

FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families

NOW[®]



**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 3&4
TEACHER GUIDE**

Group

Group resources really work!

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



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

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Group

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We know you care about kids...

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 3 & 4, Fall

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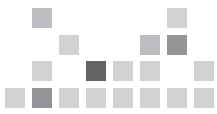
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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

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

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

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

It's simpler and easier. ■■■■

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

It's made for NOW. ■■■■

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

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

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

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

Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.

Kids see God in their everyday world.

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

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



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

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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





The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to worry about many different things, such as not doing well in school, being hurt by others, or even losing a parent. Kids may feel alone and not know what to do when they're afraid. Fear often comes from a belief that something stronger than us will overcome us somehow. The reality couldn't be further from that, though, since God is with you and each of the kids in your group all the time. Use this lesson to help kids understand that they aren't alone, even when they're afraid.



► 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	<p>What Are You Afraid Of? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Work in pairs to discuss scary things, and then pantomime them.</p>		
2 Bible Exploration	<p>From Fear to Victory <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover what the Israelites must have feared, and participate in running through the parted Red Sea.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, masking tape, index cards, marker, 16 inflated balloons Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.</p> <p>Place masking tape on the floor to create a straight path leading from Egypt in one corner to the Promised Land in another corner.</p> <p>Write each letter of the word <i>righteousness</i> on a separate index card. Place the letter "R" at the Egypt corner. Hide most of the letters around the room, but keep the remaining letters with you.</p>
	<p>God Is With Me <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Read the Key Verse, and create staffs to remind them to trust God.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, 12x18-inch sheets of construction paper, markers, tape Teacher Pack: CD</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Know Fear or No Fear? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Compare being afraid with God helping them to not be afraid.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





1 GETTING STARTED

What Are You Afraid Of?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids stand on one side of the room.

Form pairs. Say: **People are afraid of lots of different things. Some people are afraid of heights, flying in airplanes, skydiving, spiders, snakes, and a variety of other things. Talk with your partner about something you both agree is scary.** Allow time.

Say: **Take a minute to decide how you'll both act out the thing you both agreed is scary for the rest of the group. Don't use any words. Everyone else will try to guess what you're acting out.**

Give pairs a minute to plan out their short skits, and then allow pairs to take turns acting them out for the group to guess. Continue until each pair has had the opportunity to share its fear.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do some people think the things you've acted out today are scary?
What do you think might help you be less afraid in scary situations?**

Say: **Today we'll look at a situation the Israelites were in that was very scary for them. We'll see how God helped them and learn that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, too. No matter what situation you face, God is always with you and he helps you all the time.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

From Fear to Victory

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out the Israelites crossing the Red Sea on the Bible Timeline. Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

From Fear to Victory Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
CD player
masking tape
index cards
marker
16 inflated balloons

Teacher Pack CD:
"Horses and
Chariots" (track 2)
Bible Timeline

! BALLOON WARNING

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





Say: **God’s people, the Israelites, had waited a long time, and they were finally leaving Egypt! But they didn’t take the shortest route possible to the Promised Land.** Point to the masking- tape line, and explain that it’s the shortest route out of Egypt. **Instead, God led them around the desert to the Red Sea.** Make sure kids have Bibles, and invite a willing child to read aloud Exodus 13:17-22.

Say: **Hidden around this room are letters on index cards. The letters will spell *righteousness*. Your job is to find the letters in the correct order. To see how to spell *righteousness*, look at the left side of your Bible Truth Sleuth page beside the “Know Fear” column. Stick together as a group the way the Israelites did. If you find a letter that comes later in the word, you can put it back and keep looking.**

As kids go through this process, pretend to be Pharaoh and slowly count down from 20, ensuring you count quickly enough that kids feel just a bit of pressure. This will help them understand the urgency of the Israelites’ departure. When they finally find all the letters that you’ve hidden, let them look a little longer and then say: **It looks like you’re stuck. You can’t seem to find the next letter. The timer is running out, and you can’t get to the end.** Allow kids to feel a little frustration, and then invite them to sit down.

Say: **God didn’t have the Israelites wandering in circles for nothing! God had a plan. He wanted to show Pharaoh and the Egyptians that he was the one true God!**

Have a willing child read aloud Exodus 14:1-4 and Exodus 14:10-12.

Say: **The Israelites were trapped at the edge of the Red Sea. Let’s try to imagine what it must have sounded like as the Israelites stood at the Red Sea.**

Have kids form two groups. One group will be the Israelites, and the other group will be the Egyptians. Play the “Horses and Chariots” segment (track 2 on the CD), and have the “Israelites” stand next to a wall designated as the Red Sea. Have the “Egyptians” move in toward the Israelites to trap them. The kids will follow along with the CD and act out the things their groups do.

Say: **The Egyptians had caught up with the Israelites, and the Israelites were trapped. They thought they were going to die. But God had a plan to help them. Our Bible Point tells us that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID. Let’s find out how God helped the Israelites!**

Read aloud Exodus 14:13-20.

Say: **Let’s look at what God did for the Israelites in this scary situation.**

Have kids switch roles from the previous activity. The Israelites will now become the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will now become the Israelites.

Say: **God was with his people in the cloud and in the fire, but God didn’t stop there. He went on to help the Israelites even more. The Red Sea was still an obstacle that kept the Israelites from continuing on their journey.**



From Fear to Victory Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Place masking tape on the floor to create a straight path leading from Egypt in one corner to the Promised Land in another corner.

Write each letter of the word *righteousness* on a separate index card. Place the letter “R” at the Egypt corner. Hide most of the letters around the room, but keep the remaining letters with you.





Ask for two willing kids from each of the two groups to be the Red Sea. Have two kids stand facing the other two kids. Give each person in the Red Sea two balloons to hold in each hand so each Red Sea child has four balloons. Help kids hold on to the tied-off ends so they can easily hold two balloons in each hand. Have the Red Sea kids hold the balloons out in front of themselves and touch the balloons of the other side of the Red Sea.

Have the Israelites stand at one end of the Red Sea.

Say: **God told Moses to raise his staff over the water and the water would part. So Moses raised his staff over the water, and it parted! Then the Israelites crossed over on dry land!**

Have the Red Sea pull the balloons apart so the Israelites can pass through. Then have the Israelite group run through to the other side.

Say: **The Egyptians were getting ready to follow the Israelites! So God told Moses to hold up his staff again, and when Moses did, the water came crashing down on the Egyptians!**

Have the Egyptian group start to run through, but have the Red Sea push the balloons back together again so that they can't get through.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this experience like for you?**
- How does your experience relate to what the Israelites went through?**
- What do you usually do when you're afraid?**
- How do you think you can trust God to help you even when it seems impossible?**

Say: **There are all kinds of times we can rely on God to help us. We know that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, and we can rely on him at all other times, too. The Israelites learned from a really incredible experience that God was always with them, and he helped them in a difficult and scary time.**

God Is With Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is Psalm 23:4.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Say: **Find a partner, and tell each other the three main words that stand out to you in this verse.** Allow time.

God Is With Me Supplies

Bibles
CD player
12x18-inch sheets of
construction paper
markers
tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Psalm 23" (track 4)





Say: Today we saw how God helped the Israelites when they were in a difficult situation and were very scared. God had Moses use his staff to part the Red Sea. Our Key Verse tells us that when we're afraid, God's staff comforts us. That means God's with us and he's strong enough to help us in any situation. Let's make our own staffs as a reminder of how God helps us whenever we're afraid.

Give each child one sheet of construction paper, and have kids roll the sheets into tubes lengthwise and fasten with tape. Play "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD) while the kids work.

Say: Use markers to write our Key Verse on your staffs, and decorate them in a way you think will remind you that God helps you when you're afraid. Show the importance of the words you told your partner earlier.

When kids finish decorating their staffs, have them each bend the top part of the tube to form a crook to resemble a shepherd's staff.

Say: Hang your staff up someplace where you'll see it at home to help you remember that you can place your trust in God whenever you're afraid.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How do you think this staff will help you remember to turn to God when you're worried or afraid?

What's one way you can let your trust in God take the place of fear in your life?

Say: The staffs you made can be a good reminder of our Key Verse, which tells us that ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID**. When we give our fear to God, he can give us courage and help us in those scary times. God did miracles to show the Israelites that he would always be with them. That same amazing God wants to be part of your everyday life.

3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Know Fear or No Fear?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs. Say: We all know what it's like to be afraid. Earlier we talked about things that are scary to us. But we can turn to God when we're afraid.



**Know Fear or No Fear?
Supplies**

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens





Have kids take a minute to tell partners about a way they were comforted the last time they were afraid.

Say: **One way God helps us when we're afraid is with his words and promises in the Bible. When we read the Bible, we see many verses that promise God's help when we're afraid. Let's look at some of those verses today and at how they can help us with some of our fears.**

Make sure everyone has a pen, and have kids turn to the "Know Fear/No Fear" activity on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and complete it.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How can reading Bible verses help you when you're afraid?**
- What's easy or difficult about trusting God when you're afraid?**
- What can you ask God to replace your fear with?**

Say: **These verses help us see how God has a lot to say about fear, and we need a lot of reminders to trust God instead of being afraid. ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID, and there's no better help than that! The Israelites faced a truly impossible situation, but God was with them and brought them through it.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Consider this week how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

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

Pay attention this week to areas of your life in which you feel afraid. Pray and ask God to help you learn to trust him instead of being afraid.

Look up *fear* in the dictionary. Write down the definition. Then look up antonyms of *fear*. Write those down, and pray that God will help you become more filled with trust and hope in God. Put these definitions in your journal or Bible to remind you to ask God for help when you're afraid.

Use yarn to make yourself a bracelet. As you make the bracelet, pray that God will help you when you're afraid. Anytime you feel afraid, let the bracelet remind you to trust God instead.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Let's follow through on our Daily Challenges and remember that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

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 trusting God instead of being afraid. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids form groups of three or four and pray for the person on their right. Remind kids to pray for God to help them trust him when they're afraid.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

Third- and fourth-graders care about other kids their age. They can be very sensitive to the needs of their friends. As they develop empathy, it's important for them to know that other kids are being cared for, too. Your kids are becoming concerned about things that extend beyond their immediate sphere of influence. This means they'll be able to empathize with the needs the Israelites faced and also may want to know how God's care extends to the problems of people all around the world. Use this lesson to show them that God does provide for the needs of his people.



► Bible Point


God gives us what we need.

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 providing for their needs.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What I Need <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out needs, and find ways to meet them.	Bibles, 2 small paper bags, paper, crayons Teacher Pack: "I Need" cards 	Separate the "I Need" cards, and place 1 set in each of the 2 paper bags.
2 Bible Exploration	Measuring Manna <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn about God's gift of manna, and count out "manna" candy.	Bibles, individually wrapped candies	
	Catch the Quail <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game to see what the Israelites' camp might've been like when God provided quail.	Bibles, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Enjoying God's Gifts <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Thank God by reading the Key Verse, and then enjoy a snack.	Bibles, candy from the "Measuring Manna" activity, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

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>Thanks, God <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw thank-you cards to God to thank God for providing for them.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth, markers	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth 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>	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





What I Need Supplies

Bibles
2 small paper bags
paper
crayons

Teacher Pack

"I Need" cards

What I Need Easy Prep

Separate the "I Need"
cards, and place 1 set
in each of the 2 paper
bags.

1 GETTING STARTED

What I Need

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids stand on one side of the room and form two groups. Say: **Today we're going to learn about how God provides for us.** Have the groups sit as far away from each other as they can. Give each group a piece of paper, crayons, and a bag containing a set of "I Need" cards.

Say: **You're going to race to complete a game of Charades in which neither the Actor nor the guessers may speak until the answer has been guessed. Each group will choose a person to be the first Actor. The Actor will draw a card from the bag and act out what the card says.**

Have the Actors stand in front of their groups. Say: **Each Actor's group will try to determine what the Actor needs and then find a way to provide for the Actor's need.** Explain that the group can draw a picture of what's needed or give the Actor something they brought with them or found in the room that would meet the need.

When the group has given the Actor something that meets his or her need, the kids can all shout, "God provides!" That group will then choose a new Actor and move on to the next card. If one group gets through their bag of "I Need" cards before the other group, they will go join the group that's still going and take part in guessing.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did you decide what the Actor needed in our game?

What are some of the things you need?

How do you know that God is providing for your needs?

Say: **God provides for us in so many ways! Today we'll learn about how God provided for the Israelites after they left Egypt. He gave them bread in the desert, but that wasn't all he gave them. No matter what, we can remember that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Measuring Manna

What You'll Do

Say: **The Israelites, God's special people, were slaves in Egypt for a long time. But after God performed many miracles, they were set free! Although they were free, they were wandering in the desert.**

Have kids stand up, form a circle, and walk clockwise as you read aloud Exodus 16:1.

Ask kids to discuss the following question as they walk.

What do you imagine it would be like to wander the desert for a whole month?

Distribute Bibles, and have kids sit down in a circle to read Exodus 16:2-3. Invite kids to talk to someone next to them about a time they complained like the Israelites are complaining. Allow a couple of minutes for willing kids to share what they heard.

Ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 16:4-5.

Say: **The Bible tells us that in the morning, dew covered the Israelites' camp. As the dew dried, thin flakes like frost appeared on the desert floor. The Israelites didn't know what the flakes were, but we call it *manna*. Moses told the Israelites that this manna was food from God. The Israelites took as much as they needed to eat each day, and every morning God provided enough manna for everyone. Let's see if God has provided enough "manna" for us.**

Have kids get into groups of various sizes. Each group should have a different number of kids in it. Have each group read Exodus 16:13-20.

As they read, scatter pieces of individually wrapped candy around the room. There should be *exactly* enough for each person to have two. When groups have finished reading, say: **Scramble around the room collecting enough candy so that everyone has exactly the same amount.** Don't tell them how much the right amount is.

When all the candy has been picked up, check to see that everyone got enough and no one got too much. Have kids even out their collections so that everyone gets two pieces of candy. Tell the kids not to eat the candy yet.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.



Measuring Manna Supplies

Bibles
individually wrapped
candies





Catch the Quail Supplies

Bibles

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Quail Sounds"
(track 5)

Ask:

**How is your candy like or unlike the manna God sent?
What do you think about how God gave the Israelites manna every day?
When has God provided for you as he provided for the Israelites?**

Say: **Every time we eat, we can thank God for giving us the gift of food, just as he gave the Israelites food. ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED! Let's learn more about how God provides for us.**

Catch the Quail

What You'll Do

Say: **The Israelites didn't just want bread. They needed meat, too. God did some amazing things to make sure they had exactly what they needed. That evening, a whole bunch of birds called quail covered the Israelites' camp. Quail is very good to eat. Let's play a game to act out what the camp might have been like that evening.**

Form two groups. In each group, have kids read Exodus 16:11-13 together.

