

# FAITHWEAVER

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**FALL**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 5 & 6**  
**TEACHER GUIDE**

*Group*

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### FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 5 & 6, Fall

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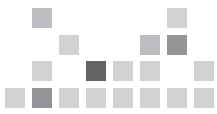
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# The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

**P**reteens feel a strong need to appear mature in front of their peers. Be sensitive as you explore the subject of fear. The expression of their fears could make them feel vulnerable, which could be a great thing if handled with care. The things preteens typically fear are beginning to be more serious. They may fear rejection, loneliness, the failure of their parents' marriage, or other things. Use this lesson to help them see God's mighty power standing with them in times of fear.



### ► Bible Point

God helps us when we're afraid.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>My Sea of Fears</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write fears on blue paper before sharing fears with partners.	Bible Buzz, CD player, blue construction paper, markers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Pharaoh the Menace</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Draw comic book scenes to complete a picture of the Bible passage.	Bibles, masking tape, paper, markers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline 	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*

### Key Verse

"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" (Psalm 23:3-4).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will rely on God's support to help them get through their fears.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Fearless</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Experience fear, and find God's peace in the experience.	1 blindfold per preteen, wrapped candy, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>My Sea of Calm</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Tear paper fears apart after praying.	Bible Buzz, CD player, papers with fears written on them (from the "My Sea of Fears" activity) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz, torn-up fears from the "My Sea of Calm" activity	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Buzz student book.

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



# The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## God Cares for His People

.....

As the mass of more than 2 million Hebrews left Egypt, God knew that facing the warlike Philistines immediately would likely have made the Hebrews lose hope and turn back to Egypt. The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night must have been awesome and comforting.

## God's Unusual Strategy

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God instructed the Israelites to turn back somewhat toward Egypt and camp at a spot between Migdol and the Red Sea. God had a bigger plan than anyone else could know. Pharaoh would've been confident that he could easily defeat the Israelites.

The Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians only days prior to this event. They'd been beaten by the whips of the slave drivers and were familiar with the weapons the Egyptians carried. They must've realized that their fighting talents were nothing compared with the Egyptians'. And they were backed against the sea, with mountains on two sides and the Egyptians bearing down on them. The situation must've seemed hopeless.

## God Shows His Power

.....

We can realize that God had all this planned. He knew that the people would be frightened. He knew that they would doubt him. But he also knew that his power would be remembered forever. God knew that he would prevail, that the Hebrews would be saved from Pharaoh, and that the result would be a people growing greatly in their faith in him.

It may seem odd that no record of this event has been found in Egyptian history. However, it's likely that all records were wiped from the books because it would've been an embarrassment for the world to

know that mighty Egypt had been devastated by its own lowly slaves.

## The Jesus Connection

.....

We live in troubled times, when it's easy for people to lose heart and feel hopeless and lost. But a relationship with Jesus can give us peace and joy. Jesus is our light in dark times.

When have you felt out of sorts and desperate to find some control over your situation? Perhaps the Israelites felt these things after they escaped from Egypt. Although they may not have recognized it at the time, eventually they were able to look back and see how God used that time to protect them and bring glory to himself.

What part of your life might God have his hand in now? What can you do to connect with God during times of fear and desperation? Take a few minutes to reflect on God's hand in your life. Write your reflection here.

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### My Sea of Fears Supplies

Bible Buzz  
CD player  
blue construction paper  
markers

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Ocean  
Thunderstorm"  
(track 2)

### My Sea of Fears Easy Prep

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# My Sea of Fears

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As kids arrive, play "Ocean Thunderstorm" (track 2 on the CD). Replay the segment as needed (or set your CD player to repeat the track). Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

When everyone has arrived, distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, one piece of blue construction paper, and a marker to each preteen.

Say: **Find a partner, and tell about a time you or someone you know was scared because of a lot of water.** Allow time.

Say: **Being in water that's too deep is just one situation in which you might be afraid. On your piece of blue paper, create a list of things you fear or used to fear when you were younger. By yourself, write as many as you can think of in two minutes. You won't have to share every item you write down with the whole group.**

When two minutes are up, have kids form pairs and share two of their fears with their partner. Then direct kids to the "My Sea of Fears" section on the Bible Buzz pages. Ask each pair to share two of their fears with the whole group. As kids share, have everyone write the fears they hear on their Bible Buzz page next to the numbers under the "My Sea of Fears" heading. When all groups have shared, say: **I know it might've been difficult to identify and share your fears. Thank you to each one of you for being bold and trusting each other enough to share your ideas.**

Have kids set aside the blue papers that have their original list of fears written on them. You'll use these later in the "My Sea of Calm" activity.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to think about your fears?  
What did you notice as everyone shared their fears?  
How do you usually deal with your fears? Explain.**

Say: **We have a chance today to find out how a group of people faced their fears. They were the Israelites, and Moses was their leader. The fears you wrote are just as important as the Israelites' fears were. Let's learn from their experience, and, most important, let's learn how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**







**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Pharaoh the Menace

## What You'll Do

Show kids the "Israelites Cross the Red Sea" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **After more than 400 years of slavery in Egypt, God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. After many signs, miracles, and plagues, the Egyptian Pharaoh told the Israelites they could leave. The frightened Israelites left Egypt on their journey to the Promised Land. Let's illustrate their journey.**

Have kids form seven groups, and make sure each group has a Bible, paper, and markers. (A group can be one child.) If you have fewer than seven kids, you could assign two scenes to each child. Give one of these scenes to each group:

- Scene 1—Exodus 13:17-22
- Scene 2—Exodus 14:1-4
- Scene 3—Exodus 14:5-9
- Scene 4—Exodus 14:10-14
- Scene 5—Exodus 14:15-20
- Scene 6—Exodus 14:21-22
- Scene 7—Exodus 14:23-30

Say: **Welcome to the Giant Bible Comix Company. Each of you has been hired to illustrate an exciting Bible narrative for our giant comics! On your papers, draw the scene from your assigned Bible passage. After about 15 minutes, we'll tape the scenes together on a wall and create the greatest giant Bible comics! Allow time.**

Have kids read their passages and create their scenes. As they're drawing, walk around and encourage them, answer any questions, and offer ideas. Monitor progress, and distribute more paper as needed. When time is up, have kids form groups of seven with one person from each of the previous groups. Have each new group tape its scenes together on the wall. If you have an uneven number of kids in any group, have those kids tape their drawings beneath or above others that are similar in their comic series. Allow kids to explain their drawings as they go through the comic.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's your reaction to the people and actions you drew in your scene?**
- What did you observe about their actions?**
- Exodus 14:14 says, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."**
- What does it mean in your life for God to fight for you?**
- How can God help you when you're afraid?**



## Pharaoh the Menace Supplies

- 
- Bibles
  - masking tape
  - paper
  - markers
  - Teacher Pack**
  - Bible Timeline





### Fearless Supplies

1 blindfold per preteen  
wrapped candy  
CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “Roller Coaster  
Noises” (track 3)

### ! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Say: **Your comics fit this passage so well. God is the superhero in this passage. The Israelites experienced real fear as Pharaoh’s army chased them. We may not have an angry army chasing us, but the fears we have are just as real. Let’s explore some ways we can trust that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Fearless

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **I’m looking for some kids who are willing to do something that might be a little scary in return for an unknown reward.** When you have at least one child (or as many as there are blindfolds) who wants to go on an adventure, have the other kids help put blindfolds on the willing kids. Have the unblindfolded kids hold their hands in the air and repeat after you: **I, [child’s name], will forfeit the reward I could’ve had if I’d worn a blindfold.**

Have the unblindfolded kids help make sure the blindfolded kids can’t see and help them line up on the far end of the room from you. Play “Roller Coaster Noises” (track 3 on the CD) on repeat throughout this activity. Ask the unblindfolded kids to come see you. Whisper to them very quietly: **We’re going to make the other kids believe there are some pretty fantastic obstacles in this room. Once we’ve pretended to set up the obstacles, you’ll follow the same instructions as the blindfolded kids, and it’s your job to make them believe there’s danger ahead. Let’s set up!**

With any kids that aren’t wearing blindfolds, move heavy things around, making lots of noise. Don’t create any actual roadblocks, but make it sound as if you’re doing that. Say: **Well, that’s a drop-off we’ll have to be careful about. I sure hope nobody falls into that!** If any of the blindfolded kids are worried, remind them that they can take off their blindfolds any time if they’re too worried to continue, but if they keep them on, they’ll get a reward at the end. Also make it clear that the kids who aren’t participating won’t be getting treats.

Begin by giving the blindfolded kids directions for how to cross the room. Say: **Take three medium-sized steps toward my voice.** Wait for kids to follow through. **Good. Now you’re going to want to squat down and walk to the right five steps. Duck low—you don’t want to hit the power cord.** Wait for kids to follow through, making comments if any kids take too few steps and reminding them to duck very low. **Okay, you’re safe from that. You can stand up, but now you’re coming to the area of the room where there’s a pretty big drop-off. Sorry, we didn’t mean to make this so dangerous, but you’re going to have to jump really carefully so you don’t fall.** Wait for kids to follow through. **There’s a table right in front of you. Turn to the left and take four steps to avoid hitting the table.** Wait for kids to follow through. **Now lie down and crawl on the floor to avoid the swinging rock that’s up ahead.** Wait for kids to follow through. Encourage them to crawl as low as possible on their bellies. Narrate the rock coming and going, saying things such as “Here it comes—keep yourselves really low!” Allow kids to stand up, and say: **Keep your blindfolds**





on. You've done well, and you've reached the end of your challenge. Now for your final challenge, I'm going to put something in your hand. It might be a spider, it might be a snake, or it might be something else. This is the last thing you have to do to get your treat. I can promise that this thing will not harm you. Do you trust me enough to hold out your hand?

As kids hold out their hands, place the wrapped candies in their palms. When candies have been distributed to those who participated, allow kids to take off their blindfolds and enjoy their treats. Then distribute candies to the kids who participated but didn't hold out their hands. Sit together on the floor.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this activity like for you?**
- In what ways was this activity like or unlike how God helps us when we're afraid?**
- Tell about one way you can trust that God is helping you the next time you're afraid.**

Say: **You followed directions that made no sense for where we are. Even if you could see, the directions still didn't make sense. Just like God was in control even though things looked really scary to the Israelites when they were trapped against the sea, we can trust that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

## My Sea of Calm

### What You'll Do

Play "Calm Sea Sounds" (track 4 on the CD) during this activity. Replay the segment as needed. Have kids find their blue papers with their fears written on them.

Say: **Just as Moses and the Israelites stood in front of their fear, trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army, we now stand in front of our fears. Let's call upon God to help us with the fears we hold in our hands. After we have silently prayed together, let's imagine God parting our "Sea of Fears" by tearing these pieces of paper in half.**

Have kids pray silently and then tear their papers in half. Allow about a minute of silent reflection. Then have everyone tear his or her piece of blue paper into more pieces and throw the pieces in the air to symbolize the freedom God gives us over these fears.

Have kids pick up and hold the torn pieces of paper as they look at the verses listed on the "My Sea of Calm" activity on their Bible Buzz pages. Say: **One place we can go to find reminders that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID is the Bible. Find a verse that helps you in your sea of fears, and read it to yourself a few times.** Allow a minute.



### My Sea of Calm Supplies

- Bible Buzz
- CD player
- papers with fears written on them (from the "My Sea of Fears" activity)

#### Teacher Pack

- CD: "Calm Sea Sounds" (track 4)





### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to tear up your fears and let go of them?**
- What's the difference between facing something scary by yourself and facing that same thing with God beside you?**
- In what ways do you think God wants you to let go of your fears because he's with you?**

Say: Fear is a very real thing. Being afraid isn't wrong, but it's best for us when we can let go of our fears and leave them in God's good hands. Just as the Israelites were forced to depend on God and it was scary for them, sometimes the scariest things we go through help us see that ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

Have kids help you pick up the paper pieces and set them aside for the closing prayer.

## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can trust that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

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

- In the morning, spend one minute leaning against a wall. Let the wall remind you of how God is with you and supports you when you're afraid.**
- Write an account of the times God has helped you when you were afraid.**
- Talk to your mom and dad, and ask them to add their accounts to the end of your story. Read the story whenever you feel afraid.**
- Read Exodus 14:14. Draw a map of what a battle scene might look like. Then change it by adding the difference that might be made if God was fighting the battle for you. Pray over your life, asking God to fight for you and help you learn to be still.**

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.

