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

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Credits

Contributing Authors: Jacqui Baker, Sharon Carey, Jan Kershner, Jim Kochenburger, Janet R. Reeves, Michelle R. Hicks Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Deborah Helmers, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

Interior Design Team: Jared Bigham, Jeff Brunacci, Kate Elvin, Suzi Jensen, Randy Kady, Rebecca Swain

Illustrators: Liz Howe, Jan Knudson

Cover Photography: © iStockphoto.com/Rich Vintage Photography

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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

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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 Voais Schultz

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

Summer Quarter

Introduction

Grades 3 & 4



God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

Third- and fourth-graders are used to obeying parents, teachers, and other people in authority. But sometimes it's harder to learn to obey someone who's not physically there. Abraham walked closely with God, so he was able to obey God easily—even when God asked him to do something that was very hard. Use this lesson to help kids understand that walking closely with God will help them learn to obey him better.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	Lightning Fast React (about 10 min.) Obey the leader's rapid-fire commands.	prizes or treats for each child	
Getting Started	"Why?" (about 10 min.) Explore what Abraham and Isaac went through as God told Abraham to sacrifice his son.	Bibles, paper, pens Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline	
	Trust and Obey (about 10 min.) Create an obedience altar, and sing "Trust and Obey."	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, several pairs of scissors, tape or glue sticks, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
Bible Exploration	Key Verse Graffiti Mural (about 15 min.) Illustrate the Key Verse to discover what God's Word says about obedience.	Bibles, large piece of poster board, scissors, markers, tape	Cut poster board into 5 sections and write the following sections of the Key Verse, one per poster board, at the top of the 5 pieces: 1. So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; 2. do not turn aside to the right or to the left. 3. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, 4. so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days 5. in the land that you will possess.



►Bible Point Obey God.

Key Verse

"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will choose to obey, even when it's difficult.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Hangin' Tough! (about 15 min.) Talk about ways to obey even when it's difficult.	red, black, and green markers Teacher Pack: "Hangin' Tough" poster	
	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth, Teacher Pack: "Hangin' Tough" poster	Tear out the letter to parents from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18



A Preface for Today's Material

This account may seem horrifying if one doesn't study it carefully. It's hard to understand how our good God could command a parent to sacrifice a child. But if we examine the text, we can take comfort in knowing that God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The whole event was designed to test Abraham; it was a chance for him to grow his faith and learn about God's faithfulness.

Abraham Obeys God's Command to Sacrifice His Son

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

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

Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions flooded his mind: "What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I'm serving abandon me now after all these promises?" Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—

after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn't God's after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.

Isaac Also Obeyed God

The Bible tells us nothing of Isaac's thoughts or feelings during this trip. He must have noticed that his father was behaving strangely. But Isaac showed faith, too. He submitted to being placed on the altar in obedience to God's command.

The Jesus Connection

God loves us and he loved Abraham. God's test helped Abraham realize his own commitment to God, and the tests in our lives can help strengthen and deepen our faith, too.

How can you trust God in the middle of trials and difficulty? Invite God into your decisions and challenges and trust him to lead you no matter what the road ahead looks like. You can write your prayer below.

3 & 4 Lesson 1

Summer Quarter



Lightning Fast React Supplies

prizes or treats for each child



1 GETTING STARTED

Lightning Fast React

What You'll Do

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

Say: I'm going to give you some commands. When I give you a command, follow it right away. If you do just as I say, you'll get a surprise. Is everyone ready?

When everyone is ready, start quickly calling out commands. Some suggestions might be "Put your hands on your head," "Do a push-up," "Run in place," "Do a sit-up," or "Shout 'hallelujah!' " Give the kids a maximum of 10 commands, and then let them rest for a moment. Then give another round of commands. Play two or three rounds of this game. When you've finished, award the kids the prize or treat you've promised.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it difficult to obey my commands? Why or why not?
- Why did you decide to obey the commands?
- What are some reasons not to obey someone?

Say: Today we'll learn about a man who obeyed God and did it right away. His name is Abraham, and God asked him to do something very difficult. We'll learn why Abraham obeyed God and discover that it's good for us to ▶ OBEY GOD, too.

"Why?" Supplies

Bibles paper pens **Teacher Pack** Bible Timeline

"Why?"

What You'll Do

Show kids the Bible Timeline, pointing out Abraham and Isaac on the "God Tests Abraham" picture. Have kids form four groups; give each group pens, paper, and at least one Bible.

Say: Today we'll learn about Abraham and Isaac and about how God tested Abraham. Each group will have a passage of Scripture to read. Read the passage twice, and then come up with questions you have. They might be questions for God, for Abraham, or for Isaac.

Give groups their passages, and allow time for them to read and come up with questions.

Group 1: Genesis 22:1-5

Group 2: Genesis 22:6-8

Summer Quarter

Lesson 1

Grades 3 & 4



Group 3: Genesis 22:9-12 Group 4: Genesis 22:13-18

When kids are finished, have them come together. Have a willing child from each group summarize that group's Scripture and read the questions the group came up with.

Say: We can't possibly know for sure why God told Abraham to sacrifice his son. It does seem to have been a test to see how much Abraham was willing to give to God. God wants all of us. When we ▶ OBEY GOD, he knows that we're putting him first in our lives.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was the hardest question for you to wrestle with? Why?
- Tell about a time you obeyed God even when it was hard.

Say: Sometimes it's hard for us to ▶ OBEY GOD. It was probably hard for Abraham to obey God and risk harming his son. But God still wants us to follow his commands. Let's see what that means.



Trust and Obey

What You'll Do

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Obedience Altar" activity. Have kids cut out the logs and rocks at the bottom of the page, and then have them glue or tape the rocks together to make an altar. Encourage them to think of things they might need to sacrifice to obey God, such as watching a lot of TV, playing video games, or hanging out with a certain group of influential friends. Then have them write those things on the logs they cut out. As their sacrifice of obedience to God, have them tape or glue the logs onto the rocks.

Say: We always need to obey God. Although you'll sometimes have to sacrifice things, God probably won't ask you to do what he asked Abraham to do. When we DBEY GOD, it pleases God and allows him to make our lives the best they can be. Let's sing a song about obedience.

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "Trust and Obey" (track 3 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.



Trust and Obey Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens several pairs of scissors tape or glue sticks CD player copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack CD: "Trust and 0

CD: "Trust and Obey" (track 3)

Trust and Obey Easy Prep

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



When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

"Trust and Obey" by John H. Sammis.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things you needed to sacrifice to obey God?
- When do you find it easy to obey God?
- What kinds of things might you have to give up to follow Jesus?
- How does trusting God connect to obeying him?

Say: Abraham's life shows us that sometimes it's difficult to obey God. But he's always there to help us, because it pleases him when we ▶ OBEY GOD. Because he loves us and wants the best for us, he'll help us to be obedient, especially when it's difficult.



Key Verse Graffiti Mural

What You'll Do

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: Our Key Verse today is Deuteronomy 5:32-33.

Have kids find the Key Verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess."

Say: Let's create a mural about our Key Verse.

Have kids form five groups. Distribute markers to each group. Assign each group a section of the Key Verse, and have the kids rewrite that section in their own words on the appropriate poster board. Then have them draw pictures on the poster board to illustrate the verse.

After kids have finished their murals, have them help you attach them all together and tape them to a wall. Review the entire verse.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How would you sum up this verse?
- Why is it important to do what God has commanded us?

What's one way you can live out this verse?

Say: When we OBEY GOD it pleases him. He wants to be able to give us the best he has for us. The promise he gives here for obedience—"that you may live and prosper and prolong your days"—is just the beginning of all the good things he wants to bring to our lives. Abraham is proof of that. But we must be obedient to him to receive his best. God can help us obey in all situations, even when it's difficult.



Hangin' Tough!

What You'll Do

Hang up the "Hangin' Tough" poster, and gather kids around it. Have the markers nearby.

Say: I want you to look at the poster. I'll read what each of these situations is about. Then you'll decide whether obeying in that situation would be easy, difficult,



Key Verse Graffiti Mural Supplies

Bibles
large piece of poster
board
scissors
markers
tape

Key Verse Graffiti Mural Easy Prep

Cut poster board into 5 sections and write the following sections of the Key Verse, one per poster board, at the top of the 5 pieces:

- So be careful to do
 what the Lord your
 God has commanded
 vou:
- 2. do not turn aside to the right or to the left.
- Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you,
- so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days
- 5. in the land that you will possess.

Hangin' Tough! Supplies

red, black, and green markers

Teacher Pack

"Hangin' Tough" poster



or impossible. If you think it would be easy, use the green marker to draw a check mark on the area of the poster showing the scenario I've read. If you think it would be difficult, use a red marker to draw a check mark on the scenario. And if you think it would be impossible to obey, use a black marker to draw an X on the scenario. Okay, is everyone ready?

When kids understand what they are supposed to do, read the following situations.

Say: In the first situation, you feel God is prompting you to tell a real tough kid about Jesus and how to have a relationship with him. This kid looks especially angry today.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the second situation, school's out and you want to go play with your neighborhood friends, but your parents have asked you to spend the day playing instead with your younger brother or sister.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the third situation, you find \$5 on the floor of your classroom. In the past, your teacher has been clear that when you find things like this, you have to turn them in to him.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the fourth situation, your soccer team has some make-up games scheduled on Sunday mornings for the next two weeks. You're a key player for the team, but your parents have said that you can't miss church for games.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the fifth situation, you've told your friends you could hang out with them all weekend. Your dad tells you that this is the weekend you're supposed to do yardwork for elderly people in your church, and you have to tell your friends you can't hang out with them.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the sixth situation, a bully who wants to fight you threatens you. Even your Christian friends wonder why you don't fight this bully, but your parents have taught you that God says to "turn the other cheek," meaning you shouldn't fight.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the seventh situation, you're reading your Bible and come to the verse that says, "Honor your father and mother." You're mad at your mom and dad, though, because they won't let you have the new video game you want.



Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Say: In the last situation, your parents have taught you to give part of your allowance to God in church. This week if you don't give money in the collection, you will have just enough to buy the new music you want.

Allow kids to make their marks on the poster.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's the most difficult thing about obeying in each of these situations?
- How can God help you obey in each situation?
- Which of these situations most reminded you of one you've faced recently? What can you do to obey in that situation?

Say: Our obedience pleases God. We can strive to DOBEY GOD in every part of our lives, even if it's hard—just as it was for Abraham. But God won't ask us to do something impossible; he'll always help us, just as he did by providing a ram for Abraham to sacrifice.



LASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's consider how we can ▶ OBEY GOD this week, even when it's hard.

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

- Obey right away when a parent asks you to do something.
- One way to obey God is by loving others. Do something loving for a family member or friend this week.
- It takes sacrifice to obey God. Give something up this week, and spend that time growing closer to God.

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



Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth **Teacher Pack**"Hangin' Tough" poster

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: As we saw in Abraham's life, it's sometimes hard to ▶ OBEY GOD. But God promises to always be with us when we do.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

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

Have kids each come up and place their hand on an image from the "Hangin' Tough" poster that they labeled as impossible or difficult. Then pray together that God would help them to be obedient and trust him in all situations.



Lyrics

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.





[&]quot;Trust and Obey" by John H. Sammis.



Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

hird- and fourth-graders are just beginning to venture out and try new things. Unfortunately, this maturing process may include a bit of the "I can do it on my own" mentality. Use this lesson to stress to kids that everyone, young and old, needs God's wisdom and direction.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Directions, Please! (about 5 min.) Play a game with no directions.		
2	Without Direction (about 15 min.) Try to find a person while receiving no direction.	Bible, blindfold	
Bible Exploration	Wisdom at the Well (about 10 min.) Hear the end of the Bible account, make signs, and talk about direction.	Bibles, CD player, paper, markers Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point Pray for God's direction.

Key Verse
"If any of you lacks
wisdom, he should
ask God, who gives
generously to all
without finding fault,
and it will be given to
him" (James 1:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will seek God's direction for their lives.

•••••





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving	map compares with the		
Into Life	Map Making (about 15 min.) Make maps of their lives, and discuss seeking God's direction.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, colored pencils and markers, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	maps made in the "Are We There Yet?" activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24



The Servant's Oath

As we pick up with Abraham and Isaac, we find that Abraham's wife, Isaac's mother, Sarah, has died. Abraham is 140 years old. Isaac is about 40 and has not yet married. Abraham was determined that Isaac would not marry someone from the lands around him and that only a wife from Abraham's own people would do. Abraham likely felt too old to make the journey, and he probably didn't want his son Isaac to leave him. So he chose to send his trusted servant, who is often assumed to be Eliezer (Genesis 15:2).

Eliezer's response may have indicated the seriousness of the oath he was taking—he wanted to be sure he could be freed from the oath if the chosen woman wouldn't come with him.

In response Abraham reiterated his insistence that Isaac remain in Canaan. Perhaps Abraham feared that if Isaac returned to his family's homeland, he would hesitate to return to Canaan, since he knew that Abraham might die soon and he would be left alone.

The Servant's Prayer

Eliezer's journey was about 800 to 1,000 miles each way and would likely have taken a couple of months—perhaps longer—each way. Notice what Eliezer did first when he arrived at his destination: He prayed. All we know about Eliezer is that he was from Damascus (Genesis 15:2), and he had faith in God. His prayer shows that he knew he needed direction from God.

Notice that "before he had finished praying," Rebekah appeared. God helped Eliezer immediately! Rebekah did precisely what Eliezer had described in his prayer, and he confirmed that she was the right person by asking whose daughter she was. Then he praised and worshipped God!

The Servant's Reward

The pieces of jewelry Eliezer immediately gave Rebekah were gifts of great value and were apparently given as an expression of kindness, not as a dowry for her marriage to Isaac.

In agreeing to go with Eliezer to marry Isaac, Rebekah expressed great faith of her own. She was giving up an elaborate wedding near her home, she was giving up everything familiar to her, she was promising to marry a man she had never seen, and she was committing to live nearly a thousand miles away from her family.

Eliezer showed tremendous faith in God through his journey and by praying as soon as he arrived. Eliezer

The Jesus Connection

prayed in faith and Rebekah acted without hesitation based on faith. How can you promote this kind of faith into your life? You can write your prayer in the space below.

Lesson 2

Summer Quarter





Directions, Please!

