.

Say: **Jacob tricked his brother Esau twice, and it really hurt their family.** Have the kids glue the felt strips on Jacob's arm. Kids can use the picture to remind them of today's Bible passage.

Say: **Jacob made the wrong choice. He knew that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH, but he still lied to his father. Let's learn from his mistake and tell the truth all the time.**

Have children color the letters on their badges and cut the badges out.

When they complete their badges, use safety pins to attach the badges to their shirts. Explain that just as police officers have to set a good example, the kids are now "Truth Officers" who must tell the truth and set a good example for others to follow.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What does it mean to be a Truth Officer?**

**Who can we show our badges to and tell that we are now Truth Officers?**

Say: **A Truth Officer is someone who tells the truth. God is so happy that you have become Truth Officers today. Let's remember to set an example for our friends by telling the truth no matter what. Jacob didn't tell the truth, but ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**



**CENTER 2:**

# Happy Orange Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Let's have a snack that will help us remember that it makes God happy when we tell the truth.**

Distribute three orange slices to each child, and show kids how to put them in their mouths with the rind showing. Talk about how the color orange is a bright and happy color and the slices make us smile.

Once each child has had a chance to make an orange smile, say: **► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH, and when we do, it makes him happy, like the happy color of the orange "smiles."** Ask a child to thank God for their snacks. Then let them enjoy!

## Talk With Kids

Say: **When we lie like Jacob did, it hurts God and it hurts all the people we lie to. Let's do our best to make God happy this week by telling the truth. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

**CENTER 3:**

# Match the Truth

## What You'll Do

Display the "Truth Seed Matching" cards. Say: **Let's play a game to help us remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

Explain that God always speaks the truth. Say: **If carrots are planted, God makes sure carrots come up.** Hold up the seed cards as you talk.

Say: **When we tell the truth, it makes God happy and it makes us happy. When we lie or try to trick people as Jacob did, we get a yucky feeling inside. That's called sin, and it makes God sad. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

Place the cards faceup on a table. Let the children take turns each finding one match. When everyone has found a "truth" match, collect the cards and play again.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to match the cards?**
- Why do you want what you do to match what you say?**
- Why do you think it's important to tell the truth?**



### Center 2: Happy Orange Snack Supplies

3 orange slices per child  
antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 3: Match the Truth Supplies

**Teacher Pack**  
"Truth Seed Matching" cards

### Center 3: Match the Truth Easy Prep

Separate the cards.





### Center 4: Truth Wind Whirls Supplies

.....  
six 2- to 3-foot-long  
crepe paper streamers  
per child  
stapler

Say: **God feels so glad and happy when we choose to tell the truth all the time. When we plant the truth into our lives, God will help us tell the truth even when it's hard. This week, when you have a choice to tell the truth or to tell a lie, remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

### ■ CENTER 4:

## Truth Wind Whirls

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH, and we don't have to be afraid to tell the truth. It's always the best thing to do. Let's make a craft to remind us to let our truth fly free.**

Give six streamers to each child. Assist kids in putting one end of the streamers together and stapling them.

Say: **Count one streamer.** Pause. **What's one way we can tell the truth?** Let one child share. Then continue, letting a new child share a way for each streamer.

Say: **Let's let our truths fly and whirl in the air.** Encourage kids to hold the stapled ends of the streamers and move around the room, letting the streamers fly.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you love about flying and whirling your streamers?**
- What do you love about telling the truth?**
- What are some ways you can get God's help with telling the truth?**

Say: **When we tell a lie, people can be hurt and we don't feel good inside. It's not the way God wants us to live. But when we tell the truth, our hearts soar like the flying streamers. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH because he knows it's what's best for us.**

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## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

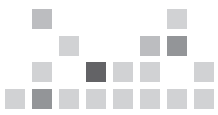
After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area

### Daily Challenges Supplies

.....  
My Bible Hugs







on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. I would like each of you to choose a way to be truthful this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Ask God to forgive you for a time you did not tell the truth. Ask him to help you be truthful the next time.**

**When you forget to do something your parents ask you to do, tell them the truth right away.**

Say: **If you want to ask for forgiveness, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to tell the truth to your parents, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You’ll Do

Gather kids in a circle, and have them hold hands. Have children repeat each line of the prayer after you.

Pray: **Dear God,  
Thank you for loving me  
And for loving my family.  
Help me, God, so I will say  
Only the truth every day.  
In Jesus’ name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).







# Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30



Even though young children are working hard toward becoming independent, most still require help in many areas. For children who seek and receive help from adults and others, it's easy to teach them that God is part of that helping process. Just as Mom, Dad, teacher, brother, and sister help him or her get dressed or give comfort for hurt feelings, God is there to protect and guide, too. Use this lesson to encourage your children to ask God for help in any area.



**Bible Point**  
God helps us.

**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**  
Children will know God helps them in all they do.

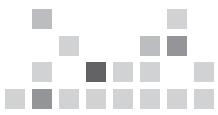
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>God Works for Good</b> Find out how different people help us.	Bible <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Community Helper" puzzles 	Separate the puzzle pieces.
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Hear what Theo learns about being afraid.	CD player, Theo puppet, piece of fabric <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place the piece of fabric over Theo.
	<b>Bible Time: The Wedding</b> Hear and interact with what happened when Jacob wanted to get married.	Bible, CD player, clear tape, 2 empty 2-liter soda bottles <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Leah and Rachel" figures, "The Wedding" script, "Fruits and Vegetables" pictures, "Garden Tools" pictures 	Cut out the "Leah and Rachel" figures, and tape each figure onto the front of a 2-liter bottle. Separate the "Fruits and Vegetables" pictures and the "Garden Tools" pictures.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: My Helpers</b> Draw pictures to show that God helps us.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: A Better-Tasting Snack</b> Discover how different dips help foods taste better.</p>	bite-sized vegetable pieces, salt, ranch dressing, cheddar cheese dip, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: The Wedding Ring Game</b> Play a game to show that God promises to always help us.</p>	Rachel and Leah bottle figures used in the Bible Time activity, masking tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> bracelets	Place 2 parallel strips of masking tape on the floor about 2 to 3 feet apart.
	<p><b>Center 4: Colorful Veils</b> Create veiled faces.</p>	colorful construction paper, 1 paper plate per child, markers, tape	
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Pray using hand motions.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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



# Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30



## Jacob Flees From Esau to Uncle Laban

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Good Morning and Welcome" (track 2),  
"Do Not Be Afraid"  
(track 9)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Good Morning and Welcome" (track 2 on the CD). As children sing, encourage them to greet their friends using actions mentioned in the song: shake hands, high five, bow down, and group hug.


 **Good morning and welcome to God's house.**  
**Good morning and welcome, my friend.**  
**Good morning and welcome to God's house.**  
**Now [shake hands] and greet a new friend.**

[Shake hands; shake hands.]  
[Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**  
[Shake hands; shake hands.]  
[Shake hands] **and greet a new friend.**

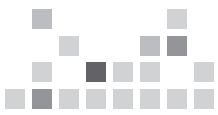
*(Repeat from beginning with different actions.)*

Say: **Sometimes we don't know what to do, but God does. When we pray and ask God for help, God is with us. Today we'll learn that ► GOD HELPS US.**

Lead children in singing "Do Not Be Afraid" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo."  
Lead children in singing and doing the motions.

 **Do not be afraid.** *(cover eyes with hands)*  
**Do not be afraid.** *(open hands, and then cover eyes with hands again)*  
**Do not be afraid.**  
**God is with you.** *(point up)*  
*(Repeat.)*

Say: **Even when we're afraid, we can remember that ► GOD HELPS US. Today we'll hear about a man named Jacob, who God helped. And we'll learn how we can always go to God for help, too.**



**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## God Works for Good

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 8:28, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means God makes things work for your best when you love him. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).**

**Our Key Verse reminds us that ► GOD HELPS US. Let's play a game to think about what that might mean.** On the floor, spread out the "Community Helper" puzzle pieces, and help the children put the pieces together. As each "Community Helper" puzzle is formed, have kids talk about how that person helps others.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time someone like these people helped you.  
What are some ways God can help you?**

Say: **These people help us when we need them. But there's someone who's bigger and greater than they are. He's God, and in all things God works for good. God brings the good out of every bad thing that happens, just like a doctor helps you feel better when you get sick. Today we'll hear how God helped a man named Jacob and how ► GOD HELPS US.**

**3** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.



**God Works for Good  
Supplies**

Bible

**Teacher Pack**

"Community Helper"  
puzzles

**God Works for Good  
Easy Prep**

Separate the puzzle  
pieces.

**Puppy Pointers  
Supplies**

CD player

Theo puppet  
piece of fabric

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

**Puppy Pointers  
Easy Prep**

Place the piece of fabric  
over Theo.





### Bible Time: The Wedding Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
clear tape  
2 empty 2-liter soda bottles

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "The Wedding" (track 10)  
"Leah and Rachel" figures  
"The Wedding" script  
"Fruits and Vegetables" pictures  
"Garden Tools" pictures

### Bible Time: The Wedding Easy Prep

Cut out the "Leah and Rachel" figures, and tape each figure onto the front of a 2-liter bottle. Separate the "Fruits and Vegetables" pictures and the "Garden Tools" pictures.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What are you doing under there?

**Theo:** I'm hiding.

**Teacher:** Why are you hiding?

**Theo:** I'm hiding because I'm scared.

**Teacher:** Today we're learning that ► **GOD HELPS US**, even when we're afraid.

Friends, can you tell Theo what you know about how God helps us?

*(Pause for the children to speak.)*

**Teacher:** Thanks for all your thoughts. Now let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD HELPS US.**)*

**Teacher:** That's right. God's always ready to help us. When we're scared or unsure, we can ask God for help.

**Theo:** I'm going to stop hiding right now and go home because I feel safe again.

**Teacher:** That's wonderful. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time you were afraid like Theo.**

**What helped you?**

**Why does knowing God will help you make you feel better?**

Say: **Theo sure was afraid this morning. Today we'll hear how a man named Jacob was afraid and had to run away. But God helped him, just like ► **GOD HELPS US when we're afraid or when we need something.****

## Bible Time: The Wedding

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 29, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear how Jacob was lied to and tricked by his uncle Laban.**

Have children form three groups. Give the 2-liter bottle figures of Leah and Rachel to the first group. Give the "Garden Tools" pictures to the second group, and give the "Fruits and Vegetables" pictures to the third group. Each time you mention Leah, Rachel, working in the fields, or giving a feast, point to the group with the prop that matches the situation, and have children take turns pretending to use their props. For example, the children with the "Garden Tools" can pretend to use them. The children with Leah and Rachel can pretend to make them walk. The children with the "Fruits and Vegetables" can pretend to eat them.





Say: **Let's listen carefully so we know when to act.** Play "The Wedding" (track 10 on the CD), and lead children in acting. You may follow along with "The Wedding" script if you'd like.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how Laban tricked Jacob?**
- Tell about a time you felt tricked.**
- What did you think about how God helped Jacob?**
- What do you like about having God's help?**

Say: **Even though Laban tricked Jacob, God helped Jacob to later marry Rachel. Sometimes it seems like God isn't by our side, but God always works for the good in the end. God helped Jacob, and we can trust that ► GOD HELPS US, too.**



**4**

**WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE**

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

**CENTER 1:**

**My Helpers**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 4 page from My Bible Hugs and crayons. Say: **Jacob's uncle Laban tricked him, and Jacob had to work seven extra years so he could marry Rachel. In the end, though, God helped so that things worked out for Jacob. Let's use our My Bible Hugs pages to think about how others and God help us.**

Have the children draw a picture inside each frame. In one frame, have children each draw a picture of a person who helps them. In the second frame, have children each draw a picture of how God helps them.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

**Center 1: My Helpers  
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs  
crayons

**Center 1: My Helpers  
Easy Prep**

Remove the Lesson  
4 pages from My  
Bible Hugs, and write  
children's names on  
them.





### Center 2: A Better-Tasting Snack Supplies

bite-sized vegetable pieces  
salt  
ranch dressing  
cheddar cheese dip  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 3: The Wedding Ring Game Supplies

Rachel and Leah bottle figures used in the Bible Time activity  
masking tape  
**Teacher Pack**  
bracelets

### Center 3: The Wedding Ring Game Easy Prep

Place 2 parallel strips of masking tape on the floor about 2 to 3 feet apart.

Ask:

**What do you think about having all these people and God to help you?  
What are some ways you can get help when you need it?**

Say: **God was there helping Jacob, even when things didn't turn out how he thought they would at first. Like that, God is always with us. He loves us and he wants what's best for us. We can ask him for help, and sometimes he'll send people to help us, too. This week, let's do our best to trust that ► GOD HELPS US.**

### CENTER 2:

## A Better-Tasting Snack

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Just as God helped Jacob, he'll help us. Let's eat a snack to see how different seasonings and dips can help our vegetables taste even yummiier.**

Serve the children bite-sized vegetable pieces. Have salt, cheese dip, and ranch dressing for the children to dip their vegetables in so they can experience different flavors. As children try different varieties, encourage them to discuss how each tastes.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you think about how the dips helped your vegetables?  
What can you ask God to help you with this week?**

Say: **We can help food taste better when we make it differently or when we try it with different foods. Like the different combinations of seasoning, even when things seem like they aren't going to work out, we can trust that ► GOD HELPS US in all kinds of ways. We can pray to God and ask him to help us, just as he helped Jacob.**

### CENTER 3:

## The Wedding Ring Game

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning how ► GOD HELPS US just as he helped Jacob. Let's play a game in which we can help each other.**

Form pairs. Have one child in the first pair hold a bottle figure and stand behind one of the strips of tape and the other child hold two bracelets and stand behind the opposite strip.





Say: **In this game if you're holding the bottle, you'll help your partner by catching the "wedding rings," which are the bracelets, on the bottles. If you have the two bracelets, you'll toss them toward the bottles.** Help children understand that when they help their partners, that means they can pick up the rings and place them on the bottles after they're thrown.

When both partners have helped each other get the two bracelets on the bottle, have them put the "wedding rings" on each other to represent God's promise to always help us. After they remove the bracelets, have two new partners play. Continue until all pairs have played.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to have your partner's help in this game?**
- Tell about a time you helped someone.**
- What are some ways God has helped your friends or family?**

Say: **We played a game in which we helped each other, and we learned all kinds of ways God has helped our friends and family. We can be sure that ► GOD HELPS US because we know that he helped Jacob, and we've seen him help people in our lives. God promises to help us every day because he loves us. Let's remember to thank God for his help.**

■ **CENTER 4:**  
**Colorful Veils**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **God helped Jacob so he could marry Rachel. But before that, his uncle tricked him into marrying Rachel's older sister, Leah. Jacob didn't see Leah's face until after they were already married. But even though things didn't work out at first, God worked for Jacob's good and made things work out in the end. Let's make wedding veils to remind us that ► GOD HELPS US, too.**

Give each child a paper plate, and set out markers. Have children each use one color to draw on their plates a picture of a girl's face to represent Leah. As the children do this, go around and have each one choose a piece of construction paper to make a veil. After the faces are complete, tape the paper across the top of the plate to create a veil over the face.

Say: **Lift your veil to reveal Leah's face.** Allow time. **Now use a different color to draw another face on top of Leah's to represent Rachel.** Allow time. Then have children practice lifting the veil to reveal Rachel's face.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.



**Center 4: Colorful Veils Supplies**

- 
- colorful construction paper
  - 1 paper plate per child
  - markers
  - tape





## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Ask:

**Tell about a time something didn't seem to go right.  
In what way did God help you in the end?**

Say: **Even when it seems like things aren't going our way, ► GOD HELPS US. Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah instead of Rachel, but God worked out everything for good in the end. God always loves us and will help us.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HELPS US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember to trust God to help you this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Draw a picture of a time God helped you, and give it to a friend.  
Feed your pet, and whisper in its ear: God helps us.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to feed your pet, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's thank God for always helping us.**

Pray: **Dear God,** *(make praying hands)*

**Thank you for helping me every day.** *(raise both hands, and move them from the left side to the right as if the sun is rising and setting)*

**I will trust you all through the day.** *(place hands out with palms up)*

**In Jesus' name, amen.**

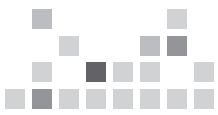
## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).







# Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams

Genesis 37:1-11


Family is the first place in which children can learn to give and receive love. God created the family unit as an environment in which children can learn to give and receive love. Young children are beginning to show care and concern when someone is hurting. They especially enjoy being helpers because they like to feel needed. Use this lesson to help your children see that these are all ways to show God’s love, and encourage them to care for others by using kind words and actions.



► **Bible Point**  
Families show God’s love.