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz



Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites faced an impossible and scary situation, but God was with them. Let's remember that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## 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 when they're afraid. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Give each child a handful of the torn-up fears. Have kids find a place alone in the room to ask God to be with them when they're afraid. Close by praying: **God, thank you for letting us come to you when we're afraid. Please be with us and help us remember you're there when we face scary times. In Jesus name, amen.**



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
Bible Buzz  
torn-up fears from the  
"My Sea of Calm"  
activity

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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





# God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

Fifth- and sixth-graders still depend on their parents for everything. While they see a direct correlation between their parents' occupations and money, few make the connection that God provides them with what they have. And unless their parents go out of their way to explain this to them, many won't grasp the concept of an invisible God providing for them. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God provides for them.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Stranded</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experience what it's like to be stranded, and trust someone else to help them.	Bible Buzz, CD player, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Desert Snapshots</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Play a game to discover an amazing provision event.	Bibles	
	<b>Hungry No More</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write letters to the Israelites.	Bible Buzz, pens	

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



### ► 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. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will praise God for meeting their needs.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>God's Provisions</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i></p> <p>Write down real needs on cards, and then pray about them individually and with partners.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, CD player, pens, 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "My Needs" cards</p> 	<p>Separate the "My Needs" cards.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i></p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i></p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





# God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## The People Become Hungry in the Wilderness

Approximately 30 days had passed since the Hebrew people left Egypt. Apparently the food they had brought with them had run out, and they began complaining. How quickly they had forgotten the oppression of the Egyptians! The people were just starting to get to know God, and they had very little framework to realize God would provide for them. This event marks a learning point for the Israelites.

## God’s Glory Shown to the People

We don’t know exactly what “the glory of the Lord” was that the Israelites saw in the morning, but it was a visible sign to them (perhaps like the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night mentioned in Exodus 13). God wanted Israel to know that he was still there, that he was aware of their need, and that he was going to provide for them.

## God Provides for the People

When the manna appeared the first morning, the Hebrews’ question “What is it?” apparently caught on as its name because manna means “What is it?” Though some have suggested various possibilities for what manna was, nothing we know of today is a good match for the description given in Exodus 16:31: “It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.”

The miraculous nature of manna is further exhibited in what happened to it over the course of a Sabbath as opposed to a weekday. The Israelites were not to work on the Sabbath but to keep it as a day for worship. Gathering manna on the Sabbath would have been work, so God simply didn’t make it appear. If anyone tried to keep manna from one weekday to the next, it would spoil. However, if anyone kept it

from the morning before the Sabbath, it would stay good through the Sabbath.

## The Jesus Connection

God is our Provider. Everything we have is from God, and he has provided a way for us to have a relationship with him through Jesus.

What do you find yourself wanting more than anything? How often do you view this desire as a need? It’s important to recognize the difference. God allowed the Hebrews to live as slaves for many years. When God decided they needed to leave Egypt, he provided the miraculous opportunity to do so.

Our greatest need is to honor and glorify God. Regardless of our wants, we’re fulfilled when living in God’s will. Write a prayer here to glorify God for giving you what you need.

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### Stranded Supplies

Bible Buzz  
CD player  
pens

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Two Guys, Two  
Girls, and an Airplane"  
(track 5)

### Stranded Easy Prep

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Stranded

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

After kids arrive, have them form groups of four. Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the "Surviving the Jungle" section.

Say: **Today we'll consider what things you'd need for survival if you were stranded in the middle of nowhere with few supplies. Let's listen to a story that explains how you got yourselves into this unfortunate predicament. As you listen, try to think of solutions to the situations these people face. When the story's over, you're going to write a new ending for it, so try to think of that as you listen.** Play "Two Guys, Two Girls, and an Airplane" (track 5 on the CD).

Say: **Now let's write our own endings. There are some questions on your Bible Buzz pages to help you think through some of your responses.** Distribute pens, and allow kids time to answer the questions.

Give groups a few minutes to write their own endings to the story. When they've finished, have groups share their endings with the entire group.

Say: **Great job creating these endings. Now you get to imagine that you have the opportunity to interact with the people in this story throughout the entire scenario, not just for the ending. Think about the advice you'd give our four adventurers to help them escape this situation.**

Have groups record their responses in their Bible Buzz pages where it asks kids to give advice to Walt, Rene, Bob, and Cindy.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

When they've finished, have groups of four share their answers to these questions.

Ask:

**What was it like to try to solve this problem with the people in your group?**

**Tell about a time you were aware of a problem you had to solve. How did you decide what to do?**

**What three needs are most important to you in your life?**

Say: **We all need things to survive. Some of the things we think are important to us might radically change if we faced something like in our survival activity. Today we're going to explore how the Israelites had a need and how God provided for that need. And we'll see how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED and more.**





## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Desert Snapshots

### What You'll Do

Have kids form trios, and distribute Bibles. Have one preteen in each trio be the Puppeteer. The Puppeteer will read aloud one section of the passage listed below and then choose a person to be his or her Puppet. The Puppeteer will move the Puppet around to show a need that's from that section of the passage. Both the Puppet and the third trio member will try to guess which need is being shown. Allow kids about a minute and a half for each section. Different people will be the Puppeteer and Puppet for each section. Have groups alternate so everyone gets to take part in each role at least once.

- Exodus 16:1-3
- Exodus 16:4-8
- Exodus 16:9-12
- Exodus 16:13-18
- Exodus 16:19-20
- Exodus 16:21-26

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**As a Puppeteer, what did you need? How did your Puppet provide that or not?**

**As a Puppet, what did you need? How did your Puppeteer provide that or not?**

**When you were guessing, what did you need? How did your teammates provide that or not?**

**Which of the roles in our game do you think is most similar to what life's like when God gives us what we need? Explain.**

**What do you think this passage shows about God's ability to provide?**

**Tell about a time you complained. Did you complain because of a want or a need?**

**What can you do instead of complaining the next time you need something?**

Say: **God chose an unusual way to provide for the Israelites. He wanted them to know they could always trust him to provide for their needs. We can trust that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, too. When we choose to talk to God and trust him rather than complaining, we're growing in our relationship with him.**



### Desert Snapshots Supplies

.....  
Bibles





### Hungry No More Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens

### God's Provisions Supplies

Bible Buzz  
CD player  
pens

1 copy per preteen of  
the lyrics page (at the  
end of this lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Psalm 23" (track 6)  
"My Needs" cards

### God's Provisions Easy Prep

Separate the "My  
Needs" cards.

## Hungry No More

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Imagine that you're friends with one of the Israelites who's wandering in the desert without food. You get to write a letter to that friend. In your letter, how could you remind your friend that God is going to take care of her or him? What can you remind your friend to do *after* God provides for him or her?

Provide pens, and direct students to the "Dear Friend" section on the Bible Buzz pages. When kids have finished, ask for any willing kids to read their letters to the group.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What's the most important thing to tell someone who's still waiting to find out how God will take care of him or her?**

**Why is it important to trust God to provide, even when you don't know how it's going to happen?**

**What's amazing about how God provides for you today?**

Say: This amazing event happened thousands of years ago. God provided for the Israelites then and continues to provide for us now. Let's look into some ways God provides for our needs today. Even when we don't know what's going to happen, we can trust that ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## God's Provisions

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find and read the Key Verse, Psalm 23:5-6, on their Bible Buzz pages: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; 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."

Say: I'm going to play a song based on Psalm 23. While the song plays, think about how God can provide for you.

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "Psalm 23" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to sing along as the song plays.





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.

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

Give each preteen a pen and one "My Needs" card.

Say: **We've looked at how God provided food for the Israelites. God provided it in a way that would test the Israelites' faith: Would they trust God to provide? It's a question we have to ask ourselves, too, as we think about our needs. Will you trust God to provide?**

Have kids find a place in the room where they can be alone. Ask them to write any real needs they have on their "My Needs" card and spend a minute praying about their needs. Following the prayer time, gather kids together.





### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What can you learn from the psalmist's reaction to God's provision?  
How easy or hard is it for you to pray for your needs? Why?  
What can you do to respond to God's provision for you?**

Say: **God provided for the Israelites, and he showed them how much he loved them. He could've taken them someplace with lots of food, but this way, they were able to see how he was caring for them. ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, too. Any time we have to talk to God about something we need, we learn more about how God loves us.**

## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can appreciate that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

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

**Create a thank-you card telling God how grateful you are for his provisions. Put the thank-you card in your Bible, and prayerfully thank God for the things he's given you.**

**One way to respond to God's provision is to share it. Find something God has given you that you can share with someone else. When you share your special item, do so with a glad heart because you get to bless someone else because of what God's given you.**

**Write a letter to your parents thanking them for how they provide for you. Tell them how they help you understand that God gives us what we need.**

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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz



Say: **The Israelites were tired and hungry and more than a little grouchy. But God still provided for them. Let's remember that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**



## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids stand in a circle and thank God for the ways he's given them what they needed so far today.





## 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.

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

**OK**  
**TO COPY**





# God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

You can't overestimate the power of peer pressure for preteens. Some of the more common forms of peer pressure exist in temptation to gossip about others and the tendency to complain. The Israelites had a complaining problem, too, and God was patient with them. Use this lesson to help your kids see that they can appreciate God's patience with them and not misuse it by complaining all the time.



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

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Family Vacation</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Hear a complaining family, and consider how they've been with complainers and been complainers themselves.	Bible Buzz, CD player, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>How Thirsty Are You?</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Participate in an instant drama, and then discuss the people who complained.	CD player, pencil, salty crackers, cups of water <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Complainers Hall of Shame</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Examine three people in the Bible who complained.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper, index cards, tape	

**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**  
Children will turn to God when they're tempted to complain.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>No-Complaint Zone</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of finding alternatives to complaining.	index cards, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> mini groan tubes	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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

# God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

 BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Food and Whine

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

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

## Acting on Faith

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

## Be Encouraged

.....

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

## The Jesus Connection

.....

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

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### Family Vacation Supplies

Bible Buzz

CD player

pens

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "The Whiners"

(track 7)

### Family Vacation Easy Prep

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Family Vacation

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **There's nothing more fun than everyone in the family piling into the car for a carefree two-week drive across the country—unless there's a whiner in the car.**

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the "Bugs Me!" section.

Say: **Take 60 seconds to write down three things that absolutely bug you when you're on a long car trip. Maybe it bugs you that your car doesn't have air conditioning, or maybe wearing a seat belt for hours drives you crazy. Write down three things quickly. Go!**

When 60 seconds have passed, take a poll to see which things were most common. Find a willing preteen to offer up an idea from his or her list. Say: **If you have the same thing as [name of preteen saying the idea], whine "Me, too."** When this person's item has been polled, continue asking for willing kids to share their ideas as kids respond.

Say: **We're going to listen in on an entire family of whiners as they head off to Grandma's for a vacation. They've been in the car exactly 10 minutes when we hear them say this:**

Play "The Whiners" (track 7 on the CD).

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time you were on a trip with someone who was a whiner.**

**What about a time *you* were the whiner?**

**How do people react to you when you're whining and complaining?**

Say: **If we're honest, we all have to admit that sometimes we can be whiners and complainers. Today we'll explore a whole nation of complainers. And we'll discover what it means that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US. Let's remember to be grateful for God's patience and try not to misuse it with complaining.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## How Thirsty Are You?

### What You'll Do

Say: **To help us think about our Bible passage today, let's experience what it's like to be thirsty.** Give each preteen a couple of salty crackers. Have kids eat the crackers. Don't allow anyone to get anything to drink.

Have kids form groups of about four and come up with some ideas of ways to obtain water. Say: **I bet you're pretty thirsty after those crackers, so take some time to think up ways to get water. You might design a covert operation, an argument for why you need water, or a scientific experiment that might produce water. It's your choice.** Allow time.

When kids have come up with their ideas, have them present them to the entire group.

Say: **You're going to act out the parts described on a track we'll listen to on the CD.** There are no lines or actions to learn—kids have to make up their parts as they go.

Ask for willing kids for these roles: Bernie, Moses, Man, Woman, and Elders. The rest of the kids can be the Israelites. Give Moses the sole prop you'll need: a pencil to serve as his staff. If you have a large group, you might break kids into groups of 8 to 10 and have them follow along. This way, each person will have an active role.

Play "Complaints, Complaints" (track 8 on the CD).

Say: **The Bible says the Israelites "put the Lord to the test." Their whining and complaining wasn't pretty to listen to, that's for sure.** Ask kids how thirsty they are at this point, and then give them cups of water.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain what it was like to be thirsty but not be given any water to drink.**
- How did being thirsty test your patience?**
- What do you think it means that the Israelites "put the Lord to the test"?**
- Tell about a time you've been concerned about whether you have the things you need.**
- What does God's response to the Israelites' complaining show us?**

Say: **The Israelites were learning about God's care for them. They were learning that he was going to take care of them. When they put him to the test, they found that he was there caring for them, even though he didn't enjoy all that complaining.**



### How Thirsty Are You? Supplies

- 
- CD player
  - pencil
  - salty crackers
  - cups of water
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Complaints, Complaints" (track 8)

### **ALLERGY ALERT**





### Complainers Hall of Shame Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens  
paper  
index cards  
tape

God can hear us and take care of us even if we don't complain. ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US**, and we can learn from his patience how to trust him and be patient for him to respond to us.