What You'll Do

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

When all the kids have arrived, have them form two groups, and have the groups sit on opposite sides of the room.

Say: Let's play a fun game. I'm curious to see how well each group can play the game. You'll have one minute to try to win this game. Ready? Go!

Kids will protest that they can't play the game because they don't know the rules. You may be tempted to stop play at this point, but persevere until the minute is up. The goal is to have kids feel uncomfortable because they're without direction.

After a minute, call kids together.

Ask:

- What was your favorite part of this game?
- What would have made this game more fun?

Say: You obviously couldn't play the game because I didn't give you any directions. Let's try it again—this time with directions.

Have groups return to their original positions on opposite sides of the room. This time, explain that the goal of the game is for each group to stand in a single-file line facing the opposite wall. At your signal, the first player in each line will hop to the opposite side of the room, touch the wall, hop back to tag the next player in line, and then sit down. The first team to have all its players accomplish the tasks wins.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which game did you enjoy more? Why?
- What was it like when I asked you to play without directions?
- Tell about a time in your life when you didn't have any directions but really needed them.
- When you don't have directions, how do you find out what to do?

Say: Playing that game was difficult when you didn't know what you were supposed to be doing. Life is that way, too. But we can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, and he'll help us choose wise paths. Let's explore that.





Without Direction

What You'll Do

Say: In today's Bible passage, a man named Abraham has decided it's time for his son, Isaac, to get married.

Before we get started, let me explain something people did in Bible times. The Bible tells us that Abraham's servant put his hand under Abraham's thigh. That was a sign in Bible times that two people were making a serious deal, or a covenant. Today two people might shake hands when making a serious deal or they might even sign a contract that their lawyers prepared for them.

I'm going to read the passage, and every time you hear about Abraham's servant putting his hand under Abraham's thigh, go shake the hands of three people.

Read aloud Genesis 24:1-11, giving kids a chance to shake hands when appropriate.

Say: Abraham knew he'd need God's help to find a wife for Isaac, and he knew that we can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION. So he asked God for direction and believed God would provide direction to the servant to help him find just the right wife for Isaac. Let's see what the servant's job was like.

Have kids help you clear a large space in the center of your room. Then ask them to form one large circle, and choose someone to be the "Servant." Blindfold the Servant, and have him or her stand in the center of the circle. Explain that the object of the game is for the Servant to tag someone without being able to see. The rest of the kids will call out to the Servant and will move around the room to avoid being tagged. If the Servant tags someone, that person becomes the new Servant. If the Servant is unable to tag another player, call time after about a minute, and choose a new Servant.

Try to give everyone an opportunity to be the Servant.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like trying to tag someone without being able to see?
- How is that like the servant in the Bible trying to find a wife without God's direction?
- Why is it important to ask God for direction?
- Tell about a time you followed God's direction.



Without Direction Supplies

Bible blindfold



Wisdom at the Well Supplies

Bibles
CD player
paper
markers
Teacher Pack
CD: "Wisdom at the
Well" (track 4)

Say: Abraham knew that Isaac would have to find a wife and stay in the land of Canaan so he could receive God's promise. Abraham trusted that God would keep his promise to leave the land to Abraham's offspring. We can trust God's promises, too—the promises he makes in the Bible. But it's important to ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION as we seek his promises.

Wisdom at the Well

What You'll Do

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have a willing child read aloud Genesis 24:12-15. Have another child read verses 17-20.

Ask:

- Do you think it's okay to ask God for a sign of his direction as the servant did? Why or why not?
- When have you asked God for his direction?

Say: Just like Abraham, his servant knew that we can seek God's direction through prayer. So he asked God to give him a sign at the well. God may still give us signs sometimes, but we can't always expect a sign. Before we talk about how to seek God's direction in our lives, let's find out what happened to Abraham's servant!

Divide kids into three groups, and give each group paper and markers.

Say: I'm going to give each group a section of the passage. I want you to make a sign that represents what happens in your passage. Then we'll listen to what happens to Isaac's servant. When your section comes up, raise your signs high for all to see.

Group 1: Genesis 24:22-32 Group 2: Genesis 24:50-58 Group 3: Genesis 24:59-67

Play "Wisdom at the Well" (track 4 on the CD), and have groups hold up their signs at the appropriate time.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did the groups do in capturing the feel of the passage in a sign?
- What are some ways God makes his direction known in our lives?
- Do you think we have to pray for God's direction about all areas of our lives? Why or why not?

Say: The Bible tells us that Isaac married Rebekah and loved her. God's direction for their lives worked out happily for both of them. The servant knew he needed God's help in choosing a wife for Isaac. We need God's help in our lives, too. We can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION—and he'll give it to us. God wants to give us his wisdom and direction.





Are We There Yet?

What You'll Do

Have kids form trios. Give each trio a paper and pencils. Explain that each group will write directions for how to get from one point to another. Assign each trio a starting point and an ending point that is shown on your road map, but don't show the kids the map yet. Give kids about two minutes to work. Then ask groups to explain their directions to the entire group. Most likely, the kids won't have known how to write directions and may complain that they had no map or GPS.

Hang the road map on the wall. Have the kids choose a representative from their trios to go look at the map. Then have each group rewrite their directions, allowing them to consult the map as often as needed. Give the groups about five minutes to work.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was this activity different when you had a map to look at?
- How is having a map or GPS on a trip like having the Bible in life?
- What are some situations in your life in which you need direction?

Say: Leaving on a trip without a map is like traveling through life without God's direction. Isaac's servant knew how important it was to seek God's direction. We can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, too—he's the mapmaker, after all!

Map Making

What You'll Do

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and set out colored pencils and markers for kids to share.

Open your Bible to this week's Key Verse, James 1:5, and show the passage to the kids. Help kids find the passage in their own Bibles. Read the verse aloud: "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Have kids read the Key Verse aloud several times.

Say: Our Key Verse says that it's good for us to ask God for wisdom and direction. We can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION, and he'll give us the direction we need.



Are We There Yet? Supplies

paper pencils road map tape

Map Making Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
colored pencils and
markers
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "If Anyone Lacks
Wisdom" (James 1:5)
(track 5)

Map Making Easy Prep

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

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When God gives us direction, it's a lot like following a map to a destination. He guides us in our lives like a map guides us on a journey. Let's pretend your life is a journey.

On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, draw a map of your life's journey on the "God Gives Wisdom" section. Your map may look like a road map, a game board, or whatever you want. On your map, include times in the past when God has guided you and given you direction. Maybe you'll draw a picture of a school on one road of your map because once God gave you the wisdom not to cheat on a test. Also include times you know you'll need God's direction in the future. Maybe you'll draw a picture of what you want to be when you grow up or where you'll live.

Give kids seven or eight minutes to work. As kids work, play "If Anyone Lacks Wisdom" (James 1:5) (track 5 on the CD). When kids have finished their maps, have them form pairs.

Say: Share your map with your partner. Tell your friend about how God has given you direction in your life. Then share ways you know you'll need God's direction in the future. Allow time.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How can we know God's direction for our lives?
- What if God's direction doesn't match up with our direction?
- How can we seek God's direction in our lives?

Say: From a really important decision (like Isaac's decision about who to marry) to smaller decisions, we can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION in all areas. God would love to talk to us every day about everything on our maps.



LASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how we can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION.

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

- Put a blank destination on your map. Then ask God to help you fill that in with a way to serve and please him.
- Every morning when you wake up this week, ask God to guide you through your day.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 2

Grades 3 & 4



Pray with your family for God to guide all of you when you don't know what to do.

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

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Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: Abraham's servant sought God's direction in finding Rebekah. In the same way, we can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION as we go through life. Let's do that this week as we follow through with our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we can ▶ PRAY FOR GOD'S DIRECTION. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Have kids hold their maps in their hands and ask God to help them as they make daily decisions for him on this journey.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

maps made in the "Are We There Yet?" activity



Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

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

hird- and fourth-graders are just beginning to be able to think abstractly. Don't let your kids fall into the trap of the "gray zone," where absolutes such as truth and honesty can be reasoned away by circumstances. Use this lesson to stress the importance God himself places on being truthful.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	EASY PREP	
1 Getting Started	Fact or Fiction? (about 15 min.) Tell real and made-up facts about themselves, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles	
2	Jacob and Esau (about 10 min.) Act out the first part of the Bible passage from Genesis 25:27-34.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline	
Bible Exploration	Truth or Consequences	Bible, CD player, ball, tape, yarn, scissors, individually wrapped pieces of candy Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point Honesty is important to God.

Key Verse

"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will be honest, even when it's tempting to lie.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	Cover-up (about 10 min.) See how trying to cover the truth with lies really messes up our lives.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, crayons	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

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



Broken Family History

Abraham lived another 35 years after Isaac's marriage, and during that time he took a new wife who bore him six more children. After he died, he was buried with Sarah. It's interesting to note that he was buried by Isaac and Ishmael. Abraham had left all of his possessions to Isaac even though Ishmael was his firstborn. But apparently the two were able to put aside their differences to honor their departed father.

In the meantime, Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys, Jacob and Esau. Esau, the firstborn, was Isaac's favorite, and Jacob was Rebekah's favorite. Such favoritism seldom leads to a healthy home life.

Jacob Extorts Esau's Birthright

The first deception we see between Jacob and Esau is Jacob's act of extortion. When Esau came in hungry from the fields and demanded some of the stew Jacob was cooking, Jacob quickly responded that he would exchange the stew for Esau's birthright. Jacob's quick response indicates that he may have been scheming to steal the birthright, which was considered a precious gift from God. It entitled Esau to a double portion of the inheritance and made him the head of the family. When Esau swore the oath that Jacob demanded, he entered a legal agreement giving up that birthright. He gave up all that God had given him as the firstborn.

Jacob Defrauds Esau of Isaac's Blessing

Though Esau had lost the birthright, Isaac was still determined to give him the fatherly blessing before he died. Rebekah initiated the second deception. We should consider that Rebekah might have thought she was doing her part to make sure that God's message to her (described in Genesis 25:23) came true. God

had promised that the older of her twin sons would serve the younger. Whatever her motives, she helped Jacob deceive his aged father into giving him the blessing intended for Esau.

This deception devastated the family. Esau vowed to kill Jacob as soon as their father died (Genesis 27:41). Jacob had to flee the land, never to see his mother alive again.

God Worked in the Broken Family

God's will was accomplished even though it was done through human deceit and dishonesty. God can work through broken, imperfect people to do his will, but he still expects and wants us to live with integrity and to strive for purity. Jacob's family was shattered by his dishonesty, but God still brought a nation from that family.

The Jesus Connection

God can work in any situation. Despite our fallen nature, God sent Jesus to bridge the chasm between us and our holy God. With the Holy Spirit alive in us, we can live in honesty and truth in all things. What is one area of your life in which you can ask God to help you live in total honesty? You can write your prayer in the space below.

Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 3

Summer Quarter



Fact or Fiction? Supplies

Bibles



Fact or Fiction?

What You'll Do

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

Say: Let's play a guessing game called "Fact or Fiction?"

Ask kids to each think of three facts about themselves: two true things and one madeup thing. Tell kids to try to think of facts that other people won't necessarily know. For example, a child might say she was born in Ohio and learned to read when she was four (both true) and that she took ballet lessons (made-up fact).

Give kids about a minute to think. Then have kids in each group take turns telling their three facts to their group members. Group members will then vote on which facts they think are true and which are made up. After the voting, have each child reveal which facts are true. After everyone's had a turn, have kids answer the following questions in their groups. After each question, ask willing kids to share their answers with the rest of their group.

Ask:

- How did you figure out which things were true and which things weren't?
- When is it hard in real life to tell the truth?

Say: Our Key Verse for today tells us how God feels about lying. Let's read it together.

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have kids turn to Proverbs 12:22. Ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful."

Say: Our Key Verse says that God doesn't just dislike lying—he detests it! And it says that he doesn't just kind of like it when people tell the truth—he loves it! Being honest is a big deal to God.

Have kids form pairs.

Say: Think of a time that lies—either your own or someone else's—have caused problems in your life. Share that situation with your partner.

After kids have had time to share, continue.

Say: Now think about how that situation might have turned out differently if everyone had been honest, and share that with your partner. Allow time.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 3

 Grades 3 & 4



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is honesty important?
- What are some of the benefits of telling the truth?

Say: Being honest can prevent a lot of problems in our lives and in our relationships. But there's an even more important reason for being honest:

▶ HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. Listen again to today's Key Verse. Read aloud Proverbs 12:22. Have kids repeat the verse with you several times: "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful" (Proverbs 12:22). Let's take a look at the Bible to see why telling the truth is better than lying.



BIBI F

EXPLORATION

Jacob and Esau

What You'll Do

Show kids the "Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: Isaac and Rebekah were two important people from the Bible, and today we're going to look at their two sons. These sons were twins named Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first, so he was the older of the brothers.

In Bible times, the oldest son received what was called a birthright. A birthright meant that the oldest son would get more privileges, more responsibilities in the family, and more of his father's inheritance. An inheritance is the money parents leave for their children when they die. So having a birthright was a pretty big deal in those days.

Have kids form two groups. One group will play Jacob, and the other will play Esau. Explain that you'll play the first part of the account on the CD, and groups will act out the actions of their person. Tell kids to listen carefully and to silently perform the appropriate actions each time the narrator on the CD pauses.

Play "Jacob and Esau," (track 6 on the CD), pausing where indicated by the narrator. The CD script is included here to help you lead your kids through the actions.

Isaac and Rebekah had two sons, Jacob and Esau. They were twins, but Esau was born first so he was the older of the two. The boys grew up. Esau became a skillful hunter. He was very good at using a bow and arrow. (Pause.) Jacob was quieter and stayed closer to home. He liked to help around the house and was a good cook. (Pause.)



Jacob and Esau Supplies

Bible CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "Jacob and Esau" (track 6) Bible Timeline



Their father, Isaac, loved the taste of wild meat, so he loved Esau. But Rebekah, their mother, loved how Jacob stayed near home.

One day Jacob was cooking and stirring a pot of stew. (Pause.) Suddenly, Esau came running into the room from the open country. (Pause.) Esau was panting from running so hard. (Pause.) Jacob just looked up and kept stirring the stew. (Pause.)

"I'm starving! I'm starving!" cried Esau, holding his hungry stomach. (Pause.) He held out his arms to Jacob. (Pause.) "Quick! Give me a bowl of that stew!"