**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**  
Children will show God’s love to their families.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>From Bad to Good</b> Discuss situations in which God takes something that seems bad and uses it for good.	Bible, 1 chenille wire per child	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Learn about Joseph’s dreams.	CD player, Theo puppet, star stickers, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tape the sheet of star stickers to Theo’s paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Joseph’s Dreams</b> Listen to Joseph tell about his dreams.	Bible, CD player, star stickers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Joseph and His Brothers” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Family Portraits</b> Draw pictures of their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs, colored pencils	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Team Mix Snack</b> Work together to make a snack that reminds them what happened to Joseph.</p>	M&M's candies, raisins, small pretzel twists, cups, antibacterial gel (optional)	Cut large raisins in half so they're not a choking hazard.
	<p><b>Center 3: Wake Up!</b> Play a game in which they pretend to sleep and wake up.</p>		
	<p><b>Center 4: Loving Families</b> Make collages showing ways family members love one another.</p>	CD player, glue sticks, magazines, 1 piece of construction paper per child, marker <b>Teacher Pack: CD</b>	
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Name a person to show God's love to this week.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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### Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Come On In"  
(track 11)


### From Bad to Good Supplies

Bible

1 chenille wire per child

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

#### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Come On In" (track 11 on the CD). Lead children in singing and greeting one another.

 **Come on in** (*clap*) and shake a hand.

**Come on in** (*clap*) and shake a hand.

**Come on in** (*clap*) and shake a hand.

**We're so glad you've joined us today!**

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's great to greet each other. That's one way to show love—and that's exactly what we're learning today. Our Bible Point tells us that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. Today we'll learn why it's important to love each other and treat each other well.**

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### From Bad to Good

#### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 8:28, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means God always does what's best for you. He can even take something that seems bad and use it for good. Let's say our Key Verse**





**together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).**

Hand each child a chenille wire, and show kids how to shape their chenille wires into a curve like a smile/frown. Say: **I'll read some situations that could be either good or bad. If the thing seems bad, hold up the frown, and turn the frown upside down to make a smile when you hear how God could make the situation good.** Check for understanding, and then read the following examples:

**Jared felt bad because he had to move away from all his friends (frown), but after a few months, he met lots of new friends (smile).**

**Mia grew out of her favorite red tennis shoes (frown), but her mom found some beautiful new purple ones (smile).**

**Rachel was upset when her drawing was torn (frown), but then she drew a picture that was even better (smile).**

**Gartrell became sick and was not able to go to his grandparents' house (frown), but his grandparents came to his house instead and brought him ice cream (smile)!**

Continue with your own examples and, if time allows, encourage children to give their own if they wish.

Say: **Today we'll learn that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. So when things seem like they aren't going your way at home, try to remember our smile/frown activity. Think of ways God might take things that seem bad and use them for good.**

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you think when the bad situations turned out to be okay?**

**Tell about a time like that in your life.**

**What are some ways you can help your family in hard times?**

Say: **God is good, and he always wants what's good for us. Even when something makes us unhappy or afraid, God can take that thing and make something good out of it, just like our Key Verse says. Today we'll hear how someone was in a bad situation because his family didn't show love to him. But God was with him all along. And we'll learn how ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
star stickers  
tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the sheet of star  
stickers to Theo's paw.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What do you have in your paw?

**Theo:** I brought star stickers with me.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring star stickers?

**Theo:** Because they make me think of nighttime when I can cuddle in bed and have happy dreams.

**Teacher:** Theo, that reminds me of our Bible passage today. We'll be reading about a man named Joseph who had a dream that made his brothers very jealous. And they didn't show love to their brother, Joseph.

**Theo:** That makes me very sad.

**Teacher:** That makes sense—because God wants us to love our families. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.)*

**Theo:** Wow, that's really neat! I'm going to take my star stickers back to my house to remind me to show love to my family.

**Teacher:** Way to go, Theo! Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

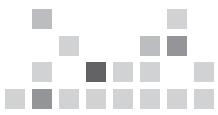
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are some ways Theo could show love to his family?**

**What do you do to show love to others?**

Say: **Theo loves to have good dreams, and today we'll hear about a dream Joseph had. We'll hear how that dream made Joseph's brothers very jealous and they did the opposite of what God wants us to do. God desires that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**



# Bible Time: Joseph's Dreams


## What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 37, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today's Bible passage teaches us that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. The Bible tells us that Jacob's son Joseph was a lot younger than his big brothers. We're going to turn out the lights, lie down, and pretend to rest. As we lie quietly, we'll listen to Joseph tell us about his family and his dreams.** Play "Joseph's Dreams" (track 13 on the CD).

Say: **Let's sit up and turn on the lights. Joseph sure had some weird dreams. The Bible tells us that Joseph's brothers hated him because they thought their dad loved Joseph the best. They also didn't like the dreams he had. Let's sing a song about Joseph and his brothers.**

Play "Joseph Went to Sleep" (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "A Sailor Went to Sea Sea Sea." Lead children in singing and doing the motions.

 **Joseph went to sleep, sleep, sleep.** (*place hands alongside face as if using them as a pillow*)

**He had a dream so deep, deep, deep.** (*squat down a little each time you say "deep"*)

**And when he woke he shared his dream.** (*stretch arms and pretend to yawn*)

**It made his brothers scream, scream, scream.** (*pretend to be angry and get a little louder each time you say the word "scream"*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Set out the "Joseph and His Brothers" poster.

Say: **In one of Joseph's dreams, he saw the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowing down to him. This made his brothers very angry because they knew that the 11 stars meant that they were supposed to bow down to Joseph. Let's put stars around Joseph on the poster and say, ► "FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE."**

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think of Joseph's dreams?**

**Tell about a time you felt upset with a brother, sister, or friend.**

**In a time like that, what can you do to show love to that person?**

Say: **It's important for us to remember that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE, even when things aren't going as we hope. When we're jealous or upset with another family member, we can still love that person. Joseph's brothers did the opposite of what God wants us to do, but we want to show love because we know what they did really hurt Joseph's family.**



## Bible Time: Joseph's Dreams Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
star stickers

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Joseph's Dreams" (track 13), "Joseph Went to Sleep" (track 14)  
"Joseph and His Brothers" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





### Center 1: Family Portraits Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
colored pencils

### Center 1: Family Portraits Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Family Portraits

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 5 page from My Bible Hugs, and set out colored pencils. Say: **Think about your family. Today we're learning that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. Who is someone in your family who you can show love to this week? Maybe it's someone you've had a fight with or someone who hurt your feelings.** Pause.

Say: **On your My Bible Hugs page, draw a picture that shows how you want to show love to that person.** Allow time.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Explain what you drew.  
Why is it important for you to show love to that person this week?**

Say: **► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE, and you have thought of lots of great ways to show your families that you love them. Joseph's brothers could've shown love to Joseph, but they let their jealousy take control. Let's do our best to love our families this week.**

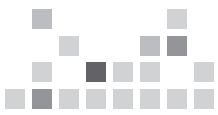
### CENTER 2:

## Team Mix Snack

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Let's make a snack as a team so we can show God's love to one another.**

Set out small cups to put the snack in. Set up an assembly line, putting different children



in charge of each ingredient. Each child will put a small handful of one of the ingredients in the cup and then pass the cup to the next child, who will add the next ingredient, and so on. The child at the end of the line will distribute the filled cups.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about working together to make our snack?**
- What can you do to work together as a team with your family?**

Say: **When we work together, it shows God’s love. As we made our snack, we did a great job at working together, and we can practice that with our families, too. This week, as you remember that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD’S LOVE, think of ways you can work together with your family, unlike Joseph’s brothers did.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

**Wake Up!**

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Say: **Joseph had some dreams that showed him the future, but when he woke up and told his brothers, it did not make them happy. Let’s play a sleeping game to think about ways to show love.**

Have children lie on the floor and pretend to sleep like Joseph was sleeping when he had his dream. Say: **I’ll tell ways that families can treat each other. If you hear a way that families love each other, then “wake up” by sitting up or standing up, but if you hear a way a family’s not showing love, continue to “sleep.”** As you share the following examples, alternate between the two choices:

- showing love: doing chores, helping with younger siblings, obeying parents, not arguing, using good manners**
- not showing love: disobeying parents, arguing with siblings, not sharing, not putting things back where they belong, being unkind**

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to figure out what to do in this game?**
- How is that like or unlike knowing how to love your family?**

Say: **Joseph’s family did not always do a very good job showing love to each other. Sometimes it isn’t easy to show love to other people, but God will always help us if we ask him. ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD’S LOVE.**



**Center 2: Team Mix  
Snack  
Supplies**

- M&M’s candies
- raisins
- small pretzel twists
- cups
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY  
■ ALERT**

**Center 2: Team Mix  
Snack  
Easy Prep**

Cut large raisins in half so they’re not a choking hazard.





### Center 4: Loving Families Supplies

CD player  
glue sticks  
magazines  
1 piece of construction paper per child  
marker

### Teacher Pack

CD: "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 5)

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

## CENTER 4:

# Loving Families

## What You'll Do

Say: **There are many ways families can show love. Let's make collages to show as many ways as we can.**

Set out magazines and glue sticks. Give each child a piece of construction paper, and help write his or her name on the paper. Have children look through the magazines and tear out pictures of families showing love. Some examples are a child hugging a parent, a parent taking care of a sick child, a parent fixing a meal, children sharing toys, and families playing together or reading together. Have children glue the pictures they find onto the construction paper.

As the children make their collages, play "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 5 on the CD).

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Show some ways of showing love that you found, and explain them.  
Explain which of the ways you found you will use this week.**

Say: **You've just made a special picture showing how families love one another. When we show love to one another, it makes God happy. Unlike Joseph's family did, ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

# Daily Challenges

## What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.





## Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **FAMILIES SHOW GOD’S LOVE. I would like each of you to choose a way to show God’s love to your family this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Make a special snack for your brother, sister, cousin, or parent.**
- Ask God to help you use loving words with your family each day.**

Say: **If you want to make a snack, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to use loving words, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You’ll Do

Say: **Now we’re going to go around the circle and name a family member who we can show God’s love to this week.**

Go around the circle and let everyone share—don’t forget to include yourself! Say the following prayer in these short, manageable phrases, and have the children repeat after you.

Pray: **Dear God,  
 Help me every day  
 To show your love  
 In a special way.  
 Help me to love  
 My family  
 And be the best  
 That I can be.  
 In Jesus’ name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).





# Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36

Preschoolers are just discovering that they can make their own choices in certain situations, and they enjoy doing so. Children are also beginning to discover consequences associated with those choices. Most can tell you about a time they made a choice and what happened. Their choices are usually based on how they feel rather than what may happen to another person. Use this lesson to help children learn to pause and think ahead to the happiness and joy God feels when they make the right choice.



### ► Bible Point

God wants us to do what's right.

### 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

Children will make right choices for God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Every Day, Every Way</b> Play a game in which they guess and act out actions.	Bible	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Help Theo make a well.	CD player, Theo puppet, string, modeling dough <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tie the modeling dough to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: A Well and a Rhyme</b> Listen and interact with Joseph and his brothers.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Sold!</b></p> <p>Color a picture about Joseph being thrown in the well and sold to the Ishmaelites.</p>	My Bible Hugs, markers, clear tape, 6-inch piece of yarn per child, scissors	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut the Joseph figures from the pages, and cut holes in the pages where it's marked on the wells.
	<p><b>Center 2: Well, Well, Well Snack</b></p> <p>Make a well like the one Joseph's brothers put him in.</p>	paper plates and bowls, spoon, 10 marshmallows per child, marshmallow creme, bear-shaped cookies, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Choices</b></p> <p>Play a matching game, and role-play good actions.</p>	<p><b>Teacher Pack: "Choice" cards</b></p> 	Separate the cards.
	<p><b>Center 4: Construction Site</b></p> <p>Make paper-cup wells.</p>	small paper cups and plates; glue sticks; brown, black, and gray construction paper	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b></p> <p>Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b></p> <p>Repeat a prayer asking for help.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b></p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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



# Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

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

## Joseph's Brothers Have Had Enough

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

## The Brothers Put Joseph Into a Cistern

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

## The Brothers Sell Joseph to Traders

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

The decision was made, and Joseph was gone before Reuben returned. When he found that Joseph was gone, Reuben was grief-stricken, anguishing over what to do next and, no doubt, what to tell his father.

## The Brothers Lie to Jacob About What Happened to Joseph

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

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

## The Jesus Connection

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

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

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: “Come On In” (track 11), “Love One Another Every Day” (track 12)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Play “Come On In” (track 11 on the CD). Lead children in singing and greeting one another.

 **Come on in (clap) and shake a hand.**  
**Come on in (clap) and shake a hand.**  
**Come on in (clap) and shake a hand.**  
**We're so glad you've joined us today!**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

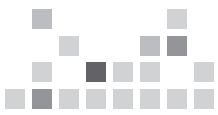
Say: **Today we'll learn what it means to do what's right. One thing we can do that's right is love others. Let's sing a song about loving others every day.**

Play “Love One Another Every Day” (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of “She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain.” Have children stand in a circle and hold hands as they sing.

 **We will love one another every day.**  
**We will love one another every day.**  
**We will love one another,**  
**Father, sister, mother, brother,**  
**We will love one another every day.**  
*(Repeat.)*

*Shout: John 13:34!*

Say: **Loving each other is the right thing to do—it's what God wants us to do. Today we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. We'll hear about a family that had a choice to do the right thing or the wrong thing. Let's see what happened.**



**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

# Every Day, Every Way

## What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). This means that God wants us to do our best to do things for him. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

**In everything we do, we try to make God happy and proud. And when we do what's right, like our Bible Point says, it does make God happy and proud.** Ask children for some examples of things they do every day. Children might say they play with other children, they pick up their toys, and they eat dinner.

Say: **Let's play a game! I'll do an action, and you guess what action I'm doing. Then we'll talk about how we could do that action in a way to please God. Then we'll all do the action together. Ready? Let's play!**

Silently perform an action, such as pretending to eat dinner. Let children guess what action you're performing. After they have guessed correctly, discuss with the children how they could do that action in a way that pleases God. For example, you might say that thanking God for the food you eat is a way to please God at dinner. Then let everyone jump up and pretend to eat dinner.

Choose another action, and repeat the process. Consider using the following actions and ways to please God:

- playing with other children (being nice to them)
- picking up your toys (not complaining about it)
- going to sleep (saying prayers before bed)

After the game, lead the children in a round of applause for everyone's participation.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's easy or hard about doing the right thing?**
- Why do you think it's important to do the right thing?**



### Every Day, Every Way Supplies

.....  
Bible





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
string  
modeling dough  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the modeling dough  
to Theo's paw.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT**, and when we do, it makes God happy and proud. As you play with friends or help out around the house, remember that when you do everything for God, it's the right thing to do. Let's hear about a family that didn't choose to do the right thing.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What is that you brought with you?

**Theo:** I brought some modeling dough.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring that?

**Theo:** I brought it because I wanted to make a well so I could hold some water in it, but my paws are too soft. Could you help me?

**Teacher:** Sure. Friends, can we help Theo make a well?

*(Make a ball with the clay, and then pass around the clay and have each child push his or her thumbs into it, so it eventually makes a well-shaped object.)*

**Theo:** Thank you for your help!

**Teacher:** It's our pleasure, Theo. Actually, today we'll read in the Bible about a boy who was put in a well by his mean brothers.

**Theo:** That's not nice at all.

**Teacher:** No, it's not at all. It's not the right thing to do. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**)*

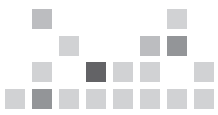
**Theo:** Wow, thanks for teaching me that. I'll make sure to do what's right. I'm going to keep this well as a reminder. I'm going to put it in my house right now.

**Teacher:** That's good. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.







### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you think Theo needs a reminder to do what's right?  
When is it easy or hard to remember to do the right thing?**

Say: **Theo wanted a reminder because sometimes it's really hard to do the right thing. Today we'll hear about some brothers who got so jealous and upset that they decided to do the wrong thing. We'll learn what we can do to help us always do the right thing.**

## Bible Time: A Well and a Rhyme

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 37, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. We'll hear about a man named Joseph. He was a good man, but his brothers were very angry with him. They were jealous because their father loved him best and for many other reasons.**

**Let's listen carefully to see if Joseph's brothers made good choices. Each time you hear someone make a wrong choice, make a thumbs-down sign.** Demonstrate how to turn your thumbs down.

Say: **When you hear the word "well," make a circle with your hands.** Show the children how to make a circle with their hands.

Say: **And when you hear about the men who are selling spices, point to your nose.** Play "A Well and a Rhyme" (track 16 on the CD), and lead children in the appropriate motions.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What surprised you about what the brothers did?  
Tell about a time someone hurt you by doing the wrong thing.  
When someone does the wrong thing to you, how can you do the right thing?**

Say: **We don't want to be like Joseph's brothers because we know that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. When we have a friendship with Jesus, he can help us do what is right. We can ask him every day to help us make good choices.**



### Bible Time: A Well and a Rhyme Supplies

- .....
- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "A Well and a Rhyme" (track 16)





### Center 1: Sold! Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
markers  
clear tape  
6-inch piece of yarn per  
child  
scissors

### Center 1: Sold! Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson  
6 pages from My  
Bible Hugs, and write  
children's names on  
them. Cut the Joseph  
figures from the  
pages, and cut holes  
in the pages where it's  
marked on the wells.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Sold!