## Complainers Hall of Shame

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God has had plenty of opportunities to deal with complainers just like the Israelites and us, and we can learn something about him by seeing how he responded to the Israelites.**

Ask kids to form pairs, and give each pair a Bible, paper, and two pens. Have kids find the "Grievance Cards" on their Bible Buzz pages and follow the instructions found there.

Say: **A *grievance* is when someone does something wrong and you write a report of what happened. You'll have 10 minutes to fill out the "Grievance Cards."** Allow time.

Say: **We all complain from time to time. But God wants us to be content, not complaining. Let's explore a verse that helps us have an attitude like this.**

Have kids find and read the Key Verse, Psalm 23:1-2, on their Bible Buzz pages: "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."

Distribute three index cards to each preteen. Say: **Now reevaluate the Grievance Cards you wrote earlier. Look at each one with the Key Verse in mind. On your index card, write a new way to look at that situation.** When kids have finished all three of their index cards, have them tape these over the Grievance Cards on their Bible Buzz pages.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead pairs in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why would it matter to a sheep to be in green pastures? to be led beside quiet waters?**

Ask pairs to report their insights to the larger group.

Say: **Sheep trust the shepherds to provide the care they need. God cares for us, his sheep, and as we allow him to do this, we will complain less.**





Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Do you typically think of complaining as something that's wrong or as something that you are justified in doing? Why?**
- What's one area of life in which you think you might complain more than you'd like to?**
- How does the Key Verse help you change your thoughts about complaining?**
- What can you do to change your attitude the next time you feel like complaining?**

Say: **There are probably lots of things we do that test God's patience, as the Israelites did. We can refocus our minds, as our Key Verse does, to help us avoid complaining. If we think of God as our good shepherd leading us through obstacles in life, we can talk to him and follow him without complaining. ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US, and we can show him love by avoiding complaining.**

**3** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

## No-Complaint Zone

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We usually complain because it's easier to complain than to think of an alternative. So to help you think of ways to not complain, we're going to play the "No-Complaint" game!**

Provide four index cards and a pen to each preteen.

Say: **On your index cards, write four complaints you regularly have, writing one complaint on each card.** If kids need help, you might offer suggestions of complaints they have. Kids might complain about their sisters taking too long in the bathroom, the amount of homework they have, or an older brother taking their stuff without asking.

Give kids a few minutes to write one complaint per card. Say: **Our complaining is not a pleasant sound to hear. It can get overwhelming, kind of like these groan tubes.** Shake a mini groan tube for kids to hear.

Then have kids form two teams and line up at one end of the room with their cards. Give each team a mini groan tube. Say: **The first person on each team will take the mini groan tube as she or he walks heel to toe to the other end of the room and then skips back to the relay line. The first person will read the complaint on one of his or her cards to the next person in line in the whiniest, most annoying voice possible. The second person in line will come up with a non-complaining alternative to the**



### No-Complaint Zone Supplies

- index cards
- pens
- Teacher Pack**
- mini groan tubes





complaint and then take the groan tube and repeat the process as the first person goes to the back of the line.

Run the relay several times so kids can use different complaint cards. When kids have finished the relay, congratulate everyone for finding alternatives to complaining.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Was it easy or hard to come up with non-complaining responses in this game? Why?**

**How is that like stopping yourself from complaining in real life?**

**How can you let God help you not complain?**

Say: **Complaining is a useless thing. It wastes our time, focuses us on negative things, and distracts us from God. There's no place for complaining in our lives. The Israelites put God's patience to the test, and because of that, we can see how ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US. Find alternatives to complaining like you did in our game. Try to find ways to focus on God rather than on complaints.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can respect the fact that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

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

**Catch yourself in a complaint, or if that's not something you tend to notice, ask someone you trust to help you notice when you are complaining. Stop in the middle of the complaint, or before you begin it, and turn it around into a comment about how God is patient with you. Notice any effect this has on your attitude.**

**Create your own psalm in the form of a song to praise God for his patience, provision, and love.**

**Think of five things you often complain about. Then think of three reasons to be thankful for each of those 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.

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz





## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites helped us learn that even when we complain, ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US. Let's focus ourselves on praising God instead of complaining by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids find a place in the room by themselves. Invite them to spend one minute just listening to God. Remind them beforehand that if God is patient with them, they can patiently listen for anything he might have to say to them.

After a minute, have kids pray to God about anything that's on their minds, and then close the prayer time.





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


Preteens are learning to test boundaries. While this often frustrates the adults who care for them, it's something that will become a benefit to them later in life as they'll have to determine their own limits and boundaries. They're learning the importance of rules, even though it may seem like they're simply out to break as many rules as they can. Kids this age have to buy into the importance of a set of rules before they can be expected to follow them. Use this lesson to help kids see that obedience to God doesn't ruin their fun but helps them live in true freedom.



► **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. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will honor God in their obedience to him.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Honor Laws</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make up laws to honor the ruler of a pretend country.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>God and His People</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover how God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments.	Bibles, CD player, pencils with erasers, paper, index cards, markers, craft supplies <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Ten Commandments" cards, Bible Timeline 	Write a different name of God on 6 different index cards. Some ideas for names are Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Lamb of God, Everlasting Father, and King of Kings.  Set up 4 different stations. Place a Bible and one of the "Ten Commandments" cards at each station. Set paper and pencils at Station 1; markers, paper, and craft supplies at Station 2; and the index cards facedown at Station 3.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Life With Honor</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write ideas for their pretend countries based on people they know who honor God.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, scratch paper	
	<b>Personal Honor</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write how they can honor God in their lives.	Bible Buzz, pens, paper, CD player, 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at this end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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

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

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

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

## The Israelites Battle the Amalekites

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

## Jethro Advises Moses to Focus on God

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

## Moses Receives the Commandments From God

A significant event is recorded in the next few verses (Exodus 19:3-9): God spoke to Moses and promised

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

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

## The Jesus Connection

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

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

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## Honor Laws Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens

## Honor Laws Easy Prep

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

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Honor Laws

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

When all kids have arrived, have them form four groups. Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the "Honor My Leader" section. Explain that each group is a country and can determine what the name of its country should be.

Say: **Determine who in your group has the next birthday. Pause. Ta-da! You're a country now, and that person is the king or queen of your country. Your royal ruler will take a few minutes to think of four "honor laws"—four ways his or her subjects will honor their ruler. In the meantime the rest of you, ahem...subjects will think of four ways you can honor your ruler. Feel free to be silly with these rules.**

Encourage kids to take a few minutes to write in the "Law" columns for their countries.

After groups have written their laws, have the rulers and their subjects compare lists and see if they can agree on four "honor laws" for their country. Allow just a couple of minutes for this, and let kids know when their time is almost over.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have each preteen pair up with a person from another country to discuss these questions.

Ask:

**How did the subjects' laws and the rulers' laws differ?**

**Why do you think the rulers and their subjects had different rules and objectives?**

**Why can it be hard to follow rules that someone else makes for you?**

Say: **Sometimes rules don't make sense to us, and that makes us not really want to follow those rules. And even when rules do make sense, we don't always like being told what to do. Today we'll explore how God gave us commandments and what it means that we can ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# God and His People

## What You'll Do

Show kids the “God Gives the Ten Commandments” picture on the Bible Timeline. Say: **When God was ready to give his commandments to his people, he brought thunder, lightning, and even an earthquake. He certainly got their attention.**

Have kids get back in their countries. Say: **As a country, go to each of the four stations set up around the room to find out what God told the Israelites in today's Bible passage. You'll have about four minutes at each station. I'll give you a warning each time it's nearly time to change to a new station. Go!**

Play “Obey My Commandments” (John 14:15) (track 9 on the CD) in the background during this activity.

Allow four minutes per rotation. When there's one minute left, give kids a gentle one-minute warning. Then let them know when it's time to move to another station.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of these commandments would you most like to make part of your life this week? Why?**
- Not all rules are good. What might lead you to believe that God's rules are good?**
- What can you learn from the way God asked Moses and the Israelites to honor him?**

Say: **The way we honor God may be different from the Israelites' experience at Mount Sinai, but the basic principles are the same. We ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. Thanks to the Ten Commandments, we know that by honoring only one God, not worshipping idols, honoring God's name, and keeping the Sabbath, we can please God. Let's see how, with those rules, we might be able to honor God today.**



## God and His People Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- pencils with erasers
- paper
- index cards
- markers
- craft supplies

### Teacher Pack

- CD: “Obey My Commandments” (John 14:15) (track 9)
- “Ten Commandments” cards
- Bible Timeline

## God and His People Easy Prep

Write a different name of God on 6 different index cards. Some ideas for names are Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Lamb of God, Everlasting Father, and King of Kings.

Set up 4 different stations. Place a Bible and one of the “Ten Commandments” cards at each station. Set paper and pencils at Station 1; markers, paper, and craft supplies at Station 2; and the index cards facedown at Station 3.





### Life With Honor Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens  
scratch paper

### Personal Honor Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens  
paper  
CD player  
1 copy per preteen of  
the lyrics page (at the  
end of this lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Love the Lord"  
(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)  
(track 10)

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Life With Honor

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids remain in their countries from the "Honor Laws" activity. Give each group a Bible, and distribute scratch paper and pens. Ask groups to reread the first four commandments (Exodus 20:2-11).

Say: **On your paper, write the names of four people you know who have done something that reflects the commandments you just read. When everyone in your group has written down four names, have your group members share information about those people with one another. Using those people as examples, come up with four ideas that reflect the first four commandments. For example, you might write the name of a neighbor who keeps the Sabbath by taking her family on a "worship hike" after church. Your idea might then be "Sunday is Celebrate God's Creation Day." Write your team's ideas in the "Words of Honor" section in your Bible Buzz pages.**

Once groups have come up with four new ideas, have each group share its ideas with the rest of the group.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**How can other people help you remember how to honor God?  
In what ways does obedience show honor to God?**

Say: **It's fun to think of ways to help ourselves honor God. But the most important thing to remember is we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. We can follow the Ten Commandments as a way to honor God.**

### Personal Honor

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Ask a willing preteen to read the Key Verse aloud from the Bible Buzz page: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).

Distribute pens and paper, and give kids about three minutes to write things they love about God on their paper. As they work, play "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) (track 10 on the CD). Hand out copies of the lyrics, and sing the song together. Say: **Use some**








of the ideas you came up with in the “Words of Honor” section to make up motions to this song as you sing it. You can each have different motions to the song; this doesn’t have to be coordinated. Think of the things that were most meaningful, and find a meaningful action to express those ideas to God.



 Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
And with all your soul,  
With all your strength.  
These commandments that I give today  
Should be upon your heart,  
Upon your heart.

Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.  
Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.  
Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.

“Love the Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s something you love about God?**
- When we love God with all our soul and strength, how might that relate to obedience?**
- What’s one way you can honor God with obedience?**

Say: **It’s great to think through these rules God gave us and look at ways we can apply them. God loves us very much, and we can love him, too. We can learn more about him when we ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM. We can celebrate and be excited about these rules the same way the Israelites were.**





## Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

# 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

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

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

**Make a list of the things you want to change about your life to obey and honor God. Each time you do one of those things, say a quick prayer to God thanking him for being worthy of honor.**

**Make the choice to not watch a TV show or play a video game in order to spend more time focusing on God.**

**Respect God's name the way you chose in your "Words of Honor."**

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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites learned how important it was to ► HONOR GOD BY OBEYING HIM, and we can, too, by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids pray in circles of four to six kids. Ask them to pray for each other regarding the commandments they heard today.



Lyrics ■■■■

## Love the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
And with all your soul,  
With all your strength.  
These commandments that I give today  
Should be upon your heart,  
Upon your heart.

Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.  
Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.  
Hear, O Israel,  
The Lord our God,  
The Lord is one.

"Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**OK**  
TO COPY







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

Fifth and sixth graders are beginning to encounter the various facets of bullying. While outright bullying probably won't happen directly in front of you, you might notice smaller things such as laughter at someone else's expense. Kids this age are still learning what is and isn't okay in this sphere. Use this lesson to help kids understand the personal relevance of showing respect for others.



### ► Bible Point

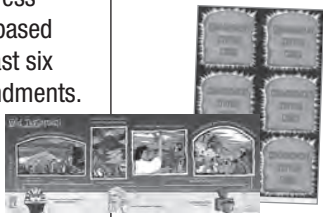
God tells us how to respect others.