Jacob stopped stirring the stew and put his hands on his hips. (Pause.) Then he pointed at Esau. (Pause.) "Before I give you some of this stew, sell me your birthright."

Esau looked surprised. (Pause.) "My birthright? What good is my birthright when I'm starving?"

Jacob shook his head. (Pause.) "Swear that you'll sell me your birthright, or I won't give you any stew."

Esau shrugged his shoulders. (Pause.) "Whatever. You can have my birthright." (Pause.)

So Jacob handed his brother a bowl of stew. (Pause.) Esau ate quickly as if he were starving. (Pause.) And the birthright now belonged to Jacob, the younger son.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think is a fair trade for a birthright?
- What do Esau's actions say about how important his birthright was to him?
- What are some of our "rights" we receive from God as Christians?

Say: As the oldest son, the birthright belonged to Esau. But Esau proved that the birthright didn't mean much to him when he sold it for a bowl of stew. Jacob was dishonest, even though ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. Things went downhill from there. Let's see what happened.

Truth or Consequences

What You'll Do

Say: A consequence is what naturally happens as a result of an action. Hold a ball in front of you. For example, if I drop this ball, the consequence of that action is that the ball will fall to the ground. Drop the ball; then set it aside. Today we're going to talk about the consequences of not telling the truth. Telling the truth plays a big part in the ending of our Bible passage. This part comes from Genesis 27:1-40. Open your Bible, and show kids the passage. In fact, lying has such big consequences in this passage that we're going to play a game called Truth or Consequences to help illustrate that.

Truth or Consequences Supplies

Bible
CD player
ball
tape
yarn
scissors
individually wrapped
pieces of candy

Teacher Pack

CD "Truth or Consequences, Part 1" (track 7), "Truth or Consequences, Part 2" (track 8), "Truth or Consequences, Part 3" (track 9), "Truth or Consequences, Part 4" (track 10)

ALLERGY

Summer Quarter

Lesson 3

Grades 3 & 4





Form groups of three. Ask the kids in each group to choose someone to represent them as Jacob. Explain that the game show host on the CD track will ask the Jacobs to do something during each segment of the CD.

After each segment, have each group appoint a new "Jacob."

Play "Truth or Consequences, Part 1" (track 7 on the CD), and pause the CD when the narrator instructs you to.

Say: Okay, Jacobs, here's your choice: You can tape a piece of yarn to your arm and get a piece of candy, or not do anything to your arm—but get no candy.

Give kids a chance to choose. If kids choose the yarn, tape some yarn to their arms and then yank it off. Then give them a piece of candy.

Say: I hope that candy was worth the pain, Jacobs! We may not always have immediate consequences when we lie, but there are always consequences!

Play "Truth or Consequences, Part 2" (track 8 on the CD), pausing the CD when the narrator instructs you to.

Say: Okay, Jacobs, you have the same choice. What will it be?

Give kids a chance to choose. Once again, tape yarn to their arms and dramatically yank it off before giving them the candy.

After kids have finished, play "Truth or Consequences, Part 3" (track 9 on the CD), pausing the CD when the narrator instructs you to.

Say: Jacobs, this time you have to choose which name you're going to admit to. If you lie and say Esau, you'll get candy. But in order to get the candy, you'll have to run away from the others in your group. If they catch you, you have to give up the candy. If you admit the truth and say Jacob, you don't get any candy.

Give kids a chance to choose.

When kids have finished sharing, play "Truth or Consequences, Part 4" (track 10 on the CD). Stop the CD when the narrator instructs you to.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what choice to make in our game?
- How did you decide whether to tell the truth or lie?
- What are some real-life consequences for being dishonest in our lives?
- Why do we sometimes lie to people we love?

Give the kids who told the truth a piece of candy, and say: Paying the consequences for



Jacob's dishonesty in our game wasn't so bad. But in real life, consequences for lying can be pretty severe. They could hurt others. They could even tear apart our families. Let's see why ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD and figure out how we can always remember to tell the truth.



WEAVING FAITH

INTO LIFE

Cover-Up Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens crayons

Cover-Up Easy Prep

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

Cover-Up

What You'll Do

Say: Today we learned how lies tore apart a family. When we're dishonest, our lies can do the same thing to our families and friends. But sometimes we find ourselves in situations where it's hard to tell the truth.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you had a hard time telling the truth.
- How did you decide whether to tell the truth or not?

Say: Sometimes lying looks better than the truth, so we choose dishonesty over what we know is right. Let's do an experiment to see what lying really does.

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages and a pen to each child. Have kids think about a truth they'd have trouble telling. For example, someone might have trouble telling a teacher that he cheated on a test. Or someone might not want to tell her parents that it was actually she who tore her mother's favorite dress and not her sister.

Give kids a minute to think and write in the "Cover Up" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. As they work, set out a variety of crayons. Then have kids form pairs.

Say: Talk with your partner about why you'd be tempted to lie in that situation. Maybe you don't want to get into trouble or you'd be embarrassed by the truth. Come up with as many reasons as you can. Be creative. As you discuss, use the crayons to write more lies you'd have to tell to cover up the first lie. Try to cover up the first lie with as many colors as possible.

Give kids time to talk and color over the situations.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you notice about your truth as you tried to cover it up?
- What does your page look like now?
- How is this activity like or unlike lying to cover up the truth?

Summer Quarter

Lesson 3

Grades 3 & 4



- What are some real-life consequences of lying?
- What are some real-life consequences of telling the truth?
- What's a lie you need to undo by telling the truth this week?

Say: ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. God wants us to keep our lives clean by coming clean and telling the truth—no matter what. Not only does dishonesty go against God's wishes, it can have huge consequences as we saw with Jacob and Esau.



LASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can be honest this week, because ► HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD.

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

- When you're in a situation where it seems like lying will get you out of trouble, tell the truth right away. (You'll probably stay out of the most trouble that way.)
- If you've lied to your parents recently, talk to them about that. Now's a great time to tell the truth!
- Forgive someone who's lied to you recently. Tell that person that you forgive him or her; then talk about why it's important to be honest.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: HONESTY IS IMPORTANT TO GOD. As our Key Verse tells us, he delights in it. When we look at Jacob we can see how dishonesty can tear us apart. Let's work toward delighting God by following through on our commitments to tell the truth this week.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a few minutes to pray, giving kids a chance to silently confess areas of dishonesty to God and ask for forgiveness.



Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30

S ince many third- and fourth-graders are most likely enjoying life and having a lot of fun, some may not fully understand "hard times." It's at this age, though, that they begin to experience such things as rejection, to have more required of them in school, and perhaps to be blamed for something they didn't do. They'll need to know how God uses hard times to help them act responsibly. You can use this lesson to reassure them that God is on their side and he "works for the good of those who love him."

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Getting Started	Gimme Seven! (about 15 min.) Try to toss balls into a garbage can in order to get cookies.	3 small balls, basket or clean garbage can, package of cookies, box of saltines, antibacterial gel (optional)	
2 Bible Exploration	All in the Family (about 20 min.) At different learning stations, learn about 1 of the 4 people in this Bible passage.	crayons, markers, pencils, 2 poster boards, paper, tape Teacher Pack: "Emotional Face" cards arning a about ople in sage. Set up 4 learni • Station 1: Se crayons, pen board. Hang "Jacob" nea • Station 2: Ha "Laban" nea • Station 3: Se a poster boa says "Leah" • Station 4: Se sheet of pap	Set up 4 learning stations: Station 1: Set out markers, crayons, pencils, and a poster board. Hang a sign that says "Jacob" near the station. Station 2: Hang a sign that says "Laban" near the station. Station 3: Set out a marker and a poster board. Hang a sign that says "Leah" near this station. Station 4: Set out a pencil and a sheet of paper. Hang a sign that says "Rachel" near this station.
	Guess the Ending (about 15 min.) Guess the endings of stories, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point God uses hard times to help us grow.

Key Verse "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according

to his purpose"

(Romans 8:28).

Weaving Faith
Into Life

Children will place their trust in God during a tough situation.

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LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	Hard Situations (about 10 min.) Think about difficult situations, and make commitments.	Bible, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 5 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families, and write on a rock about a hard situation.	1 rock per child, permanent markers	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30



Jacob Flees From Esau to Uncle Laban

After fleeing from his brother, Esau, Jacob headed to the land of his ancestors, and there he found his uncle Laban. Laban welcomed him into his home, and Jacob fell in love with Rachel.

Jacob Marries Leah, But Loves Rachel

No one knows for sure the meaning of Scripture's description of Leah's eyes as "weak." Some suggest that she was nearsighted; others say that her eyes lacked the sparkle or fire that was considered a sign of great beauty in that culture. Still others think the Hebrew word translated as "weak" could also be translated as "delicate" or "gentle," indicating that Leah had some beauty but it paled by comparison to Rachel's overwhelming beauty. Whatever Leah's eyes were like, Jacob definitely preferred Rachel!

Reading through the passage raises at least a couple of questions: Why did Jacob have to work seven years to "earn" his wife? Jacob may have used this method because he wasn't able to give Laban a dowry, as was customarily given to the father of the bride.

How could Jacob have slept with Leah without knowing she wasn't Rachel? Remember that this event happened before the invention of electric lights, so it would have been very dark once the weak lamps were extinguished. Also Leah might have tried to make the deception succeed. Finally, Jacob's senses may have been dulled by eating and drinking during the wedding feast.

Because multiple wives were common in that culture, Laban agreed to let Jacob take Rachel as his second wife after just one week—if Jacob worked another seven years for Laban. This was not your average honeymoon.

Jacob Keeps His Word to Laban

So Jacob continued to work for Laban. Jacob fulfilled his promise. Perhaps this shows some growth in Jacob. Perhaps years of hardship had curbed his deceptive ways—after all, he could have taken his two wives and run before the second set of seven years was up. Perhaps he realized that God was teaching him patience and faithfulness through the hard times that came into his life.

Hard times come. How we respond to them may influence how God helps us through them. When we trust in God, he will never let us down.

The Jesus Connection

We all go through hard times. No one has ever faced as many difficulties as Jesus did while he was here walking among humankind. God sees our hearts and he wants to help us grow in character and closeness to him. The more we allow God to shape our responses and attitudes, the closer we can draw to him and the more able we are to walk through hard times with faith and perseverance while trusting him. What are some ways you can ask God to help you change your attitude toward hard times? You can write your prayer below.

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<u>-</u>	
<u>-</u>	

Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 4

Summer Quarter



Gimme Seven! Supplies

3 small balls basket or clean garbage can package of cookies box of saltines antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY



Gimme Seven!

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then gather kids together, and show them the cookies and saltines you brought for this activity.

Say: How many of you would like some of these snacks today? Let kids respond.

Say: Okay, in order to get a snack, you'll need to do something first. Hold up one of the balls. You'll take turns tossing this ball into this basket (or garbage can). After it goes in seven times, you may have some cookies.

Have kids form three lines, and one at a time from each line, have them toss the ball into the basket. Place the basket far enough away that it's a challenge but not impossible for kids to toss the ball in.

When all the kids have done this once, have kids clean their hands. Begin to pass out the saltines. Kids will likely begin to protest that they want the cookies.

Say: I needed to give away these crackers before I gave out the cookies. But if you will toss the ball into the basket seven *more* times, I'll give you the cookies, too.

Allow kids to play again, and afterward give them cookies and begin the discussion.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Describe your thoughts and feelings when you didn't get what you expected.
- Did you think it was fair to have to toss the ball seven more times to get what you thought you were going to get in the first place? Why or why not?
- Tell about a time you had to do something hard in your life to get something you wanted.

Say: Today we're going to learn about a man who faced hard times. Let's explore how ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.





All in the Family

What You'll Do

Have kids form four groups based on their preferences.

Kids who like music will be the Rachel Group.

Kids who like writing will be the Leah Group.

Kids who like drawing will be the Jacob Group.

Kids who like acting will be the Laban Group.

Say: Now I'd like to tell you about a family who ended up going through a hard time. The family members' names were Jacob, Laban, Leah, and Rachel. As I tell you about them, listen for the person your group is assigned to. When I say the name "Jacob," the Jacob group will stand up and flex your muscles. When I say the name "Laban," the Laban group will stand up, rub your fake beards, and say, "Hmm." When I say the name "Leah," the Leah group will stand up, put your hand over your eyes as if protecting them from the sun, squint, and say "Where?" When I say the name "Rachel," the Rachel group will stand up, fluff your hair, and bat your eyelashes.

Read the following paraphrase of Genesis 29:15-30 aloud to the kids, pausing for the appropriate action after each name.

Say: *Jacob* had been staying with his uncle *Laban* for about a month and working for him. One day *Laban* came to *Jacob* and said, "You don't have to work for me for free. I want to pay you. What should your wages be?"

Jacob thought about this. He thought about the two daughters Laban had: Leah, the older one, and Rachel, the young and beautiful one. Jacob was in love with Rachel, so he told Laban, "If I promise to work for seven years, I'd like to marry your younger daughter Rachel. That'll be enough pay for me."

So *Laban* agreed, because he knew *Jacob* would make a wonderful husband for his daughter.

After seven years, *Jacob* was ready to get married. So *Laban* planned a great wedding. But instead of giving the young *Rachel* to *Jacob*, he gave him *Leah*!

This made *Jacob* mad! He went to *Laban* in anger. "How could you do this? I worked so hard for seven years so I could marry *Rachel*, and you gave me *Leah* instead!"

Laban replied, "Well, the way things work around here, my older daughter is supposed to get married first. You can marry Rachel, too, but you'll need to work



All in the Family Supplies

crayons markers pencils 2 poster boards paper tape

Teacher Pack

"Emotional Face" cards

All in the Family Easy Prep

Set up 4 learning stations:

- Station 1: Set out markers, crayons, pencils, and a poster board. Hang a sign that says "Jacob" near the station.
- Station 2: Hang a sign that says "Laban" near the station.
- Station 3: Set out a marker and a poster board. Hang a sign that says "Leah" near this station.
- Station 4: Set out a pencil and a sheet of paper. Hang a sign that says "Rachel" near this station.



another seven years." In those times it was normal for a man to have more than one wife.

Jacob loved Rachel so much that he agreed to this new contract. He married Rachel and worked hard for seven more years!

Say: Now go to the station that has your person's name, and follow the instructions you'll be given.

