

FAITHWEAVER

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



**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 1 & 2
TEACHER GUIDE**

Group

Group resources really work!

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



Relational

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

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

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Group

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We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

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

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

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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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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.





The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

The first- and second-graders in your group are just beginning to feel somewhat independent. While they still rely heavily on the safety of home and family relationships, they’re starting to value peer relationships. Since this lesson deals with fear, be sure not to let anyone ridicule a child for his or her fears. Use this lesson to emphasize that everyone has fears and that God is always there to help.



► Bible Point



God helps us when we’re afraid.

Key Verse

“I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will turn to God when they’re afraid.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Let’s Get Outta Here! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of trying to get from one corner of the room to another.	1 copy per child of a map of your room, 1 treat per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	Create a map of your room. Draw a line indicating a path that goes all over the room. Make enough copies of the map for each child to have one. Set treats in your room, at the end of the path. Set up an obstacle along the path that’s difficult for kids to get past.
2 Bible Exploration	God Guides the Israelites <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make “pillars” while hearing how God guided the Israelites.	Bible; My Bible Fun; 1 craft stick per child; cotton balls; red, yellow, and orange paper; several pairs of scissors; glue sticks Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	God Parts the Red Sea <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Form groups of Israelites and Egyptians to act out the parting of the Red Sea.	Bible, 2 sheets of blue poster board Teacher Pack: “The Israelites Cross the Red Sea” (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Where Is God When I'm Afraid? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Reflect on how God is there when they're afraid.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, tape, 1 index card per child, crayons, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "Help, I'm Afraid" poster</p> 	
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	<p>Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Fun student book.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Let's Get Outta Here! Supplies

1 copy per child of a
map of your room
1 treat per child
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Let's Get Outta Here! Easy Prep

Create a map of your room. Draw a line indicating a path that goes all over the room. Make enough copies of the map for each child to have one. Set treats in your room, at the end of the path. Set up an obstacle along the path that's difficult for kids to get past.

1 GETTING STARTED

Let's Get Outta Here!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together. Say: **Let's play a game. You'll all start in one corner of our room.** Indicate the starting corner according to your premade map. Then hand out the maps to kids and help them understand the map.

Say: **We'll use these maps of our room to follow a path that just might lead us to something special. It's very important that we follow the map exactly in order to get to the surprise.** Check for understanding, and then have kids gather with their maps at the starting corner.

Help the children navigate the map. When the children reach the difficult obstacle you placed along the path, invite them to return to the starting corner or to continue on. After kids reach the corner of the room where the treats are located, have them sit down, clean their hands, and eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What did you think about having to follow the path to get to the other corner of the room?

Why did you or didn't you decide to continue on when you met the obstacle?

Say: **Just as we followed a curvy path with obstacles in our game, life can sometimes feel like that. We don't always know why our lives are going in certain ways, but we can be sure that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID or unsure about where our lives are going. Today we'll hear how God led his people in a new direction and protected them even when they were afraid.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God Guides the Israelites

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 13, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn how God led his people, the Israelites, when they were very scared. We'll learn that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

Show children the Bible Timeline, and point out "The Israelites Cross the Red Sea." Read aloud Exodus 13:17-22. Encourage kids to talk about times they've moved or traveled to places they'd never been before. Say: **The Israelites were leaving a place they'd lived in all their lives. Even though life was very hard for them in Egypt, it was a scary situation for them to leave and go to a place they didn't know anything about.**

Give each child a Lesson 1 My Bible Fun page. Say: **Even though it was a scary situation, God was always with them. He was in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, guiding them. Let's make a craft to represent these pillars.**

Set out the supplies. Have kids cut out the "God's Pillars" section and glue their craft sticks to the "Pillar by Day" side. Have them glue cotton balls onto that side. Then have kids turn their "Pillars" over, rip up pieces of paper, and glue them to the "Pillar by Night" side.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of the way God led the Israelites?
- What are some ways God leads or guides you?
- How does knowing that God leads you help you when you're afraid?

Say: **Now you can take these pillars home to remind you that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, just as he helped the Israelites. Let's look at the rest of the Bible passage to find out what else God did for the Israelites.**

God Parts the Red Sea

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Turn in your Bible to Exodus 14, and show kids the passage. Say: **God told Moses to have the Israelites stop and camp for the night next to the Red Sea. God knew that the Pharaoh of Egypt would think the Israelites were lost in the desert and then chase after them. And that's just what happened.**



God Guides the Israelites Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Fun
- 1 craft stick per child
- cotton balls
- red, yellow, and orange paper
- several pairs of scissors
- glue sticks
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline

God Guides the Israelites Easy Prep

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

God Parts the Red Sea Supplies

- Bible
- 2 sheets of blue poster board
- Teacher Pack**
- "The Israelites Cross the Red Sea" (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Form two groups—the Israelites and the Egyptians. Say: **I need your help to tell what happened.** Lay the two sheets of blue poster board side by side near one end of the room. Have the Israelites sit next to them. Then have the Egyptians sit across the room.

Say: **When the king of Egypt heard that the Israelites left, he thought, “Oh no! What have I done? Now all of our slaves are gone!” So he sent 600 of the best chariots to chase after the Israelites.** Have the Egyptians pretend to ride chariots around the room. Then have them sit near the Israelites.

Say: **The Bible says that the Israelites were terrified when they saw all the Egyptians coming toward them.** Have the Israelites act scared with actions and words if they want to.

Say: **When the Israelites realized they were being chased, they started blaming Moses, asking him, “What have you done? Why did you bring us here to die?” They were really scared, but they weren’t thinking about the fact that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.** Encourage children to think about a time they were afraid as they all repeat the Bible Point together: ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**

Say: **Then God did something miraculous for the Israelites. He parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk across on dry land.** Hold one of the blue poster boards so it’s standing up but touching the ground. Have another adult volunteer or a child hold the other one in the same way so there’s a narrow pathway. Then put down the poster boards, and show kids “The Israelites Cross the Red Sea” poster.

Say: **Let’s act out what happened. God helped the Israelites by telling Moses to stretch out his hand over the water. When Moses did just as God told him to, God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross on dry land! Let’s pretend to be Moses.** Let the Israelites stretch out their arms. When kids do this, lift your poster board and have your helper do the same—letting the Israelites hurry through the opening.

Say: **When the Egyptians tried to chase after the Israelites, God told Moses to stretch out his hand again.** Have the Israelites stretch their hands toward the “Red Sea,” and have the Egyptians enter into the path through the Red Sea (but not leave the pathway).

Say: **This time, God caused all of the water to come crashing down on the Egyptians so they couldn’t chase the Israelites anymore!** Cover the Egyptians with the blue poster boards.

Let the children switch roles and briefly go through what happened again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What were you thinking when you were the Israelites in this situation? the Egyptians?

What’s so great about what God did?

Tell about a time God did something great for you.

How can what God did for the Israelites and us help when we’re afraid?





Say: **God did an amazing thing to help the Israelites when the Egyptians were chasing them. He had a plan all along. ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, too. He knows what we're afraid of and always has a plan to take care of us.**



3

**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Where Is God When I'm Afraid?

What You'll Do

Say: **Today we're hearing how God was with the Israelites in a really scary time and how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.** Have kids form pairs.

Show the "Help, I'm Afraid" poster. Say: **On our poster are several pictures of kids in scary situations. I want you to look at these pictures and share with your partner which ones are the scariest for you.** Give kids time to share with each other. Invite the children to share some of the things they discussed in pairs.

Open your Bible to Psalm 23:4, and show it to kids. Say: **There are times in our lives we're afraid, but we can know that God's always with us. Let's learn our Key Verse to help us remember that. Psalm 23:4 says, "I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."** Have children repeat the simplified verse with you several times: **"I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4).**

Think of a scary time. Allow time. **"I will fear no evil, for you are with me" means that even when you're facing that really scary thing, you don't have to be afraid because God is right there with you.** Have the children picture God with them in the scary time they previously thought of.

Say: **Isn't it wonderful to know that we don't have to be afraid because God will take care of us? Let's learn a song to help us remember that God is always with us.** Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Psalm 23" (track 2 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and doing the motions.

 **The Lord is my shepherd.** *(point up, and then pretend to hold a staff)*
(Repeat 4x.)

The Lord is my shepherd; *(point up, and then pretend to hold a staff)*
I shall not be in want. *(shake head no)*
He makes me lie down in green pastures. *(stretch arms out to sides)*
He leads me beside quiet waters. *(wiggle arms)*
He restores my soul. *(touch heart)*
He restores my soul. *(touch heart)*
He guides me in paths of righteousness *(put hand above eyes)*
For his name's sake. *(point up)*

Where Is God When I'm Afraid? Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- tape
- 1 index card per child
- crayons
- 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Psalm 23" (track 2)
- "Help, I'm Afraid" poster





Even though I walk through the valley *(walk in place)*
Of the shadow of death, *(point down)*
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; *(wave hands over and across each other)*
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me! *(put hands on hips and nod)*

You prepare a table before me *(move hand across in front of body with palm up)*
In the presence of my enemies. *(stomp foot)*
You anoint my head with oil; *(touch head)*
My cup overflows. *(lean to the side)*
My cup overflows. *(lean to the side)*

Surely goodness and love will follow me *(touch heart)*
All the days of my life, *(move hand across in front of body with palm up)*
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord *(touch hands above head like a roof)*
Forever, forever! *(shake hands above head)*

The Lord is my shepherd. *(point up, and then pretend to hold a staff)*
(Repeat 4x.)

“Psalm 23” by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Distribute index cards and crayons. Have kids each draw a picture of a time God helped them when they were afraid. Then say: **In our Key Verse, God tells us that we don’t need to be afraid because he is with us. I want you to pick out the one picture on the poster that you think is the scariest and tape your picture over it.** Let kids put their cards over the pictures.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about knowing that God is always there for you?
What can you do when you are afraid?

Say: **Whenever you’re afraid, ask God to comfort you. He’s always there with you, and he hears you, so you just have to ask him. Just like God helped the Israelites,**
► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

Fall Quarter

Lesson 1 ■ Grades 1 & 2





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

Tell a parent one thing you're afraid of, and then tell him or her that God wants us to trust him when we're afraid.

Draw a picture of something that makes you afraid, and then ask God to help you trust him when you're afraid.

Before you go to bed, tell a parent what happened in this week's Bible passage. Remember that you can trust God to take care of you in the dark.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God did something really amazing for the Israelites, and he'll do amazing things for us, too. No matter what, we can remember that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID** as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he's always with us and he's strong enough to help us, even in really scary times. Let each child share a situation he or she is scared of. Then pray: **Dear God, please help us always remember that you are always with us. Help us turn to you for help whenever we are afraid. Thank you, God, for helping us and loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Fun

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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





Lyrics ■■■■

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd. (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
(Repeat 4x.)

The Lord is my shepherd; (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
I shall not be in want. (*shake head no*)

He makes me lie down in green pastures. (*stretch arms out to sides*)

He leads me beside quiet waters. (*wiggle arms*)

He restores my soul. (*touch heart*)

He restores my soul. (*touch heart*)

He guides me in paths of righteousness (*put hand above eyes*)

For his name's sake. (*point up*)

Even though I walk through the valley (*walk in place*)

Of the shadow of death, (*point down*)

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; (*wave hands over and across each other*)

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me! (*put hands on hips and nod*)

You prepare a table before me (*move hand across in front of body with palm up*)

In the presence of my enemies. (*stomp foot*)

You anoint my head with oil; (*touch head*)

My cup overflows. (*lean to the side*)

My cup overflows. (*lean to the side*)

Surely goodness and love will follow me (*touch heart*)

All the days of my life, (*move hand across in front of body with palm up*)

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord (*touch hands above head like a roof*)

Forever, forever! (*shake hands above head*)

The Lord is my shepherd. (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
(Repeat 4x.)

"Psalm 23" by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

First- and second-graders usually can't comprehend the spiritual nature of God. They tend to think of God in terms of what their life experiences have taught them so far. For example, if their parents are very loving, they'll understand how God's love is infinitely greater. Children from troubled homes can be encouraged when they understand that God's love never fails and never ends. Use this lesson to ensure kids that God always gives them everything they need.



► Bible Point
God gives us what we need.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What Do You Need? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of telling needs.		
2 Bible Exploration	People Grumble, God Provides <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Hear how God provided, and then pretend to be hungry and make a snack.	Bible, bread, foam plates, honey, plastic knives, plastic wrap, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	My Cup Overflows <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and draw pictures of blessings.	Bible, My Bible Fun, crayons	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.



Key Verse
"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will thank God for always giving them everything they need.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>God Provides Today <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Look at current situations on the poster, listen to the CD, and talk about how God provides today.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD, "God Provides" poster</p> 	
	<p>Quail Cups <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make cups as a reminder that God gives us what we need.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, 1 foam cup per child, glue, several pairs of scissors, construction paper, crayons, pencils, pens, crackers, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: "Quail Shapes" stencils</p> 	<p>Punch out the shapes from the "Quail Shapes" stencils.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





1 GETTING STARTED

What Do You Need?

What You'll Do

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

Gather everyone together, and have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **Let's play a game. One person will stand and tell one thing he or she needs. Then that person will point to another person in the circle, and he or she will stand and tell one thing he or she needs, and so on.** Check that kids understand the difference between needs and wants. For example, you can explain that kids need water, but they want toys.

Start the game by standing and naming one thing you need. Then point to a child in the group. Continue in this manner until everyone has shared at least one need. Then say:

► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. In fact, all those things you named, God gave them to you. Everything your parents have, God gave to them. Everything anyone has that they need, God is the reason.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you need some of the things you named?
What do you think about God being the one who actually gives you everything you need?**

Say: **We learned in our game that there are things we need and things we just want. We heard a lot of things we each need in life and that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. Today we'll hear how the Israelites ran out of food but then God gave them what they needed.**

People Grumble, God Provides Supplies

- Bible
- bread
- foam plates
- honey
- plastic knives
- plastic wrap
- antibacterial gel (optional)

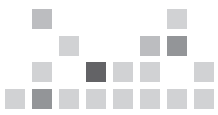
! ALLERGY ALERT

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

People Grumble, God Provides

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 16:1-26, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible**



today, we'll learn how God gave the Israelites food when they had nothing to eat, and we'll talk about how ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

Gather the children close together in a circle.

Say: **In Exodus 16, the Israelites have left Egypt and are now in a place called the Desert of Sin. Let's read more about what they were doing.**

Read aloud Exodus 16:1-3, and then say: **The Israelites were hungry, and they were grumbling and complaining. Let's grumble, too!**

Have kids wander around the room saying, "Grumble, grumble, grumble—I'm so hungry!" Let them wander for about 30 seconds, and then have them sit down again. Have kids tell partners about times they've grumbled to their parents or other adults.

Read aloud Exodus 16:4-5. Then say: **So Moses and Aaron told the people what God said. They told the people, "You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord." Then they told the Israelites that God had heard their grumbings and that he would give them food.**

Have kids clean their hands. Give each child a plastic knife and a piece of bread on a foam plate.

Say: **Just as God gave the Israelites food when they needed it, ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. In the evening God gave the Israelites quail, which is a kind of bird. And every morning God gave the Israelites a kind of bread, which they called "manna." Let's make a snack that will remind us of the food God provided for the Israelites.** Let kids spread honey on the bread in a bird shape and enjoy their snacks. (If there are leftover scraps, you may save them for the real birds.)

After kids have enjoyed their snacks, help them each make a second snack to take home to their parents. Say: **Give these to your parents, and thank them for giving you the things you need. Ask your parents to celebrate with you how God helps them provide for you.** Encourage kids to explain to their parents why they made birds out of honey on the bread. Cover the snacks with plastic wrap, and set them aside.

Say: **God did something interesting when he gave the Israelites quail and manna. He gave them only enough food for one day at a time. He did that for five days, but on the sixth day, he gave them two days' worth of food so the Israelites wouldn't need to work one day of the week. God made it so if anyone tried to keep more food than he or she needed each day, it spoiled, and the person wasn't able to eat it, except on the sixth day.**

Read aloud Exodus 16:35.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.





My Cup Overflows Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
crayons

My Cup Overflows Easy Prep

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

Ask:

What do you think about the Israelites' complaints?

What do you think of how God responded?

Tell about a time you felt impatient about waiting for food.

Explain whether you think you could trust God to provide what you need every day.

Say: **God kept his promise by providing food for the Israelites every morning and evening for 40 years! But God wanted them to rely on him each day, so he only gave them enough for each day. God wants us to rely on him, too, and we can always be certain that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

My Cup Overflows

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wanted the Israelites to know every day that he's the one who gave them everything they needed. Let's look at our Key Verse and see what it says about how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

Open your Bible to Psalm 23:5, and show it to kids. Say: **Listen while I read Psalm 23:5 to you: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5). That means God takes care of us even when others aren't treating us well. God always gives us more than enough. Have kids repeat the verse with you several times: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5).**

Give each child a Lesson 2 My Bible Fun page, and set out crayons. Say: **Look at the table on your My Bible Fun page. Remember, our Key Verse tells us that God prepares a table for us. On the picture of the table, draw something God provides or gives to you.**

Give kids several minutes to draw. Ensure children leave space to draw more on the table later in the activity. Then have kids share with partners about the things they drew on their tables.