Have one group be the "Quail" and the other group the "Israelites." Have the Israelites form pairs. Partners will hold hands to form a circle so their arms form a net. Say: **The Quail must squat and walk like birds as they try to avoid the Israelites. Each pair of Israelites must keep holding hands, walk to a Quail, and catch the Quail by putting their arms around the Quail.**

When a pair of Israelites catches a Quail, the Quail becomes one of the Israelites and helps form the net. Play "Quail Sounds" (track 5 on the CD). Start the game. When the Israelites have caught all the Quail, have the groups switch roles and play again.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you like about catching the Quail?
In what ways can you be excited about how God provides for you today?
How can we show that we trust God to provide?**

Say: **► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. We had fun playing a game, and we can celebrate how God takes care of us. God loves us and cares for us, so he gives good gifts to us. God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and we can trust him to take care of us, too.**





Enjoying God’s Gifts

What You’ll Do

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is Psalm 23:5.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

Say: **The psalmist was thankful that God loved him and gave him what he needed. Let’s all join hands and say Psalm 23:5 together as a prayer to God before we eat the food God has provided for us.**

Lead the kids in saying the Scripture as a prayer: **“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows” (Psalm 23:5).**

Distribute candy evenly to the kids, and then let the kids enjoy their candy. After kids eat, distribute copies of the lyrics page. Say: **Psalms were often written as prayers to God. You can use this to pray and ask God to thank God for the ways he takes care of you.** Play “Psalm 23” (track 4 on the CD). Lead kids in singing along with the CD.



**The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.**

**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.
He restores my soul.
He restores my soul.**

**He guides me in paths of righteousness
For his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!**

**You prepare a table before me
In the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
My cup overflows.**



Enjoying God’s Gifts Supplies

- Bibles
- candy from the “Measuring Manna” activity
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Psalm 23” (track 4)

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**





Surely goodness and love will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever, forever!

The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Why would you want to pray before a meal or after God's given you something?
What are some ways that your cup overflows?

Say: **God provided for the Israelites, and we know ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED in all situations and at all times. The candy you ate can remind you of how sweet it is to trust God to provide for you.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Thanks, God

What You'll Do

Say: **Just as the psalmist gave thanks for God's good gifts, we're going to thank God now.**

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Thank-You Card" activity. Have students form pairs, and set out markers for everyone to use.

Say: **In your pairs, talk about the many things God provides for you. When you've talked for a little while, draw on your card three things that God has given you. Then write a prayer thanking God for those things.**

After about five minutes, ask for willing kids to share their thank-you cards with the rest of the group. Applaud kids' creativity and thankful hearts.

Thanks, God Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
markers

Thanks, God Easy Prep

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are you thankful to God for?
Tell about a time someone showed they were thankful to you.
How do you want to respond to the things God gives you?**

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.** He doesn't have to, but he does it because he loves us and cares about us. We can choose the way we react to God's gifts. We can thank God for his care and live with thankful hearts. We know he cares for us just as well as he cared for the Israelites.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Consider this week how ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

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

Write a letter to yourself about the kind of thankfulness you want to have for the things God gives you, and seal it in an envelope. Spend your week thanking God for all he gives you. At the end of the week, open the letter and read it.

Give one thing that God gave you to someone else. God wants us to share what he gives us with others!

Read a psalm of thanks such as Psalm 95, Psalm 118, or Psalm 138. Think about the psalm you read and be aware of things you see that God gave to you.

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



Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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

Teacher Pack

CD: "Psalm 23" (track 4)

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: **Let's be thankful for how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED 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 God's care of needy people. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Say: **Now with a group prayer, let's thank God for providing for us. We'll form a circle and each take a turn thanking God for something he has provided for us. Then we'll close the prayer by singing "Psalm 23" to God.**

Have kids form a circle, and begin the prayer by thanking God for something he has provided for you. After each student who wants to has had a chance to thank God, make sure kids have copies of the lyrics and play "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.





Lyrics ■■■■

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.

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.
He restores my soul.
He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!

You prepare a table before me
In the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever, forever!

The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.

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God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

Third- and fourth-graders often complain if they don't get things their way. They have specific likes and dislikes, and one of those dislikes is to feel deprived of something. Use this lesson to help kids see they don't need to complain when things don't go their way or when they don't get something they want. Help them focus on trusting God in every circumstance instead of complaining.



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

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sounds of Complaining <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear complaining sounds, and discuss caregivers' responses to those sounds.	Bibles, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Complaining Nation <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Discuss the Bible passage to learn how the Israelites complained instead of trusting God.	Bibles, saltines, foam cups, brown construction paper, glue sticks, pitcher of water	
	The Un-Gift <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures, and understand what it feels like when someone is ungrateful for a gift.	paper, markers	

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 trust God instead of complaining.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Complaining or Trusting <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and draw pictures comparing complaining and trusting.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pencils, markers, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Sounds of Complaining Supplies

Bibles

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Dog Whining"

(track 6)

"Baby Crying" (track 7)

"Sheep Bleating"

(track 8)

1 GETTING STARTED

Sounds of Complaining

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids stand on one side of the room.

Ask:

What does it mean to complain?

What's something you've complained about recently? How did that turn out for you?

How do others respond to your complaining?

Say: **Let's listen to some sounds that will help us think more about complaining.** Play "Dog Whining" (track 6 on the CD). Have kids identify the sound.

What's your reaction to this sound? Explain.

Play "Baby Crying" (track 7 on the CD). Have kids identify the sound.

Do you think this sounds the same as when you complain? Why or why not?

Say: **This next sound is kind of like today's Key Verse, which compares God with a shepherd. Imagine that you're a shepherd watching over your sheep on a hillside.** Play "Sheep Bleating" (track 8 on the CD). Have kids identify the sound.

Say: **Let's see how our Key Verse compares God with a shepherd.** Make sure kids all have a Bible, and have kids turn to Psalm 23:1-2. Ask a willing child to read aloud the 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."

Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How are a dog's whine, a baby's cry, a sheep's bleat, and a person's complaints similar or different?

When you think about God as a shepherd and yourself as a sheep, what does this verse say about how God treats you?

Keeping the Key Verse in mind, how is God patient with you?





Say: **We often complain when we're afraid or feel as if we don't have control. And even though sounds like a dog's whining, a baby's crying, or a sheep's bleating may be a form of complaint, those who care still respond. Today we'll learn how God responded to a group of people who forgot to trust in his care and instead complained. The Bible Point tells us that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Complaining Nation

What You'll Do

Say: **The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for a long, long time. God had performed many miracles so the Egyptian Pharaoh would set them free, and it worked! After the Israelites were set free, they wandered in the desert for many years. Today's Bible passage takes place while the Israelites wandered in the desert.**

Distribute a few crackers to each child, and have kids form groups of four. Allow kids to eat their crackers as they open their Bibles to Exodus 17. Have groups read aloud Exodus 17:1-3.

After kids have eaten the crackers and read the verses, have them compare their thirst after eating the crackers to the Israelites' thirst as they wandered in the desert. Ask kids to act out the feeling of extreme thirst.

Say: **The Israelites were afraid about not having water to drink. Because of their fear, they complained instead of talking to God. Now let's see how God responded to the Israelites' complaints.** Have kids find Exodus 17:4-7 in their Bibles, and have groups read the passage aloud.

Distribute a foam cup to each child, and give brown construction paper and glue sticks to each group of four. Show kids how to rub a glue stick over the sides of a cup, leaving the top lip clean. Then show kids how to tear construction paper and glue pieces of paper to the outside of the cup to make it look like a rock. When everyone has finished, pour water into the cups and allow kids to drink water from their "rocks."

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did your parents react the last time you complained?**
- What do you think of God's response to the complaining of the Israelites?**
- What can you know about God because of his reaction to the Israelites?**



Complaining Nation Supplies

- Bibles
- saltines
- foam cups
- brown construction paper
- glue sticks
- pitcher of water





The Un-Gift Supplies

paper
markers

Say: ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US** because he loves us. The Israelites wanted to know if God was going to take care of them. They let their fear turn concern into complaining, but God wanted them to know that he was there with them. He did something miraculous to care for them. When we mess up, ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

The Un-Gift

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs, and have pairs sit in a circle. Distribute paper and markers to each pair.

Say: **In your pairs, draw a picture for the pair to your right.** Allow about two minutes.

Have kids come see you as a group, one child from each pair, as you sit in a far corner of your room away from the other kids.

Say: **You're about to receive a picture from another pair. When you get it, complain about receiving it. Say things like "I didn't want a drawing; I wanted a pet unicorn," or "But I wanted a million dollars." Your partner doesn't have to complain with you, but your job is to find ways to complain about receiving this gift. You won't make comments about the picture, but you will say things you wish you had instead.** Make sure children understand that they're pretend complaining, and remind them not to say hurtful things about one another or anyone's artwork.

Have pairs give their picture to the pair on their right. Allow time for the pairs to complain and those who gave them the picture to react.

Then have kids draw another picture on the back of the one they've just received. Allow about two minutes.

Ask the kids who you spoke with earlier to come talk to you again. Say: **You'll switch pictures again. This time, show how thankful you are to receive the picture from your friends. Say things like "I am so thankful you gave me such a special gift," or "Thank you for making this for me."** Have pairs give their picture to the pair on their left. Allow time for the pairs to thank each other and those who gave them the picture to react.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was different about thankfulness and complaining in our activity?
What things do you expect others to say or do when you're helping them?
How do you think that's like or unlike God's reaction to helping us?**

Say: ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.** He was patient with the Israelites, too. They wanted water, and they complained about their situation. God listened and patiently cared for them. We can be thankful instead of complaining.





3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Complaining or Trusting

What You'll Do

Set out pencils and markers. Have kids form trios, and distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the "Complaining or Trusting" activity. Have trios discuss what the Israelites might have said when they complained and write those words in the top left speech bubble. Play "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD) while kids follow the next set of instructions. Restart the song if you need to.

Say: **In your trios, discuss what the Israelites might have said if they'd remembered to trust God, and write those words in the top right speech bubble.** After a few minutes, have several willing kids share with the group what they wrote.

Say: **With your trio, discuss what kinds of things you all complain about.** In the bottom left square, each person can draw a picture to represent a complaint.

Say: **Finally, discuss how you can remember to trust God. Then each of you can draw a picture in the bottom right square to show how you can remember to trust God.** After a few minutes, have willing kids share with the entire group what they drew.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD). This time, lead kids in singing along with the CD.

The Lord is my shepherd.

**The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.**

**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.
He restores my soul.
He restores my soul.**

**He guides me in paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!**



Complaining or Trusting Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth pencils
markers
CD player
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Psalm 23" (track 4)

Complaining or Trusting Easy Prep

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





You prepare a table before me
In the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever, forever!

The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.
The Lord is my shepherd.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What’s the difference between when you’re complaining and when you’re trusting God?
What might it be like to trust God when you’re having a hard time in life?
What do you think of the way God treats us regardless of if we complain or thank him?

Say: ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.** We aren’t always easy for him to deal with. Sometimes we complain and forget how good he is. We can ask God to help us remember to have an attitude of trust and thankfulness toward God. And we can thank him for being so patient with us.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

Say: I’d like you to consider how you can remember this week that ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Fall Quarter

Lesson 3  Grades 3 & 4



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

Pray about something you need or want from God. Practice patience this week by waiting for an answer from God.

Help someone who’s younger than you as he or she learns to do something new. Be patient, and remember how God is patient with you.

Think of something you’re trying to accomplish—whether you’re learning to play the piano or trying to get better grades in math—and pray for patience as you try to learn to do that thing. Remember how God is patient.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Let’s remember that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US 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 Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids stand in a circle and place their Bible Truth Sleuth pages on the floor by their feet. Encourage kids to pray about ways they can remember God’s patience.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





Lyrics

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.
 The Lord is my shepherd.
 The Lord is my shepherd.
 The Lord is my shepherd.

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.
 He restores my soul.
 He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
 For his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the valley
 Of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
 Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!

You prepare a table before me
 In the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil;
 My cup overflows.
 My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
 All the days of my life,
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 Forever, forever!

The Lord is my shepherd.
 The Lord is my shepherd.
 The Lord is my shepherd.
 The Lord is my shepherd.

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God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1)

Exodus 19:16–20:21


Most third- and fourth-graders recognize the difference between right and wrong. They can make deliberate choices about their actions. This means kids this age should be able to understand right ways to honor God. They also know certain actions and attitudes do not honor God. Use this lesson to help your kids understand that honoring God is a choice they can make each day.



► **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
1 Getting Started	What Rules? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Form 2 groups, and make up something for the other group members to do with mixed-up directions.	index cards, pencils	
2 Bible Exploration	God's Commandments <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Listen to the CD, and examine each of the first 4 commandments.	Bibles, CD player, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, paper, markers, tape, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

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



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Honoring God <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse through an active game.	Bibles	
	Upon My Heart <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create hearts, and write on them a personal connection to each of the four commandments they've learned.	red construction paper, markers, scissors (several pairs), Bible Truth Sleuth	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



What Rules? Supplies

index cards
pencils

1 GETTING STARTED

What Rules?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form two groups. Distribute pencils and index cards to each group. Say: **Each group will think of something for the other group to do and specific ways for the group to do that thing. As a group, write out the goal for the other group as well as the procedures for the task. Make the task as complicated as you want. Write each step on a separate index card; then shuffle the cards before you give them to the other group.**

For example, one group may decide it wants the other group to stack three chairs on top of one another by having members carry each chair around the room once, stop, set the chair down, all spin around three times, and then start stacking the chairs. However, when their cards are shuffled, the order of directions will become confusing.

Give groups three minutes to write their tasks and procedures for each other. When both groups have written their instructions, say: **Give your instructions to the other group. As a group, it's your job to figure out how to do what the other group wrote down. You can refer only to the written instructions.** Allow time.

See how far kids get. After three minutes, bring kids together.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to do a task that was so complicated?

What might've been different if you could've spoken to the rule-makers?

Say: **In our game, rules were a bit confusing and we weren't able to get more information. It's similar to how God asks us to follow his rules. The big difference is that God gives us lots of ways to know how to follow his rules well. Today we'll learn about some rules God gave his people. He wants us to have rules that will help us, not keep us from enjoying life. We ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God’s Commandments

What You’ll Do

Point out the “God Gives the Ten Commandments” picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **This week and next week, we’ll learn about rules God gave the Israelites. They’re called commandments, and God gave them to the Israelites so they would know how to live in a way that honored God.**

Just over two months after the Israelites had left Egypt, they came to Mount Sinai. This is where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

God wanted to let the Israelites and us know what to do to live our lives in a way that honors him. Let’s read our Bible passage and find out what God says. Distribute Bibles, and ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 19:16-18. Encourage the other kids to act out what’s happening in the passage as the child reads. Play “Rumbling Mountain” (track 9 on the CD) when the mountain begins to rumble.