### Key Verse

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

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will show respect to others.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>A Little Respect</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create a funny story about respecting others.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Commandments of Respect</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Rotate through six stations, and express actions based on the last six commandments.	6 Bibles, pens, paper, watercolors, cups of water, paintbrushes, paper towels <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Commandment Station” cards, Bible Timeline 	Set up 6 stations each with a Bible, 1 of the “Commandment Station” cards, and the corresponding items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station 1: pens and paper</li> <li>• Station 2: no more items needed</li> <li>• Station 3: no more items needed</li> <li>• Station 4: pens and paper</li> <li>• Station 5: no more items needed</li> <li>• Station 6: inexpensive watercolors, paper, paintbrushes, cups of water, and paper towels</li> </ul>

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



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Do's and Don'ts</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Play a game based on the Key Verse, and then write prayers for guidance in respecting others.	Bible Buzz, CD player, paper, 4 markers, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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

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

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

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

## Commandments With a Purpose

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

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

## Commandments in Two Categories

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

## God's Commandments Establish Priorities

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

One commandment that is often taken too lightly, especially in today's culture, is the instruction not

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

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

## The Jesus Connection

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

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

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

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### A Little Respect Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens

### A Little Respect Easy Prep

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### A Little Respect

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Ask kids to form pairs. Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have pairs find the "Say What?" section.

Say: **With your partners, you're going to complete the "Say What?" story by filling in the blanks. Each blank has a description, and each partner will think up a word according to the description. Let's fill in the first blank together to see how this works. The first blank is a place. Now each person needs to think of a place and tell your partner, who will write the word in the first blank in the story. We'll continue until all the blanks are filled in. The blanks are numbered in the story so you can keep track. If a word needs to be repeated, it will indicate which blank it comes from. For example, the name you choose for blank 2 is also used in blank 5.**

Have kids switch Bible Buzz pages and take turns asking their partners for a word to fill in each of the blanks. Don't have kids read the stories yet; make sure they just look at the blanks and ask their partners to give them an example of each kind of word to fill in.

When the first partner is finished, have partners switch roles so each person has a completed story.

Allow partners to read their silly stories aloud to each other.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have partners discuss these questions together.

Ask:

**Do you think the outcome of your story showed respect to the people whose names you used? Explain.**

**In what ways can you tell when you're showing respect to someone else?**

**In what ways can you tell when you're not showing respect to someone else?**

Say: **Our stories were silly, but they helped us understand respect a little more. God made each person, and he wants us to treat everyone with respect. Today we'll look at the Ten Commandments God gave Moses on Mount Sinai. In the last six commandments, ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.**







**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Commandments of Respect

## What You'll Do

Show kids the “God Gives the Ten Commandments” picture on the Bible Timeline. Then say: **If you think the Ten Commandments are restrictive, go to this side of the room.** Indicate one side of the room. **If you think they aren't restrictive, go to this side of the room.** Indicate the other side of the room. Make sure kids know it's okay for them to honestly choose either side. Encouraging honesty is better than guiltting them into choosing a “right” answer.

Allow kids a few minutes to discuss with others on their side why they think the Ten Commandments are restrictive or not. Then have each side share what they came up with.

Say: **It might seem like the Ten Commandments are nothing but a list of “do's and don'ts.” But the Ten Commandments are about honoring God and respecting others, and it's how we do or don't do things that offers endless possibilities!**

Form six groups, and have each group gather around one of the stations you set up earlier.

Say: **Use these Commandment Stations to help get your creative juices flowing. Each station is based on one of the last six commandments. As a group you'll rotate through the stations. At each station, read the directions on the card for a creative example of that commandment. I'll tell you when it's time to move to the next station.**

Give groups about two or three minutes at each station. When groups have rotated through all six stations, ask each group to show everyone else their favorite creative projects.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**How did this activity change the way you think about following the Ten Commandments?**

**Are some of the commandments harder for you to follow than others?**

**Explain.**

**How did this activity change the way you think about how to respect others?**

Say: **The Israelites had no rules at all, so they needed the commandments, and we can be thankful for them, too. Sometimes the Ten Commandments may seem strict, but instead of seeing a list of fun-ruiners, we can see the endless ways we can respect others. We can help, protect, honor, and celebrate each other. What a privilege to have so many great ways ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.**



### Commandments of Respect Supplies

- 6 Bibles
- pens
- paper
- watercolors
- cups of water
- paintbrushes
- paper towels

### Teacher Pack

- “Commandment Station” cards
- Bible Timeline

### Commandments of Respect Easy Prep

Set up 6 stations each with a Bible, 1 of the “Commandment Station” cards, and the corresponding items:

- Station 1: pens and paper
- Station 2: no more items needed
- Station 3: no more items needed
- Station 4: pens and paper
- Station 5: no more items needed
- Station 6: inexpensive watercolors, paper, paintbrushes, cups of water, and paper towels





## Do's and Don'ts Supplies

### Bible Buzz

CD player  
paper  
4 markers  
pens

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust and Obey"  
(track 11)

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Do's and Don'ts

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

For this activity, you'll need a large open area. Scatter paper all over the floor of the open area. Have kids read the Key Verse, Matthew 19:18-19, on their Bible Buzz pages: " '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.' "

Form four groups. Give each group a marker, and have group members link arms. Read the Key Verse aloud again, and tell the groups to remember the different commandments listed in the Key Verse.

Say: **Let's play a game to help us remember this. The object is to get to the other side of the room before the other groups. You can't step anywhere but on the papers, and you can't step on any papers that you haven't written on. You must remain in contact with the people in your group who are crossing the room. They have to be touching one another at all times.**

Tell kids you're going to read a situation and the group has to think of a commandment listed in the Key Verse that might help with that situation. The first person in each group will quickly write that commandment on a paper on the floor. Then that person will step on that paper and give a description of how he or she might apply that commandment. Then he or she will hand the marker to the next person. That person can repeat the process. Then he or she can step on that commandment, making sure to somehow remain connected to the rest of the group at all times. The group can continue to list as many commandments as they think might apply. They can create new commandment steppingstone papers for each commandment they think of that applies to the situation. When kids run out of commandments for a situation, move on to the next one. For example, in the first situation in which two young kids are fighting over a toy, kids might link that to the "Do not steal" commandment. They can think of multiple commandments for each situation if the commandments apply. Each group can travel only on paper, and no one can step on a paper that's written on unless, of course, their team wrote on it.

Keep the activity going by changing situations at random times. Use these ideas for situations:

**Two young children are fighting over a toy.**

**A married couple has an argument, and one of them leaves.**

**A vase is stolen from an art museum, and there were two people who could've stolen it in the room at that time.**

**A child's parents want her to go to bed, but she's not tired.**

**Two kids in the hall are getting ready to fight.**

**Someone is chatting online while his parents aren't home; this online chat buddy wants to meet him.**





**Some friends sneak into an R-rated movie.  
Two sworn enemies are trapped in the same building during a hurricane.**

Say: **God gives us his commandments to help us know how to live our lives in the best way possible. We can follow these commands and have a full life.**

Have kids sit in groups to discuss how standing on the papers was like walking through life by following God’s commandments.

Provide pens, and have kids find the “My Prayers...” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Have kids write a prayer request after each commandment. Encourage kids to ask not only for strength to resist certain temptations but also for compassion for those who don’t.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did your group decide was similar about walking on the papers with commands on them and the way you can navigate life by following God’s commands?**

**What encouraged you about some of the ways you thought of to apply these commandments?**

**What does that say about how we might think of using the commandments?**

**Which commandment seems to have the most varied uses? Why do you think that is?**

Say: **In tense situations, it’s sometimes hard to think about how we respect others. We often do the easiest thing and just worry about ourselves. But if we turn to God in these stressful times, he’ll guide us in our relationships. God’s commandments helped the Israelites know how to respect each other, and we can be thankful that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS through those same commandments.**

**4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS**

**Daily Challenges**

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think this week about how we can remember that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS.**

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



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz





Listen to your parents without thinking of what you will say next. Consider the things they're saying the next time you disagree about something.

Say something to show you listened to them rather than telling them your opinion immediately.

The next time you have an opportunity, help return something to its rightful owner. This counts for things like when you borrow your friend's pencil or pen at school or even when you see someone drop something on the ground.

Write God a thank-you note for the things you have, and recognize the ways you're content with those things. Remind yourself of the commandment that says not to covet other people's things. Instead of wanting more things, or someone else's things, be thankful for what you have.

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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **God gave the Israelites these rules because he wanted what's best for them. Let's remember that ► GOD TELLS US HOW TO RESPECT OTHERS by following through with our Daily Challenges.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Say: **Another way we can show respect for others is by praying for them.**


Have kids form small groups and sit together. Say: **Take a few moments to pray silently for the person on your right, and then switch and pray for the person on your left.** Allow a minute for each prayer, and then close the prayer.





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

Fifth- and sixth-graders unknowingly look for someone to worship. Those aren't the words they'd use to describe what they're looking for. But they're increasingly concerned about popularity and are looking for someone to follow. Use this lesson to help kids see that God is the only one worthy of their worship.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Hall of Presidents</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create and present campaign speeches.	index cards, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Future President" cards	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Jealous Worship</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Have a competition as they discover qualities of a good leader.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	<b>Who We Worship</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Discover who God is by studying his attributes.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens	

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



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

**Key Verse**  
"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will focus on God.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Why We Worship</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Give God things that stand in the way of worshipping him.	Bible, Bible Buzz, CD player, pens, 3 index cards per preteen <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	index cards from the "Why We Worship" activity	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



# The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-25

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Out of Sight

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

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

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

## What Was Aaron Thinking?

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

After making the idol, Aaron's proclamation was that there'd be a “festival to the Lord.” The name translated Lord (Yahweh) is the name by which God had announced himself to Moses at the burning bush. Apparently, Aaron thought that this idol could somehow represent the true God. Regardless of his motives, Aaron was wrong in making the idol. He led the people in disobeying God's second commandment (Exodus 20:4).

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

## The Jesus Connection

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

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## Hall of Presidents Supplies

index cards

pens

### Teacher Pack

“Future President”  
cards

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Hall of Presidents

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form four groups.

Say: **It's election time. Each group has been assigned to work on a campaign for one of the potential future presidents. I'm going to give you a card that describes the candidate, and you have to come up with a speech that persuades us to vote for your candidate. You can be as creative as you want.**

Distribute one of the “Future President” cards to each group. Allow groups time to create their slogans for a short commercial about their candidates. When groups are ready, have them present their commercials. When commercials are over, have kids gather in the center of the room. Distribute an index card and pen to each preteen. Say: **Write the name of your favorite candidate—but you can't vote for your own candidate.** When they've finished, tally the votes and announce the winning president.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**In this activity, how did you decide which kind of person would get your vote?**

**Is it okay to look up to people? Explain.**

**When might looking up to someone be taken too far?**

**What's the difference between looking up to someone and worshipping someone?**

Say: **Voting for presidential candidates is important. Even when someone is in a position of great respect, we can be careful to keep God at the front of our lives. Today we're going to talk about what it means to worship. We'll explore why ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** There are lots of things, people, and ideas that try to get the best of our time or respect, but we can make sure God is at the front of our lives. We're going to learn about a time the Israelites really messed up and put something else in God's place. Let's find out more.







**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Jealous Worship

## What You'll Do

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

Say: **Have you ever thought about what might happen if we chose not to worship God and to worship instead a god that we created? Let's look at a situation the Israelites got into when they worshipped another god—one they created.**

Ask groups to read Exodus 32:1-25, and assign one of the following two roles to each group: a person who does what Aaron says to do or a person who refuses to do what Aaron says. Have groups write a few sentences supporting their position in the "Aaron or Moses?" section of their Bible Buzz pages. As kids read, have them stop after every five verses to record a few of their thoughts in their Bible Buzz pages.

When groups have finished, have the Aaron supporters go to one side of the room, and have the Moses supporters go to the other side. Have groups present their opinions about why their leader is best. Each time one group gives a good reason, one person from each side of the room will hop across the room and back. The first person to make it back to their original team will win, and his or her team will gain the person from the other team. A new person must participate in the race each time.

Continue as time allows or until kids give all of their answers. Then declare the team with the most kids to be the winning team. The winning team gets to have the losing team do one really silly task. Allow time for kids to choose what the losing team has to do, and then have the losing team do that thing.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**In what ways was your loyalty to your team affected by being moved from one team to another?**

**How can team loyalty be like or unlike worship?**

**Explain what choices you think people make in deciding to worship someone or something today.**

**Explain whether you think there are different things competing for your admiration and worship.**

**How do you decide which things and people to admire or follow?**

Say: **The things the Israelites chose to worship may not seem very tempting to us, but then again, the things we give our worship to also might've seemed**



### Jealous Worship Supplies

- .....
- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- paper

### Jealous Worship Easy Prep

- .....
- Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.