Say: **You all drew things God provides for you. Our Key Verse tells us that God provides for us in such a great way that our "cup overflows." The writer of this verse means that if he were to put all the blessings God gives him into a cup, the cup would overflow because God gives him so many good things!**

Point out the cup on each child's My Bible Fun page. Say: **Think about something you feel extra thankful for that God's given you. Then write one word for that thing on the cup.** Allow time, and then have kids tell their partners how they feel that their cups are overflowing.





Say: **Draw on the table a picture of those good things flowing out of the cup.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain how easy or hard it was to think of things God gives to you.**
- What's something you need right now in your life?**
- What are some ways you can show God you'll rely on him to give you what you need?**

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED** and even more. God loves each of us so much. He wants us to remember that he prepares a table for us and when we trust him, we'll see how our cups are overflowing with all the blessings he gives us. Let's trust God this week to provide for all our needs.



3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

God Provides Today

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle around the "God Provides" poster. Have kids sit where they can see the poster. Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. We heard how God gave the Israelites the food they needed every day, but even though they wanted to store extra food, he didn't let them because he wanted them to rely on him every day.**

Point to the first picture on the "God Provides" poster. Have the group discuss whether they think the boy in the first picture needs the new toy.

Say: **Let's listen to the CD and find out what happens here.** Play "God Provides, Part 1" (track 3 on the CD). Then have the group discuss what they think the boy could do with all his extra toys.

Point to the second picture on the poster. Say: **Let's see what's happening with this little girl.** Play "God Provides, Part 2" (track 4 on the CD). Then have the group discuss whether they think the little girl needed the teddy bear that someone bought for her. Let kids tell about some things God's given them that they really wanted.

Say: **God really loves you, and he wants to give you the things you need. But he also wants you to be happy. Because God sometimes gives us what we want as well as what we need, our cups overflow!**

God Provides Today Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "God Provides, Part 1" (track 3); "God Provides, Part 2" (track 4); "God Provides, Part 3" (track 5)
- "God Provides" poster





Quail Cups Supplies

My Bible Fun
1 foam cup per child
glue
several pairs of scissors
construction paper
crayons
pencils
pens
crackers
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack

“Quail Shapes” stencils



Quail Cups Easy Prep

Punch out the shapes
from the “Quail Shapes”
stencils.

Point to the third picture on the poster. Say: **Let’s listen to the next situation.** Play “God Provides, Part 3” (track 5 on the CD). Then have the group discuss what they think about how the girl reacted when her mom said “no.”

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think about how the kids acted in each situation?
Explain whether you think God gives us everything we want.
How can you show God you’re thankful for everything he gives you?**

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, and he even gives us some things we want. God hears our prayers. Sometimes we may not get exactly what we want, but we will get what we need. That’s what God did for the Israelites. They might’ve liked having some food other than quail and manna, but they had food. They had what they needed.**

Quail Cups

What You’ll Do

Say: **Let’s make something now to help us remember what God did for the Israelites and what he does for us.**

Set out the supplies and the “Quail Shapes” stencils. Let kids trace, cut out, and color quail shapes on construction paper. Have them glue the quail shapes to their cups. Help them write “God Provides” on their cups. Then have kids clean their hands and get in pairs.

Say: **Tell your partner about some things God’s provided for you in the last year.** Allow time, and then as kids finish explaining, have each child take a handful of crackers to put in his or her cup.

Say: **Now tell your partner what you can do this week to remember that God always gives you everything you need.** Allow time, and then as kids finish explaining, let them each take another handful of crackers to put in the cup.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like filling your cup in this activity?
When has God given you something that made you feel like your cup was overflowing?**

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED—so much so that our cups overflow! Take your Quail Cups home as a reminder of how God provided for the Israelites by giving them quail and manna.**



4

LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

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

- Every night this week, pray and thank God for something he's given you.**
- When your mom or dad comes home from work, give her or him a big hug, and thank God for giving you a wonderful family.**
- Make up motions to a praise song, and praise God for his gifts.**

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Today we learned that God is so great that he gives us everything we need. We can always trust him to take care of us. This week, remember that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he gives us everything we need and often gives us things we really want. Have kids stand in a circle and hold hands. Give each child a chance to tell God something he or she is thankful for, and then pray: **God, you're amazing. We know we can trust you to give us what we need each day. Help us remember how wonderful you are and always thank you for how you always give us what we need. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens





God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

First- and second-graders aren't generally patient. They live in the now, and they generally haven't developed patience through experience, trials, and tribulations. Use this lesson to help kids understand God's vast patience with us, and encourage them to practice patience because of all the patience they've received from God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Complaint Practice <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find things to complain about, and act out some of the complaints.	My Bible Fun	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Camp Whack-a-Rock <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act out complaining and patience, and learn about God providing water for the Israelites.	Bible	
	The Lord Is My (Patient) Shepherd <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn how God is patient like a shepherd, and sing a song.	Bible, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **Bible Point**
God is patient with us.

Key Verse
"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will thank God for his patience with them, and they'll be patient with others.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Growth Charts <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create growth charts as a reminder that God is patient with us as we grow.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, tape, crayons, yardstick, hole punch, 7 copies per child of the “Growth Chart” handout (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: “Psalm 23” punch-outs</p> 	<p>Cut out and tape 7 handouts together for each child. Then write the inches and feet on the chart.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p> <p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p> <p>paper, pencils</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7



Food and Whine

As we begin today’s lesson, we find the Israelites continuing their journey toward the Promised Land. They’re still getting manna every morning and quail every evening, but they can’t find water at their latest campsite. It’s important to take a moment to recall that the Israelites were just beginning to know God. This is the first time God had interacted with the Israelite community as a whole. Though this doesn’t excuse their actions, it might give some context for us to see ourselves in more clearly.

Again, instead of calling in faith upon the God who had secured their freedom, turned bitter water sweet, and provided manna and quail, the people complained to Moses. Again, instead of trusting God, they lamented that they were going to die in the desert for lack of water. As you can see from Exodus 17:4, Moses was exasperated. God, however, proves his patience and love in this passage, giving the Hebrews the water they needed in spite of their complaining and their lack of faith.

Acting on Faith

God had a plan. His instructions to Moses must have seemed ludicrous! Moses was to take with him the leaders of the people—likely representatives from each tribe—so that they could see firsthand what God was going to do. In front of these leaders, Moses was to hit with his staff a rock that God would point out to him. And enough water would come out of the rock to take care of the needs of 2 million people. As unlikely as God’s plan seemed, Moses didn’t question God. He did what God told him to do, and God did what he said he would do. Moses and God gave a convincing demonstration of what acting on faith in God can do. And God was glorified when the leaders brought back their report.

Be Encouraged

The names Moses gave to the place where all this happened mean “temptation” and “murmuring.” No doubt Moses’ intent was to make this place a reminder of the people’s unbelief but also an encouragement toward faith in the God who had provided for them.

The Jesus Connection

Think of someone who has frustrated you recently. What needs to happen to resolve the situation? A relationship with Jesus brings us forgiveness, not perfection. Pray for clarity and the opportunity to recognize when you need to extend the same type of grace and understanding that Jesus has given you. On the lines below, write a prayer for the person who has recently frustrated you.





Complaint Practice Supplies

My Bible Fun

Complaint Practice Easy Prep

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

Camp Whack-a-Rock Supplies

Bible

1 GETTING STARTED

Complaint Practice

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone in a circle.

Give each child a Lesson 3 My Bible Fun page. Say: **Look at the picture at the top of the page, and find something in the picture you can complain about. Don't tell anyone what you find. For example, maybe something doesn't look quite right to you, or maybe you wish there were something else in the picture. Remember to keep your complaint a secret.**

Allow time, and then encourage kids to act out the complaints as if they were people in the picture. As children act out their complaints one at a time, encourage the others to guess which part of the picture is being portrayed.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do people in your life do or say when you complain?
Explain what you think about and feel when other people complain.
What do you like about God's patience when you complain?**

Say: **Sometimes when people complain a lot, we get tired of listening. Your parents, teachers, or friends might get impatient when you complain. But ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US, even when we complain. He listens to us, and he always gives us what we need. Let's hear how God was patient with some people in the Bible.**

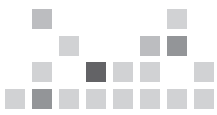
2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Camp Whack-a-Rock

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 17:1-7, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear how the Israelites complained to God and God was patient with them.**





Say: **Actually, what happened to a friend of mine was kind of like what happened with the Israelites. Let me tell you about it.** Pause. **But to make it more interesting, I'll need your help.** Form two groups: the Israelites and the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids.

Say: **Whenever I talk about the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids complaining, you'll pretend to complain if you're part of that group. And if I talk about the Israelites complaining, you'll pretend to complain if you're part of that group. For example, if I say one of the groups of people was complaining about being hungry, you could pretend to be hungry. Let's practice.** Check that kids understand when their groups will pretend to complain, and then lead the children in complaining to be hungry. Kids can double over, hold their stomachs, and whine that they're starving.

Say: **Let's see which group complains louder and more. Let's begin. My friend told me about a place called Camp Whack-a-Rock. When the kids showed up at Camp Whack-a-Rock, they were so happy to be there. They were glad to be away from home for a week, and there were lots of fun adventures to enjoy. They all smiled and laughed and sang.**

Like at Camp Whack-a-Rock, in the Bible when the Israelites first left Egypt, they were happy to be free from slavery and the mean Pharaoh. They knew they were traveling to the Promised Land, and that was a wonderful thing.

But it wasn't long until things weren't so happy or carefree—and the complaining began. Allow about 15 seconds for all the kids to pretend to complain.

Say: **At Camp Whack-a-Rock, it took just 15 minutes for trouble to start. When it started raining, all the kids started to complain.** Prompt the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids to complain as if it's raining. Encourage them to be loud and silly as they complain.

Say: **And the Israelites—it didn't take them long to start complaining either. It's true; the journey was hard. But Moses, their leader, got tired of all the complaining and didn't know what to do.** Prompt the kids in the Israelite group to complain as if they're traveling on a long, hard journey.

Say: **The camp counselor at Camp Whack-a-Rock, Morty, handed out rain ponchos, and the kids stopped complaining. But when they got to their cabins, the kids complained that the cabins were small, the beds were hard, and they'd have to use outhouses.** Prompt the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids to complain.

Say: **The Israelites continued to complain, too. They were very thirsty, and there was no water anywhere in sight. So they complained to Moses. They even blamed God for their troubles.** Prompt the Israelites to complain.

Say: **At Camp Whack-a-Rock, Morty decided to get the camp owner's help. He explained all the things the kids were complaining about, so the camp owner hired a construction crew to make the cabins bigger, to put soft mattresses on the beds, and to build a bathroom in every cabin. And then the kids stopped complaining.** Prompt all the kids to be as quiet as possible.





Say: **Moses was really tired of listening to the Israelites complain, too. He didn't know how to get them water, so he talked to God. God told him, "Moses, I'll provide water for the people. Go to the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock with your staff, and water will come out of the rock." So Moses struck the rock with his staff, and water came out of the rock. The people drank all the water they needed, and they were thankful to God.** Prompt all the kids to be as quiet as possible.

Say: **So it seemed that the problems were solved. But after the campers at Camp Whack-a-Rock settled into their cabins, they started complaining again. Now they were hungry.** Prompt the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids to complain.

Say: **And the Israelites never stopped complaining for long either.** Prompt the Israelites to complain.

Say: **At Camp Whack-a-Rock, Morty asked the owner to help him again. The owner had all the kids come to the dining hall immediately. The cooks had prepared dinner early. At first the kids stopped complaining, but then they began again—they didn't want Brussels sprouts and lima beans! They wanted pizza.** Prompt the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids to complain.

Say: **The owner ordered pizza, which the campers liked. But they complained about their drinks.** Prompt the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids to complain.

Say: **Just like the Israelites, the Camp Whack-a-Rock kids complained a ton. Moses went to God for help, and Morty went to the camp owner. And while Moses and Morty become impatient with the people, God was always patient with the Israelites when they complained like the camp owner was with the kids.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How were the Israelites and campers alike or not alike?

What do you think about how the camp owner and God responded to the complaints?

Say: **God was patient with the Israelites because he loved them. God loves us, too. ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US, even when we complain. He takes care of us, even when we don't believe he will. This week, when we have complaints, let's remember that God always takes care of us.**

The Lord Is My (Patient) Shepherd

What You'll Do

Say: **We're learning today that God was patient with the Israelites, and ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US, too. Even when the Israelites complained, God was patient and took care of them.**

The Lord Is My (Patient) Shepherd Supplies

Bible
CD player
1 copy per child of the
lyrics page (at the end
of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Psalm 23" (track 2)





Open your Bible to Psalm 23:1, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today helps us remember that God takes care of us. It says, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters” (Psalm 23:1-2). A shepherd takes care of sheep, so our verse reminds us that God takes care of us. We don’t need to worry or complain because he’s always with us like a shepherd.** Have kids repeat the simplified Key Verse with you several times: **“The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1).**

A shepherd takes care of sheep, makes sure they have food and somewhere to sleep, leads them where they need to go, and helps them when they’re sick or hurt. What are some ways God takes care of you and your family? Allow time.

Say: **Thanks for sharing. Let’s thank God now by singing a song about how he’s our shepherd.**

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play “Psalm 23” (track 2 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and doing the motions.

 **The Lord is my shepherd.** *(point up, and then pretend to hold a staff)*
(Repeat 4x.)

The Lord is my shepherd; *(point up, and then pretend to hold a staff)*
I shall not be in want. *(shake head no)*
He makes me lie down in green pastures. *(stretch arms out to sides)*
He leads me beside quiet waters. *(wiggle arms)*
He restores my soul. *(touch heart)*
He restores my soul. *(touch heart)*

He guides me in paths of righteousness *(put hand above eyes)*
For his name’s sake. *(point up)*
Even though I walk through the valley *(walk in place)*
Of the shadow of death, *(point down)*
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; *(wave hands over and across each other)*
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me! *(put hands on hips and nod)*

You prepare a table before me *(move hand across in front of body with palm up)*
In the presence of my enemies. *(stomp foot)*
You anoint my head with oil; *(touch head)*
My cup overflows. *(lean to the side)*
My cup overflows. *(lean to the side)*

Surely goodness and love will follow me *(touch heart)*
All the days of my life, *(move hand across in front of body with palm up)*
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord *(touch hands above head like a roof)*
Forever, forever! *(shake hands above head)*

The Lord is my shepherd. *(point up, and then pretend to hold a staff)*
(Repeat 4x.)

“Psalm 23” by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think and feel when you hear that God is your shepherd?
- Explain whether you think believing God takes care of you would keep you from complaining.
- What things do you want to tell God now?

Say: God is our shepherd. He loves us and takes care of us. And he's very, very patient with us! God gives us what we need, too. In fact, God even gives us things we don't realize we need. It's important for us to remember that we can talk to God and that ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US, always.**

3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Growth Charts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God was patient with the Israelites; he knew the Israelites needed him. Like that, God knows that we need him, and he's patient with us as we grow and learn. Let's make something to remind us of God's patience.**

Distribute scissors, set out supplies, and have children cut the "Growth-Chart Banner" from the bottom of their My Bible Fun page. Say: **Decorate your Growth-Chart Banner. We're going to make growth charts to keep track of how we grow, and we'll put these on the tops of our growth charts.**

When kids finish decorating, help them attach seven copies of the "Growth Chart" handout to the bottom of their banners.

**Growth Charts
Supplies**

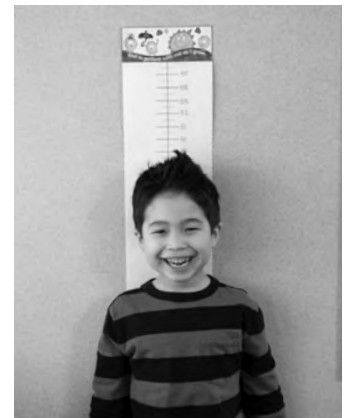
- My Bible Fun
- several pairs of scissors
- tape
- crayons
- yardstick
- hole punch
- 7 copies per child of the "Growth Chart" handout (at the end of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

- "Psalm 23" punch-outs

**Growth Charts
Easy Prep**

Cut out and tape 7 handouts together for each child. Then write the inches and feet on the chart.





Encourage kids to draw pictures of times God has been patient with them and cared for them. They can draw them in the general areas where they think their heights might've been. For example, if they feel that God cared for them by giving them their specific parents, they could draw the picture between 1 and 2 feet to show how big they were when they were born.

Give each child a "Psalm 23" punch-out to put on his or her chart. Say: **Remember that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US as we grow. He's our shepherd, and he cares for us as we grow and learn.**

Use a hole punch to punch a hole in the top of each child's chart where indicated on the banner.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Explain one of your drawings about how God's been patient with you.
Explain how you feel knowing that God is patient even when you complain.
How can we show God that we're thankful for his patience?**

Say: **Take your growth chart home, and hang it on your wall. Every time you look at it, remember that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US as we grow. Thank God that he's patient with you, just as he was with the Israelites when they were in the desert.**

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

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

- Every time you see a clock, thank God for his patience.**
- Ask an adult to tell you about a time God was patient with him or her.**
- The next time you're in a hurry, remember that God is always patient with us, and we can be patient, too.**

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



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Fun
pens





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
paper
pencils

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God was patient with the Israelites and took care of them, even when they complained and complained. God loved the Israelites and wanted what was best for them. God loves us and wants what's best for us, too. That's why ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US. Remember that this week as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he's patient with us even when we don't deserve it. Distribute paper and pencils, and allow time for the children to journal or draw pictures for a minute or two, telling God some things they need and thanking God for ways he's already taken care of them. Then close the prayer. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for your patience. Please help us remember that you're patient with us, and help us be patient with others. Thank you. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Growth Chart

The growth chart consists of a central vertical line with 12 horizontal rungs. The top and bottom rungs are thicker than the others. The chart is enclosed in a dashed border. On the right side of the dashed border, there is a small icon of a pair of scissors, indicating where to cut.