Then ask another child to read aloud Exodus 19:19-25. Encourage kids to act out the passage again this time, too.

Say: **Moses told the people about God’s Ten Commandments. The first commandment God gives us is “You shall have no other gods before me.”**

Ask:

What’s one way you can put God first in your life?

Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “Honor God” activity. Have them find the “Have No Other Gods Before Me” heading, and ask them to list other religions that people might follow. Then have them place “Jesus” at the top of the list in big, bold letters and cross out the other religions.

Say: **In the second commandment, God tells us not to create or worship idols.**

Ask:

What are some of the things we idolize and worship instead of God?

Say: **God wants us to make him our number-one priority.** Under “Don’t Worship Idols,” have kids draw a picture of something in their lives that sometimes seems more important than God. When they’ve finished their drawings, say: **Write “God Is First” across your picture.**

Say: **The third commandment tells us not to misuse God’s name.**



God’s Commandments Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- pens
- paper
- markers
- tape
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

- CD: “Rumbling Mountain” (track 9), “Give Thanks” (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 3)
- Bible Timeline

God’s Commandments Easy Prep

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





Ask:

**What do you think it means to misuse God's name?
What are some ways you can use God's name in a good way?**

Say: **Let's sing a song that will praise God's name and honor him.** Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 3 on the CD). Then lead kids in singing along with the CD.



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.

Have kids find a partner and share something they praise God for. Then have kids write what they and their partners shared in the "Don't Misuse God's Name" area on their pages.

Say: **The fourth commandment says, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."**

Ask:

How does keeping the Sabbath day holy honor God?

Set out paper, markers, and tape, and have kids create a banner depicting ways they can keep the Sabbath holy. Have them each work on a separate piece of paper. They'll put together the pages at the end to make a complete banner. Encourage kids to work together where possible to make this a collaborative project.



Say: **Choose one thing on your banner, and write it under the last heading of your Bible Truth Sleuth page.** Give kids a minute to decide and write.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of these commandments do you think you'd like to make a bigger part of your life?**
- What do you think of God giving these rules to you?**
- What can you do to respect God's rules?**

Say: **We can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.** We want to honor God to show him our love. Giving the Ten Commandments was God's way of helping the Israelites know what to do for their part of a covenant, or very special promise, with God. God gave them these rules to help them. We can follow these rules because they're good for us, too.

**3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

Honoring God

What You'll Do ■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is Deuteronomy 6:5.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Have kids form four groups (a group can be just one person). Give each group one section of the verse as listed below, and have groups make up some actions that would help them remember their part of the verse.

- Group 1: "Love the Lord your God"
- Group 2: "with all your heart"
- Group 3: "and with all your soul"
- Group 4: "and with all your strength."

When kids have finished making up actions, have them teach their section of the verse to the rest of the group. Then when everyone has learned the other groups' actions, repeat the Key Verse aloud together a couple of times. Encourage kids all to act out the pieces of the verse together.



**Honoring God
Supplies**

Bibles





Upon My Heart Supplies

red construction paper
markers
scissors (several pairs)
Bible Truth Sleuth

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are some ways we can love God with our whole heart?
What are some ways we can love God with our whole mind?
What are some ways we can love God with our lives?**

Say: **If you're stuck trying to figure out how to love God in any situation this week, you can remember these actions. We can honor and love God in every moment of our lives. We can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM and obeying his commandments. Let's make something to help us remember to obey God.**

Upon My Heart

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out markers and scissors, and give kids each a piece of red construction paper. Show them how to cut a heart out of it. After everyone has a heart shape, say: **On your heart, write the commandments we learned.**

Have kids write the following abbreviated commandments across their hearts:

Have no other gods before me.
Don't worship idols.
Don't misuse God's name.
Keep the Sabbath holy.

Encourage kids to refer to their Bible Truth Sleuth pages if they need help remembering the abbreviated commands. Have kids form pairs. Say: **Take turns talking about one way you can follow one of these rules.** Allow time, and then encourage kids to pray for each other.

After about three minutes, say: **Now that you've each written these commandments on a paper heart, take your heart home with you to help remind you to write them on your real heart and to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What difference do you think it might make in your life to follow the rule you told your partner about?
How did you react the last time someone told you to obey a rule?
How can God help you obey him?**

Say: **In all situations, we can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. We don't have to figure out how to obey God all on our own; we can let God help us. He's already helped us by giving us the Ten Commandments. Let's ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM this week.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's consider this week how we can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**

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

Get your family together and worship God. Praise his name, and talk about how you can follow the third commandment together.

Choose a day to be your Sabbath. Spend time with God, and don't let yourself be distracted.

Consider some things you sometimes spend too much time doing: playing video games? watching movies? playing sports? Choose one activity you won't do this week, and instead spend that time with God.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites learned some of the rules that God wanted them to follow. Let's ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM 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 honoring God by obeying him. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Say: **Today let's close by sharing with one another the ways we will honor God with our lives. As we bow our heads, each person will say, "I will honor God by..." and offer one way you will honor God with your whole heart.**

Ask kids to pray. If kids want to pass, allow them to do so.



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





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.

**OK
 TO COPY**



God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2)

Exodus 19:16–20:21

Being accepted by their peers and included in the group is very important to third- and fourth-graders. Being included causes them to be proud of who they are and gives them a sense of what it's like to be respected. Because they have been shown respect by being included, it is important that they learn to respect others by also including them in their group. Third- and fourth-graders are just beginning to consider the feelings of others and will benefit from learning and understanding what it means to respect others through this lesson.



► 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 for others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	How I Treat Others <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game, and talk about how they treat others.		
2 Bible Exploration	At Mount Sinai <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Go through the final 6 commandments using their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Respecting Others <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decorate stickers that will help them remember to respect others.	Bibles, crayons, scissors Teacher Pack: sticker sheets 	Cut the stickers into strips so there are 2 stickers on each strip.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Showing Love and Respect <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out scenarios, and rate the level of respect shown in each.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: “Showing Love and Respect” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the “Showing Love and Respect” cards.</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>Bible Truth Sleuth</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 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

How I Treat Others

What You'll Do

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

Have kids number off by twos. Have the Ones stand in a tight circle facing outward and the Twos stand in a circle around the Ones. The Twos will face inward so that each of them is facing one of the kids on the inside circle. Say: **Let's have a discussion to show how we treat others.**

Explain that kids will complete statements with their partners. Read aloud the following statements, and allow kids to respond with their partners. In between each statement, have either the inside or the outside circle move. This way kids will rotate and have a new partner for each statement.

Say: **The last time I was in a good mood, people around me could guess my mood by** [kids share with their partners]. Rotate.

Say: **The last time I was in a bad mood, people around me could guess my mood by** [kids share with their partners]. Rotate.

Say: **Other people can tell I love them because I** [kids share with their partners]. Rotate.

Say: **The last time I was disrespectful, I** [kids share with their partners]. Rotate.

Say: **I show that I respect someone by** [kids share with their partners]. Rotate.

When kids finish, have them sit down. Say: **We'll meet all different types of people during our lives. It's important that we show respect to all of them.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**How did you show respect to the people you spoke to today?
Tell what happened the last time you showed respect to someone.
What's one way you can show respect to your parents today?**

Say: **You talked a lot about different ways to respect people. Let's keep that in mind as we learn some ways that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. We're going to Mount Sinai with Moses and the Israelites to hear what God has to say in his Ten Commandments.**



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

At Mount Sinai

What You'll Do

Have the kids gather in a circle. Show kids the “God Gives the Ten Commandments” picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **We’re going to find out what God told his people in the last six commandments.**

When Moses went up on Mount Sinai, the people waited below, not really sure what was happening. Let’s find out what the final commandments are that God gave to Moses, and let’s take a look at what these commandments mean. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have a willing child read aloud the fifth commandment from Exodus 20:12.

Ask:

How does honoring your father and mother show respect?

Distribute this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Make sure kids all have pens, and have them turn to the “God Gives the Ten Commandments” activity. Allow time for kids to complete part 1.

Have a willing child read aloud the next commandment from Exodus 20:13.

Say: **Let’s take a look at what Jesus tells us about murder.**

Have kids turn in their Bibles to Matthew 5:21-22.

Say: **Here Jesus tells us that anyone who murders will be subject to judgment, and then he goes on to say that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. So if we murder or are angry with someone, that’s a problem with God either way.**

Have kids form trios and follow the instructions on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages for part 2 of “God Gives the Ten Commandments.” Allow about three minutes.

Have a willing child read aloud the next commandment from Exodus 20:14.

Say: **When two people get married, God wants them to stay true to each other in their hearts and with their actions for the rest of their lives.**

In their trios, have kids complete part 3 on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Allow about three minutes. Have groups share their answers with each other.



At Mount Sinai Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Truth Sleuth pens
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Rumbling Mountain” (track 9)
- Bible Timeline

At Mount Sinai Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





Have a willing child read aloud the next commandment from Exodus 20:15.

Say: **We all know stealing is wrong. After all, it's something you can get arrested for!**

Ask:

How does stealing show a lack of respect for someone?

Have trios complete part 4 on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Allow about two minutes.

Have a willing child read aloud the next commandment from Exodus 20:16.

Say: **What this commandment means is that it's wrong to lie about others.**

Ask:

How does lying about someone show a lack of respect?

Say: ► **GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. One way to do that is to be truthful. All lies are wrong. When we lie, it not only shows disrespect for others but can also cause a lot of trouble. Let's look at a few situations about lying and act them out to see what might happen.**

Have kids complete part 5 on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Allow about two minutes.

Have a willing child read aloud the next commandment from Exodus 20:17.

Say: **To covet means to want something that isn't yours; it means you want something that belongs to someone else. God wants us to be content, or happy, with the things we already have.** Have kids complete part 6 on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Allow about two minutes.

Play "Rumbling Mountain" (track 9 on the CD) as you read aloud Exodus 20:18-21.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**How did these commandments help you think of new ways to respect others?
What can you learn from one of these commandments this week? Explain.
What difference do you think it makes when you treat people with respect?**

Say: **No matter what other people are doing, we can look in God's Word to know that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. The Ten Commandments help us know how God wants us to treat other people. We can be glad that God gave us these rules. Let's think more about how to do what God wants and treat others with respect.**





Respecting Others

What You'll Do

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is Matthew 19:18-19: “ ‘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).**

Ask:

Jesus was repeating words from the Old Testament in this verse. What does it mean to you that Jesus thought these were important enough to repeat?

Have kids say the verse along with you a few times.

Give each child a two-sticker strip. Have kids bring their sticker strips as they gather around tables with crayons set out.

Say: **Since respecting others involves spending time with them, we're going to make a reminder of this. Each of you has two stickers. Decorate one to remind you to respect others, and then decorate the second sticker to give to another person to whom you want to show respect.**

Give kids a few minutes to decorate their stickers. Then have a few willing kids share their designs with the group.

Say: **Put the first sticker somewhere you will see it often. You might want to put it in your room, on a school notebook, or on your Bible. Then think about the person you decided to give the other sticker to. When you give the sticker to that person, it would be great if you could tell him or her what you learned today about respecting others.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**How will it show respect to give the second sticker to someone else?
Tell about a time someone did something to show you respect.
What do you think is the most important thing to remember about showing respect to others?**

Say: **We can respect other people in so many ways. Whether we're caring and kind to them or if we talk kindly about them to others, we can remember the Ten Commandments because ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.**



Respecting Others Supplies

- Bibles
- crayons
- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- sticker sheets

Respecting Others Easy Prep

Cut the stickers into strips so there are 2 stickers on each strip.





Showing Love and Respect Supplies

Teacher Pack
"Showing Love and Respect" cards

Showing Love and Respect Easy Prep

Separate the "Showing Love and Respect" cards.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Showing Love and Respect

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We show respect to others by treating them the way we would want to be treated. We love them as we love ourselves. We take care of them the way we take care of ourselves. This means we show them love and respect even if they don't love and respect us in return.**

Have kids form four groups. Give each group a "Showing Love and Respect" card. Have groups read their cards together and discuss them. Let kids know they'll be acting out scenarios.

Say: **After each presentation, the rest of you will hold up 1 to 10 fingers indicating how respectful the main character in the scenario was to the other people. One finger would indicate "no respect," and 10 fingers would indicate "very respectful." If you think the main character wasn't very respectful, think of ways to respond to that disrespectful person in a respectful way. You can raise your hand and tell the actors how to respond respectfully.** Have willing kids from each group act out for the entire group the scenarios on their cards. Allow time for presentations and responses.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways can you tell whether someone is being respectful or not?**
- What difference might it make to the people around you whether you're respectful or not?**
- What can you do to show respect to all the people you meet, not just some of them?**

Say: **Our scenarios showed us how every day we have opportunities to show love and respect to others. Every day we make choices to either obey God's commandments or to ignore them. God wants us to obey his commandments so that we'll have the best and happiest lives possible. ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. Let's choose to obey God.**





4

**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's consider this week how we can act on the ways ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.**

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

- Let your brother or sister go first when it's your turn to go first.**
- Do what your parents ask without complaining or arguing. Show them respect by treating them as you'd want to be treated.**
- Help someone who needs help without asking anything in return.**

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments to help them remember that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS. Let's treat others with respect 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 respecting others. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids find a partner and pray with each other. Ask them to show respect by listening and caring for their partner as they pray together about the ways God wants them to show respect.



Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Truth Sleuth





The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-25

Third- and fourth-graders are becoming more interested in famous singers, movie stars, and brand-name clothing and shoes. They may not realize their obsession with these people or things can be idolatrous. Use this lesson to help kids put things in perspective and recognize how they can worship God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Who's Famous? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decide in groups who their favorite famous person is, and then demonstrate how a crowd would react to that person.		
2 Bible Exploration	Who the Israelites Worshipped <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Go through the Bible passage and learn what each person or group did.	Bible, heavy object (such as a backpack full of books), lemon slices, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **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
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Who Will We Worship? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and discuss worship.	Bibles, tape Teacher Pack: “Who to Worship” poster 	Cut apart the 4 sections of the “Who to Worship” poster, and tape each piece to a different corner of the room.
	Sweet Worship <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Add sugar to lemons, and discuss how sweet it is to worship God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, lemon slices, paper cups, spoons, sugar	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



1 GETTING STARTED

Who's Famous?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have them form four groups. Say: **Everyone think of a famous person. Then in your groups, decide which of your famous people your group likes the best. Don't let the other groups hear who you've chosen!**

Once you've decided, one person will pretend to be the famous person and you'll act out for the rest of us the way you think people would react if they saw that person come into this room. The rest of us will try to guess your famous person.

Give groups a couple of minutes to each choose a famous person and decide how they'll act out people's reactions to that person. Then have kids present those reactions while everyone else guesses who the person is.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What do your reactions to the famous people you chose say about you or about those people?