Station 1: Jacob

Say: At this station, you'll use the markers and poster board to draw a wedding album of Jacob and Leah after Jacob found out that he had been tricked! Each person can draw his or her own picture to contribute to the album.

Station 2: Laban

Say: At this station, you'll create a short skit about the wedding, and prepare to act out the scene for the other groups.

Station 3: Leah

Say: At this station, you'll write a wedding announcement that could go in the newspaper. The first person in the group will write the first sentence and pass the marker on to the next person, who will continue by writing the next sentence. Keep going till everyone has a chance to write a sentence.

Station 4: Rachel

Say: At this station, I'd like you to write a song about what happened with Rachel and her sister and the wedding. Come up with lyrics to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot."

While kids work, separate the "Emotional Face" cards.

After 10 minutes, have each group present its station activity to the other groups. Then fan out the "Emotional Face" cards facedown in your hands.

Say: Everyone, choose one card from the deck. After you've chosen your card, turn it over and decide which person most felt this emotion. Once you've decided, tape the card up on one of the signs behind the stations and stay standing there.

Allow kids to pick cards and then tape them up at the station of their choosing.

Say: Now with your new group, share why you think your person felt the emotion you picked. Then talk about a time you felt that way, too.

When everyone has shared with his or her group, bring the kids back together as a large group.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How has the situation you just shared affected the way you interact with people?
- Tell about a time you were tricked. Describe how you felt afterward.
- Tell about a time you had to wait for something and found the waiting was really hard to do. What was that like?
- What did you learn from that hard time?

Say: Nobody wants to go through hard times, but ▶ GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. Jacob learned to trust God through his hard times, and so can we.

Guess the Ending

What You'll Do

Say: Our Key Verse, Romans 8:28, tells us about what happens when we face tough situations. Let's take a look at it now.

Make sure kids have Bibles, and encourage them to find the Key Verse. Ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) (track 11 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.



And we know, we know That in all things God works for the good Of those who love him. (Repeat.)

Who have been called According to his purpose. Who have been called According to his purpose.

If you understand It's in his command To work things out for his children. That is you! That is me!

(Repeat chorus 3x.)



Guess the Ending Supplies

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

lesson)

Teacher Pack CD: "God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) (track 11)



And we know, we know That in all things God works for the good Of those who love him, Who love him.

"God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: Find one other person whose favorite color is the same as yours. That person will be your partner for this activity. Allow time. If there are kids who don't end up with partners, you can pair them up.

Say: With your partner, think of a true story about someone who went through a hard time and how that time ended. After you've got your story, come up with two fake—but possible—endings. Once you have your real story and two fake endings you'll tell the story to the rest of the group, and then tell all three of your endings. The rest of the group will try to figure out which way the story actually ended. After everyone has guessed, you'll tell the real ending.

Give pairs a couple of minutes to think about their stories. When pairs have finished, bring them to the center of the room, and have them take turns sharing their stories and allowing others to guess the "correct" endings.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it easy or difficult to figure out how each pair intended these stories to end? Explain.
- How was this game like figuring out how God can use our lives—no matter which direction they take?
- What does the Key Verse mean that "God works for the good of those who love him"?
- How can you show you love God even when you're going through a hard time?
- What hard situations do you have to deal with in your life?
- What do you think you could learn from those situations?

Say: When we're facing a hard time, God works it out for good. It may not feel like any good could come out of it, but God will help us deal with that situation and learn from it. That's because ▶ GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW. He did that with Jacob, and he'll do it with us, too.





Hard Situations

What You'll Do

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids form pairs and turn to the "Hard Situations" activity. Direct them to work with their partners to complete the questions. Allow about six minutes, letting kids know after two minutes have passed and then after four minutes so kids can go on to the next section.

Talk With Kids

When kids have finished, discuss the following questions.

Ask:

- Which of these situations did you think was the hardest? Why?
- How could God use that hard time?
- Why are hard times good for helping us grow?
- How can you find joy in the hard times you face?

Say: We'll all likely face hard situations in our lives, but if we trust God, we can take comfort in knowing ► GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.



IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how we can trust God in hard times.

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

- Write a letter to God. In the letter, tell God about the hard things you're going through and ask him to help you.
- Draw one way you might see God work in a tough situation you're facing.
- Write a praise song, thanking God for working in your hard times. Make sure you include ways he's used your hard times for good!

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



Hard Situations Supplies

Bible Bible Truth Sleuth pens

Hard Situations Easy Prep

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

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Lesson 4

Summer Quarter



Weaving Faith at Home

Supplies

1 rock per child permanent markers

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: We'll all face hardships—like Jacob did—but we can remember that ▶ GOD USES HARD TIMES TO HELP US GROW.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Encourage kids to find opportunities to show the love of God in their world. Remind kids to take their Bible Truth Sleuth pages home and use them to talk with their families about today's Bible passage.

Set some rocks in a pile and give each child a permanent marker.

Say: Form a single-file line and choose one of these rocks to take back with you.

Give kids time to each grab a rock.

Say: Now take your rock and marker to an isolated part of the room. Think of a hard situation that you're facing and write one word on the bottom of the rock that represents your hard situation.

After kids write on their rocks, pray for the group and the things they've written.

Say: Take your rock home, and put it where you'll remember it. Whenever you see it this week, pray about that situation. Jacob's situation was hard, but through it he grew closer to God.



Lyrics

God Works for the Good (Romans 8:28)

(Chorus)

And we know, we know That in all things God works for the good Of those who love him. (Repeat)

Who have been called According to his purpose. Who have been called According to his purpose.

If you understand
It's in his command
To work things out for his children.
That is you!
That is me!

(Repeat chorus 3x.)

And we know, we know That in all things God works for the good Of those who love him, Who love him.

"God Works for the Good" (Romans 8:28) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.







Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams Genesis 37:1-11

ost third- and fourth-graders have likely witnessed a fight either at school or within their own homes. Most of your kids have probably been involved in conflicts of one form or another. For some, the experience was humiliating or even devastating. Others might remember the experience with pride. During the lesson, as kids get opportunities to share their own experiences, help them to see the result, whether positive or negative, of their actions or words.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Safety Net (about 10 min.) Learn how a strong family makes for a strong safety net.	miscellaneous objects from the room such as paper, markers, books, or erasers	
Bible Exploration	Balloon Blowout (about 25 min.) Discuss tattling, and blow up balloons.	Bibles, 1 balloon per child	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point Show Jesus' love in our families.

••••••

Key Verse
"A new command I give
you: Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love one
another" (John 13:34).

Weaving Faith Into Life Children will show love

•••••

to members of their families.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	On the Ropes (about 10 min.) Talk about showing and not showing love.	Bibles, paper, tape, markers, rope or string, 1 clothespin per child, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack : CD	 Prepare 6 signs on paper: "lcy Silence," "Fist Fight," "Word War," "Sacrificed," "Served," and "Encouraged." Hang a rope (or strong string) from one end of the room to the other that's low enough for kids to reach. Tape the "lcy Silence" sign to one end of the rope, the "Fist Fight" sign to the other end of the rope, and the "Word War" sign to the middle. Set the other signs aside.
	Love One Another (about 15 min.) Form a heart with balloon pieces, and think of ways they can show love to their families.	Bibles, pens, Bible Truth Sleuth, markers, balloon pieces from the "Balloon Blowout" activity, 1 copy per child of the "Love One Another Heart" page (at the end of this lesson)	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams

Genesis 37:1-11



Jacob Favors Joseph Over His Other Children

It's interesting that Jacob's display of favoritism toward his son Joseph ravaged his family in the same way his mother's, Rebekah's, favoritism toward Jacob had ruined Jacob's family of origin. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph had been born to him in his old age and because he was borne by Rachel, Jacob's most beloved wife—even more favoritism. Joseph's "bad report" about his brothers (Genesis 37:2) only made things worse, fueling Jacob's preference for Joseph and his brothers' resentment toward him. The richly ornamented robe further intensified the brothers' feelings.

Joseph's Coat Creates Jealousy

The relationship between Joseph and his brothers was bad enough before Joseph began having dreams indicating that he would rule over his brothers. The eldest would naturally and culturally have held the role of family leader. For one of the youngest sons in line to claim such a position surely infuriated the other brothers. Joseph even incurred the rebuke of his father when he described these dreams.

Joseph's Favored Position Creates Resentment

From our point in history, we know what Joseph's dreams foretold. But Joseph's brothers didn't have our perspective. Their hatred of Joseph probably caused them to suspect that he was inventing these dreams in order to put his brothers down and to flaunt his father's favoritism.

How Not to Treat Other Family Members

Although God ultimately reconciled the members of this family, the events in this passage serve as a model of how not to treat family members. None of the members of this family really loved the others as they should have. Joseph, his brothers, and their father all contributed to the rift between Joseph and the brothers. To honor God, family members must show God's love to one another. For Jacob, that might have meant showing love equally to all of his sons. For Joseph, that might have meant keeping his dreams to himself, even if the dreams truly were messages from God. And for the brothers, it might have meant loving Joseph in spite of their father's favoritism and Joseph's attitude. No matter what or who the problem is within our families, God wants us to love our families with the same love he shows for us.

The Jesus Connection

Our families are the closest relationships we have. Whether we like it or not, the people in our families are going to be part of our lives in some way for the duration of our existence. That makes families the perfect place to begin to show God's love. We can let God shape our reactions toward family members in large and small ways. What are some ways you can ask God to help you show love in your family? You can write your prayer below.

Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 5 Summer Quarter



Safety Net Supplies

miscellaneous objects from the room such as paper, markers, books, or erasers



Safety Net

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then have kids stand in a circle, shoulder to shoulder, facing one another.

Say: Let's take turns saying one nice thing about someone in your family. For example, you could say, "My dad is really good at fixing things" or "My brother is really good at soccer." After you've said something good about a family member, place your arms straight out in front of you and put your hands, palms up, in the middle of the circle. Then the person next to you will say something nice about a family member. That person will place his or her arms straight out in front and will place both hands, palms up, in the middle of the circle. When we've all finished saying something nice about our families, we'll have formed a "safety net."

Give kids each a chance to share something positive about their families.

Ask:

- How strong do you think this safety net is?
- How much weight do you think it will support?

Say: Let's experiment to find out.

Place some objects from your room on top of kids' hands. These could be things like stacks of paper, erasers, books, or markers. Add enough items to make the point that the safety net can support weight. Leave the items on kids' hands.

Say: Now tell us about something you've done or said to a family member this week that wasn't nice. As you tell about the mean thing you've done or said, drop your arms.

As kids share and drop their arms, the objects they've been supporting will fall to the floor.

Say: It's important to know our feelings are safe in our families. We need to protect our families' feelings from being hurt by not saying things that are hurtful.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do our actions affect our family safety nets?
- When objects dropped from our safety net, how was that like not taking care of our family members' feelings when we say mean things?



How does saying nice things to and about our family members show we care about their feelings?

Say: When we do or say nice things to our family members, the family becomes stronger. But when we do or say things that aren't nice, our family becomes weaker.

Today we'll learn about a group of brothers who didn't treat one another nicely. Because of some things one of the brothers said and did, his other brothers hated him and said mean things in return. It hurt the whole family. They were a poor example of how to ▶ SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.



EXPLORATION

Balloon Blowout

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have a willing child read aloud Genesis 37:1-2.

Say: There are times when tattling is the right thing to do, such as when someone is doing something that will hurt himself or someone else. But there are also times when tattling isn't a very nice thing to do. This is the kind of tattling Joseph did about his brothers.

Ask:

- Why don't we like tattletales?
- Tell about a time someone tattled on you. How did it make you feel?

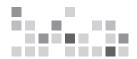
Give one balloon to each child.

Say: Think about a time you tattled on someone in your family and got that person in trouble. Now blow up your balloon to show how much you think the person you tattled on was hurt.

Let kids blow up balloons as big as they want. Have them hold their balloons so that no air escapes, but don't have them tie them off yet.

Say: Even though Joseph was his father's favorite son, he did things to make his brothers look bad. So his brothers didn't like him. It's important that we ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. Based on what we've seen so far, that's not happening in Joseph's family. Let's continue reading and find out what happened next.

Have a willing child read aloud Genesis 37:3-4.



Balloon Blowout Supplies

Ribles

1 balloon per child



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



Ask:

Tell about a time you were jealous of a gift someone else received.

Say: Now think of a time you were jealous of something another family member received. Blow some more air into your balloon to show how jealous you were.

Have kids blow more air into their balloons. Once again have kids hold the balloons so that the air won't escape, but don't have them tie them off yet.

Say: God wants us to ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. So far that still isn't happening in Joseph's family.

Have a willing child read aloud Genesis 37:5-8.

Say: Joseph was called a dreamer for a good reason. He had dreams. In his dreams he saw things that made him feel good about his future. But rather than keep the dreams to himself and wait for God to fulfill those dreams, he bragged about them.

Ask:

■ Tell about a time someone told you something like "I'm better than you." Explain how it made you feel.

Say: Okay, now think of a time you bragged to someone in your family about yourself and it hurt the other person's feelings or made that person mad. Blow more air into your balloon to show how mad you think that person was.

Have kids blow up their balloons and tie them off.

Say: Remember: It's important to SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. So far we haven't seen that at all in Joseph's family! Let's look at one more example.

Have a willing child read aloud Genesis 37:9-11.

Say: Joseph's brothers were already very angry with him. Joseph had tattled on them, received an elaborate gift from their father while they didn't get anything, and bragged about his dream that basically told his brothers he was better than they were. They seemed to have reason to be angry!

Ask:

- Tell about a time you've been really angry with someone in your family.
- How many of you feel as if your balloons are so full that they're ready to pop?
- How is that like being so mad that you're ready to say or do mean things to someone in your family?

Say: Ready? Pop your balloons.

Have kids pop their balloons either by sitting on them or by stepping on them. The more pieces of balloon there are, the better. Save the pieces of popped balloon for the "Love One Another" activity later in the lesson.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things that build up your anger?
- How was popping balloons like releasing anger on family members?
- How can "exploding" in anger damage your relationship with someone?
- How do you think Joseph could have shown love toward his brothers?
- How can you show love instead of anger to your family?

Say: It's good for us to SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. Because Joseph and his brothers didn't do this, their family broke apart. Let's find a way to make sure we love our own families.



