

FAITHWEAVER

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

FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL AGES
3&4
TEACHER GUIDE

Group

Group resources really work!

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



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

Experiential

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

Applicable

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Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Group

group.com/sunday-school

We know you care about kids...

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

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

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

FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Preschool/Ages 3 & 4, Fall

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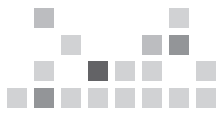
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Cover Photography: © iStockphoto.com/Grafvision

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ISBN 978-1-4707-7521-6

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction	4
The Lessons	
.....	
Lesson 1: The Israelites Cross the Red Sea —Exodus 13:17–14:31	5
.....	
Lesson 2: God Sends Quail and Manna —Exodus 16:1-26	17
.....	
Lesson 3: God Provides Water —Exodus 17:1-7	29
.....	
Lesson 4: God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 1) —Exodus 19:16–20:21	41
.....	
Lesson 5: God Gives the Ten Commandments (Part 2) —Exodus 19:16–20:21	53
.....	
Lesson 6: The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf —Exodus 32:1-25	65
.....	
Lesson 7: The Israelites Build the Tabernacle —Exodus 35:4–36:38	77
.....	
Lesson 8: Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land —Numbers 13:1–14:23	91
.....	
Lesson 9: Balaam’s Donkey Talks —Numbers 22:1-38	103
.....	
Lesson 10: Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel —Joshua 1:1-11	117
.....	
Lesson 11: Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho —Joshua 2:1-24	129
.....	
Lesson 12: The Israelites Cross the Jordan River —Joshua 3:1–4:24	143
.....	
Lesson 13: God Gives Victory Over Jericho —Joshua 6:1-27	155
.....	



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

Young preschoolers are afraid of many things: big dogs, life-size characters, and the dark, to name a few. But children generally have confidence that those they call out to—such as their parents or other caregivers—will save them from frightening things. Use this lesson to help your preschoolers know they can call out to God when they’re afraid and that he’s always with them.



► Bible Point



God helps us when we’re afraid.

Key Verse

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want” (Psalm 23:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask God to be with them when they’re afraid.

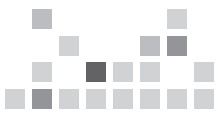
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate</p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>All I Need</p> <p>Identify pictures of things they need.</p>	<p>Bible</p> <p>Teacher Pack: “Things I Need” cards</p> 	<p>Break apart the cards, keeping the categories separated.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers</p> <p>Tell Theo how he can be brave in the dark.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, flashlight, string</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Tie the flashlight to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Crossing the Red Sea</p> <p>Follow the “cloud” and the “pillar of fire” before crossing the “Red Sea.”</p>	<p>Bible, blue bulletin board paper, flashlight, pillow</p> <p>Teacher Pack: “The Israelites Cross the Red Sea” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Through the Sea Walk their fingers across the “Red Sea.”</p>	My Bible Hugs Teacher Pack: stamp pad	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them. Fold up the sides of the pages to make the “walls” of the Red Sea.
	<p>Center 2: Yogurt-Split Snack Divide yogurt as God divided the Red Sea.</p>	clear plastic cups, spoons, vanilla yogurt, blue powdered-drink mix, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Run With God Experience crossing the Red Sea as they play a game.</p>	blue bulletin board paper	
	<p>Center 4: Paint Impressions Make impressions and talk about how God uses people to help us.</p>	paper, bowls of tempera paint, various objects	Choose objects kids can use to dip in paint and make impressions on paper.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Walk through the Red Sea while thanking God for being with them.</p>	blue bulletin board paper	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Hugs	Tear out the Parent Letter in the back of each My Bible Hugs book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

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



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

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.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player


Teacher Pack

CD: "We're at Church" (track 2), "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 4)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Don't know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children songs.

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

What You'll Do

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

Lead children in singing "We're at Church" (track 2 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We're at church,** *(make a steeple with hands)*

We're at church *(make a steeple with hands)*

To worship God and learn his Word *(make a book with hands)*


With a prayer and a song and a Bible story too. *(make prayer hands)*

God loves me and God loves you! *(hug self; then point to others)*

(Repeat 3x.)

Say: **Welcome to church today! I'm so glad you're here. Today we're learning that**
▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID. Let's sing a song about that.**

Lead children in singing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 4 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Have I not commanded you?** *(stand with hands on hips)*

Be strong and courageous. *(make muscles)*

Do not be terrified; *(make scared face)*

Do not be discouraged, *(shake head "no")*

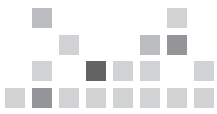
For the Lord your God will be with you *(point up; then hug self)*

Wherever you go. *(point around the room)*

Wherever you go. *(point around the room)*

(Repeat 3x.)

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



Say: **God tells us in the Bible that he'll take care of us. In fact, we'll hear today how he helped some people who were afraid. And we'll also talk about how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

All I Need

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 23:1, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want" (Psalm 23:1). That means God gives me everything I need. Let's say that together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that God knows what you need and takes care of you. He gives you a mom, dad, or other special person to give you food and tuck you into bed at night. He gives you clothes and protects and loves you. He makes sure you have everything you need.** Invite children to talk about things they need.

Say: **Thank you for all your ideas. We all see things that we either want or need. Let's find out the difference between what we want and what we need.** Invite children to tell about things they want but might not need, such as toys or candy.

Say: **The things we need are important things because they help take care of us. The things we want are just extra things that we can definitely live without. Sometimes God gives us things we want, too, but God doesn't promise to give us everything we want.**

Stack the "Things I Need" cards, and show the stack to kids. Say: **Here are some things that we really need in our lives.**

Show the cards labeled "Food," and invite children to tell things they see in the pictures that they need. Repeat with each category of cards, ending with those labeled "Relationship With God."

Say: **God promises to give us all these things we need. God gives us food, clothes, family to give us love, and a safe place to sleep at night. He also helps us be friends with him. God is so good! Let's say our Key Verse together again: God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Let's play a game to remember our verse.

All I Need Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
"Things I Need" cards

All I Need Easy Prep

Break apart the cards, keeping the categories separated.





Place the pictures all around your room. Say: **When I say “Go,” find a picture of something you need God to give you. Maybe you’re hungry and you need God to give you food. Or maybe you feel sad and you need love from your family. Ready?** Check for understanding, and then say “Go” and help kids find pictures and stand next to them.

Once everyone is standing next to a picture, have children repeat the Key Verse: God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).

Play a few more rounds so the children get to stand next to at least a few cards.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **God will give you everything you need. You can be sure of that. He’ll take care of you. Let’s see how God took care of some people who were afraid, and how**
► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo’s coming! He has something to show us. Let’s find out what it is.** Play “Here, Theo” (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It’s nice of you to come to church with us today. Do you have something to show us?

Theo: I brought my flashlight.

Teacher: Why did you bring your flashlight, Theo?

Theo: Because I’m afraid the lights will go out.

Teacher: Thanks for sharing with us, Theo, but do you know what?

Theo: (*Shivers and shakes*) What?

Teacher: We don’t need to be afraid because God always takes care of us, no matter what. Friends, let’s tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:* **► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**)

Teacher: Today we get to hear how God helped his people be brave when they were afraid.

Theo: So maybe God could help me be brave when I’m afraid.

Teacher: God can do anything, Theo!

Theo: I do feel better. I’m going to put my flashlight back in my house.

Teacher: That’s good. Let’s say goodbye to Theo.

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

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
flashlight
string

Teacher Pack

CD: “Here, Theo”
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the flashlight to
Theo’s paw.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you do when you're afraid?

What do you like about having God's help when you're afraid?

Say: **It's great that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID. We don't have to carry flashlights around like Theo was. We can remember that God can do anything and that he's always with us. Let's find out how God helped his people be brave when they were afraid in the desert.**

Bible Time: Crossing the Red Sea

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 13–14, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Hold up the blue bulletin board paper. Say: **Let's pretend this is the Red Sea, a big body of water near where God's people, the Israelites, were.** Lay the paper on the floor, and have kids sit on one side of it. Say: **We'll pretend we're the Israelites.**

The Israelites were in the desert. They had just left a place where they were treated very badly, and they were very scared because they didn't know where to go. Invite the children to make scared faces.

Say: **God knew that some of the Israelites were scared, so God led them with a big cloud during the day.** Hold the pillow above your head and walk near the children. **As the cloud in the sky moved, the Israelites knew where to go.**

Invite a child to gently toss the pillow, and have children walk to where it lands. Repeat this several times, giving several children a chance to toss the pillow.

Say: **Since it was dark at night, God led the Israelites with a tall pillar, or wall, of fire.** Turn off the lights, shine the flashlight on the floor, and have the children follow the light for a few seconds. Lead them back to the edge of the Red Sea, and have them sit down.

Say: **God helped the Israelites when they were afraid. And ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID.**

Remember how I told you the Israelites left a place where the people treated them really badly? Pause. One day, those people came to catch the Israelites and bring them back. So when the Israelites saw those mean people coming, they were really scared! Invite the children to make scared faces.



Bible Time: Crossing the Red Sea Supplies

Bible
blue bulletin board
paper
flashlight
pillow

Teacher Pack

"The Israelites Cross the Red Sea" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Say: **By this time, the Israelites were next to the Red Sea. Where could they go? They said to Moses, “We’re going to die!” But Moses told the people to be strong and brave.** Invite the children to make muscles.

Show “The Israelites Cross the Red Sea” poster. Say: **God helped the Israelites! He did something amazing. He made the water in the Red Sea part so the Israelites could walk to the other side.** Have an adult leader help you lift the blue bulletin board paper, and have kids walk next to the “wall of water.” Then say: **When the mean people came after the Israelites, the water came down on them.** Place the blue bulletin paper back on the floor.

Let the children repeat the process, this time with some of the kids pretending to be the Israelites and others the mean people. Let the paper go over the “mean people” as kids play. Repeat as time allows, having kids switch roles.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What seems most scary to you about what we just heard?**
- Tell about a time you were scared.**
- What can you say to God or do when you’re afraid?**

Say: **God promises to give us what we need and to be with us, even when we’re afraid. God helped the Israelites when they were afraid, and ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**

Center 1: Through the Sea Supplies

My Bible Hugs
Teacher Pack
stamp pad

Center 1: Through the Sea Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them. Fold up the sides of the pages to make the “walls” of the Red Sea.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

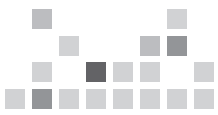
Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they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

■ **CENTER 1:**
Through the Sea

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 1 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we’re learning that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID, just as God helped the Israelites when they were afraid. Let’s use our My Bible Hugs pages to pretend to “walk” across the Red Sea.**





Show the children how to press their index and middle fingers onto the stamp pad and then “walk” their fingers on the area between the walls of the Red Sea to re-create the Israelites’ footprints.

When the children finish, have them wash their hands with warm water and soap to remove the ink from their fingers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **God gives us everything we need, just as he gave his people what they needed a long time ago. ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID, too. And we can trust that he can do amazing things when we need help.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Yogurt-Split Snack

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **God made water move to take care of the Israelites when they were afraid. Let’s make a snack to remind us that he helps us when we’re afraid, too.**

Give children spoons and cups. Fill half of each cup with vanilla yogurt, and then add about a teaspoon of blue powdered-drink mix. Let the children create “oceans” by mixing the two ingredients together. Encourage kids to separate their yogurt “seas” as they eat to imitate God parting the waters of the Red Sea.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Even when the Israelites were afraid, God helped them walk bravely to the other side of the Red Sea. ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID, too. He takes care of us, and he’s with us to help us be brave.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Run With God

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID. Let’s play a game to see how God helped the Israelites run on dry ground when they were afraid.**

Put the children in two groups. Lay the blue bulletin board paper on the ground, and then have one group of children stand around the paper, holding the edges across from each other. Say: **You’ll be “Water People” in our game.**

Have the other group of children stand at one end of the blue bulletin board paper. Say: **You’ll be the Israelites in our game.**



**Center 2:
Yogurt-Split Snack
Supplies**

-
- clear plastic cups
 - spoons
 - vanilla yogurt
 - blue powdered-drink mix
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**

**Center 3:
Run With God
Supplies**

-
- blue bulletin board paper





Say: **When the Israelites say ►“GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID,” the Water People will hold the paper above their heads.** Have the children practice that step a few times.

Say: **Now, when the paper is up high, if you’re an Israelite, move quickly under it to the other side.** Have the children practice that step a couple of times.

Say: **This time, Water People, when you raise the water, say “Run, run, God’s helping you.”** Have the children practice all the steps together a few times. Then let them switch roles.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to escape to the other side under the water?
Tell about a way God helps you when you’re afraid.**

Say: **It was exciting and maybe a little scary to move under the water in our game. Sometimes in life we have times when we’re scared, even if we might be a little excited, too—like when we try something new. But we can always remember that just as God helped the Israelites, ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE AFRAID.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Paint Impressions

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **One thing God gives us is people who love us and can help us when we’re afraid. Think of one person you love. Pause. God gave that person to you! God uses that person to help you.**

Set out the various objects and paint. Say: **Sometimes God uses people in our lives to help us, kind of like how we can use these objects to make impressions.** Invite the children to make impressions on paper by dipping the objects in paint and pressing them on their papers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**How do the impressions you made on your papers look like the real objects?
Tell about a time a person helped you.
Why are you thankful God gave you that person?**

Center 4: Paint Impressions Supplies

paper
bowls of tempera paint
various objects

Center 4: Paint Impressions Easy Prep

Choose objects kids can use to dip in paint and make impressions on paper.





Say: **God helped the Israelites when they were afraid. And ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID. Sometimes he helps us by giving us people to help us. This week when you look at your paint impressions, remember we can see God's help when we see how God is using the people to help us.**



5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID. I would like each of you to choose a way to go to God for help this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Place a small night light next to your bed. Turn it off and on before you go to bed, and ask God to help you when you're afraid.

Ask your mom or dad to pray with you. Curl up into a ball and ask God to help you when you're afraid. When you're done praying, stand up and stretch while thanking God for giving you everything you need to be brave.

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE AFRAID. Let's pray and thank him. As we pray, we can walk past the Red Sea like the Israelites did.**

**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs

**Action Prayer
Supplies**

blue bulletin board
paper





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

Hold up the paper and invite each child to walk under it and thank God for something. If children don't know what to say, encourage them to say, "Thank you for being with me when I'm afraid."

Close the prayer by saying: **God, we're all so thankful you're with us when we're afraid. Help us to trust you this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

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







God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

Most preschoolers haven't learned the difference between wanting something and needing something. Use this lesson to help preschoolers see the difference, and help them know that God gives them everything they need.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate</p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Wait and Seek</p> <p>Find pictures of things they need that God gives them.</p>	<p>Bible</p> <p>Teacher Pack: "Things I Need" cards</p> 	<p>If you didn't already in Lesson 1, separate the cards and then hide them around the room.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers</p> <p>Hear how Theo learns that God gives us what we need.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, can of food, string</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Tie the can of food to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Quail and Manna</p> <p>Mimic facial expressions, and hear sounds like those in the Bible passage.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, "Expressions" cards</p> 	<p>Break apart the cards.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

God gives us what we need.

Key Verse

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want" (Psalm 23:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will thank God for giving them everything they need.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Heaven in My Home Draw pictures of things God gives them.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Desert Snack Discover food in the "desert" as the Israelites did.</p>	resealable plastic bags, graham crackers, chocolate chips, plastic spoons, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Sock Match Look for matching socks as they learn that they can look for God's blessings.</p>	5 pairs of socks in different colors and sizes	Place 1 sock from each pair somewhere in the room where preschoolers can find them easily. Place the other socks in a pile on a table.
	<p>Center 4: Bird Feeders Make crafts to feed birds.</p>	card stock, scissors, tape, paper plates, spoons, corn syrup, birdseed, resealable plastic bags	Cut card stock into 4x4-inch squares, and then tape each square into a roll.
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Praise and thank God for what he provides.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home 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.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're at Church"
(track 2)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

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

What You'll Do

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

Lead children in singing "We're at Church" (track 2 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We're at church,** *(make a steeple with hands)*

We're at church *(make a steeple with hands)*

To worship God and learn his Word *(make a book with hands)*

With a prayer and a song and a Bible story too. *(make prayer hands)*

God loves me and God loves you! *(hug self; then point to others)*

(Repeat 3x.)

Say: **God really loves each of you. That's why ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. It's great to know God always takes care of us. Let's sing about how good God is to us.**

Sing "God Is So Good" (not on the CD). After children learn the words, have them share some of the ways God is so good to them. Create new verses by replacing the words "is so good" with "gives us." Then have children name things God gives them.

 **God is so good.**

God is so good.

God is so good.

He's so good to me.

Say: **God is so good to us because he loves us and takes care of us. Today we'll hear how God took care of some people in the Bible by giving them what they needed. And we'll think about how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Wait and Seek

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 23:1, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want" (Psalm 23:1). That means God gives you all you need. Let's say that together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Say: **Sometimes you have to wait for the things you need, like when you're hungry and Mom says, "Wait until dinner." Sometimes you have to go and find the things you need, like when you can't find a shoe or you're looking for Dad to give you a hug. Sometimes it's like that with God. We have to wait or look for the things he wants to give us. But he always takes care of us. Let's say our Key Verse together again: God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Let's play a game of Hide and Seek and see if you can find some of the things God gives us. There are some pictures hidden around the room. Find one picture, and then bring it back here. Make sure each child finds only one picture. If you have more than 20 children in your group, have them work with partners.

When all the children are seated with their pictures, have them take turns telling what's in the pictures that they need. Have each child stand up, show everyone the picture, and say "God gives me [name the item]."

Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Talk With Kids

Say: **We can know that when we need something, ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. We may have to wait, pay attention to God, or look around to see how God is giving us what we need, but we can be sure he'll always take care of us. Let's hear how God gave some people in the Bible what they needed.**



Wait and Seek Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack

"Things I Need" cards

Wait and Seek Easy Prep

If you didn't already in Lesson 1, separate the cards and then hide them around the room.





Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

CD player
Theo puppet
can of food
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the can of food to
Theo's paw.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought a can of food.

Teacher: What's the can of food for?

Theo: I'm collecting cans of food in case I run out of food.

Teacher: Oh, why would you think you'd run out?

Theo: I don't know. I just want to make sure.

Teacher: Theo, that reminds me of something we'll be reading about in the Bible today.

Theo: Really? Did some people run out of food?

Teacher: Well, there were some people who were hungry, and God gave them food to eat.

Theo: That's great.

Teacher: It is, but God didn't want them to store up a bunch of food because he wanted them to trust him to give them what they needed each day.

Theo: *(Looks at his can of food.)* Hmmmm.

Teacher: Do you know what, Theo? God will take care of you. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.)*

Theo: Oh, I'm going to collect more cans of food.

Teacher: But we just told you that God gives us what we need!

Theo: I'm going to give the cans of food to people who really need them.

Teacher: What a great idea, Theo! Helping others is a great way to thank God for giving us what we need.

Theo: The people who get my cans of food can learn that God gives them what they need, too.

Teacher: That's right, Theo! Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

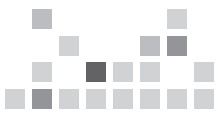
Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time you collected food or something else the way Theo did.
What do you like about knowing God takes care of you?**



Say: **Today in the Bible, we'll hear how God took care of his people. We can always be certain that God takes care of us, too. Since we know ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, we can thank God by sharing with others, like Theo decided to do.**

Bible Time: Quail and Manna

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 16, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear how God gave some people in the Bible what they needed, and how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

As we listen to what happened in the Bible, when I hold up a card, try to make a face that shows the same feeling. Check for understanding, and then help kids practice by holding up a few cards.

Say: **God's people, the Israelites, forgot that God would take care of them. They were living in the desert, and they felt afraid when they couldn't find any food.** Hold up the "scared" card for children to mimic.

Say: **The Israelites told their leader, Moses, they were scared and angry because there wasn't any food. They didn't trust God. Let's listen to what they might've said.**

Play "Angry People" (track 6 on the CD) as you hold up the "mad" card for children to mimic. Then lead children in pounding their fists on the floor and chanting, "We want food! We want food!"

Say: **► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, and he told Moses to tell the Israelites not to worry. That night, a strange sound could be heard throughout the Israelites' camp.**

Play "Quail Sounds" (track 7 on the CD) as you hold up the "surprised" card for children to mimic.

Say: **God had sent enough quail, which is a bird like a chicken, for everyone to have plenty to eat.** Continue holding up the "surprised" card.

Say: **And in the morning, the Israelites found manna, which is like crackers, on the ground.** Hold up the "happy" card for children to mimic.

Say: **For 40 years the Israelites lived in the desert. And for 40 years God gave the Israelites the food they needed. ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**



Bible Time: Quail and Manna Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Angry People" (track 6); "Quail Sounds" (track 7)
 - "Expressions" cards

Bible Time: Quail and Manna Easy Prep

Break apart the cards.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to pretend to feel all the different ways the Israelites did? Tell about a time you were afraid you wouldn't get what you need. Instead of being afraid or angry when you need something, what can you remember about God?

Say: **God promises that he will love us and care for us. ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. The Israelites got all worked up because they didn't trust God. Let's trust God to take care of us, always.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Heaven in My Home

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 2 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how God gave his people, the Israelites, what they needed, and how ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. Let's think about some things God gives us that we need.**

Encourage children to tell things they need that God gives them, like food, clothes, shelter and safety, or love and relationships.