Why do you think people react to famous people the way they do?

When people react to famous people in the ways your groups demonstrated, it's sometimes called idolizing or worshipping. Do you think any of the people you thought of today are worthy of worship? Why or why not?

Say: ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP. But sometimes we can get confused and give our attention to things that don't deserve our worship. We'll learn about who the Israelites worshipped when they got distracted from God.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Who the Israelites Worshipped

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we'll learn about how the Israelites became impatient while waiting for Moses to return from Mount Sinai. Moses had been gone a long time, and the

Who the Israelites Worshipped Supplies

Bible
heavy object (such as a
backpack full of books)
lemon slices
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Israelite Party"
(track 11)

! **ALLERGY**
■ **ALERT**





people were tired of waiting. They didn't know what had happened to Moses, so they decided to take matters into their own hands.

Have a willing child read aloud Exodus 32:1-6. Then give kids 30 seconds to demonstrate how they act when they're impatient.

Say: **The Israelites had waited a long time to get out of Egypt. They had been slaves for more than 400 years! And now they had been in the desert only a few months and they were complaining. The Israelites were impatient. They wanted things their way—immediately. Let's look at what God said about how the Israelites were acting.**

Have a willing child read aloud Exodus 32:7-10.

Say: **The Israelites were *stiff-necked*. Let's do something to help us think about what that might mean.** Have kids keep their necks as stiff as they can as they try to follow the commands you give. Say: **Look at your neighbor's feet and tell all of us what color socks he or she is wearing.** Allow 30 seconds. Say: **Now look up at the ceiling and count how many lights there are in the room.** Allow 30 seconds, and remind kids to keep their necks stiff if they forget.

Ask:

Was it hard to follow my instructions while your necks were stiff? Why or why not?

Say: ***Stiff-necked* actually means inflexible or stubborn. God was very angry that the Israelites had disobeyed him and were worshipping an idol, and he knew they would be stubborn and not want to change their ways.**

Moses pleaded with God to spare the lives of the Israelites. Even though they didn't deserve it, God agreed. Then when Moses returned to where the Israelites were, he heard the noise of people shouting. Joshua, who was helping Moses, said he thought it was the sound of war. But that wasn't what it really was. Moses knew that what he was hearing was the Israelites having a wild party.

Play "Israelite Party" (track 11 on the CD), and have kids celebrate and party like the Israelites did.

After a minute, and before the CD segment stops, startle the kids by dropping the heavy object on the floor to make a loud noise. Then have kids sit together.

Ask:

What was it like to be startled out of your fun by this object dropping?

Say: **When Moses saw the Israelites, he was very angry because the Israelites were worshipping an idol. Let's find out what he did next.** Ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 32:19-20.





Say: **After Moses had pleaded with God to save the Israelites, he was unpleasantly surprised by what he saw them doing. They were *not* worshipping the one and only God, the one who freed them from Egypt. They were worshipping a golden calf and calling it a god! So Moses destroyed their idol and ground it into powder!**

Ask:

Think about a time something special to you got ruined. How did you react?

Say: **Moses didn't stop at just destroying the idol; he put the powder from the destroyed idol into water and made the Israelites drink it!**

Give a lemon slice to each child. After kids have tasted their lemon slices, say: **These lemons tasted really sour, but what the Israelites drank was probably much worse. It probably tasted terrible!**

The Israelites sinned. Moses wanted them to know it. Let's find out what explanation Aaron tried to give for their behavior. Have a willing child read aloud the rest of today's Bible passage, Exodus 32:21-25.

Have kids form pairs and pretend to do what Aaron said he did. Tell the pairs to choose an inanimate object in the room and pretend to light a fire under it. Encourage them to ask the object to get up and move. After about a minute, invite them to come back to a circle.

Say: **There was quite a bit that didn't make sense about what Aaron said. He told Moses that he put the gold into the fire and that the calf came out of it. But we know that nonliving things don't do anything on their own.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think of the Israelites' behavior in this passage?

What things in your life may have led you to worship something other than God?

What can you do to put God back into first place in your life?

Say: ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** He brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and was leading them to the Promised Land. We may think the Israelites forgot too easily about the things God had done, but the reality is that we can easily forget about God, too. We can find things to distract us or take our time away from him. Let's make sure we do whatever is possible in order to give our worship to God only.





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Who Will We Worship?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is Exodus 20:3.** Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "You shall have no other gods before me." Encourage kids to repeat the verse together a couple of times.

Say: **This verse tells us that ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.**

Have kids form four groups, and then send each group to a different corner of the room. Have kids look at the pictures and discuss why people would think the item or items in their pictures are important. Rotate groups around the room until each group has discussed each picture.

Say: **Many things could easily become more important to people than worshipping God.**

Ask:

How is wanting things like a shiny new sports car or a new iPod or even lots of money like worshipping idols?

Say: **In the Bible today, we learned that it was more important to the Israelites to worship a golden calf than to worship God. Even though God had freed them from being slaves in Egypt and was taking them to the Promised Land, they grew impatient while waiting and decided to worship something else instead.**

Have groups each bring their picture to a table.

Say: **The pictures you discussed during this activity show just some of the things that people could worship instead of God. Let's see what the Bible says about worshipping things rather than God.** Have kids flip the pictures over and put the four pieces of the verse in order. Have them sit down.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Is there anything you think is more important than God? Explain.
How can you know if you're putting something before God in your life?
What difference does it make whether God's in first place in your life or not?
What changes would you like to make to your priorities?**



Who Will We Worship? Supplies

Bibles

tape

Teacher Pack

"Who to Worship"
poster

Who Will We Worship? Easy Prep

Cut apart the 4 sections of the "Who to Worship" poster, and tape each piece to a different corner of the room.





Sweet Worship Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens
lemon slices
paper cups
spoons
sugar

! ALLERGY ALERT

Sweet Worship Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Say: **We can pray and ask God to help us see the areas in our lives in which we're not placing him in first place. When we do that, it helps our hearts be more healthy because ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** The Israelites got distracted and worshipped things they made rather than the God who made them. They learned the hard way that ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.**

Sweet Worship

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs and sit down somewhere in the room with their partners.

Pray: **Dear Lord, there are many things in our lives that can seem to be more important to us than you are. Please help us always put you first and worship you only. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to free us from our sins.** Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Invite kids to take about five minutes to write prayers on the "I Will Worship God" section. The pages contain instructions. Kids will write about things they worship instead of God. Use this time to distribute the lemon slices, each one in a paper cup.

After about four of the five minutes, ask kids to stop writing and pray. Encourage them to listen to God more than they talk.

When kids finish, say: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Set out sugar and spoons. Say: **You tasted lemons earlier. When we worship God and believe in his Son, Jesus, it's sweet to him.** Have kids put plenty of sugar all over the lemon slices and bite into them again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What changed about the taste of the lemons?

How is that the same as how worshipping God can change our lives?

What's different about how we're affected when we worship God compared with how it affects us to worship other things?

What can you do in your daily activities to worship only God?

Say: **No matter what kinds of things are going on in our lives, worshipping God can change our attitudes and help us even in hard times. That's why ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** When we worship things instead of God, we're missing the best part. The Israelites missed the best thing they could've worshipped when they gave their worship to the golden calf instead of worshipping God.





4

**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Consider how you can remember this week that ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.**

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

Find one thing in your life that takes up more space than you want it to. Ask God to help you replace that thing with him.

Ask your parents to help you choose a good love song or poem. Read the lyrics of the song or poem and compare them with the way you can worship God in your life. Write a love song or poem to God.

Make a list ranking the importance of things in your life. Evaluate your priorities and pray about them. Ask God to help your priorities line up with worshipping only him, not just worshipping him more than other things.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites forgot to keep God first in their lives. We can remember 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 worshipping God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids form pairs and pray together, asking God to help them worship only him throughout the week.



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth





The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

Third- and fourth-graders have reached an age at which they are beginning to have some independence and responsibility. Many have an allowance and an idea of the things on which they want to spend their money. Most have some control over the activities they will and won't participate in. This is prime time to discuss with them the importance of seeing their time, talent, and treasures as a means of serving God. Use this lesson to share with them that we all can serve God with everything we are.



► 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 serve God in many different ways.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What's My Talent? <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a guessing game, and try to figure out one another's talents.	chairs	Set up chairs in a semicircle with 2 chairs in the front middle facing the rest of the chairs.
2 Bible Exploration	Building the Tabernacle <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Examine the process of building the Tabernacle through a poster and the CD.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, scissors, pens, paper, markers, glue, CD player, copy of the “Sign-Up Scroll” handout (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, “Tabernacle” poster, tabernacle yarn 	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book. Cut the yarn into 1-foot segments. There should be enough to have 20 pieces of each color.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Do It All in the Name of Jesus <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and share how God could use them.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



What's My Talent? Supplies

chairs

What's My Talent? Easy Prep

Set up chairs in a semicircle with 2 chairs in the front middle facing the rest of the chairs.

1 GETTING STARTED

What's My Talent?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids sit in the semicircle of chairs you set up beforehand. You will sit in one of the two chairs facing the rest of the chairs. Say: **Think of something that you do really well. Some things you might be good at are drawing, singing, playing baseball, or telling stories.**

Choose one thing you do especially well, but don't tell anyone what that talent is. We're going to play a guessing game. You'll ask questions to try to guess each other's talents.

Ask for a willing child to be the first contestant. Have the contestant whisper his or her talent to you and then sit beside you. Then have the rest of the group take turns asking questions to try to guess the talent of the contestant. If kids get stuck, refer to the questions below.

How long have you had this talent?

Do you have to keep practicing to do this talent well?

Do you enjoy your talent?

If your talent requires any special tools or equipment, what are those?

Let the person who guesses the talent be the next contestant. If no one guesses after three or four questions, have the current contestant reveal his or her talent and then choose the next contestant and switch seats with the person they chose. Repeat this until each child has been the contestant.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Which talents are you most proud of? Why?

What do you like most about having these talents?

What's good about using your talents to serve God?

Say: **We all have different talents and abilities. Today we'll look at how the Israelites used their talents to build a special tent for God. Just like the Israelites used their talents for God, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too!**

You may want to move the chairs out of the way after this activity.





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Building the Tabernacle

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today's Bible passage is found in Exodus 35:4–36:38. It tells us how the Israelites used their talents to work together to build the Tabernacle, which was a special tent for God. Let's take a look at the passage.**

Make sure kids each have a Bible, and have kids turn to Exodus 35:4–36:38. Say: **Now we'll hear an account of the action as it happens.**

Keep the "Tabernacle" poster folded so that only Scene 1 is visible. As the account of the Israelites unfolds, change the poster scene to match your place in the passage. There are a total of four scenes.

Say: **Our first picture is live at the scene of the building of the Tabernacle. Our crew is on-site, and the leader, Moses, is just about to speak.**

We're going to hear about some things that Moses needs from us in order to get the Tabernacle built. There'll be a sign-up sheet going around. You can put your name in the column that you're most interested in. Listen to the categories Moses lists; those will be the same as what's on the sign-up sheet. Play "Moses' Tabernacle Address" (track 12 on the CD) while you display Scene 1 on the poster. While the CD plays, have kids pass around the "Sign-Up Scroll" handout and sign up for the way in which they'd like to help or contribute.

Say: **It sure sounds as if Moses has a huge plan in mind for the Tabernacle, and the people will have to donate a lot of their time and possessions to get the job done. But Moses said God commanded that the Israelites give.**

Ask:

**Why do you think it was important for the Israelites to give their talents?
What kinds of things do you think you could give to God?**

Set out the craft supplies. Say: **As teams, you'll use materials provided to build a small replica of the Tabernacle together. Your group only needs to worry about the components you signed up for. You don't need to be concerned about how all the pieces will fit together.** Have kids form groups based on what they signed up for and discuss the ways they will use their selected role to make the Tabernacle beautiful. Allow a few minutes for them to decide and get to work.

Say: **As you work, we'll check in with Harold, our roving reporter on the scene, to see what's happening now. So work quietly! You might hear some ideas that will help you work on your area of interest. Harold, what's going on down there?**



Building the Tabernacle Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
scissors
pens
paper
markers
glue
CD player
copy of the "Sign-Up
Scroll" handout (at the
end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Moses' Tabernacle
Address" (track
12), "Tabernacle
Donations" (track 13),
"Tabernacle Foremen
Are Chosen" (track
14), "A Look at the
Completed Tabernacle"
(track 15)
"Tabernacle" poster
tabernacle yarn

Building the Tabernacle Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

Cut the yarn into 1-foot
segments. There should
be enough to have 20
pieces of each color.





Play “Tabernacle Donations” (track 13 on the CD) while you display Scene 2 on the poster. Encourage willing kids to form small groups and act out what’s taking place on the CD.

Say: **Some strange things were used to build the Tabernacle. But it seems that everyone had something to contribute.**

Ask groups to talk about these questions as they continue to work on their Tabernacle components:

What kinds of things could you donate for a service project today, even if you don’t have any money?

What are some skills you have that you could use to serve God?

Have kids work quietly for a few more minutes, and then say: **Let’s get back to Harold in the Israelite camp and see what’s happening.** Have kids continue to work while you play “Tabernacle Foremen Are Chosen” (track 14 on the CD). Display Scene 3 on the poster. When the track ends, have kids bring their materials together and begin assembling them into a miniature Tabernacle.

Say: **The Israelites finished their building project just like we’ve finished ours.** Ask kids to cheer and celebrate around the miniature Tabernacle they built. **Let’s check out the scene one more time and see what all their service was able to accomplish. Harold, how is the project looking down there?** Choose a willing child to silently point out the pieces of the Tabernacle as Harold talks about them on the CD track.

Finally, play “A Look at the Completed Tabernacle” (track 15 on the CD) as you display Scene 4 on the poster.

Say: **Let’s look at how we can use our talents to serve God.** Distribute this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “How I Can Serve God” activity. Give each child one strand each of red, blue, and purple yarn.

Say: **You’ll use these strands of yarn to create a picture on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages. You can either draw a picture and use the yarn to make it more elaborate, or you may create the entire picture out of the yarn you have. Be creative, and do whatever you want to do to create a picture with your yarn that describes a talent you have. Use any of the available supplies that you want.** Give kids 10 minutes to complete their pictures.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What’s one way you can use the talents you’ve illustrated on your Bible Truth Sleuth page to serve God?





When you use your talents to serve God, does it matter what other people think? Explain.

Who do you spend most of your time or energy trying to please? Is that how you want it to be? Explain.

Say: God is pleased when we use our time, our talents, and the things we have—our possessions or treasures—to serve him. The Israelites *all* helped build the Tabernacle. That means everyone’s skills and talents were valuable and were part of the project. God gives each of us unique and special ways to serve him. ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD!**



3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Do It All in the Name of Jesus

What You’ll Do

Say: Our Key Verse today is Colossians 3:17.