## Who We Worship Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens

strangely unworthy to the Israelites. When we're surrounded by other people who are following certain things, sometimes those things or people can appear more desirable. Whatever the reasons are that we get distracted from worshipping God, we can be sure that ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP**. God deserved the Israelites' worship, and he's still the only one worthy of our worship today.

## Who We Worship

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids return to their groups of four, and make sure each person has his or her Bible Buzz page, a pen, and a Bible.

Say: **Find a partner in your group. Spend a minute sharing something you really like about yourself with your partner.**

Have kids find the "Who Is God?" section on their Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **We can get to know God just as we get to know one another. God has a lot of dimensions, and if we're going to worship God, we need to study aspects of him. Let's do that now.**

Encourage groups to choose at least one attribute from the "Who Is God?" section. Say: **Look up the verses listed for the attribute you chose. As a group, decide on a way you'd like to worship God for this attribute. Worship God together based on the attribute your group examined.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways did this experience deepen your understanding of God?**
- In what ways is getting to know God similar to or different from getting to know another person?**
- How do these attributes help us understand God?**
- Which of God's attributes help you know to worship him?**

Say: **Getting to know God is a little different from how we get to know people because we're never on even footing with God. He's always God, and we're always human. But knowing God can have greater meaning to our lives than knowing any person. God is always able to take care of us, he always cares, and he's always there. No person can do that for us. The Israelites were afraid for a lot of reasons, and they allowed that fear to cloud their judgment. That led to them worshipping something pretty silly. We've looked at why ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP**, so let's worship God now.**





**3** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

## Why We Worship

### What You'll Do

Read aloud the Key Verse from Exodus 20:2-3: **“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”**

Say: **The Israelites chose to worship a false god. We may not worship false gods in the same way, but we do let things in our lives get in the way of worshipping God.**

Have kids sit alone and think of some things in their lives that get in the way of their devotion to God. Say: **These cards will be seen by others, so keep that in mind.** Give each preteen three index cards and a pen. Ask kids to write down one thing on each card.

Choose a few kids to collect all of the index cards when kids are done. Say: **We're going to do a responsive reading. I'm going to say some things and then you'll respond with one phrase of a way you can remind yourself that ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP.** As you attempt to do the responsive reading, have the kids who have the index cards read very loudly from the cards.

Say: **Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.** (Pause after reading each line.)

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

**Know that the Lord is God.**

**It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Have kids find and collect their own index cards from before. Say: **That didn't go very well. Let's spend the next few minutes worshipping God and letting him have the things in our lives that distract us from worshipping him with our lives. Think of one phrase you can use to remind yourself that ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP. Write your phrase across the back of each index card.**

Play “Reflective Music” (track 12 on the CD). When the track ends, read the responsive reading below, having kids respond to each line with the phrases they wrote on the back of their cards. Kids can respond out loud or silently. Encourage kids to think about the obstacles they wrote on their index cards as they do this activity. Then read each sentence, and allow time for kids to respond.

Say: **Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.** (Pause after reading each line.)

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**



### Why We Worship Supplies

Bible

Bible Buzz

CD player

pens

3 index cards per  
preteen

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “Reflective Music”  
(track 12)





Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**In what ways did this activity remind you of how things can get in your way when you try to worship God?**

**In what ways can you help yourself find areas of your life in which you're not worshipping God?**

**What changes can you make so that you're worshipping only God with your life?**

Say: God desires our worship, and ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP**. The Israelites allowed themselves to become distracted, and they worshipped something they'd made with their own hands. Praising and thanking God are important parts of showing our worship. He also cares about our needs and problems. Let's continue our worship of God throughout the week with this focus.

## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how we can remember that ► **ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP**.

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

**Use the phrase you wrote on your index cards to help yourself remember to change your focus and worship only God this week. You can write the phrase in places you'll see it and perhaps even think of a tune for the phrase so you can sing it to yourself.**

**Write a poem to God, telling him how special he is to you.**

**Take time at the beginning of a day this week to focus only on God. The amount of time is up to you. Start with 30 seconds if you need to, and then increase the length of time in later meeting times with God that day.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz





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

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites struggled to know who to worship, and they let themselves follow the crowd. It got them in a lot of trouble. Let's remember that ► ONLY GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids bring their index cards and get in pairs.

Say: **Use these cards to focus yourself in this prayer time. You don't need to share what you wrote on your cards with your partner if you don't want to. God knows those things already. Just ask God to help your partner focus on worshipping him.**

Close by allowing kids to pray for their partners.



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
index cards from the "Why We Worship" activity







# The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

Preteens are longing to feel significant and grown up. Most are tired of being kids, and they want the same privileges and challenges they perceive teenagers to have. Yet most preteens don't have the initiative to find or create opportunities for themselves. Use this lesson to help them use their enthusiasm in positive ways by showing them how they can take on important responsibilities to use their gifts.



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




LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Job Interviews</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Interview each other for a job.	Bible Buzz, tape, pens	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Help Wanted</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Fill out résumés for the work they hope to do for God as they learn about the Israelites building the Tabernacle.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*

**Key Verse**  
“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

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



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Service Commitments</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Identify gifts they can use to serve in the church, and commit to serving.</p>	<p>Bible, Bible Buzz, pens, CD player, 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Service Commitment” cards</p>	<p>Separate the “Service Commitment” cards.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Service Commitment” cards</p>	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>“Service Commitment” cards</p>	

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







# The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Generous Offerings

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

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

## Talented Workers

.....

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

## Willing Worship

.....

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

## The Jesus Connection

.....

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

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

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### Job Interviews Supplies

Bible Buzz  
tape  
pens

### Job Interviews Easy Prep

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Job Interviews

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids turn to the "Help Wanted" section. Say: **Take a few minutes to think of two jobs you'd like to hire someone to do for you. It could be anything from a chore you don't enjoy doing to a superherolike task. Write two want ads.** Allow a couple of minutes.

When kids are done with their want ads, have them tape their Bible Buzz pages to a wall with the want ads showing. Give kids a minute or two to look over the want ads and choose which ones they'd like to apply for. Have kids spend five minutes walking around and interviewing each other for the jobs they've posted. After kids have bargained on pay and had a chance to interview each other, have them take down their Bible Buzz pages and sit in a circle.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide which jobs you wanted to apply for?**
- What were your primary criteria in choosing a person to hire?**
- What's one way you can make yourself available to do jobs for God?**

Say: **Having meaningful work is important. As you get older, you'll get the chance to apply for jobs, and maybe you'll even get to hire other people. Thousands of years ago, many of God's people pitched in and built a special place to worship God while they traveled in the desert. Let's look at how they served God as we discover that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**



## 2

BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Help Wanted

### What You'll Do

Say: **God wanted the Israelites to build a Tabernacle—a place that would remind them that God was always with them. The Tabernacle would be a beautiful tentlike structure where the Israelites would meet with God. To make it, God used the skills and gifts of every person in the giant group of Israelites.**

Distribute paper and pens. Have kids form pairs, and make sure each pair has a Bible. Ask pairs to read aloud Exodus 35:4-9, pausing as they notice the types of things God is asking the Israelites for and writing down their observations. Then have the pairs continue with Exodus 35:10-21, looking for the skills God's asking for and writing them down.

When they're done, have pairs write their own résumés, using God's requests for their résumé. Say: **Use the questions on the "My Gifts" section of your Bible Buzz pages to help you determine what should go on your résumé to help build the Tabernacle. God asked people for their gifts, so include what you could give to God. God asked people for their skills, so include your skills, whether you're artistic, musical, mathematical, or skilled in writing. God asked people for their strength, so list things you can do because of your strength, whether sports or other hobbies.**

**Now that you've looked at what your skills are, take some time to determine what you could do with your skills and gifts and strength to contribute to God's Tabernacle.** Have partners help each other write a résumé based on the skills and gifts and strengths they listed earlier.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Thinking of your résumé, what do you think you could do to serve God?  
Why do you think it's important for each person to be part of God's plan?  
Explain what you think of the fact that some people want to do things you don't enjoy doing.**

Say: **The Israelites served God by building a Tabernacle. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too. He's prepared each of us with skills and abilities that are unlike anyone else's. We enjoy different things and can each play a different part in God's work. Let's see how we can do that.**



### Help Wanted Supplies

.....  
Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens  
paper





### Service Commitments Supplies

Bible  
Bible Buzz  
pens  
CD player  
1 copy per preteen of  
the lyrics page (at the  
end of this lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Whatever You  
Do" (Colossians 3:17)  
(track 13)  
"Service Commitment"  
cards

### Service Commitments Easy Prep

Separate the "Service  
Commitment" cards.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Service Commitments

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** Look at the things you wrote on your Bible Buzz page and your résumé. Answer this question to yourself: "How can I serve God in my daily life?"

Distribute the "Service Commitment" cards. Have kids spend a few minutes alone looking at their résumés and the "My Gifts" section on their Bible Buzz pages. When they're ready, they can write down a service commitment on the back of the card and then sign it.

Have kids find the Key Verse, Colossians 3:17, on their Bible Buzz pages. Ask a willing preteen to read Colossians 3:17 aloud: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Say: **To help us remember this important verse, let's sing a song about it.**

Hand out copies of the lyrics. Play "Whatever You Do" (Colossians 3:17) (track 13 on the CD). Lead kids in singing along, referring to the lyrics pages.

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

**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.**



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

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

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.

When kids have sung the song once, have them sing it again, this time making up their own motions for how they could cooperatively serve God. They could do anything they want, as long as they all have a role to play. Have them do the motions as they sing.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it mean to serve God?**
- Why is it important to work together to serve God?**
- What's one way you want to serve God in an everyday task this week?**

Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** Let's serve God this week by offering him our service. The Israelites served God all together. They gave their gifts, talents, and strength to God and built his Tabernacle. ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD** in our own ways, too, and the best part is we can work together to do it.





### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

**Teacher Pack**

“Service Commitment”  
cards

### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

“Service Commitment”  
cards

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

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

Have kids commit to doing the service they wrote on their “Service Commitment” cards as a Daily Challenge this week.

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

#### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites all served God as they built the Tabernacle with the skills and items God gave them. Let's practice ways ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too, by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids hold their “Service Commitment” cards as they pray silently for God to help them serve him.



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

Giving thanks to God the Father  
through him,  
Giving thanks to God the Father  
through him,  
Giving thanks to God the Father  
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Do it all in the name  
Of the Lord Jesus.  
And whatever you do,  
Whether in word or deed,  
Do it all in the name  
Of the Lord Jesus.

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

“Whatever You Do” (Colossians 3:17) by Jay Stocker. © 2006  
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**OK**  
TO COPY









# Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Kids this age are beginning to perceive themselves as people capable of bravery. They're able to realize that they can stand up for what they believe, and they're beginning to really value bravery. They may look up to someone who's brave. They'll recognize superheroes and other such prominent people as brave people. Use this lesson to help kids realize that bravery doesn't have to mean huge gestures—they can be brave for God by standing up for what's right.



### ► Bible Point


Be brave for God.

### Key Verse

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will be brave for God in their lives, even when it's hard.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Identify situations in which they must be brave.	Bible Buzz, pens, hat <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "What Will <i>You</i> Do?" cards 	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.  Separate the "What Will <i>You</i> Do?" cards, and put them in a hat.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Extra! Extra! Spies in the Land</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Correlate their own fears to those the Israelites had, and explore what it would be like to face those fears.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper, markers, scissors, flashlight	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Let's Be Stand-Up Guys and Girls!</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Revisit role-plays, and choose ways to stand up for God.	Bible Buzz, pens, paper	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





**Please Stand Up,  
Please Stand Up  
Supplies**

Bible Buzz  
pens  
hat

**Teacher Pack**  
“What Will You Do?”  
cards

**Please Stand Up,  
Please Stand Up  
Easy Prep**

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

Separate the “What Will  
You Do?” cards, and put  
them in a hat.

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, have kids form groups of up to four.

Say: **Choose one person from your group to select one of the situation cards I'm holding. In your groups, choose a freeze frame to show your card. Don't worry about how you'd respond. We'll get to that later. I'll give you just one minute to prepare, so work quickly. After one minute, I'll point to each group to indicate your group's turn to make a freeze frame.**

Have willing kids from each group select a card; then give groups a few minutes to prepare. Randomly select groups to present their situations. When all groups have presented, distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the “Roll Film” section.

Say: **Think about how you could personally respond to the situation your group acted out earlier. In “Roll Film,” there are two parts. In the first, write the first thing that comes to your mind as a response. Then discuss the situation with your group, and record the group's response in the second part.**

Give groups a few minutes to discuss and record responses.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Did your decision change after your group discussed the situation? Why or why not?**

**How does what others think affect your decisions?**

**What kinds of situations have you been in that are similar to these?**

**What do you typically do to make decisions in tough situations?**

Say: **Many times we plan to be brave and make good decisions but are swayed by the opinions of others. It's not just us who face that kind of challenge. It also happened to some Israelite spies—some who were brave people and some who weren't. Let's explore what happened and find out why it's important to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Extra! Extra! Spies in the Land

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Have kids find the "Spies in the Land" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Form four groups. Assign each group to one of the four parts of the Bible passage on the Bible Buzz pages. Invite groups to collect their supplies.