Point out the house on the My Bible Hugs page. Say: **Let's pretend this is a picture of where you live. Draw some of the things you need on this page.** As children work, remind them that ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**

After several minutes, invite the children to show their pictures to the rest of the group.

Center 1: Heaven in My Home Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

Center 1: Heaven in My Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2
pages from each My
Bible Hugs student
book, and write
children's names on
them.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are you most thankful to God for?
- What could we do to say “thank you” to God?

Say: **As we look at all the things on our My Bible Hugs pages, we can be so thankful that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. This week, let’s look around and remember all the ways God takes care of us like he took care of the Israelites.**

CENTER 2:

Desert Snack

What You’ll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **God gave the Israelites quail and manna when they really needed something to eat. Let’s make a snack to remind us that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, too.**

Give each child a resealable plastic bag and a graham cracker. Say: **The Israelites were in the desert and they were getting hungry. First let’s crush our graham crackers to make them look like desert sand.** Have children put their graham crackers inside the bags. Ensure the bags are completely sealed. Then have kids crush the graham crackers.

Say: **They were looking for food to fill their stomachs, and they asked God for help.** Have each child put a few chocolate chips in the plastic bags and mix them in with the “sand.”

Say: **Let’s look for food in our sand the way the Israelites looked for food in the desert.** Have children use spoons to search for the food (chocolate chips) in the sand.

After kids search for a minute, say: **► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED!** Lead the children in a prayer, and let them eat their snacks.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like searching for the food in your sand?
- What are some ways you ask God for what you need?

Say: **We pretended to search for food in our graham-cracker sand. In our lives, we can look for and ask God for what we need, too. We can be sure that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, always. Let’s trust God this week and look for how he’s giving us everything we need.**



Center 2: Desert Snack Supplies

- resealable plastic bags
- graham crackers
- chocolate chips
- plastic spoons
- antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: Sock Match Supplies

5 pairs of socks in
different colors and
sizes

Center 3: Sock Match Easy Prep

Place 1 sock from
each pair somewhere
in the room where
preschoolers can find
them easily. Place the
other socks in a pile on
a table.

Center 4: Bird Feeders Supplies

card stock
scissors
tape
paper plates
spoons
corn syrup
birdseed
resealable plastic bags

Center 4: Bird Feeders Easy Prep

Cut card stock into
4x4-inch squares, and
then tape each square
into a roll.

CENTER 3:

Sock Match

What You'll Do

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.** Let's play a game to think about that.

Show the single socks to children. Say: **Each of these socks needs its matching sock.** Point out how none of the socks match.

Say: **Choose a sock, and look in the room for the matching sock. When you find a matching sock, hold the socks up in the air and shout "Praise God!"** Let kids play several rounds. You can also split kids into two groups and have one group hide the matching sock while the others hide their eyes. Then have the children who hid their eyes look for the matching socks.

Talk With Kids

Say: **God will always care for us. In our game we had missing socks, but when we looked around the room, we found the matching socks. Like that, ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. When we're missing something we need, we can look to God and he'll make sure we have everything we need.**

CENTER 4:

Bird Feeders

What You'll Do

Say: **We learned in the Bible today that God gave his people the food they needed in the desert. He gave them quail, which were small birds, and manna, which was like bread. Let's make something to feed creatures smaller than us—birds—just as God fed his people manna.**

Give each child a card-stock roll. Set out a few paper plates with birdseed so the children can reach them. Have children use spoons to spread corn syrup on the outside of the rolls. Then show them how to roll the card stock in the birdseed until the seeds stick to the corn syrup.

Slip a spoon through the middle of a roll to show how kids can put the bird feeder on a tree branch at home. Have kids put their bird feeders into plastic bags to take home.

Talk With Kids

Say: **When you and your family hang your bird feeder, you'll be giving the birds what they need—just as ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today. Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that we can thank God this week for giving us what we need.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Every time you sit down for a meal, thank God for giving you the food you need.

Think of all the gifts God gives you. Ask your mom or dad to help you write a thank-you letter to God.

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Say the following prayer. As you say each line, encourage children to say things God gives them.

Say:

Thank you, God, for eyes to see. Pause for kids to say things they see that God gives them.

Thank you, God, for family. Pause for kids to say something about their families God gives them.

Thank you, God, for ears to hear. Pause for kids to say things they hear that God gives them.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Thank you, God, for clothes to wear. Pause for kids to say things they wear that God gives them.

Thank you, God, for food to eat. Pause for kids to say things they eat that God gives them.

Thank you, God, for friends to meet. Pause for kids to say things about their friends God gives them.

Thank you, God, for all you bring. Have kids repeat.

Thank you, God, for everything. Have kids repeat.

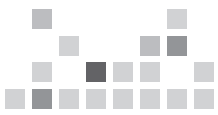
In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7


Preschoolers can be very impatient when waiting for their needs to be met or their desires to be fulfilled. Just as the Israelites forgot what God had done, they sometimes forget that parents or caregivers have provided for them in the past. Use this lesson to help children understand that God loves them no matter what.



► **Bible Point**
God always loves us.

Key Verse
“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want” (Psalm 23:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will know God loves them no matter what.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate</p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player, scissors, crayons</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, bird and flower patterns</p> 	<p>Photocopy and cut out 2 or 3 flowers using the flower pattern.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Needs and Wants</p> <p>Play a game to learn about how God gives us everything we need.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers</p> <p>Hear how Theo gets over being grumpy.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, string or tape, small bowl</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Tie or tape the small bowl to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Water for God's People</p> <p>Discover water in a “rock.”</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, paper grocery bag, bowl of water, stick or cane</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Put the bowl of water in the bag, and set out of reach of children.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: God Gave Water Make a craft showing “water” coming from a “rock.”</p>	My Bible Hugs, 1 paper muffin cup per child, glue sticks, blue crepe paper	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Pretzel-Staff Snack Clap pretzel sticks together to ask for juice.</p>	pretzel sticks, cups, juice, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Water From a Rock Mold “rocks” and “water” from modeling clay.</p>	brown and blue modeling clay	
	<p>Center 4: Like God’s Love Make heart-shaped crafts.</p>	scissors, colored tissue paper, paintbrushes, liquid starch, cups of water, 1 copy per child of the “Big Love” page (at the end of the lesson)	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Thank God for his love.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Food and Whine

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

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

Acting on Faith

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

Be Encouraged

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

The Jesus Connection

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





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
scissors
crayons

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're at Church"
(track 2), "He Cares for You"
(1 Peter 5:7) (track 5)
bird and flower patterns

Welcome and Celebrate Easy Prep

Photocopy and cut out
2 or 3 flowers using the
flower pattern.

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "We're at Church" (track 2 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



We're at church, (*make a steeple with hands*)

We're at church (*make a steeple with hands*)

To worship God and learn his Word (*make a book with hands*)

With a prayer and a song and a Bible story too. (*make prayer hands*)

God loves me and God loves you! (*hug self; then point to others*)

(Repeat 3x.)

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, just like we sang in our song. Let's sing a song about how God cares for us.**

Have the children sit in a circle, and place several crayons in the middle of the circle. Lead children in singing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 5 on the CD). As children sing, have them pass the paper flowers around the circle. At the end of each stanza, pause the CD. Have the children who are holding the flowers thank God for something he's given them and quickly draw happy faces on the flowers. Then continue playing the CD. Repeat the song until everyone who wants to share has done so.



What are you worried about now?

Trying to figure it out now—

God knows right where you are now.

You know it's all in his hands now.

You know he cares for you;

He always cares for you.

You know he'll see you through;

He'll always see you through.



Cast all
Your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.

Cast all
Your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it’s all in his hands now.

“He Cares for You” (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **These flowers are all dressed differently, aren’t they? God made the flowers, and he cares for them. God made you, too, and he loves you so much. When we look at these flowers, we can remember ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Needs and Wants

What You’ll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 23:1, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want” (Psalm 23:1). That means God’s with us, taking care of us, and he gives us all we need. Let’s say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Say: **When I say I want something, and when I say I need something, it’s two different things. I might want to watch TV or to eat candy. But I don’t need to do those things. I do need food to eat and water to drink. Our Key Verse tells us God gives us everything we need.**



Needs and Wants Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “I Need It!” (track 8)





Have the children stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder. Say: **Let's listen to some people on the CD and decide if each person needs something or wants something.**

Play "I Need It!" (track 8 on the CD). Be ready to pause it as directed. At the pause, say: **If you heard a need, step forward.** Have kids stand in place if they think it wasn't a need. **If you heard a want, step backward.** Have kids stand in place if they think it wasn't a want.

After children make a mistake, explain whether it was really a want or a need, and then lead children in stepping in the correct direction. Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Continue this same process with each example in track 8 on the CD.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you think about some of the things the people said they needed?
What are some things you need?
God gives you all you need. Why does that help you know God loves you?**

Say: **We don't always get what we want, but God gives us everything we need. That's because ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US in the best way possible. Today we'll hear how God showed his love to some people in the Bible by taking care of their needs.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought my water dish.

Teacher: Why did you bring your water dish, Theo?

Theo: I want you to get me some water right now.

Teacher: Can't you wait until snack time, Theo? We're getting ready to read the Bible.

Theo: But I want some water right now!

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string or tape
small bowl

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie or tape the small
bowl to Theo's paw.



Teacher: Please don't be angry with me, Theo. I've always taken care of you. I'll get your water soon. You know, we're learning our Bible Point about how God always loves us. Friends, let's all say our Bible Point for Theo. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.)*

Teacher: And today we'll hear how God loved his people, the Israelites, and gave them water in the desert.

Theo: So maybe God will give me the water I need, too. I'm sorry for being grumpy. I love you.

Teacher: Thank you for saying you're sorry, Theo. I love you, too.

Theo: I'm going to go rest while I wait for you to fill my water bowl. I'll wait until after you read the Bible. I know you love me even when I'm grumpy, just as God loves all of us no matter how we feel.

Teacher: That's right, Theo. ► **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.** Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Tell about a time you needed something as much as Theo seemed to need water.

Why do you know God will always give you everything you need?

Why are you thankful for God's love and care?

Say: **Theo needed water, and he was getting kind of grumpy about it. Like that, sometimes we can get grumpy when we're waiting for what we need. But we know that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, and he'll be sure to give us what we need at the right time. Let's learn how God showed his love for some grumpy Israelites.**

Bible Time: Water for God's People

What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 17:1-7, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear about God's people, the Israelites. They were walking in a desert. A desert is a hot, dry place.** Have the kids pretend to be hot and fan themselves.

Say: **Out there in the dry, hot desert, the Israelites got really thirsty. And they got very grumpy. And they started complaining. Let's listen.** Play "Angry People" (track 6 on the CD). Then lead the children in banging their fists on the floor and repeating, "We want water! We want water!"



Bible Time: Water for God's People Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- paper grocery bag
- bowl of water
- stick or cane

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Angry People" (track 6)

Bible Time: Water for God's People Easy Prep

Put the bowl of water in the bag and set out of reach of children.





Say: **Moses asked God what to do. God told Moses to go to a certain rock with several other people and to hit the rock with his staff.**

Lead the children to the paper grocery bag with the water inside. Allow each child to use a stick or cane to tap the bag. Then open the bag and show kids the bowl of water.

Say: **God helped the Israelites by giving them water to drink. Even though the people were grumpy and forgot to trust God to care for them, God loved them.**
▶ **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how grumpy the Israelites were?**
- Tell about a time you were grumpy.**
- What can you do to remember God will take care of you when you need something?**

Say: **We don't need to be grumpy when we need something. We can trust God because we know ▶ GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. He'll care for us just as much as he cared for the Israelites.**

**4 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

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

■ **CENTER 1:**

God Gave Water

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 3 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Here's a picture of the Israelites. They were grumpy because they needed water, and God provided water for them. Even though they were complaining and grumpy, God loved them and wanted the best for them.**

▶ **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, too. Let's say that together.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point with you. **Let's make rocks like the one we heard about today in the Bible.**

Center 1: God Gave Water Supplies

- My Bible Hugs
- 1 paper muffin cup per child
- glue sticks
- blue crepe paper

Center 1: God Gave Water Easy Prep

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





Have each child poke a hole in his or her muffin cup and stick a piece of blue crepe paper through it. Then have each child glue the edges of the muffin cup to the page so it looks like a rock with water running out of it.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **These rocks can remind us that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US and takes care of us, just as he took care of the Israelites when they were thirsty in the desert.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Pretzel-Staff Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **When the Israelites needed water, God told them to tap a specific rock with a staff. Let's pretend to be the Israelites tapping our staffs to get something to drink.**

Give each child a handful of pretzel sticks, but no juice. Say: **Pretend your pretzel sticks are staffs. Tap them together like Moses tapped his staff against the rock.** After kids tap for a few seconds, serve them the juice.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's amazing about how God gave the Israelites water?**
- What are some amazing things God can do for you?**
- What do you like about being loved by God so much?**

Say: **God made water come from a rock. He does great things for us, too. That's because ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. Let's thank God for always loving us and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack, and then let children enjoy their pretzels and juice.

■ **CENTER 3:**

Water From a Rock

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. He shows us he loves us in all kinds of ways, but one way we read about today was when he gave some thirsty people something to drink.**

Give each child a piece of brown modeling clay to make a "rock."

Say: **God showed his love for the Israelites by making water come from a rock.**



**Center 2: Pretzel-Staff
Snack
Supplies**

-
- pretzel sticks
 - cups
 - juice
 - antibacterial gel
(optional)

**! ALLERGY
! ALERT**

**Center 3: Water From
a Rock
Supplies**

-
- brown and blue
modeling clay





Center 4: Like God's Love Supplies

- scissors
- colored tissue paper
- paintbrushes
- liquid starch
- cups of water
- 1 copy per child of the "Big Love" page (at the end of the lesson)

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Give each child blue modeling clay, and have children create "water" coming from their rocks. Invite children to discuss their favorite part of God's love as they work.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **When the Israelites were thirsty, they forgot how good God had been to them. God loved them so much, but they forgot that. ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US so much, too, even when we complain like the Israelites. But this week, let's trust God and thank him for always loving and taking care of us.**

CENTER 4:

Like God's Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a "Big Love" page. Say: **► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. He has a great big love for us. His love spreads everywhere. Let's see what that looks like.**

Show children how to brush liquid starch on the paper and then press pieces of tissue paper onto the starch. When they've added several pieces of the tissue, show them how to dip their brushes in clear water and paint over the tissue pieces so that the color spreads out onto the paper.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think of what happened with your heart?**
- Tell about a time your love was so big that it seemed to spread.**
- What are some ways God shows you that he loves you?**

Say: **► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. His love spreads everywhere, just as the colors from the tissue are spreading everywhere on your paper! Love makes the world a much nicer place. Let's remember to love God because he always loves us.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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





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

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember this week that God always loves you.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Draw a picture of you and Jesus together. Put the picture in your pocket, and take it with you to remember that God loves you all the time.**
- Give a hug to a friend or family member who is sad, and say that God always loves him or her.**

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

Action Prayer

What You’ll Do

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

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

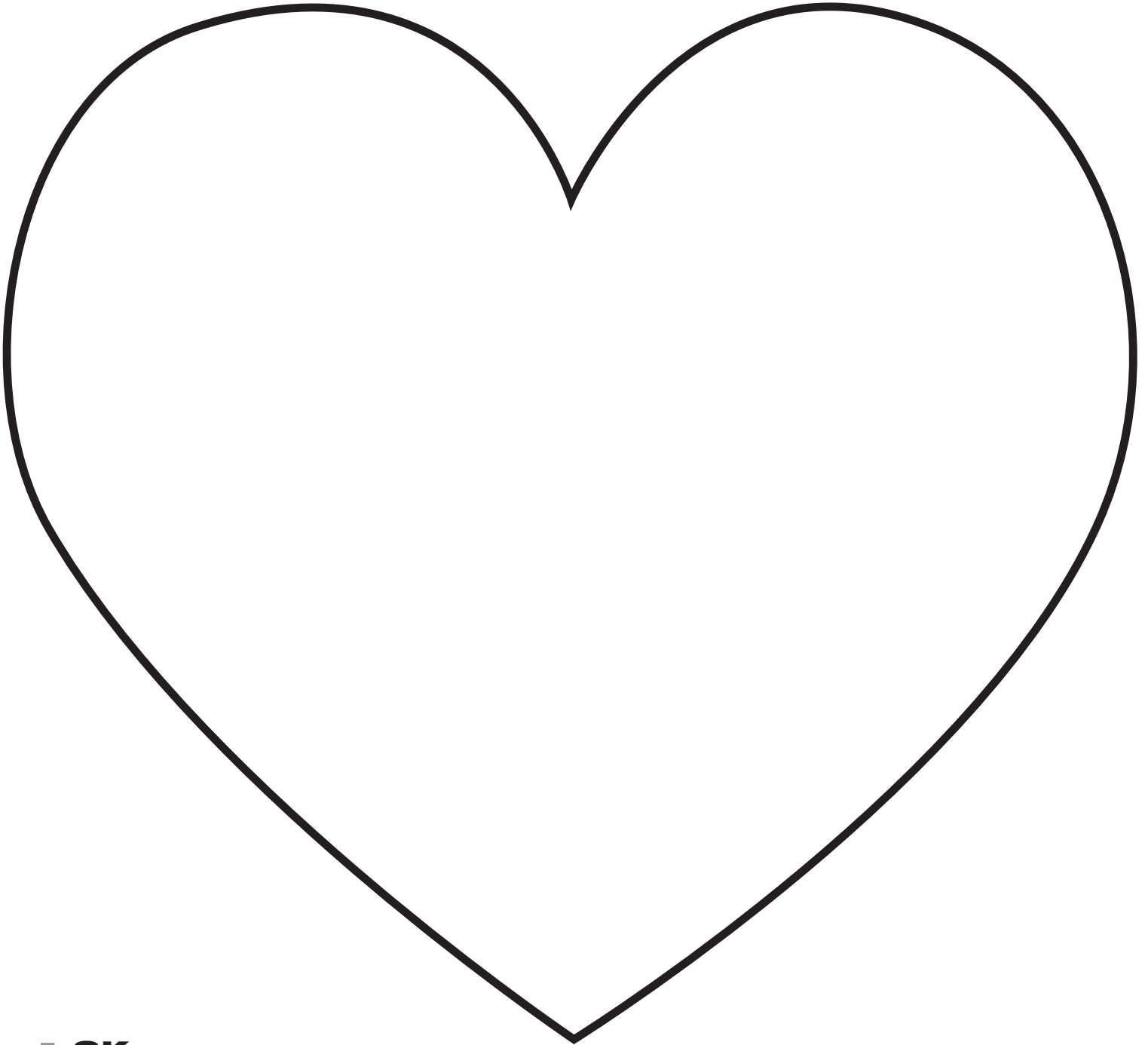
Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Big Love



OK
TO COPY





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


Children love to be first. They run to be first in line, hurry to choose the first book from the shelf, and strive to finish puzzles first. Use this lesson to help kids know that God likes to be first, and we put him first by obeying him above all.



► **Bible Point**
Obey God.

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will obey God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, hand clackers	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	More Important! Learn a rhyme, and talk about loving God the most.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo won a blue ribbon for obeying rules.	CD player, Theo puppet, blue ribbon Teacher Pack: CD	Tie the blue ribbon around Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: God’s Ten Rules Learn how the Israelites received the Ten Commandments.	Bible, CD player, scissors, tape, craft stick, glue sticks, 1 cotton ball per child Teacher Pack: CD, “Mount Sinai” poster, “God Gives the Ten Commandments” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Follow the cutting instructions on the “Mount Sinai” poster.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Show Your Love Draw hearts to show that they love God.</p>	My Bible Hugs, markers	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Hearts-Full-of-Love Snack Make heart-shaped sandwiches, and discuss love.</p>	2 slices of bread per child, heart-shaped cookie cutter, 1 craft stick per child, jam, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Obey Acting Act out ways to obey God.</p>		
	<p>Center 4: Hearts of Love Make crafts to represent loving God with their whole hearts.</p>	white construction paper, markers, scissors, glue sticks, 1 copy per child of the "Big Love" page (at the end of Lesson 3)	
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Tell God that they'll love him all day, every day.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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

God Gives the Ten Commandments

(Part 1) Exodus 19:16–20:21

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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

The Israelites Battle the Amalekites

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

Jethro Advises Moses to Focus on God

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

Moses Receives the Commandments From God

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

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Glad"

(track 9), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6)

(track 10)

hand clackers

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "We're Glad" (track 9 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



We're glad to be at church. (*make "thumbs up" gesture*)

We have such fun at church. (*shake hands above head*)

We sing and pray (*make prayer hands*)

And learn God's way. (*point to head*)

We're glad to be at church today! (*make "thumbs up" gesture*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **We're glad you're at church today! Today we're learning why we ► OBEY GOD. One way we can obey God is to praise him. Let's do that now.**

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Have children share the hand clackers, taking turns making joyful noises with them between stanzas. Lead the other kids in clapping their hands or stomping their feet.



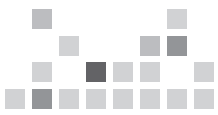
**Let everything that moves,
And everything that breathes,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.**

**From the rising of the sun
'Til the time that it goes down,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.**

**Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!**

**Let everything that walks,
And everything that runs,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.**





No matter where you are,
No matter where you've been,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **We praise God because we love him. And we also ► OBEY GOD because we love him. Today we'll hear about some people who learned to obey God, too.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

More Important!

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This means God wants us to put him first, above anyone and anything else. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Invite the children to talk about their favorite toys, people, and foods.