Make sure kids each have a Bible, and have kids find the verse. Read the verse aloud with them: “**And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus**” (Colossians 3:17).

Say: **Let’s sing “Whatever You Do,” which is our Key Verse.** Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play “Whatever You Do” (Colossians 3:17) (track 16 on the CD). Lead the kids in singing the song.

**Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.
Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.**

**And whatever you do,
Whether in word or deed,
Do it all in the name
Of the Lord Jesus.**

(Repeat.)

**Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Do It All in the Name of Jesus Supplies

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

Teacher Pack

- CD: “Whatever You Do” (Colossians 3:17) (track 16)





**And whatever you do,
Whether in word or deed,
Do it all in the name
Of the Lord Jesus.**
(Repeat.)

**Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**And whatever you do,
Whether in word or deed,
Do it all in the name
Of the Lord Jesus.**
(Repeat.)

**Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.
Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.**

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

Say: **Whenever we do something, we can think about how God sees it.** Ask kids to form pairs, and have one person in each pair think of a way to serve God in word. Allow a minute. Then have kids switch roles and name ways to serve God in deed. Allow a minute.

Say: **When you do things with an attitude of wanting to serve God, you’re doing it in the name of Jesus.**

Ask the entire group:

How can you do things in the name of Jesus?

Have kids form three groups. Then have them all choose one of their talents and act out a way that talent can be used to serve God. Give kids a setting in which they will act out their talents. The setting for Group 1 will be church. The setting for Group 2 will be school. And for Group 3, the setting will be at home. Allow about three minutes. Then have kids quickly present their talents to everyone else.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What can you do to serve God with some of the talents you have?
Explain whether you think you can do great things, even godly things,
without actually doing them for God.**





What can you do to keep your words and deeds focused on God?
What's one way you hope you can serve God?

Say: No matter who you are, you can serve God. God put the talents of the Israelites to use to build him the Tabernacle. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too. We can ask God to help us focus on serving him with our words and actions.

4 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Consider this week how ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.

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

One day this week when you're getting ready (when you're brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or eating breakfast), use that time to dedicate your day to serving God. Ask God to use you in each moment of that day, and as often as possible remind yourself that you're serving God with everything you do that day.

Use one of your God-given talents to help someone else. You might help a neighbor with yardwork, paint a picture for someone who's sick, cook a good meal for your family, or play music for someone who needs to be encouraged. Do that thing for God, and serve him as you use your talent. Pay attention to the things you see and the things that happen around you. When you see someone using a talent God gave him or her, thank that person for blessing you with that talent. For example, if a clerk at the grocery store is very kind, thank that person for blessing you.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Say: **God used all of the Israelites to make a beautiful place for him. Just as God used all of the Israelites' talents, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD as we follow through with our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Stand in a circle. Encourage kids to pray for the person on their right. They can pray silently or out loud. Ask them to pray that the person next to them will be able to see the talents God has given him or her and be able to see how he or she can serve God.





Lyrics ■■■■

Whatever You Do (Colossians 3:17)

Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.
Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.

And whatever you do,
Whether in word or deed,
Do it all in the name
Of the Lord Jesus.
(Repeat.)

Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him.

And whatever you do,
Whether in word or deed,
Do it all in the name
Of the Lord Jesus.
(Repeat.)

Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him.

And whatever you do,
Whether in word or deed,
Do it all in the name
Of the Lord Jesus.
(Repeat.)

Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.
Whatever, whatever,
What-what-what-what-whatever.

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



Sign-Up Scroll

gold, silver, or bronze

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

blue, red, or purple yarn or cloth

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

lots of animal skins

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

wood, precious gems, or spices

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

people who are good at building or sewing

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

**OK
TO COPY**





Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to struggle with fear in a more abstract sense than when they were younger. They're increasingly aware that the world around them is not within their control, and that reality can bring up fears. Whether they fear family disasters, such as the divorce of their parents or failing at new endeavors, fear has become something that goes beyond the typical monster-under-the-bed types of insecurities. Use this lesson to help your kids see that God can replace their fear with bravery in the face of any obstacle.



► 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
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Spies in the Land <i>(about 15 min.)</i></p> <p>Play a game in which the Canaanites find the spies.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Spies in the Land" cards</p> 	<p>Separate the "Spies in the Land" cards.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>But There'll Be Giants! <i>(about 30 min.)</i></p> <p>Play a fast-paced game as they try to get past the giants.</p>	<p>Bibles, pens, paper, Bible Truth Sleuth, sticky notes</p> <p>Teacher Pack: "Giants in the Land" game poster, "Giants in the Land" game cards</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.</p> <p>Separate the "Giants in the Land" game cards.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Stand Firm <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create outlines of their feet, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles, construction paper, markers	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	feet drawings from the "Stand Firm" activity.	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Spies in the Land Supplies

Teacher Pack

“Spies in the Land”
cards

Spies in the Land Easy Prep

Separate the “Spies in
the Land” cards.

1 GETTING STARTED

Spies in the Land

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Today our lesson is about spies, so we're going to play a spy game.** Distribute one card to each child. Be sure to tell kids not to show their cards to anyone else.

Say: **Each of you has a card that tells you whether you are a Spy or a Canaanite. Spies, you must find the other Spies by asking each other questions. Once you have found another Spy, run to your safe zone together.** Indicate the corner of the room that is the safe zone. **Canaanites, you must find the Spies. Once you find a Spy, you must capture him or her by touching his or her shoulder and calling out, “Spies are in the land!” Then that Spy must go to the captured corner.** Point out the captured corner. **Once all the Spies are either in their safe zone or in the captured corner, the game is over.**

Have kids play until all Spies are either found or get to the safe zone. If time permits, redistribute the cards and play again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Spies, explain what it was like to search for one another without getting caught.

Canaanites, explain what it was like to try to find the spies without knowing who they were.

Have you ever had to do something for God that was scary for you?

Explain.

Say: **From the Bible today, we will learn about spies that Moses sent into Canaan to check things out. What the spies saw was scary to them. We'll learn what they found out and what they did about it, and we'll learn that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

But There'll Be Giants!

What You'll Do

Say: **Our Bible passage today is found in Numbers 13:1–14:23. It tells us about when Moses sent 12 spies into the Promised Land to see what was happening there. The spies went in; let's see what they found.**

Make sure kids have Bibles, pens, and paper. Have kids work in pairs to create lists of pros and cons for the Promised Land while they read Numbers 13:25-33. Then have kids compare lists to see which one is longer.

Ask:

Have you ever been in a situation in which you felt like you couldn't win?

Explain.

How is your situation like or unlike the situation the Israelites were in?

Say: **The Israelites faced a difficult situation. They knew this beautiful land was what God had promised them, but now they faced giants. They needed to be brave for God and take possession of the land he had promised them, but their fear was keeping them from doing it.**

Ask:

What do you think the best choice was for the Israelites?

What kinds of things keep you from standing up for God?

What does it mean to be brave for God?

Set out the game poster, the game cards, and a supply of sticky notes, and have kids gather around the poster in a circle. Say: **Today we'll play a game to try to get past the giants and into the Promised Land. Our goal in this game is to get to the milk and honey. But there are giants stopping us. You'll take turns choosing one of the "Giants in the Land" cards.**

If you choose a "We can! God is with us!" card, take a sticky note and put it over a giant on the game poster. If you get a "Grumble" card, you must remove the last sticky note that was put over a giant. If you choose a card that says "We can't," you'll tell about a time you or someone you know did something for God even when it was hard or scary. Then you may put a sticky note over the next giant.

Choose the person whose birthday is closest to today to draw a card first. Then in clockwise order, have kids take turns each drawing a card. Remind them of the rules as needed. Play until all the cards have been drawn. Even if kids are able to cover a giant when they draw a "We can't" card, they won't be able to get to the milk and honey because of the "Grumble" cards.



But There'll Be Giants! Supplies

- Bibles
- pens
- paper
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- sticky notes

Teacher Pack

- "Giants in the Land" game poster
- "Giants in the Land" game cards

But There'll Be Giants! Easy Prep

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

Separate the "Giants in the Land" game cards.





Say: **When the Israelites found out there were giants in the land that God had promised them, they were afraid. The Israelites didn't believe Caleb and Joshua when they said God would help them defeat the giants. Let's read about how the Israelites reacted when they were told what was in the land.**

Have a willing child read aloud Numbers 14:1-4. Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "What Are Your Giants?" activity. After kids have completed the activity, have them form pairs and share their "giants" with their partners. Then have them pray together, asking God to help them be brave for him even when they face their giants.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

In our game, did you think we'd be able to get into the Promised Land to get the milk and honey? Why or why not?
What do you do when you face a hard or scary situation?
What can you do to keep your hope in God when you face difficult situations?

Say: **Our game was like real life because it showed us that walking with God doesn't mean we won't face challenges. God promises us that we won't be alone when we face hard times. No matter what we face, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Because of the Israelites' grumbling, God didn't allow their generation to go into the Promised Land.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Stand Firm

Stand Firm Supplies

Bibles
construction paper
markers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible, and have kids turn to this week's Key Verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Say: **Let's take a look at our Key Verse for today and see what it says about standing up for God.** Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 together with all of the kids: **"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you" (1 Corinthians 15:58).**

Ask:

What do you think it means to stand firm? How is it related to bravery?
What kinds of things might keep you from doing what God wants you to do?

Say: **Being brave for God means following him no matter what. We're going to create something to remind us to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord and to bravely stand firm.** Give each child a piece of construction paper large enough for him or her to stand on, and have kids work with a partner for this activity.





Say: **Take turns standing on your piece of paper as your partner draws an outline of your feet.** When kids have finished drawing outlines of each other's feet, have them write out the Key Verse on their paper feet in the following manner. At the top of the paper have them write, "Therefore, my dear brothers," and have them write the words "stand" and "firm" inside the feet. Then have them write the rest of the verse at the bottom of their paper.

Give kids a little time to decorate their feet.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

In what way does standing on the words from our Key Verse symbolize standing firm in tough situations?

Tell about a time you were tempted to do something wrong but you stood firm and were brave for God.

What's different about the times you've stood firm for God and the times you've struggled?

How can our Key Verse help you the next time you face something difficult?

Say: **The Israelites were afraid, and most of them weren't very brave. But we can stand firm like Joshua and Caleb did and trust God always. When you take these feet home, you can use them to remind you about how to stand firm and ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. If you keep God's Word in your heart, you can stand firm on that anytime you're tested.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Consider this week how you can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

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

When a friend tells you about something difficult going on in his or her life, be brave for God and ask if you can pray with your friend about that situation.

One morning when you're getting ready for your day, stand on the feet you made today. Pray that God will help you stand firm for him and bravely do what's right.

Invite a friend to church with you. Pray about which friend God would like you to invite, and then be brave by asking that person to join you at church.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
feet drawings from the
“Stand Firm” activity

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **As we saw in the Israelites’ situation, it’s sometimes hard to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. But he promises to always be with us. We can trust God and be brave for him by standing up and doing what’s right.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids place their feet drawings in a circle on the ground and stand on them. Ask kids to pray about situations they know they’ll face this week in which they’ll need to be brave for God.



Balaam's Donkey Talks

Numbers 22:1-38

Third- and fourth-graders are willing to accept things that are said to them by authority figures. The account of Balaam's donkey is a strange one as it comes very close to some fairy tales they're used to hearing and seeing, and it may seem fictional as those stories are. It's important for kids this age to make a connection to the things God is doing as real and applicable to their lives. If kids this age can learn to pay attention to God, they'll also learn to discern his truth. Use this lesson to help kids pay attention to God in all areas of their lives.



► 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 in all things.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	That's Amazing! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Interview one another about amazing things.	paper, pencils, stopwatch	
2 Bible Exploration	Donkey Tales <i>(about 35 min.)</i> Make large paper-bag donkeys and play a game to help tell the Bible passage.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, scissors (several pairs), a supply of newspapers, packing tape, tape, markers, 2 brown paper grocery bags and 2 brown lunch bags per child, 1 small paper bag per 2 children (optional), copies of the "Donkey Hooves" handout (at the end of this lesson) (optional), yarn (optional), hole punch (optional) Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline, "Balaam's Visitors" cards 	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book. Separate the "Balaam's Visitors" cards.
	Say What? <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Continue the journey, and learn that Balaam's donkey spoke.	CD player, donkeys from the "Donkey Tales" activity Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Come and See! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Share amazing things that God has done in their lives.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



That's Amazing! Supplies

paper
pencils
stopwatch

Donkey Tales Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
scissors (several pairs)
a supply of newspapers
packing tape
tape
markers
2 brown paper grocery
bags and 2 brown
lunch bags per child
1 small paper bag per 2
children (optional)
copies of the "Donkey
Hooves" handout (at
the end of this lesson)
(optional)
yarn (optional)
hole punch (optional)
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline
"Balaam's Visitors" cards

Donkey Tales Easy Prep

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

Separate the "Balaam's
Visitors" cards.

1 GETTING STARTED

That's Amazing!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form two groups. One group will be "Reporters" and the other group will be the "Crowd." Give the Reporters a supply of paper and pencils. Say: **When I give the starting signal, the Reporters will have two minutes to interview as many Crowd members as possible. Reporters, the only questions you can ask in each interview are "What's the most amazing thing you've ever seen?" and "Why did you pay attention to that thing?"**

Reporters will write down each response and then move on to interview someone else. If a Reporter receives a duplicate response, he or she must ask the Crowd member for a new response. Give the starting signal, and let Reporters interview for two minutes. Then call time, and let groups change roles. Play for another two minutes, and then gather kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What's the most amazing thing you heard about?
Explain why you paid more attention to that thing.**

Say: **God does amazing things to show his power. There's nothing too big or too difficult for God to do, and we can ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD so we notice the things he's doing. Today in the Bible we'll meet a man who found out just how amazing God is! Something that seemed impossible happened to help him learn to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Donkey Tales

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out "Balaam's Donkey Talks" on the Bible Timeline.





Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and set out the supplies. Say: **Today we'll look at the book of Numbers.** Open your Bible to Numbers 22:1-38, and show kids the passage. **Before we go any further, let's make something. We're going to learn about a man named Balaam and his donkey. Actually, Balaam's donkey plays a pretty important role in what happened, so we'll make donkeys of our own. Here's how.**



Lead kids through the following steps:

1. Loosely stuff one paper grocery bag with newspaper, and then fit another large paper bag over the open end. This will form the body of the donkey. (Since kids will be "riding" their donkeys, make sure they don't stuff the donkeys so fat that they can't straddle them.)
2. Stuff one paper lunch bag with newspaper, and fit another lunch bag over the open end. This will be the donkey's head.
3. Have kids draw faces on their donkeys' heads and then use a loop of packing tape to attach the head to the body.
4. Have kids turn to the "Donkey Ears" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids cut out the ears and tape the ears to their donkeys' heads.
5. Optional: To make a mane for the donkey, make several loops of yarn and tie it in the middle. Cut both ends of the looped yarn. You can also create a tail by making several larger loops of yarn, tying it in the middle, and cutting both ends. Pinch a corner of the bag and hole punch it where you want to attach the mane and tail, and then tie the yarn to the bags.
6. Optional: Cut a small paper bag into eight strips and have kids cut out the "Donkey Hooves" handout. Help kids tape the hooves to the bottom of four strips from the paper bag, and then tape these to the bottom of the large paper bag to form legs with hooves.