### What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 6 page from My Bible Hugs, and set out markers. Say: **Let's use our My Bible Hugs pages to remember the difference between right and wrong.**

Encourage children to color the picture of the brothers surrounding the well. When they finish coloring, have children use clear tape to attach one end of a piece of yarn to the back of Joseph and the other end to the backside of the well. Show the children how Joseph can stand with his brothers and then be "thrown" into the well. Then he can be lifted out of the well and given to the travelers.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was wrong about what the brothers did?  
Tell about a time you felt like Joseph.  
Why do you want people to treat you well?  
What about that makes you want to treat others well, too?**

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. That's because it hurts others when we choose to do the wrong thing. God doesn't want us to make bad choices like Joseph's brothers did. It's important for us to do the right thing so we don't hurt others.**



**CENTER 2:**

# Well, Well, Well Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Today we learned that Joseph's brothers put him in a well. We know that what they did was wrong, and we want to do what's right. Let's make "well snacks" as a reminder that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**

Spoon the marshmallow creme into several bowls. Set the bowls out for children to share. Give each child a paper plate and about 10 marshmallows.

Demonstrate how to place some of the marshmallows in a circle on the plate. Then dip the bottoms of the other marshmallows in the creme "cement" and place them on top of the first marshmallows to make the well.

Give each child a bear-shaped cookie, and tell children to pretend the bear is Joseph. Children can place Joseph in the well and take him out again. Then let children enjoy their treats.

## Talk With Kids

Say: **Joseph's brothers did a bad thing when they put Joseph in the well. But we know that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. We can choose to do what is right, not what is wrong. And God will help us do what's right. That's great news!**

**CENTER 3:**

# Choices

## What You'll Do

Say: **We're going to play a matching game. I have eight cards with pictures of children on them. On four of the cards, the children are doing kind things. On the other four cards, the children are making wrong choices. Try to match the wrong choice with the right, kind action.**

Lay the "Choice" cards faceup, and allow the children to take turns matching the right and wrong action cards together. After everyone has had a turn, lay the "wrong choice" cards facedown in a pile and the "kind action" cards faceup, lined up in a row. Have the children take turns turning over one card and acting out the "kind action" that matches the card. For example, if a child turns over the card with a picture of someone jumping on the bed, he or she would do the "kind action" and lie down. Then have the rest of the children point to the card that matches the child's kind actions.



### Center 2: Well, Well, Well Snack Supplies

- paper plates and bowls
- spoon
- 10 marshmallows per child
- marshmallow creme
- bear-shaped cookies
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 3: Choices Supplies

**Teacher Pack**  
"Choice" cards

### Center 3: Choices Easy Prep

Separate the cards.





#### Center 4: Construction Site Supplies

small paper cups and plates  
glue sticks  
brown, black, and gray construction paper

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to make a right or wrong choice in this game?  
How is that like or unlike making right or wrong choices in your life?**

Say: **This week try to make good choices about the words and actions you use. Remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. Joseph's brothers made wrong choices, and we can learn from them and do what's right—kind of like we learned from our right or wrong choices in the game.**

### ■ CENTER 4:

## Construction Site

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **It's not always easy to remember to do the right thing. Sometimes we get so upset that we forget what's right. Let's make a craft that we can take home and keep—like Theo took home the well. We'll make wells, too, and we can keep them in our rooms as a reminder that even when we're mad at our families like Joseph's brothers were, we can still make the right choice.**

Give each child a small paper plate and a small paper cup. Set out glue sticks and the construction paper pieces for children to share. Demonstrate how to glue the paper pieces all around the outside of the cup as “stones.” Then glue the bottom of the cup to the paper plate.

As children are working, discuss the following questions.

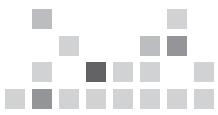
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**When are some times you need an extra reminder to make a good choice?  
What can you do to remind yourself?  
Why do you want to please God by doing the right thing?**

Say: **Joseph's brothers did a bad thing when they put him in the well. But we've learned that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. And that means being nice to our brothers and sisters. Take your wells home with you today as a reminder to always do the right thing.**



# 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. I would like each of you to choose a way to do the right thing this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Share with someone who wants to play with your toy.**

**Tell your brother or sister that you love him or her if he or she makes you mad.**

Say: **If you want to share, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to say "I love you," circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Let each child share a way he or she wants God's help with doing the right thing. Then close the prayer, leading children to echo you for each line of the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God,  
I will try to do what's right  
In the morning, noon, and night.  
I will try to do what's right.  
I will try with all my might.  
In Jesus' name, amen.**



### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

Preschoolers are growing quickly, gaining strength and dexterity daily. There are tasks they can accomplish this week that they couldn't do last week. They're also eager to try new things. Preschoolers are enthusiastic about doing, helping, and serving. Use this lesson to focus on these desires, and encourage children to serve God wherever they can.



**Bible Point**  
We can serve God.

**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**  
Children will serve God through helping others around them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Doin' It for God</b> Play a game that shows how we can serve God.</p>	<p>Bible, 1 common household item per child</p>	<p>Collect household items such as a toy musical instrument, a small broom, crayons, a paper towel, and a children's Bible.</p>
<p><b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b> Pass around a small pillow, and talk about dreams.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, small pillow, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Tie the small pillow to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: Pharaoh's Dreams</b> Draw pictures to apply the Bible to their lives.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, 2 large sheets of paper, markers, clear tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Tape the paper to the wall. On one sheet, use a marker to draw a simple outline of a castle. On the second sheet, draw prison bars.</p>

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Joseph Serves God</b> Glue items onto a picture to help tell about Pharaoh's dreams.</p>	My Bible Hugs, tape, 2 chenille wires per child, yellow construction paper, scissors	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut 7 small strips of yellow construction paper per child.
	<p><b>Center 2: Serving Up a Dream Snack</b> Serve a helping of wheat and grain cereal mix to a friend.</p>	wheat cereal, grain cereal, large bowl, measuring cup, 1 paper cup per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: How Can You Serve?</b> Do a community service project.</p>	bowl of powdered laundry detergent, measuring cup, pint-size resealable plastic bags	
	<p><b>Center 4: Waving Wheat</b> Make three-dimensional pictures of wheat.</p>	green construction paper, 4 brown chenille wires per child, scissors, glue sticks, transparent tape, small sheets of poster board, "Leaf" handouts (at the end of the lesson)	Use the "Leaf" handout as a template to make 2 green construction paper leaves per child.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Pray, asking God to help them be better servants.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: “Come On In” (track 11), “Love One Another Every Day” (track 12)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Play “Come On In” (track 11 on the CD). Lead children in singing and greeting one another.

 **Come on in (clap) and shake a hand.**  
**Come on in (clap) and shake a hand.**  
**Come on in (clap) and shake a hand.**  
**We're so glad you've joined us today!**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **It's great to see you greet one another. Today we'll learn that one way to show love is to serve one another. The Bible tells us that ► WE CAN SERVE GOD. Let's sing about loving each other every day.**

Play “Love One Another Every Day” (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of “She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain.” Have children stand in a circle and hold hands as they sing.

 **We will love one another every day.**  
**We will love one another every day.**  
**We will love one another,**  
**Father, sister, mother, brother,**  
**We will love one another every day.**  
*(Repeat.)*

*Shout:* **John 13:34!**

Say: ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD by loving one another every day—just like we sang. Today we'll hear how a man named Joseph served God. Let's see what happened.**



**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Doin' It for God

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). This means do everything for God. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

**Let's play a game with some things you might have around your house.**

Give each child a common household item. Then have the children each tell what they're holding and how they could use it to serve God. After each child answers, have the other children repeat the Key Verse after the answer: Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What seems easy or hard about using these household items for God?**
- Tell about a chore you do at home.**
- Tell about some things you can do for God.**

Say: **God loves it when we do things for him. Maybe it seems surprising that we can make our beds for God or clean our rooms for God. But the truth is, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD through any good things we do. And that's what our Key Verse says. Let's say it together once more: Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23). Now let's hear how one man served God in everything he did.**

**3** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.



**Doin' It for God  
Supplies**

Bible  
1 common household  
item per child

**Doin' It for God  
Easy Prep**

Collect household items  
such as a toy musical  
instrument, a small  
broom, crayons, a paper  
towel, and a children's  
Bible.

**Puppy Pointers  
Supplies**

CD player  
Theo puppet  
small pillow  
string  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

**Puppy Pointers  
Easy Prep**

Tie the small pillow to  
Theo's paw.





### Bible Time: Pharaoh's Dreams Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
2 large sheets of paper  
markers  
clear tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Pharaoh's Dreams"  
(track 17)

### Bible Time: Pharaoh's Dreams Easy Prep

Tape the paper to the wall. On one sheet, use a marker to draw a simple outline of a castle. On the second sheet, draw prison bars.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What's that in your paw?

**Theo:** A pillow.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring a pillow?

**Theo:** Because you said you're learning about a man who had a dream. And I thought we might be taking a nap, too.

**Teacher:** You're right about the dream, Theo. The leader of a country called Egypt was having some really interesting dreams, and he couldn't understand them. What kinds of things do you all dream about?

*(Pause for children to tell about their dreams.)*

**Teacher:** Dreams can be about all sorts of things. And today we'll hear how a man named Joseph was able to explain Pharaoh's dream to him. Actually, God helped Joseph do it. That was one way Joseph served God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► WE CAN SERVE GOD.)*

**Theo:** Wow! That's really neat! But all this talk about dreaming is making me sleepy. I'm going to run home and take a nap.

**Teacher:** That's great. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you like about hearing all the things your friends dream?**

**What about helping someone understand their dreams is a way to serve them?**

**What other ways do you serve others?**

Say: **We heard all kinds of things our friends dream today. In the Bible today, we'll hear about some pretty interesting dreams the Pharaoh had—and how God used Joseph to help Pharaoh. Like Joseph, God can use us, too. And ► WE CAN SERVE GOD by listening to him and letting him use us.**

## Bible Time: Pharaoh's Dreams

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 39, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► WE CAN SERVE GOD. We'll hear about a man named Joseph and how he was taken from his home. He was sold to a man in Egypt and had to do chores for Potiphar in his home.**

Have the children stand and act out some house chores they know.



Say: **Joseph had to do lots of chores for Potiphar. But Joseph didn't grumble and complain about these chores. Instead, Joseph said he did the work for God. Joseph served God while working for Potiphar. That made God happy. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD, too, while we're doing our chores.** Have the children take turns walking to the castle outline on the wall. Have each child use markers to draw a picture of himself or herself doing a chore at home. Then ask the children to be seated.

Say: **Just like Joseph, we can serve God while doing our chores. Joseph worked hard for Potiphar and did a good job for him. But then Potiphar's wife became angry with Joseph. She told Potiphar something that wasn't true about Joseph and made Potiphar put Joseph in prison.**

**Even though Joseph was sad to be put in prison, he still obeyed God. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD, even in sad times.** Have the children walk to the picture of the prison bars hanging on the wall, draw pictures of a sad face, and then return to their seats.

Say: **Just like Joseph, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD when we're sad. Many months later, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had two dreams. They upset him so much that he had to know what they meant. He asked lots of people, but no one could tell him the meaning of his dreams. Let's all close our eyes and pretend we're dreaming like Pharaoh. Let's listen as Joseph explains Pharaoh's dreams to him.** Play "Pharaoh's Dreams" (track 17 on the CD).

Say: **Open your eyes now.** Pause. **God helped Joseph know what Pharaoh's dreams meant. Pharaoh was so happy to know the meaning of his dreams that he took Joseph out of prison and put him in charge of all his land. Just like Joseph, we can serve God during the nighttime, and we can serve God during the daytime.**

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about Joseph serving God in all those hard times?**
- Tell about a hard time you've had.**
- What are some ways you can serve God in a time like that?**

Say: **In everything, Joseph served God. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD, just like Joseph, in everything we do. That makes God happy. Joseph had a pretty hard life, but he always chose to serve God in everything he did. Let's remember this week that God always takes care of us and we can serve him, knowing that he's always with us.**

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**4** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first.





### Center 1: Joseph Serves God Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
tape  
2 chenille wires per  
child  
yellow construction  
paper  
scissors

### Center 1: Joseph Serves God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children's names on them. Cut 7 small strips of yellow construction paper per child.

### Center 2: Serving Up a Dream Snack Supplies

wheat cereal  
grain cereal  
large bowl  
measuring cup  
1 paper cup per child  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**ALLERGY ALERT**

Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

## CENTER 1:

# Joseph Serves God

## What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 7 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we learned that one way Joseph served God was by helping Pharaoh understand his dreams. God had given Pharaoh the dreams to warn him of the future.**

Give each child two chenille wires and seven strips of yellow paper. Then say: **Joseph told Pharaoh that his dreams meant that Egypt would have seven years of good crops.** Show children how to tape one chenille wire on the "wheat stalk" on the My Bible Hugs paper in the scene on the left. Then have them tape the seven strips of yellow paper to the same side to symbolize seven years of good crops.

Say: **Joseph also told Pharaoh that after the seven good years, they'd have seven years of bad crops. Joseph suggested that Pharaoh save up his wheat during the seven years of good crops.** Have kids tape the second chenille wire to the picture on the right, and then point out that there weren't good crops during that time so no yellow paper "wheat" will be taped there.

## Talk With Kids

Say: **Joseph served God by explaining Pharaoh's dreams. Because Joseph told Pharaoh about the seven years of good crops and seven years of bad crops, it helped the people in Egypt have food. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD, too, just like Joseph did. We might not be able to tell what a dream means, but we can find other ways to serve him. Let's think of ways ► WE CAN SERVE GOD this week.**

## CENTER 2:

# Serving Up a Dream Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and sit down. Say: **We heard how Joseph served God today and ► WE CAN SERVE GOD, too. Let's serve each other our snack today.**

Invite two children to combine the wheat cereal and grain cereal in one large bowl. Then distribute paper cups, and have children stand in a circle around the bowl. Invite one child to dip a measuring cup into the cereal mixture and serve the child to his or her right by pouring the cereal into the other child's paper cup. Have the child who was served take the bowl and serve the next child. Continue the process until everyone has a snack. Then pray and let kids enjoy the snack.



**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to serve your friends in this activity?**
- Tell about a time you served someone else.**
- Why do you want to serve God in all you do?**

Say: **We served our friends by helping them with their snack, and we shared other ways we've served people. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD by serving, helping, and loving others. Just as Joseph helped Pharaoh, we can serve God in all we do.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

## How Can You Serve?

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Say: **Today we've talked about all kinds of ways we can serve God. When we do our chores for God, we serve him. When we help others who are afraid by comforting them, we serve God. When we give to people who need food, we serve God. When we tell the truth, we serve God with our honesty. Let's work together to serve God by making something that will help others.**

Set out a bowl of laundry detergent. Provide a measuring cup and pint-size resealable plastic bags. Say: **Everyone has to wash their clothes so they can stay clean. But not everyone can afford the soap—or maybe sometimes they forget it if they do their laundry at a laundromat. Let's make bags of laundry soap for people just like that.**

Encourage each child to place one scoop of detergent in a bag that will be donated to a local self-service laundry. Collect all the bags to deliver during the week. Some people have an allergy or sensitivity to laundry detergent, so consider providing gloves for kids. Then have children wash their hands after they finish making the bags since the soap may irritate children's sensitive skin or eyes.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about helping others in the way we did today?**
- What are some ways you can serve God this week in your home?**

Say: **► WE CAN SERVE GOD by helping other people, such as by giving them things they need like laundry soap. God likes for us to serve others. That makes him very happy. When Joseph helped Pharaoh, God was happy, too.**



**Center 3: How Can You Serve?**  
**Supplies**

- 
- bowl of powdered laundry detergent
  - measuring cup
  - pint-size resealable plastic bags





#### Center 4: Waving Wheat Supplies

green construction  
paper  
4 brown chenille wires  
per child  
scissors  
glue sticks  
transparent tape  
small sheets of poster  
board  
“Leaf” handouts (at the  
end of the lesson)

#### Center 4: Waving Wheat Easy Prep

Use the “Leaf” handout  
as a template to make  
2 green construction  
paper leaves per child.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

### CENTER 4:

## Waving Wheat

### What You'll Do

Give each child four chenille wires and two green leaves. Say: **Today we'll make stalks of wheat to remind us to serve God, just as Joseph served God in everything he did.**

Demonstrate how to glue the leaves to a small sheet of poster board. Then tape the chenille wires on top of the leaves to form stalks of wheat. Tape the chenille wires to the leaves at the bottom of the stalks and again at the middle, but let the wheat “wave” away from the paper at the top.

Say: **We each have four stalks of wheat. Let's try to think of four ways we can serve God this week.** Let the children work together to come up with four ways. Once they've decided on four ways, have them state the ways while holding out each of the four stalks.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**How easy or hard was it for you to think of ways to serve God?  
What can you do to remember to serve God in these ways?**

Say: **Joseph served God in everything he did. We don't really have to serve God in the specific ways we listed today, but ► WE CAN SERVE GOD—just like Joseph did—by serving God in everything we do. Take your wheat picture home with you to remind you that Joseph served God and you can, too!**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

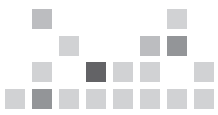
## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.





## Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD.** I would like each of you to choose a way to serve God this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Collect extra coins around the house to give to someone in need.**
- Everyone needs Jesus. Serve someone by telling him or her about Jesus.**

Say: **If you want to collect coins, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to tell about Jesus, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Let each child tell God how he or she wants to serve him this week, and then lead the children in saying the following prayer by having them echo you.

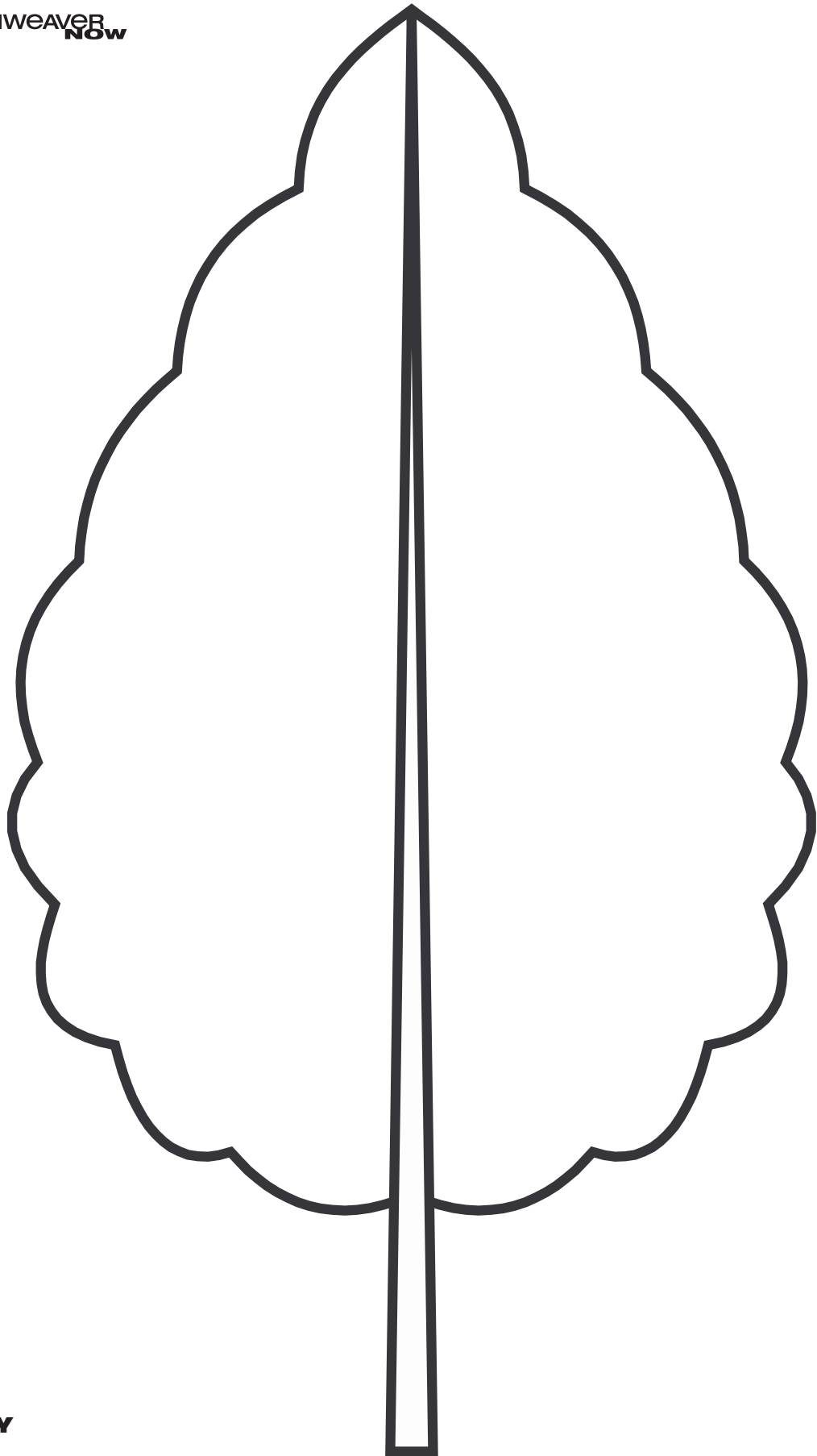
Pray: **Dear God,**  
**Help me serve you day and night.**  
**Help me serve you with all my might.**  
**Help me be a servant for you,**  
**In everything I say or do.**  
**In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).





**OK  
TO COPY**





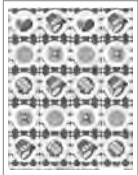
# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

**B**eing wronged and being angry are things children understand. When a toy is grabbed away or another offense is committed, the natural reaction is to feel hurt and anger. Helping children learn to forgive wrongs takes example, patience, and perseverance. Use this lesson to remind children that forgiveness allows us to feel good in the end, and we forgive because God forgives us for our sins, too.



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

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Sing It Out!</b> Learn a new action song, and pray.	Bible	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Help Theo learn about forgiveness.	CD player, Theo puppet, measuring cup, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tie the measuring cup to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Overflowing Forgiveness</b> Pretend to go on a journey to buy grain during the famine.	Bible; 1 resealable plastic bag per child; measuring cup; container of rice, enough for 1 cup per child; empty container; sturdy chair <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Fancy Meals" page 	Separate the pictures on the "Fancy Meals" page.

**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**  
Children will forgive others.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Forgive and Fill</b> Count the scoops needed to fill a bag of rice.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, plastic spoons, glue sticks, large bowl, resealable bags of rice from the Bible Time activity</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Happy-Face Snack</b> Make a forgiven face on rice cakes.</p>	<p>1 rice cake per child, softened cream cheese, raisins, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Cut large raisins in half so they don't pose a choking hazard.</p>
	<p><b>Center 3: Forgive</b> Respond to forgiveness situations.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
	<p><b>Center 4: Plate Pictures</b> Make paper-plate pictures.</p>	<p>2 small paper plates per child, construction paper, glue sticks, markers</p>	<p>Holding the paper horizontally, use a marker to draw a vertical line down the center. Make 1 for each child.</p>
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Say a forgiveness prayer.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Famine Opens the Door to Reconciliation

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

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

## Joseph Tests His Brothers

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

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

## Joseph Forgives His Brothers

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

## The Jesus Connection

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

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

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Come On In"  
(track 11), "Forgive"  
(track 19)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Play "Come On In" (track 11 on the CD). Lead children in singing and greeting one another.

 **Come on in** (*clap*) and shake a hand.

**Come on in** (*clap*) and shake a hand.

**Come on in** (*clap*) and shake a hand.

**We're so glad you've joined us today!**

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Now that we've welcomed each other, let's sing a song about our Bible Point for today, ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Play "Forgive" (track 19 on the CD). Lead children in singing and doing the motions in parentheses.

 **Forgive as God forgave you,** (*point up*)

**And again I say, "Forgive."** (*put hand on someone else's shoulder*)

**Forgive as God forgave you,** (*point up*)

**And again I say, "Forgive."** (*put hand on someone else's shoulder*)

**Forgive, forgive,** (*hug someone*)

**And again I say, "Forgive."**

**Forgive, forgive,** (*hug someone*)

**And again I say, "Forgive."**

**Forgive as God forgave you,** (*point up*)

**And again I say, "Forgive."** (*put hand on someone else's shoulder*)

**Forgive as God forgave you,** (*point up*)

**And again I say, "Forgive."** (*put hand on someone else's shoulder*)

(Repeat.)

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE, just as we sang today. Today we'll hear about a man named Joseph who forgave his brothers after they did some really terrible things to him. And we'll learn how we can forgive, too.**



**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Sing It Out!


### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). This means do everything for God. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

**One of the things we can do for God is forgive other people. That's not always easy, but God helps us. Let's learn a song to remind us of that!**

Teach children "Do Everything" to the tune of "Skip to My Lou" (not on the CD). For extra fun, lead children in the accompanying actions.

 **Do, do, do everything;** *(wave arms above head)*  
**Do, do, do everything;** *(wave arms above head)*  
**Do, do, do everything;** *(wave arms above head)*  
**Do everything for God.** *(point upward)*

**For-give everyone.** *(extend arms in front, and then cross arms over chest)*  
**For-give everyone.** *(extend arms in front, and then cross arms over chest)*  
**For-give everyone.** *(extend arms in front, and then cross arms over chest)*  
**Forgive everyone for God.** *(point upward)*  
*(Repeat.)*

After the song, lead children in a round of applause for themselves. Then have everyone sit in a circle on the floor with you.

Say: **Thanks for that singing! Today's Key Verse teaches us to do everything for God.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time someone hurt your feelings.**
- Explain whether you forgave that person.**
- One of the things we can do for God is forgive others. Tell about someone you can forgive this week.**

Say: **This week let's try to remember that everything we do, we can do for God.**



### Sing It Out! Supplies

.....  
Bible





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
measuring cup  
string

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the measuring cup  
to Theo's paw.

When someone does something to hurt us, ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**—and we can forgive for him. Let's ask God to help us this week. Lead children in a prayer asking God to help them do everything for him this week, especially forgiving others.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Puppy Pointers

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What's that in your paw?

**Theo:** It's a measuring cup.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring a measuring cup? Are you going to cook something for us?

**Theo:** Yep. I was going to cook rice. I really like rice and meat all mixed together.

**Teacher:** Theo, that reminds me of what we'll be reading about in the Bible today. We're reading about how a man named Joseph shared some rice and food with his brothers.

**Theo:** Really? I don't think I'm ever going to share with my brother again because he was really mean to me.

**Teacher:** I'm sorry that happened to you, Theo, but do you think you could forgive him?

**Theo:** Oh, I don't know. He really hurt me.

**Teacher:** That's too bad. I understand how you feel, Theo. But it might make you feel better to forgive him. Can we share our Bible Point for today with you?

**Theo:** Sure.

**Teacher:** Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**)

**Theo:** Hmm, I guess I better run home and tell my brother I'll share my rice with him now because I forgive him.

**Teacher:** That's a very good choice. Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

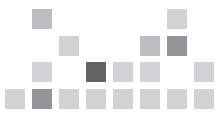
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time you didn't want to forgive like Theo didn't want to. What's it like when you do decide to forgive?**

Say: **Sometimes it's really hard to forgive others when they hurt us—like it was for Theo. But it's really important that we do because ► GOD WANTS US TO**





**FORGIVE.** He knows that when we forgive, it makes us feel better. Today we'll hear about a man who was treated very badly by his brothers, but when he forgave them, it helped their family a lot.

## Bible Time: Overflowing Forgiveness

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 42, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.** In Genesis, it tells about a man named Joseph who helped Pharaoh understand his dreams. The dreams helped Pharaoh prepare his people for seven years with no food—because his dreams helped him know that he should save food for the seven years before that. Pharaoh was so happy for Joseph's help that he put Joseph in charge of the planning.

**When there was no food, many people came to Egypt to buy food from Pharaoh. One of those families that came was Joseph's family. Let's pretend that we're part of Joseph's family and that we have to travel far away to buy food for our family to eat.**

Say in a deep voice: **Our father, Jacob, said we must go buy food from Egypt. Come, my brothers.** Give each child a resealable plastic bag. Motion for the children to stand and follow you. Lead the children around the room, weaving in and out of tables and chairs, to show that it was a long journey to Egypt. When you get near the container of rice, stop and choose someone to be Joseph. Have him or her stand on a sturdy chair at the rice container. Have the other children bow toward Joseph with you.

Say in a deep voice: **We have come to buy grain. May we please have grain?**

Say: **Now Joseph knew his brothers right away, but they didn't know it was him. Joseph asked his brothers about their family because he wanted to know about his younger brother and his father. The brothers said, "Our younger brother is home with our father." And Joseph said, "You must leave one brother with me and bring your other brother here."** Have each child use the measuring cup to put 1 cup of rice from the container into his or her resealable plastic bag. Choose one child to stay with Joseph. Lead children back the same way you came, through the tables and chairs.

Say in a deep voice: **Father, we're home with plenty of food.** Have the children pour their rice into an empty container and hold on to their empty bags. **But we must return to Egypt with our little brother, Benjamin.** Choose a smaller child to pretend to be Benjamin.

Say: **Jacob didn't want his sons to take Benjamin because he was afraid of what might happen. But soon the family ran out of food again. So Jacob had to send his sons back to Egypt, this time with Benjamin.** Have children hold their bags, and again lead the group along the path to Egypt. Take the container of rice with you.



### Bible Time: Overflowing Forgiveness Supplies

- .....
- Bible
  - 1 resealable plastic bag per child
  - measuring cup
  - container of rice, enough for 1 cup per child
  - empty container
  - sturdy chair
  - Teacher Pack**
  - "Fancy Meals" page

### Bible Time: Overflowing Forgiveness Easy Prep

- .....
- Separate the pictures on the "Fancy Meals" page.





Say in a deep voice: **We have returned to buy more food. We have brought our brother Benjamin, like you asked.** Have Benjamin stand in front of Joseph.

Say: **Joseph was so happy to see his younger brother Benjamin that he gave a big fancy dinner!** Give each child a picture from the “Fancy Meals” page. Have all the children sit briefly and pretend to eat. Then have them use the measuring cup to put rice in their bags.

Say: **Before all this happened, Joseph’s brothers did some really bad things to Joseph. But that didn’t stop him from forgiving his brothers. Joseph told his brothers who he was, and he forgave them—and even had a big dinner in their honor. Joseph’s father, Jacob, was so happy to know his son was still alive that he went to Egypt to see him. Then all of Joseph’s family moved to Egypt to live with Joseph. Joseph’s family was together again!** Have the children jump up and down, clap their hands, and hug one another to show their happiness.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of Joseph forgiving his brothers after all the bad things they did to him?**
- Why do you think it’s important that we forgive?**

Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers, even after they were very mean to him. He knew God wanted him to forgive, and he understood what it meant to be forgiven. God forgives us when we do a bad thing. Because God forgives us, ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE others. Let’s do our best to forgive others this week.** Collect the bags of rice.

**Center 1: Forgive and Fill Supplies**

- My Bible Hugs
- plastic spoons
- glue sticks
- large bowl
- resealable bags of rice from the Bible Time activity

**Center 1: Forgive and Fill Easy Prep**

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write children’s names on them.

**4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE**

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

■ **CENTER 1:**  
**Forgive and Fill**

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 8 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Joseph’s brothers**





treated him really badly, but he forgave them. In our lives, ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.** But we don't forgive only once. We have to forgive all kinds of people for different things. Let's do an activity to show what I mean.

Give the children the resealable plastic bags from the Bible Time activity. Point out the picture of the bag on the My Bible Hugs page. Then have children double-check that the bags are fully closed, and have them lay the bags on top of the pictures. Say: **Spread out the rice so it covers all the pictures shown on the bag on the page.** Allow time, and help kids spread the rice by pushing on the plastic bags.

Say: **Let's count how many spoonfuls of rice it takes to empty the bags so we can see the pictures underneath.** Lead kids in opening the bags and removing the rice with the spoons. They'll count each spoonful of rice they remove from the bag and put into the large bowl. Have them lay the bags back down periodically, checking to see if the rice would still cover the pictures. Continue until all the rice is in the bowl.

Say: **It took a lot of spoonfuls to get all the rice out of the way so we could see the pictures underneath. Forgiveness is kind of like that; sometimes we have to keep forgiving and forgiving so we can keep our view clear of the great sights. Let's glue our bags to our pages as a reminder.** Help children glue the plastic bags onto the activity pages.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to remove all the rice from your bag?**
- How is forgiveness like or unlike that?**
- Why are you thankful that God forgives like that?**

Say: **God planned for Joseph and his family to find one another again, and God helped Joseph forgive his brothers. Even when it can be really hard to forgive, or maybe it seems like we have to forgive over and over, ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE others. When we're having trouble forgiving, we can remember how much God forgives us when we do wrong things.** Set aside the rice for the church to use later for a meal or to donate to a family.

■ **CENTER 2:**

# Happy-Face Snack

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers, and that made them very happy. Let's make happy faces on these rice cakes to remind us that when we forgive others, we're happy and so is God. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**



**Center 2: Happy-Face Snack Supplies**

- 1 rice cake per child
- softened cream cheese
- raisins
- plastic knives
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

**Center 2: Happy-Face Snack Easy Prep**

Cut large raisins in half so they don't pose a choking hazard.





### Center 3: Forgive Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Forgiveness Scenarios" (track 18)

Give each child a rice cake. Provide plastic knives, and allow children to spread softened cream cheese on their cakes. Then let them create happy faces with raisins.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Just as God forgives us, ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. We can follow Joseph's example, and when others are mean to us, we can forgive. When we do, it makes God happy, just like we showed on our happy-face snacks.**

### ■ CENTER 3:

## Forgive

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God has shown us forgiveness through Jesus. God expects us to show forgiveness to others. Let's listen to our CD to hear about times we might need to forgive.**

Form two groups of children. Listen to the first scenario on "Forgiveness Scenarios" (track 18 on the CD) about the dish breaking, and then pause the CD after the question to allow each group to respond. Have one group say, "I'm sorry I broke your dish. Will you forgive me?" Then have the other group respond by saying, "I forgive you."