Say: **All those things are special to you. But God is even more special than any of those things. He loves us more than anything or anyone in the whole world! That's why he wants us to love him more than anything in our lives. He wants to be the most important person in your life. Let's learn a finger play to help us remember that.**

Lead children in the finger play:

God gave me my new truck, *(cup hands together)*

But I'll love him more. *(spread arms wide)*

God gave me a mommy, a daddy, and more. *(cup hands three times)*

God gave me clothes, food, and stuff galore. *(cup hands three times)*

God gave me my toys, *(cup hands)*

But I'll love him more. *(hug self, point up, and then spread arms wide)*



More Important! Supplies

Bible

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Love the Lord Your God" (track 11)





Say: **God wants us to have no other gods before him. Let's sing about loving God more than anyone or anything.**

Lead children in singing "Love the Lord Your God" (track 11 on the CD) to the tune of "Down by the Bay."



**Love the Lord your God
With all your heart.
Love the Lord your God.
That's a good start!
And if you do,
I'm here to say,**

(Sing together.)
**God will be so very glad—
Oh, so glad
If you love him today!**
(Repeat 2x.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **God made us, and he gives us everything we have—even our families. God wants us to love him most of all. And when we ► OBEY GOD, it makes him very happy. Let's hear what God said to some of his people in the Bible.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought my blue ribbon.

Teacher: How did you get your blue ribbon, Theo?

Theo: I went to dog-obedience school and learned to obey all the rules.

Teacher: Congratulations! Can you tell us some of the rules?

Theo: Don't jump on the furniture, don't chew on shoes, and don't bite people.

Teacher: Those are good rules to follow, Theo. We're very proud of you! Let's clap for Theo.
(Lead children in clapping.)

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
blue ribbon
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the blue ribbon
around Theo's paw.



Teacher: You know, Theo, we just finished learning our Key Verse about how we love God more than anything, and how when we love God, we obey him. Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:*

► **OBEY GOD.**)

Teacher: Today we'll learn some other things God told his people, and us, to obey.

Theo: So God has good rules, too, just like the rules I learned in dog-obedience school.

Teacher: That's right! And it's important to learn and follow God's rules.

Theo: I'm going to show my blue ribbon to my family now.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about Theo's blue ribbon?

Tell about a time you obeyed.

Say: **Today we're going to hear about some special rules that God gave the Israelites to live by. The rules are for us, too. Let's hear about the rules and think about how we ► OBEY GOD.**

Bible Time: God's Ten Rules

What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 19–20, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Show children the "Mount Sinai" poster. Say: **Today we'll hear about God's people, the Israelites, and how he gave their leader, Moses, some rules on a mountain. God came down on a mountain called Sinai in a thick, fiery cloud to talk with the people.** Point to the mountain on the poster.

Say: **The mountain shook.** Have the children shake. **Clouds of smoke filled the sky.** Have the children wave their hands in the sky like smoke. **And thunder and lightning filled the air.** Have the children clap their hands and say "boom" to imitate thunder and lightning.

Have children take turns gluing cotton balls to the sky above the mountain on the poster. Meanwhile, play "Mount Sinai Sounds" (track 12 on the CD). While it plays, turn the lights on and off to represent lightning.

Say: **Finally, the Israelites heard the sound of a trumpet and gathered at the bottom of the mountain.** Invite a child to tape the Israelites to the bottom of the mountain.



Bible Time: God's Ten Rules Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- scissors
- tape
- craft stick
- glue sticks
- 1 cotton ball per child

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Mount Sinai Sounds" (track 12)
- "Mount Sinai" poster
- "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: God's Ten Rules Easy Prep

Follow the cutting instructions on the "Mount Sinai" poster.





Say: **The Israelites' leader, Moses, went up the mountain to talk with God.** Place the Moses figure through the slit at the bottom of the mountain, and move the figure to show Moses walking up the mountain.

Say: **Moses listened to everything God said. When Moses came down from the mountain, he brought with him God's special rules, which we call the Ten Commandments.** Tape the Ten Commandments tablets onto Moses' hands, and move him down the mountain.

Hang the "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster where children can see it. Point out the Ten Commandments and their illustrations. Ask children to explain what they think each picture shows.

Say: **This poster shows us the rules God gave Moses. The rules are also for us. Because we love God, we ► OBEY GOD.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think of the rules God gave Moses?
Why do you think the rules are important?**

Say: **God gave us the Ten Commandments because he knew these rules would protect us. We ► OBEY GOD because we know it's what's best for us.**

**4 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

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

■ **CENTER 1:**
Show Your Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 4 page from My Bible Hugs. Lead children in holding up their index fingers.

**Center 1: Show Your Love
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs
markers

**Center 1: Show Your Love
Easy Prep**

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





Say: **This is the finger we use to say that something is the best. We say something is “number one.”** Lead children in chanting “God’s number one!” a few times.

Say: **Today we’re learning to ► OBEY GOD. And God’s first and second commandments, or rules, are to love him as number one, like we just chanted.**

Read for the children what the tablets on their pages say, and have them repeat after you.

Say: **Now let’s draw hearts on our first tablet to show we love God.** Point out the tablet that says “We Love God,” and have children draw hearts on it.

Say: **Just like our Key Verse Exodus 20:3 says, we’ll put God first and love him more than anyone. Draw your one finger or a number one on your “Have no other gods before me” tablet.** Point out the tablet and show children how to write a number one, or they can draw a finger.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What are some ways we can show God he’s number one to us?

Say: **When we show God he’s number one to us, we ► OBEY GOD. The Ten Commandments that God gave the people in the Bible were for us, too. Let’s remember to obey God this week.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Hearts-Full-of-Love Snack

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Today we’re learning to ► OBEY GOD. And we obey him because we love him. In fact, the first rule God wants us to follow is to love him.**

Give each child two pieces of bread. Say: **Let’s make heart-shaped snacks to remind us to love and ► OBEY GOD.** Have children use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut heart shapes out of bread. Then set out craft sticks for children to use to spread jam on the bread to create heart-shaped sandwiches.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about someone you love.
Why do you want to obey that person?
Why do you ► OBEY GOD?**



Center 2: Hearts-Full-of-Love Snack Supplies

- 2 slices of bread per child
- heart-shaped cookie cutter
- 1 craft stick per child
- jam
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Say: **We made heart-shaped snacks because when we love people, like our parents, we obey them. That's why we ► OBEY GOD, too. Let's thank God for giving us special rules and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack.

■ CENTER 3:

Obey Acting

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning to ► OBEY GOD's rules. Let's practice obeying by acting out some ways we can obey God.**

Have children form a circle. Say: **"God says to [pray]."** Have children follow your instructions. Call out other instructions such as pretending to help a friend, pretending to get dressed for church, or pretending to give hugs to show love.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like following my instructions in this activity?
What are some ways you ► OBEY GOD every day?**

Say: **Moses told the people to ► OBEY GOD. And just like we followed instructions in this activity, God wants us to follow his instructions all the time.**

■ CENTER 4:

Hearts of Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God gave the Israelites some rules, and one of them was to love him. We want to ► OBEY GOD, too, so let's make a craft to remind us to love God.**

Give each child a "Big Love" page. Say: **God wants us to love him. It's still good for us to love other things or people, though.** Lead children in sharing some things or people they love. Then have them draw some pictures of those things outside of the hearts.

Say: **God wants us to love him first, above all the things we just mentioned.** Have children each draw a picture inside the hearts of themselves with God.

Say: **We can love other things besides God, but he tells us to love him first.** Have the children cut the hearts from the papers; then have them cut the scraps that show the other things they love into smaller pieces and glue them to the back of the hearts.

Center 4: Hearts of Love Supplies

white construction
paper
markers
scissors
glue sticks
1 copy per child of the
"Big Love" page (at
the end of Lesson 3)



Hold up one child's heart, showing the side with the other things the child loves. Say: **We can love other things.** Turn the heart to the side that shows we love God first. **But we love God first.** Have the children imitate you.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **When we love God first, above all other people or things, we ► OBEY GOD. God wanted the people in the Bible to obey him, and he wants us to obey him, too. Let's remember this week to ► OBEY GOD.**



5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

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

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Invite a friend to church. Tell your friend that you love God and so you love obeying God.

Sing a worship song with your brother or sister. Tell your brother or sister that you're singing because you want to obey God's first command to love him.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Hugs





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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle and say this prayer after you.

Pray: **Dear God,
We love you! Yes, we do.
We love you the whole day through.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



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


Preschoolers are beginning to understand what it means to treat others as they want to be treated. They are very aware when someone has been kind to them and when someone has been unkind. Use this lesson to remind children that God is very pleased when they treat others kindly.



► Bible Point
God says to treat others kindly.


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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will treat others kindly.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Three Cheers for One God! Learn a script to affirm that God is number one.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear about Theo’s special friend.	CD player, Theo puppet, animal photograph, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Tape the animal photograph to Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: Lessons From the Mountain Do actions to a song that tells the Ten Commandments.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, “Mount Sinai” poster, “God Gives the Ten Commandments” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Follow the instructions on the “Mount Sinai” poster, if you didn’t already in Lesson 4.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Fingerprint Friends Use fingerprints to make special friend pictures.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, wet wipes, colored pencils Teacher Pack: stamp pad</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Sharing Snack Share snacks with each other.</p>	<p>crackers, cheese slices, plates, cups, napkins, juice, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Kindness Matchup Play a matching game.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Kindness" cards </p>	<p>Break apart the "Kindness" cards.</p>
	<p>Center 4: We Appreciate You Create a booklet to show appreciation to their pastor.</p>	<p>markers, construction paper, stapler</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Share the bendable man while telling one another that they'll be kind.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: bendable man</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Gives the Ten Commandments

(Part 2) Exodus 19:16–20:21

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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

Commandments With a Purpose

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

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

Commandments in Two Categories

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

God’s Commandments Establish Priorities

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

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

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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

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





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Glad" (track 9), "A Neighbor, a Neighbor" (track 13)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "We're Glad" (track 9 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



We're glad to be at church. (*make "thumbs up" gesture*)

We have such fun at church. (*shake hands above head*)

We sing and pray (*make prayer hands*)

And learn God's way. (*point to head*)

We're glad to be at church today! (*make "thumbs up" gesture*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today at church we're going to learn why ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. God wants us to treat our friends, family, and neighbors kindly. Let's sing a song about loving our neighbors.**

Lead children in singing "A Neighbor, A Neighbor" (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of "A-Tisket, A-Tasket." Encourage children to point to others in your group and themselves at the appropriate times.



**A neighbor, a neighbor,
God says to love my neighbor.**

I'll love you! Will you love me?

Friends forever we will be.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's great to love our neighbors. Everyone needs love and kindness. That's why ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. Today we'll hear some of the ways God tells us we can show kindness.**



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Three Cheers for One God!

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This means God wants us to love him more than anything or anyone. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Say: **Let's tell God that he's number one in our lives.** Show kids how to hold up one finger in the air, pointing it toward heaven to show that God is number one. Then teach children the following responses and lead them in doing the motions:

Everyone: **"Have no other gods before me."** (*wag finger*)

God is the one and only God! (*hold up one finger*)

Teacher: **How many?** (*shrug shoulders*)

Children: **One and only.** (*hold up one finger*)

Teacher: **So who is the one and only God?** (*hold up one finger*)

Children: **God is the one and only God!** (*hold up one finger*)

(*Encourage the children to shout louder.*)

Teacher: **Who is the one and only God?** (*hold up one finger*)

Children: **God is the one and only God!** (*hold up one finger*)

Everyone: **God is number one! God is number one! God is number one!**

"Have no other gods before me." (*wag finger*)

Say: **Let's give three cheers for God. I'll say, "Hip, hip," and you say, "Hooray!" Are you ready?**

Hip hip-Hooray!

Hip hip-Hooray!

Hip hip-Hooray!

Talk With Kids

Say: **God is number one! He made us, and he helps us make good decisions. Let's obey our number-one God this week; today we'll hear some of the things God asks us to do. One thing is ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. Let's learn more about that.**



Three Cheers for One God! Supplies

Bible





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
animal photograph
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the animal
photograph to Theo's
paw.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought a picture of my friend.

Teacher: Oh, I'd love to see it, Theo.

Theo: This is a picture of Rex, my neighbor. My parents always tell me to be nice to Rex.

Teacher: That's right, Theo. And we were just learning our Bible Point and talking about how ► **GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY**. Friends, tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY**.)

Teacher: And today we'll hear some ways God says we can treat others kindly, like they're our good friends.

Theo: I always treat Rex like he's my good friend.

Teacher: I'm glad to hear that you're nice to your neighbor, Theo. It's good to love others and treat others kindly.

Theo: I'm going to put my picture of Rex back in my house.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Tell about one of your neighbors.

What are some ways you can treat that neighbor kindly?

Say: ► **GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY**. That means our neighbors and our friends and our family. It means everyone! Let's hear what God says about treating others kindly.



Bible Time: Lessons From the Mountain

What You'll Do


Open your Bible to Exodus 19–20, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Play "Mount Sinai Sounds" (track 12 on the CD) and show the Moses figure. Say: **This is Moses. He was one of the leaders of God's people, the Israelites.** Show the "Mount Sinai" poster. **One day God told Moses he wanted to talk to him. So Moses went up a mountain.** Let a few children move Moses up and down the mountain. **On the mountain, God told him some special rules for all of us to follow.** Ask the children to share some rules they follow.

Say: **Thanks for sharing. God's first rules he told Moses had to do with loving God and putting him first—like our Key Verse says, "Have no other gods before me."** Have the children repeat the Key Verse with you: "Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

Show the "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster. Say: **The rules God gave Moses are called the Ten Commandments. Let's follow along as we hear some other rules God gave Moses.**

Play "Moses Went Up on the Mountain" (track 14 on the CD), and lead children in following the motions.

 (*pretend to climb up a mountain*)
**Moses went up on the mountain,
Moses went up on the mountain,
Moses went up on the mountain
To talk to God, you see.
To talk to God, you see,
To talk to God, you see.
Moses went up on the mountain
To talk to God, you see.**

(*hold up 10 fingers as you pretend to walk down a mountain*)
**When Moses came down from the mountain,
When Moses came down from the mountain,
When Moses came down from the mountain,
He had 10 rules for me.
He had 10 rules for me.
He had 10 rules for me.**

**When Moses came down from the mountain,
He had 10 rules for me.**

(*hug yourself*)
**The first rules tell us to love God.
The first rules tell us to love God.
The first rules tell us to love God,
Then happy God will be.
Then happy God will be.
Then happy God will be.
The first rules tell us to love God,
Then happy God will be.**

(*join hands to form a large circle*)
**The other rules tell about kindness.
The other rules tell about kindness.
The other rules tell about kindness.
Kind friends we want to be.
Kind friends we want to be.
Kind friends we want to be.
The other rules tell about kindness.
Kind friends we want to be.**



Bible Time: Lessons From the Mountain Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Mount Sinai Sounds" (track 12), "Moses Went Up on the Mountain" (track 14)
- "Mount Sinai" poster
- "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Lessons From the Mountain Easy Prep

Follow the instructions on the "Mount Sinai" poster, if you didn't already in Lesson 4.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Why do you think it's good to have rules from God?
Tell about someone you have trouble being kind to.
Why do you think God wants you to be kind to that person?**

Say: **The rules God gave Moses are very important. When we put God first, we want to follow these rules. ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY, even when they aren't our good friends. He wants us to be kind to everyone!**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Fingerprint Friends

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 5 page from My Bible Hugs.

Say: **► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. We can be kind to everyone we see! Let's create some people we can be kind to.**

Show children how to make fingerprints on their pages. Have the children turn the fingerprints into people they can be kind to by adding facial features and bodies to the fingerprint "heads." Then have kids clean their fingers with wet wipes.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about some people you were thinking of as you made fingerprint people.
What kind things can you do for those people this week?**

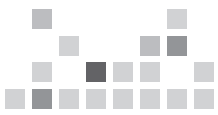
Center 1: Fingerprint Friends Supplies

My Bible Hugs
wet wipes
colored pencils
Teacher Pack
stamp pad

Center 1: Fingerprint Friends Easy Prep

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





Say: **We can be kind to lots of people! ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. In fact, he commanded us to do that. He commanded us because he knows that's what's best for us.**

CENTER 2:

Sharing Snack

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Today we're learning how ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. Let's practice kindness to one another as we have our snack.**

Have the children form two equal-sized groups. Ask the first group to set out enough cups, plates, and napkins for everyone. Ask the second group to make enough cracker-and-cheese sandwiches for everyone. Pour juice, and then have members of each group share what they prepared with the members of the other group. Lead the children in praying before they eat.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to show kindness as we got our snack ready?**
- What do you like about when others are kind to you?**
- Why do you want to be kind to others?**

Say: **Everyone likes it when others are kind to them. There are many ways we can be kind to others. Sometimes it's with words and other times it's with actions, like when we shared our snacks. ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY all the time. Let's try to do that this week.**

CENTER 3:

Kindness Matchup

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **On the mountain, God told Moses that he wants us to be kind to each other. Let's play a game where we think about ways to be kind.**

Mix up the "Kindness" cards, and lay them faceup in the middle of your circle. Have the children take turns matching each pair of cards showing kind actions. Discuss how the children in the pictures are being kind.



Center 2: Sharing Snack Supplies

- crackers
- cheese slices
- plates
- cups
- napkins
- juice
- antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Kindness Matchup Supplies

Teacher Pack
"Kindness" cards

Center 3: Kindness Matchup Easy Prep

Break apart the
"Kindness" cards.





Center 4: We Appreciate You Supplies

markers
construction paper
stapler

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What are some ways we showed kindness as we played our game? Tell about someone you're going to be kind to this week.

Say: **When people treat us kindly, we want to be kind to them, too. That's one of the reasons ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. This week, let's really do our best to be kind to others.**

■ CENTER 4:

We Appreciate You

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Since October is Pastor Appreciation Month, help kids prepare a personal booklet to show appreciation to a pastor in your church. Remind your children that they can be kind to your pastor by making a special craft for him or her. Say: ► **GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. Let's show kindness and thankfulness by making a craft for [name of your pastor].**

Give each child a sheet of colored construction paper. Have children decorate the pages as you trace each child's two hands on the paper and write something, such as "I like my pastor because..." or "I love God because..."

Invite each child to complete the phrase written on his or her paper by sharing with the rest of the group. Briefly write what he or she says on the paper.

Write "Thank You!" on a separate piece of construction paper and staple all the papers together with that one on top to make a booklet. If you can, invite the pastor to your meeting area to present the booklet.

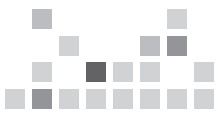
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What did you like about doing something kind for our pastor?

Say: ► **GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. Sometimes that means we say nice things to others, and other times it means we show someone we're thankful for him or her. Let's obey God this week by finding ways to be kind.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

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

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

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. I would like each of you to choose a way to be kind to others this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Be kind to your brother or sister by helping pick up his or her toys.**
- Play a game with a friend. Remember to use kind words as you play.**

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Form a circle, and have the children sit down. Show the bendable man. Say: **► GOD SAYS TO TREAT OTHERS KINDLY. Let's pass this bendable man around our circle as we pray about kindness.**

Have children each say "I will treat you kindly" as they pass the bendable man. Then have kids repeat this prayer after you:

Pray: **Dear God,
A kind friend I will be.
I'll make you proud of me.
In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Action Prayer Supplies

Teacher Pack
bendable man





Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-25

Preschoolers have a natural sense of wonder that sometimes borders on worship. But they're able to understand that God is the one who created all those wonderful things. Use this lesson to direct children toward worshipping God alone.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, hand clackers	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Worship God Only Play a game, and sing about putting God first.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo likes to sing and worship God.	CD player, Theo puppet, lyrics page, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Print a page of lyrics from the Internet. Tape the lyrics page to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: The Golden Calf Make a calf from modeling dough, and then destroy it.	Bible, modeling dough	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.




► **Bible Point**
 Worship only God.

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
 Children will know God is the only God, and they'll worship only him.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Room Only for God Make hearts with room for God alone.</p>	My Bible Hugs, scissors, card stock, glue sticks, red crayons	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut one cross from card stock for each child, about 2 inches by 3 inches.
	<p>Center 2: Golden-Calf Snack Create and eat golden calves.</p>	crispy-rice treats, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Worship Any Time Talk about worshipping God throughout the day.</p>	scissors, paper fastener Teacher Pack: "Clock" picture 	Follow the instructions on the "Clock" picture to make a clock.
	<p>Center 4: Crayon Worship Drawings Make crafts to remind them to worship only God.</p>	cooking oil, cotton balls, hole punch, paper plates, yarn, scissors, crayons	For each child, punch a hole in a paper plate and thread yarn through the hole for hanging.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenge Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Offer a prayer of worship.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-25

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Out of Sight

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

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

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

What Was Aaron Thinking?

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

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Glad" (track 9), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10)

hand clackers

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

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

What You'll Do

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

Lead children in singing "We're Glad" (track 9 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

♪ We're glad to be at church. (*make "thumbs up"*)
We have such fun at church. (*shake hands above head*)
We sing and pray (*make prayer hands*)
And learn God's way. (*point to head*)
We're glad to be at church today! (*make "thumbs up"*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **At church we get to worship God. And that's what we're learning about today—that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's worship God some more right now.**

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Have children share the hand clackers, taking turns making joyful noises with them between stanzas. Lead the other kids in clapping their hands or stomping their feet.

**♪ Let everything that moves,
 And everything that breathes,
 Praise the Lord.
 Praise the Lord.**

**From the rising of the sun
 'Til the time that it goes down,
 Praise the Lord.
 Praise the Lord.**

**Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
 Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
 Let everything that lives
 Sing praises to the Lord.**

Praise the Lord!