When everyone has finished making a donkey, gather kids in a circle. Say: **As you know, there were no cars in Bible times. Everyone walked or rode an animal. Before we hear from the Bible, let's get used to riding our donkeys.**

Have kids "ride" their donkeys around the room twice. Then have kids form four groups, and number the groups from one to four. Give each group a Bible.

Say: **We'll be riding our donkeys as we hear about Balaam and his donkey. Balaam was trying to ignore what God wanted him to do, but God had a way of making sure he got Balaam's attention. We can ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD all the time.**

At the time that Balaam lived, the Israelites—God's special people—were wandering around in the desert.

Show kids the "Balaam's Visitors" cards. Explain that with each card, kids will read aloud what's written in bold type and then follow the instructions.

Have kids take turns picking a card, making sure to go in sequence. Let the child who picks the card read it and lead everyone in following the directions.

Afterward, read aloud Numbers 22:21-22.

Say: **The Bible doesn't tell us exactly why God was mad at Balaam, but many Bible scholars believe it was because God knew something about Balaam's heart that the Bible doesn't tell us. Later in the Bible, the Apostle Peter wrote that Balaam "loved the wages of wickedness."**

When you hear me mention Balaam, act out what Balaam does. I'll lead you in the actions. Are you ready? Let's go.

Have kids form a line. Stand at the front of the line, carrying your Bible with you, and lead kids around the room as they ride their donkeys. Then abruptly stop, letting kids bump into you. Face the kids, and read aloud Numbers 22:23. Encourage kids to pretend that their donkeys are turning off the road and they're trying to get their donkeys back on the road.

Lead kids around the room again. Stop abruptly, and read aloud Numbers 22:24-25. Encourage kids to pretend that their donkeys are pressing against a wall and hurting the kids' feet. Have kids pretend they're trying to get their donkeys moving.

Then lead kids around the room again. Stop abruptly, and read aloud Numbers 22:26-27. Encourage kids to pretend that their donkeys are lying down in the road. Have kids pretend they're trying to get their donkeys going. Have kids ride into a circle, dismount, and sit down.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.





Ask:

What do you think of an animal seeing the angel when a human couldn't? Tell about a time you didn't do something you were supposed to do because you weren't paying attention. What kinds of things distract you from doing what's right and listening to God? How can you pay attention to God better than Balaam did?

Say: **A donkey seeing an angel in the road is pretty amazing. But wait—this isn't over yet! Balaam was really not paying attention, so God did something Balaam couldn't ignore. We can learn from Balaam's mistake and make sure we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD all the time. We can read God's Word, listen to people who are wiser than we are, and do what we know is right. Let's find out how God finally got Balaam's attention.**

Say What?

What You'll Do

Say: **After Balaam's donkey had seen the angel three times, an even more amazing thing happened. Listen with your donkey.**

Play "Balaam's Donkey" (track 17 on the CD). Say: **You're going to hear about some pretty amazing things that happened. This donkey did some rather human things. When you hear about the donkey doing something human, treat the donkey you made earlier like a person. When the donkey is doing regular donkey things, treat your donkey like a donkey.** For example, kids might offer their donkeys food at a trough when the donkey isn't speaking, but they might sit their donkey up to eat at a table when the donkey is talking. Allow kids to be creative and give ideas that they think work best.

Talk With Kids

When the track has ended, have kids find partners and answer the following questions. After each question, ask pairs to share their insights with the rest of the group.

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

In what ways is it surprising that God used a donkey to talk to Balaam? What's one thing you can do to help yourself pay attention when you're feeling distracted? Why does it matter whether we pay attention to God or not?

Say: **Balaam must've felt pretty important to have the king of Moab begging him to come and messengers knocking on his door all the time. But God wasn't impressed. God used a lowly donkey to cause Balaam to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. God went to amazing measures to protect the Israelites and to get Balaam to obey. God doing amazing things to help people is what today's Key Verse is all about.**



Say What? Supplies

- CD player
- donkeys from "Donkey Tales" activity
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Balaam's Donkey" (track 17)





Come and See! Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Come and See!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each pair a Bible, and have partners read the Key Verse, Psalm 66:5. Lead kids in repeating the Key Verse aloud several times: **“Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!” (Psalm 66:5).**

Say: **When you do something in someone’s behalf, that means you do something for that person—you help that person do something he or she may not have been able to do alone.**

Ask kids to answer this question in their pairs:

When has someone done something in *your* behalf?

Distribute pens. Have kids turn to the “Come and See What God Has Done!” activity on the Bible Truth Sleuth page. Say: **In the left-hand section, list amazing things that God has done on man’s behalf and write down one way you can pay attention to each of those things.**

When kids have finished writing, tell partners to discuss their answers with each other. Then invite willing kids to read their answers to the rest of the group.

Say: **Now in the right-hand section, write about the most amazing things you’ve seen God do in your life or on your behalf and write down how you paid attention to God when each of those things happened.** When kids have finished writing, let partners discuss what they’ve written, first with each other and then with the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why is it important to pay attention to the amazing things God has done?
Is it easy or difficult for you to be truly amazed by God? Explain.
How can you show God you’re paying attention to him?**

Say: **It’s helpful for us to pay attention to the amazing things God’s done for us, and it’s also good to share what God’s done with other people. Our stories can encourage other people and help them ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. God used an amazing thing to help get Balaam’s attention, and he can do the same for us.**





4

**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Consider this week how you can ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

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

Take a walk, and ask God to help you pay attention to him. Notice all the things around you that help you pay attention to God.

Draw a picture of something amazing God has done for you or for someone you know. Hang up the picture as a reminder to pay attention to see what other amazing things God will do for you.

Make your favorite snack with your mom or dad. Don't eat the snack right away. Every time you think about the snack, say a prayer to God.

Remember that God wants you to pay attention to him.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God did something extraordinary to get Balaam's attention. We can ► 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 paying attention to God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids pray in groups of four. Throughout the prayer time, clap your hands randomly to get kids' attention. Remind them to pay attention to God at least as much as they're paying attention to you when you clap.

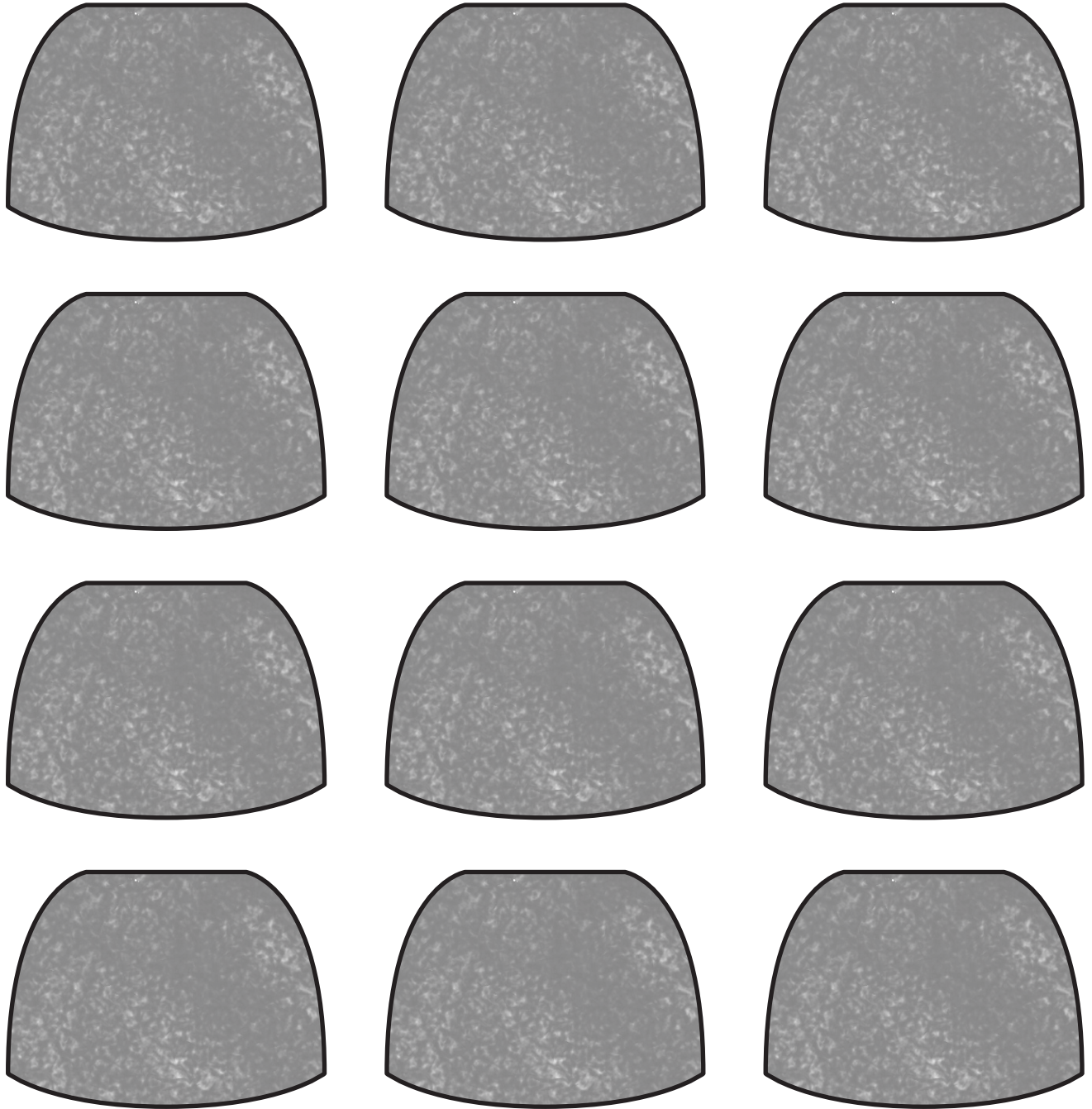


Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth



Donkey Hooves



**OK
TO COPY**





Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Third- and fourth-graders are more confident than when they were younger, but they still really like to do things with others and still appreciate the help of older kids and adults when they do new tasks. Kids this age are very keen on social interaction and would prefer to do most things with someone else. With a growing and changing list of tasks at home and school, they may feel scared at the thought of doing some things alone and bored by the thought of doing other such tasks by themselves. Use this lesson about Joshua to help kids realize that God will always be with them no matter what's going on.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Who's Next? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a balancing game to see what it's like to have help.	CD player, books, masking tape Teacher Pack: CD	Place two 3-foot masking tape lines on the floor about 2 feet apart.
2 Bible Exploration	Shields of Strength <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Make shields as they read Joshua 1:1-11.	Bibles, construction paper, scissors (several pairs), masking tape, markers, paper grocery bags	
	There He Is <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Quietly ponder what it means to have God with them.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pencils	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

God is with us.

Key Verse

"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" (Joshua 1:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will live their lives knowing God is with them.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	“Be Strong” Song <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn a song about the Key Verse.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



Who's Next? Supplies

CD player

books

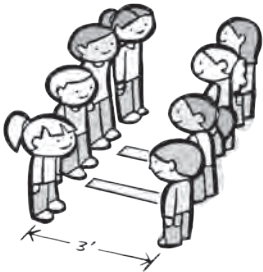
masking tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Wherever You Go"
(Joshua 1:9) (track 18)

Who's Next? Easy Prep

Place two 3-foot
masking tape lines on
the floor about 2 feet
apart.



1 GETTING STARTED

Who's Next?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 18 on the CD) softly in the background as kids arrive. Welcome kids warmly, and ask them how their week went.

Have the kids form two rows facing each other to create a path that crosses the masking-tape "river" you made beforehand.

Say: **Today we'll start with a fun game called Who's Next? The object of the game is to walk down the path between the two lines of people while balancing these books on your head.** Show kids several books. Explain that the space between the two tape lines will represent the river. **The only catch is that you'll have to step over the river as you walk to the other end of the line.**

Oh, and one other thing—you can't touch the books with your hands. If the books fall off, your turn is over. Who wants to go first?

Choose a willing child to begin, and help the child balance the books on his or her head. Then have the child walk down the path between the two rows of kids, trying to keep the books balanced. Instruct the child to step over the river without letting the books fall. After the books have toppled or the child has reached the end of the path, say: **Who's next?**

Continue until each child has had a turn. Then have each line sit in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to try to keep the books balanced?

What were you thinking as you waited for your turn?

What might've helped you be more confident as you tried this task?

What's the difference between how hard you had to work to keep the books with you compared with what it's like to keep God with you?

Say: **Keeping the books balanced on your head was a difficult job, wasn't it? But keeping God with us in all things is no work for us because he wants to be there all the time. In today's Bible passage, we'll meet someone who was next in line to accomplish a very big, very important plan. He might have felt kind of scared about whether he could accomplish the plan, but God was with him just as ► GOD IS WITH US.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Shields of Strength

What You'll Do

Have kids form groups of four, and give each group a Bible.

Say: A shield is considered a sign of strength. We're going to make shields to remind us of our Key Verse and also the Bible passage. We'll read the Bible passage in four parts, one for each person in your group. After each reading, we'll discuss the passage. Then you can create a picture on your shield about that part of the passage.

Give each group a sheet of construction paper and a pair of scissors. Set out the supplies, and show kids how to cut their sheets of construction paper to resemble shields.

Have someone in each group read aloud Joshua 1:1-2.

Say: A long time before this took place, God promised the land on the other side of the Jordan River to the Israelites. Now God was fulfilling his promise. But it was Joshua who would lead the Israelites to the Promised Land—not Moses.

Give kids a few minutes to create a picture showing God's promises on a section of their shields. Then have another child in each group read aloud Joshua 1:3-5.

Ask:

What does it mean to you to know that God will never leave you?

Have another child in each group read aloud Joshua 1:6-8.

Ask:

**What does it mean to be strong and courageous?
When do you need strength and courage?**

After discussing the questions, have kids draw another picture on another section of their shields of what they think it means to be strong and courageous in God's eyes.

Have someone in each group read aloud Joshua 1:9-11. Have kids draw another picture on their shields of a beautiful place to live to remind them of the Promised Land.

After they've finished their shields, show kids how to cut and twist a strip of brown paper grocery bag to form a handle and tape the handle to the back of the shield. Then have groups set aside their shields.