INTO LIFE

On the Ropes

What You'll Do

Give each child a clothespin, and direct kids to the rope area that you set up beforehand.

Say: Think about the last fight you had with a member of your family. Now place your clothespin on the rope closest to the sign that best describes the fight. Be honest.

When kids have finished, continue.

Ask:

- What was your fight about?
- How important will that issue be one year from now?
- How is your relationship with that family member now?
- How have you recently shown that family member that you love him or her?

Say: Sometimes our families really make us mad because they don't do things our way. But God wants us to love our families and to think about them first before we react to things they do that make us angry.

Take the "fighting" signs off the rope, and attach the other three signs in the same fashion.

Say: Now think about how you recently showed love to a family member. Place your clothespin next to the sign that best shows how you showed love. Maybe you gave something to a family member or you did something nice for a family member.



On the Ropes Supplies

Bibles
paper
tape
markers
rope or string
1 clothespin per child
CD player
copies of the lyrics
page (at the end of
this lesson)
Teacher Pack
CD: "As I Have Loved
You" (John 13:34)
(track 12)

On the Ropes Easy Prep

 Prepare 6 signs on paper: "Icy Silence," "Fist Fight," "Word War," "Sacrificed," "Served," and "Encouraged."

•••••

 Hang a rope (or strong string) from one end of the room to the other that's low enough for kids to reach. Tape the "lcy Silence" sign to one end of the rope, the "Fist Fight" sign to the other end of the rope, and the "Word War" sign to the middle. Set the other signs aside.



Give kids a moment to do this. Then have kids open their Bibles to the Key Verse, John 13:34, and ask someone to read it aloud: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Say: Let's sing our Key Verse as a song. Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 12 on the CD). Lead the kids in singing the song.

A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you. A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you.

Love one another. Love one another. Love one another. Love one another.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you. A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you, As I have loved you, As I have loved you.

"As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does this Key Verse have to do with the way we treat our families?
- What are some ways Jesus has shown us his love?

Say: All three of those sheets of paper describe ways Jesus loves us: He sacrificed for us when he died on the cross, he serves us by taking our burdens and sins, and he encourages us when he helps us and cares for us. The Key Verse tells us to love others as Jesus loved us.

Ask:

How does that mean we can love our families?

Say: Joseph's family didn't treat each other with kindness or respect—and everyone paid for it. When we ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES, we create an atmosphere that God loves.



Love One Another

What You'll Do

Have kids find John 13:34 again in their Bibles. Ask a willing child to read aloud the verse: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Distribute the "Love One Another Heart" page and set out markers.

Say: We'll make something to help remind us that it's good to SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. I want you to take the pieces of your popped balloon and write "Love One Another" on the pieces. If the pieces are too small, you can just write the word "Love." Then try to fit those pieces into the heart on your paper.

Let kids place their balloon pieces on the hearts.

Say: When we say or do things that are mean, we can hurt people. That can also make their hearts hurt. Then it's hard to make things right because people remember the things we say to them, both good and bad.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Ways I Show Love" activity.

Say: Instead of having angry things on your balloons, write as many ways as you can think of to show each person in your family that you love him or her. Write more than one way for each person in your family.

Give kids time to complete this task.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it difficult to make the pieces of balloon fit into the heart shape on your paper? Why?
- How is that like trying to make someone's heart feel better after we've said and done things that aren't loving?
- Why is it important for us to love one another?
- Why is it especially important to show love in our families?

Say: Joseph's family was a great example of what not to do. But we can choose to SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES.



Love One Another Supplies

Bibles
pens
Bible Truth Sleuth
markers
balloon pieces from
the "Balloon Blowout"
activity

1 copy per child of the "Love One Another Heart" page (at the end of this lesson)

Love One Another Easy Prep

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



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: For your Daily Challenge this week, choose one of the things you wrote on your Bible Truth Sleuth page to do to show love to someone this week.

Make sure you make a commitment and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: As we follow through on our challenges, we'll ► SHOW JESUS' LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES. Let's strive to be more loving than Joseph's family!

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, allowing kids to silently thank God for the people in their families and for help accomplishing their Daily Challenges this week.



Lyrics



A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you. A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you.

Love one another. Love one another. Love one another. Love one another.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

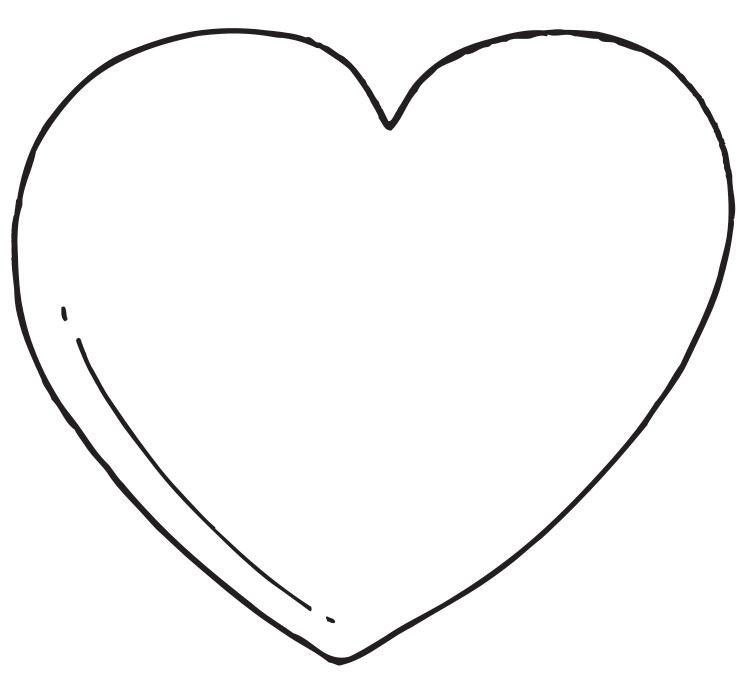
A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you. A new command I give to you: Love one another as I have loved you, As I have loved you, As I have loved you.

"As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Love One Another Heart







Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery Genesis 37:12-36

This is an overwhelming stage of life. This lesson will help kids know that right choices are those intended to please God, not their peers. It will also encourage them to influence friends in positive ways instead of giving in to pressure to make wrong choices.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Preferential Treatment (about 10 min.) Try drawing with good and not-so-good art supplies.	art supplies, pencils, paper, treats, antibacterial gel (optional)	Set up 2 tables. Table 1: Set out an assortment of fun art supplies—colored markers, glitter, glue, construction paper, paints, paintbrushes, and clean paper. Table 2: Set out only unsharpened (preferably broken) pencils and crumpled paper.
Bible Exploration	The Ruined Robe (about 10 min.) Use a robe to tell about Joseph.	robe	
	The Brothers' Love (about 15 min.) Create a modernday version of what happened to Joseph and his brothers.	paper, pens	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





► Bible Point God wants us to do what's right.

Key Verse
"Dear children, let us
not love with words
or tongue but with
actions and in truth"
(1 John 3:18).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will follow God's path by choosing to

path by choosing to do the right thing in a difficult situation.

......



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	Tough Choices (about 15 min.) Act out ways to solve tough situations.	CD player, scissors, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "Tough Choices" poster	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book. Cut the "Tough Choices" poster into 4 sections.
	Ways We Love (about 10 min.) List ways to love with words and actions, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible, sticky notes, pens, poster board, marker, tape	
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36



Joseph's Brothers Have Had Enough

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

The Brothers Put Joseph Into a Cistern

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

The Brothers Sell Joseph to Traders

When the traders came along, Genesis 37:29 indicates that Reuben was not present. Possibly it was his turn to check on distant flocks; in any case, he didn't witness his brothers' next act. Judah suddenly suggested that they spare Joseph's life. We don't know if this suggestion was prompted by pangs of guilt, the appeal of money, or a desire to punish Joseph even more severely by making a slave of him. Whatever the motive, the decision was made, and Joseph was gone before Reuben returned. When he found that Joseph was gone, Reuben was grief-stricken, anguishing over what to do next and, no doubt, what to tell his father.

The Brothers Lie to Jacob About What Happened to Joseph

•••••

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

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

The Jesus Connection

There was certainly a lot behind the brothers' actions that resulted in Joseph's slavery. But God wants us to do what's right no matter what seems justified to us. Humans allowed sin to enter our hearts, but God still chose to save us with the most radical sacrifice that's ever been made.

We can look at God's extravagant example of forgiveness and remember to ask him to help us do

what's right in any situation. What's one way you can trust God to help you do what's right? You can write your prayer in the space below.

Lesson 6 Summer Quarter



Preferential Treatment Supplies

art supplies pencils paper treats antibacterial gel (optional)

Preferential Treatment Easy Prep

Set up 2 tables.

- Table 1: Set out an assortment of fun art supplies—colored markers, glitter, glue, construction paper, paints, paintbrushes, and clean paper.
- Table 2: Set out only unsharpened (preferably broken) pencils and crumpled paper.

ALLERGY ALERT



Preferential Treatment

What You'll Do

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

When everyone has arrived, divide kids into two randomly selected groups. Send Group 1 to the table with the better art supplies, and send Group 2 to the table with the broken pencils and crumpled paper.

Say: Draw a picture of someone or something that is important to you. Do the very best you can, because the person who draws the best picture will win a prize. There's one rule though. You can't take anything from or give anything to the other table.

Let children begin work on the project. When Group 2 begins to grumble because Group 1 has better art supplies, have children stop their work.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Group 1, what were some of your thoughts when you realized you had all the fun art supplies?
- Group 2, what were some of your thoughts when you realized you had only broken pencils and crumpled paper?
- Tell about a time you were given special treatment over someone else.

Say: Today we'll learn about a man named Jacob and his sons. Jacob loved one of his sons more than the others, and of course that caused some problems in the family. Joseph's brothers were angry and jealous because their father gave Joseph special treatment. We'll talk about what they did and explore how ▶ GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.

Now because I don't want anyone to feel as if someone else is getting special treatment, I'm going to give all of you treats. And everyone can finish their pictures, but this time you can all use the good supplies.

Have kids clean their hands, and hand out treats to all of the kids. Allow time for kids to complete their pictures.





The Ruined Robe

What You'll Do

Hold up a robe for everyone to see. Hold it by the shoulders so it will hang as if someone were wearing it.

Say: This robe represents Joseph, and today I'm going to tell you about him. As you know, Joseph's father, Jacob, loved Joseph more than his other sons. This made his older brothers angry and jealous.

Ask for two willing kids to play the parts of Jacob and Reuben, and have the rest of the group play the brothers.

Say: As I tell you what happened, play along and act with me.

Stand in the middle of the room. Have kids who are playing the parts of the brothers stand in one corner of the room. Have the child playing the part of Jacob stand in the opposite corner.

Say: One day Jacob called for Joseph.

Walk the robe over to Jacob.

Say: Jacob wanted to know how his other sons were doing, so he sent Joseph to check on them. He told him, "Joseph, go check on your brothers."

Have Jacob point to a corner of the room, but not where the brothers are standing.

Say: Joseph hurried to obey. He went out into the fields where he expected his brothers to be.

Walk the robe to the corner of the room that Jacob pointed to.

Say: Joseph's brothers were no longer there. They had moved to another place.

Begin to walk the robe to Joseph's brothers. Have the brothers start to complain when they see Joseph coming.

Say: Joseph's brothers saw him coming. They began to complain about Joseph. Then Joseph's brothers decided that they were going to kill Joseph! They wanted to kill their own brother! One brother, Reuben, talked the others out of killing Joseph. He said, "Don't kill him! Let's just throw him in a well instead!"



The Ruined Robe Supplies

robe



Toss the robe to the brothers, and have them throw the robe on the floor.

Say: Reuben planned to come back later to save Joseph from the well. Before he could do that, though, the other brothers sold Joseph into slavery. The slave traders took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave.

Allow time for kids to act. Pick up the robe. This time, hold it by the neck with one hand so that it will hang limply. Hand the robe to one of the brothers, and have the child walk over to Jacob.

Say: Joseph's brothers led Jacob to believe that Joseph was dead.

Have the child holding the robe lay it gently on the floor.

Say: They told Jacob that a wild animal had eaten Joseph and all that was left was his robe. Reuben tried to keep his brothers from making a poor choice. And he did keep them from killing Joseph. But Joseph's brothers still chose to do wrong things to Joseph.

Talk With Kids

Have kids sit in a circle, and lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made Joseph's brothers' choices wrong?
- How did our Bible passage remind you of a time you've made a wrong choice?
- How could Joseph's brothers have done what was right?

Say: The situations we face aren't always as severe as the one Joseph and his brothers faced. But we do have times when we have a big choice to make. And

GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, even if it's hard to do. Let's see what that means in our lives.

The Brothers' Love Supplies

paper pens

The Brothers' Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■

Have children split into groups of five. Give each group a pen and some paper.

Say: It was hard for Joseph's brothers to make good choices, and sometimes it's still hard for us to make the right choice. In your groups, create a modern-day story of Joseph and his brothers. Choose whether you want to write it out like a book or act it out in a skit. Prepare your book or skit, and when everyone is ready we'll share our stories with the rest of the group.

Give groups about eight minutes to put together their stories. Then have kids come up and read or act out their modern-day renditions of Joseph's life.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- After creating your modern-day story, what are some similarities between the way families acted then and how they act now?
- What are some differences?
- Tell about a time you've seen jealousy affect a family.
- How can we know the right way to treat our families?

Say: We can't control the actions of other people. If we could, Joseph would've stopped his brothers from selling him into slavery. But no matter what happens, ▶ GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.



INTO LIFE

Tough Choices

What You'll Do

Have kids form four groups, and give each group one of the situations from the "Tough Choices" poster.

Say: Each group has a picture that shows kids in tough situations. In your group, think of ways to handle the situation and talk about how you'd know what's right. After you've thought of a way to handle the situation, practice acting out your solution. Then you'll show your skits to the rest of the group.

Give groups time to work on their solutions. Let the groups act out their solutions one at a time.

Say: GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. When we do, we're following his path. Think of a situation you face in a typical week where it's hard to make the right choice. Maybe your friends want you to do something you know is wrong. Or you have a hard time doing what your parents ask you to do. Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Say: As you think about your situation, write or draw about it on the bottom of the path on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. Give kids a few minutes to write and draw.

Say: Now look at the paths—one leads down God's path and the other leads away from God's path and into darkness. On the paths, write choices you could make in response to your situation-good choices on the good path and bad choices on the bad one.