**Let everything that walks,
 And everything that runs,
 Praise the Lord.
 Praise the Lord.**

**No matter where you are,
 No matter where you've been,
 Praise the Lord.
 Praise the Lord.**

**Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
 Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.**



Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives

Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Hallelujah is a fun word from the Bible. Say it with me: Hallelujah. Now shout it: Hallelujah! Hallelujah means "praise the Lord." When we say "hallelujah," we're worshipping God. Today we'll learn that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD because he made everything.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY


Worship Only God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This means God is number one in our lives. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Have two children stand and face each other with their hands together over their heads as in the game London Bridge. Play "Worship God Only" (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel." Direct the other children to form a line and take turns walking under the "bridge" during the song. At the end of each stanza, have the children playing the bridge drop their arms to choose a friend. Then let children switch roles.

 **"Have no other gods before me."**
This is what God tells us.
God wants to be first in our lives.
Worship God only.
(Repeat 2x.)



Worship Only God Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Worship God Only"
(track 15)





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
lyrics page
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Print a page of lyrics
from the Internet. Tape
the lyrics page to Theo's
paw.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **God wants us to choose him just as you chose friends during our game. God tells us to love him more than anything. We must ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.** Today we'll hear how God's people learned this when they made a mistake.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought a song I like to sing.

Teacher: Did you want to sing for us, Theo?

Theo: Well, I heard you singing and I thought you might want this song to worship God.

Teacher: Oh, thank you, Theo! We were singing. And now we're going to hear about a different way that people worshipped in the Bible.

Theo: How's that?

Teacher: Actually, they were bowing down to a gold cow.

Theo: Really? Do you mean like this? (*Bows a few times.*)

Teacher: Yes, they were worshipping it, but God told them it was important that they only worship him, the real, true God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.*)

Theo: Would you mind if I come sing with you next time you worship God?

Teacher: Good idea, Theo. We'd love to have you.

Theo: Great! I better go home now.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

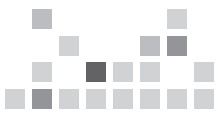
Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What things do you love to do as much as Theo loves to sing?
Explain whether you love those things more than you love God.
What can you do to show God you love him most?**



Say: **Theo learned that we put God first. We can love lots of things, but we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's hear more about that.**

Bible Time: The Golden Calf

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 32, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

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

Give each child a lump of modeling dough. As you talk, have children make jewelry such as rings and earrings with the dough.

Say: **A leader named Moses went up the mountain to talk with God. He was gone for a really, really long time—so long that God's people didn't know what happened to Moses. They didn't want to wait for Moses anymore, so they asked his brother, Aaron, to make a new god for them.**

Invite each child to show off what he or she made. Then say: **Have you ever made anything with your own hands that had as much power as God? Well, neither had Aaron or any of the other Israelites. But Aaron told the Israelites to bring him all their gold jewelry.** Have the children pile all the "jewelry" together.

Say: **Aaron melted the gold jewelry.** Invite the children to help you smash all the "jewelry" into one big blob. **Then he formed it into the shape of a calf, which is a baby cow.** Mold the clay into a calf. **The Israelites threw a big party for the golden calf, and they worshipped it instead of God.** Hold up the calf. Then invite the children to explain whether they think the calf you molded could help them.

Say: **God knew what the people did, and he was angry. He let Moses go down the mountain to talk to the Israelites. Moses was mad, too, because God had said to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. But the people were acting like the pretend cow was better than God! Moses put the golden calf into a fire until it burned up.** Let the children take turns smashing the calf until it's flat. Make sure every child gets a turn to help.

Say: **Moses taught the people that the golden calf wasn't a real god. Our God is the only real God, and he made us and always takes care of us. No one and nothing can take care of us like God does.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think of the golden calf?
- What's wrong with worshipping the calf?
- Why do you ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD?



Bible Time: The Golden Calf Supplies

Bible
modeling dough





Center 1: Room Only for God Supplies

My Bible Hugs
scissors
card stock
glue sticks
red crayons

Center 1: Room Only for God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut one cross from card stock for each child, about 2 inches by 3 inches.

Say: **God made us. God made the world. God loves us and cares for us like no one else can. No one is more important than God. That's why we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Room Only for God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 6 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we're learning that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Unlike God's people did, we don't want to worship a golden cow or anything except the one true God. Let's make something to remind us to worship God.**

Show the children how to use glue sticks to glue the cross shapes inside the hearts on the My Bible Hugs pages. Give each child a red crayon. Have the children each color the heart in completely, coloring over the cross as well. Caution the children to color lightly so they won't move the cross from its place.

Say: **We don't know what God looks like, so we often use a cross to show we are thinking of God. When we love God, it's as if God lives right inside our hearts. Right now, the hearts on your papers are empty. Let's change that and show that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Show the children how to carefully peel the crosses off the hearts. When children have finished, they'll have red hearts with white crosses inside.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What are some ways you can show God he's inside your heart?



Say: **We ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD** because he made us, he loves us, and he cares for us like no one else can! God deserves all our worship, love, and thanks. Like the crosses inside our hearts on our My Bible Hugs pages, God is number one in our hearts.

■ **CENTER 2:**

Golden-Calf Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **God's people made a golden cow to worship.**

Give each child a crispy-rice treat or a graham cracker. Let the children use their teeth to shape "golden cows" out of the bars. Even though children may not be able to perfectly create cow shapes from the treats, they'll have fun enjoying their snack while reviewing what happened in the Bible.

Invite the children to show the golden cows they created. Then say: **Remember, God wants us to worship no one except him.** Have the children repeat the Key Verse with you: **"Have no gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Say: **These crispy-rice cows are nothing to worship. They're just food.** Let the children eat the rest of their treats.

Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Say: **Like we ate the rest of our crispy-rice cows, Moses destroyed the golden calf because the people were worshipping it. God tells us that we should ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's remember to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD this week.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Worship Any Time

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Bible Point tells us to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. But just because we only worship God doesn't mean we can't worship him in different ways or at different times. Let's play a game to learn some different times we can worship God.**

Using the "Clock" picture, have children take turns setting the clock's hand to a different time of day. First have children identify the setting, and then have them share what they can worship God for at that time. For example, at the park, children can worship God for creating trees; at dinner, children can worship God for providing food.



Center 2: Golden-Calf Snack Supplies

crispy-rice treats
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! **ALLERGY ALERT**

Center 3: Worship Any Time Supplies

scissors
paper fastener
Teacher Pack
"Clock" picture

Center 3: Worship Any Time Easy Prep

Follow the instructions on the "Clock" picture to make a clock.





Center 4: Crayon Worship Drawings Supplies

cooking oil
cotton balls
hole punch
paper plates
yarn
scissors
crayons

Center 4: Crayon Worship Drawings Easy Prep

For each child, punch
a hole in a paper plate
and thread yarn through
the hole for hanging.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

What are some ways you'll worship God this week?

Say: **God made everything, is greater than anything or anyone, and never does anything wrong. When we look around, we see all the good things God has made. That's why we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. And we can worship him anytime, anywhere.**

■ CENTER 4:

Crayon Worship Drawings

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wants us to worship only him. We're going to make some beautiful drawings that you can hang in your bedroom windows. As you create your picture, worship God and tell him you love him and will ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Encourage your children to draw freely, pressing hard with the different colors of crayons on one side of the paper plates. Encourage them to fill in as much of the white areas as possible with the colors.

As each child finishes filling his or her plate, put some cooking oil on a cotton ball for him or her. Show children how to turn over their plates and rub oil on the backsides until the crayon shines through.

Have children clean their hands and then have them hold the plates up to a light. Say: **The light shines through your plate, just as God's love shines through when we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD through everything we do each day. There are lots of different ways to worship God. We can worship God when we sing, run and play, or make things for others. When we worship only God, it's beautiful, and it shines through so others can see God, too. Hang your plate in your room to remind you of this.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to worship God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Take turns blowing and popping bubbles with a friend or sibling. Each time you pop a bubble, praise God for something wonderful he has done in your life.**
- Sing a worship song to God.**

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children stand in a circle, and explain that they're to say "We worship only you" after you say each line of the following prayer.

- God, you made everything.** *(We worship only you.)*
- God, you are greater than anyone or anything.** *(We worship only you.)*
- God, you care for us.** *(We worship only you.)*
- God, you are never wrong.** *(We worship only you.)*
- God, you give us what we need.** *(We worship only you.)*
- Thank you, God.** *(We worship only you.)*
- In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38


Preschoolers love to help. It makes them feel grown up and like they're members of the team. It also builds their self-esteem. Use this lesson to help children discover that they can serve God, too, by serving others in their family, community, and church.



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

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will serve others by serving God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	No Other Gods Play a game about worshipping only God.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo wants to serve God.	CD player, Theo puppet, spoon, string Teacher Pack: CD	Tie the spoon to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle Bring supplies, and then build a "tabernacle."	Bible, blocks Teacher Pack: "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Hide blocks around the room.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: God's Church Decorate a church building.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons, glue sticks, scraps of paper, ribbon, stickers	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Construction Snack Build edible churches.</p>	graham crackers, frosting, craft sticks, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: God's House Is Beautiful! Make crafts, and learn they can serve God anywhere.</p>	paper plates, markers, various colors of modeling dough	
	<p>Center 4: Church-Rubbing Cards Make thank-you cards for church helpers.</p>	crayons, 1 copy per child of the "Thank-You Card" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the wrappers from several crayons.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Put away blocks, and sing a prayer song.</p>	block tabernacle from the Bible Time activity	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</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

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.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.



We're so glad you're here today.

Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

We're so glad you're here today.

Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

We're here to worship God today

To dance and shout and sing and play.

So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's great to celebrate that we're all here today. Today we'll learn that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. And one of the ways we serve God is by singing to him. Let's do that now.**

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and clapping their hands or stomping their feet.



Let everything that moves,

And everything that breathes,

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

From the rising of the sun

'Til the time that it goes down,

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.



Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that walks,
And everything that runs,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

No matter where you are,
No matter where you've been,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Great singing, everyone! Today we get to hear how God's people did something really great—they built a place to worship God. They all helped in their own special ways. Like those people, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let's learn how.**





No Other Gods Supplies

Bible

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

No Other Gods

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This means God is number one in our lives. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Say: **Let's play a game with our Key Verse. I'll go around the outside of the circle and tap each person on the shoulder as I say each word, "Have no other gods before me."** Demonstrate this step for children.

Say: **When I say the word "me," whoever I touch should jump up and chase me around the circle back to our starting spot.** Practice this step with children. After you practice, say: **Then it's that person's turn to be the "tapper."** Demonstrate by having the child you practiced with repeat the process.

Play the game until everyone has a chance to say the Key Verse and be chased.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like when you were the only one being chased?
Tell about a time you had all of someone's attention.
Why is it good to give God all your attention?**

Say: **God tells us to have no other gods before him—that means he wants our attention and love. One way we can give him attention and love is by serving him. Today we'll hear how some people served God and how ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**



3 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought a serving spoon.

Teacher: Why did you bring a serving spoon to church, Theo?

Theo: Because I want to serve you.

Teacher: That's great, Theo! How are you going to serve us?

Theo: I'm going to serve you some mashed potatoes.

Teacher: That's very sweet of you, Theo. And I know you like mashed potatoes, but would it be okay if you serve us another time? We'd love to spend time with you and serve you, too, but we're just about to read the Bible now.

Theo: Oh, of course.

Teacher: Great! We'll look forward to it. And do you know what? We're even learning about serving God today. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:* ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**)

Teacher: And today in the Bible we'll hear how the Israelites served God by building a church.

Theo: So serving is putting someone first?

Teacher: That's right!

Theo: Oh. Then I'm going to put you first by letting you read the Bible now. I'll serve you some mashed potatoes later.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Tell about a time you wanted to serve someone like Theo did.
Why might you want to serve God?**

Say: **It was great to see how Theo wanted to serve us. Today we'll learn how the Israelites served, or helped, God, and we'll learn how** ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**



Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
spoon

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the spoon to Theo's
paw.





Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle Supplies

Bible blocks

Teacher Pack

“The Israelites Build the Tabernacle” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle Easy Prep

Hide blocks around the room.

Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 35–36, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book.

Show the “Israelites Build the Tabernacle” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack). Say: **Today’s Bible passage tells us that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let’s hear how God’s people, the Israelites, helped God.**

Call kids’ attention to the “Israelites Build the Tabernacle” poster. Encourage children to point out details they see in the poster, such as ways the people helped build the church or materials they donated.

Say: **God told the Israelites to help build a tabernacle, which is like a church, where they could come and worship him. Their leader, Moses, said to the Israelites, “Please bring anything you can to help us build the church.”** Ask the children to name things we might need to build a church, such as wood, hammers, nails, or ladders.

Say: **Whew! We need a lot to build a church. Let’s pretend to be Israelites now and find blocks that we can use to build a church.** Have children form pairs, and ask pairs to look around the room for blocks. Encourage children to bring all the blocks to one pile. Then have children gather around the pile of blocks.

Say: **The Israelites helped God. They brought so many things that Moses had to tell them to stop! Just as we have lots of blocks, the Israelites had lots of things to build a church with.**

Once they had all the stuff, God still needed lots of help from the Israelites to build the church. God needed workers. Who can work to help us build the church? We can all help God by building the church.

Instruct the children to make several stacks of three blocks each and place the stacks right next to each other. Help the children create a simple square with the stacks. When children have used all the blocks, have them applaud and cheer for the work they’ve done. Leave the block tabernacle standing for the closing prayer.

Say: **You’ve done a wonderful job! You’ve helped God by building a church. Helping God is serving God. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to look for blocks and build a church today?
What are some ways you’re a good helper?**



Say: **You can be a good helper and serve God, just like the Israelites. They shared their things, and they helped do the hard work. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD by sharing our things and helping, too.**



4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

God’s Church

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 7 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how the Israelites shared their things and helped with the hard work of building a church for God. The churches on our My Bible Hugs pages aren’t finished. They’re like a partly built building. Let’s help finish them.**

Encourage children to each decorate their church building by drawing, gluing ribbon and scraps, and putting stickers on it. As they work, remind children that the Israelites gave a lot of their own things and worked very hard to build God’s church.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Our Bible Point says ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let’s say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Bible Point with you. **If we do something because we love God and want to put him first, we are serving God. Let’s keep our church pages to remind us to serve God.**

Center 1: God’s Church Supplies

- My Bible Hugs crayons
- glue sticks
- scraps of paper
- ribbon
- stickers

Center 1: God’s Church Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.





Center 2: Construction Snack Supplies

graham crackers
frosting
craft sticks
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: God's House Is Beautiful! Supplies

paper plates
markers
various colors of
modeling dough

CENTER 2:

Construction Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. We heard in the Bible today how the Israelites built a church for God. Let's build a church with our snacks.**

Show children how to use the craft sticks to spread frosting on the graham crackers and cement them together to build edible churches.

Say: **Let's thank God for giving us ways to serve him and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack. Then allow the children to eat their creations.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like to build churches like the Israelites with your snack?
What are some ways people can serve God?
Tell about a way you want to serve God this week.**

Say: **The Israelites served God by giving everything they had to help build the church. They were also special helpers. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too, when we share and when we help others.**

CENTER 3:

God's House Is Beautiful!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we heard how the Israelites built a beautiful church for God. And we learned that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too. Sometimes people call a church "God's House." Let's make some beautiful houses for God.**

Give each child a paper plate. Set out various colors of modeling dough, and show kids how to make a ball about the size of a small orange. Show them how to gently press it down on their paper plates to make a cube shape that looks like a building. Let your children add other colors to their buildings to look like doors, windows, or plants along the edge.

Remind children that we can serve God no matter where we are.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We make God so happy when we serve him. We can serve him anywhere. You can serve God when you're at church, at your babysitter's house, at your grandparents' house, or at your home by doing nice things for your family. Just like the Israelites, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Church-Rubbing Cards

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's make a craft to help us remember that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let's make thank-you cards for people in our church.** Help the children think of people who serve the church on a regular basis, such as the pastor, the secretary, the janitor, or the music director.

Say: **We read in the Bible that the people all brought things to help build the church for God. Let's all find something in the room to help us with our craft.** Allow them to walk around the room—or the church building if you're accompanying them—and search for unique textures. Bricks, wood, and carpeting will work well.

Say: **After they brought all the supplies, they went to work. Let's get to work making our craft.** Give each child a "Thank-You Card" page and some unwrapped crayons. Show children how to place their cards on the texture and then rub the side of a crayon over the church shape on their papers. To avoid accidental coloring on the textures, encourage children to fill only the centers of their papers with the crayon rubbings.

Let the children take turns dictating simple messages to the people they have chosen to thank who serve in the church. Then have children deliver the cards.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Why do you like thanking someone for helping God?

Say: **You helped God by thanking the people who work in our church! It's important to know that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**



Center 4: Church-Rubbing Cards Supplies

crayons
1 copy per child of the "Thank-You Card" page (at the end of the lesson)

Center 4: Church-Rubbing Cards Easy Prep

Remove the wrappers from several crayons.





Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Action Prayer
Supplies

block tabernacle from
the Bible Time activity

5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

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

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

Talk With Kids

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

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Make a snack for yourself and a friend. Before you eat, thank God for helping you serve others so that you can serve God.

Pick up trash around your house or neighborhood with your parents. Remember that you are serving God when you are helping others.

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Have the children stand in a single-file line from the tabernacle they built to the place the blocks are kept. Explain that they'll put away the blocks while they sing a prayer. They'll pass the blocks, one at a time, from one end of the line to the next while they sing. Lead children in singing "Serve God Every Day" (not on the CD) to the tune of "King of Kings."

Pray: **Dear God...**

Then begin handing the blocks to the first child in line as children sing this song.

Help me serve you every day—Glory! Hallelujah!

Help me serve you every day—Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Hallelujah!



Repeat the song until the blocks have been put away.

Say: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

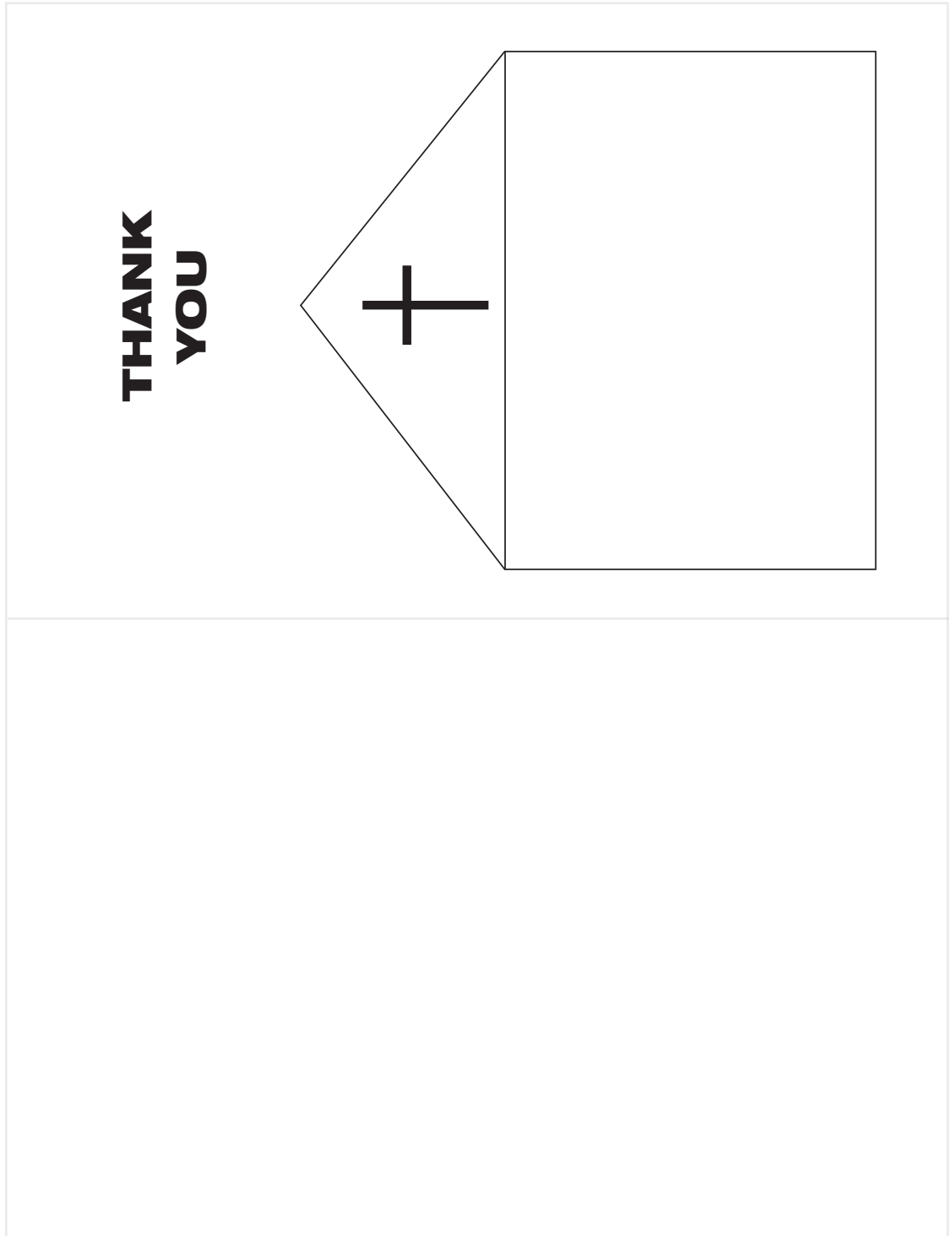
Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Thank-You Card



**OK
TO COPY**





Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Children don't like to see the people they love being teased, but they don't know how to handle those situations. Use this lesson to help children know God's with them, and help them learn how they can be brave by standing up for God and for others.