OK
TO COPY

Grades 1 & 2



Lesson 3

Fall Quarter



Lyrics ■■■■

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd. (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
(Repeat 4x.)

The Lord is my shepherd; (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
I shall not be in want. (*shake head no*)

He makes me lie down in green pastures. (*stretch arms out to sides*)

He leads me beside quiet waters. (*wiggle arms*)

He restores my soul. (*touch heart*)

He restores my soul. (*touch heart*)

He guides me in paths of righteousness (*put hand above eyes*)

For his name's sake. (*point up*)

Even though I walk through the valley (*walk in place*)

Of the shadow of death, (*point down*)

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; (*wave hands over and across each other*)

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me! (*put hands on hips and nod*)

You prepare a table before me (*move hand across in front of body with palm up*)

In the presence of my enemies. (*stomp foot*)

You anoint my head with oil; (*touch head*)

My cup overflows. (*lean to the side*)

My cup overflows. (*lean to the side*)

Surely goodness and love will follow me (*touch heart*)

All the days of my life, (*move hand across in front of body with palm up*)

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord (*touch hands above head like a roof*)

Forever, forever! (*shake hands above head*)

The Lord is my shepherd. (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
(Repeat 4x.)

"Psalm 23" by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) Exodus 19:16–20:21



The children in your group are developing a sense of fairness, and they’re also more interested in the present than in the past or the future. Use this lesson to help kids see that although God gave Moses the Ten Commandments long ago, God meant for those same rules to guide and help each of us today.



► **Bible Point**
Honor God by obeying him.

Key Verse
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).


Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will honor God by obeying his commands.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>What About Rules? <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Make up rules to a new game.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: “Ten Commandments” poster</p> 	
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>To the Mountain! <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Pretend to get the Ten Commandments like Moses, and create pictures of the first four commandments to put on the poster.</p>	<p>Bible, scissors, paper, pillows, crayons, tape Teacher Pack: “Ten Commandments” poster, Bible Timeline, “God Gives the Ten Commandments” (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Cut 4 pieces of paper to be the same size as the blank squares on the “Ten Commandments” poster. Create a “mountain” of pillows.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>How to Honor God <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and create a craft to help them remember it.</p>	<p>Bible, My Bible Fun, pens, 2 red chenille wires per child, several pairs of scissors, hole punch Teacher Pack: “Ten Commandments” poster</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) Exodus 19:16–20:21

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

This week’s Bible Background concentrates on the events surrounding the giving of the Ten Commandments, while next week’s concentrates on the commandments themselves. You may want to read both Bible Backgrounds before beginning this lesson.

The Israelites Battle the Amalekites

The Amalekites attacked the Israelites where they were camped. God had prepared the Israelites’ faith for this test through his provision for them in so many ways. So the Israelites put together an army under the leadership of Joshua and went on the attack. Moses held high in the air the staff that had struck the rock to get water — “the staff of God.” As long as Moses held the staff in the air, the Israelites continued to win—so Aaron and Hur helped hold Moses’ hands up, and the Israelites defeated the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16).

Jethro Advises Moses to Focus on God

Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit after the battle with the Amalekites. Seeing Moses burdened with judging disagreements among the 2 million Israelites, Jethro gave Moses some good advice. He suggested that Moses appoint judges to serve the people so that Moses could concentrate on what was most important—being the people’s representative before God. Moses took the advice and then led the Israelites on to Mount Sinai, where Moses had previously met God in the burning bush. They arrived at Mount Sinai three months to the day from when they left Egypt (Exodus 18:5–19:2).

Moses Receives the Commandments From God

A significant event is recorded in the next few verses

(Exodus 19:3-9): God spoke to Moses and promised him that Israel would be his treasured possession, his holy people—if they would obey him. After Moses told the people what God had said, they responded gratefully: “We will do everything the Lord has said.” God responded by telling Moses that God himself would come down and speak with the Israelites from a cloud.

The law God gave spelled out how the Israelites were to honor him through their obedience. In the thousands of years that have passed since this event, one thing hasn’t changed: The best way we can honor God is by obeying him.

The Jesus Connection

Following Jesus is not about obeying rules; it’s about knowing him. However, our obedience in honoring and glorifying God in our everyday lives allows our relationship with Jesus to grow.

In the space below, write a prayer that the ministry you are involved in today helps your group experience God’s blessing. May you see the fruit of God’s work through your obedience.





What About Rules? Supplies

Teacher Pack

“Ten Commandments”
poster

1 GETTING STARTED

What About Rules?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Show kids the “Ten Commandments” poster. Lay the poster where the kids can see it.

Say: **We have a brand-new game we're going to play today! Are you ready to play a new game? Great! First we have to make up some rules for this game.**

Have kids form groups of three or four, and tell each group to think of a few rules for playing a game with the poster. Give groups a few minutes to think, and then let members of each group tell what rules they thought of.

Say: **Now that we have all our rules, we can play! Remember to use all the rules each group mentioned.** Allow a few minutes for kids to try playing the game with their rules.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to make up rules to a game?

Explain how well it worked to play with all the rules from everyone.

Why are good rules important?

Why would you want to follow God's rules above anyone else's?

Say: **It was silly playing our game with all your made-up rules. Sometimes in life, it might seem like there are so many different rules to follow. But we can always remember that what God asks us to do is what's best for us. That's why we want to obey what God asks us to do. And we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. Let's learn some of the things God asks of us.**

2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

To the Mountain!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 19, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear how God gave us the Ten Commandments, and we'll learn why we**
▶ **HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**

Show kids the Bible Timeline, and point out the "God Gives the Ten Commandments" section.

Say: **Moses climbed up a big mountain to meet God and receive the Ten Commandments from him. Let's climb our own mountain and learn what some of the Ten Commandments are.**

God told Moses that only he and Aaron could come up the mountain, called Mount Sinai. The rest of the people had to stay at the bottom of the mountain. Have the children gather around the mountain of pillows, and let them take turns pretending to be Moses and Aaron climbing the mountain.

Say: **There was fire and smoke coming from Mount Sinai, and the mountain was trembling and shaking.** Let the children shake the pillows to make the mountain tremble.

Say: **Then there was a trumpet blast that got louder and louder, and then God spoke! Let's make a trumpet sound like that, and then we'll hear what God said.** Lead the children in pretending to hold trumpets and blow them.

Read aloud Exodus 20:1-8. Then have kids form four groups, and number the groups one through four. Give each group one of the pieces of paper you prepared earlier, and set out the supplies.

Check that kids understand each commandment you read. Then say: **Each group will draw a picture to show what one of the commandments we just heard means. Group One, you take the first commandment: God said we should have no other gods before him. Group Two, the second commandment: We should not worship idols. Group three: We should not misuse God's name. Group four: We should keep the Sabbath holy.** Show kids the "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) so kids have a reminder for the first four commandments.

Circulate around the room to help kids as they decide what to draw. For example, for the first, they could create a big number one with "God" written on it. For the second, they could draw things that could be idols to people and then draw a circle around those things with a slash through it. For the third, they could draw something they can



To the Mountain! Supplies

Bible
scissors
paper
pillows
crayons
tape

Teacher Pack

"Ten Commandments"
poster
Bible Timeline
"God Gives the Ten
Commandments"
(from the Big Bible
Poster Pack)

To the Mountain! Easy Prep

Cut 4 pieces of paper to be the same size as the blank squares on the "Ten Commandments" poster. Create a "mountain" of pillows.





do to use God's name in a good way, such as telling a friend about God or praying. For the fourth, they could draw a picture of things they do on the Sabbath that make God happy, like going to church, praying, or reading the Bible.

When groups are finished, let each share their drawings and tape them to the first four spots on the "Ten Commandments" poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Explain which of these commandments is the hardest for you to follow.

What are some ways you can get God's help with obeying him?

Why do you think it's important that we obey God's commandments?

Why do you want to honor God in what you do and say?

Say: **God loves us so much—that's why he gave us commandments. He knows what we need and what's best for us, so he gave us the commandments to help us have better lives. We can trust God and the things he asks of us. We want to do what God asks because we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

How to Honor God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. And we want to honor God because we love him and we know he loves and cares for us. Our Key Verse reminds us to love God, too.**

Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." That means that God wants us to love him with all we have.** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Let's use motions to help us remember how God asks us to love him. Lead children in saying the verse and motioning in the following way:

"Love the Lord your God (*point up*)

With all your heart (*put hand to heart*)

And with all your soul (*hug self*)

And with all your strength" (*make muscles*)

(Deuteronomy 6:5). (*make an open book with hands*)

How to Honor God Supplies

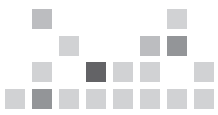
Bible
My Bible Fun
pens
2 red chenille wires per
child
several pairs of scissors
hole punch

Teacher Pack

"Ten Commandments"
poster

How to Honor God Easy Prep

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



Show the “Ten Commandments” poster. Say: **Each of the commandments we learned about today can help us do what the Key Verse says: love God with all our heart, soul, and strength.**

Point to the picture of each commandment on the poster as you name the commandments. Say: **When we put God first in our lives, when we don’t worship idols but worship only God, when we don’t misuse God’s name, and when we keep the Sabbath day holy, we’re showing our love for God.**

Give each child a Lesson 4 My Bible Fun page, and point out the “What Can I Do?” section. Say: **Circle the pictures that you think show things that honor God.** Allow a minute, and then let kids briefly share which pictures honor God.

Say: **There are a lot of ways we can love and obey God every day. Let’s make a craft to remind us to love and obey God all the time.**

Give each child two red chenille wires. Then distribute scissors, and have kids cut out the four circles in the “Commandment Circles” section of the My Bible Fun page. As kids cut, punch holes in the tops of the circles for them.

Demonstrate how to thread two of the circles onto each of the two chenille wires. Once kids have attached two “Commandment Circles” to each chenille wire, show them how to twist the two chenille wires together at both ends. Let the children tell the first four commandments.

Say: **Remember, when we obey God’s commandments, it’s a way to love God.** Show kids how to bend the wires into the shape of a heart.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are some ways you love God with all you have?
Tell about a time you obeyed God.**





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

How will you show your love for God this week?

Say: **We ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM**, and we show him we love him. God made us, he loves us, and he always takes care of us. Sometimes we forget these things—and when we do, we can also forget why we want to obey. But just as God asked the people in the Bible to obey, he wants us to obey his commands, too, because he knows they're for our best.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**

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

Each morning when you wake up, ask God to help you obey him that day.

Take a day this week to spend with God and your family. Don't do any chores that day—just enjoy your time with each other.

Choose an activity or thing you think might be an idol in your life. Give up that activity or object for a day, and pray to God, telling him you'll worship only him.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God gave us the commandments so we can have good lives. We can show him our love and respect by obeying. This week, let's remember that we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**





Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for loving us enough to give us commands that make our lives better. Pray: **God, we want to love you with our whole hearts.** Have kids put their hands to their hearts. **We want to love you with our whole souls.** Have kids hug themselves. **We want to love you with all our strength.** Have kids make muscles. **Help us show our love for you this week by obeying you.** Invite children to tell God some ways they want to obey God this week. **We want to honor you, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.**





God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2) Exodus 19:16–20:21

First- and second-graders are eager for more independence. In their quest for independence, they may sometimes become defiant and rebellious. While it's important for them to learn independence, it's also important for them to show respect to others while exercising that independence. Use this lesson to help kids understand what respect looks like and why it's important to God.



► Bible Point

God tells us how to respect others.

Key Verse

“Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ ” (Matthew 19:18-19).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will show respect to others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Respect the Leader <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game to learn about respect.		
2 Bible Exploration	More From the Mountain <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Discuss pictures that describe each commandment.	Bible, tape, scissors Teacher Pack: “Respecting Others” card, “Ten Commandments” poster, “God Gives the Ten Commandments” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Cut apart the pictures on the “Respecting Others” card.



Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	I Will Respect Others <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Commit to showing respect during the next week.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, CD player, crayons Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Join the Club! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make badges to remind them to show respect.	My Bible Fun, crayons, several pairs of scissors, tape	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Gives the Ten Commandments

(Part 2) Exodus 19:16–20:21

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Last week’s Bible Background concentrated on the events surrounding the giving of the Ten Commandments, while this week’s concentrates on the commandments themselves. If you haven’t already done so, you may want to read both of them before beginning this lesson.

Commandments With a Purpose

These commandments weren’t given to force the Israelites to follow an arbitrary set of rules. These commands were intended to help the people live their lives to the fullest in relationship with one another.

With the death and resurrection of Jesus, we live no longer under the law but under grace. Jesus said he came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17-18). Certainly we are not bound to follow these laws to try to win God’s favor, but the principles behind the Ten Commandments are valid principles for all time.

Commandments in Two Categories

Over the centuries, scholars have divided the commandments into categories in varying ways. For the purpose of these studies, we’re dividing them into two sections. The first four commandments have to do with our relationship with God; the last six have to do with our relationships with others.

God’s Commandments Establish Priorities

The commandments regarding our relationship with God clearly spell out the priority and honor that he is to hold in our lives. How often—even in the Christian community—do we let other things come before our relationship with God?

One commandment that is often taken too lightly,

especially in today’s culture, is the instruction not to misuse God’s name. To use it in swearing or frivolously in joking is not appropriate. How we use God’s name directly reflects how we feel about God. He and his name are worthy of all the honor we can muster!

The commandments regarding our relationships with others (Exodus 20:12-17) give us lots of guidance on how to respect others. Though even our Christian culture can fail to take many of these commands seriously, living by them gives people the honor and respect due them as unique creations of God. No matter what we see around us, we must hold true to these principles if we are to honor God and respect others the way God intends.

The Jesus Connection

As our relationship with Jesus grows, we can begin to see this world and other people through his eyes of unconditional love. We will enjoy fellowship more—and others will see Jesus’ presence in our lives.

God wants us to alter our lives to reflect our Savior who loves us enough to die for us. It’s easy to get distracted, even by good things, and we can get caught up trying to be like other Christians more than we try to be like Jesus himself.

God loves his creation so much that he gave us commandments to help preserve it and glorify him. God’s greatest creation is humanity—and we are surrounded by it. Every person you have contact with today gives you an opportunity to glorify God by lifting up his greatest creation—people. At the end of the day, take note of who God blessed through you and how you were blessed in his service. You can write your prayer in the space below.





1 GETTING STARTED

Respect the Leader

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Let's play a game that's kind of like Follow the Leader.** Have kids get in one big circle. Invite one child to be the first leader. Have the leader stand in the center of the circle.

Say: **The leader will choose one person to do or say something nice to another person in our group. For example, the leader could say, "Tell your neighbors something you like about them" or "Shake one neighbor's hand."** After the leader gives one instruction, he or she must appoint a new leader by spinning around three times with one arm outstretched and the index finger pointing out. Whoever the leader is pointing to when he or she stops will be the new leader (as long as it's someone new). Play until everyone has a chance to be the leader.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to have to do what the leader told you?
What were you thinking as you did nice things for your neighbors?
How is that like or unlike how God wants us to treat others?**

Say: **In our game, our friends told us how to be nice to others. Like that, ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. Today we'll learn the Ten Commandments that have to do with respecting others. Let's see what those commandments are!**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

More From the Mountain

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 19, and show kids the passage. Say: **► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. He wants us to do this because he knows it's what's best for us.**

More From the Mountain Supplies

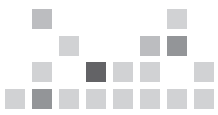
Bible
tape
scissors

Teacher Pack

"Respecting Others"
card
"Ten Commandments"
poster
"God Gives the Ten
Commandments"
poster (from the Big
Bible Poster Pack)

More From the Mountain Easy Prep

Cut apart the pictures
on the "Respecting
Others" card.



Show the “God Gives the Ten Commandments” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), and say: **God gave Ten Commandments to us. The first four have to do with honoring him, and the other six have to do with respecting each other. What do you think it means to respect someone?** Let several children answer.

Say: **When we respect someone, we treat that person nicely. We treat that person the way we would want to be treated. But let’s get more specific.**

Read aloud Exodus 20:13-17. Then have kids form six groups, and give each group one of the pictures from the “Respecting Others” card.

Say: **Look at your group’s picture and talk about what you think is happening in the picture.** Allow time.

Show the “Ten Commandments” poster. Briefly mention the first four commandments.

Say: **The fifth commandment tells us to honor our fathers and mothers.** Invite one child from the group with this card to share what his or her group discussed.

Ask:

**What do you think it means to honor your father and your mother?
What’s easy or hard about always obeying your parents?**

Say: **It’s not always easy to obey our parents, but obeying them is part of honoring them. God promises us that we’ll “live long in the land” if we obey this commandment. So it must be really important to God for us to honor our parents.** Invite the children to tell specific ways they can honor their parents. Then choose a child to attach the “Honor your father and mother” card to the “Ten Commandments” poster.