Tough Choices Supplies

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

Teacher Pack CD: "Trust and Obey" (track 3)

"Tough Choices" poster

Tough Choices Easy Prep

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

Cut the "Tough Choices" poster into 4 sections.



Give kids a few minutes to write.

Say: Let's sing a song to remind us how important it is to trust and obey God.

Hand out copies of the lyrics page, and play "Trust and Obey" (track 3 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

"Trust and Obey" by John H. Sammis.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you know which choices lead to God's path?
- If we usually know which choices lead to the wrong path, why do we sometimes still make those choices?
- What can we do to seek God's help in tough situations?

Say: When we seek God and learn to walk in his ways, he'll show us how to do what's right, because ▶ GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. When we follow God's path, he leads us the right way, step by step, just as he did with Joseph.



Ways We Love

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to the Key Verse, 1 John 3:18, and read it aloud: "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Say: It's good to use words to tell those we love that we love them. Today's Key Verse, however, teaches us that our actions are more important. Our actions will show that we mean what we say. Even in hard times, we can choose to show love to others.

Have kids each find a partner. Give each pair a small stack of sticky notes and two pens.

Say: Talk with your partner about ways you can tell people you love them and about ways you can show people you love them. Print each of your answers on a separate sticky note.

Give kids a few minutes to write their answers. While kids write, hang a sheet of poster board. Draw a line down the middle, and write "Words" on one side of the line and "Actions" on the other side. Then have willing kids from each pair read their answers. Have the rest of the group choose which category the answer belongs in. Have the kids who read put the sticky notes under the title the group has chosen.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it important to show love, not just say it?
- What are some ways we can show love to others?

Say: FOOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. And it's important to remember that to do what's right, we need to show our love, not just say it. Joseph's brothers didn't show each other love, but we can show each other love through doing what's right.



IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how ▶ GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.

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



Ways We Love Supplies

Bible sticky notes pens poster board marker tape

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Lesson 6

Summer Quarter



- If your friends tempt you to do something you know is wrong, make the right choice and encourage them to choose wisely, too.
- If a family member makes you mad, choose a way you'll show love instead of reacting in anger.
- We face situations every day where we have to choose right from wrong. Start a journal, and write down every time you make a choice. Then go back to your journal and evaluate the choice: Was it good or bad?

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: Fight God Wants US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, even in difficult situations such as the one Joseph found himself in. Let's follow Joseph's lead and follow through on our Daily Challenges this week by doing what's right.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Have kids kids hold on to their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and use their paths as a prayer guide, asking for God's help to stay on his path.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Lyrics

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

When we walk with the Lord In the light of his Word, What a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, He abides with us still And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.





[&]quot;Trust and Obey" by John H. Sammis.



Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20-41:49

To many third- and fourth-graders, serving God means going to church, doing family devotions, and participating in other scheduled religious activities. The concept of letting God use them every day as they go about their normal routine may be foreign at this point in their lives. In their youthful way of thinking, God exists to serve and provide for them—just like parents. This lesson will begin to open their eyes to ways they can serve God. It will help them understand that God can use them to build his kingdom if they're willing to help each day.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	What's This Used For? (about 10 min.) Examine common household items, and look for ways they can be used other than what they're made for.	5 common household items, paper bag	Place 5 common household items in a paper bag; for example, a wooden spoon, piece of rope, rubber band, spatula, empty jar, coffee mug, or a glass.
2 Bible Exploration	Joseph's New Job (about 20 min.) Look at the 4 parts of the poster, and create flip-books to tell what happened.	Bibles, pens, scissors, tape, 40 index cards Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline, "Joseph's New Job" poster	Cut out the 4 pieces of the "Joseph's New Job" poster, and tape them along a wall so they're evenly spaced.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





► Bible Point We can serve God anywhere.

Key Verse
"Whatever you do,
work at it with all your
heart, as working for
the Lord, not for men"
(Colossians 3:23).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will serve God by making a difference for

someone.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	Letting God Use You (about 10 min.) Learn the Key Verse, and share how God could use them.	Bibles	
Weaving Faith Into Life	Use Me! (about 20 min.) Write encouragement cards, and think of ways God can use them.	Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, tape, pencils, markers, 1 envelope and stamp per child, paper, several pairs of scissors, 4 poster boards Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book. Tape 4 poster boards with these titles in 4 corners of your room: "At Church," "At School," "At Home," and "At Play." Place a marker in each corner near the sign.
	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	posters from the "Use Me!" activity	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20-41:49



God Worked in Joseph's Life

After Joseph was taken as a slave to Egypt, he became a servant in the house of Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. Joseph proved himself a faithful servant, and Potiphar eventually put him in charge of his household. Then Joseph was unjustly accused of making advances toward Potiphar's wife and was thrown in prison.

God had a plan for Joseph and continued to fulfill that plan even when Joseph was in prison for something he hadn't done. It was with God's help that Joseph interpreted the dreams that eventually gained his release.

God Blessed Egypt Through Joseph

Pharaoh's "wise men" were people he paid to advise him, and they often claimed supernatural powers. However, they had no idea how to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Only God who gives dreams can truly interpret them, and Joseph was God's instrument. Not only did Joseph interpret the dreams, but he also advised Pharaoh how to avoid devastation in Egypt.

It must have been quite evident that God was working through Joseph. Remember that Joseph was a foreigner. Furthermore, he was only 30 years old and, as far as we know, had correctly interpreted only two other dreams. Yet the ruler of Egypt chose this young Hebrew to become second in command, placing the welfare of all of Egypt in Joseph's hands.

Joseph Remained Faithful to God

Joseph's name change and his marriage to an Egyptian woman signaled Joseph's acceptance into the ruling class of Egypt. However, despite his marriage to the daughter of a pagan priest and his allegiance to Pharaoh, Joseph remained true to God, and God blessed his efforts by producing abundance in Egypt. Joseph even honored God in the naming of his two sons (Genesis 41:50-52). God didn't forget Joseph, and Joseph didn't forget God!

Think about Joseph's opportunities to reject God. It would have been easy to give up on God when his brothers sold him into slavery or when God allowed him to be unjustly imprisoned. And when he was elevated to second in command in the kingdom of Egypt, Joseph could have felt he no longer needed God. But because Joseph remained true to God, God was able to use him in mighty ways. And when we remain true to that same God, he can use us to bring blessings to people wherever he leads us.

As we love and serve God, we grow in the strength

and character of Christ. God uses growing

The Jesus Connection

Christians to make a difference in the lives of people everywhere. Are you aware of the difference you are making in the lives of your kids? Take a quiet moment to pray for your group. God is working in the things you can obviously see, and you can keep surrendering your life to God in the difficult areas just as Joseph did. You can write your prayer on the lines below.

Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 7

Summer Quarter



What's This Used For? Supplies

5 common household items paper bag

What's This Used For? Easy Prep •••••

Place five common household items in a paper bag; for example, a wooden spoon, piece of rope, rubber band, spatula, empty jar, coffee mug, or a glass.

Joseph's New Job Supplies

Bibles pens scissors tape 40 index cards **Teacher Pack**

Bible Timeline "Joseph's New Job" poster

Joseph's New Job Easy Prep

Cut out the 4 pieces of the "Joseph's New Job" poster, and tape them along a wall so they're evenly spaced.



What's This Used For?

What You'll Do

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

When everyone has arrived, have kids form four groups. Let one child from each group come up to select one of the items from the bag and take it back to his or her group.

Say: In your group, talk about ways your item could be used. Of course, there's an obvious use for each item, but think of some other way it could also be used. For example, if you were to select a spatula, one of the obvious ways to use it would be to scrape the last little bit of cookie dough out of a bowl. But what else could you do with it?

Give kids five minutes to talk about their items, and then have groups share the ideas they came up with.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did you find it easy or difficult to come up with new ideas for your item?
- How were these unexpected ways of using these items like how God might use you?

Say: Joseph's brothers made a bad choice and sold him into slavery. Today we'll learn what happened to Joseph and we'll learn how ▶ WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.



BIBLE

EXPLORATION

Joseph's New Job

What You'll Do

Have everyone remain in their groups. Point out the "Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 7

Grades 3 & 4





Then have Group 1 sit near the first part of the poster, Group 2 near the second part, and so on. Give each group Bibles, 10 index cards, and pens.

Say: Each group is going to have a section of Scripture to read. Once you've read your passage, create a flip book using the index cards that tells us what happens to Joseph. As you read, think about what drawings you can use for your flip books.

Group 1: Genesis 39:20-23 Group 2: Genesis 40:1-23 Group 3: Genesis 41:1-40

Group 4: Genesis 41:41-49

Give groups about 10 minutes to work. Have willing kids from each group share their flip books with the other groups.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How did Joseph's service change his situations?

.....

- How can someone maintain faith in God's presence even in bad situations?
- How could serving God change your life?
- What would it take for you to serve God?

Say: God used Joseph in many ways. God used Joseph to show the cupbearer, baker, and Pharaoh what their dreams meant. And Joseph always gave the credit to God. God used Joseph to keep the Egyptian people—and many others, too—from starving during the famine to come. Because Joseph was willing, God used him to make a difference. ▶ WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.



Letting God Use You

What You'll Do

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them turn to the Key Verse, Colossians 3:23. Have them read it together: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

Have kids each find a partner and answer the following question:

Ask:

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?



Letting God Use You Supplies

Bibles

Lesson 7 Summ



Say: In our Key Verse, we're told that God wants us to work at whatever we do with all our hearts, as if we were working for the Lord.

Ask:

If you had followed what this verse tells you to do, how could God have used you as you did that hard thing?

Have kids answer the question with their partners.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it sometimes hard to do things with the right attitude?
- How did Joseph live out the truth of the Key Verse?
- What can we learn from Joseph and his attitude?

Say: When we work for the Lord with all our hearts, we give him glory and honor. It doesn't matter what circumstances we find ourselves in—even being wrongfully thrown in jail like Joseph was! ▶ WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.

Supplies

Use Me!

Bible Truth Sleuth
CD player
tape
pencils
markers
1 envelope and stamp
per child
paper
several pairs of scissors
4 poster boards
Teacher Pack
CD: "Traveling Music"
(track 13)

Use Me! Easy Prep

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

Tape 4 poster boards with these titles in 4 corners of your room: "At Church," "At School," "At Home," and "At Play." Place a marker in each corner near the sign.

Use Me!

What You'll Do

Say: Joseph encouraged the cupbearer and the king. God can use you as encouragers, too. Think of a friend or relative who might enjoy some encouragement. You'll design a card for one of these people, and then we'll mail the cards.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Encouragement Cards" activity. Have kids cut out their cards and decorate them. Then have them write words of encouragement inside the cards.

When they've finished making their cards, have kids fold the cards, seal them in envelopes, and print addresses on the front if they know them. Stamp each envelope, and let the children take the cards home for a parent to address and send.

After the cards are finished, gather kids in a circle.

Say: ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE. One way we can do that is by encouraging others. Let's find out how we can make a difference in our own lives by playing a little game.

I'll play some music. While the music plays, walk clockwise around the circle. Indicate which way is clockwise. When the music stops, go to the corner closest to you. Ready? Let's play!

Summer Quarter

Lesson 7

 Grades 3 & 4



Cue your CD to "Traveling Music" (track 13 on the CD). Play the music, and help kids move in the right direction. After 20 seconds or so, pause the CD and let kids quickly go to the correct corners. There they'll find the signs you posted beforehand.

Say: Now huddle with everyone in your corner, and look at your sign. Think of one way God can use you in the place named on your sign.

Give each group time to think; then have each group give an answer and write it on the poster, but leave room for other groups to write answers, too. Play several rounds, but try to time the music so kids are at a different corner each time.

Talk With Kids

After the last round, have kids gather together and lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- For which situation did you have the hardest time coming up with ways God could use you? Why do you think that is?
- What are some real situations in your life in which God could use you?
- How can you be ready to obey God and his leading when you get in these situations?

Say: Whether you're at church, at home, at play, or at school, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE—just as Joseph did from prison to palace.



IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE.

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

- Offer to set or clean the table at dinner one night this week.
- Take a chore from each one of your siblings this week—and ask each of them which one they want you to do.
- Do your neighbors need some yardwork done or weeds pulled? With your parents' permission, do that yardwork for the neighbor.

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



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: Most of us won't have to worry about being wrongfully thrown into jail like Joseph was. But we can still learn from his example that ▶ WE CAN SERVE GOD ANYWHERE. Let's remember that this week by following through on our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

posters from the "Use Me!" activity

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Allow kids to go to one of the four posters and pray that God would use them to serve in that place in the ways they listed on the poster board.



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42-45

Third- and fourth-graders have a highly developed sense of justice—when it comes to wrongs committed against them. The perpetrator should be ferreted out and punished! Unfortunately, their concept of personal culpability isn't quite so advanced. Help kids see that though they deserve blame for their wrongs, God forgives them. And because he does, they can extend that same forgiveness to others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Forgiven, Unforgiven (about 10 min.) Play a game to contrast forgiving and not forgiving.		
2	The Road to Forgiveness (about 20 min.) Work together to act out a section of the Bible passage.	Bibles	
Bible Exploration	Take That! (about 10 min.) Learn the Key Verse, and discover that God doesn't want us to retaliate.	Bibles, scrap paper, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point
God wants us to forgive.

Key Verse
"Bear with each other
and forgive whatever
grievances you may
have against one
another. Forgive as
the Lord forgave you"
(Colossians 3:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life Children will forgive someone who has hurt them





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Forgiveness (about 15 min.) Write prayers about forgiving others and accepting forgiveness from God, and make pouches to remind them of God's forgiveness.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, several pairs of scissors, one 12-inch length of yarn per child, tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, felt squares	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book. Cut the felt pieces into sixths so you have 24 smaller pieces.
4	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42-45



Famine Opens the Door to Reconciliation

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

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

Joseph Tests His Brothers

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

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

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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

Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 8

Summer Quarter





Forgiven, Unforgiven

What You'll Do

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

When everyone has arrived, choose one person to be the "Forgiver," and have him or her stand at one end of the room. Have the rest of the kids stand at the other end. Explain that the Forgiver will turn away from the group, and the group will try to creep slowly toward the Forgiver. At intervals, the Forgiver will turn around without warning and try to catch someone in motion. If the Forgiver sees someone move, he or she will say, "That's a sin! You're not forgiven!" and that person will have to return to the starting line. If a player gets all the way to the Forgiver, that person will become the new Forgiver, and play will start over.