► **Bible Point**
Be brave for God.

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will be brave by standing up for God and believing he's with them.

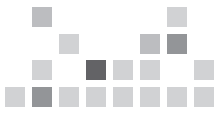
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Silly Shadows Try to escape their shadows.	Bible, bright lamp	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo wants to stand up for God.	CD player, Theo puppet, shoe Teacher Pack: CD	Put the shoe on Theo's foot.
	Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan Explore the church as the Israelites explored Canaan.	Bible, CD player, scissors, bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons, card stock Teacher Pack: CD, spy mask pattern	Hide the bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons for kids to find. Make card stock copies of the spy mask pattern, and cut out the masks so there's 1 mask per child.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Grapes and Giants Find hidden pictures of grapes.</p>	My Bible Hugs, highlighters	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Canaan Snack Enjoy the snacks they found while exploring "Canaan."</p>	bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons from the "Sneaking Into Canaan" activity, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: We Spy Take turns hiding and spying for the bendable man.</p>	crayons, two 12-inch pieces of yarn for each child, spy masks from the Bible Time activity Teacher Pack: bendable man	
	<p>Center 4: Grape Expectations Make a craft to represent the Promised Land.</p>	paper plates, markers, glue sticks, blue drink-mix powder	Write "Thanks for standing up for God" across the top of a paper plate, 1 per child.
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Pray and cheer as a group.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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

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

Mission Impossible

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

The Faith of a Mustard Seed

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

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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

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





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our

Class" (track 16),

"Stand Up!" (track 17)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.



We're so glad you're here today.

Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

We're so glad you're here today.

Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

We're here to worship God today

To dance and shout and sing and play.

So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **We really do have something to shout "Hooray" about because we have a great big God! And today we're learning we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too. One way we can do that is by standing up for God. Let's sing a song about that.**

Lead children in singing "Stand Up!" (track 17 on the CD) to the tune of "Old MacDonald." Encourage kids to do the motions in parentheses.



Stand up for God no matter what. (*stomp right foot*)

I'll stand up for God. (*stomp left foot*)

Stand up for God no matter what. (*stomp right foot*)

I'll stand up for God. (*stomp left foot*)

I will love my God, obey my God, (*hug self; then point up*)

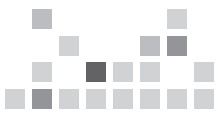
Love my God, obey my God, (*hug self; then point up*)

Stand up for God no matter what. (*stomp right foot*)

I'll stand up for God. (*stomp left foot*)

(Repeat.)





Say: Today we'll hear about how two friends were brave by standing up for God. And we'll learn that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Silly Shadows

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This means that God is always with us no matter what. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).**

Set a bright lamp about 5 feet away from a wall, and remove the lampshade. Show the children how to cast their shadows on the wall by standing in front of the lamp.

Say: **Let's see how fast you are. Try to move so fast that your shadow doesn't follow you. You'll need to be sneaky to escape your shadow!**

Give the children a few moments to attempt to run away from their shadows. After a few moments, have the children sit down.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**Explain how easy or hard it was to escape from your shadow.
How is your shadow like the way God is with you?**

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD because we know he's with us everywhere we go. Today we'll hear how he was with some people in the Bible, and we'll hear how they were brave for God.**

Silly Shadows Supplies

Bible
bright lamp





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
shoe

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Put the shoe on Theo's
foot.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. How come you're wearing a shoe?

Theo: Well, it's a special shoe. It helps me be strong and brave.

Teacher: It is? How does it do that?

Theo: I'm not actually sure. But I need something to help me be brave.

Teacher: Do you know what, Theo? We're learning about being brave today. We're learning that God is always with us, so we can be brave for him.

Theo: Really? I'd love to learn more about being brave.

Teacher: That's great, Theo. And you're welcome to stay to hear the Bible. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:*

► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**)

Theo: So maybe I don't need this shoe to be brave.

Teacher: That's right! I'm glad you understand now.

Theo: I'm going to put my shoe back in my house.

Teacher: Thank you, boys and girls, for helping Theo understand what it means to be brave for God. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Explain whether you want to be brave like Theo does.

Why does knowing God's with you help you be brave?

Say: **It's good to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. When we believe in him and know he's with us, we can always have the courage to do what we know is right. Let's hear about some people in the Bible who were brave for God.**



Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Numbers 13–14, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Today we get to learn how we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Say: **The Bible tells us that God promised his people, the Israelites, that he’d give them a wonderful land to live in. One day, God told Moses to have some Israelite leaders sneak into a land called Canaan to see what it would be like to live there.** Give each child a spy mask.

Say: **Twelve leaders of Israel went exploring. Let’s hold our spy masks to our eyes and do some looking of our own. Remember that spies don’t want other people to see them. They’re very quiet and sneaky as they look around and learn about people and places.** Lead the children in pretending to be spies by sneaking around your room or church building. Lead them to the bowl of snacks.

Say: **The Israelite spies found good food in the land of Canaan. They even carried some of the food back with them.** Pick up the bowl of snacks. **But they found something else, too. They found lots of giant people who were very strong! Most of the explorers were afraid of those giants.**

Lead kids back to the center of your room. Set aside the bowl of snacks, and have kids gather around you.

Say: **When the 12 leaders came home, all the Israelites talked with the spies about what they’d found.** Have each child take a turn standing up and naming one thing he or she spied while on your journey. Lead the children in applauding for each spy.

Play “Angry People” (track 6 on the CD). Say: **Ten of the spies said the land wasn’t good because they were afraid of the giants. Because of what those men said, the Israelites got angry with Moses again.**

But two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, remembered that God had promised the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb were brave for God. They believed God would be with them and help them. They told everyone that the land was good, and they asked everyone to remember all God had done for them.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.



Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- scissors
- bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons
- card stock
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Angry People” (track 6)
- spy mask pattern

Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan Easy Prep

Hide the bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons for kids to find. Make card stock copies of the spy mask pattern, and cut out the masks so there’s 1 mask per child.





Ask:

**What was it like to pretend to be spies?
Tell about a time you were brave like Joshua and Caleb.
What are some ways you can be brave for God?**

Say: **God is more powerful than giants or giant problems. God was happy that Caleb and Joshua were brave for him. You can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Grapes and Giants

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 8 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how Joshua and Caleb were brave for God when they spied on Canaan. They spied huge grapes and other great things, too. Let's be spies with our My Bible Hugs pages and look for the hidden grapes.**

Tell children there are five bunches of grapes hidden in the scene of Canaan for them to find. Show children how to use highlighters to color or circle the pictures they find.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**How was looking for the grapes like or unlike the spies we read about in the Bible?
Why do you think spies are very brave?
Why do you want to be very brave?**

Say: **Some of the Israelites didn't think about anything but the giants they saw in Canaan. But Joshua and Caleb knew Canaan would be a good place to live, and they believed in God's promises. They were brave for God, and you can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

Center 1: Grapes and Giants Supplies

My Bible Hugs
highlighters

Center 1: Grapes and Giants Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8
pages from each My
Bible Hugs student
book, and write
children's names on
them.





CENTER 2:

Canaan Snack

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **On our spy journey, we found some great snacks just like Joshua and Caleb found great big grapes. Now we get to eat the snack we found.**

Lead the children in prayer, and then let them enjoy the snack. As they eat, encourage them to discuss ways they can be brave.

Talk With Kids

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD like Joshua and Caleb were. They knew God was with them and he'd take care of them, and we know he'll take care of us, too.**

CENTER 3:

We Spy

What You'll Do

Say: **Today we learned we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD because we know he's always with us. Just as two Israelite spies did, we can be brave. Let's decorate our own spy masks and play a game to help us remember to be brave.**

As children work, help them attach yarn to their masks and tie them to fit. You can either poke holes in the masks and thread yarn through the holes, or tie large knots on the ends of each piece of yarn and staple the knots to the masks.

Set out the bendable man, and have children put on their spy masks. Then help the children get into pairs. Help one pair of children hide the bendable man while the other children hide their eyes. When the character is hidden, have the "spies" quietly sneak around the room and look for the bendable man. The pair that finds the bendable man first can hide it next.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like being a spy in this game?**
- What's great about being brave for God?**

Say: **Some of the spies saw the beautiful land God gave them, but they weren't brave for God because they didn't believe God could help them. But we know that God can help us, and he will! We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD because we know he'll be with us wherever we go.**



Center 2: Canaan Snack Supplies

- bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons from the "Sneaking Into Canaan" activity
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: We Spy Supplies

- crayons
- two 12-inch pieces of yarn for each child
- spy masks from the Bible Time activity

Teacher Pack
bendable man





Center 4: Grape Expectations Supplies

- paper plates
- markers
- glue sticks
- blue drink-mix powder

Center 4: Grape Expectations Easy Prep

Write "Thanks for standing up for God" across the top of a paper plate, 1 per child.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

CENTER 4:

Grape Expectations

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Joshua and Caleb were brave because they stood up for God. They knew he wanted them to move to Canaan. And even though they knew there were scary people in Canaan, they also knew God was with them and would protect them.**

Invite the children to talk about some people they know who are brave by standing up for God.

Give each child one of the paper plates and a glue stick. Then say: **Let's make a craft to give to the people we know who are brave for God because they stand up for him.**

Show children how to blot the glue on the paper plate to make several circles of glue. Help children sprinkle blue drink-mix powder on the glue and then shake the excess powder off their plates.

Say: **Caleb and Joshua were brave for God. When they looked at the land, they saw the good food, like grapes, that God wanted to give his people.** Point out to kids how they now have grapes on their plates.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Joshua and Caleb tried to get people to be brave and stand up for God, too!**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

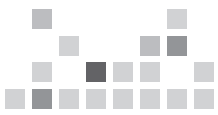
After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to be brave for God this week.**





Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Draw a picture of a time you were brave for God.

Sing “Ring Around the Rosie” with friends. Instead of falling down at the end of the song, stomp your feet and say, “We are brave for God!” As you stand straight and tall, tell your friends that they can stand up for God, too.

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

Action Prayer

What You’ll Do

Have children form a tight circle and put their right hands in the circle like a sports team does before they cheer. Lead the children in squatting down low to the ground. Explain that you’ll say a prayer and then count to three. Then everyone will jump up and shout, “I’ll be brave for God!”

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for being with us wherever we go. We know you’ll help us be brave for you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

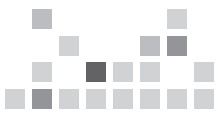
Say: **One, two, three!
I’ll be brave for God!**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





Balaam's Donkey Talks

Numbers 22:1-38


Young children have a growing interest in nature. They love animals, snow, rain, and flowers. Use this lesson to help children understand that God made everything and he'll help them know the best way to live.



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

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will remember to pay attention to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Stick Together Track their footprints, and remember God is with them.	Bible, colored tablecloth, shallow tray, baby powder	Spread the tablecloth on the floor. Pour some baby powder into a shallow tray and set it on the edge of the tablecloth.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo pays attention to God.	CD player, Theo puppet, empty paper towel tube, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Tape the paper towel tube to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: The Talking Donkey Watch finger puppets "perform" the talking donkey, and learn a rhyme.	Bible, tape, scissors Teacher Pack: "Balaam, Donkey, Angel" finger puppets, "Balaam's Donkey Talks" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut out the finger puppets. Tape them closed so they'll stay on your fingers.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Eyes and Ears</p> <p>Make eyes and ears for Balaam and his donkey to pay attention with.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, glue sticks, cotton balls</p> <p>Teacher Pack: stamp pad</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Happy-Face Snack</p> <p>Make a snack to reinforce that God is happy when we pay attention to him.</p>	<p>paper plates, large craft sticks, small bagels (½ per child), cream cheese, raisin halves, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Donkey Drama</p> <p>Play a game to learn about paying close attention.</p>	<p>"Balaam, Donkey, Angel" finger puppets from the Bible Time activity</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Donkey Talk</p> <p>Make puppets to help them remember what happened to Balaam.</p>	<p>scissors, tape, markers, brown lunch bags, "Donkey Ears" page (at the end of the lesson)</p>	<p>Copy and cut out 2 donkey ears per child.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer</p> <p>Sing a prayer asking God to help them hear and obey him.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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



Balaam’s Donkey Talks

Numbers 22:1-38

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

The Fortuneteller

This event takes place near the end of the Israelites’ time of wandering in the desert. They had defeated a few adversaries in their travels and were approaching the Promised Land again. The leader of Moab was afraid of what Israel might do to his land, so he sought the help of Balaam.

Apparently Balaam was a widely known fortuneteller, or diviner, who made his living through his divination. He probably believed in many gods and would consult anyone, including the Lord, who could help him earn his fees.

A Wrong Motive

Even though Balaam called upon the Lord and spoke God’s words to the people sent by Balak, Balaam’s underlying motive was for selfish gain.

When God had told Balaam “no” the first time, Balaam should have taken that as a final answer. But when Balaam came back to God a second time, it was clear that Balaam’s desire for financial gain was greater than his desire to do what God told him. In letting Balaam go but not letting him do anything that would please Balak, God was showing how he disliked Balaam’s money-hungry attitude.

God let Balaam go with Balak’s men, but God was angry because he knew that Balaam was acting from self-interest and greed.

A Talking Donkey?

Not being able to see the angel his donkey saw must have been a huge insult to Balaam, who prided himself on knowing and seeing spiritual things. Certainly Balaam was humiliated when the donkey had to speak in order to get him to see reality. Balaam

had been blinded by his desire for riches. God finally opened his eyes to the angel standing in the path and to the evil of what Balaam had been doing.

Speaking God’s Words

After getting Balaam’s attention through the donkey and the angel, God let Balaam know that he wanted Balaam to go through with his trip but to speak only what God said. This whole event was intended to help Balaam think clearly and to know that he had to do what God told him.

The Jesus Connection

God is always doing things in us and through us, but we can sometimes forget that and stop paying attention to him. When we let our focus stay on God, we can be used more easily by him. Write the most recent thing you can remember that helped you see God at work. Ask God to help you pay attention to him in the big and small things in your life. You can write your prayer on the lines below.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcome and Celebrate

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

What You'll Do


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

Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We're so glad you're here today.**
Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)
We're so glad you're here today.
Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)
We're here to worship God today
To dance and shout and sing and play.
So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"
Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: I'm glad you're here today because we get to hear about something really special God did. And we'll learn to ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.** Let's sing one more song to God before we hear the amazing thing God did.

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and clapping their hands or stomping their feet.

 **Let everything that moves,**
And everything that breathes,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

From the rising of the sun
'Til the time that it goes down,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that walks,
And everything that runs,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.





No matter where you are,
No matter where you've been,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God does really amazing things. Today we get to hear how God made a donkey talk! He did it to remind us to pay attention to him. Let's learn more about how God is with us and why we want to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Stick Together

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This means that God is always with us no matter what. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).**

Have the children take off their shoes and socks. Say: **Let's do something fun to help us remember that God is with us wherever we go, like our Key Verse says.**

Invite children to take turns standing in the tray of baby powder and then walking around on the tablecloth. Once everyone has a chance to track his or her footprints on the tablecloth, have the children sit around the edge of it.

Say: **Look at all your footprints and how they followed you wherever you went.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.



Stick Together Supplies

- Bible
- colored tablecloth
- shallow tray
- baby powder

Stick Together Easy Prep

Spread the tablecloth on the floor. Pour some baby powder into a shallow tray and set it on the edge of the tablecloth.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
empty paper towel tube
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape the paper towel
tube to Theo's paw.

Ask:

**What did you like about watching your footprints follow you?
What do you like about knowing God's always with you just like that?
If God is always with you, why do you want to pay attention to him?**

Say: **Our footprints went wherever we went, just like God is with us wherever we go. God loves us and always wants what's best for us. That's why we want to**
▶ **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.** He'll always protect us and show us what to do when we pay attention to him.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I brought a tube.

Teacher: What are you going to do with that, Theo?

Theo: I'm going to use it to look at birds.

Teacher: What fun! Does the tube help you see?

Theo: No, I look at just one bird through the tube. The tube helps me pay attention to the bird.

Teacher: Oh, that's kind of like the way we can ▶ **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Today we're learning our Bible Point about how God wants us to pay attention to him.

Friends, can you tell Theo what you learned about God?

(Pause for children to help Theo.)

Teacher: Let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ▶ PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.)* And today in the Bible we'll hear about a man who learned to pay attention to God.

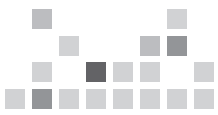
Theo: So when we pay attention to God, we'll see that he's always with us?

Teacher: That's right!

Theo: That sounds great. I'm going to go put my tube back in my house.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What things do you like to pay attention to, like Theo watches the birds?
Why would you want to pay attention to God like that?**

Say: **When we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, we make him happy. He’s always with us, and he wants us to see all the great things he’s doing, and he wants to lead us to really great places. Let’s hear how God wanted to lead a man in the Bible named Balaam.**

Bible Time: The Talking Donkey

What You’ll Do

Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Numbers 22, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Today as we read about a talking donkey, we’ll learn to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Show the “Balaam’s Donkey Talks” poster, and place it in the middle of your circle.

Say: **When we listen and watch carefully, we’re paying attention. Let’s hear how the talking donkey helped a man in the Bible to pay attention to God.**

Invite the three children sitting to the right of you in the circle to put on the finger puppets, and help them understand which puppet is which person or animal in the Bible. Ask them to wiggle their fingers as you tell what happened.

Say: **Balaam was a man who didn’t pay attention to God.** Encourage the child with the Balaam puppet to wiggle his or her finger. **A bad king wanted Balaam to come see him and pray that bad things would happen to the Israelites.**

Have the child with the Balaam puppet pass it to the fourth child in your circle, and have him or her put it on. Then say: **God told Balaam not to pray for bad things. But Balaam didn’t listen.** Have Balaam shake his or her finger.

Invite the children to tell about times they didn’t want to listen. Then have the child with Balaam pass it to the next person.

Say: **Balaam got on his donkey and rode to see the king.** Encourage the children with the Balaam and donkey puppets to wiggle their fingers.

Have the children with Balaam and the donkey pass the puppets on in the circle. Say: **God was angry with Balaam, and he sent an angel to talk to him.** Have the children with Balaam and the angel wiggle their fingers.



Bible Time: The Talking Donkey Supplies

.....
Bible
tape
scissors

Teacher Pack

“Balaam, Donkey, Angel” finger puppets
“Balaam’s Donkey Talks” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: The Talking Donkey Easy Prep

.....
Cut out the finger puppets. Tape them closed so they’ll stay on your fingers.





Continue having children pass the puppets around the circle after they each get a chance to use the finger puppets as the Bible passage continues.

Say: **Balaam didn't hear the angel, but his donkey did. The donkey walked into a field to lie down.** Wiggle and switch.

Balaam was angry, and he hit the donkey with a stick. Wiggle and switch.

Then God let the donkey talk. The donkey said, "Why are you beating me? Have I ever treated you this way?" Wiggle and switch.

Balaam said, "I'm angry at you because you are making me look like a fool." Wiggle and switch.

Then Balaam saw the angel and fell to the ground. The angel said, "Don't beat your donkey and make it a fool. ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, and obey God's rule." Wiggle and switch.

Teach your children the words to this rhyme, and have them repeat it with you several times:

**"Don't beat your donkey
And make it a fool.
► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD,
And obey God's rule."**

Let children take turns using the puppets as they say the rhyme together.

Say: **So Balaam went to the king, but he prayed for good things for the Israelites.**

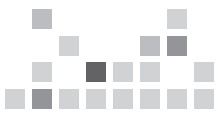
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What do you think about how God got Balaam to listen?
Tell about a time you were a good listener.
What are some ways you can listen to God?**

Say: **God did great things to help Balaam listen and pay attention to him. And God wants us to listen to him, too. Let's really try to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD this week.**



4

**WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

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

CENTER 1:

Eyes and Ears

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 9 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how God made a donkey talk so that Balaam would pay attention to him. Let's think about how we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Ask the children what Balaam needs in this picture in order to pay attention to God. Then tell children that they'll help Balaam pay ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD** by making eyes and ears.

Have children take turns pressing their fingers into the stamp pad and then onto the page to make eyes for Balaam. Then show children how to rub glue on the page and stretch apart the cotton balls to create ears for Balaam.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways you use your eyes to pay attention?**
- What are some ways you use your ears to pay attention?**
- What can you do this week to pay attention to God?**

Say: **We can use our ears to listen to God. We can use our eyes to see what God has done. We can remember to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, just like the donkey did.**



**Center 1: Eyes and Ears
Supplies**

-
- My Bible Hugs
 - glue sticks
 - cotton balls
 - Teacher Pack**
 - stamp pad

**Center 1: Eyes and Ears
Easy Prep**

-
- Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.





Center 2: Happy-Face Snack Supplies

paper plates
large craft sticks
small bagels (½ per
child)
cream cheese
raisin halves
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Center 3: Donkey Drama Supplies

“Balaam, Donkey,
Angel” finger puppets
from the Bible Time
activity

CENTER 2:

Happy-Face Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Today we're learning to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. Let's make some snacks to help us remember to look for God and listen to him.**

Have children use craft sticks to spread their bagel halves with cream cheese, and have them use raisins to make “smiles” on their bagels. Tell children not to put eyes on their bagels yet.