Say: **The next commandment tells us to not hurt others. In fact, this commandment says we shouldn’t kill anyone.**

Ask:

What kinds of things hurt others?

Say: **God wants us to control our anger and be nice to others. He knows that’s what’s best for us.** Invite the children to tell specific ways they can avoid hurting others. Then choose a child to attach the “Do not hurt others” card to the “Ten Commandments” poster.

Say: **The seventh commandment tells us not to commit adultery. God wants married people to be faithful to each other. He wants them to care for each other and treat each other with respect. You’re a little young to worry about being married right now, so let’s go on to the next commandment.**

Choose a child to attach the “Do not commit adultery” card to the “Ten Commandments” poster.





Say: **Our next commandment tells us not to steal. When we take something that doesn't belong to us, that's called stealing. God gives each of us good gifts, and he doesn't want us to take what belongs to someone else.**

Ask:

How can not stealing show respect for God?

Choose a child to attach the “Do not steal” card to the “Ten Commandments” poster.

Say: **The ninth commandment tells us not to lie. Okay, now be honest—you don't have to raise your hands or answer out loud—just think of your answer to this question: How many of you have ever lied? Pause.**

Say: **Lying can be an easy thing for some people to do. When you don't want to get in trouble or you don't want to do something, it can be a temptation to just lie your way out of it. But lying makes God very sad.**

Ask:

**How do you think lying could hurt someone?
How is lying not showing respect to someone?**

Choose a child to attach the “Do not lie” card to the “Ten Commandments” poster.

Say: **The last commandment tells us not to covet. That means God doesn't want us to be jealous about things other people have. To covet means you think a lot about that thing the other person has and wish you had it instead of them. God wants us to be thankful for everything he gives us, and he wants us to be happy when he gives others good gifts.**

Ask:

**Tell about something you wanted that belonged to someone else.
What might you think or feel if someone wanted something you have?
How might coveting keep you from respecting others?**

Choose a child to attach the “Do not covet” card to the “Ten Commandments” poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.** These commandments we've heard today give us great ways to show respect to others. Even though God gave them to the Israelites a long time ago, God still wants us to obey them today. Even today, they help us live good lives, full of joy.





3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

I Will Respect Others

What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning that ► **GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. And in our Key Verse, Jesus himself repeats the commandments we've talked about today. Let's look at the verse together.**

Distribute Bibles, and help kids find Matthew 19:18-19. Read the verses aloud as kids follow along in their Bibles. Have the kids repeat the verses with you several times: “**‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ ” (Matthew 19:18-19).**

Set out crayons. Give each child a Lesson 5 My Bible Fun page, and point out the “I Will Respect Others” section. Say: **Think about our Key Verse. What are some specific ways you can show respect to others?** Allow time.

Say: **Choose one way that you feel God wants you to show respect to others this week, and draw a picture to remind yourself.** Here are some ideas if kids are stumped:

- Listen to your parents without talking back or complaining.**
- Sincerely apologize to someone you hurt. Then do your best not to hurt that person this week.**
- Tell each of your family members something you like about them.**
- Tell the truth all week, even if it's scary.**

Play “Praise Him” (track 6 on the CD) as kids are working. A copy of the lyrics can be found at the end of the lesson.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

In what way does following God's commands help you?

Say: ► **GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS because he made us and he knows what's best for us. Let's do our best to respect others this week by doing what God and Jesus ask us to do.**



I Will Respect Others Supplies

- Bibles
- My Bible Fun
- CD player
- crayons
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Praise Him”
(track 6)

I Will Respect Others Easy Prep

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





Join the Club! Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons
several pairs of scissors
tape

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

Join the Club!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **You've heard all the Ten Commandments today. And we talked about the six commandments that remind us that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. Let's make a craft to remind us to obey God's commands.**

Point out the "Join the Club!" activity on the My Bible Fun page. Have kids write their names on the badges. Then let kids cut out the badges. Help kids tape the badges to their clothing. Gather everyone in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Welcome to the Ten Commandments Club! You've learned all 10 of the commandments God gave Moses that day on Mount Sinai. Wear your badge this week to remind you of what you decided to do this week to show respect to someone.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.**

As this week's Daily Challenge, try to follow through on showing respect to someone in the way you drew on your My Bible Fun page.

Tell the kids how you'll show respect to someone. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **In the Bible, we can find the Ten Commandments, the things God tells us so our lives can honor him and we can be filled with his joy. Let's remember that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS as we follow through on our Daily Challenge.**



Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for caring enough about us to give us his commandments. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for teaching us through the Ten Commandments what we need to do to show respect to you and others. Please help us remember your commandments and always respect you and other people. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Praise Him**

Praise him; praise him.
Praise him in the morning;
Praise him in the noontime.

Praise him; praise him.
Praise him when the sun goes down.

Love him; love him.
Love him in the morning;
Love him in the noontime.

Love him; love him.
Love him when the sun goes down.

Serve him; serve him.
Serve him in the morning;
Serve him in the noontime.

Serve him; serve him.
Serve him when the sun goes down.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**! OK
■ TO COPY**





The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf Exodus 32:1-25

First- and second-graders can understand worship only in a limited sense; it's much easier for them to understand the concept of love. As children grow in their understanding of who God is and how much he loves them, their natural response will be one of worship. Use this lesson to help kids understand that although they can't see God, they can still be sure of his loving presence.



► **Bible Point**
Only God deserves our worship.

Key Verse
"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).


Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will worship God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Character Catch <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game as they name characteristics and actions of God.	ball	
2 Bible Exploration	Let's Wait! <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Practice waiting to see how the Israelites might've felt.	Bible, stopwatch	
	We Can't Wait <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Learn how the Israelites made a golden calf.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	The Golden Calf <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn why it's important that we worship only God.	Bible, caramel popcorn, napkins, 2 small plastic bags per child, rubber bands, antibacterial gel (optional)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Worship Action <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Worship God through singing and creating collages of reasons to worship God.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson), construction paper, several pairs of scissors, crayons, glue Teacher Pack: CD, "Mobile Patterns"</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Punch out the shapes on the "Mobile Patterns" card.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-25

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Out of Sight

.....

Moses was up on the mountain for a long time receiving all the laws from God—almost six weeks (Exodus 24:18)! It's likely that the Israelites feared Moses had perished on the mountain. Since he had been their main contact with God, they may have reasoned that they had lost contact with God, too.

The Hebrews spent more than 400 years seeing “gods” in Egypt, and now they’d been asked to serve and follow a God they couldn’t see. For the majority of the time they’d known God, he’d had personal relationships with individuals among them. They may not have realized God was interested in each of them individually and as an entire community.

They’d been camped in the same place for six weeks and were likely getting anxious to move on. They couldn’t even see God’s representative, so they fell back on what they were familiar with and asked for a god they could see who would continue to lead them.

What Was Aaron Thinking?

.....

Aaron’s willingness to go along suggests that he, too, had some doubt about Moses’ return. However, some believe that Aaron’s request for gold earrings was an attempt to avert the people’s desire for a god. If they realized they had to give up things of value, they might decide they didn’t really want a golden god after all. If that was Aaron’s intent, his attempt failed.

After making the idol, Aaron’s proclamation was that there’d be a “festival to the Lord.” The name translated Lord (Yahweh) is the name by which God had announced himself to Moses at the burning bush. Apparently, Aaron thought that this idol could somehow represent the true God. Regardless of his motives, Aaron was wrong in making the idol.

He led the people in disobeying God’s second commandment (Exodus 20:4).

In talking to Moses, Aaron tried to make it seem as if he had no choice and that the fire itself had mysteriously shaped the calf. God’s sparing of Aaron in this situation was certainly an example of his mercy and grace.

The Jesus Connection

.....

We are surrounded by things that promise to bring us immediate pleasure and satisfaction. Many of these promises are deceitful, leading to destruction. But even God’s blessings themselves can distract us from our true calling of worshipping God. Jesus came to offer the only thing that’s truly worth having. Take a moment to write a prayer revealing your heart’s desire to follow God and asking for his help in dislodging some things that might be stealing your worship away from God.





Character Catch Supplies

ball

1 GETTING STARTED

Character Catch

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone in a circle.

Say: **Let's think about what God is like. I'll roll a ball to someone in the circle. When the ball comes to you, say something about what God is like or something God does. For example, you might say, "God is strong" or "God loves me." When you've said something, roll the ball to someone else. Each person will name something about God. I'll start. Ready?**

Name something about God, and then gently roll the ball to someone in the circle. If necessary, help the child think of a characteristic or action of God. Then encourage him or her to roll the ball to someone else. As kids roll the ball around the circle, help them think of characteristics and actions of God.

Ensure every child gets at least one turn. Continue until children seem to be running out of ideas.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's your favorite thing about God?**
- What are some ways we worship God?**
- Why does God deserve our worship?**

Say: **No one else is like God. And because of who God is and what he does, ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP. It's important that we don't worship anyone or anything else besides the real God. Today we'll hear about some people who worshipped something besides God. Let's hear what happened.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Let's Wait!

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 32:1-25, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn that God tells us not to worship anything or anyone except him.**

The Bible tells us that God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments to protect them and make their lives healthy and good. Let kids share some of the commandments if they remember any. Mention "You shall have no other gods before me" if it's not mentioned.

Say: **God actually gave the Israelites' leader, Moses, the commandments so he could tell them to his people. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments when he was on the top of a mountain. But Moses was up there for a long time, and while the people were waiting and waiting for him to come back, they started getting really tired of waiting. Let's play a waiting game to see how they might've felt.**

Explain that kids will close their eyes. When you say "go," kids should start silently waiting until they think a minute has passed. When they think a minute has passed, they can raise their hands and open their eyes, but they should still be silent in case other kids are still waiting. Give the starting signal. Use a stopwatch or a clock with a second hand to time one minute. After one minute, call time.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking as you waited in this game?**
- Tell about a time you waited for something for what seemed like a long time.**
- Why might God ask us to wait sometimes?**

Say: **Sometimes when we're waiting for something, it seems to take forever to get here. Maybe that's how the Israelites felt as they waited for Moses to come down from the mountain. In fact, they got so tired of waiting that they decided that maybe Moses wasn't coming back, and they decided to make an idol to worship. We might feel impatient for God to do things at times, too, but ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** Let's hear what happened with the Israelites.



Let's Wait! Supplies

Bible
stopwatch





We Can't Wait Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We Can't Wait"
(track 7)

The Golden Calf Supplies

Bible

caramel popcorn

napkins

2 small plastic bags per
child

rubber bands

antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

We Can't Wait

What You'll Do

Say: **The Israelites really did have to wait for a long time. Let's hear more about what they did when they got tired of waiting.**

Play "We Can't Wait" (track 7 on the CD).

Say: **Think about the Israelites and all their complaints. What kinds of things do you get impatient about?** Let several children answer. After each child answers, have the whole group give a big groan.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to hear everyone groan and complain?
What do you think about what the Israelites did?
Why is God the only one you want to worship?**

Say: **The Israelites got so impatient that they tried to make their own god, and they worshipped that pretend god. But the truth is that our God is the only true God. And ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP. He made us—not the other way around! We worship God because he's wonderful, he takes care of us, and he's the only true God.**

The Golden Calf

What You'll Do

Say: **God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, but the Israelites seemed to forget that pretty quickly! Now they were tired of waiting for Moses, and they wanted a new god—one they made themselves. As silly as that sounds, that's what they wanted. Let's see what they did.**

Give each child two small plastic bags. Help kids put a bag on each of their hands. Secure the bags on kids' hands with loose-fitting rubber bands.

Say: **Here's how Aaron and the Israelites thought they could make their own god. First, Aaron told all the people to give him their gold earrings. We don't have gold earrings, but we do have gold caramel popcorn.** Give each child some caramel popcorn on a napkin.

Say: **Then Aaron took all of the earrings, and he melted the gold together. He made a golden calf, or baby cow, out of the melted gold.** Have each child try to make a cow shape by squashing the popcorn together or by laying it out on the napkin. Then let kids take the bags off their hands, but have them wait to eat until you tell them to.





Say: **Our Key Verse today tells us that our God is the only one we should worship. Let's look at that passage.** Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show it to kids. Read the verse aloud: **"You shall have no other gods before me."** Lead kids in repeating the verse with you several times: **"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that God wants us to worship only him. But the Israelites sure didn't obey that! When the people saw the golden calf, they decided to have a festival to celebrate and worship it. This made God very angry because** ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** He told Moses to go down the mountain because the people were worshipping a golden calf. Thank the children for waiting, have them clean their hands, and allow them to eat the popcorn on their napkins.

Say: **Moses went down the mountain and saw the people. Moses was so mad that he took the golden calf and burned it. Then he ground the pieces of gold into a powder and put the powder into water. Then Moses made the people drink the water with the gold powder in it.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain whether you think the golden calf you made was worth worshipping.
- Why might it be hurtful to the people for them to worship an idol rather than God?
- Why is worshipping God different from worshipping the golden calf?

Say: ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** There are no other gods, and it's wrong to worship anything or anyone other than God. It's also silly to worship something else—just like it would be silly for us to worship the popcorn cows. Instead, we worship our awesome God. Let's do that now!

3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Worship Action

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's act on what we've learned today and worship God together. Remember,** ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP,** so let's focus on him, telling him how much we love him. Let's begin by singing a worship song.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Praise Him" (track 6 on the CD). Lead children in singing and worshipping God as they choose. You may want to sing the song several times as the children get to know the lyrics.



Worship Action Supplies


- My Bible Fun
- CD player
- 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
- construction paper
- several pairs of scissors
- crayons
- glue
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Praise Him" (track 6)
- "Mobile Patterns"

Worship Action Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Punch out the shapes on the "Mobile Patterns" card.





 Praise him; praise him.
Praise him in the morning;
Praise him in the noontime.

Praise him; praise him.
Praise him when the sun goes down.

Love him; love him.
Love him in the morning;
Love him in the noontime.

Love him; love him.
Love him when the sun goes down.

Serve him; serve him.
Serve him in the morning;
Serve him in the noontime.

Serve him; serve him.
Serve him when the sun goes down.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Give each child a Lesson 6 My Bible Fun page, and point out the “Why We Worship” section. Say: **What are some things God has done for you? For example, maybe God protected you when you were afraid, or maybe he gave your family something when you really needed it.** Allow time for several kids to share their ideas.

Set out colored construction paper, scissors, glue, crayons, and shapes from the “Mobile Patterns” sheet. Have kids make collages on the “Why We Worship” section of their My Bible Fun pages. They can use the shapes and construction paper to trace and cut out many shapes.

When kids finish, encourage them to display their collages for everyone.

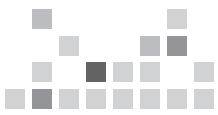
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like for you to worship God today?
What does it mean to worship God each day?**

Say: **The Israelites wanted to worship someone or something, so they made a silly golden calf to worship. But no one else is like God. Because of who God is and what he does, ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** Take your collage home with you. It can remind you why God deserves our worship.



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.**

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

- Sing a song to God each night before you go to bed.**
- Teach a friend or neighbor a worship song, and then worship God together.**
- Pray with your family members at dinnertime, and ask God to give you each a sincere heart to worship him.**

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites worshipped something they made, and sometimes we can worship silly things, too. But let's remember this week that ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

If time allows, let the children sing a short worship song they all know and love. Then take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he's the only true God. Pray: **God, we know that only you deserve our worship. Help us remember that this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun pens



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Praise Him**

Praise him; praise him.
Praise him in the morning;
Praise him in the noontime.

Praise him; praise him.
Praise him when the sun goes down.

Love him; love him.
Love him in the morning;
Love him in the noontime.

Love him; love him.
Love him when the sun goes down.

Serve him; serve him.
Serve him in the morning;
Serve him in the noontime.

Serve him; serve him.
Serve him when the sun goes down.

(Repeat from the beginning.)


OK
TO COPY



The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

First- and second-graders crave attention and positive feedback from adults. Use this natural inclination to please, to teach kids that they can honor God in everything they do. Use this lesson to help kids see that although they're young, they can still serve God in big ways.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Service Tour <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Tour the church, and look for different ways people serve God.	large sheet of paper, marker	
2 Bible Exploration	Different but Equal <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn how the Israelites worked together to build the Tabernacle.	Bible, CD player, 1 small and 2 large cardboard boxes, masking tape, construction paper Teacher Pack: CD, "Tabernacle Plans" poster, "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	
	In All You Do <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, sing a song, and discover what it means to do things for Jesus.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, pencils, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **Bible Point**
We all can serve God.

Key Verse
"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will use their talents to serve God.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Difference Necklaces <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make necklaces with a variety of beads that represent the differences between them.	thin string, scissors, different beads for each child (as many beads per child as children in your group)	Cut a 20-inch length of thin string for each child. Tie a large knot in one end of each length so beads won't fall off.
	Filling the Toolboxes <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Depict special tools they can use to serve God.	My Bible Fun, crayons, several pairs of scissors, yarn, glue, construction paper	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Fun	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Generous Offerings

.....

It was time for the Israelites to build a portable dwelling place for the worship of God. When Moses asked for contributions, the people gave generously. Apparently the events of the previous months inspired them to give to God. They may have realized how they had wronged God in worshipping the golden calf and wanted to do what they could to make amends for the damage done. They gave so generously that eventually they had to be told to stop bringing more materials (Exodus 36:6-7)!