Play several rounds of the game.

Say: In this game, the Forgiver didn't really want to forgive anybody. The Forgiver was trying to catch people and send them away without forgiveness. Let's play this game one more time. This time, we'll show forgiveness toward each other.

Choose another child to be the Forgiver, and play another round. This time, though, each time the Forgiver catches someone moving, have him or her say, "You're forgiven!" Then the child who was caught moving will also become a Forgiver. Now you'll have two kids as Forgivers. After each round, you will add more Forgivers. All Forgivers will try to catch someone, and play continues until everyone has been forgiven.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about someone in real life who's like the first Forgiver—someone who didn't really want to forgive.
- How did being forgiven change the feel of the game?
- Why is it important to forgive others?

Say: Today we're going to learn that GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. In our Bible passage we'll meet someone who was in a position to forgive. Let's find out if he took that opportunity.





The Road to Forgiveness

What You'll Do

Designate four areas of the room as the Jacob area, Joseph area, prison, and governor's palace. Ask for willing kids to play the parts of Joseph, Benjamin, Simeon, Judah, and Joseph's servant. They will have specific things to do as you tell the account. Have the rest of the group play Joseph's other brothers.

Say: Today's Bible account begins in Genesis 42. I'm going to tell you what happened, and you'll act it out as we go.

Have the two kids playing Joseph and his servant stand in the Joseph area. Have everyone else stand in the Jacob area.

Say: There was a famine in the land, and Jacob and his sons were hungry. Have kids act hungry, grabbing their stomachs, pleading for food, and crying out in pain because of hunger. Joseph was governor and was in charge of selling the grain. Have the child playing Joseph stand with hands on his or her hips. Jacob sent his sons (except for Benjamin) to Egypt to buy grain. Have the brothers, except for Benjamin, move as a group from the Jacob area to the Joseph area. When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they bowed down before the governor, not realizing he was their brother Joseph. Have brothers get on their knees and bow down. Joseph did recognize his brothers but pretended that he didn't. Have Joseph make a surprised face and then quickly make a straight face. Joseph started asking the brothers a lot of questions about who they were, where they were from, and why they were there. Then Joseph accused them of being spies and sent them to prison. Have Joseph's servant lead the brothers to the prison area. Have the brothers pretend to be in prison by holding onto pretend bars.

After three days, Joseph sent for his brothers. Have brothers walk from the prison area to the Joseph area. Joseph told them to go back home and bring back their youngest brother. But he said they had to leave one brother there in the prison. This would prove the brothers weren't spies. The brothers talked to one another and said that they felt as if they were being punished now for what they had done to their brother Joseph years before. Have brothers huddle together and pretend to talk. Joseph overheard them and had to turn away from them because he was crying. Have Joseph turn away from the brothers. Joseph turned back around. Have Joseph turn back around. He ordered Simeon to be taken prisoner. Have Simeon taken to the prison area. Joseph told the other brothers to go back home and get their little brother. Have Joseph point to the Jacob area.

As the brothers prepared to leave, Joseph gave orders to have the brothers' bags filled with grain, to have each man's silver put back in his sack, and to have



The Road to Forgiveness Supplies

Bibles



provisions given to them for their journey. Have the other brothers cross to the middle of the room and stop there. When the brothers stopped for the night and opened their bags, they found their silver on top. This scared them. Have brothers give their best scared look.

The rest of the brothers returned home. Have brothers go to the Jacob area. When they told their father what had happened, he was very upset. Have Jacob hold his head in his hands. Jacob told his sons that there was no way he would let Benjamin go. Have Jacob hold Benjamin back, away from the other brothers.

But then Jacob and his sons again ran out of food, and they were hungry. Have kids again act hungry. Jacob told his sons they had to again go to Egypt and buy more grain. His sons reminded him of the trouble they were in with the governor and that they would have to take Benjamin. Jacob finally agreed to let Benjamin go. Have Benjamin join the rest of the brothers.

When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they were taken to Joseph's house. Have the brothers go to the governor's palace area. The brothers thought they were in big trouble because of the silver they had found in their sacks after the first visit. They told the servant that they had gifts for the governor as well as the silver to pay for the grain. Have the brothers make scared faces. The servant told them they didn't need to be afraid and brought Simeon to them. Have the servant go get Simeon from the prison area and bring him to the brothers.

The brothers got their gifts ready to give to Joseph. When Joseph arrived, they handed him the gifts. Have brothers hold out their hands as if offering something to Joseph. Joseph asked them how their father was and then looked around. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he was so happy to see him that he had to run out of the room to cry. Have Joseph run to the Joseph area and pretend to cry, wash his face, and then come back to the brothers. After Joseph had come back, the brothers were seated according to their ages, which surprised them, and they were served food. But Benjamin was given five times as much as everyone else! So they had quite a feast! Have everyone look surprised and then pretend to eat and really enjoy the food.

The brothers were getting ready to leave the next morning. Joseph had instructed his servant to fill their sacks with as much as they could carry and to return their silver. Then the servant was told to place Joseph's silver cup in Benjamin's sack. Have the servant pretend to place items in the brothers' sacks. The brothers were sent on their way. Have the brothers start to walk to the middle of the room.

After they had gone a short distance, Joseph sent his servant after them. He told his servant to say, "Why have you repaid good with evil?" Have the servant run after the brothers and shake his finger at them. They didn't understand what was happening, and they were scared. Have the brothers look scared again. The servant told them the governor's silver cup had been stolen. The brothers told him they didn't take it. The servant told them he would search their things and whoever was found with it would be the governor's slave. Have the servant pretend to search all of the brothers' sacks except Benjamin's. Then he pulled Joseph's silver cup from



Benjamin's sack. Have the servant open Benjamin's sack and pull out the silver cup. **The brothers were very upset.** Have brothers shake their heads "no" and then bury their faces in their hands. **The brothers returned to Egypt with the servant.** Have everyone return to Joseph's area.

The brothers once again bowed before Joseph. Have the brothers bow down. Judah, the oldest brother, told Joseph they weren't guilty. But because there was no way to prove their innocence, they offered themselves as slaves. Have all the brothers stand before Joseph and raise their arms out in front of them as though to be handcuffed. But Joseph said he wanted only the one in whose sack the cup was found. That was Benjamin. Have Benjamin stand directly in front of Joseph. Judah knew Jacob would die if he lost Benjamin. So Judah offered himself in place of Benjamin. Have Judah take Benjamin by the shoulders and move him to the side and then stand in Benjamin's place.

Joseph finally told his brothers, "I am Joseph!" Have Joseph say these words, and have the brothers make their best shocked faces.

Joseph told them all the things that had happened to him and how God had used those things for good. Then everyone hugged, and Joseph sent his brothers to bring their father back to live in Egypt, where Joseph made sure they were all taken care of.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do Joseph's actions here tell us about him?
- Why do we like to "get even"?
- When are you most likely to want to get even?

Say: Joseph could've held a grudge against his brothers for the rest of his life. But he didn't. Instead he did exactly what God commands us to do. ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.

Take That!

What You'll Do

Say: Let's see what our Key Verse for today says.

Give each child a Bible, and have kids look up the Key Verse, Colossians 3:13. Have kids each silently read the verse; then lead everyone in saying the verse aloud together several times: "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). Let's sing a song to remind us of that.



Take That! Supplies

Bibles scrap paper CD player copies of the lyrics page (from the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Forgive" (Colossians 3:13) (track 14)



Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "Forgive" (Colossians 3:13) (track 14 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.

Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another. Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you—YEAH!

Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.
Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.

Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances
You may have against one another.

Have kids form two groups. Send one group to one side of the room, and send one group to the other side of the room. Give each group a supply of scrap paper, and give kids time to each make five or six paper wads.

Say: Let's pretend that these paper wads are grievances, or things that you might hold against someone. Maybe someone tripped you in line at school or took your lunch money. If you didn't forgive that person, we'd say you have a grievance against him or her. Let's pretend we have lots of grievances.

When I say "go," hop from one end of the room to the other without dropping your "grievances."

Talk With Kids

Play for a couple of minutes; then lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does holding on to grievances affect us?
- What's wrong with getting even with someone for hurting you?
- What does it mean to forgive?
- What does it mean to "bear with each other"?

[&]quot;Forgive" (Colossians 3:13) by Jay Stocker. $\ @$ 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



Say: To "bear with each other" means we put up with each other and accept each other's faults. Let's face it—we all have faults, right?

Ask:

What does the Key Verse mean when it says, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you"?

Say: Jesus died on the cross so we could be forgiven for our sins before God. We could never be good enough to go before God on our own, so Jesus was willing to die for our sins. Basically he was saying that he would take the punishment for our sins. So because of Jesus, when we ask for forgiveness, God forgives us completely—it's just as though we never sinned! So this verse says that because Jesus made it possible for our sins to be forgiven, we can forgive others as well.

Ask:

- How does unforgiveness affect us?
- What are the benefits of forgiving someone?

Say: Joseph showed us what it looks like to "forgive whatever grievances we have." ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE—whatever the grievance. It's not just for that person's benefit—it's for ours, too.



Forgiveness

What You'll Do ■■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Forgiveness Prayers" activity.

Say: Joseph showed what real forgiveness is. After all, his brothers didn't deserve his forgiveness, did they? Think of someone you need to forgive right now. On the left side of your page write a prayer under "Who I Need to Forgive," asking God to help you forgive that person, just as Joseph forgave his brothers.

Give kids a few minutes to write.

Say: Now think of something you need forgiveness for. Just as Joseph's brothers didn't deserve forgiveness, we don't deserve God's forgiveness either. But he gives it to us every time we ask. On the right side of your page, write a prayer asking God to forgive you for something you've said or done. Then thank him for his love and forgiveness. Give kids another few minutes to write.



Forgiveness Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens
several pairs of scissors
one 12-inch length of
yarn per child
tape
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Forgive"
(Colossians 3:13)
(track 14)
felt squares

Forgiveness Easy Prep

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

Cut the felt pieces into sixths so you have 24 smaller pieces.



Say: Before we go, let's make something to remind us that ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE others.

Give each child one of the felt pieces you cut beforehand. Set out scissors and 12-inch lengths of yarn. Explain that kids will make "Forgiveness Bags" to remind them of the bags of food Joseph gave his brothers.

Demonstrate how to fold the felt in half diagonally as shown below and make a small cut on each end. Then flip the felt and make a small cut on each of the remaining two ends. Have kids make small cuts around the edges of the felt by folding the felt about a third of the way in on each of the four sides and snipping twice on each of the four sides. Show kids how to apply a small piece of tape over each end of the length of yarn to prevent fraying. Have the kids weave the yarn through the holes and gather the edges of the felt piece into a pouch by pulling the yarn taut.







Show kids how to tie the ends of the yarn together in a bow to form the opening of the pouch. Play "Forgive" (Colossians 3:13) (track 14 on the CD) as the kids work.

Have kids take home their Forgiveness Bags to remind them that they can forgive others, just as Joseph forgave his brothers. Encourage them to keep something special in their bags and remember how special God's forgiveness really is.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What emotions did you experience as you worked through forgiving someone?
- How does the bag you made remind you to forgive others?
- Why is forgiveness so hard?
- Based on our Key Verse, what can we do when we need to forgive?

Say: We can't always control what happens to us, but we can control our *reactions* to what happens. Just as Joseph forgave his brothers, **DOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**.





Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.

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

- If someone hurts you this week, don't hold a grudge. Forgive that person right away.
- If you're mad at a family member, talk to that family member about how you feel. Then make sure you forgive him or her for hurting you.
- Write a note to a friend who's hurt you recently. In the note, tell your friend you want to make things right and forgive him or her.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. That might not always be easy—just think about Joseph and his brothers! But God has forgiven us, so we can forgive others. He'll help you as you follow through on your Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Close in a time of prayer, asking God to help kids accept his forgiveness for the things they wrote about on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and to extend forgiveness to the people they wrote about.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Lyrics

Forgive

Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another. Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you—YEAH!

Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another. Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another.

Bear with each other and forgive Whatever grievances You may have against one another.

"Forgive" (Colossians 3:13) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1-2:10

Third- and fourth-graders are now aware of things they didn't even know existed a year or two ago. It can be scary for kids to realize that things such as being abandoned, people losing their homes, car accidents, and even war can happen. This lesson may touch on some of those fears, so be sensitive and watch for signs that kids are afraid. It's very important to stress how much God loves them and protects them!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Circle of Protection (about 15 min.) Form a circle and try to protect one child in the center from another outside the circle.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
Bible Exploration	God Protects Moses (about 15 min.) Play a game about God's protection of Moses.	coins Teacher Pack: "God Protects Moses" game board	God Projects Moses

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

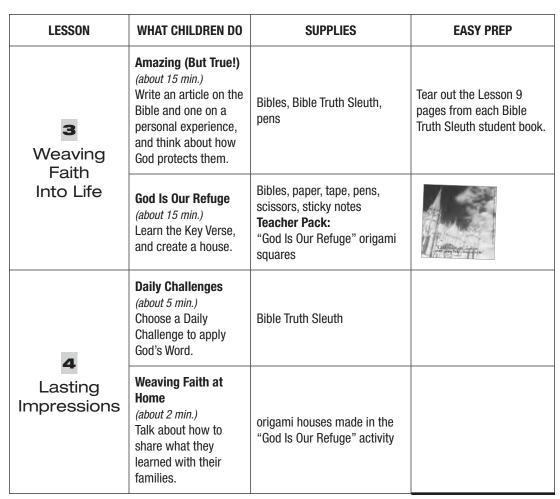


► Bible Point God protects us.

Key Verse "God is our refuge and strength, an everpresent help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will trust God for protection in their lives.





Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1-2:10



Pharaoh Feels Threatened by the Hebrews

In the 400 years that had passed since Joseph helped rule Egypt, the Israelites had grown so numerous that the ruler of the mighty kingdom of Egypt felt threatened by them.

The fact that the "new king" didn't know about Joseph probably wasn't a result of ignorance. The Hebrew wording indicates that the king didn't want to acknowledge Joseph's contributions to Egyptian history. "Forgetting" about Joseph may have been convenient because this new king wanted to suppress the Israelites for fear they would conspire with his enemies against him.