Say: **Balaam didn't use his eyes. He didn't see the angel. Balaam didn't pay attention.** Invite the children to tell ways they can look for God. Then have them add raisins to make eyes on the bagels.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can pay attention to God by watching with our eyes and listening with our ears. Let's thank God for providing our snack and ask him to help us remember to pay attention to him.** Invite a child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

Donkey Drama

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Donkeys don't talk, except when God makes them talk. God really wanted Balaam to pay attention to him. Let's play a game to help us remember to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Put the angel finger puppet on one of your hands and the donkey puppet on the other. Say: **Let's pretend we're Balaam and we're learning to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.** Have the children pretend to ride a donkey as they move around in a circle.

Say: **Now, as you ride your donkey around the circle, pay attention. I have the donkey on one of my fingers. If I tap you with the donkey, say “Ow! Why'd you do that, donkey?”** Lead children in practicing this part of the game.

Say: **Now, if I tap you with the angel, say “► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.”** Lead children in practicing this step.

Then play using both of the puppets, encouraging children to pay close attention to which puppet you tap them with so they can react accordingly.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What was it like paying attention in this game?
Why is it important for us to pay attention to God?**

Say: **When we remember to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, God will help us and be with us. We'll see him do amazing things all the time when we pay attention to him.**

CENTER 4:

Donkey Talk

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's make donkey puppets you can use to help tell what happened to Balaam.**

Show children how to tape their donkey ears to the top of a paper bag. Let the children add eyes and a nose to the front of the bag to make the donkey. Don't worry if the faces don't look "donkey-like."

Encourage children to use the puppets to tell what happened in the Bible passage. Then have them repeat the angel rhyme:

**"Don't beat your donkey
And make it a fool.
► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD,
And obey God's rule."**

Talk With Kids

Say: **It's important that we ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD the way Balaam finally did. Let's look for God this week and listen to what he tells us.**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

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



Center 4: Donkey Talk Supplies

scissors
tape
markers
brown lunch bags
"Donkey Ears" page (at the end of the lesson)

Center 4: Donkey Talk Easy Prep

Copy and cut out 2 donkey ears per child.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





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

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned to ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.** I would like each of you to choose a way to pay attention to God this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Wear headphones to block out sounds as you listen to a song about Jesus. Remember to listen and pay attention to God.


Play a game of Simon Says with your mom or dad, and keep in mind that it's important for you to pay attention to God just as you pay attention during the game.

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Form a circle, and have the children sit down. Teach children the words to this prayer, "I Hear You," sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."

 Help me, God, to hear you,
To obey you in all I do.
Help me hear all you say
To obey you in all I do.
Yes, God, I hear you.

Yes, God, I hear you.
Yes, God, I hear you,
And I will obey you.
In Jesus' name, amen.

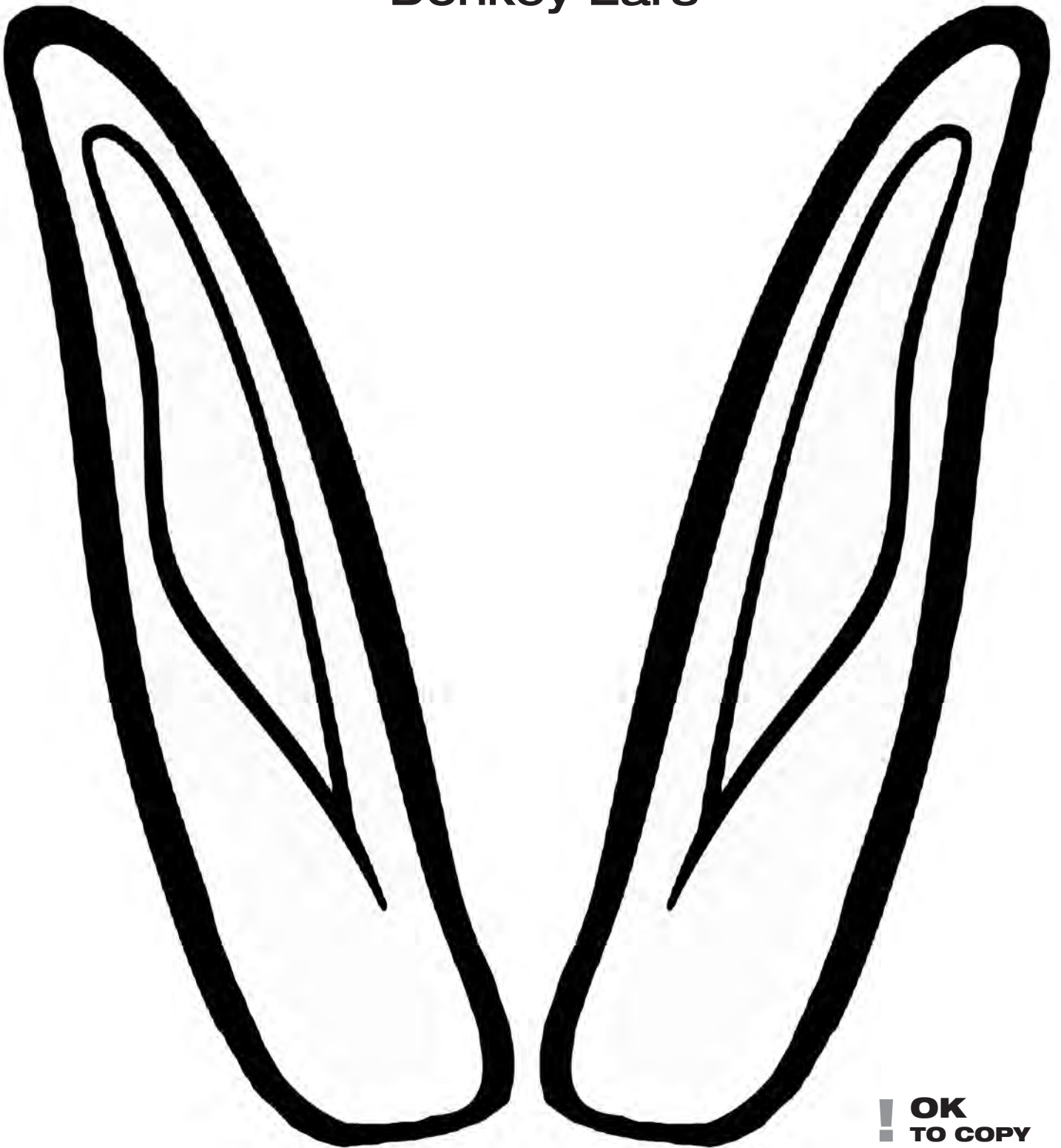
Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Donkey Ears



**OK
TO COPY**



Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Although children at this age tend to be quite independent, they usually don't hesitate to ask for help. Some days they want more help than other days for the same tasks. Sometimes this is due to a desire for more attention. Just as kids need to know that you're there to help them when they need it, it's important for children to know that God is always there to help them. Use this lesson to help kids know that God is always with them, no matter what.



► Bible Point
God is with us.


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

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will know God is with them all the time.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player, washable marker Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Wherever You Go Sing about God helping us be strong and courageous.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, royal crown	Form the royal crown.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo trusts God to help him lead.	CD player, Theo puppet, small blanket Teacher Pack: CD	Place the blanket over Theo's head.
	Bible Time: Strong and Courageous Learn how God helped Joshua be strong and courageous.	Bible Teacher Pack: royal crown	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: God With Me See themselves with God.</p>	My Bible Hugs, one 2x2-inch aluminum-foil square per child, marker, glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Stuck-Together Snack Make a snack that sticks together just as God sticks with them.</p>	large marshmallows, chocolate chips, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: God's Help Talk about how God can help them in different situations.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Kindness" cards</p> 	
	<p>Center 4: Brave Hearts Make medals to remember Joshua and to honor the bravery of veterans.</p>	red paper, copies of the "Heart Medal" page (at the end of the lesson), washable markers, scissors, hole punch, 2-foot piece of yarn per child	Copy the "Heart Medal" page onto red paper, and cut out 1 heart per child. Punch a hole in the middle of the top of each heart.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Ask God to help them be strong and courageous.</p>	Teacher Pack: royal crown	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God With You

.....

As we begin this passage, Moses had died and Joshua had taken over the leadership of the Israelites, as had been arranged in advance (Deuteronomy 31:1-8). Joshua 1:5 tells us that God was going to be with Joshua in the same way he had been with Moses.

God at Work Through You

.....

The question may arise: Why was it okay for the Israelites to kill other people and take away their land? This is a complicated question. However, one point seems apparent: God was using Israel to judge the immoral people who lived in the land at the time. Just as Israel was later defeated and their land taken away because of sin, so God was using Israel as an instrument of punishment, taking away the land of the Canaanites because of their sin.

God’s Plan for You

.....

In this passage God gave Joshua a command of encouragement (“Be strong and courageous”), a condition for success (“obey all the law my servant Moses gave you”), and a promise of his presence (“the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”). God had a plan for Israel, and Joshua was the instrument through which he was going to accomplish that plan.

God Goes Before You

.....

What more could Joshua ask for? All he had to do was follow what God laid out for him, and God would be there to assure his success. However unsure or discouraged Joshua might have been at the death of Moses, this visit from God rejuvenated him. The first thing recorded after God’s message to him is

Joshua’s ordering the leaders to get the people ready to cross the Jordan. The Israelites were ready to move into the Promised Land, and God was going to give them the land.

The Jesus Connection

.....

Our plans and God’s plans don’t always match. We want to be happy now; God wants to give us greater joy as we surrender our lives to his service. When we commit our lives to Christ, he uses us to accomplish his mission. God promises the same thing to us that he promised to Joshua: He’ll be with us all the time. On the lines below, write a prayer about one area of your life in which you need to know God is with you.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
washable marker

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16), "God Is With Me" (track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.



We're so glad you're here today.

Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

We're so glad you're here today.

Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

We're here to worship God today

To dance and shout and sing and play.

So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **We have something to say "Hooray!" about today! We're learning that ► GOD IS WITH US. And that's what our next song is about. Let's sing.**

Lead children in singing "God Is With Me" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Lead kids in singing. While they sing, use a washable marker to draw a cross on each child's hand.



My God loves me, this I know.

He'll be with me wherever I go.

No matter what the time of day,

God is in my heart to stay.

Yes, God is with me.

Yes, God is with me.

Yes, God is with me.

He's in my heart to stay.

(Repeat.)



Say: **I drew a cross on your hand because the cross can help us remember that
▶ GOD IS WITH US. Today we'll hear how God showed a man named Joshua that
he was with him.**



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Wherever You Go

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This means that God is always with us no matter what. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).**

Say: **We can be so thankful that God's with us wherever we go. We know he'll take care of us and love us all the time.** Invite the children to tell things they do when they're thankful.

Say: **Some people sing when they're thankful. Let's sing a song now to thank God that's he's with us wherever we go.**

Lead children in singing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 4 on the CD). As children sing the song, have them take turns wearing the royal crown. Whoever is wearing the crown gets to flex his or her muscles and sing "Be strong!"

Have I not commanded you? (*stand with hands on hips*)
Be strong and courageous. (*make muscles*)
Do not be terrified; (*make scared face*)
Do not be discouraged, (*shake head "no"*)
For the Lord your God will be with you (*point up; then hug self*)
Wherever you go. (*point around the room*)
Wherever you go. (*point around the room*)
(Repeat 3x.)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:
What did you like about wearing the crown?
Tell about someone really strong you know.
What are some ways God can help you be strong, too?

Wherever You Go Supplies

Bible
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Wherever You Go"
(Joshua 1:9) (track 4)
royal crown

Wherever You Go Easy Prep

Form the royal crown.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
small blanket
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Place the blanket over
Theo's head.

Say: **Just as our Key Verse says, ► GOD IS WITH US** wherever we go—and he can help us be strong. That's a nice thing to remember when you feel scared or sad or even happy and glad! Let's hear how God was with a man named Joshua.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Teacher: Theo, is that you?

Theo: *(Quietly)* Yes.

Teacher: Theo, what's wrong? Take the blanket off your head so we can see you. *(Remove the blanket from Theo's head.)*

Teacher: Why are you hiding?

Theo: I have to lead my cousins in singing a song at the FaithRetriever family reunion.

Teacher: That sounds wonderful, Theo!

Theo: But I'm afraid of messing up.

Teacher: But Theo, you won't be alone when you lead the song. Today we're learning how God will always help us and be with us. Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD IS WITH US.)*

Teacher: And today we'll hear about a man in the Bible who was afraid because he had to lead God's people, the Israelites. But God was with him and he helped him.

Theo: So maybe God will help me lead the song, even though I'm afraid.

Teacher: That's right! Do you feel better now, Theo?

Theo: Yes.

Teacher: Great! Well, you'd better start practicing for your big performance! Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

When have you been afraid like Theo was?

What are some things you could lead?

Why might knowing God's with you help you be a good leader?

Say: **Being a leader is a big job, and that can be scary. But we don't need to be**



afraid, and neither does Theo because ► **GOD IS WITH US**, always. Let's learn how God was with Joshua and helped him not be afraid to lead the Israelites.

Bible Time: Strong and Courageous

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Joshua 1, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll learn how ► GOD IS WITH US and how God was with a man named Joshua. God told Joshua he wanted him to be the leader.** Put on the royal crown.

Say: **But Joshua was afraid. So God told him, "Be strong and courageous!"** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and repeat "Be strong and courageous!" a few times. Then have kids sit again.

Say: **God said to Joshua, "You're going to lead my people into the land I will give them. I'll be with you wherever you go." But Joshua was still afraid. Let's remind Joshua to be strong and courageous again.** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and say, "Be strong and courageous!" Invite children to take turns wearing the royal crown and leading the other children in repeating the sentence and motions.

Say: **God told Joshua, "Always remember to follow the rules I gave to Moses, and I will help you." But Joshua was still afraid. Let's remind Joshua to be strong and courageous again.** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and say, "Be strong and courageous!" Invite children to take turns wearing the royal crown and leading the other children in repeating the sentence and motions.

Say: **God told Joshua, "I'll help you, so don't be afraid or sad." And do you know what? Joshua wasn't afraid anymore! He led the people into the land God gave them because he believed that ► GOD IS WITH US. With God's help, Joshua was strong and courageous.** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and say, "Be strong and courageous!" Invite children to take turns wearing the royal crown and leading the other children in repeating the sentence and motions.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What things might help Joshua feel brave about being a leader?

What helps you be brave?

What can you do to remember God's with you next time you need to be brave?

Say: **When you're afraid or sad, you can remember that just as God was with Joshua and helped him, ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us.**



Bible Time: Strong and Courageous Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
royal crown





Center 1: God With Me Supplies

My Bible Hugs
one 2x2-inch
aluminum-foil square
per child
marker
glue sticks

Center 1: God With Me Easy Prep

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

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

God With Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 10 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we're learning ► GOD IS WITH US. Let's make something to help us remember that.**

Place aluminum-foil squares and glue sticks in the center of the table. Have kids glue aluminum-foil squares in the center of their pages as mirrors. Lead them in looking into the aluminum-foil mirrors to see their reflections.

Draw a cross on one corner of each child's mirror. Say: **You can see yourself, but there's also a cross on your mirror now. That's to remind you that wherever you go and whatever you do, God is always with you.** Have the children look in the mirrors again and notice the crosses near their reflections.

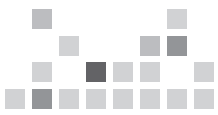
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What do you think about God always being with you?

Say: **No matter where you go or what you do, God is with you! It's as if God is always holding you in his hands. ► GOD IS WITH US, and he helps us be strong and courageous.**



CENTER 2:

Stuck-Together Snack

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US always. It's kind of like he's stuck to us. We can always know he's there, and we can always ask him for help.**

Give each child a napkin, 8 to 10 chocolate chips, and a large marshmallow. Say: **Let's make a snack to help us remember that God's always with us, almost like he's stuck to us.** Show kids how to lick the ends of their marshmallows and then use their sticky marshmallows to pick up the chocolate chips. Explain that just as the chocolate chips stick to the marshmallows, God sticks with us wherever we go.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's good about knowing God's stuck to you?
- What are some ways that knowing God's with you can help you?

Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US, just as he was with Joshua. Let's thank God for sticking with us and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

God's Help

What You'll Do

Say: **Today we learned how God was with Joshua and helped him be strong and courageous. God helps us, too. Let's look at some different times God can help us.**

Set out the "Kindness" cards. Have the children take turns identifying what's happening in the pictures on the cards. Then have children talk about how God can help the different children depicted in the pictures.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Every day we have to do things that are hard for us. That's why it's so great to know that ► GOD IS WITH US! We know God is big and strong and he can help us with anything, just as he helped Joshua be a leader.**



Center 2: Stuck-Together Snack Supplies

- large marshmallows
- chocolate chips
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: God's Help Supplies

- Teacher Pack
- "Kindness" cards





Center 4: Brave Hearts Supplies

red paper
copies of the “Heart Medal” page (at the end of the lesson)
washable markers
scissors
hole punch
2-foot piece of yarn per child

Center 4: Brave Hearts Easy Prep

Copy the “Heart Medal” page onto red paper, and cut out 1 heart per child. Punch a hole in the middle of the top of each heart.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

CENTER 4:

Brave Hearts

What You’ll Do

Say: **Today we heard how God helped Joshua be brave. And because ► GOD IS WITH US, we can be brave, too.**

Give each child a heart, a piece of yarn, and a marker. Say: **When people are in the army, they can earn medals for being brave. Let’s make medals to remind us how God helped Joshua be brave.**

Have each child draw a picture of himself or herself looking brave. Help each child thread one end of the yarn through a paper heart. Tie the ends of the yarn together to close each necklace.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Wear your heart medals to remind you that you can be brave because God’s always with you. God helped Joshua be brave, and he can do anything to help you, too. This week remember that ► GOD IS WITH YOU.**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

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

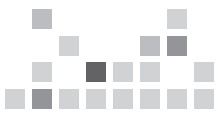
Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD IS WITH US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember God’s with you this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

When you’re scared about something, ask one of your parents to hold your hand. Then tell your parent that God’s always with us, too, like he’s always holding our hand.



Wear your heart medal. When people ask you what it's for, tell them it's a reminder that ► GOD IS WITH US and he helps us be brave.

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Form a standing circle. Say: **God was with Joshua and helped him be a great leader, just as ► GOD IS WITH US.**

Have the children pass the royal crown around the circle. The child holding the crown will pray, "Dear God, please help me to be strong and courageous," and then pass the crown to the next child to pray. When everyone has had a chance to pray, close with the following:

Dear God, please help us be strong and courageous, just as you helped Joshua. Thank you for being with us wherever we go. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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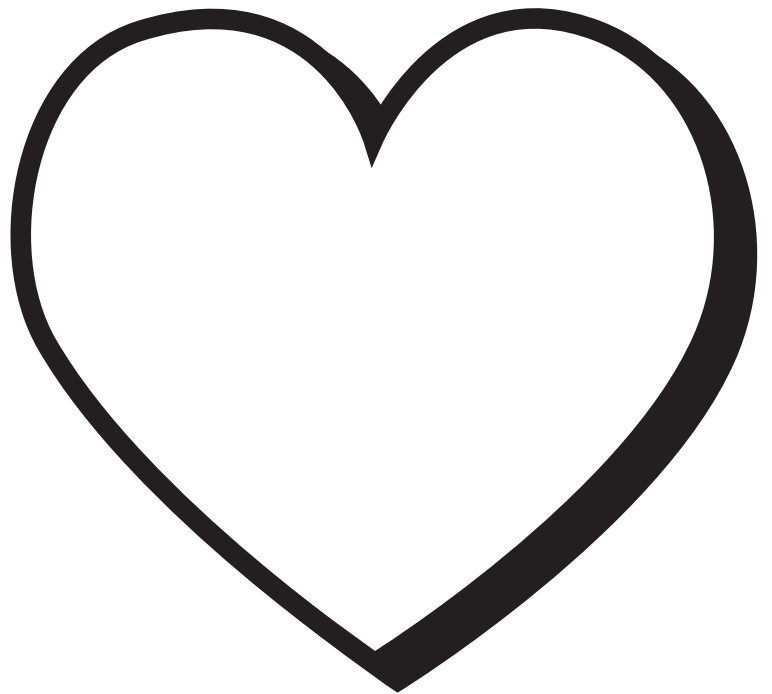
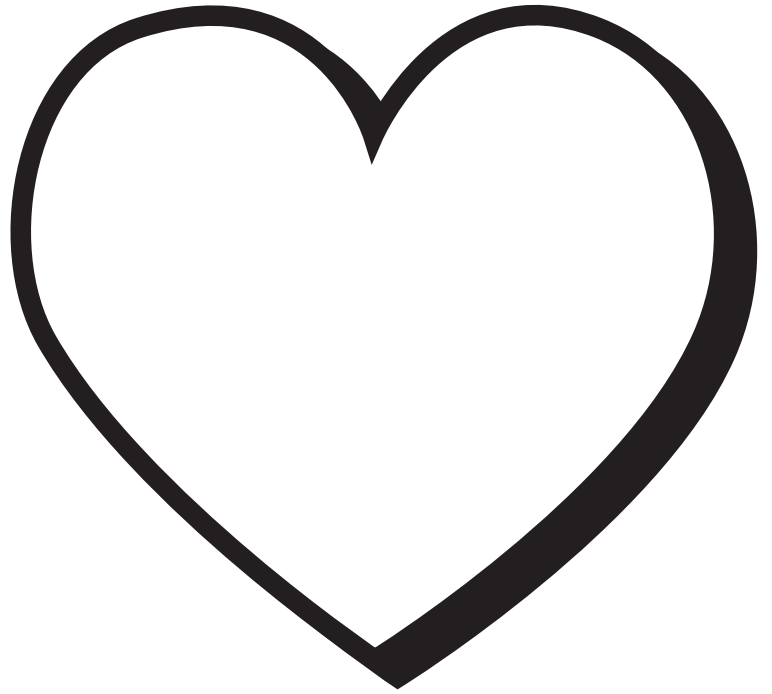
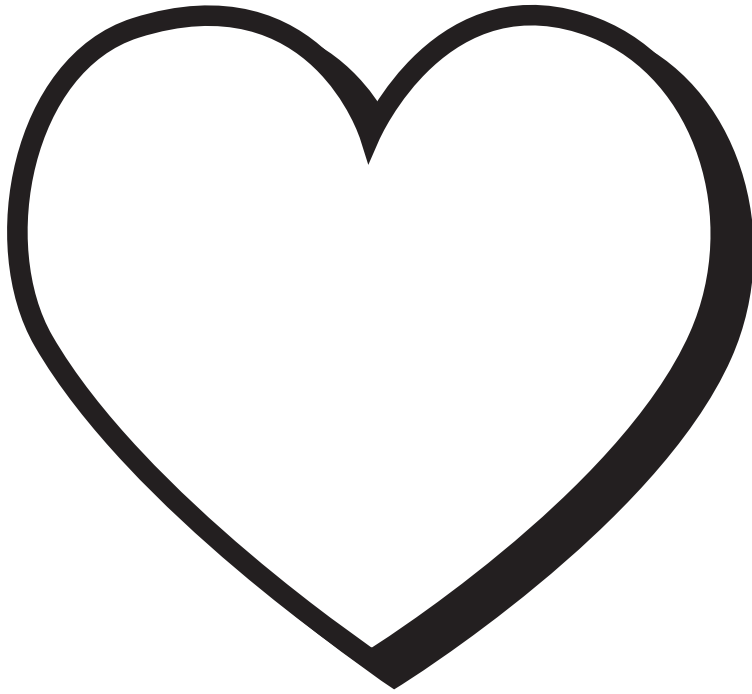


**Action Prayer
Supplies**

Teacher Pack
royal crown



Heart Medal



**OK
TO COPY**



Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24


Preschoolers are very trusting by nature and will believe in God because you tell them God is real. Your words have a great impact on them. Use this lesson to help children become confident in their faith in God.