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Start the CD again, and listen to the next scenario about the angry child. Pause the CD after the question. Encourage one group to say, "I'm sorry I took your toy. Will you forgive me?" Then encourage the other group to respond by saying, "I forgive you."

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Start the CD again, and listen to the scenario about the hurt girl. Pause the CD after the question. Encourage one group to say, "I'm sorry I hit you, Jessica. Will you forgive me?" Then encourage the other group to respond by saying, "I forgive you."

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. Forgiving others makes God happy.**

Start the CD again, and listen to the scenario about the falling blocks. Pause the CD after the question. Encourage one group to say, "I'm sorry I knocked down your tower. Will you forgive me?" Encourage the other group to say, "I forgive you."

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you think about these scenarios we just heard?  
What can help you forgive others?**





Say: **God always forgives us. Because he forgives us, ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE others. Tell your neighbor about a time you had to forgive someone else. Pause and allow children to share. Our wonderful God is always willing to forgive us. This week let's forgive like Joseph forgave.**

**CENTER 4:**

## Plate Pictures

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We learned about a family that didn't have any food to eat.** Give each child the construction paper you prepared and a paper plate, and have each child glue the empty paper plate on one side of the line.

Say: **But the family went to Egypt, and Joseph gave them food to eat.** Give each child a second paper plate. Have each child draw a picture of his or her favorite meal on that paper plate and glue it to the other side of his or her sheet of construction paper.

Say: **These pictures can remind us of what happened to Joseph and his family. The empty paper plate can remind us that Joseph's family didn't have enough to eat. They had to go to Egypt to buy food from Joseph. The full paper plate can remind us that Joseph forgave his brothers and made sure they had plenty to eat.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **It's not always easy, but ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. Joseph could've stayed mad at his brothers, but he didn't. He forgave them. Take your pictures home with you to remind you to forgive, just like Joseph did.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.



### Center 4: Plate Pictures Supplies

- 2 small paper plates per child
- construction paper
- glue sticks
- markers

### Center 4: Plate Pictures Easy Prep

Holding the paper horizontally, use a marker to draw a vertical line down the center. Make 1 for each child.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





## Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.** I would like each of you to choose a way to forgive this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Draw a special picture for someone who hurt you.**

**Say “I forgive you” to someone before he or she apologizes.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to say “I forgive you” circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You’ll Do

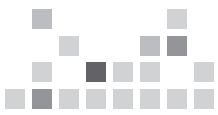
Have the children stand in a circle. Say: **We can forgive others anytime. Think about someone you know you need to forgive.** Allow time. Then let the children share if they want to. After everyone has had a chance to share, say: **Now say, “God, help me forgive.”** Allow time.

Pray: **God, thank you for helping us forgive others when they hurt us. We love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10


Many protective items such as outlet covers and gates are set around children to keep them safe. Children often view these boundaries as restrictive and unfair because they don't understand the benefits. Use this lesson to remind children that God protects them through many different people such as teachers, parents, and grandparents.



► **Bible Point**  
God protects us.

**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**  
Children will look for ways God protects them every day.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>I Can Do That</b> Look at and imitate pictures in books.	Bible, picture books with people or animals doing everyday things	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Learn about a baby who floated in water.	CD player, Theo puppet, water wings or life jacket <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the water wings on Theo.
	<b>Bible Time: Baby Moses Is Safe</b> Interact with sounds from the CD during this rhyming tale; then sing a song.	Bible, CD player, blue butcher paper, 1 paper bowl per child <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Baby Moses” pictures, “Baby Moses Rhyme” script 	Separate the “Baby Moses” pictures.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: We're Safe</b> Weave a lid for baby Moses' basket.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, stapler, 1x8-inch construction paper strips</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Staple 4 paper strips at even intervals across the bottom of each activity page.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Safe and Sound Snack</b> Guide Moses down the Nile to safety.</p>	<p>paper bowl, 7-foot length of string, 1 chenille wire, crackers, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p><b>Center 3: God Is Our Help</b> Turn over cards, and learn a reassuring Bible Point.</p>	<p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Scary Things" cards</p> 	
	<p><b>Center 4: Bedside Baby</b> Make a baby Moses in a basket to keep beside their beds.</p>	<p>half an index card, paper cupcake liner, large cotton ball, and 3x3-inch piece of soft fabric per child; blue crayons; glue</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> "The Princess Finds Moses" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Identify feelings during prayer time.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*







# God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Pharaoh Feels Threatened by the Hebrews

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "This Is My Commandment" (track 3), "Do Not Be Afraid" (track 9)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "This Is My Commandment" (track 3 on the CD). Have kids stand in a circle and hold hands as you lead them in singing.

 **This is my commandment**  
That you love one another,  
That your joy may be full.

**This is my commandment**  
That you love one another,  
That your joy may be full.


That your joy may be full.  
That your joy may be full.

**This is my commandment**  
That you love one another,  
That your joy may be full.

*(Repeat.)*

Say: I'm glad you're here. Today we're learning that ► **GOD PROTECTS US.** Let's sing a song about how we don't have to be afraid.

Lead children in singing "Do Not Be Afraid" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo." Lead children in singing and doing the motions.

 **Do not be afraid.** *(cover eyes with hands)*  
**Do not be afraid.** *(open hands, and then cover eyes with hands again)*  
**Do not be afraid.**  
**God is with you.** *(point up)*  
*(Repeat.)*





Say: **That's right. We don't need to be afraid because ► GOD PROTECTS US. Today we'll hear how God protected a little baby named Moses.**

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**2**

**KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## I Can Do That

### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). This means do everything for God. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

**Our Key Verse tells us that whatever we do, we can do it in a way that makes God happy. Talking kindly to others, singing, praying, playing, being kind, helping, and just smiling are all things we can do for God.**

Let the kids choose a book or share one with a friend. Have them look for pictures of people who are doing everyday activities. When they see something they're also able to do, ask them to point to the picture and shout out, "I can do this for God!" Ask them to imitate what they see in the picture and tell how they can do it for God. Repeat the Key Verse together, and then lead the children in the following rhyme.

**When I work hard** (*show muscles*)

**Or when I play,** (*run in place*)

**This is what I always say:** (*point to mouth*)

**"Do everything for God."** (*sweep arms from left to right to signify "everything"*)

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What things can you do all by yourself?**

**When can you do those things for God?**

**How does it feel to know that you can do everything for God?**

Say: **We found so many things we can do for God in our books. And we do them to thank God for all he does. God does so many wonderful things to show his love for us every day. He gives us food, family, and friends. And today we'll learn that ► GOD PROTECTS US, just as we'll read about how he protected a baby named Moses. We can show our love for God by pleasing him in everything we do.**

### I Can Do That Supplies

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Bible  
picture books with  
people or animals  
doing everyday things





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
water wings or life  
jacket

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Put the water wings on  
Theo.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What are you wearing?

**Theo:** My water wings.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring your water wings?

**Theo:** I wanted to bring them because I'm going swimming later, and they'll help me float in the water.

**Teacher:** That's great, Theo. That actually reminds me of what we'll read in the Bible today. There was a baby who floated safely in the water, and God protected him.

Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD PROTECTS US.)*

**Theo:** Wow! I'm going to go swimming, and I won't be scared now.

**Teacher:** That's great. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

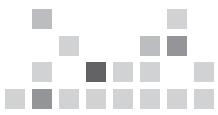
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about something or someone that makes you feel safe in the water. Why does it help you feel better knowing God and people in your life protect you?**

Say: **Theo needed something to help him swim because he can't swim all by himself. When we go swimming, we always have adults with us to take care of us. Today we'll learn about a little baby who was put in a river before he could swim. Let's find out how God protected him, just as ► GOD PROTECTS US.**



# Bible Time: Baby Moses Is Safe

## What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 1, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD PROTECTS US.** Lay the blue butcher paper on the floor. Then say: **In fact, we'll hear how God protected a baby in the Nile River. Let's pretend this blue paper is the river.**

**Listen carefully and follow along as we hear what happened with baby Moses.** Play "Baby Moses Rhyme" (track 20 on the CD), pausing the CD player in the appropriate places. Follow the instructions in the "Baby Moses Rhyme" script. As you follow along, give each child a "Baby Moses" picture to put inside a bowl. Set the bowls in the "Nile River," and at the end of the rhyme, let the children cradle their "Baby Moses" pictures.

After the rhyme, lead children in singing "Hush, Little Moses" (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of "Hush, Little Baby."

**Hush, little Moses,** (*cradle arms and rock a pretend baby*)

**Don't be afraid.** (*whisper with fingers to lips*)

**God will protect you** (*point up*)

**Where you are laid.** (*put palms up*)

**Hush, little Moses,** (*cradle arms and rock a pretend baby*)

**Don't you cry.** (*whisper with fingers to lips*)

**God will protect you** (*point up*)

**While you float by.** (*make wave motions with hands*)

**Hush, little Moses,** (*cradle arms and rock a pretend baby*)

**Don't make a peep.** (*whisper with fingers to lips*)

**God will protect you** (*point up*)

**While you're asleep.** (*fold hands to face and close eyes*)

**Hush, little Moses,** (*cradle arms and rock a pretend baby*)

**Don't be alarmed.** (*whisper with fingers to lips*)

**God will return you** (*stretch arms out and then pull them in*)

**To Mommy's arms.** (*hug self*)

(Repeat.)

When the song is over, have the kids take their bowls out of the Nile River and thank God for keeping baby Moses safe.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think about how God protected baby Moses?  
How can God help you the next time you feel afraid?**



## Bible Time: Baby Moses Is Safe Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- blue butcher paper
- 1 paper bowl per child

### Teacher Pack

- CD: "Baby Moses Rhyme" (track 20), "Hush, Little Moses" (track 21)
- "Baby Moses" pictures
- "Baby Moses Rhyme" script

## Bible Time: Baby Moses Is Safe Easy Prep

Separate the "Baby Moses" pictures.





Say: **God is our helper. He protected Moses and kept him safe. While Jesus was here on earth, he showed his love to his followers by protecting them, too. Once a huge storm came over the water, and when the disciples became afraid, Jesus calmed the storm. ► GOD PROTECTS US, too. God loves you that much!**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## We're Safe

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 9 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we learned how God protected baby Moses, just as ► GOD PROTECTS US. Let's weave a top over our baskets so we can protect him.**

Help children weave the strips over and under to create a lid to keep Moses safe in his little basket.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you need protection like baby Moses did?**

**Tell about someone who protects you.**

**Why do you think God gives us people to help protect us?**

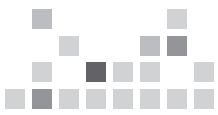
Say: **We helped protect Moses by weaving a lid over him. We have people in our lives that help protect us, too. But God is like our mommy or daddy when we are afraid. We know God's arms are safely around us, protecting us because he loves us. This week when we're afraid, let's remember that ► GOD PROTECTS US.**

### Center 1: We're Safe Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
stapler  
1x8-inch construction  
paper strips

### Center 1: We're Safe Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Staple 4 paper strips at even intervals across the bottom of each activity page.



**CENTER 2:**

# Safe and Sound Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **God protected baby Moses on the Nile River. Let's play a game to protect our snacks.**

Hold up a paper bowl and say: **This will be our basket.** Use a chenille wire to puncture two holes near the rim of your paper bowl "basket." Place each end of the chenille wire in the holes to create a handle.

Say: **We'll pretend our crackers are baby Moses, and we'll send the baby down our line in the basket, kind of like how he floated down the Nile River.** Put the string through the handle of the basket. Place a cracker inside to represent baby Moses. The basket will hang from the string.

Have the children sit in two rows facing each other. One row will guide the bowl down the string, while the other row will pretend to be hungry crocodiles by clapping their hands with outstretched arms. Have the "crocodiles" sit far enough away from the basket so they can't reach it but can make loud snapping noises with their hands. One child can hold the string at one end, pretending to be Moses' mother. Another child can hold the string at the other end, pretending to be the Pharaoh's daughter. The children will guide Moses safely from one end to the other and back again. Let children switch roles, if time allows.

After everyone has had a chance to play, lead children in a prayer and then let them eat.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to protect baby Moses in this activity?**
- When are times God keeps you safe?**

Say: **Like in our game, God is like an invisible hand helping us, guiding us, and protecting us because he loves us. It's nice to know that ► GOD PROTECTS US, just as he protected Moses.**

**CENTER 3:**

# God Is Our Help

## What You'll Do

Say: **When we're scared, ► GOD PROTECTS US. Let's play a game today to remind us that we don't need to be scared because we can trust God to protect us.**



### Center 2: Safe and Sound Snack Supplies

- paper bowl
- 7-foot length of string
- chenille wire
- crackers
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 3: God Is Our Help Supplies

- Teacher Pack
- "Scary Things" cards





Have the children sit in a circle. Take out the “Scary Things” cards. Scatter the cards facedown in the middle of the circle. Have a child choose a card, look at the picture, and say, “If I’m afraid of [lightning], God will protect me.” Then have the child return the card faceup to the pile. Have another child choose a card and do the same. After all the kids have chosen a card and said the Bible Point, have the group say collectively as you point to the pictures, “If I’m afraid of [snakes, clowns, lightning], I’ll remember that ► **GOD PROTECTS US.**”

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are you most afraid of?  
Why are you thankful for God’s protection?**

Say: **Even grown-ups are afraid sometimes, but we need to remember that ► GOD PROTECTS US. We learned how God protected Moses in the river, and we can remember that when we’re afraid of things like we saw on the cards in our game.**

### ■ **CENTER 4:**

## Bedside Baby

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Show “The Princess Finds Moses” poster. Say: **God protected Moses while he was in the river. Point to the basket on the poster. God allowed Moses to float safely in the water until Pharaoh’s daughter found him and took him home to live with her. Let’s make a pretend baby in a basket to help us remember that ► GOD PROTECTS US, too.**

Give each child half an index card and a blue crayon. Let each child scribble waves of water on one side of the index card.

Hand each child a large cotton ball and piece of fabric. Ask the kids to pretend the soft cotton ball is baby Moses, and invite them to wrap him up in a nice, warm blanket. Help the kids place a drop of glue on the cloth to secure the cotton ball in place.

Give everyone a paper cupcake liner, and ask the kids to place baby Moses in the paper basket. Glue the cloth-covered cotton ball to the inside of the cupcake liner. Glue the cupcake liner to the blue side of the index card.

When the craft is complete, allow the children to take turns pushing their paper baskets down the river in the poster from Miriam to Pharaoh’s daughter. As they do, encourage them to say, ► **“GOD PROTECTS US.”**

### Center 4: Bedside Baby Supplies

half an index card,  
paper cupcake liner,  
large cotton ball, and  
3x3-inch piece of soft  
fabric per child

blue crayons

glue

#### Teacher Pack

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





**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **God protected Moses. ► GOD PROTECTS US, too. We can't see them, but God's arms are wrapped around us all day and night. That doesn't mean we'll never be hurt or sick. But even when sad things happen, God is with us. Let's give someone a hug and remember that God is with us always and that ► GOD PROTECTS US.** Invite the kids to hug a friend and whisper in his or her ear, "God protects us." Remind the children to take their Bedside Babies home and put them where they will see them at night when they go to bed.

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**5** LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD PROTECTS US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember this week that God protects you.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Tell your mom or dad "thanks" for letting God use him or her to keep you safe.**

**If you get scared at night, hold the baby Moses you made and say, "God always protects me."**

Say: **If you want to say thanks to your parents, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to hold your baby Moses, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



**Daily Challenges  
Supplies**

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My Bible Hugs





## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Say: **We can always pray when we're afraid. And we can know that God is with us.** Invite each child to share a fear. Then pray: **God, thank you that you always protect us. Help us with all these fears that we've just named, and help us with fears we've never said out loud. We know you'll protect us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–3:20


Children like to feel needed. They enjoy helping, and when given simple and specific tasks like picking up papers around the church, they can understand that God is pleased with them. Just as children can help Mom and Dad by picking up their toys or getting themselves dressed, God can use them to show love to others by sharing a toy or showing kindness to others. Use this lesson to help children understand that they can be used by God anywhere.



► **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**  
Children will allow God to use them in the lives of their families and friends.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>God Gives Strength</b> Practice asking God for help opening a jar.	Bible, plastic jar with lid, 1 soft candy per child	Put the candy in the jar, and screw the lid on tightly enough so it's hard for little ones to open but you can still open it.
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Listen to Theo discuss whether a bush can talk.	CD player, Theo puppet, small tree branch, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tie the tree branch to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Go, Moses!</b> Cheer for Moses when he comes to visit.	Bible, 1 small piece of red cellophane per child, glue stick <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Go, Moses!” monologue, “Moses Sees the Burning Bush” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Ahead of time, ask another adult leader to be Moses. Give that person the “Go, Moses!” monologue, and make a copy for yourself.