One might wonder where these former slaves got gold and fine cloth to donate to the Tabernacle. The answer lies in the generosity of the Egyptians as the Israelites were escaping. God told the Hebrews to ask for things from the Egyptians; the Egyptians responded with silver, gold, and clothing (Exodus 12:35-36).

Talented Workers

.....

Not only did the Hebrews give things, but they gave time and talents as well. This passage singles out Bezalel and Oholiab as the leaders of the workers and also mentions women skilled in spinning goat hair (Exodus 35:26) and other skilled and willing people (Exodus 36:2).

Willing Worship

.....

What can we learn from this event? Serving God involves all kinds of different tasks and abilities. If you can't build a structure, maybe you can spin cloth. If you can't sing, maybe you can tell a co-worker about Jesus. Each one of us has God-given abilities and spiritual gifts. God wants us to use what he's given us to serve and honor him in whatever ways we can. God can use anyone to serve him and to further his

kingdom here on earth. The only thing stopping our service to him is ourselves.

The Jesus Connection

.....

Our relationship with Jesus gives us daily opportunities to serve him. He is our friend, our Creator, and our Savior. Service is a choice we make on a daily basis. But how often do you analyze your motives for serving? Wrong motives can rob us of blessings and limit our effectiveness in service.

For the Christian, service comes out of thankfulness for salvation and devotion to honor our Creator. If we are not serving for those reasons, perhaps we're really self-serving. Write a prayer here asking God to refine and hone your heart as you serve today and each day going forward.





Service Tour Supplies

large sheet of paper
markers

1 GETTING STARTED

Service Tour

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we're going on a tour of the church. We'll stop and talk about what people do in several rooms. As we take our tour, think about how the different people serve God in our church. Also remember to respect others by being quiet so they can worship God.**

Lead children on a tour of your church (include the outside of the building if weather permits). Stop at each room, and talk about how different people serve God in that room. For example, nursery teachers serve God by showing babies God's love and letting parents attend worship.

When your tour is complete, return to the meeting area. Invite the children to draw a diagram of your church on a large sheet of paper.

Lead children in recalling some of the things they discovered on your tour, and record their discoveries in the appropriate areas on the diagram of your church.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What surprised you about our tour?

Why do you think there are so many different ways people can serve God?

What are some ways you enjoy serving God?

Say: **No matter who we are, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. God made each of us different, and he has a job for each of us. And no jobs are more important than others. No matter how God made us, we all can honor God in special ways.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Different but Equal

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 35, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. In Exodus, we'll hear about God's people, the Israelites, and how they worked together using their talents and skills to serve God.**

Show "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" poster.

Play "Building the Tabernacle" (track 8 on the CD). Pause the CD when prompted, and say: **What types of things would you be able to do to help build a beautiful building?** Let several children answer. If they struggle to answer, you can suggest ideas such as painting, gathering materials, or making sure the workers have snacks and drinks when they need breaks.

Then say: **Tell about some other people you know who could help build a beautiful building.** Let several children answer. They may mention relatives who are construction workers, plumbers, electricians, seamstresses, or business owners with supplies.

Say: **Let's hear what the Israelites did to help build the Tabernacle. As you listen, choose a motion to pretend you're helping, too.** Check that every child has a motion, such as pretending to hammer, sew, or climb a ladder. Then continue playing "Building the Tabernacle" (track 8 on the CD).

Say: **Everyone has things they're good at, and ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. That's one thing the Israelites learned as they built the Tabernacle. Let's work together to build a tabernacle of our own.**

Hang the "Tabernacle Plans" poster where everyone can see it. Set out one small and two large cardboard boxes, construction paper, and masking tape. If you have a large group, split your children into groups of 10 or fewer children and have them work in their groups to build separate tabernacles, and adjust your supplies accordingly.

Say: **As we work together to create our tabernacle, everyone can help. Remember, we all have something to give to God's work. The poster on the wall will tell us the four things we need to do in order to build our tabernacle. Let's work together.**

Encourage kids to work cooperatively as they build a tabernacle. Help them follow the four steps illustrated on the poster: creating the base of the building, making the ark of the covenant, installing the roof, and then finishing with a courtyard. Be sure all children participate in some way. As kids work, remind them that they're working together just as the Israelites worked together to build the Tabernacle.



Different but Equal Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- 1 small and 2 large cardboard boxes
- masking tape
- construction paper

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Building the Tabernacle" (track 8)
- "Tabernacle Plans" poster
- "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





When the tabernacle is complete, have kids clean up any leftover materials and then step back and form a circle around what they created.

Say: **Look at that! These are the results of your hard work together. Each of you helped build the tabernacle in your own special way, just as the Israelites did. And each of you can serve God in your own special way.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How did you use your talents to serve God in our activity today?

Tell about another time you served God.

What are some ways you think God wants you to serve in your family this week?

Say: **We all had an opportunity to serve as we built our tabernacle today. God gives each one of us special talents that we can use to serve him. In fact, God wants us to serve him in everything we do. This week as we remember that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, let's try to serve our families and all those around us.**

In All You Do

In All You Do Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
CD player
pencils
1 copy per child of the
lyrics page (at the end
of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Whatever You
Do" (Colossians 3:17)
(track 9)

In All You Do Easy Prep

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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Israelites used their skills to serve God, and we can, too. In fact, our Key Verse helps us think more about that.**

Open your Bible to Colossians 3:17, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today tells us to use those skills to serve God in everything we do. It says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).**

We have a song today that will help us remember the words to our Key Verse. I'll play it for you, and then we can all sing together.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Whatever You Do" (Colossians 3:17) (track 9 on the CD) through once or twice. Then lead kids in singing and doing the motions.

🎵 **Whatever, whatever,** (*wave hands in front of self*)
What-what-what-what whatever. (*wave hands in front of self*)
Whatever, whatever, (*wave hands in front of self*)
What-what-what-what whatever. (*wave hands in front of self*)

(Verse)

And whatever you do, (*wave hands in front of self*)

Whether in word or deed, (*touch finger to mouth and then to hand*)





Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

And whatever you do, *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whether in word or deed, *(touch finger to mouth and then to hand)*
Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him. *(touch heart and then point up)*

(Repeat verse 3x.)

Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*

“Whatever You Do” (Colossians 3:17) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Our Key Verse says, “whatever you do,” just as our song did.** Invite the children to tell some things they do every day. Then give each child a pencil and a Lesson 7 My Bible Fun page, and point out the “In All You Do” activity.

Say: **Look at the first two pictures. In both pictures, the boy is raking the yard. But he has a different attitude in each picture. Draw a circle around the picture in which the boy looks like he’s serving God.**

Give kids a few moments to circle, and then have kids explain their choices. Repeat the same process for the second picture.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

As we said our Key Verse and sang our song, what things were you thinking about in your life?

Tell some things you do, like we saw in the pictures, that you can do “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Why do you want to serve God with a joyful attitude?

Say: **The Bible tells us to do everything as if we’re doing it for the Lord. That means that even if we’re doing something that we’d rather not be doing, like picking up our toys, we do it cheerfully because we know God always takes care of us. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD like that!**





Difference Necklaces Supplies

thin string
scissors
different beads for each
child (as many beads
per child as children in
your group)

Difference Necklaces Easy Prep

Cut a 20-inch length
of thin string for each
child. Tie a large knot in
one end of each length
so beads won't fall off.

Filling the Toolboxes Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons
several pairs of scissors
yarn
glue
construction paper

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Difference Necklaces

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's make necklaces to remind us ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, just as the Israelites did when they built the Tabernacle.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Give each person a piece of string. Distribute beads to all the children, giving each child a different type of bead. Each child will need as many beads as there are children in the group.

Say: **Let's make necklaces together. Place one of your beads on your piece of string. Then pass the string to the person on your right. As you receive a string from the person on your left, place one of your beads on that person's necklace. Then pass that necklace to the right. We'll continue to do this until everyone has added a bead to every other person's necklace.**

Help kids tie the ends of their necklaces together.

Say: **Look at our necklaces. They're all the same, but they also show us how different we are. Each person added something special to each necklace, just as ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD in our own special ways.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you like about your necklace?

Tell about some unique talents or things you like about yourself.

What are some ways you can serve God with those specific things you mentioned?

Say: **God made each of us unique, and ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD with our unique personalities and talents. We can be thankful for who God made us to be and how he wants to use us. When the Israelites built the Tabernacle, they all put in what they could. This week, let's work together with others and put in what we can in the name of Jesus.**

Filling the Toolboxes

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Direct children to the "Service Toolbox" picture on their My Bible Fun page.





Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** And we all have special tools we can use to do that. Let's think about some of the tools we can use to serve God. Encourage kids to brainstorm ideas.

Say: Use these craft supplies to fill the toolbox with "tools" you have that you can use to serve God. For example, if you're a friendly person, you could use the yarn to make a smile in your toolbox. Or you might write the name of someone you could invite to church. Or if you get an allowance, maybe you can cut out some "coins" from the construction paper and glue them in your toolbox. Or maybe you could write about singing a song at church.

As children work, help them think of ideas, such as greeting visitors, giving money in the offering, or helping others clean up the church. Encourage kids to think of things they're good at, and then ask them how they can use those talents to serve God. Kids can draw, write, use craft supplies, or cut out pictures to fill their toolboxes.

When kids finish, ask willing kids to explain their toolboxes to the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are some of the ways our toolboxes are alike or different?
Why do you think we all have such different tools?**

Say: If we all had the same exact talents and skills, it'd be hard to get things done. That's a reason God made all of us unique, kind of like how we made our toolboxes different. We can all work together to get things done, and God gives us all special purposes. ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD,** just as the Israelites did.

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

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

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

Ask a parent to help you donate some of your clothes to a local shelter, and thank God for helping you serve him.

Help your mom or dad set the table for dinner, and tell her or him that God wants us to serve him.

Invite a new friend to church with you, and let him or her know that God loves us all.



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Fun
pens





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Fun

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **We all have the tools to honor God in all we do. Let's use those tools this week. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for making us each unique. Invite each child to find something in his or her toolbox that he or she wants to pray over. Have each child point to that thing so everyone can see, and then take a moment while kids pray silently for God's help with serving him using that "tool" this week. Then pray: **God, thank you so much for giving us these tools. Thank you for making it possible for all of us to honor you. Help us use these tools to serve you. Show us how we can all honor you in special ways. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Lyrics ■■■■

Whatever You Do (Colossians 3:17)

Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*

(Verse)
And whatever you do, *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whether in word or deed, *(touch finger to mouth and then to hand)*
Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

And whatever you do, *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whether in word or deed, *(touch finger to mouth and then to hand)*
Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him. *(touch heart and then point up)*

(Repeat verse 3x.)

Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*


"Whatever You Do" (Colossians 3:17) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

First- and second-graders are, by nature, self-centered. The children in your group want to be first at all times, so it might seem foreign to them to think about being brave for God and standing up for him. Use this lesson to help children see that they are very important to God and that God wants them to be brave for him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Loyal Following <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play Follow the Leader, and talk about standing up for God.</p>		
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Canaan Treasures <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Hear about how Moses sent spies into Canaan, and go on a hunt to find treasures in a new land.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, scissors, paper, pencils Teacher Pack: CD, “Canaan Treasures” cards</p> 	<p>Cut apart the pictures on the “Canaan Treasures” cards. Hide the pictures in another area of the church where they’ll be undisturbed until kids find them.</p>
	<p>The Final Report <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear what the spies reported from their trip to Canaan, and play a game while hearing the Israelites’ reaction to the spies’ report.</p>	<p>CD player, marker, paper, tape Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Use a bold marker to write “Yes!” on one sheet of paper and “No!” on another sheet of paper. Hang the “Yes!” sign on one wall in your meeting area and the “No!” sign on another wall.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **Bible Point**
Be brave for God.

Key Verse
“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will be brave for God.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Standing Up <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and practice standing up for God in different situations.	Bible, My Bible Fun	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It...

.....

The spies were sent on an exploratory mission. The purpose was to see what kinds of opposition they'd be facing and if the land could support the Israelites as they conquered it. Moses' instructions were clear: They were to explore the land from the southern end all the way to the northern end.

Mission Impossible

.....

When the spies first returned, they simply reported what Moses had asked for. They told of the fruitfulness of the land, the powerful people, and the fortified cities (Numbers 13:26-29). But after Caleb spoke his mind, the other spies went beyond what they had been asked to do. They began to lament that there was no way they could defeat the people in the land. They exaggerated the reports of the size and strength of the land's inhabitants. The people responded by once again rebelling against Moses and against God. Once again God threatened to strike down all the people and begin again with Moses. And once again Moses interceded for the faithless Israelites.

The Faith of a Mustard Seed

.....

Moses pointed out that what the Egyptians had learned about God through their recent experience would be nullified if God allowed the Israelites to die in the desert. Moses wanted everyone, including the Egyptians, to see God's power.

God once again forgave the Israelites. But notice he imposed a harsh punishment: No adults who were alive during the rebellion—except Joshua and Caleb—would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb had faith that God could do

what he said he would. Their faith enabled them to stand up for God, even when it was not the popular thing to do. Although their courage didn't convince anyone else to have faith, they were rewarded.

The Jesus Connection

.....

Jesus Christ stood up for the world through his atoning sacrifice on the cross. Through our relationship with Christ, we can stand up for what we believe and who Jesus is.

Throughout history and all over the world, people have died because they professed a faith in Jesus Christ. While most of us do not experience persecution to this degree, non-Christians can be resentful of our claims to know the truth. These confrontations put Christians in a difficult situation.

Think about non-Christians you regularly come in contact with. Are you the same person with them that you are in front of this Sunday school group you're teaching? On the lines below, write a prayer that you will stand up for Jesus in your interactions with non-Christians.





1 GETTING STARTED

Loyal Following

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Then tell children they're going to play Follow the Leader. Say: **I'll be the leader the first time, and then we'll switch so each person has a chance to be the leader.**

Lead children in playing Follow the Leader. If possible, go outside or to other areas in the building. As you lead, have kids go through a series of silly moves, such as jumping jacks, and more challenging maneuvers, such as crawling under chairs.

After a few minutes, appoint a child to be the leader. Continue to switch leaders every few minutes until everyone has had a chance to be the leader.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to follow each other in this game?

Why does following someone sometimes require us to be brave?

What do you think it means to be brave for God?

Say: **Sometimes when we're following someone, we have to be brave. We have to be brave when we're asked to do something we're not used to doing, and we have to be brave by standing up for that person when others aren't. This week we'll learn how God's people were brave when he told them to do something risky. And we'll learn that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

Canaan Treasures Supplies

Bible
CD player
scissors
paper
pencils

Teacher Pack

CD: "Canaan Spies,
Part 1" (track 10)
"Canaan Treasures"
cards

Canaan Treasures Easy Prep

Cut apart the pictures on the "Canaan Treasures" cards. Hide the pictures in another area of the church where they'll be undisturbed until kids find them.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Canaan Treasures

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Numbers 13, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn how God asked his people, the Israelites, to be brave for him.**





Distribute pencils and paper, and say: **First let's hear what happened. As you listen, jot down one or two things that the spies were supposed to look for.** (If children can't write, encourage them to instead draw quick pictures that can serve as a reminder.)

Play "Canaan Spies, Part 1" (track 10 on the CD). Pause the CD when directed to do so, and ask kids to explain what they'd be most interested in spying on of the four things mentioned.

Continue playing the track. When the track is over, stop the CD and have kids explain what part of Canaan they'd be most excited about, based on what the spies said they found.

Say: **Now that we've heard about the spies in the Bible, let's pretend to be spies and search for some hidden treasures, kind of like the spies did.** Lead kids to the area where you hid the "Canaan Treasures" cards.

Say: **As you pretend to be spies, look for the Canaan treasures. You'll find them on little picture cards that show grapes, a grassy land with trees, a strong man, or a building. Once you've found one, bring it to me.** Encourage kids to find more than one if you have fewer than 20 children. When all the treasures are found, lead kids back to your meeting area.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to find the Canaan treasures you heard about?**
- Tell about a promise someone made to you that came true.**
- How were you brave as you waited for that promise to come true?**
- Why would you want to be brave for God?**

Say: **The spies were excited about the fruit and the land they found in Canaan. But there were some other things about the Promised Land that they weren't so excited about—the people living there at the time. Sometimes as we do what God asks of us while we wait for his promises, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

The Final Report

What You'll Do

Say: **We heard about the brave spies and some of what they found, but we didn't hear much about the scary things in Canaan. Let's listen to their report now. As you listen, think about what sounds scariest to you.**

Play "Canaan Spies, Part 2" (track 11 on the CD). Then let kids share what they thought sounded scariest about Canaan.

Say: **Let's play a game to help us think about what the Israelites may have been going through.** Have children stand in the center of the room. Point out the "No!" and "Yes!" signs hanging in your meeting area.



The Final Report Supplies

- CD player
- marker
- paper
- tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Canaan Spies, Part 2" (track 11)

The Final Report Easy Prep

Use a bold marker to write "Yes!" on one sheet of paper and "No!" on another sheet of paper. Hang the "Yes!" sign on one wall in your meeting area and the "No!" sign on another wall.





Say: I'll describe some people arguing. When you hear me say "yes," run to that side of the room (point to the "Yes!" sign) and stand under the "Yes!" sign. When you hear me say "no," run to that side of the room (point to the "No!" sign) and stand under the "No!" sign. Any questions? Check for understanding.