Allow 10 minutes for groups to follow the instructions on their Bible Buzz pages. Then help groups present their sections in chronological order.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead groups of four in this discussion.

Ask:

**What about this passage showed you a way you can be brave for God in your own life?**

**What does it take to stand up and be brave enough to do what's right even when you're the only one?**

**What's the most important thing about being brave for God?**

Say: **God rewarded Caleb and Joshua for standing up for what God had promised them and the Israelite people. Most of the other spies and the people weren't willing to stand up, and they paid a terrible price— forfeiting their right to enter the new land God promised. We may not be about to enter the Promised Land, but there are plenty of situations in our lives in which we can choose to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

**3** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

## Let's Be Stand-Up Guys and Girls!

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Have kids find and read the Key Verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58, on the Bible Buzz pages: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Distribute pens and paper, and say: **Think about a time you were like the spies who were afraid. Creatively represent that memory on the top half of the "Courageous**



**Extra! Extra! Spies in the Land Supplies**

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- paper
- markers
- scissors
- flashlight

**Let's Be Stand-Up Guys and Girls! Supplies**

- Bible Buzz
- pens
- paper





**Reflection” section of your Bible Buzz pages. You can use the questions there to help you process and reflect. Draw an abstract drawing, or write a paragraph. You have four minutes. Allow time.**

**Say: Think of a time you were like the brave spies and did the right thing even if you were the only one doing the right thing. Represent this picture too. Allow four minutes.**

Have kids get back into their groups of four from the “Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up” activity. Have groups take a minute to discuss their pictures or paragraphs and the differences between being brave for God and doing what everyone else is doing.

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was the main difference in the two situations you represented?**

**When have you seen something in your life that shows that the right thing to do isn’t always the popular thing?**

**What can you do to help yourself focus on what God wants instead of being focused on what everyone else is doing?**

**Say: You illustrated the difference between fear and bravery as God sees it. Your examples might help you see the times in your own life that you can be bold and brave for God. When we decide to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, that means following him no matter what. The Israelites weren’t all brave, and a small number of people went against everyone else to be brave for God.**

## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### **Daily Challenges**

#### **What You’ll Do** ■■■■■■

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

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

**Think of a situation you’re likely to face this week that will challenge you to be brave for God. Plan out your reaction ahead of time, and act it out so you know what you’re going to do. When that situation comes, follow your plan and thank God for helping you be brave.**

**Tell a friend about your faith in God.**

**Think of a situation that scares you. Decide the difference between being brave for God in that situation and reacting in fear. Trust God and let him help you when you face that situation.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz





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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **The Israelites had good reason to be scared, but they had even more reasons to be courageous and brave for God. Let's ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids form a circle and sit on the floor. Ask kids to go around the circle and say one word or a phrase that signifies a way they want to be brave for God. Allow kids a chance to pass if they don't want to participate. Have kids stand up when they say their word or phrase, and then encourage them to pray for one another about these areas of their lives.










# Balaam's Donkey Talks

Numbers 22:1-38

For many kids this age, church seems like a thing that's mostly for adults. Many kids have heard the famous Bible passages so many times that they're no longer amazed by an epic flood, the creation of the world, or even the miracles Jesus did. Regardless of whether they've heard about God using Balaam's donkey to speak, kids are sure to drink up any chance to see God in a new, amazing light. Use this lesson to help kids realize that God's not stuffy and old—he's real and vibrant, and he's more than able to completely capture their attention.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Amazing Things</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> List and then share amazing things they've seen or done.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>The Talking Donkey</b> <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Discover what happened with Balaam's donkey, and explore the times in their own lives God's wanted them to pay attention.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline 	

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



### ► 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 find a unique way to pay attention to God's amazing power.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Thanks, God</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Thank and praise God for the amazing things he's doing in and through them.	Bible Buzz	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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







### Amazing Things Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens

### Amazing Things Easy Prep

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

### The Talking Donkey Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens  
paper

**Teacher Pack**  
Bible Timeline

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Amazing Things

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

After everyone has arrived, distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the "Now We're Paying Attention!" section.

Say: **Some of you have seen amazing things, but you don't often get a chance to share them. That's not the case today!** Have kids take five minutes to interview each other and fill out their pages with the most amazing answers in each category.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What made you pay attention to the stories and things you wrote down more than the rest of the things you heard?**

**Tell about the last time you weren't really paying attention when you were supposed to.**

**How have you helped yourself when you've had a hard time paying attention but you needed to?**

Say: **Sometimes we have to pay attention to things that aren't interesting, but other times amazing things capture our attention. When we really get to know God, we can learn to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD because he's the most amazing being ever. God made every amazing thing on this earth, and he was there for every amazing thing that's ever happened. Today we're going to learn how God did something amazing to help someone pay attention to him.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### The Talking Donkey

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the "Balaam's Donkey Talks" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **A guy named Balaam in the Bible was just not listening to God. While God will**





sometimes wait for someone to pay attention, this guy was in just the right place to really do a lot of damage to God’s people, the Israelites. So God went to some pretty epic lengths to get Balaam’s attention. He used a donkey.

Have kids form pairs. Allow a minute for each partner to come up with a really exciting story to tell his or her partner. Once kids are ready to tell their stories, say: **All right, get ready to amaze your partner! The only catch is that you have to tell your story without using any words.** Allow a few minutes, and then get kids’ attention.

Say: **We’re going to read about a situation in the Bible in which someone was in danger because of his own stubbornness. The problem is that the only one who could warn him about the danger wasn’t able to speak.**

Ask kids to form trios and find the “Amazing Results” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Provide pens and Bibles, and have kids turn to Numbers 22:1-38.

Say: **There are lots of people in this passage—and they all seem to want something. Look at the “Amazing Results” section. You’ll see there’s a roster of the people in this passage. As a trio, use the column on the left to dig into this passage and decide what each of these people wanted. Jot that down in the appropriate column. Then decide if they were amazed at the results they saw. Make a mark to also indicate whether you’re amazed.**

**Ready? You have 15 minutes. Begin now.**

After 15 minutes, ask trios to report their insights back to the larger group.

With their trios, have kids tell a true amazing story from their lives. Say: **When you tell your story this time, you can use words, just like Balaam’s donkey was able to tell what was going on using words.** Allow a few minutes. Then have kids talk about a time in their lives they needed to pay attention to God. Allow a couple of minutes.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- God put this information in the Bible for us. Why do you think it’s so important that we know what happened with Balaam and his donkey?**
- Explain what you expect when you tell someone an amazing story.**
- What’s the difference between telling someone something when they’re paying attention to you and when they’re not?**
- What about this experience makes you want to pay closer attention to God?**

Say: **An amazing thing happened when God caused Balaam’s donkey to speak—and it was impressive. Balaam was stunned. God sometimes does amazing things to get the attention of people who aren’t listening (like Balaam). If God did something that amazing when someone wasn’t paying attention, just imagine the**





Thanks, God  
Supplies

Bible Buzz

things he can do with us when we *are* paying attention. Let's think more about ways we can ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Thanks, God

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wants us to give him all of our time and attention. When we focus on God, we're able to hear him and follow him more completely.**

Have kids find the Key Verse, Psalm 66:5, on their Bible Buzz pages: "Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf!" Ask a willing preteen to read the verse aloud while kids follow along.

Say: **Right where you're seated, please join me in offering one-sentence prayers to ask God to take all of our distractions and help us pay attention to him today.**

Allow kids who want to pray with you time to do so.

Say: **Tell a partner about someone you pay attention to. This could be someone at school who you admire or an older sibling or friend. Tell your partner why you pay attention to that person.**

After kids have shared with a partner, ask them to find another partner. Say: **Share with your new partner one way you think you could pay attention to God the same way you pay attention to people you admire.** Allow time.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What's different or the same about paying attention to God and paying attention to people you admire?**

**What things most often distract you from paying attention to God?**

**What's one way you want to make the time to focus on the amazing things God's doing?**

Say: **God did something as outrageous as making a donkey speak just to get Balaam's attention. Once God had Balaam's attention, he used him to bless the entire nation of Israel. We can give all of our attention to God. When we let him have all of our attention, we can find out what amazing things he'll do in our lives. We can ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD** when we get rid of other distractions.**



## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

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

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

**In the morning, pay attention to all of the things you can think of that God did just to make the day start. Recognize him for everything from bringing the sun up to helping you sleep at night. Keep focusing on him until you run out of things to thank him for.**

**The next time something amazing happens, pay attention to that amazing thing. Tell as many people as you can about what God did. Pay attention to him and make him famous for the amazing things he does.**

**Create a commitment bracelet or another thing to wear on your hand or arm so you remember to think about God when you see that item. Commit to give your attention and focus to God all the time. Ask God to help you make each day an ongoing conversation with him, and then talk to him as often as he comes to mind.**

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

#### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **We can give our focus and attention to God all the time. He's done amazing things like causing Balaam's donkey to talk. He's famous all over the world. Let's ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

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



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

.....  
Bible Buzz





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

Say: **Let's pay attention to the amazing things God has done, the amazing things he's doing, and the amazing things he will do through us as we give him our hearts. Please join me in giving our attention to God right now.**

After the kids who want to pray have completed their prayers, position yourself at the door as kids prepare to leave. Ask kids to line up single file. As they leave, look at each person individually, and share the following verse with him or her, making eye contact as you recite it. Use their names in the appropriate place:

Say: **"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in [name]'s behalf!" (Psalm 66:5).**






# Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Fifth and sixth graders are concerned by things that affect their immediate lives and situations. Those things are increasingly large in scale. Because of this, they can understand what it's like to be given a task that's too large for them, and they're beginning to grasp what it's like to feel overwhelmed. They need the security and safety that comes from having God with them at all times. Use this lesson to help kids know that God is with them all the time and that's the single most important thing they can rely on.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Road Trip!</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Plan a trip using a map without names.	paper, pens, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Where Do You Want to Go?" map	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Not Your Average Puppet</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn about Joshua's big job promotion and what it looks like to have God with them.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, yarn, scissors	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.  Cut several 5- to 6-inch lengths of yarn per child.

*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 consider the impact it has on their lives that God is always with them.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Stories of Courage</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear real stories of kids getting their courage from God.		
	<b>Never Alone</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and recognize what it can mean to have God with them.	Bible Buzz, CD player, 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





## Road Trip! Supplies

paper  
pens  
tape

### Teacher Pack

“Where Do You Want to  
Go?” map

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Road Trip!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Set out the “Where Do You Want to Go?” map. After kids have arrived, have them gather near the map.

Say: **Welcome to the Plan It Cheap Travel Agency. You're now travel agents, and you are going to plan a road trip for us. Since we're a cheap agency, we'll have to plan our road trip using this map that doesn't have any names printed on it. And I'm afraid you won't get any outside help.**

Have kids get into groups of up to four. Give groups paper and pens.

Say: **We'll be leaving from here and need to end up in [choose a destination on the map that is far from your location]. It is up to you to decide what tourist stops we will see along the way, so plan out what you want to see along the route and how you will get there.**

Give groups five to eight minutes to complete their travel plans.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like doing this activity?**

**How was using a map without names frustrating?**

**What could I have given you to make your planning simpler?**

**What kinds of things do you plan for?**

**What would change about making your plans if you knew God was with you as you made those plans?**

Say: **It was difficult for you to make plans for our trip without a more specific map. Many times we can't accomplish our plans on our own, so we need help. Today we are going to learn about a time God made big plans for Joshua and how God helped him accomplish those plans. We'll explore how ► GOD IS WITH US no matter where we go.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Not Your Average Puppet

## What You'll Do

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, pens, and pieces of yarn. Have kids form pairs, and make sure each pair has a Bible. Say: **In your pairs, choose one person to be a Puppet, and the other person will be a Puppeteer. Take a couple of minutes to tie some pieces of yarn to the hands and fingers of the Puppet.** Allow time.

When kids have attached yarn to their partners, have them find the "Not Your Average Puppet" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Say: **Puppeteers, hold the pieces of yarn and try to gently guide your partner's hands to trace the words "God Is With Me" on the "Not Your Average Puppet" section. Puppets, behave as a regular puppet and let your hands be limp.** Allow a few minutes for kids to try to get their partners to trace the phrase.