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



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Moses in Motion</b> Move Moses on his journey.</p>	My Bible Hugs, clear tape, crayons, several pairs of scissors, paper clips, rubber bands	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut a rubber band for each child so it's a hanging string.
	<p><b>Center 2: Burning Bush Snack</b> Transform bananas into a "consuming" snack.</p>	1 banana per 3 children, whipped topping, Apple Jacks cereal, plastic spoons, small bowls, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Station Can Do</b> Find success at various stations.</p>	cotton balls, tweezers, bowls, clothespin, empty container, simple puzzle, several paper cups	Set up 4 Can Do stations: a simple puzzle, a clothespin kids can drop into the mouth of a container, cotton balls kids can transfer with tweezers from one bowl to another, and paper cups kids can stack to make a tower.
	<p><b>Center 4: Burning Bushes</b> Make cellophane burning bushes.</p>	one 4-inch square of sandpaper, one 6-inch red cellophane square, and one 6-inch yellow cellophane square per child; stapler	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> End your prayer time with a big AMEN!</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Found a Friend" (track 22), "God Can Use Us" (track 23)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Found a Friend" (track 22 on the CD). Have kids stand in a circle and put their arms around one another's shoulders as you lead them in singing.

 **Found a friend, found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.  
At my church I found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.**  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **God loves each of you. And he's glad you're here to learn about him. Today we'll learn that ► GOD CAN USE US. Let's sing a song about that.**

Lead children in singing "God Can Use Us" (track 23 on the CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques."

 **God can use us. God can use us.  
Me and you! Moses, too!  
God can really use us. So go on, Moses.  
God can use you and me.**  
(Repeat 2x.)

When children have learned the song, have them all line up on one side of the room and hook arms together. Have one child pretend to be Moses and stand in the middle of the line. Tell the children to pretend they're going with Moses back to Egypt. Sing the song as you all walk together from one side of the room to the next.

Say: **It's true— ► GOD CAN USE US. Today we'll hear how God used a man named Moses, and we'll talk about ways God uses us, too.**





**2**

**KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

# God Gives Strength

## What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). This means that I can do everything because God makes me strong. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

**Let's use motions to show what we mean.** Have children stand at least an arm's length apart. Then repeat the verse, showing children the following motions.

- I (point to self)*
- Can do everything** (*stretch out arms*)
- Because God** (*point up*)
- Gives me strength.** (*flex arms*)

Show the children the jar of candy, and invite the children to try to open it. After each child has had the opportunity to try, say: **Some things are hard to do, aren't they? Let's pray to God to give us each the strength to say our verse and open the jar.**

Pray: **Dear God, we often can't do the work we need to do. Please give us the power. We know that we can do everything when you give us strength. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Loosen the lid. Allow each child to repeat the Key Verse as he or she tries to open the jar. Tell children to each take a piece of candy, screw the lid back on, and pass it to the next child. When everyone has a piece of candy, children will have heard the Key Verse repeatedly!

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

- Ask:
- What was it like to try to open the jar?**
  - How strong do you think God is?**

Say: **When you're afraid or weak, pray to God. He can give you strength that you don't have. God loves you and is willing to share his strength with you if you ask him, just as we saw in our activity today. Today we'll hear about a man who didn't think he was strong enough to do what God asked him, but he learned that ► GOD CAN USE US, even when we don't think we're strong enough.**



### God Gives Strength Supplies

- Bible
- plastic jar with lid
- 1 soft candy per child

### God Gives Strength Easy Prep

Put the candy in the jar, and screw the lid on tightly enough so it's hard for little ones to open but you can still open it.

**! ALLERGY  
■ ALERT**





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
small tree branch  
string

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the tree branch to  
Theo's paw.

## 3

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What did you bring with you?

**Theo:** A tree branch.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring a tree branch?

**Theo:** I was walking along, minding my business, and I thought a tree was talking to me.

**Teacher:** You did?

**Theo:** Yeah, but it turned out that it was just a bird sitting in the tree.

**Teacher:** That's really funny, Theo.

**Theo:** The bird and I laughed so much about it that I decided to bring a branch from the tree. I thought you might think it was funny, too.

**Teacher:** It sure is! But do you know what? We're actually reading in the Bible today about how God talked to Moses through a bush.

**Theo:** What a coincidence! It wasn't a bird, was it?

**Teacher:** No, it was God. Moses was just walking in the desert, and God made a bush catch on fire. Then he talked to Moses through the bush.

**Theo:** Wow, I'd love to hear more about that.

**Teacher:** It was pretty cool. And God told Moses that he wanted to use Moses to do something really big.

**Theo:** Moses must've been pretty special.

**Teacher:** He was, but today we're learning that we're all special, too, and that God wants to use us. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD CAN USE US.**)*

**Theo:** I love hearing that. I'm going to go tell my parents about my tree branch now.

**Teacher:** Sounds great! Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you think about what happened to Theo?**

**Why do you think it's so neat that God really did talk to Moses?**

**Why do you know you're special like Moses?**





Say: **Theo helped us remember that we're all special. Sometimes we hear about people in the Bible, like Moses, who seem so special because God used them. But we're learning today that ► GOD CAN USE US, too. We're all special to God, and he can make us be strong to do the things he asks us to do. He talked to Moses through a bush, and he can talk to us in all kinds of ways.**

## Bible Time: Go, Moses!

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 2, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD CAN USE US. We'll be Moses' cheerleaders to remind him that he can do anything because God will give him strength.** Have children practice pumping and waving their arms as they cheer.

Say: **When you see Moses start to shiver and shake, stand up and say this cheer to him: "Go on, Moses, to Pharaoh. God can use you, GO, GO, GO!" Then sit back down again until you see Moses shake and shiver.** Check for understanding.

Welcome "Moses," and introduce him to the children if you haven't already. Then allow him to read the "Go, Moses!" monologue as you lead children in the actions.

Next, set out the "Moses Sees the Burning Bush" poster. Say: **God wanted to use Moses to set his people free, but Moses was afraid. God chose to speak to Moses from a burning bush to get his attention and to show Moses that God could use anything.** Point to the burning bush in the picture. Hand out a small piece of red cellophane to each child. Have the children glue the cellophane to the bush in the poster, and encourage them to say, ► **"GOD CAN USE US."**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What seemed scary about Moses' situation?**
- Tell about a time you were scared like Moses.**
- Why do you know God can use you, even when you're scared?**

Say: **God loves you so much that he'll give you strength so he can use you, like he used Moses. Moses didn't believe that he was good enough to speak to Pharaoh, but God chose him. Like that, ► GOD CAN USE US, and he'll choose to use you in special situations, too.**



### Bible Time: Go, Moses! Supplies

- Bible**
- 1 small piece of red cellophane per child
- glue stick
- Teacher Pack**
- "Go, Moses!" monologue
- "Moses Sees the Burning Bush" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: Go, Moses! Easy Prep

Ahead of time, ask another adult leader to be Moses. Give that person the "Go, Moses!" monologue, and make a copy for yourself.





### Center 1: Moses in Motion Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
clear tape  
crayons  
several pairs of scissors  
paper clips  
rubber bands

### Center 1: Moses in Motion Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut a rubber band for each child so it's a hanging string.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Moses in Motion

### What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 10 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Let's think about Moses' journey and how he got to the place where God told him he wanted to use him for a special purpose.**

Have the children cut out and color Moses. Then have them tape one end of the rubber band to the back of Moses' head. Show them how to bounce Moses along for a journey from Egypt to the desert to the burning bush and back to Egypt by following the numbers. Encourage them to tell their favorite parts of what happened in Moses' life so far.

Use paper clips to fasten Moses to their My Bible Hugs pages so they won't lose him.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about what seems neatest to you about Moses' life so far.**

**Tell about a way you know God talked to or led someone you know.**

**Why do you trust God to help you when he asks you to do something?**

Say: **God had a special purpose for Moses, just as he does for you. He had a plan to use Moses, even though Moses didn't think he was strong enough to do what God asked. ► GOD CAN USE US, too, and he'll help you do what he asks. This week, remember that ► GOD CAN USE US.**



**CENTER 2:**

# Burning Bush Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Let's make our snacks into burning bushes to remind us that ► GOD CAN USE US in great ways, like he used Moses.**

Use banana chunks and cereal to simulate the burning bush. Say: **First we'll make the fire.** Fill a small bowl for each child with Apple Jacks cereal, and have kids use plastic spoons to crush the pieces.

Say: **Now we'll add the fire to our "bushes."** Give each child a third of a banana on his or her spoon. Let the kids dip banana chunks into whipped topping and then into the "flames" to remind them of how God talked to Moses.

## Talk With Kids

Say: **God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Even though Moses didn't feel very special, God looked at Moses and saw great things. Just as God used Moses, ► GOD CAN USE US.** Pray for the snack, and then let kids enjoy it.

**CENTER 3:**

# Station Can Do

## What You'll Do

Say: **Moses didn't think he could do what God asked, but God knew he could. Let's try some activities that might be a little bit hard so we can see what it's like to complete a task successfully.**

Split kids into four groups, and help them move through the four stations.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to complete each task?**
- What jobs can you do at home for God?**

Say: **Your whole life will be filled with little and big jobs to learn. When God gives you the strength, you can do anything! Just as God used Moses, ► GOD CAN USE US!**



## Center 2: Burning Bush Snack Supplies

- 1 banana per 3 children
- whipped topping
- Apple Jacks cereal
- plastic spoons
- small bowls
- antibacterial gel (optional)

## ! ALLERGY ALERT

## Center 3: Station Can Do Supplies

- cotton balls
- tweezers
- bowls
- clothespin
- empty container
- simple puzzle
- several paper cups

## Center 3: Station Can Do Easy Prep

Set up 4 Can Do stations: a simple puzzle, a clothespin kids can drop into the mouth of a container, cotton balls kids can transfer with tweezers from one bowl to another, and paper cups kids can stack to make a tower.





### Center 4: Burning Bushes Supplies

one 4-inch square of sandpaper, one 6-inch red cellophane square, and one 6-inch yellow cellophane square per child  
stapler

## CENTER 4: Burning Bushes

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we learned how God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. Let's make burning-bush crafts to remind us that ► **GOD CAN USE US.**

Give each child a square of sandpaper. Encourage children to feel the texture of the sandpaper. Say: **This paper is called sandpaper. That's because it feels all bumpy and scratchy like sand. This paper reminds us that Moses went out to the desert where there was lots of sand.**

Give each child two squares of cellophane, one red and one yellow. Hold your two cellophane sheets up for the children to see. Say: **While Moses was in the desert, God talked to him from a burning bush. These colors of red and yellow can remind us of the colors of fire. And listen!** Gently crumple the sheets of cellophane together and say: **These colored sheets even sound like a crinkly fire.** Encourage children to crinkle their cellophane sheets. Say: **Now let's make burning bushes on our deserts!**

Help children crumple each cellophane sheet and carefully and securely staple the cellophane to the sandpaper squares to form burning bushes.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why does knowing Moses was afraid help you be strong when you're afraid?**  
**What are some ways you think God could use you this week?**

Say: **God used Moses, and ► GOD CAN USE US! Take your burning bushes home with you to remind you of how God made Moses strong so he could use him. Use your burning bush to tell your friends and family that God can use them, too!**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

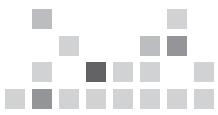
### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs



Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD CAN USE US. I would like each of you to choose a way to be used by God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Make a special snack and a card for someone you know who is sick.**
- Knowing God can use you, help your brother or sister clean up his or her toys.**

Say: **If you want to make a snack, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to help your brother or sister, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You’ll Do

Have the kids join you in a prayer huddle. Explain that a huddle is how football players help one another get excited about a game.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to learn how you used Moses. We know that you can use us, too. Thank you for giving us strength.**

Have all the kids put their hands in a pile and shout: **In Jesus’ name, amen!**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).





# The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment Exodus 5:1–6:1


**S**ensing the feelings of others is something young children are good at. They're very quick to perceive tension, anger, or hurt in others and to offer comfort and encouragement. Just as children's moms or dads will comfort, cuddle, and love them when they're sad, God has promised to be with us always, no matter what our feelings are. Use this lesson to help children understand that God is always with them and he'll take care of them.



► **Bible Point**  
God is with us when we're sad.

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

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will know that God is with them when they're sad.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Test of Strength</b> Lift a heavy object and a tissue, and talk about how God gives us strength inside and out.</p>	<p>Bible, heavy (unbreakable) object, 1 facial tissue per child</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b> Discover what handcuffs and bricks have to do with the Israelites.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, handcuffs</p>	<p>Put the handcuffs on Theo's wrists.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: Slaves in Egypt</b> Work as slaves making bricks and finding straw.</p>	<p>Bible; 3 or 4 empty ice cube trays; modeling dough; ruler; washable markers; large chair <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "The Israelites Work Hard" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Hide some of the modeling dough around your room.</p>

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p><b>Center 1: Sad to Glad</b> Fill in the missing mouth to identify feelings.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, CD player, modeling dough <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p><b>Center 2: Quick Brick to Lick Snack</b> Shape a brick out of wheat cereal.</p>	<p>frosted wheat cereal squares, plates, pen, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p><b>Center 3: Pharaoh Says</b> Take turns pretending to be Pharaoh and the Israelites.</p>	<p>1 heavy object for every 5 children, ruler, chair</p>	
	<p><b>Center 4: Tear Dropping</b> Make "tears," and watch them vanish.</p>	<p>bowl of water, salt, large spoon, pens, plastic plates, napkins</p>	
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Feel tears dry up during prayer time.</p>	<p>Bible, tear solution from the Center 4 activity</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





# The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment

Exodus 5:1–6:1

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Setting the Stage

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Found a Friend" (track 22), "God Can Use Us" (track 23)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Found a Friend" (track 22 on the CD). Have kids stand in a circle and put their arms around one another's shoulders as you lead them in singing.

 **Found a friend, found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.  
At my church I found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.**  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **God loves each of you. And he's glad you're here to learn about him. Today we'll learn that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. Let's sing one more song.**

Lead children in singing "God Can Use Us" (track 23 on the CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques."

 **God can use us. God can use us.  
Me and you! Moses, too!  
God can really use us. So go on, Moses.  
God can use you and me.**  
(Repeat 2x.)

When children have learned the song, have them all line up on one side of the room and hook arms together. Have one child pretend to be Moses and stand in the middle of the line. Tell the children to pretend they're going with Moses back to Egypt. Sing the song as you all walk together from one side of the room to the next.

Say: **It was great to sing that song. Sometimes it helps us when we're sad to remember that God loves us, he has a plan for us, and he wants to use us. And no matter what, ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. Today we'll hear how God was with his people, the Israelites, when they were going through a hard time. Let's hear what happened.**





**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Test of Strength

### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). This means that I can do everything because God makes me strong. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

**God makes us strong in many different ways. He helps our bodies grow big and strong on the outside, and he helps us grow brave and happy on the inside. Let's see how strong your muscles are.**

Let the kids take turns lifting and passing a heavy object around the circle. When everyone has had a chance to lift the object, have the kids raise their arms and show you their muscles.

Say: **You're all so strong! God gave you muscles to serve him and help others. Did you know that God wants you to be strong in another way, too?**

Give each child a tissue. Have kids talk about times they need tissues. Then have everyone raise and lower the tissues.

Say: **A tissue isn't hard to lift; it's very light. But sometimes the thing that makes us cry and need a tissue feels very heavy inside us. Our Key Verse tells us that God gives us strength for those kinds of things, too. He gives us strength to be brave and helps us when we feel sad.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**When can God help you be strong on the outside?**

**When can God help you be strong on the inside?**

Have the kids pretend to be sad and wipe away a tear. Then repeat the Key Verse together: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. He can help us be strong on the outside and on the inside. Let's hear how God helped his people be strong when they were sad.**



### Test of Strength Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - heavy (unbreakable) object
  - 1 facial tissue per child





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)  
handcuffs

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Put the handcuffs on  
Theo's wrists.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What do you have around your paws?

**Theo:** Handcuffs.

**Teacher:** Did you get in trouble? Why did you bring handcuffs?

**Theo:** I heard you were learning about some prisoners who had to make bricks. Don't prisoners wear handcuffs?

**Teacher:** That's right. Prisoners do wear handcuffs. And today we're learning about how God's people were slaves. They had to work very hard for no money, and they weren't treated well.

**Theo:** They must've been very sad.

**Teacher:** That's true. But today we're learning that God was with them and wanted to help them. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**)*

**Theo:** I'm so glad you told me that. I'm going back to my house now to tell my family that God is with them when they're sad.

**Teacher:** Great! Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

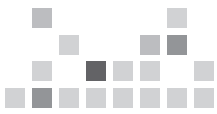
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Theo wanted to tell people right away that God's with them when they're sad. Tell about someone you could tell that to.**

**What are some ways God can help you when you're sad?**

Say: **Theo knew it's important for people to be reminded that God's with them. Some things happen in life that can make us feel really sad, like when the Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians. Let's look for people this week who we can remind that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.****



# Bible Time: Enslaved in Egypt

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 5, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.** Set out "The Israelites Work Hard" poster. **God told a man named Moses to go to Egypt. Moses was sad when he saw God's people being treated so mean by Pharaoh.** Point to the poster where the people are working. **He saw God's people working hard, making bricks out of mud and straw. They had to work all day out in the hot sun.** Allow the children to use washable markers to draw sad faces on the slaves, and remind them that **► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Say: **As we hear what happened, pretend you're God's people. First, make some bricks for me.** Have kids press modeling dough into the ice cube trays to create brick shapes.