Say: After the spies told what they'd seen, the people still wondered whether they should move into Canaan. Caleb, one of the spies, said, "Yes! (Pause as kids run to the "Yes!" sign.) Let's move into Canaan. We can do it." Joshua, one of the other spies, agreed with him.

But all the other spies said, "No! (Pause as kids run to the "No!" sign.) No way. We can't attack those people. They're bigger and stronger than we are!"

So all the people became afraid and started to whine and complain. "God brought us all the way to this land, and now we're going to die," they cried. "Maybe we should just go back to Egypt. There we would be safe."

But Moses and Aaron and Caleb and Joshua said, "Yes! (Pause as kids run to the "Yes!" sign.) We can go into Canaan. We don't have to be afraid of those people. We need to be brave for God. God brought us to this land, and he wants us to have it. He's stronger than those people, so if we fight them, we'll win. Be brave for God!"

But the people refused to listen. They said, "No! (Pause as kids run to the "No!" sign.) We won't go!" They became very angry with Moses and Aaron and Caleb and Joshua. And they refused to move into Canaan.

And God became angry with the Israelites because they weren't loyal to him. So God said, "Because these people weren't loyal to me and didn't trust me, they will never go to the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb will get to go to Canaan because they were loyal to me."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to run back and forth as you heard the different arguments?
Tell about a time you weren't sure what to do because you were scared.
How might God help you be brave in a time like that?

Say: Joshua and Caleb trusted God. They remembered how God had led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, and they trusted God's promise to give them this new land of Canaan. They were brave for God when the other spies doubted. Sometimes we face scary things in life that make us feel as if we're running back and forth, like in our game. But we can always do what God says and ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD** because we know he's powerful and he'll help us do anything he asks us to do.





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Standing Up

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning how God wants his people to be brave for him.**

Have children form three groups. Be sure there is at least one strong reader in each group, or read the situations to groups yourself.

Say: **Let's practice being brave for God in some pretend situations. First we'll learn our Key Verse to help us with being brave.**

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 15:58, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today encourages us to be brave. This is what it says: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you."** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you" (1 Corinthians 15:58).**

The Bible tells us to always stand firm for God and to let nothing move us. That means that we can always ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD and not let anyone talk us out of it. It's just like how Joshua and Caleb stood up for God. No matter what the other spies said, Joshua and Caleb were brave because they knew God was bringing them into their Promised Land.

Let's practice standing up for God, just as Joshua and Caleb did. Give each child a Lesson 8 My Bible Fun page, and point out the "Be Brave for God!" activity.

Give each group one of the situations described on the page. If you have mostly first-graders, go from group to group and explain the situations to the children.

Say: **In your group, look at the situation I gave you. Then practice acting out the situation. In a few minutes, we'll act out the situations for each other and try to come up with ways to stand up for God in those situations.** If possible, have an adult leader help each group in this activity.

After a few minutes of reading and practicing their situations, have groups act out the situations for each other.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about the situations we acted out?**
- Tell about a time you had to be brave to do the right thing.**
- Why do you want to be brave for God?**



Standing Up Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun

Standing Up Easy Prep

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





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

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

Lead your family in a prayer, asking God to help each of you be brave for him—no matter what!

Read Daniel 6 with a parent, and discuss ways you can be brave for God in your own life.

Tell a friend who doesn't know God why you follow God.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The spies were scared, but God had asked them to do something that he would give them the strength to do. God asks us to do things, too, and when he does, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Let's do just that as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he's always with us, taking care of us. Let the children share things they want to be brave about this week. Then close the prayer. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for your Son, Jesus, who you sent to help us. Thank you so much for teaching us how to be loyal to you. Like Caleb and Joshua, we want to be brave for you. Please give us the courage to be brave for you when we're afraid. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Balaam's Donkey Talks

Numbers 22:1-38


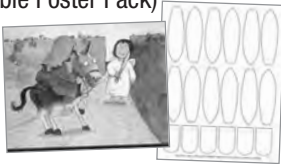
First- and second-graders still face each day with a hefty dose of wonder. They're not old enough yet to be worried about what their peers might think when they express open appreciation for the things in God's amazing world. Use this lesson to nurture this wonder in your children by encouraging them to pay attention to God.



► **Bible Point**
Pay attention to God.


Key Verse
"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf!" (Psalm 66:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will pay attention to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Amazing Stories <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Tell each other about amazing things they've seen or experienced.		
2 Bible Exploration	An Amazing Surprise <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game, and learn about Balaam and his donkey.	Bible Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	
	Donkey Puppets <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Create donkey puppets to hear how God made the donkey talk.	Bible, 1 small paper bag per child, pink and gray construction paper, pencils, scissors, glue, yarn Teacher Pack: "Donkey Stencils," "Balaam's Donkey Talks" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Punch out the shapes on the "Donkey Stencils" page.
	Come and See! <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Talk about some amazing things God has done, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, donkey puppets from the "Donkey Puppets" activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Thank-You Cards <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create thank-you cards to thank God for the amazing things he does.	My Bible Fun, CD player, crayons, pencils Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Fun	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



1 GETTING STARTED

Amazing Stories

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Ask kids to form small groups of three or four. Say: **Take turns telling the other people in your group about something amazing you've seen or experienced. Maybe you've seen an amazing wild animal, or maybe you won a game you didn't think you could win.**

As children are sharing, circulate among the groups, helping them stay on task, listen to one another, and keep their stories concise.

When everyone has had the opportunity to share, ask a few willing children to share short versions of what they talked about. Then ask everyone to come together as a large group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

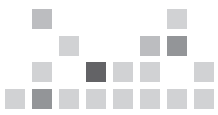
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to see or experience these amazing things?**
- What were you thinking or feeling as you told each other about these amazing things?**
- What did you learn from hearing other people's experiences?**
- What kinds of amazing things does God do?**

Say: **We had some pretty great experiences to share in our group. When amazing things happen, they really do stay with us for a long time. Today we're learning that when we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, we see that God does really amazing things! We'll hear about some amazing things God's people saw when they paid attention to God.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

An Amazing Surprise

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Numbers 22, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we'll learn that the Bible tells us to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. Let's hear what happened with God's people, the Israelites, when they learned just that!**

Show the Bible Timeline, and point out the "Balaam's Donkey Talks" section.

Say: **While the Israelites were traveling to the Promised Land, they stopped near a place called Moab. The people who lived in Moab were afraid when they saw all the Israelites because there were so many! They were afraid the Israelites would take everything they had. So the leader of Moab asked a man named Balaam to come to Moab and say bad things about the Israelites so the Israelites would go away.** Pause and encourage the kids to share what they think about the Moabites' plan so far.

Say: **Remember, the Israelites were God's people, and God had told them to travel in that direction. So God told Balaam not to say bad things about the Israelites because God had blessed them.** Pause and encourage kids to discuss Balaam's choices in this situation and decide what choice seems like the best idea.

Say: **Balaam told the leaders of Moab to leave him alone. They kept asking him, though, so finally God told Balaam, "Go to Moab, but only do what I tell you to do." So Balaam rode his donkey to Moab.**

Let's quietly and slowly travel back and forth across this room just as Balaam traveled to Moab. While you're traveling, be sure to keep listening. Lead children in walking quietly and slowly back and forth across the room as you continue telling what happened.

Say: **God knew that if Balaam saw God's power, it would remind Balaam to obey God. So he sent an angel to stand in Balaam's way as he was traveling to Moab. At first Balaam didn't see the angel standing in the middle of the road in front of him, but his donkey saw the angel. The donkey was surprised, so she turned off the road to avoid the angel.** Instruct children to stop "traveling" and stand in one place.

Say: **This made Balaam angry, so he hit the donkey and kept going.** Instruct children to begin traveling again.

Say: **Again the angel stood in the way, and again the donkey turned to avoid the angel. This time, there was a wall next to the path, so when the donkey turned, she crushed Balaam's foot against the wall.** Instruct children to stop traveling and stand in one place.



An Amazing Surprise Supplies

-
- Bible
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline





Donkey Puppets Supplies

Bible
1 small paper bag per
child
pink and gray
construction paper
pencils
scissors
glue
yarn

Teacher Pack

“Donkey Stencils”
“Balaam’s Donkey
Talks” poster (from the
Big Bible Poster Pack)

Donkey Puppets Easy Prep

Punch out the shapes
on the “Donkey
Stencils” page.

Say: **Balaam was really mad this time, and he hit his donkey again and kept going.** Instruct children to begin traveling again.

Say: **Again the angel stood in the way, but this time there was nowhere for the donkey to go because the path was very narrow. So the donkey lay down!** Instruct children to stop traveling and sit on the floor.

Say: **Well, this made Balaam very angry, and he hit his donkey again.**

Now let’s play a game to think about what happened to the donkey. We’ll take turns traveling across the room like we were before, but this time everyone else will surprise you and try to stop you from traveling, just as the angel did.

Have each child take a turn traveling across the room while the rest of the group tries to stop him or her with surprises. Be sure kids don’t touch each other or intimidate one another. Allow each child to make one trip across the room before someone else takes a turn.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about how God stopped Balaam?

What was it like to be surprised and stopped on your journey?

Tell about a time you or someone you know stopped doing something because of God.

Why is it important to pay attention to God?

Say: **Like it was for Balaam, it’s really important that we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. God does amazing things to show his power, but sometimes if we’re not paying attention, we can miss it at first, or maybe all together. Or God might get us to pay attention kind of like we experienced in our game. God has a plan and purpose for each of us, so we want to listen to him and do what he tells us to do.**

Donkey Puppets

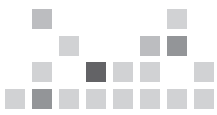
What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We’re learning to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD today. So far we’ve heard how God got Balaam’s attention by putting an angel in the road. But God did something even more amazing than that. He made the donkey talk! Before we hear exactly what happened, let’s make donkey puppets to use as we listen.**

Show the “Balaam’s Donkey Talks” poster.

Give each child a small paper bag. Place a bag on your hand and demonstrate for kids where to put the eyes, noses, mouths, and ears of their donkeys. Show kids how to trace two donkey-ear stencils on gray construction paper and one donkey tongue on pink construction paper. Let kids embellish their puppets with yarn “hair,” too.





After kids finish making their donkeys, gather everyone in a semicircle.

Say: **Every time you hear me say, “And then the donkey said...” have your donkey say, “Heehaw! Heehaw!” Let’s practice.** Lead kids in practicing the response a few times.

Say: **After the third time Balaam hit his donkey, the donkey turned around to look at Balaam. And then the donkey said...**Pause for kids to respond. **“Why did you hit me? What did I do to you?”**

Balaam said to his donkey, “You made a fool of me! If I had a sword, I’d kill you!”

The donkey thought about that for a second or two. And then the donkey said...Pause for kids to respond. **“Am I not your very own donkey?”**

Balaam, who was still very mad, said, “Yes! Of course you’re my very own donkey! What does that have to do with anything?”

And then the donkey said...Pause for kids to respond. **“Well, since I’m your very own donkey, that means that I’m the donkey you’ve always ridden, right? Right up to this very day?”**

And Balaam answered, “Yes! You’re my very own donkey, and you’re the donkey I’ve always ridden. Right up until today. So what?”

And then the donkey said...Pause for kids to respond. **“Think about it, Balaam. I’m your very own donkey, the one that you’ve always ridden. Let me ask you one very important question: Have I done this to you before?”**

Balaam thought for a minute and then said, “Well, no.” Then, all of a sudden, Balaam was able to see the angel standing in the road. The angel was holding a sword and blocking the road. Balaam bowed down before the angel.

The angel asked Balaam, “Why did you hit your donkey? I’ve come here to show you that you should take God seriously. The donkey saw me three times and turned away.”

Say: **Then the donkey said...**Pause for kids to respond. **“That’s right, I did!”**





The angel continued. “Now go on your journey, but make sure you only say what God tells you to say.”

So Balaam went to Moab, realizing that he could do only what God told him to do. When he got there, he didn’t curse the Israelites.

Have kids remove their puppets from their hands.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think about the talking donkey and the angel?
Tell about a way you think God gets your attention or that of someone else you know.**

Say: **When God made Balaam’s donkey talk, he showed Balaam his power. And God does amazing things to show his power to us, too. When we see God do amazing things, let’s stop what we’re doing right away and ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Come and See!

Come and See! Supplies

Bible
donkey puppets from
the “Donkey Puppets”
activity

What You’ll Do

Say: **Today we’re learning to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. We heard how God did amazing things to get Balaam’s attention, and he’ll do amazing things in our lives, too.**

The Bible tells us all kinds of amazing things Jesus did, like healing sick people, bringing people back to life, and feeding thousands of people on a small amount of bread and fish. When Jesus did these things, people paid attention. Let kids talk about other amazing things Jesus did or things Jesus has done in their lives.

Open your Bible to Psalm 66:5, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today is about the amazing things God does. Listen while I read what it says: “Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!” That means God wants us to pay attention to how he does awesome things to take care of us and lead us.** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **“Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!” (Psalm 66:5).**

Then have kids form pairs, and let them practice saying the verse using the donkey puppets. After a minute, let them show the rest of the group what they came up with.





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think or feel about God doing amazing things?
What can you do this week to pay attention to God?**

Say: **We ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD because God loves us. We know that he does amazing things, just like he did with Balaam, and we want to pay attention so we can know how God wants us to respond right away.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Thank-You Cards

What You'll Do

Say: **God does amazing things to get our attention and to take care of us. Let's make thank-you cards for God to let him know we're paying attention and we want to thank him for how he leads us.**

Give each child a pencil, some crayons, and a Lesson 9 My Bible Fun page. Point out the "Thank-You Card" section.

Say: **Think about some amazing things God has done in your life. Maybe he healed a sick relative or helped you make a new friend when you moved to a new place. Write or draw those amazing things on your thank-you card as a way to tell God how much you appreciate what he's done.**

Encourage kids to have fun filling their thank-you cards with pictures or descriptions of amazing things God has done to show his power in their lives. As kids are working, play "Psalm 23" (track 2 on the CD). See the end of this lesson for a copy of the lyrics.

When kids finish drawing or writing, gather everyone in a circle. Invite children to briefly display their cards.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What's helpful about knowing that God is powerful?
How will you thank God for the amazing things he does?**



Thank-You Cards Supplies

- My Bible Fun
- CD player
- crayons
- pencils
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Psalm 23" (track 2)

Thank-You Cards Easy Prep

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





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

Say: **God did amazing things to protect the Israelites, and God does amazing things to protect, take care of, and lead us. When we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, we see these things, and it helps us move ahead in our lives. This week, let's do our best to pay close attention to God and all he's telling us.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

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

When you're in the car, instead of listening to the radio, listen for God.

Remember that God speaks to us no matter where we are.

Use a megaphone or microphone to tell your family members about God's amazing power and how we can follow God when we pay attention to him.

With a parent, read about some of the amazing things Jesus did in Luke 9.

Then ask your parent to tell about something amazing God's done in his or her life.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God spoke to Balaam through an angel after his donkey noticed the angel. God speaks to us, too. Let's remember to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**



Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Have them hold their thank-you cards on the My Bible Fun pages in their laps or their hands as you pray, offering them to God. Thank God that he cares so much about us that he’ll do amazing things to get our attention. Then have kids hold up their cards, and give them a chance to thank God and tell him they’ll pay attention to him this week. Then pray: **God, help us know right away when you’re trying to get our attention. Help us listen and do what you ask. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
My Bible Fun





Lyrics ■■■■

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd. (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
(Repeat 4x.)

The Lord is my shepherd; (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
I shall not be in want. (*shake head no*)

He makes me lie down in green pastures. (*stretch arms out to sides*)

He leads me beside quiet waters. (*wiggle arms*)

He restores my soul. (*touch heart*)

He restores my soul. (*touch heart*)

He guides me in paths of righteousness (*put hand above eyes*)

For his name's sake. (*point up*)

Even though I walk through the valley (*walk in place*)

Of the shadow of death, (*point down*)

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; (*wave hands over and across each other*)

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me! (*put hands on hips and nod*)

You prepare a table before me (*move hand across in front of body with palm up*)

In the presence of my enemies. (*stomp foot*)

You anoint my head with oil; (*touch head*)

My cup overflows. (*lean to the side*)

My cup overflows. (*lean to the side*)

Surely goodness and love will follow me (*touch heart*)

All the days of my life, (*move hand across in front of body with palm up*)

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord (*touch hands above head like a roof*)

Forever, forever! (*shake hands above head*)

The Lord is my shepherd. (*point up, and then pretend to hold a staff*)
(Repeat 4x.)

"Psalm 23" by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Young children acquire much of their self-esteem from feeling capable. However, anything we're capable of doing is because God has made us capable. If we rely on our capabilities to define us, it creates a lie we believe about ourselves and about others. Use this lesson to help children see that their identities are in Jesus, and it's because he's with us that we can do all things.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Shadowy Fun <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Look at their shadows and compare them to God.	large, powerful flashlight	
2 Bible Exploration	New Hero <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Hear about Joshua becoming leader of Israel, and learn how he might have felt.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, markers Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **Bible Point**
God is with us.