Shields of Strength Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - construction paper
 - scissors (several pairs)
 - masking tape
 - markers
 - paper grocery bags





There He Is Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pencils

There He Is Easy Prep

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What about Joshua seems courageous to you?
What do you do when you get discouraged?
How can you rely on God to help you when you're discouraged?**

Say: **In life you'll face discouraging and difficult times. But ► GOD IS WITH US all the time. God had big plans for Joshua. And he made it clear to Joshua that he didn't need to be afraid because God would be with him wherever he went. Let's keep remembering that God is always with us just as he was with Joshua so we can be strong and courageous.**

There He Is

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and set out pencils. Say: **Sit by yourself and spend a minute thinking of something you have to face that is discouraging for you. This could be something you're currently dealing with or something you have dealt with in the past.** Allow one minute.

Have kids write one to two sentences about the thing they thought of with one letter per square and blanks for spaces, and let them know they'll be sharing their sentences with someone else. Allow a few minutes.

After kids finish their sentences, have them trade papers with someone else. Say: **Look at the sentences your friend gave you, and think of a symbol you could draw in the remaining boxes at the bottom of the grid to demonstrate that God is with them. Then draw that on the grid, completely filling in the empty boxes.** Allow a few minutes. If kids need ideas, suggest things like a cross or a dove.

When kids are done, have them get together with the person they swapped pages with. Say: **Take a few minutes to talk with your partner about the discouraging thing you wrote about, and then discuss ways that God could be with each of you in your situations.** Allow a few minutes.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Explain anything that surprised you about some of the ways that you can know God is with you in your difficult situation.
What's one way you can know God is with you when things are scary or difficult?
In what way can you encourage others and help them remember that God is with them too?**





Say: Joshua was given a very important new job, and God told him he could be confident and courageous because God was going to be with him. We can remember that ► **GOD IS WITH US**, too. There’s no job that’s too big for us when we know ► **GOD IS WITH US** and is helping us.

3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

“Be Strong” Song


What You’ll Do

Make sure each child has a Bible, and have them turn to today’s Key Verse, Joshua 1:9.

Say: **Today’s Key Verse comes straight from the Bible passage.** Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9. Listen while I read the **Key Verse: “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” (Joshua 1:9).**

Have kids read the Key Verse aloud with you a few times.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 18 on the CD). Lead kids in singing along with the CD. Have kids find a partner and sing together as they walk around the room facing obstacles (such as chairs and tables—these don’t have to be set up ahead of time). Have them alternate in helping one another around the obstacles.

 **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.



“Be Strong” Song Supplies

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

Teacher Pack
CD: “Wherever You Go”
(Joshua 1:9) (track 18)





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did having your partner with you help you as you avoided obstacles?
How is that like or unlike God being with you wherever you go?
Which of the words of this song do you think you'll remember best? Why?
How will you be courageous in the situations in your life this week?

Say: God wants us to be courageous. We can do that because we never face any situation alone. ► **GOD IS WITH US** everywhere and all the time. Nothing is bigger or more powerful than God, and we can trust him to take care of us just as he helped Joshua. Remember the words of this song this week when you're facing a challenge.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

What You'll Do

Say: Consider this week how you can remember that ► **GOD IS WITH US**.

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

Write "God is with me" on a sticky note. Stick it to the inside of your backpack and take it to school with you. When you see it throughout the day, remember that God is always with you.

Make a sign that says "God is with me," and hang it on your bedroom door. When you see it, thank God for being with you everywhere you go.

Stand up for someone who's being treated unfairly. Thank God for being with you as you did something that was strong and courageous.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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





Say: **Just as God promised to be with Joshua, ► GOD IS WITH US, too. Let's remember that as we do our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Encourage kids to form two circles, one for boys and one for girls. Have them stand in a circle with their arms around one another's shoulders. Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US always. We can remind each other of that by standing close and praying together.** Encourage kids to quickly pray about ways they need God with them, and then close the prayer.





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

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to be able to relate what happens in the Bible to what happens in their own lives. Faith is still a pretty abstract concept for kids this age. They can relate to some of the more obvious examples of faith, such as those used in this lesson. Use Rahab’s faith to encourage your kids and to teach them that God can make big things happen in our lives when we supply a little faith.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Circle of Faith <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decide whether to jump inside a tape circle, and talk about faith.</p>	<p>masking tape</p>	<p>Make a 3-foot-wide circle on the floor with masking tape.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>The Jericho Spies <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Sneak into Jericho, hide at Rahab’s house, and then report back to Joshua.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, paper, scissors (several pairs), copies of the “Rahab’s Faith Script” handout (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Set up a table in the center of your room to represent the walls of Jericho.</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 act on their faith that God will do big things in their lives.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Pleasing God <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse and how it connects to their lives.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Faith Finders <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make scarlet cord bookmarks to use in their Bibles.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, 6-inch length of red ribbon per child, scissors (several pairs), glue sticks, clear mailing tape	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



Circle of Faith Supplies

masking tape

Circle of Faith Easy Prep

Make a 3-foot-wide
circle on the floor with
masking tape.

1 GETTING STARTED

Circle of Faith

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids stand around the outside of the circle you created beforehand.

Ask:

If I ask you to jump inside this circle, do you think the floor will hold you up? Why or why not?

What if I tell you that, instead of the floor, there's really only a big hole inside this circle? Do you still have faith that the floor will hold you up?

Say: **The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:1 that faith "is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." If you jump into this circle, you hope that the floor will hold you. And even though you can't see the support beneath the floor, you seem certain that the floor is strong enough to hold you. I'd have to say that you have faith that the floor will hold you. Are you ready to try?**

Count to three, and have kids jump inside the circle. Say: **You were right! Your faith was rewarded by not falling in a hole but by having the floor hold you.**

Now let's test our faith that there will be plenty of air to breathe. Take a really deep breath and then hold it until I tell you to breathe.

After kids hold their breath for about 15 seconds, say: **Okay, everybody, breathe! Even though you couldn't see the air, you knew it was there. Filling your lungs when you finally took a breath rewarded your faith that the air was there.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did you know there would be air for you to breathe?

How does that help you understand faith in God?

What's easy or difficult for you about having faith in God?

Say: **Today in the Bible, we'll meet a woman who had faith in God. She learned that ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES. Just like we know that the wind is there even though we can't see it, we can have faith that God is at work in our lives. We can do big things for him because he's the one in charge.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

The Jericho Spies

What You'll Do

Distribute paper and scissors. Ask kids to cut the paper into strips, about 10-15 strips per child. Say: **These will be stalks of flax.**

Have kids gather in one corner of the room as your starting point. The opposite corner will be Rahab's roof. Leave the stalks of flax at the Rahab's roof location. Say: **God told Joshua to lead his people into the land God had promised to them. And that land included the city of Jericho. Today's Bible passage comes from the second chapter of the book of Joshua.**

Open your Bible to Joshua 2:1-24, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Joshua wanted to see exactly what he was up against before he invaded Jericho, so he secretly sent two spies there to check things out. We're going to pretend that we're those two spies.**

Begin whispering. **We'll have to be very quiet because if the soldiers in Jericho catch us, they'll throw us in prison—or worse! Follow me, but be very, very quiet!**

Crawl across the room, leading the kids toward the table. Gather kids, still crawling, in front of the table.

Continue whispering. **Okay, here we are, right at the wall surrounding Jericho. This is a dangerous mission. If any of you want to turn back, now's your chance. Otherwise, stay right behind me—and be quiet!**

Crawl under the length of the table toward the opposite corner of the room. Once everyone is out from under the table, gather kids. Whisper: **Okay, we're inside the city!**

Ask:

Where do you think we should go to get the best information without being caught? Let kids offer a few ideas.

Whisper: **I see what looks like a hotel or a house over there, built right into these heavy walls. Maybe if we...shh! Get down—I hear soldiers!**

Quickly lie on the floor, pretending to wait as soldiers pass by. Then kneel again.

Whisper: **Whew! That was close! Now what was l...oh, yeah. Let's see if we can get over to that house.**



The Jericho Spies Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- paper
- scissors (several pairs)
- copies of the "Rahab's Faith Script" handout (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Rahab's Faith" (track 19)

The Jericho Spies Easy Prep

Set up a table in the center of your room to represent the walls of Jericho.





Lead kids in crawling to the corner representing Rahab's roof. Whisper: **It looks as if a woman owns this place. Uh-oh. She spotted us. Let me do the talking, okay? Just follow me, and do everything I do, okay?**

Distribute copies of the "Rahab's Faith Script" handout, and play "Rahab's Faith" (track 19 on the CD). Lead kids in following the actions on the handout as if you were really interacting with Rahab. When the track ends, gather kids in a circle.

Say: **That was quite an adventure! The Bible tells us that the spies returned to the Israelites and reported their findings to Joshua. Let's pretend we're reporting our findings, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids find a partner to answer these next few questions.

Ask:

How could you tell that Rahab had faith in God?

Tell a few ways that Rahab had to have faith based on the adventure you just heard about.

What did Rahab's adventure show you about faith?

When has your faith in God helped you?

Say: **The Bible tells us that the spies went back to Joshua and told him that the people of Jericho were terrified of the Israelites. The Bible also tells us that Rahab *did* put the scarlet cord in her window. And it was that act of faith that saved her life and the lives of her family members when the Israelites invaded the city. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Pleasing God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is Hebrews 11:6.** Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "And without faith it is impossible to please God."

Say: **Find a partner, and discuss what you think this verse means.** Give kids a minute or two to talk, and then ask willing kids to share their insights with the rest of the group.

Pleasing God Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

Pleasing God Easy Prep

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





Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the “Key Verse Connection” activity, and ask kids to write their answers to the questions in the spaces provided. When kids have finished writing, have pairs read their answers to each other.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What’s one way this verse can help you have faith each day?
What big thing do you hope God will use you to do?**

Say: **When we have faith, our faith pleases God. When we trust that God exists, and when we really want to do what he says, he’s pleased. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES** as he did through Rahab.

Faith Finders

What You’ll Do

Set out the lengths of red ribbon for kids to attach to bookmarks to represent the scarlet cord Rahab placed in her window. Have kids find the “Faith Finder” activity on today’s Bible Truth Sleuth page. Say: **You’ll be making bookmarks to remind you of today’s Bible adventure.**

Distribute scissors, and have kids cut out the bookmarks from the bottom of their student pages. Set out the mailing tape and glue sticks. Give each child a length of red ribbon, and have kids glue their ribbons to the bookmark lengthwise. Then have kids use mailing tape to laminate their bookmarks.

If kids have their own Bibles, have them turn to Hebrews 11:6 and insert their new bookmarks at that page. Point out how the scarlet cord hangs out of the Bible, just as Rahab’s scarlet cord hung from her window.

Say: **Tonight before you go to bed, open your Bible to the page where your bookmark is, and read today’s Key Verse to yourself. Remember that having faith pleases God. In your prayers, ask God to help you grow in faith. Then every day this week, use your bookmark to mark a different Bible verse that helps you have faith. A good place to start is with “The WORD for the Week” verses, which are on the back of your bookmark.**



Faith Finders Supplies

-
- Bibles
 - Bible Truth Sleuth
 - 6-inch length of red ribbon per child
 - scissors (several pairs)
 - glue sticks
 - clear mailing tape





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

Tell about a time you needed faith.

Tell about a person you know who has very strong faith. How have you noticed that person's faith?

In what ways can you have faith in a situation you're facing?

Say: **No struggle is too difficult for God to handle. You can face any challenge when you have faith in God because he's always by your side. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES. Just like Rahab, we don't need to be afraid because God will help us accomplish his will one step at a time.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Consider this week how ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

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

Talk with your mom or dad about things she or he hoped for you when you were a baby. Tell your parent the things you hope God will do with your life and how you have faith for those things.

Write a letter to God about any doubts you have in your faith, and ask God to help you overcome them.

Write down any questions you have about God, and then talk to a Christian adult about them.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Say: **Rahab's faith meant that God used her to do something amazing. ► 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 faith. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids form pairs and talk about ways they hope their faith in God can grow, and then have them pray for one another. Close by praying: **Dear God, thank you for being worthy of our faith. Thank you for taking care of us, just as you did Rahab. Help us have more and more faith so we can please you. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Rahab's Faith Script

Rahab: Greetings. I can see from your dress that you are foreigners here. May I help you? *(Shrug shoulders, duck head, and shake head no.)* Can it be? Why, you are Israelites! If you're caught here, you'll be killed! *(Look scared.)* And I hear those soldiers returning. Hurry! Follow me! I'll hide you on my roof. Climb this way! Hurry! *(Make climbing motions with your hands.)* Here! Hide here on my roof. *(Motion for kids to lie down on the floor.)* Lie down here, and don't move! I'll cover you with the stalks of flax I was drying up here. *(Cover kids with the paper stalks they've prepared, and turn out your room lights.)* Now lie still, and don't make a move. I'll see if I can get rid of the soldiers.

Soldiers: Rahab! Rahab! Get over here! Listen! We know that some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land. So the king of Jericho has sent you this message: Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.

Rahab: Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.

Soldiers: C'mon, let's go! Quickly! Out through the gate before it is shut! We'll check the road!

Rahab: You can come out now—they've gone. *(Remove the paper stalks, and let the kids sit up. Pretend to pick straw from your hair and face.)* I know that the Lord has given this land to you, and I also know that all the people of Jericho are afraid of you. We've heard of the amazing things the Lord has done for the Israelites, and our hearts are melting with fear. Now then, please promise me that you will show kindness to my family when you take over the city. I have shown kindness to you, so please show kindness to me. Give me a sign, so I know you won't hurt my family.

Spies: So be it! If you don't tell what we're doing, we will treat you kindly when the Lord gives us the land.

Rahab: Good. Now quickly, you must go! I'll use this rope to let you down from my window so you can run to the hills and hide.

Spies: *(Pretend to climb out of a window and down a rope.)* One final thing, Rahab. When we enter the land, you must take this scarlet cord and hang it out of your window. Make sure that everyone in your family is in the house, and that you have the scarlet cord showing from the window. That way we'll know to spare you and your family in this house.

Rahab: It is agreed. Now go!

(Lead kids in a crouching run to the side of the room where you started. Turn on the lights.)

**OK
TO COPY**






The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua 3:1–4:24

Third- and fourth-graders want to feel independent, and they are beginning to understand how God can be part of even the things they do independently. Kids this age need to feel autonomous but also cared for and protected. They're also in the midst of learning to connect thankfulness to the things others do for them. Use this lesson to help kids learn to remember and thank God for the things he's done for them.



► **Bible Point**
Remember what God has done.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Remember When? <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Tell about important dates and events in their own lives.		
2 Bible Exploration	Lights, Camera, Action! <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Create a "movie" about the Israelites crossing the Jordan River.	Bibles, scissors (several pairs), paper, pencils, set of car keys, water bottles with water, blue and brown construction paper, markers, tape, paper grocery bags, plastic bags Teacher Pack: "Into the Promised Land" poster, FaithWeaver NOW box 	Cut apart the pieces of the "Into the Promised Land" poster.