Choose two children to be Moses and Pharaoh. Have "Pharaoh" sit on a large chair. Have the children repeat their lines after you.

**Pharaoh:** Make me lots of bricks. *(Act bossy and unhappy.)*

**Teacher:** And so God's people had to work and work. Then Moses went to Pharaoh.

**Moses:** God says, "Let my people go!"

**Pharaoh:** No, no, no, I won't let them go!

**Teacher:** God's people had to make just as many bricks, but now it was worse. Now they had to go and find their own straw. They scattered all over Egypt looking for the straw. *(Have the kids search for the modeling dough that you've hidden in the room and continue to pretend to make bricks.)*

**Pharaoh:** Work faster! *(Act bossy and unhappy.)*

**Teacher:** Moses felt bad. Things looked bad now for God's people.

**Moses:** Hope in the Lord. **► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

**Teacher:** The people complained to Moses. *(Have kids make up complaints such as "Why are you being so mean?" or "You're hurting us and making us work harder.")*

**Pharaoh:** No, no, no, I won't let you go. Get back to work! *(Act bossy and unhappy.)*

**Teacher:** God told Moses, "I am with you when you're sad. Just wait and see. I will set my people free."

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What were you thinking during this activity?**

**Tell about a time you worked really hard at something.**

**Why might it help you to know God's with you in a time like that?**



## Bible Time: Slaves in Egypt Supplies

- Bible
- 3 or 4 empty ice cube trays
- modeling dough
- ruler
- washable markers
- large chair

## Teacher Pack

"The Israelites Work Hard" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

## Bible Time: Slaves in Egypt Easy Prep

Hide some of the modeling dough around your room.





### Center 1: Sad to Glad Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
CD player  
modeling dough  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “How I Feel Game”  
(track 25)

### Center 1: Sad to Glad Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.

Why might it help you to know God’s with you in a time like that?

Say: **God was with the Israelites when they were sad, and ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE’RE SAD. We can trust that God will take care of us and make things right when we’re having a hard time.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

### CENTER 1:

## Sad to Glad

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 11 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we’re learning that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE’RE SAD. Let’s play a game that helps us think about our feelings.**

Give each child a golf ball–size piece of modeling dough. Show the kids how to make a “snake” out of the dough to create a mouth for the face on the My Bible Hugs page.

After the pictures are complete, play “How I Feel Game” (track 25 on the CD).

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

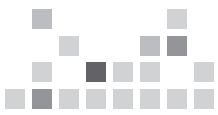
Ask:

**What were you thinking during this game?**

**What makes you feel sad?**

**Why are you glad to know that God’s always with you?**

Say: **When they were slaves, God’s people couldn’t see that God would set them free. But ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE’RE SAD—he’s always with us. Trust in God, and he’ll make you glad.**



**CENTER 2:**

# Quick Brick to Lick Snack

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **God was with the Israelites when they were sad. He was even with them when Pharaoh made them work harder. He had a plan all along to get them out of their hard times. Let's use our wheat cereal to make bricks like the Israelites did.**

Help each child draw a rectangle in the center of his or her plate. Serve frosted wheat cereal squares, and encourage kids to lay their cereal pieces inside the rectangular brick shapes. Ask them not to eat until their wheat squares are perfectly within the outlines. Continue until they begin to show some level of frustration.

Pray for the snack, and then let kids eat.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to try to get your bricks perfect before you could eat?  
Tell about a time you felt even more frustrated than that.  
What can you do when you feel that way?**

Say: **The Israelites were sad that they were slaves and had to work so hard making bricks each day. God was with them when they were sad. We can ask God to be with us in times like that, and he'll always be there. ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. He's with us all the time!**

**CENTER 3:**

# Pharaoh Says

## What You'll Do

Say: **Today we learned that Pharaoh was a very powerful man but he used his power in bad ways. He made the Israelites work hard, and when they asked if they could move away, he said, "NO!" and made them work even harder. It made God's people very sad, but God was with them. Let's play a game to help us think about what the Israelites experienced.**

Have the kids stand shoulder to shoulder in a wide circle, and set a chair in the middle. Let the kids pretend they're the people of Israel. Choose one child to be Pharaoh, and have him or her sit in the chair in the middle. Then give a heavy object to every fifth child in the circle.



### Center 2: Quick Brick to Lick Snack Supplies

- .....
- frosted wheat cereal squares
- plates
- pen
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 3: Pharaoh Says Supplies

- .....
- 1 heavy object for every 5 children
- ruler
- chair





Say: **To play our game, you workers in the circle will pretend the heavy objects are bricks. You'll pass them around the circle.** Have the children practice.

Say: **Pharaoh will make you work hard. You'll have to listen to whatever he (or she) says to do.** Help the Pharaoh learn the sentence, "No. You must \_\_\_\_\_ for me!" and give him or her ideas of what to command, such as jump up and down, touch your toes, or turn three times.

Say: **Each time Pharaoh gives a command, you'll stop passing the bricks to do what he or she said and then you'll pick them back up and continue passing them.**

Give Pharaoh the ruler, and let him or her tap the ruler on the chair. Then let kids begin to pass the bricks. Encourage Pharaoh to give a command after several seconds. Play the game several times, letting the kids take turns being Pharaoh.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like when the pretend Pharaoh made you work?  
Tell about a person you know who felt sad like the Israelites.  
What can you do to help that person when he or she is sad?**

Say: **The jobs "Pharaoh" made us do were not nearly as difficult as the hard work the real Pharaoh made the Israelites do. Even though we don't make heavy bricks every day, there are other things that can make us feel unhappy. God wants us to remember that he's with us. And we can help others feel better when they know**  
▶ **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

## ■ CENTER 4:

# Tear Dropping

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that the Israelites were very, very sad. When we're sad, we often cry. Let's make some pretend tears as we think about how** ▶ **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Let the children take turns sprinkling some salt into the bowl of water and stirring it.

Give each child a plastic plate and a pen. On one side of the plate, they can draw a sad face, and on the other side, a happy face. Let each child dab some "tears" onto the sad face with a finger and then wipe them away with a napkin.

### Center 4: Tear Dropping Supplies

.....  
bowl of water  
salt  
large spoon  
pens  
plastic plates  
napkins



## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you do when you're really sad?  
What kinds of things make your tears go away?**

Say: **It's okay to cry. Sometimes it makes us feel better to cry when we're sad. But one thing that can really help us is knowing that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. Just as God was with the Israelites and had a plan to help them out of Egypt, God's with us, too.**

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**5**

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember this week that God's with us when we're sad.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

**Give a tissue to a friend who's crying, and tell your friend that God cares for him or her.**

**Give your mom or dad a hug, and remind him or her that God is with each of us when we're sad.**

Say: **If you want to give a tissue to a friend, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to hug one of your parents, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



### Daily Challenges Supplies

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My Bible Hugs





## Action Prayer Supplies

Bible

Tear solution from the  
Center 4 activity

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

Let children use their fingertips to wipe the tear solution they made in the Center 4 activity onto their faces as tears.

Read aloud Isaiah 25:8: **“The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces.”**

Let each child tell about a time he or she was sad and then was happy again. Let children fill in their own experiences as you lead them through the following prayer:

Pray: **Dear God,**  
**When I was sad about** [child's experience], **you heard my cries.**  
**Thank you for making me glad.**  
**In Jesus' name, amen.**

When the prayers are over, have the children feel their faces and note that their tears have gone away!

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).





# God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8–10:29


Young children are often afraid during storms or strong winds. The thunder, lightning, and wind seem very powerful. They're able to understand somewhat concrete concepts, such as the vastness of the ocean. Use this lesson to help children understand that God is powerful to create, destroy, love, and protect, and nothing matches the power of God.



► **Bible Point**  
God is powerful.

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

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will learn to recognize that God is powerful.

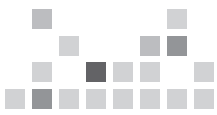
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>God Is With You</b> Learn a song about God's strength.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Discover that God is more powerful than any king or queen.	CD player, Theo puppet, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, royal crown	Tape the royal crown to Theo's head.
	<b>Bible Time: Let My People Go!</b> Act out the plagues on Egypt with motions and shadow puppets.	Bible, CD player, flashlight, red cellophane <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Let My People Go!" script 	

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



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: A Trip to Plan</b> Draw items they would take on a trip.</p>	My Bible Hugs, pencils, crayons	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Passover Picnic Snack</b> Pretend to be the Israelites during the first Passover.</p>	matzo crackers, white grape juice, napkins, cups, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Attractive Power</b> Learn about God's power through magnets.</p>	magnets, metal objects	
	<p><b>Center 4: Make a Mountain</b> Create a sun, moon, or mountain out of modeling dough.</p>	modeling dough	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Thank God for his power to protect them.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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



# God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8–10:29

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Pharaoh’s Magicians Duplicate Miracles

There are a number of significant questions and difficulties raised in the four chapters from Exodus 7 through Exodus 10. *How did Pharaoh’s magicians duplicate the miracles?* The gods they served weren’t real; rather, the magicians’ power came from Satan. Certainly some of the miracles were copied through trickery, but it’s likely that some were performed through occult powers. In Exodus 8:18-19, the magicians were baffled and attributed the plague of gnats to God’s power. Apparently they were unable to duplicate that plague through any type of sorcery.

## Pharaoh Keeps Changing His Mind

*Why did Pharaoh keep changing his mind and breaking his word?* Pharaoh was not unlike many of us who find ourselves making promises to God when times are hard. Then, when we’re no longer in a pinch, we rationalize away the promises we made. Pharaoh had a very convenient workforce in the Israelites. When the pressure was off, it became extremely hard for him to release the Israelites. Not only would he lose his slaves, but such an act would be seen by others as a sign of weakness.

## God Hardens Pharaoh’s Heart

*Was it right of God to harden Pharaoh’s heart (Exodus 9:12; 10:1, 27; 11:10)?* God’s sovereignty as it relates to our free will is a mystery to which we have no certain answers. But notice that God didn’t harden Pharaoh’s heart until the sixth plague. Prior to that, Pharaoh had repeatedly hardened his own heart. Perhaps there was a point at which Pharaoh had so set himself against God that God allowed him to live with the consequences of his choices, further

hardening Pharaoh’s heart because he knew that was Pharaoh’s intention and initial choice.

## God’s Plan for the Plagues on Egypt

*Why did God allow all of these things to happen?* The answer, though mentioned in several places, is clearly stated in Exodus 7:5: “The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” The Israelites had been treated poorly by the Egyptians, and when they cried out to God, he responded. He let the Egyptians (and surrounding nations as well) see that he truly is God. He used his mighty power to rescue his people and to demonstrate to all who would hear about him that he is worthy of worship and obedience.

## 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. 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.

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## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Found a Friend" (track 22), "Hope in the Lord" (track 24)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Found a Friend" (track 22 on the CD). Have kids stand in a circle and put their arms around one another's shoulders as you lead them in singing.

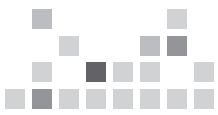
 **Found a friend, found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.  
At my church I found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.**  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **God loves each of you, and he's glad you're here to learn about him. Today we'll learn that ► GOD IS POWERFUL! We can always have hope because he can do anything.**

Play "Hope in the Lord" (track 24 on the CD) to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."  
Lead children in singing and doing the motions.

 **Hope in the Lord, (point up)  
And be strong. (make muscles)  
Hope in the Lord, (point up)  
All day long. (move arm in a circle like the hand on a clock)  
God is with us when we're sad. (make sad face)  
Even when we're feeling bad. (pretend to have a stomachache)  
Hope in the Lord, (point up)  
And be strong. (make muscles)  
God is with you all day long. (move arm in a circle like the hand on a clock)**  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **God makes us strong when we believe in him. That's because ► GOD IS POWERFUL! Today we'll hear how God showed some people just how powerful he is! Let's listen.**



**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## God Is With You

### What You'll Do


Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). This means that I can do everything because God makes me strong. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

**One way to be strong is to be able to lift heavy things. As your bodies grow, you get bigger and stronger and can do more things than you could when you were little.** Have the children lift their arms to show their muscles, and admire each child's muscles. Talk with the children about ways they can be strong each day, emotionally as well as physically.

Say: **When you get tired, scared, or sad, God is with you. Even though you can't see God, you can know that he sees you and loves you and will help you be strong. To help us remember that we can do everything because God gives us strength, let's learn a song.**

Teach the children to sing "Do Anything" to the tune of "Praise Ye the Lord" (not on the CD). Encourage the kids to do the hand motions.

 **I can do, I can do,** *(swing arms back and forth)*  
**I can do anything** *(swing arms back and forth)*  
**'Cause God gives me strength.** *(raise arms to make muscles)*  
**With my eyes I can't see,** *(look through pretend binoculars)*  
**But I know God's with me** *(hug self)*  
**'Cause God gives me strength.** *(raise arms to make muscles)*  
**When I am sad,** *(make a sad face)*  
**God is with me.** *(hug self)*  
**He makes me glad** *(make a happy face)*  
**'Cause he loves me.** *(hug self)*  
**Daytime or night,** *(rest head on hands as if sleeping)*  
**If I'm frightened,** *(look scared)*  
**God gives me strength.** *(raise arms to make muscles)*

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.



### God Is With You Supplies

.....  
Bible





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)  
royal crown

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the royal crown to  
Theo's head.

Ask:

**What are some ways you know God will help you become strong?  
What's so great about God being really powerful?**

Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**, and we know that God's always with us. When we feel sad, we don't have to be lonely because God's with us. When we're scared, we can feel stronger because God will protect us. Let's show God our muscles one more time and thank God for helping us get stronger every day with his power. Allow time. **Now let's see how God showed his power to some people in the Bible.**

## 3

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What's that on your head?

**Theo:** A crown.

**Teacher:** Why do you have a crown?

**Theo:** I would like to be very powerful.

**Teacher:** Why is that, Theo?

**Theo:** Because then I could do anything.

**Teacher:** Hmm, I don't think that crown will help you be powerful. But I know God can give us strength.

**Theo:** Really? Can I put him on my head?

**Teacher:** No, but today we're learning that God is the most powerful of all. And when we believe in him, he makes us strong, too. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL.**)*

**Theo:** Thanks for reminding me that nothing is as powerful as God. I'm going to keep saying that as I go back to my house.

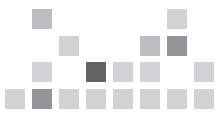
**Teacher:** That's good! Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.





Ask:

**When have you wanted to be powerful like Theo does?  
Tell about some people you know who are powerful.  
What do you think about God being the most powerful of all?**

Say: **Pretending to be a powerful king or queen like Theo did is fun! It's easy to think that kings and queens are very powerful, but ► GOD IS POWERFUL—he's the most powerful of all! Today we'll hear about a powerful king who found out he wasn't as powerful as God. Let's find out what happened.**

## Bible Time: Let My People Go!

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 7, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD IS POWERFUL. We'll hear how God used his great power to rescue God's people from Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. I'm going to need your help in acting out what happened.**

**First we'll need to practice.** Turn the lights down and the flashlight on. Shine the flashlight against a blank wall in your room, and have the children stand in front of it so they can see their shadows on the wall. Help them practice the following motions so they know what to do as they hear what happens with the Israelites:

Water turns to blood: Have the children wave their arms back and forth as you place red cellophane over the end of the flashlight.

Frogs: Have the children jump up and down.

Gnats, flies, and grasshoppers: Have the children link thumbs and make wings with their hands.

Hail: Have children pat their hands on their legs to make pitter-patter sounds.

Say: **Let's see how God showed his power to the Israelites and to Pharaoh.** Play "Let My People Go!" (track 27 on the CD), and follow along with the "Let My People Go!" script.