Key Verse
"God will be with you wherever you go"
(Joshua 1:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will know that God's always with them.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Comic Book Heroes <i>(about 35 min.)</i> Create a “comic book” of themselves accomplishing God’s plans with God’s help.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, scissors, paper, markers, construction paper, glue, stapler, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, “Comic Book Covers” poster</p> 	<p>Cut apart the segments on the “Comic Book Covers” poster. Cut 5 pieces of paper per child the same size as one “Comic Book Cover.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





Shadowy Fun Supplies

large, powerful
flashlight

New Hero Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
CD player
markers
Teacher Pack
CD: "Joshua Takes
Over" (track 12)

New Hero Easy Prep

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

1 GETTING STARTED

Shadowy Fun

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we'll learn that ► GOD IS WITH US.**

Darken your meeting area somewhat so children will be able to see their shadows. Shine a large, powerful flashlight on them. Point out children's shadows, and encourage them to have fun experimenting with the shadows, making fun shapes and gestures.

Say: **Our shadows stick closely with us when the light is on, but they disappear as soon as the light goes off.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to watch your shadow follow you around?
Explain some ways we might be able to make our shadows go away.
What are some ways you know God is always with you?**

Say: **Unlike our shadows, which disappear as soon as the light goes off, ► GOD IS WITH US—always. Even though we can't see him, God helps us accomplish his plans by being with us. Because he's with us all the time, he gives us strength and courage to do what he wants us to do. In the Bible today, we'll meet someone who God had big plans for. Let's get started!**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

New Hero

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Joshua 1, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn about a plan that God had for a man named Joshua.**



Give each child a marker and a Lesson 10 My Bible Fun page, and point out the “Joshua’s Feelings” section.

Say: **As we listen today, we’ll stop a few times. When we stop, you’ll draw on your My Bible Fun page what Joshua could’ve looked like at that time. Are you ready? Let’s listen!**

Play “Joshua Takes Over” (track 12 on the CD). Pause the CD as directed on the track, and encourage children to record on the faces on the “Joshua’s Feelings” section of their student pages what they think Joshua could’ve looked like at that point.

Say: **Moses, the leader of the Israelites, died because he grew very old. After his death, God told Joshua that Joshua would be the leader of the Israelites now, and he would take them into the Promised Land.** Have kids tell about different times they’ve been leaders in their lives. Maybe they led a game or are leaders with their siblings at home.

Say: **God didn’t leave Joshua to lead the people on his own. God told Joshua he would be with him. God promised he would help Joshua and the Israelites conquer the land of Canaan so they could live there. God said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What might’ve been scary about becoming the leader of God’s people?
Tell about someone or something you might feel hesitant to lead.
How might knowing God’s always with you help you?**

Say: **Just as God was with Joshua, ► GOD IS WITH US. God helps us accomplish his plans every day. And since we can trust God to be with us all the time, we don’t have to be afraid. Let’s talk a little more about God’s help.**

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Comic Book Heroes

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **It’s awesome to know that ► GOD IS WITH US, no matter what, just as he was with Joshua. Today we’ll make a comic book, sort of like the ones that describe the adventures of superheroes, to remind us that God’s always with us when he asks us to do something.**



**Comic Book Heroes
Supplies**

- Bible
- CD player
- scissors
- paper
- markers
- construction paper
- glue
- stapler
- 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 13)
- “Comic Book Covers” poster

**Comic Book Heroes
Easy Prep**

Cut apart the segments on the “Comic Book Covers” poster. Cut 5 pieces of paper per child the same size as one “Comic Book Cover.”





Give each child five pieces of paper the same size as one “Comic Book Cover,” and set out supplies. Say: **On the paper I gave you, create pictures of yourself accomplishing God’s plans with his help. Then we’ll put all the pages together to create comic books.**

Let’s start by brainstorming some ways we can accomplish God’s plans. For example, we accomplish God’s plans when we’re nice to other people even when we don’t have that much in common with them. Or God helps us accomplish his plans when he helps us say no to cheating, even if our friends are doing it. What are some other ideas? Help kids brainstorm ways they can accomplish God’s plans with God’s help. As they name ideas, list them somewhere for kids to see.

Say: **Now on one of your pieces of paper, create a picture of a time God helped you accomplish his plans in your family.**

If kids need ideas, encourage them to use the ideas on the list they created. Then have kids create pictures on three other pieces of paper: accomplishing God’s plans at school, accomplishing God’s plans at church, and a depiction of what plans they think God might have for them when they grow up, just as God had plans for Joshua.

Play “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 13 on the CD) as children work.


When kids finish drawing and coloring, ask them to display their pages for each other, describing how God helped them in the scenes they depicted. Then give each person a segment from the “Comic Book Covers” poster. Direct children to fill in their names on the covers and glue them to the fifth sheet of paper, which will be the comic book cover. Help children staple their books together with the covers on the front.

Say: **When you leave today, take your comic book home as a reminder of how God has helped you accomplish his plans.**

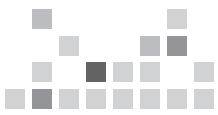
Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse for today talks about how God is always with us. Listen while I read it: “God will be with you wherever you go.”** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **“God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).**

This verse tells us that no matter where we are or where we go, God will be with us. God told Joshua not to be afraid because God would always be with him, helping him accomplish God’s plans. Let’s sing a song about that.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and lead children in singing “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 13 on the CD).

 **Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you**





**Wherever you go,
Wherever you go.**
(Repeat twice.)

**Wherever you go,
Wherever you go,
Wherever you go.**

“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How can we remember that God is always with us?

Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US**, and he helps us have the courage and strength we need to accomplish his plans. God also guides us and shows us the right things to do, just as he did for Joshua. Let’s look to God this week when we’re afraid or lonely or we don’t know what to do.



4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how ► GOD IS WITH US.**

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

Each morning, thank God that he’s always with you, helping you accomplish his plans for your life.

Draw a picture of God standing next to you. Whenever you’re scared, hurt, or unsure, look at it and remind yourself that God’s with you.

Look for amazing things God does this week, and when he does, talk about them with your family and record them in a special book that you can look back at as a reminder that God’s with you.

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



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Fun
pens





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God was with Joshua, and ► GOD IS WITH US. Remember that he's always helping you carry out his plan as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he loves us so much and he has a plan for us. Thank God that he's always with us.

Say: **In closing, let's pray together to thank God for being with us. I'm going to pray aloud, and I'd like you to repeat after me. I'll stop after every few words so you can repeat what I say. Remember, we're talking to God.**

Pray: **Dear God,** *(pause and prompt children to repeat after you)*

Thank you for being with us all the time. *(pause)*

Sometimes we get scared, *(pause)*

But it helps to remember that you're with us. *(pause)*

We want to do the right things *(pause)*

And accomplish your plans. *(pause)*

But we need your help. *(pause)*

So help us remember that you're with us *(pause)*

And you're helping us all the time. *(pause)*

In Jesus' name, amen. *(pause)*





Lyrics ■■■■

Wherever You Go (Joshua 1:9)

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go,
Wherever you go.
(Repeat twice.)

Wherever you go,
Wherever you go,
Wherever you go.

“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





OK
TO COPY



Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24

First- and second-graders have no trouble believing in things they can't see, even if they can't completely understand spirituality. The example of Rahab's faith can be encouraging to kids as they see a woman who had little literal understanding of God but was still able to use her faith in a powerful way. Use this lesson to direct kids' faith to the one true God and what he can and will do in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Do You Believe It? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Listen to "news" stories to think about believing in things they don't see.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Rahab Hides the Spies <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Play a game of Hide-and-Seek in which "Rahab" helps the "spies" hide from the "king's men."</p>	<p>Bibles Teacher Pack: "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	
	<p>Signs of Faith <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn that a scarlet cord was Rahab's sign of faith, and make their own signs of faith.</p>	<p>Bibles, scissors, glue sticks, 24-inch length of red yarn per child, hole punches Teacher Pack: red cellophane, "Heart" punch-outs</p> 	<p>Cut apart the rectangles on the solid lines on the "Heart" punch-outs. Then punch out the hearts, and save the rectangles you've cut apart. Cut the cellophane into squares the same size as the rectangles.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.

Key Verse

"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will trust God to do big things in their lives.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Wanted: Kids With Faith <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create “wanted” posters, and commit to acting on their faith.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, crayons</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, pens</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





Do You Believe It? Supplies

Bible

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "News Report,

Part 1" (track 14);

"News Report,

Part 2" (track 15);

"News Report, Part 3"

(track 16)

1

GETTING STARTED

Do You Believe It?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we'll talk about faith. The Bible says faith is being sure of things we don't see. Let's think of what it's like to be sure of things we don't see as we listen to some news reports.**

Play "News Report, Part 1" (track 14 on the CD). After listening, lead the children in talking about whether they believe what they hear on the news and how they know they can believe the news reports.

Play "News Report, Part 2" (track 15 on the CD). After listening, lead the children in talking about whether they've seen the prince of England and how they know he's real even if they haven't seen him in person. Ask the children to discuss how they know princes are real, even if they've never seen or met one.

Play "News Report, Part 3" (track 16 on the CD).

Say: **That news report was from a faraway place and a faraway time. In fact, it was based on something that really happened. Today we'll hear all about it when we read the Bible.**

Open your Bible to Hebrews 11:6, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today reminds us that faith is important. When we read the Bible, we can have faith that it's true, and we can trust that God is with us. Listen while I read our Key Verse: "And without faith it is impossible to please God."** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

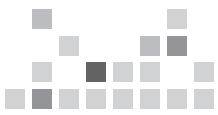
Ask:

Explain whether it's easy or hard to believe things you hear about faraway places or faraway times.

How do you know you can believe the Bible?

Why do you think faith is so important?





Say: **Even though we don't usually see for ourselves the things we hear about on the news, we believe that those stories are true. And we believe what the Bible says is true even though we weren't alive when those things happened. In the same way, we can believe in God even though we don't see him. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.** Today we'll hear about a big thing God did in one woman's life.



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Rahab Hides the Spies

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Joshua 2, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn about a woman named Rahab. We'll hear how she had faith, and we'll learn that ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

Before we listen to what happened, let's get into character. Pretend to sneak around the room with me. Lead the children in pretending to sneak around the room for a minute, and then have the children sit in a circle.

Show the "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster.

Say: **God promised to give the Israelites a lot of land, including a city called Jericho. Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, asked two of his men to sneak over into the land God had promised them. This was very dangerous, but the two men agreed. So they sneaked into the city of Jericho and stayed with a woman there named Rahab.**

Let's read in the Bible to find out what happened next. Have children open their Bibles to Joshua 2. Read aloud Joshua 2:2-3.

Say: **Let's play a game to find out what Rahab and the two spies did.**

Put kids in groups of three. Ask one group to be the King's Men, and explain that they'll try to find the other groups. Ask one child in each other group of three to be Rahab and the other children in each group to be the Spies.

Say: **In each group, Rahab will help the Spies hide from the King's Men. Rahab must find a place for the Spies to hide, but she must not hide with the Spies.** Ask the King's Men to cover their eyes while the Spies hide.

After a few moments, explain that the King's Men must go to each of the Rahabs and ask if the Spies are with them. The Rahabs must try to divert the King's Men away from the Spies.

Rahab Hides the Spies Supplies

Bibles

Teacher Pack

"Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





After the King's Men have looked for no more than 30 seconds, have another group become the King's Men while the original group of King's Men becomes Rahab and the Spies.

After several groups have played the King's Men, call time. Have the children sit down, and read aloud Joshua 2:4-7 as kids follow along in their Bibles. Then have the kids discuss what might've been scary about what Rahab did for the men.

Read aloud Joshua 2:8-11 as kids follow along in their Bibles.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Why do you think faith helped the two spies and Rahab do what they did, even though it was scary?

Tell about a time you had faith in a scary situation.

How can faith that God can do big things help you this week?

Say: **When we believe in God, we know that God is powerful and that what God promises will actually happen. Rahab had only heard about God and how he helped the Israelites, but she believed in God and his promises. When we have faith, we know God will take care of us. Our Bible Point tells us that ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

Signs of Faith Supplies

Bibles
scissors
glue sticks
24-inch length of red yarn per child
hole punches
Teacher Pack
red cellophane
"Heart" punch-outs

Signs of Faith Easy Prep

Cut apart the rectangles on the solid lines on the "Heart" punch-outs. Then punch out the hearts, and save the rectangles you've cut apart. Cut the cellophane into squares the same size as the rectangles.

Signs of Faith

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Rahab believed in God, and she believed that God was going to give the city of Jericho to the Israelites. Because Rahab had faith, she helped the spies and asked the spies to help her. She asked them to protect her and her family when the Israelites took the city. The spies told Rahab that if a red cord was hanging in her window, everyone inside her house would be protected. Then Rahab sent the spies to a place outside the city where they'd be safe from the king's men.**





Say: **Today let's make red cords as a reminder that ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.** Give each child a 24-inch length of red yarn, and set out the other supplies.

Explain that kids will make red sun catchers to hang in their windows at home. Give a square of cellophane to each child, and show kids how to glue the cellophane to the rectangle.

Circulate to assist as children work. When the children finish, carefully punch a hole in the top of each child's shape. Show kids how to thread the yarn through the hole and then tie the ends of the yarn together to form a hanger.

Gather kids by a window. Have kids hold up their sun catchers to the light as you lead kids in repeating the Key Verse with you: **"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how Rahab was rewarded for her faith?**
- Tell about a time you were rewarded for your faith.**
- How can your experiences help you in the future?**

Say: **In return for Rahab's faith and help, the spies agreed to protect Rahab and her family. The red cord in the window would be a sign to the Israelites of where Rahab and her family were. God wants us to have faith, too. And as surely as the sun will rise, ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**



**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Wanted: Kids With Faith

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Today we heard how the leader of the Israelites wanted spies to look at the land. The spies wanted help from someone living in Jericho. Today when our leaders want help, they make "help wanted" posters. The poster might say, "I want you!" and then describe the help the leaders need.**

God wants our help, too. He wants people who have faith to help tell others about him. Let's make "help wanted" posters to show that God wants us to have faith.

Give each child a Lesson 11 My Bible Fun page, and point out the "God Wants You!" section. Distribute crayons, and have kids write their own names in the poster's subtitle.



Wanted: Kids With Faith Supplies

My Bible Fun crayons

Wanted: Kids With Faith Easy Prep

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





Have kids draw themselves standing with faith on the upper part of the page and some big things God can do in their lives on the bottom part of the page.

After kids finish drawing, have them form pairs and display their pictures to their partners.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you have faith in God?
Why are you proud to have faith?**

Say: **Rahab was confident in her faith in God. And she did something to show her faith, even when it was scary. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES, too, when we trust in and stand with God.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

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

Tell a friend about a time God did something big in your life.

Say a prayer and tell God that you have faith in him, and ask him to do big things in your life.

Ask your mom or dad to help you take a plate of cookies to a neighbor, and then tell your neighbor about your faith in God.

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





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Because Rahab had faith in God, she helped the spies. She used her faith, and God did big things in her life. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God does big things in our lives when we have faith. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for the children's faith in him and his promises and asking God to help children show their faith in the coming week. Pray: **God, help us have faith in you this week, and help us look for the big things you're doing in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.**





The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua 3:1–4:24

First- and second-graders crave individual attention and like to be recognized for their achievements. Use this lesson to show kids that God deserves to be recognized and remembered for his achievements, too.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	“Thank You” Cheers <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Remember what people have done, and create cheers to thank them.	Bible	
2 Bible Exploration	Crossing the Jordan <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Experience what happened in the Bible by carrying the “ark” and walking across the “Jordan River.”	Bible; CD player; 12 brown, gray, or black construction paper rocks, plus 1 for each additional child; masking tape; chair Teacher Pack: CD	Place 2 lines of masking tape about 4 feet apart in the middle of the room to represent the Jordan River.
	In Remembrance <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make an “altar” as the Israelites did, and learn the Key Verse song.	Bible, CD player, paper rocks from the “Crossing the Jordan” activity, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **Bible Point**
Remember what God has done.

Key Verse
“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done” (1 Chronicles 16:8).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will thank God for the things he’s done for them.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>What God Has Done for Me <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create memory books to remember what God has done for them and to thank God.</p>	My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors, crayons	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Fun, pens	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





“Thank You” Cheers Supplies

Bible

1 GETTING STARTED

“Thank You” Cheers

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Put kids in four groups, and say: **Let’s play a cheering game. First I’ll name a person. Then you’ll have three minutes in your group to think of something special about that person—something that person would be remembered for—and to create a cheer with that special thing.** You may want to help kids. For example, for “George Washington” a group could cheer, “Two! Four! Six! Eight! Washington we appreciate! Why? ’Cause he was the first president. Thanks, Washington!”

Tell kids to start by making a cheer for their parents. Allow time, and then continue the same process for one other person and God.

Say: **God deserves our cheers more than anyone else. And the Bible tells us a good reason for that.** Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:8, and show it to kids. Then read aloud the Key Verse: **“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done” (1 Chronicles 16:8).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

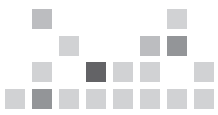
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are some things you can thank God for?
Why would you want to remember what he’s done for you?
How can you cheer for God this week?**

Say: **When we cheer for God, it’s a way for us to show that we ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE. He deserves our cheers and praise more than anyone. God does so many wonderful things for us. Today we’ll hear about a wonderful thing God did for the Israelites, and we’ll hear how the Israelites thanked and remembered him.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Crossing the Jordan

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Joshua 3, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear how the Israelites were traveling in the desert and God did a great thing for them. We'll learn that it's important for us to ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE for others and for us.**

Let kids help you crumple brown, gray, or black construction paper to make paper "rocks." You'll need at least 12 rocks, plus one for each additional child you have above 12.