► **Bible Point**
Believe in God.

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
Children will believe in God in daily life and will express their belief to others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Strong Hands Decorate and protect paper dolls.</p>	<p>Bible, scissors, markers, fan, “Paper Doll” page (at the end of the lesson)</p>	<p>Copy and cut out the “Paper Doll” page, 1 per child.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo finds out that God cares for him.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, string or tape Teacher Pack: CD, straw</p>	<p>Tie or tape some straw to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies Hide with the spies while hearing how Rahab helped them.</p>	<p>Bible, card stock, scissors, glue, craft sticks, red yarn, blanket Teacher Pack: spy mask pattern, “Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Copy on card stock and cut out the spy mask pattern, 1 mask per child. Glue 1 edge of each mask to a craft stick so children can hold the masks over their eyes. Cut 6 inches of yarn, and cut a second piece that’s a few feet long.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Hide Like a Spy Make a picture of the spies hiding.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, glue, red yarn Teacher Pack: straw</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Spy Snack Make a snack depicting the spies Rahab hid.</p>	<p>tortillas, shredded wheat, bear-shaped crackers, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: I Spy Pretend to be spies and look for things.</p>	<p>spy masks from the "Rahab Hides Spies" activity</p>	
	<p>Center 4: I Spy a Spy Make a craft to re-create the Bible passage.</p>	<p>construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, masking tape, 2 large craft sticker per child, glue, 4 craft eyes per child, raffia</p>	<p>Cut one 6-inch square of construction paper per child.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Tell God they believe in him.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



A Different Method

As Joshua prepared to send spies into the Promised Land, no doubt he remembered the fiasco of 40 years earlier when Moses sent a large group of spies into the land. This time Joshua sent only two and gave them a very specific mission: Investigate Jericho. He sent them "secretly," not wanting the Canaanites to know what they were doing and probably also to protect the Israelites from the distressful result of the first spy mission.

Good Gossip

It may seem suspicious that the place the spies went was to the home of a prostitute. However, it's likely that this was a place where gossip would abound. In addition, the word most often translated "prostitute" can just as accurately be translated "innkeeper." Either way, it was a place where the spies were able to hear and gauge how the people of Jericho felt about the Israelites who were camped just across the Jordan River.

A Woman of Faith

Rahab, though she lied about hiding the spies in her house, had apparently become a believer in God through what she had heard about the Israelites' experiences and conquests. She hid the men at great personal risk. She was commended for her strong faith in the New Testament in Hebrews 11:31. Note that God did not commend her for lying but for acting in faith and hiding the spies. God blessed her for that faith.

The end of this event lies beyond the scope of today's passage. During the victory over Jericho, Rahab and her family were indeed spared from death (Joshua 6:17). Moreover, the New Testament attests to her faithfulness and includes her in the line of King David and of Jesus (Matthew 1:5)!

The Jesus Connection

Rahab's faith landed her among Jesus' ancestors. When we venture forth with a small act of faith, God responds and shows us his much larger faithfulness. In what areas of your life would you like to show more faithfulness to God? What are some ways you've seen God's faithfulness to you? You can write your prayer asking God to use you to do big things. There's nothing too big for the God of the universe who wants to lead and guide your life.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Worship Our God" (track 19), "Believe in God" (track 20)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Lead children in singing "Worship Our God" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy." Encourage children to say "What?" as indicated in the lyrics below. Encourage the children to raise their hands, skip in place, or do some other action to worship God when their names are sung.



We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God. (What?)

Worship our God. (What?)

Worship our God.

We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God,

Worship our God today!

We'll [After the first time, replace "We'll" with the names of children here.] **worship our God. (What?)**

Worship our God. (What?)

Worship our God.

We'll worship our God. Worship our God today!

(Repeat.)

Say: **We worship God because we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. Let's sing and tell God we believe in him.**

Lead children in singing "Believe in God" (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



I believe in God. (point to self and then to the sky)

I believe in God. (point to self and then to the sky)

Children who believe in God will give a little nod. (nod head)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Thank you for worshipping God with me today. God is so great and wonderful. Today we'll hear how he planned to bring his people, the Israelites, into a new**



place to live. And we'll learn that when we ► BELIEVE IN GOD, we see him do great things.



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Strong Hands

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:6-7, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means that God doesn't want us to worry. He wants us to remember that he's strong and always takes care of us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).**

Say: **Let's make something to help us think about our Key Verse.** Give each child a paper doll. Have children name their dolls and decorate them with markers.

Say: **Let's protect our paper dolls, kind of like our Key Verse says God protects us.** Place a fan on the floor and turn it on high. Explain to the children that the fan will blow their dolls away unless they hold on tightly to them. After a minute, turn off the fan.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to protect your doll from being blown away?
- Why do you like that God protects you with his strong hands?

Say: **God protects us so well. He's very strong and can always take care of us. He can protect us even better than we protected our paper dolls. Today we'll hear how God protected some spies, and we'll be reminded to ► BELIEVE IN GOD and trust him to take care of us.**

Strong Hands Supplies

- Bible
- scissors
- markers
- fan
- "Paper Doll" page (at the end of the lesson)

Strong Hands Easy Prep

Copy and cut out the "Paper Doll" page, 1 per child.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string or tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)
straw

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie or tape some straw
to Theo's paw.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What did you bring to show us?

Theo: I brought some straw.

Teacher: Straw? Why would you bring straw, Theo?

Theo: I think it's really fun to jump into straw and hide under it.

Teacher: That's so funny, Theo. I bet that's lots of fun! And do you know what? We're learning in the Bible today about some people who hid under straw.

Theo: Seriously? Were they playing?

Teacher: No, they weren't playing. They were really hiding from some people who might have hurt them.

Theo: Oh, that's kind of scary.

Teacher: Yeah, but they were safe because they believed in God. They knew God would take care of them. Actually, friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► BELIEVE IN GOD.*)

Theo: I'm glad God protected them under the straw.

Teacher: Me too, Theo. Are you ready to hear all about what happened?

Theo: Yes. But first I'm going to run home to put my straw in my room.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

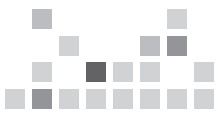
Ask:

Where are some fun places you like to hide like Theo?

Tell about a time you wanted to hide because you were scared.

What do you believe about God's protection?

Say: **It's so funny that Theo likes to hide under straw, since today we're learning about some people hiding under straw. Sometimes we hide for fun, and other times we might want to hide because we're scared. But we can remember that we ► BELIEVE IN GOD and he'll always take care of us.**



Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Joshua 2:1-24, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. And we'll hear how God protected some of his people in a city called Jericho.** Show the "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster.

Say: **Let's make some pretend walls like Jericho had.** Have children help you arrange chairs in a circle to represent the walled city of Jericho.

Say: **Now let's pretend to be spies like the people we're reading about in the Bible today.** Give each child a spy mask, and show children how to use them.

Say: **It all started when the spies were outside the walls of Jericho.** Have children sit outside "Jericho."

Say: **God's people, the Israelites, had walked in the desert for a very, very long time when God told them it was time for them to move into the Promised Land, Jericho.** Point to your pretend Jericho. **Joshua, the Israelites' leader, wanted to see what the land was like and who lived there.**

Have the children put the masks in front of their faces, and then say: **So Joshua sent two spies to check it out. The city had huge stone walls surrounding it, and the people who lived in Jericho didn't ► BELIEVE IN GOD. If the people of Jericho knew why the spies were there, they wouldn't be very nice to the spies. So the spies had to be very careful and sneaky.** Invite children to pretend to sneak around the city wall with their spy masks. Then have them sneak into the center of the circle as if they're going into the city.

Say: **In Jericho, the spies stayed with a woman named Rahab. Even though Rahab wasn't an Israelite, she believed in God. Rahab knew that the spies were in danger, and she wanted to help them because they believed in God. So Rahab hid the spies by covering them with flax, which is like tall grass or straw.** Have the children lie down as if they're hiding. Partially cover them with a blanket. Then make a loud knocking noise.

Say: **The king sent a message to Rahab, telling her to bring the spies out of her house. Even though Rahab believed in God, she was very scared. But because she believed in God, she said the spies had left.** Take the blanket off the children.

The spies thanked Rahab for letting them hide in her house. Before they left, they told her they would help her when the Israelites came to Jericho. They told her to tie a red rope in her window so all the Israelites would know to help her.



Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies Supplies

Bible
card stock
scissors
glue
craft sticks
red yarn
blanket

Teacher Pack

spy mask pattern
"Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies Easy Prep

Copy on card stock and cut out the spy mask pattern, 1 mask per child. Glue 1 edge of each mask to a craft stick so children can hold the masks over their eyes. Cut 6 inches of yarn, and cut a second piece that's a few feet long.





Say: **Then Rahab used a rope to help the men climb out of her window, down the walls of the city, and back to safety.** Hold one end of the long piece of red yarn. One at a time, have the children hold on to the other end of the yarn and crawl between two chairs. As each child leaves Jericho, have him or her repeat, “I believe in God.”

When all the children are outside Jericho, tie the yarn to one of the chairs and have children remove their spy masks. Point out the “Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho” poster. Let children work together to glue the small piece of red yarn to the cord hanging from the window.

Say: **Rahab tied the red rope in her window. Because she and the spies believed in God, they helped each other.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like to sneak and hide in our activity?

What are some ways God protects you like he did the spies?

What can you do to show you ► BELIEVE IN GOD?

Say: **The spies and Rahab were in danger, but they did the right thing because they believed in God. When we ► BELIEVE IN GOD, we can do the right thing, too! We can know God will protect us and take care of us like Rahab and the spies.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Hide Like a Spy

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 11 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how God protected Rahab and the spies. They all believed in God, and we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. Let’s make something to remind us of this.**

Center 1: Hide Like a Spy Supplies

My Bible Hugs
glue
red yarn

Teacher Pack
straw

Center 1: Hide Like a Spy Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.



Have the children pretend to be Rahab and hide the two spies with straw. Make sure each child gets a little bit of straw. Show kids how to dab glue on their pages and then press down the straw. Also have each child glue a piece of red yarn to the window in the picture.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **The Bible says God’s mighty hand cares for us. Rahab and the spies believed and remembered God cared for them. You please God when you ► BELIEVE IN GOD, too!**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Spy Snack

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **We ► BELIEVE IN GOD, and so did Rahab. That’s why she decided to hide the spies. Let’s make a snack as we think about how God always loves and protects us.**

Give each child half a tortilla, a handful of shredded wheat, and a couple of bear-shaped crackers on a napkin. Show children how to place two bear-shaped crackers on their tortillas to represent the two spies. Then hide the “spies” as Rahab did by crumbling a piece of shredded wheat over them. Finally, have children roll up their tortillas and eat the snack.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Rahab and the spies did the right thing because they believed in God. We ► BELIEVE IN GOD, too. We can do the right thing, and God will help us like he helped Rahab and the spies. Let’s thank God for helping us believe in him and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack.

■ **CENTER 3:**

I Spy

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Today we heard how God protected some spies. Let’s put our spy masks on for a game of “I Spy.”**

Have children put the spy masks in front of their faces. Then explain the rules: One child should find something in the room to “spy” and then tell something about it. For example, if a child spies a clock, he or she could say, “I spy something with numbers.” Then the rest of the children should guess what the child spies. Continue until each child has a chance to spy something.



Center 2: Spy Snack Supplies

- tortillas
- shredded wheat
- bear-shaped crackers
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: I Spy Supplies

- spy masks from the “Rahab Hides Spies” activity





Center 4: I Spy a Spy Supplies

construction paper
scissors
masking tape
2 large craft sticks per child
glue sticks
4 craft eyes per child
raffia

Center 4: I Spy a Spy Easy Prep

Cut one 6-inch square of construction paper per child.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What was it like spying in this game?
What are some ways you can spy God in your life?

Say: **Just as you know that all the things you spied in this room are real, you can know that God is real, too. You can spy or see ways he helps you and shows himself to you all the time. You can ► BELIEVE IN GOD and you'll see him do great things like he did for Rahab and the spies.**

■ CENTER 4:

I Spy a Spy

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that Rahab hid the spies because she believed in God. Let's help Rahab hide the spies.** Give each child a construction paper square and two craft sticks. Help children glue two craft eyes to each craft stick. Then have them glue the craft sticks to the construction paper.



Say: **These are the spies. They need to hide so they don't get caught.** Lay a 12-inch strip of masking tape, sticky-side up, in front of each child. Then give each child a handful of raffia, and have each child stick one end of each piece of his or her raffia to the center of the tape, working outward. The goal is to have most of the raffia in the center 6 inches so it partially hides the craft sticks. Then help children place their tape strips along the bottom of the construction paper squares so the raffia covers the spies. Wrap the ends of the tape around the back of the paper.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Just like Rahab, we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. Because she believed in God, God helped Rahab do the right thing.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

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

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

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to show you believe in God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Draw a picture of something that scares you. Give it to a friend, and tell your friend that you don't need to be afraid anymore because you can trust and believe in God to take care of you like he did Rahab and the spies.**
- Call your grandma or grandpa and tell her or him about believing in Jesus.**

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Form a standing circle. Invite children to pray one at a time. Ask them to insert the name of something God created, such as the sun, my friend, or the trees.

Pray: **Dear God,
When I see [the sun],
I believe in you.
In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs





Weaving Faith at Home

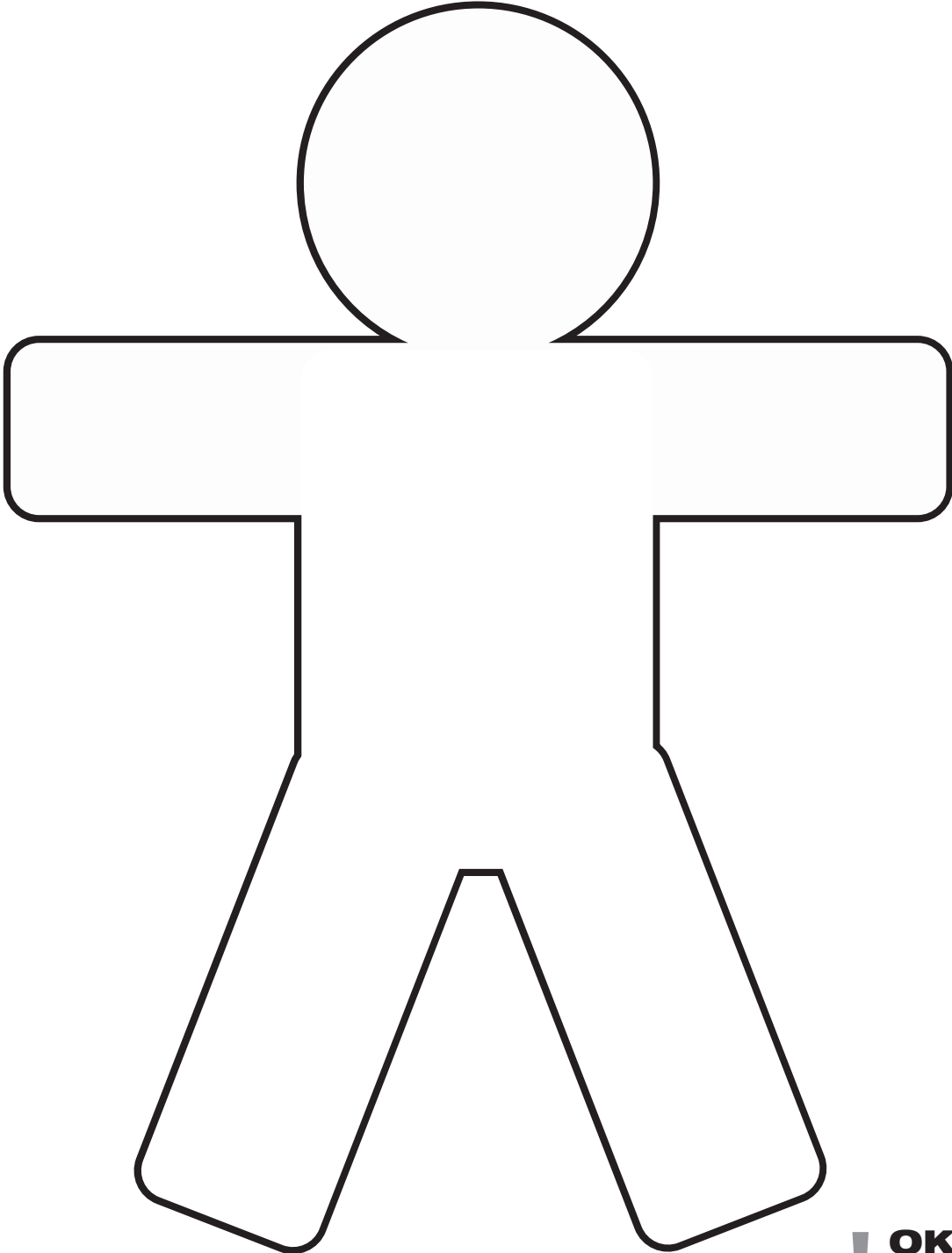
Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing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

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





Paper Doll



**OK
TO COPY**





The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua 3:1–4:24

Preschoolers are just learning about manners. They often need to be reminded to say “please” and “thank you.” Use this lesson to remind children to thank God for all he gives them, too, even though they can’t see him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Hands Up Play a game, and talk about how God protects us.	Bible, beach ball	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo remembered to thank God.	CD player, Theo puppet, string Teacher Pack: CD	Tie some string around Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: Joshua Remembers the Jordan Act out the parting of the Jordan, and give thanks to God.	Bible, 12 paper plates, 2 large sheets of blue bulletin paper	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

Remember to thank God.

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

Children will remember to thank God for everything he gives them.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Pebble Altar Create an altar like the Israelites did.</p>	My Bible Hugs, gray construction paper, glue	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Rocky-River Snack Create a rocky river.</p>	paper plates, graham crackers, craft sticks, jelly, banana slices, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Thankful Toss Children will toss a ball among themselves while singing a song.</p>	lightweight ball	
	<p>Center 4: "Thank You" Altar Use the paper plate "rocks" to build an altar.</p>	paper plates, crayons, tape	
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Take turns thanking God.</p>	Teacher Pack: bendable man	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua 3:1–4:24

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Guides a Nation at the Jordan River

Parts of this event may seem like a rerun of the Israelites’ crossing of the Red Sea 40 years earlier. Remember, however, that apart from Joshua and Caleb, all of the people crossing the Jordan River were no older than children when Israel crossed the Red Sea. This totally new experience must have reminded them of the stories their parents had told them about the miracle of crossing the Red Sea.

Notice that the Jordan River was not just a trickling stream—it was at “flood stage.” In the area of Jericho, it would have been 10 to 12 feet deep and the current quite strong.

Israel Memorializes God’s Miracle

The Israelites built a stone memorial with the rocks taken from the center of the Jordan River. The memorial would remind people of the wonders God had done for the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land, and the 12 stones together would remind them of the 12 tribes joined together as one nation.

The last verse of today’s passage, Joshua 4:24, tells us why God dried up the Jordan for the people to cross: “so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.” God wanted his people to fear him—to give him the worship and service he deserved. Remembering what God had done would give them encouragement and faith when they faced the difficulties of conquering this new land.

The Jesus Connection

As we grow in relationship with Christ, we become more Christ-like. We can testify that we have been renewed and delivered from our different lives of the past.