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 remember and thank God for the things he's done for them.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Say It With a Song <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse song, and write a prayer of thanks to God.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, pens, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Picture This! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pose and pretend to take pictures of things God has done.		
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



1 GETTING STARTED

Remember When?

What You'll Do

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

Say: **Today's Bible passage is about an important event that happened to the Israelites. But before we get to the Bible, let's talk about some important events that have happened to us!**

Have kids form pairs. Explain that you'll call out a series of questions. After each question, have partners tell each other their answers. When each pair has finished sharing after each question, they'll jump up and stand with their arms in the air. When all kids have answered each question, choose a child to share what his or her partner's answer to the question is.

Ask:

- What's an important date in your life? Why?**
- Where did you go on your favorite vacation?**
- What's the best birthday party you've ever had?**
- Who was your favorite teacher? Why?**
- What's the best Christmas present you've ever received?**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you remember certain events from your past, but not everything?**
- When something amazing happens in your life, what do you want to do about it?**

Say: **Like the events we just spoke about, we remember events that are important to us—events that affect our lives in some way. And when an important event happens, people often tell one another about it. Today's Bible passage is about an important event that happened to the nation of Israel. It happened a long time ago, but it's still important to us today to ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Lights, Camera, Action!

What You'll Do

Say: **Today's Bible passage comes from the third and fourth chapters of the book of Joshua.** Open your Bible to Joshua 3:1–4:24, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today we're going to find out what God did when it was finally time for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land! But there was one small problem. Between the Israelites and the Promised Land ran the Jordan River—and the Jordan River was at flood stage.**

Today we'll make a movie about the crossing of the Jordan River. Have kids form four groups, and explain that each group will have a role in the movie production. Assign each group one of the following roles:

- Set Design Crew
- Acting Crew
- Sound Effects Crew
- Costume Crew

Have each group go to a separate corner of the room to prepare for its role. Set out the supplies, and give each group its piece of the poster. Have kids retrieve the supplies listed on their instructions. (The instructions and pictures on the poster are there to guide crews. But don't be surprised if crews come up with their own ideas for the movie. Activities that allow kids room for expression and creativity lead to learning that lasts!)

Explain that kids will have about 20 minutes to follow the instructions on the poster for their part in the movie. As kids work, circulate around the room to offer help as needed. Encourage kids to refer often to both the Bible and the poster instructions.

After 20 minutes (or sooner if kids seem ready), have groups assemble to begin the movie. Help everyone get in the right place for the movie to begin.

Explain that you'll slowly read aloud the Bible passage while crews act out their parts. The Acting Crew and Sound Effects Crew will be involved continuously. The Set Design Crew will move the river when the passage calls for it with the assistance of the Costume Crew.

When everyone is ready, slowly read aloud Joshua 3:14-17; Joshua 4:1-3; and Joshua 4:15-17. Pause to allow kids to perform their roles. After the movie, lead everyone in applause as each crew takes a bow.



Lights, Camera, Action! Supplies

- Bibles
- scissors (several pairs)
- paper
- pencils
- set of car keys
- water bottles with water
- blue and brown construction paper
- markers
- tape
- paper grocery bags
- plastic bags
- Teacher Pack**
- "Into the Promised Land" poster
- FaithWeaver NOW box

Lights, Camera, Action! Easy Prep

Cut apart the pieces of the "Into the Promised Land" poster.





Talk With Kids

Have kids answer the following questions in their crews.

Ask:

What was so important about Joshua and the 12 tribes building a monument after they crossed the river?

Why is it important that we remember what God has done even if it didn't happen to us?

Say: **God made it clear that he wanted people to remember what he'd done for the Israelites when he helped them cross the Jordan River. Without his help, they would never have been able to get across that flooded river. And people *do* remember, because here we are reading about it thousands of years later! God is so awesome! We're making sure to ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Say It With a Song


What You'll Do

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is 1 Chronicles 16:8.** Have kids find the verse in their Bibles and read the verse aloud with you: **“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done” (1 Chronicles 16:8).** Repeat the Key Verse with kids a few times.

Say: **God constantly does amazing things for his people. We ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE so we can thank him and tell others about him. Let's do that right now with a Key Verse song.**

Distribute copies of the lyrics, and play “Give Thanks” (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 3 on the CD). Lead kids in singing along with the CD.

 **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.**

Say It With a Song Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
CD player
pens
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: “Give Thanks”
(1 Chronicles 16:8)
(track 3)

Say It With a Song Easy Prep

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





**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.

After the song, gather kids in a circle. Distribute pens and today’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the “What God Has Done” activity.

Say: **Inside the stone, write a prayer to God to thank him for what he’s done.** Give kids a few minutes to write. When everyone has finished writing, ask kids to share what they’ve written with someone sitting near them.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What’s a good way for you to remember the amazing things God has done?
How can it help us to remember the amazing things God does?
Explain how you might be able to encourage someone else by helping him
or her remember what God’s done.**

Say: **We can ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE in many ways. Whether we write down the amazing things and look at them again later or if we keep telling others about what God has done, it’s important that we don’t forget about those things. The Israelites remembered the great things God had done for them when they built an altar after crossing the Jordan River.**

Picture This!

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs.

Say: **In your pairs, discuss some of the best things you can remember that God has done.** It’s okay if some kids are most comfortable mentioning things they’ve heard from





the Bible, and it's fine if some kids tell about their own experiences or things they've heard from other people. Allow about two minutes for kids to share.

Say: **In your pairs, choose one thing God has done that you most want to remember. Do a freeze-frame and pretend to have that moment photographed.** Have kids switch whose idea they're making a picture of after about a minute and a half.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

In what ways did it encourage you to hear your partner's accounts of God's awesomeness?

How does that encourage you to share your God Sightings with others?

What can you do to make sure you notice and remember the great things God does for you each day?

Say: **God's done amazing things for his people since the beginning of the earth. Some of the best things are written down in the Bible, such as when God helped the Israelites cross the Jordan River. We can read our Bibles to find encouragement and reminders that God is doing amazing things. We can also share our experiences with others and listen to what God has done in their lives, too. In every way, it's important for us to ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Consider this week how you can ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

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

Write down a list of your favorite things God has done. Include things he's done in your life. Interview other people who know God to ask them about their favorite things God has done, too. Share this with your family to encourage them.

At dinnertime, lead your family members in a prayer and have everyone at the table say one thing God has done for him or her that he or she is thankful for.

Write a song that tells about some things God has done. Share the song with a friend.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Joshua and the Israelites knew it was important to ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE. So let’s ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE 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 the things God has done. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids stand in a circle. Give kids one minute to think of something they’re really glad to know God has done. Pray and thank God for the things he has done, and then go around the circle so children can each list the things they thought of.



**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.

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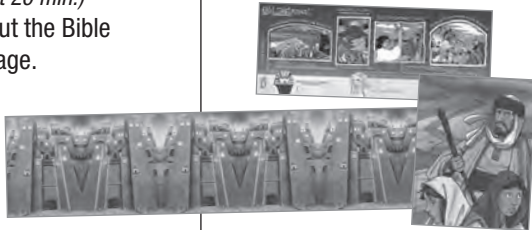
God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

When kids think of power, they often think of physical strength. Children generally increase in their physical strength as they grow from year to year. The feeling of physical strength and power is important and affirms that they're growing and becoming more independent. But they don't always have the strength or power they feel they need when they're worried or afraid. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God's power gives them strength mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.



Bible Point
God's power works for good.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Powerless Walking <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a spinning game and discover they're unable to walk in a straight line on their own.	masking tape	
2 Bible Exploration	God Gives Victory Over Jericho <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act out the Bible passage.	Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), paper Teacher Pack: CD, "Walls of Jericho" posters, "Rahab and Family" poster, FaithWeaver NOW box, Bible Timeline, tape 	Tape the "Walls of Jericho" posters together.

Key Verse
"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"
(1 Peter 5:6-7).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will rely on God's power in their lives.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God's Power <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create commercials to show how God's power helps us.		
	God's Mighty Hand <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and write worries or concerns in "God's hand."	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, scissors (several pairs)	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	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.



Powerless Walking Supplies

masking tape

1 GETTING STARTED

Powerless Walking

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form trios. Place masking tape in a straight line on the floor in front of each group. Say: **One person in each group will spin around several times and then try to walk in a straight line on the masking tape in front of you. Each of you will do this once. The two nonspinners may make sure the spinner doesn't fall down, but you may not help him or her walk the straight line.**

Have each child in the trios attempt this once.

Ask kids to think of things that might help them walk in a straight line if they were to do this again.

Say: **Let's try it again, and this time the nonspinners will try some of the ideas you thought of to help those who are spinning walk straight.**

Have kids spin again, and this time let the other two kids from their trios help in various ways. Let each person have a chance to try again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to have help the second time you tried to walk?
How is that like God helping you when you have something hard to do?
What hard things have you had to do you that you were glad you had help with?**

Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn about a time the Israelites were told to do something that seemed impossible to them. They needed God's power to do what they'd been told, so they had to trust God to help them. We can trust that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives, too.**



2

 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God Gives Victory Over Jericho

What You'll Do

Show kids the “God Gives Victory Over Jericho” picture on the Bible Timeline.

Have two willing kids hold up the “Walls of Jericho” poster during this activity.

Say: **Jericho was an ancient city. It had a huge wall all the way around it, much like the huge brick or stone walls that surround a castle. No one went in or out of the city unless they had permission. God told Joshua that the Israelites would have victory over Jericho. Although it seemed like a crazy idea, God told Joshua exactly what they needed to do to see God’s power at work.**

Read aloud Joshua 6:1-5.

Ask:

**Joshua needed God’s help for this task. When have you had to do something really hard and needed God’s help to do it?
How does God’s power work in our lives?**

Say: **As I continue to read our Bible passage, you’ll act out what you hear as I say it.**

Have one child stealthily hide the “Rahab and Family” poster under a table in the room. The poster will remain hidden until someone comes to get it.

Say: **This all begins with Joshua calling for the priests and telling them to “take up the ark of the covenant.”** Have two to four kids pick up the FaithWeaver NOW box, which represents the ark, and then wait.

Say: **Joshua told the priests to carry trumpets in front of the ark.** Have a couple of kids representing the priests with trumpets stand in front of the ark and roll up paper and hold it like trumpets. Have another child stand in front of the priests and another child stand behind the ark; they will act as armed guards. Everyone else will be Israelites and will follow the priests and armed guards.

Say: **Once everyone was in place, Joshua said, “Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.” The priests blew the trumpets as they walked. But Joshua told the people, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout.”**

Have kids march one time around the two kids holding the poster as the priests pretend to blow their trumpets. After they have gone around the walls of Jericho once, have them sit down.



God Gives Victory Over Jericho Supplies

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Bibles
CD player
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
paper
Teacher Pack
CD: “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 18)
“Walls of Jericho” posters
“Rahab and Family” poster
FaithWeaver NOW box
Bible Timeline tape

God Gives Victory Over Jericho Easy Prep

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Tape the “Walls of Jericho” posters together.



Say: **They did this for six days in a row!** Have kids walk around the poster five more times, stopping each time to pretend to camp overnight. **The Israelites probably felt foolish marching around the city and then going back to camp each day.**

Say: **On the seventh day, the Israelites marched around the city seven more times.** Have kids march around the poster one more time, and make sure they don't talk at all as they walk.

Say: **After the Israelites had marched around Jericho seven times that seventh day, the priests blew their trumpets, and Joshua said, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"** Have kids stop and shout.

Say: **When the trumpets sounded and the people shouted, the walls around Jericho collapsed!** Have kids run through the poster, tearing it down as they go.

Say: **Then Joshua sent in the two men who had been spies to get Rahab and her family. Because Rahab hid them, they kept their promise to save her and her family.**

Send two kids to rescue Rahab. Say: **Then the Israelites destroyed the entire city and everything in it. And Joshua said very sternly that no one was supposed to rebuild the city. Let's sing to celebrate how God was with the Israelites!** Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 18 on the CD). Lead kids in singing along with 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 kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What were you thinking about as you marched around the poster so many times?

How did God's power work in this situation?

In what ways do you hope God's power will work for your good right now?





Say: **What seemed like a crazy idea wasn't so crazy after all! When the Israelites trusted and obeyed God, even when it seemed crazy, God used his power to defeat their enemies. God used his power to make them victorious. Our powerful God wants to help us, too. He wants to give us victory over the things we struggle with every day. ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives.**



3 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

God's Power

What You'll Do

Have kids form groups of three or four.

Say: **As we saw in today's Bible passage, God sure is powerful! God showed his power at the walls of Jericho, and he also shows his power in our lives. In your groups, you'll create a commercial to show how ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. Be sure to mention today's Bible Point, ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD, during your commercial. You can advertise for God's power however you want, and you can use personal stories or the events that happened to Israel to demonstrate God's power.**

Allow time for groups to brainstorm and practice their commercials. After about 10 minutes, have groups take turns presenting their commercials to everyone else.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What about these commercials helps you remember that God's power works for good?**
- How has God's power worked for good in your life?**
- How can you "advertise" God's power to someone this week?**

Say: **Commercials make us remember things. Usually they encourage us to buy things, but these commercials help us remember how ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD. We can read our Bibles, share our stories with other people, and listen to other people to remember these things, too. God wants us to know that he's got the power to take care of things just as he helped the Israelites have victory over Jericho.**





God's Mighty Hand Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth pens
scissors (several pairs)

God's Mighty Hand Easy Prep

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

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

God's Mighty Hand

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is 1 Peter 5:6-7.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the "God's Mighty Hand" activity and complete the activity. Allow about five minutes.

Say: **Just as the walls of Jericho crumbled when the people depended on God's power, our worries and anxieties will crumble when we depend on God's Word and his power.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What's it like to struggle with worry over the things you wrote and talked about?

How is that similar to the walls of Jericho?

In what ways can you trust God to help you with your big worries and concerns?

Say: **Just like the huge walls around the city of Jericho, we sometimes build up walls in our lives. We let our worries and fears build up around us until we feel as if we can't overcome them. God wants to help us with our worries. ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. He can break down the biggest walls in our lives.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Consider this week how you can trust that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

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





Every time you worry about something, write it down on a piece of paper. Then throw it away, asking God to take that worry away. Whenever you use a TV, microwave, or radio, thank God for all the ways he uses his power for good. Read the headlines of a news website that your parents trust. Pray for the situations that you read about. Ask God to use his power for good in each of those situations.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God did something amazing to show his power when he knocked down the walls of Jericho for the Israelites. In our lives, too, we can know that ► GOD’S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Close by having kids form small groups to pray and give their worries to God. Encourage kids to trust his power to help them, no matter where they are.





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.