Say: **Perhaps this didn't go too well. Let's find out what might be the same or different about when ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us do things. Let's read about what God promised to Joshua.**

In their pairs, have kids read Joshua 1:1-6 together. Say: **What could you change about this activity to show what God promised to do for Joshua? Decide a way you think you could get the other person to trace "God Is With Me" on the page.** Encourage partners to talk together and decide what they might be able to do that would be more like what God did with Joshua. If they need suggestions, consider ideas such as having the leading partner place a finger on the page where he or she wants the partner to trace or tell the partner each step of how to make the letters.

Have kids switch partners. In each pair, one child will be "Joshua" and the other will be "God." Encourage kids to look at the Bible passage to find ways God promised to be with Joshua. When kids are ready to show a different example of how God led Joshua and how he leads them, have pairs take turns demonstrating for the group. Then have kids read Joshua 1:7-11 together.

Say: **God asked Joshua to do something really big. It was exciting but also probably really shocking. Joshua could've been afraid, but he listened to God. God said he'd be with Joshua, and that was all he needed to know.**

Have kids take a few minutes alone to write a personal memo to God in the "Please Be With Me" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Encourage kids to write about the promises they saw in the Bible passage that they want to see God apply to their lives as well. Allow a few minutes.



## Not Your Average Puppet Supplies

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- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- yarn
- scissors

## Not Your Average Puppet Easy Prep

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

Cut several 5- to 6-inch lengths of yarn per child.





### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**In what ways is it easy or difficult to believe that God is with you in the same way that he was with Joshua and other people in the Bible?  
What makes it easy or difficult to remember God is with you all the time?  
What's the most encouraging thing about knowing God's with you all the time?**

Say: **God had big plans for Joshua. He made Joshua the leader of Israel, which was not a small task. Joshua took on the task with courage, though, because God promised to be with him and help him. We can do whatever God asks us to do, too, because ► GOD IS WITH US.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Stories of Courage

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **There have been many young people who have relied on the fact that God was with them to give them courage. We get to carry forward that legacy and trust God to be with us all the time. That fact can change our lives if we let it.**

Have kids get into groups of three. Say: **Tell about a time you faced a difficult situation. When you're done, your group members will tell you ways it seems like God was with you through that situation.** Allow a few minutes.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**In what ways did it encourage you to hear someone else's story and see how God was with that person?  
What changes about your perspective when you focus on the fact that God is with you?  
In what ways can you help yourself maintain focus on the fact that God is with you?**

Say: **► GOD IS WITH US just as he was with Joshua. Our stories can encourage us to trust God. When we turn to God before we worry about new situations or challenges, just as Joshua did, we can bypass all that stress and worry. Knowing God is with us doesn't stop the hard times from coming, but it does make us able to face those times.**





# Never Alone

## What You'll Do

Have kids stand up and read from their Bible Buzz pages the Key Verse, Joshua 1:9, together: "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." Encourage kids to read the Key Verse aloud again, this time adding their own motions to help them remember the meaning of the verse.

Distribute copies of the lyrics, and have kids sing along as you play "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 14 on the CD).



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

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

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

Have kids find the "God Is With Me" section on their Bible Buzz pages and follow the directions there to reflect on God's presence in their lives. Some kids will get further through the directions than others, and that's okay. This isn't a competition, and each person will have a unique experience. Allow four minutes. Then ask kids to sit together.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**When are you really glad to have God with you? Explain.  
Why does it make a difference if you acknowledge that God is with you?  
In what ways can you openly invite God to be with you in all aspects of your life?**

Say: **God is with us all the time, but he can lead us more easily when we pay attention to his presence in our lives. We can trust God just as Joshua did, and we'll see the difference it makes to follow God rather than ourselves. We can be thankful that ► GOD IS WITH US.**



## Never Alone Supplies

- .....
- Bible Buzz
- CD player
- 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 14)





## Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

# 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

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

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

**When you do something that's difficult, ask God to be with you. Let your focus be on making God famous rather than making yourself look good.**

**Talk to God all throughout the day, not just at specially planned prayer times. Treat God like a friend who's always with you.**

**Sing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) as a worship song to God, asking him to continue to use you to accomplish his plans.**

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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Joshua was faced with a task he had no hope of doing on his own, so he trusted God to be with him. Let's remember that ► GOD IS WITH US by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids form groups of three and pray together, but have them sit in a square with one side open to leave a space for God. Encourage them to each take time to pray, whether silently or aloud, and then have them allow time for God to talk to them as the fourth member of their prayer circle.







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

Kids this age frequently want to be able to do things that our culture says surpass their age. They may want more independence than their age allows, or they may want to have privileges that belong to people older than themselves. The deeper element of what these kids are seeking is a sense of purpose and the ability to do big things. They want their lives to have value. Use this lesson to help kids see that through their faith, their hopes of being significant can come true as God will give them purpose.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Believable?</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i></p> <p>Compare unbelievable YouTube videos, and create their own.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, pens</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Unexpected Faith</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i></p> <p>Work together to do something big, and learn how God did big things with Rahab and Joshua's faith.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, markers, paper, pens, rulers, several pairs of scissors</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, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**

Kids will have faith in God's plans for them.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Faithful Words</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Discover promises made by God, and decide on their personal faith responses.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz	

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







## Believable? Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens

## Believable? Easy Prep

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

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Believable?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Form groups of four or five, and distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **The Internet is full of half-truths and blatant lies. Take five minutes to talk about some unbelievable videos you've seen on YouTube or other places on the Internet. Some videos are staged, others are raw footage and are funny, while others are carefully produced to create a reaction. Share what your favorite videos are and what about them you believe or don't believe.** Allow about five minutes.

Say: **Now switch gears and create your own short "video" with your group. Figure out what the components are for a viral video, and then create one of your own. Use the "Write Right Here, Hear?" section on your Bible Buzz pages to jot down ideas.** After five minutes, have kids present their viral videos to the rest of the group.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**With so much Photoshop and video editing, what helps you know when you can believe something?**

**Explain whether you agree or disagree that making a viral video is a big deal.**

**What makes it seem like a viral video is a really big deal?**

**Do you really believe that a viral video matters? Explain.**

**What are some of the biggest things you can think of that you hope you can do with your life?**

Say: **The world around us is full of things that are promised but not fulfilled. That means we tend to like things we know we can trust. The best place we can put our faith is in God. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES. Let's learn about some people in the Bible who made some bold choices to have faith in God.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Unexpected Faith

## What You'll Do

Say: **Joshua wanted to conquer the city of Jericho, but he didn't know much about it. He sent two spies who apparently weren't very good spies—because after entering the city, they were discovered. And not only were they discovered, but they were trapped. Jericho was a walled city, so once the gates were closed, there wasn't any way for the spies to escape. Their capture was just a matter of time—until they received help from a very unlikely source.**

Have kids find the “Great Big Things” section on their Bible Buzz pages. Set out markers, paper, rulers, and Bibles. Say: **Look at the picture in the diagram on the “Great Big Things” section, and draw part of the image you see there on a piece of paper. Use a ruler to make a box that's 8x8 inches on your piece of paper.** Assign parts of the image to kids, making sure each section gets done. Say: **Look at Joshua 2:1-11, and talk about the big things God did as you color your square of the picture of Rahab.** Allow 15 minutes for kids to read and draw their pictures.

When kids are done with their drawings, have them work together to cut the blank space off each of their pages and tape the pictures together so they match up. As they do this, read aloud Joshua 2:12-16. Then hang the picture up so they can admire what their pictures look like all together.

When it's all finished, have a willing preteen read Joshua 2:17-24 aloud.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to work on a small piece of this giant picture and then see the entire thing come together?**
- In what ways was that like or unlike how God does big things in our lives?**
- What different things do you notice when you're far from the picture and when you're close to it?**
- What intrigues you about God using a woman like Rahab to help his people?**
- What about this passage helps you believe that God can do big things with you?**
- What's one way you want to have more faith in God?**

Say: ► **WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES. The Israelite spies had faith that God would give them the land. Rahab believed God was powerful and that he was blessing the Israelites, and she acted on her belief. Now let's look at how we act on our faith.**



## Unexpected Faith Supplies

- 
- Bibles
  - Bible Buzz markers
  - paper
  - pens
  - rulers
  - several pairs of scissors





## Faithful Words Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Buzz  
pens

# 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Faithful Words

### What You'll Do

Ask kids to form trios.

**Say: God makes a lot of claims. If we say we believe what God says about himself, he can do great big things with us. So we have to ask ourselves which things we hope God will do with us and ultimately leave it in his hands. He can accomplish our dreams or do something even bigger. He made the whole world, didn't he?**

Have kids find the Key Verse, Hebrews 11:6, on the Bible Buzz page, and ask a willing preteen to read it aloud: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

**Say: God rewarded Rahab for her faith. But this verse also says we need to seek him.**

Ask:

**How do you need to seek God?**

Have kids find the "Because God IS, He Can Use Me To..." section on their Bible Buzz pages. Make sure kids have Bibles and pens.

**Say: In your trios, take turns reading the Bible verses listed. Then write next to the verse how you do or how you want to act on what you believe this verse is saying. For example, if the verse is saying God is powerful and mighty, you might write how God can use his power and might to transform your life. Each person will have time to complete two verses. When you've finished, share your responses in your trios. Discuss whether you have faith in what the Bible says and, if so, what you'll do to act on your faith.**

When five to eight minutes have passed, ask for willing kids to share what they wrote. Affirm every answer. When there are no more willing kids, ask kids to share in their trios their answers to the following questions.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**How does your view of God influence what you believe he can do through you?  
What do you think you can do to let God do big things with you?**

**Think of the biggest thing you hope you can do with your life. Explain how you think that dream could be bigger because of God.**

**In what way do you think one of the verses you just read could start you on a path to doing big things for God?**







Say: ► **WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.** When we act on our faith, as Rahab did, God will work in our lives. By following the things the Bible said, we can keep our faith strong that God will do big things in our lives.

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## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think this week about how ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

Have kids find in their Bible Buzz pages the space titled "Daily Challenge." Have kids write a Daily Challenge they want to commit to do this week based on the verses and the things they wrote that they hope God will do through 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, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Rahab acted on her faith in God, and God did amazing things for his people through her. Let's remember how ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids place their Bible Buzz pages on the floor and stand on them. Say: **When we stand on our faith in God, we'll be able to do amazing things for God. Let's pray for each other as we stand on these verses that can give us encouragement about the great big things God will do in our lives.**

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Buzz  
pens

#### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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Bible Buzz








# The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua 3:1–4:24

Fifth- and sixth-graders are beginning to focus more on others than on themselves. Expressing thanks is something they've been taught from a young age, and now they're beginning to understand why. They're realizing, too, that their attitude of thankfulness affects the feelings of others. Many fifth- and sixth-graders haven't fully internalized what might change about their lives if they showed thankfulness to God. Use this lesson to help them understand that God calls them to be thankful.



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

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Thanks, But No Thanks...</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Do something kind for one another, and then forget about what was done for them.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Prayers and Praise</b> <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Write prayers and create praise ideas based on the Israelites' perspective.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, washable markers, pens, gray paper, tape, several pairs of scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jordan River" poster 	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

**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 find a creative way to remember what God has done.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Our Altar of Remembrance</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Build an altar out of paper-bag stones, and write things they're thankful for on the stones.	Bible Buzz, CD player, 2 paper lunch bags per preteen, newspapers, masking tape, markers, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <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

### Thanks, But No Thanks...

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Form two groups of equal size. Participate in one group if you have an uneven number of kids. Have groups sit on opposite sides of the room. Have each group number off so it has only one of each number—each will have one 1, one 2, and so on. Go to one group and quietly say: **Spend the next minute or two thinking of something kind to do for someone. When time's up, you'll each go to the person from the other group with your number and do that kind thing for that person.**

Go to the other group and quietly say: **The other group is going to do something kind for you. When they do that, make it as difficult for them as possible. Then pretend to forget what they've done. Tell them things like, "I really wish someone would do something nice for me."**

After about a minute, tell the first group to go do their acts of kindness for the people with the same number. Allow about four minutes for kids to perform their acts of kindness and for the other group to react.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Is it realistic to believe someone could forget something kind that was done for them just a second before? Explain.**

**Why is it important to remember the good things that happen?**

**How does that relate to the things God has done? Why does it matter whether we remember the things God has done?**

Say: **God has done amazing things for each of us. Just the fact that the sun comes up in the morning and we're able to continue living each day is a great thing, and then if you add the other things on top of that, we have a lot of amazing things to remember. God did something amazing for a man named Joshua and the Israelites in the Bible. Then the Israelites made special memorials to help them remember the things God had done for them. We can do things to help us ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE, too.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Prayers and Praise

### What You'll Do

Say: **God promised the Israelites that they would enter a new land. The only thing standing between them and the new land was the humongous Jordan River—at flood stage. Joshua was confident God would lead Israel to the new land. But what about the Israelites? Imagine you're an Israelite during this time. Let's explore what happened.**

Distribute Bibles, pens, and this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids turn to "The People's Prayer" section. Form groups of three, and have kids in each group number off from 1 to 3. Have them read the corresponding sections of the Bible passage and fill out the prayer activity there. Say: **Follow the instructions on your Bible Buzz page, but when you write, leave out every fifth word.** Allow about five minutes.