Reread Joshua 4:24. Note the public display of power that God left as a reminder of his love and power. In times of darkness, it’s often helpful to rest in the truth of what we have experienced in the past. Encounters with our Savior remind us that he is with us. Write a prayer of thanks for the ways God has been present in your life. When you talk to God this week, start by thanking him for these great things, and add to the list as God continues to work in your life. You can write your prayer in the lines below.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Worship Our God" (track 19), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcome and Celebrate

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

What You'll Do

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


Lead children in singing "Worship Our God" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy." Encourage children to say "What?" as indicated in the lyrics below. Encourage the children to raise their hands, skip in place, or do some other action to worship God when their names are sung.

 **We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God.** (*What?*)
Worship our God. (*What?*)
Worship our God.
We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God,
Worship our God today!

We'll [After the first time, replace "We'll" with the names of children here.] worship our God. (*What?*)
Worship our God. (*What?*)
Worship our God.
We'll worship our God. Worship our God today!
(Repeat.)

Say: **It's great to worship God together. Today we'll learn to ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD, as we did just now in our song. Let's thank God through one more song.**

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and clapping their hands or stomping their feet.

 Let everything that moves,	From the rising of the sun
And everything that breathes,	'Til the time that it goes down,
Praise the Lord.	Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.	Praise the Lord.



Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that walks,
And everything that runs,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

No matter where you are,
No matter where you've been,
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.
Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that lives
Sing praises to the Lord.
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **We ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD** because he's the one who made us and he loves us and takes care of us every day. Today we'll hear how God took care of some people and how they learned to ► **REMEMBER TO THANK GOD**, too.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Hands Up

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:6-7, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means that we trust God to take care of us, and we go to him for everything. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).**

Say: **Let's play a game to help us ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD that his mighty hand cares for us.** Have the children stand in a circle. Then say: **I'll toss a beach ball up into the air, and your job is to work together to keep the ball from falling to the ground so it doesn't get hurt.**



Hands Up Supplies

Bible
beach ball





Toss up the beach ball. Let the children bat the ball up in the air. If the ball does fall, toss it back into play. After a few minutes, collect the ball and have the children sit in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What things did you do to keep the ball up?
What are some ways God takes care of you?**

Say: **God protects us just as we protected this ball. Because God protects us, we do our best to ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD. Let's hear how God protected a group of people in the Bible and how they thanked him.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What's that around your paw?

Theo: It's string. I tied it to my paw to help me remember something.

Teacher: What are you trying to remember, Theo?

Theo: I can't remember.

Teacher: Oh, you've forgotten. That's too bad. Well, today our Bible Point is about remembering. Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.*)

Teacher: And today we'll hear in the Bible about some people who wanted to remember to thank God for taking care of them.

Theo: That's it! Now I remember what I was trying to remember.

Teacher: What were you trying to remember, Theo?

Theo: I wanted to make up a song for you all to thank God!

Teacher: That's nice, Theo. God loves to be thanked!

Theo: I'm going to go make up my song now.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Puppy Pointers Supplies

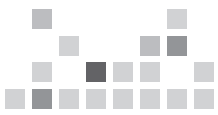
CD player
Theo puppet
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie some string around
Theo's paw.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

Tell about a time you wanted to remember something, like Theo did. Why would you want to ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD?

Say: **Theo was going to write a song for us so we can thank God. There are lots of ways to thank God. In fact, in the Bible today, we'll learn how Joshua and the Israelites remembered to thank God. Let's hear it so we can ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD, too.**

Bible Time: Joshua Remembers the Jordan

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Joshua 3, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear how God cared for his people, the Israelites, and we'll hear how they thanked him.**

The Bible says there was a river called the Jordan River. It was a river with a lot of rocks along the bottom. Let's make a river. Invite the children to lay down the 12 plates to represent rocks. Then have them place the two sheets of paper side by side over the rocks to make the river.

Say: **The Israelites had been living in the desert for a long, long time. But they were getting closer and closer to their new home, the land God promised them. One day Joshua, the Israelites' leader, told the people to follow him. I'll pretend to be Joshua, and you can be the Israelites. Follow me, please.** Lead children around the room and then stop on one side of the Jordan River you made, where the two papers meet.

Say: **Joshua led the people right to the Jordan River. It was a big river.** Have the children stretch their arms to their sides as far as they can to show they know it was very big.

Say: **They needed to cross the Jordan River to get to the Promised Land, but there was no way to get across. They couldn't jump over it.** Lead children in jumping in place. **They couldn't go under it.** Lead kids in stomping on the floor. **And they sure couldn't go around it!** Lead kids in looking from side to side.

Say: **God did an amazing thing for his people. He stopped the flow of the water so the Israelites could walk right through the Jordan River on dry ground.** Fold back the blue paper to create a path between the two halves and to reveal the rocky bottom. Then lead children across the "river."



Bible Time: Joshua Remembers the Jordan Supplies

-
- Bible
 - 12 paper plates
 - 2 large sheets of blue bulletin paper





Say: **Joshua wanted the Israelites to remember for a long time what God did to help them. So this is what they did. They carried 12 rocks from the river and piled them together.** Invite children to take turns retrieving paper plate “rocks” and bringing them to the edge of the river, leaving them in a pile.

Say: **Joshua said, “Every time you see these rocks and every time someone asks you about these rocks, remember that God helped us. ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.”** Have the children stand around the “rock” pile and each say something he or she is thankful for.

Say: **The Israelites piled the rocks in a special way to make what’s called an altar. The altar helped them ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s neat about what God did for the Israelites?**
- What’s something neat God’s done for you?**
- In what ways do you like to thank God?**

Say: **God’s mighty hand cares for us, just as God cared for the Israelites. So it doesn’t matter how we do it, but it’s important that we ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD for being so good to us.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ **CENTER 1:**

Pebble Altar

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 12 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **The Israelites built an altar out of 12 stones from the Jordan River. Let’s make a mini altar on our My Bible Hugs pages to thank God, too.**

Center 1: Pebble Altar Supplies

My Bible Hugs
gray construction paper
glue

Center 1: Pebble Altar Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.





Give each child a sheet of gray construction paper. Lead the children in telling 12 things they're thankful to God for, and as each thing is mentioned have each child tear a small piece of paper from the larger sheet and crumple it to make a rock.

Show the children how to glue the rocks to their My Bible Hugs pages, and as they glue each rock, have them say, "Thank you, God."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What things were you reminded to be thankful for in our activity?
Why do you want to thank God for all these things?**

Say: **We thought of a lot of things to thank God for, and that wasn't even close to everything we can thank God for. God's mighty hand cares for us every day. Let's ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD, like the Israelites did with their rock altar.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Rocky-River Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Today we're learning to ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD. Let's make a snack so we can thank God.**

Give each child a paper plate and a graham cracker. Show children how to use a craft stick to spread jelly on their graham crackers. Explain that the jelly represents the Jordan River. Then show children how to put banana slices on their crackers to represent the rocks the Israelites brought out of the Jordan River.

Lead children in a prayer to thank God, and let them eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **The Israelites used the rocks from the river to create an altar. The altar helped them ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD. Each time you eat a banana slice, say "thank you" to God.**



**Center 2: Rocky-River
Snack
Supplies**

-
- paper plates
 - graham crackers
 - craft sticks
 - jelly
 - banana slices
 - antibacterial gel
(optional)

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**





**Center 3: Thankful
Toss
Supplies**

lightweight ball

**Center 4: "Thank You"
Altar
Supplies**

paper plates
crayons
tape


CENTER 3:

Thankful Toss

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God cares for us and helps us in so many ways, just as he did the Israelites. Let's play a game that will help us ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.**

Put children in a circle. Lead them in singing "Remember to Thank God" (not on the CD) while they toss a lightweight ball to each other. Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

 **Remember to thank God.
Remember to thank God.
God's mighty hand cares for me.
Remember to thank God.**

Ask whoever is holding the ball when the song ends to thank God for something. Continue tossing the ball until all of the children have had a chance to catch the ball and thank God for something.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **It's great to thank God, like we did in our game. Actually, it's really important to ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD. God cared for the Israelites, and he cares for us today.**

CENTER 4:

"Thank You" Altar

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's make a craft to help us ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.**

Set out paper plates and crayons. Say: **Let's pretend these are rocks for an altar. We'll make an altar for our room to help us ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.**

Have the children draw things they're thankful for on the plates, such as their houses, families, pets, or something God made. When they've finished, have children tape their paper plates to a wall. Help children place the plates close together so they're like an altar.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

**What did you draw on your rock?
What are some ways you'll thank God this week?**



Say: **You've thought of so many good reasons to thank God. God loves you and cares for you so much. It makes God so happy when you ► REMEMBER TO THANK GOD.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

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

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Give a piece of candy to a friend. Thank God for giving you wonderful friends.

Help your mom or dad make dinner. Before you eat, remember to thank God for the food he gives you each day.

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle, and have the children sit down.

Say: **When we remember to thank God, it makes him happy. I'll pass the bendable man to one of you, and you will tell God "thank you" for something. Then you'll pass the bendable man to someone who hasn't prayed.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Action Prayer Supplies

Teacher Pack
bendable man





Begin the prayer yourself, and then gently pass the bendable man to a child. Be sure everyone gets a chance to pray, and then have the group say, “Thank you, God, for everything! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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






God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

From their favorite superheroes on TV to the often-terrifying energy behind a thunderstorm, young preschoolers understand power. But God’s power is greater than any superhero, any thunderstorm, anyone, and anything. And because God loves us so much, he helps us with his mighty power. Use this lesson to help children understand that God always uses his power for good.



► **Bible Point**
God is powerful.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	God Cares Sing a song, and show how God cares for them.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear Theo learn about God’s strength.	CD player, Theo puppet, small hand-weight, string Teacher Pack: CD	Tie the hand-weight to Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: Music-and-March Power March around the “wall of Jericho” and make music so the wall falls down.	Bible, CD player, blocks Teacher Pack: CD, hand clackers, “God Gives Victory Over Jericho” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

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

Children will remember that God is more powerful than anything.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life about 20 min. (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Blow the Wall Down! Use horns and marching to knock down Jericho's wall.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, markers, wet wipes Teacher Pack: stamp pad</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Come Blow Your Horn Snack Decorate and eat "trumpets."</p>	<p>waffle ice-cream cones, frosting, craft sticks, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: God Powered Experiment with "air power" to discover that though they can't always see God's power, they can see what it does.</p>	<p>turkey baster, paper fan, straws, ping-pong balls</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Leaning Tower of Beads Make a craft to represent the walls of Jericho.</p>	<p>4-inch cardboard square per child, scissors, child-safe beads, 12-inch piece of string per child, masking tape</p>	<p>Poke a hole in the center of each piece of cardboard. Thread a 12-inch piece of string through each hole, tie a knot on one end, and tape the knot in place so it can't slip through. Tape the loose end of string to make it easier for kids to thread it.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions about 10 min.</p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Practice being strong, and thank God for his power.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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



God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Promises Victory at Jericho

Archaeologists have found the site of ancient Jericho but are still uncertain which city is the one delivered into the hands of the Israelites because it has been destroyed so many times. In light of the curse put upon Jericho in Joshua 6:26, the archaeological findings are interesting indeed.

Joshua Receives a Message From God

While scouting out the city, Joshua was no doubt surprised to see a man with a drawn sword in front of him (Joshua 5:13). We don't know if this was an appearance of God himself, a preincarnate appearance of Jesus, or an angel; however, we do know that he was someone sent from God. Notice how the messenger responds to Joshua's question: "Are you for us or for our enemies?" The messenger was the commander of the Lord's army. It was up to Joshua and Israel to be on the Lord's side, not for the commander to be on Joshua's side!

In the middle of God's message to Joshua, the writer stops to mention a very important fact in Joshua 6:1: The people of Jericho had closed up their city, counting on its strong fortifications to protect them. It was so firmly sealed that no one could go in or out. This meant that no one from Jericho would get in the way as the Israelites marched around the city walls!

God Fulfills the Promise

Notice that God not only told Joshua what to do but also told him precisely what would happen (Joshua 6:5). Assuming that the word from God spread among the Israelites, imagine their increasing anticipation as the army marched silently around the city day after day and then seven times on the seventh day. The people knew that God was about to do something spectacular!

Just as promised, Rahab and her family were spared because of the faith she had shown in hiding the Hebrew spies. God's power worked to save her and the Israelites, while at the same time it was working to destroy the inhabitants of Jericho for their idolatry and immorality.

The Jesus Connection

A relationship with Jesus allows us to walk in confidence, as his power of forgiveness has given us freedom. His love for us provides us with what we need to be clean in his perfect eyes.

Take a few minutes to write down as many words of prayer as you can that show the character of God. Each day, meditate on one of these characteristics and how God has shown those characteristics in your life. Give God praise, and acknowledge God's mighty work in your life.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Worship Our God"
(track 19)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcome and Celebrate

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

What You'll Do

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


Lead children in singing "Worship Our God" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy." Encourage children to say "What?" as indicated in the lyrics below. Encourage the children to raise their hands, skip in place, or do some other action to worship God when their names are sung.

 **We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God.** *(What?)*
Worship our God. *(What?)*
Worship our God.
We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God,
Worship our God today!

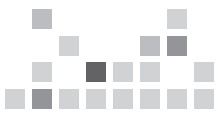
We'll [After the first time, replace "We'll" with the names of children here.] **worship our God.** *(What?)*
Worship our God. *(What?)*
Worship our God.
We'll worship our God. Worship our God today!
(Repeat.)

Say: **We worship God because ► GOD IS POWERFUL. Let's praise God some more for his power and strength.**

Lead children in singing "We Praise You" (not on the CD) to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean."

 **We praise you, oh God, for your power.** *(flex biceps)*
We praise you, oh God, for your love. *(hug self)*
We praise you, oh God, for your wisdom. *(point to head)*
We worship our God up above! *(point to the sky)*

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD IS POWERFUL. We'll hear how God did something powerful to help his people and how he does powerful things to take care of us, too.**



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

God Cares

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:6-7, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "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). This means that we trust God to take care of us, and we go to him for everything. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).**

Say: **Let's sing a song to help us remember our Key Verse.** Lead children in singing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 5 on the CD).

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all
Your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.

He cares for you.

Cast all
Your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about how God takes care of you?**
- What powerful things can God do for you?**



God Cares Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "He Cares for You"
(1 Peter 5:7) (track 5)





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
small hand-weight

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here,
Theo" (track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the hand-weight to
Theo's paw.

Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**—he's so powerful that he can help us when we feel weak. God does so many wonderful things for us with his power! It's wonderful to know that God's mighty hand cares for you and for me.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

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

Theo: I'm lifting weights.

Teacher: Why are you exercising now, Theo?

Theo: I had a bad dream last night, so I'm doing exercises to get big and strong.

Teacher: Oh, I see. You want to be strong so those bad dreams won't come back.

Theo: That's right.

Teacher: Well, Theo, I have some good news for you. I know someone very powerful who takes care of the whole world. Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL.***)

Teacher: And today we'll hear about a time God showed how big and strong he is.

Theo: So I don't have to be afraid?

Teacher: That's right, Theo! You don't have to have big muscles to scare away your bad dreams. God will take care of you. He's very strong.

Theo: Okay, then I'm going to put my weights away.

Teacher: That sounds like a good idea, Theo. Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

What did you think about Theo trying to get strong?

What's great about the fact that God is super strong?

Say: **Even if Theo worked out every day, he wouldn't be as strong as God.**

Thankfully, ► **GOD IS POWERFUL, and he cares for us so much that he helps us when we need his power. Let's listen to how God's power helped the Israelites.**



Bible Time: Music-and-March Power

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Joshua 6:1-27, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.


Say: **Today we'll hear how God made all the walls in a city fall. Let's use our blocks to make a city that we can use as we hear what happened.** Have the children help you build a circular wall to be the wall of Jericho. Hang the "God Gives Victory Over Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) where children can see it.

Have children sit outside the "wall of Jericho." Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL. He can do great big things that we haven't even imagined.**

After they spent a really long time in the desert, God told his people, the Israelites, that he was going to give them a place to live—Jericho. Point to the city you built from blocks. **Jericho had a great big wall all around it.** Have the children stand and stretch their arms as high as they can. **The wall was so much bigger than us.**

Say: **How could the Israelites possibly get into the city with a great big wall around it? They couldn't go over the wall. They couldn't go under the wall. And they sure couldn't go through the wall. God told the Israelites to march around the wall once a day for six days. Let's sing a song while we march around the wall.**

Have children stand in a circle around the wall. Lead them in singing "The Israelites Go Marching" (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Lead them in marching around the wall as they sing.

 **The Israelites marched 'round and 'round.
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The Israelites marched 'round and 'round
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The Israelites marched 'round and 'round
Because God said he'd knock the wall down
If they just kept marching 'round and 'round and 'round and 'round.
(Repeat.)**

Have children gather around you again.

Say: **On the seventh day, God told the Israelites to march around Jericho seven times. They blew trumpets and shouted. Let's march around the wall seven times just like the Israelites did.** Lead the children in walking around the wall. Count each circle you make, and let kids take turns making noise with the hand clackers each time. The seventh time around, have kids use the hand clackers, clap or stomp, and shout. Then gently knock down the blocks to represent the wall of Jericho falling.

Say: **The walls of Jericho came tumbling to the ground, so the Israelites were able to go into the city. ► GOD IS POWERFUL!**



Bible Time: Music-and-March Power Supplies

-
- Bible
- CD player
- blocks
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "The Israelites Go Marching" (track 21)
- hand clackers
- "God Gives Victory Over Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Center 1: Blow the Wall Down! Supplies

My Bible Hugs markers
wet wipes
Teacher Pack
stamp pad

Center 1: Blow the Wall Down! Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.

Center 2: Come Blow Your Horn Snack Supplies

waffle ice-cream cones
frosting
craft sticks
antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Blow the Wall Down!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 13 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how God did something really powerful to help the Israelites. And we learned that God uses his power for us, too.**

Show children how to fold up the bottom parts of their papers to create the wall of Jericho. Then say: **God had the Israelites march around the wall of Jericho and blow their trumpets. Draw some trumpets in the Israelites' hands.** Demonstrate where they can draw trumpets on one side of the page.

Say: **Now let's knock down the wall like God did.** Show children how to press their index and middle fingers onto the stamp pad and then flatten down the standing wall by "walking" their fingers across it. Use wet wipes to wash ink off children's fingers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Say: **When we feel sad or afraid, we can remember that God knocked down the wall for the Israelites because he cared for them. God can help us, too, because ► GOD IS POWERFUL.**

CENTER 2:

Come Blow Your Horn Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Let's make some horns for our snack to remind us that ► GOD IS POWERFUL. He knocked down the wall of Jericho, and he can do anything to take care of us.**



Give each child a waffle ice-cream cone, and set out frosting and craft sticks. Have kids decorate their “trumpets” with the frosting and pretend to play them. They can use the craft sticks to spread icing.

Say: **God had the Israelites march around the wall and blow their horns. Then God did what he said he would: He made the big city wall fall. Let’s thank God now for how he loves and takes care of us, and then we can eat our snack.** Lead the children in a prayer, and then let them eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **The Israelites couldn’t have knocked down the wall of Jericho without God. They needed God’s power. Like the Israelites, we aren’t very strong without God. But ► GOD IS POWERFUL, and we can trust him to use his power for our good.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

God Powered

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We can be so thankful that ► GOD IS POWERFUL because he always uses his power to take care of us. Let’s play a game to think about God’s power.**

Set out the supplies, and let the children use the straws, paper fan, and turkey baster to experiment with moving the ping-pong balls with air.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think is moving the balls?**
- Why do you know God’s powerful even though you can’t see him?**
- What do you need God to help you with this week?**

Say: **We don’t see the air itself, but we see how the air moves the balls. In the same way, we don’t see God, but we can see what his power does in our world. ► GOD IS POWERFUL, and he helps people feel brave, love each other, and do the right things.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Leaning Tower of Beads

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **► GOD IS POWERFUL—so powerful that he knocked down the huge city wall of Jericho. Let’s make a craft to help us think about how great and powerful God is.**



Center 3: God Powered Supplies

- turkey baster
- paper fan
- straws
- ping-pong balls

Center 4: Leaning Tower of Beads Supplies

- 4-inch cardboard square per child
- scissors
- child-safe beads
- 12-inch piece of string per child
- masking tape

Center 4: Leaning Tower of Beads Easy Prep

Poke a hole in the center of each piece of cardboard. Thread a 12-inch piece of string through each hole, tie a knot on one end, and tape the knot in place so it can’t slip through. Tape the loose end of the string so kids can thread it.





Give each child a cardboard square, and show the children how to thread the end of the string through the large beads. Give each child a chance to thread several beads onto his or her string. Make sure kids leave several inches of string free on top of their stacks of beads. Tie a bead to the loose end of each child's string so the beads can't come off.



Show the children how to make the walls of Jericho by holding the cardboard base on the floor and pulling the string straight up so the beads stack on top of one another.

Have children knock the tower over with their fingers. Show them how to rebuild the walls by holding the string straight up again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to knock over your bead tower?
- What's it like to see God's great power in your life?

Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**, and God showed that power by knocking down the walls of Jericho. God can show power in your life, too, by helping you when you need him.

5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

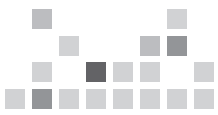
What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Hugs





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

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD IS POWERFUL. I would like each of you to choose a way to thank God or rely on God’s power this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

Watch a movie or show about a superhero. Remember that God is more powerful than the superhero.

Stand outside on a windy day. Thank God that he is even stronger than the wind.

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

Action Prayer

What You’ll Do

Form a circle, and have the children sit down. Allow children the opportunity to flex their muscles and pray one at a time, “Dear God, thank you for being so powerful. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