Turn the lights up and the flashlight off, and have the children gather in a circle. Say:

**► GOD IS POWERFUL! Let's act out some of the bad things that happened to Pharaoh's people who didn't believe how powerful God was.** Teach children the following chant:

**Moses said to Pharaoh,  
"Let God's people go!"  
But mean old Pharaoh,  
He just said, "No!"**

**God is powerful! He can turn water red!** (make a "yucky" face, and then chant the rhyme again)



### Bible Time: Let My People Go! Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - CD player
  - flashlight
  - red cellophane
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Let My People Go!" (track 27)
  - "Let My People Go" script





**God is powerful! He can send a million frogs!** (*hop like frogs, and then chant the rhyme again*)

**God is powerful! He can send a billion buzzing bugs!** (*make buzzing noises while pretending to fly around the room, flapping hands like wings; then chant the rhyme again*)

**God is powerful! He can make big hailstorms come from the sky!** (*pat legs to sound like a hailstorm, and then chant the rhyme again*)

**God is powerful! He can make Pharaoh change his mind and let God's people go!** (*point finger up*)

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think about all the plagues God sent to Egypt?**

**What are some reasons you know God is powerful?**

**What do you think about God using his power for your good?**

Say: **God's people saw what was happening to Pharaoh's people, but they were safe. They knew that God was with them. They didn't need to be afraid! When Jesus was here on earth, he showed God's power, too. He healed people, he raised Lazarus from the dead, and he calmed the storm. ► GOD IS POWERFUL, and we can trust that he'll always take care of us.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## A Trip to Plan

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 12 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **► GOD IS POWERFUL—he's more powerful than anything! And he showed that to Pharaoh when he sent the plagues. God wanted the Israelites to be set free so they could leave Egypt and live free lives.**

### Center 1: A Trip to Plan Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
pencils  
crayons

### Center 1: A Trip to Plan Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.



Point out the empty box on the My Bible Hugs page. Then say: **Let's pretend we're moving. Think about the most important things you'd want to take with you if you had to move right away.** Have the children use pencils to draw the most important things they would take if they were moving. Then have them color the items with crayons.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about some of the things you drew in your moving box.**
- Why do you think it was good that the Israelites got to move?**
- Why does what God did for the Israelites help you know God can do great things for you?**

Say: **The Israelites had to move right away, and they might've been scared, but God was with them. And it really was best for them. It was so important that God showed his great power so that Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. We can know that God will do what's best for us like he did for the Israelites. ► GOD IS POWERFUL enough to make anything happen.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

## Passover Picnic Snack

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **God sent great plagues on the Egyptians, but he protected the Israelites. To remember that God passed over their houses, they celebrated with a "Passover meal." Let's have a Passover picnic to celebrate that God uses his power for our good.**

As you distribute pieces of matzo crackers and white grape juice, have the children pretend they're God's people eating their last meal in Egypt. While they eat, let the children each share one reason they're thankful for God's power in their lives.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **The Israelites left Egypt in a hurry. They ate simple food and took whatever they could carry. They were probably excited and scared, but they knew ► GOD IS POWERFUL. We can remember that no matter what we're feeling—excitement or fear—God always uses his power to take care of us.**



**Center 2: Passover Picnic Snack Supplies**

- 
- matzo crackers
  - white grape juice
  - napkins
  - cups
  - antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**





**Center 3: Attractive  
Power  
Supplies**

magnets  
metal objects

**! MAGNET  
WARNING**  
Harmful if swallowed.

**Center 4: Make a  
Mountain  
Supplies**

modeling dough

**CENTER 3:**  
**Attractive Power**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: Today we're learning that ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**. Let's play with some objects that show a little bit of power.

Place metal objects such as paper clips, staples, metal washers, and screws on the table, along with several magnets. Form pairs, and have one child use a magnet to pick up a metal object. Then have the second child try to take the object off the magnet using another magnet.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to pick up things with your magnet?  
Tell about some other things you know that have power.  
What are some ways God can use his power to help you when you're  
afraid?**

Say: **God's power is like this magnet. He can pick up your fears and take them away. ► GOD IS POWERFUL. And he's way more powerful than a magnet. He's the most powerful of all. Just like he showed Pharaoh his power, he'll show his power to protect you, too.**

**CENTER 4:**  
**Make a Mountain**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL. He created the whole world, and he can do anything. He made the mountains, and he made you. He made everything!**

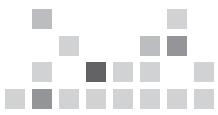
Give each child a small portion of modeling dough. Ask the children to mold it into the shape of something big like a mountain, the sun, or the moon. When the children are finished, have each child tell what he or she made.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to make something big?  
What do you think about the fact that God made you?  
Why does knowing that help you believe that ► GOD IS POWERFUL?**



Say: **Just as you're bigger than what you made, God is bigger and stronger than everything he made. Nothing can match God's power. And that's a good thing because God always uses his power to protect us. This week when you're scared or unsure, remember that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.**

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**5** LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD IS POWERFUL. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember this week that God is powerful.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Draw a picture of a mountain, and thank God that he's bigger and more powerful.**
- Show a friend your muscles, and remind him or her that God is more powerful than anyone.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to show your muscles, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **► GOD IS POWERFUL. Let's tell some reasons we know God is powerful.** Invite each child to tell God one reason he or she knows that God's powerful. Then lead the children in repeating each line of the following prayer:

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

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My Bible Hugs





Pray: **Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for protecting me  
When I am afraid.  
Your power is all around to see  
In everything you've made.  
In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# The Israelites Escape From Egypt

Exodus 11:1–12:36


Young children often hear the word “no,” especially when what they want to do is contrary to what’s best in the situation. Freedom to the child seems like the ability to do everything he or she wants. Use this lesson to help your children understand that freedom actually means they’re free to make right and wrong choices and Jesus forgives them when they make wrong choices.



► **Bible Point**  
Jesus sets us free.

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

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will understand what it means to be freed by Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>God Walks With You</b> Take a long walk around the room.</p>	<p>Bible</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b> Discover what a toothbrush has to do with the Israelites’ escape from Egypt.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, toothbrush, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Tie the toothbrush to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: A Free People</b> Pretend to leave Egypt.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, 1 bowl per child, modeling dough, 1 bandanna or 17x17-inch cloth square per child, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, wedding rings, gold coins, “The Israelites Leave Egypt” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Set up 3 stations: a table with golf ball-sized balls of modeling dough, a table with the wedding rings and gold coins, and a table with square cloths.</p>

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Getting Around</b></p> <p>Find and color different modes of transportation.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Friendship Necklace Snack</b></p> <p>Create snack necklaces, and share with a friend.</p>	colored round cereal, small pretzel twists, one 2½-foot piece of yarn per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Set Me Free!</b></p> <p>Play a game that lets them experience freedom.</p>	<b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Freeze!" flashcards	
	<p><b>Center 4: Freedom Chains</b></p> <p>Make thumbprint footsteps on a sandpaper desert.</p>	one 4-inch square of sandpaper per child, washable ink pads, paper towels, wet wipes	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b></p> <p>Commit to a challenge for the week ahead.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b></p> <p>March and pray together.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b></p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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







## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Found a Friend" (track 22), "Hope in the Lord" (track 24)

# 1 GETTING STARTED


## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do


As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Found a Friend" (track 22 on the CD). Have kids stand in a circle and put their arms around one another's shoulders as you lead them in singing.

 **Found a friend, found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.  
At my church I found a friend,  
Found a friend at my church.**  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **God loves each of you, and he's glad you're here to learn about him. Today we'll learn that ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Let's sing about the hope God gives us.**

Play "Hope in the Lord" (track 24 on the CD) to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."  
Lead children in singing and doing the motions.

 **Hope in the Lord, (point up)  
And be strong. (make muscles)  
Hope in the Lord, (point up)  
All day long. (move arm in a circle like the hand on a clock)  
God is with us when we're sad. (make sad face)  
Even when we're feeling bad. (pretend to have a stomachache)  
Hope in the Lord, (point up)  
And be strong. (make muscles)  
God is with you all day long. (move arm in a circle like the hand on a clock)**  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **When God sent Jesus to die for our sins, he gave us the hope of forgiveness and living forever with him. Today we'll learn that ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and we'll hear how God helped free the Israelites from Egypt.**





**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## God Walks With You

### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). This means that I can do everything because God makes me strong. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

**Let's play a game to see what it was like for the people of Israel to have to suddenly leave their home and follow God on a long walk out of Egypt.** Have the children stand and follow you as you lead them around the room several times or, if possible, take the children outside for the walk. As you walk, talk about some of the hard things about moving all of a sudden and having to travel on foot through the desert. Have the children hug themselves when they're cold, fan themselves when they're hot, and walk dragging their feet when they're tired.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things were you thinking about when we were on our walk?**
- What seems hardest to you about the Israelites' escape from Egypt?**
- What can you do when you're afraid or tired like the Israelites were?**
- What are some ways God can give you strength in a time like that?**

Say: **Most of us have probably never had to get up, leave our homes, and walk a long, long way, but all of us have things we have to do. Sometimes we get tired or we don't want to do them, but we know that God is with us. Our Key Verse from Philippians 4:13 says, I can do everything because God gives me strength. And God gave the Israelites strength, just as he gives you strength. In fact, ► JESUS SETS US FREE from slavery to sin, just as God set the Israelites free from slavery to Egypt.**



### God Walks With You Supplies

Bible





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
toothbrush  
string

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the toothbrush to  
Theo's paw.

## 3

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

## Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. What are you holding in your paw?

**Theo:** A toothbrush.

**Teacher:** Why do you have a toothbrush? Did you just get back from the dentist?

**Theo:** I brought the toothbrush because I'm going on a long trip with my family, and I don't want to forget to brush my teeth.

**Teacher:** Well, that's one important thing to remember. Today we're learning about a long trip the Israelites took. They were moving away from Egypt.

**Theo:** Why did they have to move?

**Teacher:** God wanted to set his people free from being slaves to Pharaoh. We're learning that just as God set the Israelites free, God set us free from sin through Jesus. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

*(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► JESUS SETS US FREE.)*

**Theo:** Wow! God is pretty amazing. I'm going to go tell my parents about that.

**Teacher:** Sounds great, Theo. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

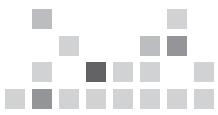
**What things do you and your family do to get ready for a trip like Theo was?**

**What are some things that are most important to you to bring on a long trip?**

**What things about God seem most important to you?**

Say: **There are a lot of important things for us to know about God, including that**

**► JESUS SETS US FREE. Just as God set the Israelites free and they were able to move away from the Egyptians who kept them as slaves, ► JESUS SETS US FREE from sin. Let's learn more about what that means.**



# Bible Time: A Free People

## What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 11, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning how God set the Israelites free from Egypt and how**  
▶ **JESUS SETS US FREE.**

Set out "The Israelites Leave Egypt" poster. Remind the children about Pharaoh and how he finally told God's people that they could leave Egypt. Point to the poster, and explain that God's people were so glad they didn't have to be slaves anymore.

Say: **Let's listen to our CD and find out what Pharaoh said.** Play "A Free People" (track 28 on the CD).

Follow the script below, saying Moses' lines. The other lines are recorded on the CD segment.

**Pharaoh:** Moses? Where's Moses? I need him here now!

**Guard:** Yes sir! Right away, sir! *(Pause.)* Here he is, sir.

**Moses:** Pharaoh, God has said once again, "Let my people go!"

**Pharaoh:** Just leave. Go worship your God like you want. And take all your people and animals with you. Please hurry.

**Moses:** Hurry, hurry! Let's leave before Pharaoh changes his mind again.

Say: **God has set us free! Let's gather our bowls and put some dough in them so we can pretend to eat on our trip!** Give each child a bowl. Lead kids to the station with the balls of modeling dough, and have them each place a ball of dough in their bowls.

Say: **God has set us free! Let's ask our Egyptian neighbors for gold and silver so we can buy things on our trip.** Direct kids to the next station where you have the rings and gold coins, and have them each place a ring or coin in their bowls.

Say: **God has set us free! Let's ask our Egyptian neighbors for cloth so that we have something to wear on our trip.** Direct kids to the last station to pick up a piece of cloth, and have them carefully wrap their bowls in cloth. Have kids hold their wrapped bowls on their shoulders as they follow you around the room. Make it fun by leading the group around tables and chairs. Finish by having them sit in a circle with their bundles still on their shoulders.

Have the children take out their gold coins or rings and tape them to the poster. Encourage the children to remember God's gift to them is their freedom from sin.

Say: **God's people were so excited about being set free! They must have felt like celebrating. Let's celebrate because** ▶ **JESUS SETS US FREE! Let's sing a song to remind us that Jesus sets us free!**



## Bible Time: A Free People Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- 1 bowl per child
- modeling dough
- 1 bandanna or 17x17-inch cloth square per child
- tape
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "A Free People" (track 28), "My Jesus" (track 29)
- wedding rings
- gold coins
- "The Israelites Leave Egypt" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

## Bible Time: A Free People Easy Prep

Set up 3 stations: a table with golf ball-sized balls of modeling dough, a table with the wedding rings and gold coins, and a table with square cloths.





Help children form two groups for this song. Lead children in singing “My Jesus” (track 29 on the CD) to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” On the last two lines, the first group will stand up and ask the second group, “Do you know my Jesus?” The second group will stand up and answer, “He sets his people free!” After kids sing the song, have the groups switch lines to sing.

 **Do you know my Jesus?**

**Jesus, Jesus?**

**Do you know my Jesus?**

**He sets his people free.**

*(Repeat 3x.)*

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

**What do you think about the Israelites’ journey to freedom?**

**Tell about a time you felt so excited and free.**

**Why are you glad Jesus can set you free from sin?**

Say: **Just as God set the Israelites free from slavery, ► JESUS SETS US FREE from slavery to sin. When we believe in him, he forgives us for the wrong things we do, and he helps us live a life of freedom. Like the Israelites, our lives are a journey, but God is always with us on that journey.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

### **CENTER 1:**

## Getting Around

### What You’ll Do

Give each child a Lesson 13 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we’re learning how the Israelites escaped from Egypt when they traveled by foot into the desert. Let’s think of some different ways we can travel.**

Tell the children to find and color the transportation vehicles hidden in the picture. Invite them to share with the group as they find them.

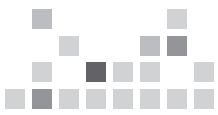
### Center 1: Getting Around Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
crayons

### Center 1: Getting Around Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13  
pages from each My  
Bible Hugs student book,  
and write children’s  
names on them.





**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like finding the hidden pictures?
- How is knowing God like or unlike looking for the hidden pictures?
- Why do you know God is always right there with you?

Say: God set the Israelites free from Pharaoh. God’s people were no longer slaves to Pharaoh. They were free to move and live anywhere they wanted. ► **JESUS SETS US FREE**, too. And because of Jesus in our lives, God is always right there with us. We don’t have to go looking—we can talk to him and know he’s at our side all the time.

■ **CENTER 2:**

# Friendship Necklace Snack

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down. Say: **Today we’re learning that ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Jesus is our good friend, and it’s important that we always remember that. Let’s make friendship necklace snacks to remind us that just as God set the Israelites free, ► JESUS SETS US FREE to be friends with God.**

Give each child cereal rings, small pretzel twists, and one 2½-foot piece of yarn. Have children string their snack items into necklaces.

Say: **Let’s pretend that we’re the Egyptians and God’s people have just asked us for our jewelry. Turn to a friend and trade necklaces.**

As they trade necklaces, encourage the children to say, ► **“JESUS SETS US FREE.”**

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **When God set the Israelites free, they could ask the Egyptians for anything they needed, even jewelry that they could use later to buy things. God makes sure we have everything we need, too, and most importantly, ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Our snack necklaces remind us that Jesus is now our friend.**



**Center 2: Friendship  
Necklace Snack  
Supplies**

- 
- colored round cereal
  - small pretzel twists
  - one 2½-foot piece of yarn per child
  - antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY  
■ ALERT**





### Center 3: Set Me Free! Supplies

Teacher Pack  
“Freeze!” flashcards

### Center 4: Freedom Chains Supplies

one 4-inch square of  
sandpaper per child  
washable ink pads  
paper towels  
wet wipes

## CENTER 3:

# Set Me Free!

### What You'll Do

Say: **God set the Israelites free. And because God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and he's the only one who can. Let's play a game to help us think about that.**

Have children line up against the wall in a “frozen” position. Stand at the other end of the room with the “Freeze!” flashcards. Tell the children they can only hop toward you when they see Jesus’ face on a card.

Hold up one card at a time for the kids to see, and have children hop when they see Jesus and freeze again when you hold up the other cards. Continue the game until everyone has made it to the other end of the room.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to be free in this game?  
What do you think it means to be free?**

Say: **Most of us probably don't know what it's like to be a slave and forced to do whatever someone else says, but all of us have done things we know are wrong. Those wrong things are called sin. The Bible says that all of us are slaves to sin because we can't get away from the bad things we've done, but ► JESUS SETS US FREE from sin. Being free from sin is the best thing ever because it means we can live with God forever!**

## CENTER 4:

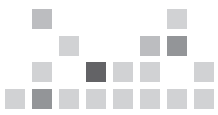
# Freedom Chains

### What You'll Do

Set out a sandpaper square for each child.

Say: **When the Israelites left Egypt, they had to travel through the desert.** Encourage the children to feel how rough and scratchy the sandpaper feels on their fingers, and make comparisons to how the sand in a desert feels. Have the children place their thumb on an ink pad and then make a “footprint” on the desert square. Encourage them to trace a path of footprints across their deserts. Use wet wipes or paper towels to clean the children's thumbs when they are finished.





**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **When it was finally time for the people to leave Egypt, they had to walk through a hot, sandy desert. They didn't have hiking boots or walking shoes, just sandals. But God took care of them and led them out of the desert. God set the people free, just as ► JESUS SETS US FREE. He frees us from our sins.**

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**5** LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS SETS US FREE. I would like each of you to choose a way to think about how Jesus sets us free this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Play a game of Freeze Tag with your family and say, "Jesus sets us free."**
- Catch a small bug outside, and then set it free again.**

Say: **If you want to play a game, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to catch a bug, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned how God set the Israelites free.** Have the children march in a circle, pretending they're leaving Egypt.

Say: **Let's take turns thanking God for setting us free.** Have the children continue marching, and as they do, lead them in clapping twice. After each set of claps, invite a child to thank God. After each child has a chance to thank God, close the prayer.



**Daily Challenges  
Supplies**

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My Bible Hugs





## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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