Have children gather around you at one end of the room.

Say: **Remember, the Israelites were still traveling in the desert. When we travel, we have to take lots of things with us. Name some things you take with you when you go on a trip.** Pause as kids call out their answers.

Say: **The Israelites had to carry all their things with them as they traveled. They had some very important things to carry, too—like the ark of the covenant. The ark wasn't like Noah's ark. It was more like a trunk, and inside the ark the people carried the tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments.**

Place a Bible on a chair, and explain that the Bible will represent the tablets and the chair will represent the ark. Place the 12 (or more) paper rocks in the middle of the masking-tape river you prepared ahead of time.

Say: **One day as the Israelites were traveling, they came to a river called the Jordan River. This masking tape will be our Jordan River. The Jordan River was a very big river, and it was very full of water. In fact, the Bible tells us that the Jordan River was at flood stage when the Israelites went to cross it. The water would be way, way over your head.** Ask the kids to reach their hands above their heads and imagine a river flowing far above their heads. Then have kids gather near the tape lines.

Play "Rushing Water" (track 18 on the CD). Tell the children that they, the Israelites, need to get to the other side of the room but the big Jordan River is right in the middle of the room, stretching the whole way across. Ask the children to discuss how they think they should get to the other side of the room.

Say: **Thanks for those ideas. God had a very good way for the Israelites to cross the river. Here's what happened. God told Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, to have the priests carry the ark to the edge of the river.**



Crossing the Jordan Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- 12 brown, gray, or black construction paper rocks, plus 1 for each additional child
- masking tape
- chair
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Rushing Water" (track 18)

Crossing the Jordan Easy Prep

Place 2 lines of masking tape about 4 feet apart in the middle of the room to represent the Jordan River.





Invite two children to carry the “ark” to the edge of the “river.” Then have them pretend to dip their feet in the water. When they do, turn off the CD.

Say: **When the priests who were carrying the ark touched the water, the river stopped flowing. Then all the Israelites were able to cross the river on dry land!**

Have the children carrying the ark go to the middle of the river and stand while all the other children cross to the other side of the room.

Say: **Then God told Joshua to have one person from each family take a large rock out of the river.** Have kids each pick up a rock from the river. Then have the children carrying the ark join the rest of the kids.

When all the children are out of the river, play “Rushing Water” (track 18 on the CD) again. Say: **When the priests came out of the river, the water started flowing again! The Jordan River was just as big and wide as it had been before.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about how God made the huge river stop so the Israelites could cross?

Tell about a time God did something great in your life or someone else’s. Why do you want to remember that and what God did for the Israelites?

Say: **We ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE** for us and for people we read about in the Bible. When we learn what God has done, it reminds us that God can and does do wonderful things for us, too. The Israelites knew it was important to remember what God did for them. Let’s find out what they did with those rocks they carried out of the Jordan River.

In Remembrance

In Remembrance Supplies

Bible
CD player
paper rocks from the
“Crossing the Jordan”
activity
1 copy per child of the
lyrics page (at the end
of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: “Give Thanks”
(1 Chronicles 16:8)
(track 17)

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Ensure each child has a paper rock. Say: **The Israelites used these rocks to help them remember what God did for them when he made the Jordan River stop. Let’s review our Key Verse: “Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done” (1 Chronicles 16:8).** Have kids repeat the verse with you.


Say: **In Bible times, people piled rocks together to mark very special places. Then when other people saw the pile of rocks, they’d know something amazing had happened there. Listen to what the Bible says.** Read aloud Joshua 4:8-9.

Say: **Let’s pile our rocks together just as the Israelites did.** Have kids pile the rocks. Then say: **Let’s tell God we remember as we sing our Key Verse song.**





Distribute copies of the lyrics page, play “Give Thanks” (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 17 on the CD), and lead children in singing as they hold hands and walk around the pile of rocks.

 **Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.
Make known among the nations what he has done.**

**Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.
Make known among the nations what he has done.**

**Sing to him!
Sing praise to him.
Tell of his wonderful works.**

**Sing to him.
Sing praise to him.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.
Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.**

**Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!**

“Give Thanks” (1 Chronicles 16:8) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Read aloud Joshua 4:21-24.

Talk With Kids 

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think of how the Israelites thanked God and remembered what he had done?

What ways do you show God you remember things he’s done for you?

Say: **The Israelites wanted everyone who came after them to remember what God had done for them that day. Our Bible Point tells us that we also ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE for us. We don’t have to make a pile of rocks, but we can do other things like pray or sing.** Let the children take the rocks home at the end of your meeting time.





What God Has Done for Me Supplies

My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors
crayons

What God Has Done for Me Easy Prep

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

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

What God Has Done for Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We've learned what God did for the Israelites and how the Israelites remembered God. Now let's make something to help us remember what God's done for us.**

Give each child a Lesson 12 My Bible Fun page, and point out the "Memory Book" section. Set out the supplies, and lead kids in following the directions in that section to cut out their Memory Books and fold them. Then give kids time to color the different sections on the memory books. For example, on the last page, kids could draw a heart to show that they can love God, or kids could draw someone praying or singing.

Let kids take time sharing what they drew on their memory books.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why is it important that we remember what God has done?
How can we thank God for what he has done this week?**

Say: **It's important for us to remember what God did for the Israelites. But one of the most important things we always remember that God did for us is that God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross so we could live forever with him and God in heaven! This week let's ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

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





Create a thank-you card for God, listing all the things God has done for you. At dinnertime, lead your family members in a prayer, and have everyone at the table say one thing God has done for them that they're thankful for. When someone praises you for something you do, thank the person, and then remember God by sharing how thankful you are God gave you the skill or talent to be able to do that thing.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God made a river stop flowing for the Israelites, and he's done many other things for us and for the people we love. Let's ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for things he's done for you. Have kids stand in a circle, and invite the children to briefly thank God one by one. Let them continue thanking God for things, moving around the circle, until they run out of ideas. Pray: **God, we want to remember what you've done for us so we never forget how much you love us. We love you, too, God, and we thank you for all you do. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Lyrics

Give Thanks (1 Chronicles 16:8)

Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.
Make known among the nations what he has done.

Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.
Make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him!
Sing praise to him.
Tell of his wonderful works.

Sing to him.
Sing praise to him.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.
Give thanks to the Lord;
Call on his name.

Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!

“Give Thanks” (1 Chronicles 16:8) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

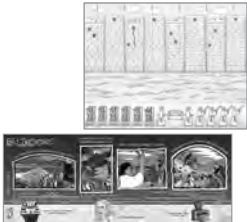

First- and second-graders are well aware of how small they are and how many things they need help doing. Because it's an abstract concept, they may not initially know what it means to go to God for things. But when the concept is connected to concrete examples, they'll be able to make the connection. Use this lesson to help children see that God is powerful enough to always care for them and never let them down, no matter the circumstances.



► Bible Point
God's power works for good.


Key Verse
"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will thank God for his power in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Power Tag <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of Tag to learn that they need God's power.	Bible	
2 Bible Exploration	Trumpets vs. a Wall <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn about Jericho's wall, and make "trumpets."	Bible, scissors, marker, tape, paper Teacher Pack: "City of Jericho" poster, Bible Timeline 	Cut the poster into 3 horizontal strips as indicated by the cut lines. (Wait until directed in the activity to cut on the vertical cut lines of the top section.) Number the backs of the strips 1, 2, and 3, with number 1 on the top of the poster, number 2 in the middle, and number 3 at the bottom of the scene.
	'Round and 'Round We Go <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out the Israelites marching around Jericho.	CD player, trumpets from the "Trumpets vs. a Wall" activity, scissors Teacher Pack: CD, "City of Jericho" poster, "God Gives Victory Over Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Charged With God's Power <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make "batteries" as a reminder to depend on God's power.	My Bible Fun, several pairs of scissors	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Power Prayers <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Write feelings about God's power in their lives.	My Bible Fun, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Power Tag Supplies

Bible

1 GETTING STARTED

Power Tag

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together.

Put children in two teams for a game of Tag. Explain that one team will represent people's power and the other team will represent God's power. Ask one child to be "It," and then designate an area of the room to be the "safe zone."

Have members of the People's Power team scatter around the room. Explain that the members of the People's Power team can only walk heel-to-toe, while members of the God's Power team can take giant steps.

Say: If a member of the God's Power team links elbows with a member of the People's Power team, both players can take giant steps.

Tell children that the goal is for members of the God's Power team to escort as many members of the People's Power team as possible to the safe zone before "It" tags them. "It" can tag only members of the People's Power team. If "It" tags someone who isn't linked with someone from the God's Power team, that person becomes another "It."

When children understand the rules, have them play Power Tag. After a few minutes, have kids switch roles.

Say: In our game, people had a little bit of power, but God's power was much, much greater. Like that, people need God's power to help them. Our Key Verse today tells us about people's power and God's power.

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:7, and show the passage to kids. Say: **Listen while I read our Key Verse: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." That means God wants us to listen to him and trust him to take care of us.** Lead kids in the adapted verse: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).** Have kids repeat the adapted Key Verse with you several times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**How did God's power make a difference in this game?
What was it like to be without God's power in this game?**





How would you compare people’s power with God’s power?
How does God’s power work in our lives?

Say: **There are lots of things in life we’re just not powerful enough to do by ourselves. Today we’ll read in the Bible about a group of people who just weren’t powerful enough to do something on their own. They relied on God’s power, though. We’ll learn that ► GOD’S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. Let’s find out what happened.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Trumpets vs. a Wall

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Joshua 6, and show kids the passage. Say: **God is so powerful. Today we’ll hear how he did something especially powerful to help the Israelites. We’ll also learn how ► GOD’S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives.**

Have children sit in a circle. Then show “God Gives Victory Over Jericho” on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **God told the Israelites to take over the city of Jericho. Jericho was a city that was built on a hill—a hill that looked like this.**

Remove the “City of Jericho” poster strip depicting the hill (section number 2), and show it to the kids. Then let kids help you tape the ends of the strip together to form a circular hill. Let the kids pass around the hill to look at it, and then set it in the center of your circle.

Say: **The city of Jericho sat on top of this hill. At the top of the hill, the people of Jericho had built tall, thick walls around the city. The walls were so thick that people’s houses were built right inside the walls! Let’s see how that might have looked.**

Show kids the top picture strip of the “City of Jericho” poster (section number 1). Let kids get a close look at the picture as you point out how thick the walls were and how people’s houses were built right into the walls. Show kids the scarlet cord hanging from Rahab’s window, and say: **One woman named Rahab helped the Israelite spies. This is her window.**



Trumpets vs. a Wall Supplies

- Bible
- scissors
- marker
- tape
- paper

Teacher Pack
“City of Jericho” poster
Bible Timeline

Trumpets vs. a Wall Easy Prep

Cut the poster into 3 horizontal strips as indicated by the cut lines. (Wait until directed in the activity to cut on the vertical cut lines of the top section.) Number the backs of the strips 1, 2, and 3, with number 1 on the top of the poster, number 2 in the middle, and number 3 at the bottom of the scene.





Invite kids to tape the city strip to the top of the middle strip showing the circular hill. Place the circular hill and city back in the center of the circle.

Say: **Before we find out what happened next, let's remember our Key Verse.** Have kids repeat the adapted Key Verse with you: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).** Then invite kids to talk about what things the Israelites could do with God's power.

Say: **God told Joshua that the Israelites wouldn't need any weapons or tools to knock down Jericho's walls. God told Joshua that instead of weapons, the Israelites would use something else to win against Jericho. Here's what God told Joshua.**

Read aloud Joshua 6:2-5. Then show kids the final picture strip from the poster. Let kids help tape the strip to the bottom of the hill.

Say: **The Israelites knew that Jericho was a well-protected city. They must've wondered how trumpets could knock down those thick walls. Let's make our own trumpets to think about this some more.**

Distribute paper to children, and show them how to roll up a piece of paper to make a megaphone or trumpet shape. Tape the edges of kids' papers so their "trumpets" will hold their shape. Then let kids practice making noises with their trumpets.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about the way God told the Israelites to take over Jericho?

Tell about something you need God's power to help you with.

How does knowing you have God's power help you?

Say: **God told the Israelites that by his power they would win the city of Jericho. God wanted the Israelites to understand that they could not win the city with their own power; they needed God's power. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives.**





'Round and 'Round We Go

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the "God Gives Victory Over Jericho" poster. Say: **Let's see what happened to the city of Jericho.**

Have all of the children hold on to their trumpets and form a circle around the circular city.

Say: **The first day, the Israelite army marched around the city once. No one was to make a sound except for the priests, who were to blow their trumpets.**

Allow all the children to act like "priests" so they can all pretend to blow their paper trumpets as they walk around the wall one time.

Play "Trumpeting" (track 19 on the CD). Pause the CD when kids have finished walking around the city once.

Say: **The second day, the Israelite army marched around the city again. No one was to make a sound except for the priests, who were to blow their trumpets.**

Have children walk around the wall one time and blow their trumpets. Play "Trumpeting" (track 19 on the CD). After the children have walked around the wall once, pause the CD. Continue, having children walk around the wall one time for each of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth days.



Say: **On the seventh day, the Israelite army had different instructions. God told them to walk around the city seven times while the priests blew their trumpets. After seven times around, the priests would give a good long blast on their trumpets. When this happened, the Israelites were supposed to shout really loudly.**

Play "Trumpeting" (track 19 on the CD). Have the children walk around the wall seven times and blow their trumpets. When they've walked around the wall seven times, have



'Round and 'Round We Go Supplies

- CD player
- trumpets from the "Trumpets vs. a Wall" activity
- scissors

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Trumpeting" (track 19)
- "City of Jericho" poster
- "God Gives Victory Over Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





them give a loud shout. At that point, cut on the four vertical cut lines on the top section, and bend down the walls of Jericho. Turn off the CD player.

Say: **When the army shouted, the high, thick walls of Jericho fell down! The Israelite army was able to go right into the city.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

How does what happened with the walls of Jericho help you believe in God's power?

What can you tell others about God's power this week?

Say: **The Israelite army may have had a lot of very strong, powerful people in it. But no matter how powerful those people were, they still needed God's power. God reminded the Israelites that his power was greater than theirs. They didn't need to be anxious; they just needed to trust in God's power over their own. You and I don't need to be anxious either. We just need to trust in God's power over our own. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Charged With God's Power

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God's power is so great that he knocked down the walls of Jericho. Let's make something to remind us to rely on God's power this week.**

Give each child a Lesson 13 My Bible Fun page, and point out the "Charged With God's Power" section on the page.

Distribute scissors, and show children how to cut out the "battery" and then the "charge level indicator." Say: **When a battery's power is getting low, the charge level will drop to the bottom. But when the battery has full power, the charge level will show that.**

Help kids cut a slit where indicated near the bottom of the battery. Show kids how they can slide the indicators into the slit from the back of the batteries and move them down to show low power and up to show full power.

Say: **I'll read a few situations. Show me with your batteries if the person in each situation is running on low power or the supercharged power of God.**

Charged With God's Power Supplies

My Bible Fun
several pairs of scissors

Charged With God's Power Easy Prep

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





I was having trouble keeping up at school. At first, I thought I should just handle it by myself. But then I remembered to trust in God's power. I prayed for help, and I talked to my parents about my problems with school. Now I have a tutor, and I'm doing a lot better. Have kids hold up their batteries to show the charge levels.

This boy down the street from me is always picking on me. He's always riding his bike and chasing me, and he likes to knock my books out of my hands. I don't want to be a wimp, though, so I'll just keep dealing with him myself. Have kids hold up their batteries to show the charge levels.

Sometimes when I'm afraid, it really helps me to remember things I've read about in the Bible. I think about all the times God has helped other people, and it reminds me that God is with me, too. Nothing is stronger than God, so I always feel braver when I think of him. Have kids hold up their batteries to show the charge levels.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How could God's power work in those situations?
- How do you hope God's power will work in your life?
- How can you trust God to take care of you?

Say: ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD**, just like it did with the Israelites. We can always be sure that God will take care of us, and he'll use his power to do it. This week, give all your worries to God and trust that he'll use his power for your good.

Power Prayers

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's thank God for using his power in our lives.**

Distribute pens. Have kids turn to the "Power Prayers" section of their My Bible Fun pages. Explain that on each brick of the wall, kids can write one word or symbol that

Power Prayers Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens





tells God how they feel about having his power in their lives. For example, kids could write “thanks,” “wow!” or “love” on the bricks. Or they could draw hearts or smiles.

After kids finish, let willing kids share what they wrote or drew with the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can always pray for God’s power in our lives. And when we pray, it helps us know what to do. God’s always with us, and ► GOD’S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. Let’s remember what God did to help the Israelites this week when we face struggles.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how ► GOD’S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

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

Each night before you go to bed, draw a picture of how God used his power to help you that day.

Run around your front yard until you start to get tired, and then thank God for his power because when we are weak, he is strong!

Whenever you use a TV, microwave, or radio, thank God for his power.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God used his power to help the Israelites conquer Jericho. Let’s be confident this week that ► GOD’S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God’s power works for good in our lives. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he loves us and he uses his power for good. Pray: **God, we bring all our worries, hopes, and fears to you. We know that you love us and that you’re powerful. Help us trust that you’re always using your power for good. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