Ask:

**Looking at your writing, explain what difference it made to forget some of the words.**

**What does that show you about the problem with forgetting things?**

When kids are done, have them share what they learned with their group and (if they want to) how they related the passage to their own lives.

Say: **No doubt the Israelites had heard about how God parted the Red Sea when Israel escaped from Egypt. Now God had parted the Jordan River for them. Let's read about what happened next.**

Have kids form new groups of three and find "The People's Praise" on the Bible Buzz pages. Have kids follow the instructions there. Each person in a group will have a different passage. Give one washable marker to person 3 in each group. Allow about five minutes.

When they finish, have kids show their group what they came up with and then decide together how they can praise God for what he did for the Israelites in each section. Have kids act on their decisions. If they choose to praise God by singing and shouting, have them do that. Allow about five minutes. As they work, display the "Jordan River" poster, and set markers and tape near it.

When groups finish demonstrating their three ways of showing praise, have them each cut out rock shapes from gray paper and write a word of praise on each rock. Kids can make as many rocks as the number of words of praise they can think of. Allow a couple of minutes. Then have kids go to the "Jordan River" poster and stick their words of praise to the poster.



### Prayers and Praise Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- washable markers
- pens
- gray paper
- tape
- several pairs of scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- "Jordan River" poster

### Prayers and Praise Easy Prep

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





When they're done, direct kids' attention to the poster, and read some of the praise words.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**Explain how you think prayer and praise work together when you're facing something you need help with.**

**When we praise God, how does that help us remember what he's done?**

**How does prayer help us remember to thank God?**

Say: **Look at all these ways we can ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE! God loves to hear our praises. Let's think about how we can remember the great things God has done in our lives. Just like it's important for you to remember the good things you've done, it's even more important for us to remember the amazing things God has done. God did some incredible things for the Israelites at the Jordan River, and that same amazing God is with us today.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Our Altar of Remembrance

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find the "My Thanks" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Provide pens, and have kids each find a place they can work alone.

Say: **Let's take some time to remember what God has done for each of us. You'll have six minutes to fill in the lines on the "My Thanks" section. Don't stop to think; just fill in the lines as quickly as you can. You'll see a letter at the beginning of each line. Think of something that begins with that letter for each line. Ready? Go!**

Allow about six minutes. As kids work, play "Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 15 on the CD). You may want to play it twice so that it takes up the whole time kids are working.

Once everyone's finished, provide paper bags and newspapers. Show kids how to make paper-bag stones by stuffing newspaper inside one bag and placing another bag over the first, closing off the open end. Then have kids use markers to write on their paper stones one thing God's done that they want to remember and be thankful for. You can encourage kids to list one item from the "My Thanks" section.

As kids work, say: **The Lord had Joshua build an altar with stones from each of the 12 tribes as a way for Israel to remember what God had done for them. Let's build**

#### Our Altar of Remembrance Supplies

Bible Buzz  
CD player  
2 paper lunch bags per  
preteen  
newspapers  
masking tape  
markers  
pens

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Give Thanks"  
(1 Chronicles 16:8)  
(track 15)







an altar with these “stones” to help us remember what God has done and is doing in our lives.

Have kids build the altar by stacking up the bags and taping them together with masking tape. After the altar is completed, stand around the altar and encourage willing kids to pray about ways they want to remember the things God has done, whether in the Bible or in their own lives.

When you finish praying, sit around the altar together.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to think of things you might’ve previously overlooked and forgotten to thank God for?**
- What is it like to realize you’ve forgotten to be thankful for something?**
- What difference might it make for you to focus on remembering the things God has done?**

Say: Thankfulness can change our lives from the inside out. When we replace our concern about ourselves with thankfulness, things begin to look different. Joshua and the Israelites knew that thankfulness depends on being able to remember what God has done, so they built an altar. We can start off our thankfulness by focusing our attention on remembering what God has done. It’s important that we ► **REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE, too.**

**4** LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Say: Let’s think this week about how we can ► **REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

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

- Make a collage of the things you can remember and thank God for. Keep creating the collage as long as you can remember things God has done. When you’re done, sit down with a parent and thank God together for the things he’s done.**
- Write sticky notes of things God has done that you want to remember. Place the sticky notes on your bathroom mirror. When you see them, thank God for those things and ask him to help you keep your focus on his goodness.**



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

.....  
Bible Buzz





**Create a special place to sit and study God's Word. You could make a blanket fort or some other special place to meet with God. In your quiet place, ask God to help you remember the great things he's done, and then trust God to help 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, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Joshua and the Israelites saw some pretty amazing things that God did and they took steps to make sure they'd remember what they saw. Let's ► REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE by following through with our Daily Challenges.**

## **Weaving Faith at Home**

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

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

Have kids form groups of three or four. Have them stand in a circle and place their hands inside the circle like a huddle in sports. Ask them to pray for one another to remember the things God has done in their lives. When they finish, encourage them to come up with a short phrase to shout as they raise their hands and cheer for God to break the huddle.






# God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

Preteens are just discovering what power really is. They're at the beginning of the adolescent transition from being completely parented to being a little more independent. An important part of that transition is gaining an appropriate sense of personal power and how to use it. The best way for kids to learn this is through looking at God's example. Kids can model their use of power after God's—and get their power from him. Use this lesson to help them understand God's power and how it works for good.



► **Bible Point**  
God's power works for good.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Power to Celebrate</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Have a party to celebrate the ways they've experienced power in their lives.	CD player, party decorations (streamers, confetti), tape, markers, balloons, construction paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Power Cartoons</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Place themselves in a cartoon to represent the Bible passage.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pencils with erasers, paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

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

**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 express to others how they believe God's power is working in their lives.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Proclaiming God's Power</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i></p> <p>Write or draw pictures of God's power in their lives, and then find powerful ways to proclaim that power.</p>	Bible Buzz, pens, paper	Set up 7 stations. Number each station with a sign, and place paper and pens at each station.
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i></p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Buzz	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i></p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





### Power to Celebrate Supplies

CD player  
party decorations  
(streamers, confetti)  
tape  
markers  
balloons  
construction paper

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Celebration Music"  
(track 16)

### ! BALLOON ■ WARNING

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

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Power to Celebrate

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **We're going to have a party today. It will be sort of a celebration of the way we've experienced power in our lives. Let's get ready for the celebration by decorating our meeting area.**

Distribute party decorations, and instruct kids to decorate your meeting area. Have kids work together to create a large "Power Party" banner with construction paper and markers, taping together their pieces of construction paper. Kids can hang the banner in your meeting area along with other party decorations. While you decorate, play "Celebration Music" (track 16 on the CD), repeating it as many times as necessary.

After the party scene has been set, have kids find partners and sit together.

Say: **Let's use a question to help us celebrate the powerful things around us: What are some things you consider powerful? Whenever someone answers this question, we'll all celebrate that powerful thing. Our celebration can be packed with power, too. We can be really loud, jump and run a lot, or even turn on extra lights. Think of powerful ways to celebrate.** Give kids balloons to use in the celebration as they throw a big, loud party for a few minutes.

As kids think of powerful ways to celebrate, have them do those things. As more and more kids join in, this will become a rambunctious, power-packed celebration.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

**What are some of the best uses of power that you see every day?  
Explain whether you think power is mostly a good thing or a bad thing.  
What makes you think you can trust God's power?**

Say: **We've all experienced different kinds of power in our lives. Today we're going to celebrate ways ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. Let's take a look at how God showed his power in a specific situation in the Bible. God has a lot of power. He's stronger than we could ever imagine.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Power Cartoons

## What You'll Do

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

Have kids sit, and distribute paper, pencils, Bibles, and this week's Bible Buzz pages.

Say: **Find the "Power Experience" section on your Bible Buzz pages. I'll tell you which section of the Bible passage we're looking at, and I can read it aloud to you, or if anyone else wants to read any of the sections aloud, you are welcome to do so. After someone reads each section, you'll use your blank paper and pencils to draw a frame of a cartoon about what's going on in that scene. When you hear the next section, you'll create a new frame in your comic strip.** Show kids the outlines on their Bible Buzz pages in the "Power Experience" section. Tell them that they'll be tracing parts of these images and adding their own elements to make their cartoon images. They'll need to have between one and three components from Bible Buzz in each frame. They can fill in details around these traced images.

Take kids through these verses, pausing for them to modify their drawings after each new section is read.

- Joshua 6:1-7
- Joshua 6:8-14
- Joshua 6:15-21
- Joshua 6:22-27

After kids have had a chance to hear and see the Bible passage in their own illustrations, say: **Find a place by yourself. Draw yourself into your cartoon, and pray that God will do mighty things in your life.** Allow time.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think changing your picture each time relates to the way God's power shows up in our lives?**
- In what ways was having to rely on these traced drawings like or unlike the Israelites conquering Jericho?**
- How did you see yourself fitting into today's Bible passage?**
- How do you think we can see God's power today like the Israelites saw God's power when he knocked down the walls of Jericho?**
- What's one area of your life in which you need to see God's power at work?**
- Considering the ways God's power worked for good in this passage, how does that help you see God's power in your life in a different way?**



### Power Cartoons Supplies

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- Bibles
  - Bible Buzz
  - pencils with erasers
  - paper
  - Teacher Pack**
  - Bible Timeline

### Power Cartoons Easy Prep

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





### Proclaiming God's Power Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens  
paper

### Proclaiming God's Power Easy Prep

Set up 7 stations.  
Number each station with a sign, and place paper and pens at each station.

Say: ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD** all the time. God does things differently with each person, so the way he shows his power in my life may not be the same as the way he shows his power in your life. But we can all trust God to use his power for good. Let's find out more about how we can anticipate God's power being used for good. God used his power to knock down a mighty wall for Joshua and the Israelites, and we can see God using his power for good in our world today, too.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Proclaiming God's Power

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Like the Israelites, we're going to proclaim God's power seven times. I've set up seven stations throughout our room.**

Have kids find the "Power Station" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Allow kids to look over this section and decide which stations they want to go to first.

Say: **At each station, find the appropriately numbered statement on your Bible Buzz pages. Using the paper and pens at each station, show how God's power has worked in your life in the situation described on the Bible Buzz pages. You don't have to just write or draw; you can fold origami to tell your story or use the supplies in any other way. I'll let you know when you have just a few minutes left.**

Allow 15 minutes for kids to move between the stations at their own pace. Have kids leave their representations of God's power that they complete for each station at that station. Give kids a five-minute warning and a one-minute warning.

Ask kids to sit together.

Say: **There's a lot of power represented in your words and pictures. The Israelites celebrated God's power as they marched around Jericho. ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

Have kids find the Key Verse, 1 Peter 5:6-7, on their Bible Buzz pages: "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." Say: **Talk with someone next to you about something that makes you anxious.** Allow a minute. **Now discuss how you can cast that anxiety into God's mighty hand.** Allow about a minute.

Ask a willing preteen to read the verse aloud, and then have kids repeat the verse a few times, cheering and yelling to celebrate at the places where the verse shows God using his power for good. Kids might stop at the word "mighty" or perhaps at "lift."





### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which station has the most representations of God's power?
- Why do you think God's power might seem to show up some places more than others?
- What's your typical reaction to some of the ways God shows his power?
- In what ways would you like to change your reaction to God's power?

Say: We've just seen a lot of ways ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD**. Joshua and the Israelites were in the middle of a pretty amazing miracle as God showed his power to his people. God's shown power in our lives, too. We can thank God and celebrate his power all the time because his power is always present.

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## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how we can remember that ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD**.

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

- Help your parents remove a screw from something, and then put it back in by hand. Do this a second time, using a power tool. Talk together about how this is like the difference that God's power can make in your life compared with when you try to do everything on your own.
- Write a description of the most powerful thing you can think of, and then describe how God is more powerful than that thing.
- Have an arm-wrestling match with a parent or one of your siblings. Play several rounds, and at the end of each round, the winner will say one way God's power works for good.

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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

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Bible Buzz





Say: **God showed his power the day he gave Jericho to the Israelites. Let's remember how ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids form pairs. Have partners hold their hands out palm to palm as they face one another. Ask kids to back their feet up a few steps so they are leaning slightly against one another. Say: **As you rely on the power that you and your partner have to keep standing, remember that God's power never gets tired, even though we might.** Have them pray for their partners to lean on God's power in their lives, and then have them step back together and close the prayer time.