From examples in history, the king's oppression of the Israelites should have had two effects. First, it should have slowed their growth, since a population almost always grows more slowly under oppression. And second, it should have broken the Israelites' spirits and eliminated the desire to rebel. However, Pharaoh's plan didn't work. The Hebrew people continued to multiply as God continued to fulfill his plan among them.

The Midwives Remain Faithful and Are Blessed

The midwives who received Pharaoh's instructions to kill Hebrew male babies (Exodus 1:15-16) were likely supervisors of many Hebrew midwives. It's interesting to note that after 400 years of living in Egypt, Hebrew midwives still "feared God."

These midwives disobeyed an earthly authority to follow God's will for his people. God was kind to the midwives because they followed him and did what was right for God's people.

God Protects Baby Moses

We tend to picture Moses' mother just setting him afloat on the Nile, praying and hoping that someone would find him and save him. However, the Bible makes it clear that Moses' mother intentionally chose the exact place and time in which to surrender Moses. Pharaoh had decreed that any Egyptian who found a Hebrew male baby must throw the baby into the Nile. Only someone of influence with Pharaoh could save a Hebrew baby from death, and Moses' mother apparently knew where and when someone like that bathed. So Moses' discovery by Pharaoh's daughter was no accident; it was part of his mother's plan as well as God's!

God protected Moses from certain death. And God prepared Moses with both a God-honoring upbringing and a royal education in Pharaoh's court.

The Jesus Connection

God doesn't promise to protect us from all harm that comes our way. But he does say that that no matter what happens in this life, God ultimately protects us.

When Moses' life was threatened, God protected him in a most creative way. Can you recall the supernatural protection of God in your life or the life of someone you know? Thank God today for his love and protection over you. You can write your prayer in the spaces below.

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Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 9 Su



Circle of Protection Supplies

CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "Circle of Protection" (track 15)



Circle of Protection

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, have the kids stand in a circle.

Say: Now I need one person to stand inside the circle and one person to stand outside the circle. Choose two willing kids.

Those of you forming the circle, lock your arms together at the elbows. When I say "go," the person on the outside will try to get into the circle to tag the person who is inside the circle. You may try to crawl under arms, step over arms, or just squeeze your way through, but you can't push or shove or knock anyone over.

If the person in the center of the circle gets tagged, that person must go to the outside of the circle and try to get in. The person who broke through the circle chooses the next person to be in the center.

Ready? Go!

Play "Circle of Protection" (track 15 on the CD) while kids play. Play several rounds.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it hard to get to the person in the middle?
- What are some things you're protective of?
- When do you feel most protected in your life?

Say: In this game, you had to protect someone from being tagged by someone else. In today's lesson, we'll hear of some people who needed God's protection.

And we'll learn that ▶ GOD PROTECTS US.





God Protects Moses

What You'll Do

Say: Today we'll learn how God protected Moses when he was a baby, and then we'll play a game that will help you understand how the Israelites may have felt when Pharaoh kept making their lives harder.

Have kids form groups of four. Place the "God Protects Moses" game board on a table or on the floor, and give each group a coin to serve as a game piece.

Say: As we go through the Bible, discuss with your group whether or not you think the situation was positive or negative for the Israelites. Then you'll move your game piece ahead one space if you think it was positive for the Israelites or back one space if you think it was negative for the Israelites.

When groups are ready, read aloud each of the following statements and give groups time to decide whether or not the statement was positive or negative for the Israelites—and why. Then have one member of each group move one space toward the "plus" end of the board for positive statements and toward the "minus" end for the negative statements. Have group members take turns moving the game piece so that everyone has a turn.

Say: Are you ready? Here are the situations:

- The Israelites were growing in number (that means there were a lot of them!). (Exodus 1:7)
- The new king (Pharoah) didn't want that many Israelites around, so he made them slaves. (Exodus 1:8-11)
- The Israelites still grew in number. (Exodus 1:12)
- The king made the Israelites work even harder and made it as difficult as possible for them to do their jobs. (Exodus 1:12-14)
- The king told the midwives that they had to kill any baby boy who was born. (Exodus 1:15-16)
- The midwives feared God and let the baby boys live. (Exodus 1:17)
- The king became very angry with the midwives. (Exodus 1:18)
- The midwives told the king that the Israelite women were very strong and had their babies before they arrived to help them. (Exodus 1:19)
- God was kind to the midwives and gave them families of their very own. (Exodus 1:20-21)
- The king was very mad and ordered that all baby boys be thrown into the Nile River. (Exodus 1:22)
- Moses was born. (Exodus 2:1-2)
- Moses' mother had to hide him for three months. (Exodus 2:1-2)



God Protects Moses Supplies

coins
Teacher Pack
"God Protects Moses"
game board



- Then Moses' mother couldn't hide him anymore; she had to put him in a basket and hide him in the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. (Exodus 2:3)
- Moses' sister Miriam followed the basket to see what would happen to Moses. (Exodus 2:4)
- Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and knew he was an Israelite baby boy, but she felt sorry for him. (Exodus 2:5-6)
- Pharaoh's daughter wanted to keep Moses, so she hired Moses' own mother to care for Moses for her. (Exodus 2:7-9)
- When Moses was older, he was taken to Pharaoh's daughter to be her son. (Exodus 2:10)

Let kids finish moving their game pieces back and forth on the game board.

Talk With Kids

Then lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking as you had to move your piece backward when you were trying to move forward?
- What happens when God's protection doesn't look the way we expect?
- Tell about a time in your life when you felt you needed God's protection.

Say: This is great proof that ▶ GOD PROTECTS US! God protected Moses because he loved Moses. Even though Pharaoh, the king, tried and tried to get rid of the Israelites, he couldn't succeed because God protected them. First God protected them by sending midwives who refused to kill the baby boys as the king had ordered. Then God protected Moses by having Pharaoh's daughter find him and take care of him. God is a great protector!



WEAVING FAITH

INTO LIFE

Amazing (But True!)

Amazing (But True!) Supplies

Bibles Bible Truth Sleuth pens

Amazing (But True!) Easy Prep

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

What You'll Do

Say: Now let's take a look at how God protected Moses and compare that with how he protects us. Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Amazing (But True!)" section.

Say: Write a newspaper article about baby Moses being pulled from a crocodile-infested river. Feel free to use your Bibles to look up facts. When you've finished the article about Moses, write another article below it that tells about how God has protected you or someone you know. For example, maybe you know someone who was in a car that was almost hit by another car, but at the last minute the other car swerved and missed the person.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 9

Grades 3 & 4



Allow about eight minutes for writing. When everyone has finished, have willing kids share their articles with the group.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do these stories of protection tell us about God?
- How can we show God that we trust him to protect us?

Say: Just as a baby being pulled from a crocodile-infested river is pretty amazing, so is God's protection of us. God loved Moses deeply, and he loves you just as deeply. We can be encouraged to know that God, as big and as awesome as he is, still takes time to watch over us and to protect each one of us. Let's look at our Key Verse to see how GOD PROTECTS US.

God Is Our Refuge

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them turn to the Key Verse, Psalm 46:1. Have a willing child read the verse aloud: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Give each child a pen and a sticky note.

Say: Think of a situation that you feel is really difficult. Maybe it seems as if God can't help you. Then write one or two words on your sticky note that describe the situation.

Distribute an origami square to each child, and give kids the following instructions:

Say: Listen to me carefully as I give you instructions on how to do this.

- 1. The first thing you need to do with the piece of paper I've given you is to lay it in front of you so that the Key Verse faces you and is on the bottom of the sheet.
- 2. Next pick up the paper and fold it in half so that the words still face you and are on the bottom of the sheet.
- 3. Now unfold the paper, and lay it down so that the words face the table and are at the top of the sheet. Then fold the top quarter of the sheet down so that it matches the middle line from your previous fold. Then take the bottom half and fold it up to meet the other part.
- 4. Flip it over so the words are facing down, and fold it in half. Then unfold it, and fold the two ends into the middle, using the creases as a guideline.
- 5. Make sure most of the words are at the top of the page and facing down.
- 6. Pull the corner of the top-right flap out to the right, making a triangle that sticks out from the square. Do the same for the left side.
- 7. Using a small piece of tape, tape only the bottom half of the square where the ends of the paper come together.
- 8. Flip it over, and you have a house.



God Is Our Refuge Supplies

Bibles
paper
tape
pens
scissors
sticky notes
Teacher Pack
"God Is Our Refuge"
origami squares



Earlier you wrote a situation that you feel is really difficult. Put the piece of paper inside your house. There is a place right underneath the Key Verse where you can put it.





After kids have finished making their crafts, have them place them on the table in front of them

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does this verse tell you about God's plans for you, both now and in the future?
- What does this verse tell us about difficult situations?
- What can help you seek God in your life even when things appear to be bad for you?

Say: Many people see their houses as places of refuge where they feel safe and protected. ▶ GOD PROTECTS US even in very difficult situations—just as he protected Moses in the Nile River. Take home these houses you've made to help you remember our Key Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).





Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how we can trust that ▶ GOD PROTECTS US.

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

- Draw a picture of a time you needed God's protection. Then write "God is my refuge" on your picture.
- Write in a journal or diary about ways you've seen God protect you in the past. When you're scared or worried about something, read what you wrote to help you remember that he protects you.
- Tell a younger friend or sibling about how God protects you.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: ► GOD PROTECTS US. We might not be able to see it right away, but he's always with us—just like he was with Moses. Let's reflect on God's protection as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Have kids hold on to their "God Is Our Refuge" houses and pray for God's protection.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

origami houses made in the "God Is Our Refuge" activity



Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush Exodus 2:11-3:20

Third- and fourth-graders often don't like routine things. They want to be treated as grown-ups and be given challenges and new ways of doing those routine things. Use this lesson to help them understand that allowing God to use them is exciting. God will give them the ability to do the things he wants them to do. If they'll allow it, God can and will use them in special ways.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Use Me Commercials (about 15 min.) Make up commercials and perform them.		
	Moses Flees to Midian (about 10 min.) Discover how Moses ran away.	Bibles, 4 poster boards, markers	
Bible Exploration	Moses at the Burning Bush (about 10 min.) Take off their shoes and watch a "burning bush."	Bibles, small paper grocery bag, flashlight, crayons, scissors	Prepare a "burning bush." Cut and color the top opening of a small paper grocery bag to look like flames. Cut a hole in the bottom of the bag and place a flashlight in to light up the "flames." See the photo near the activity.
	God Calls Moses to Free the Israelites (about 10 min.) Examine Moses' interaction with God when God told him to free the Israelites.	Bibles, milk, plate, cups, honey graham crackers, antibacterial gel (optional)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point God can use us.

Key Verse "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will use a gift or talent to serve God.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	God Can Use Me! (about 15 min.) Make mirrors, and think of how God uses them.	Bible Truth Sleuth, markers, aluminum foil, pens, tape, 1 approximately 6-inch square piece of cardboard per student, several pairs of scissors	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
Lasting Impressions	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bibles	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11-3:20



Moses Succeeds and Fails in Egypt

Being trained in Pharaoh's court didn't extinguish Moses' Hebrew upbringing. It's clear from Exodus 2:11 that Moses considered himself a Hebrew rather than the Egyptian most people thought he was. This fact is emphasized in Hebrews 11:24-26. As Moses went out among the Hebrews, he must have been thinking about how he could help his people escape the oppression they were enduring.

Moses Escapes to Midian

It may seem strange that in the desert of Midian, Moses came across a priest who followed God, but Reuel (later called Jethro) was likely a descendant of Abraham through one of Abraham's concubines.

We don't know how threatening the shepherds were to the daughters of Reuel, but the women reported that Moses had rescued them. From the Bible text it seems as if events happened quickly, but it's likely that Moses received Reuel's daughter, Zipporah, as his wife after a lengthy stay with the family. However, Moses didn't feel at home in Midian. When his first son was born, the name he gave the child meant "banishment." Moses knew that his place was in Egypt with the Hebrew people.

Moses Goes to Mount Horeb

The mountain where God met Moses at the burning bush is the same mountain on which God delivered the Ten Commandments to Moses years later. God got Moses' attention with a burning bush that didn't burn up. Sometimes it takes drastic measures to get our attention! Moses investigated and listened when God spoke. God had heard his people's cries from Egypt and was ready to send the leader he had prepared to rescue them.

God Calls Moses to Serve

Though he still identified with the Hebrew people, Moses no longer saw himself as their savior. Moses' objection was met with a simple statement from God: "I will be with you." The path God described to Moses was a difficult one. Moses would face opposition from his own people as well as from Pharaoh. To his many objections God responded with a reminder of who God is—"I am"—the God of Moses' forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When Moses realized that his God had chosen him, he was willing to obey. And when he obeyed in faith, God used him mightily.

The Jesus Connection

Many people struggle with feelings of uselessness. Thankfully, Jesus will joyfully and purposefully use anyone who is willing to follow and serve him.

Moses set aside his doubts and accepted that God had chosen him for a special task. Do you have a failure or experience that you feel has disqualified you from fully serving God? Confess your concern to God, and allow him to encourage you with the truth. You can write your prayer on the lines below.

Lesson 10

 Summer Quarter





Use Me Commercials

What You'll Do

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

When everyone has arrived, have kids form groups of four, and explain that each group will produce a commercial. Encourage all the kids in each group to participate in the commercial. They can advertise a real or imaginary product.

Have kids go to different areas of the room or to different rooms if possible to plan their commercials. Help groups come up with product and commercial ideas if needed. After about 10 minutes, have groups perform their commercials for everyone.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Would you want to buy the products advertised? Why or why not?
- What were the good things you saw in the commercials?
- If God were making a commercial about the people he wants to use, what might it say?

Say: Commercials show what a product can be used for. Today we will learn about someone God used who wasn't expecting it. We'll discover that ▶ GOD CAN USE US to do amazing things for him.





Moses Flees to Midian

What You'll Do

Have kids form four groups, and assign each group one section of the Bible passage.

Group 1: Exodus 2:11-14 Group 2: Exodus 2:15-17 Group 3: Exodus 2:18-20 Group 4: Exodus 2:21-25

Say: Each group will read a portion of the passage and draw a picture of something that happened in your passage. You'll be sharing the passage with everyone, so make sure you understand all that happened in addition to what you choose to draw. Group 1, I'd rather you didn't illustrate Moses killing the Israelite. But there are plenty of other things to choose.

Give each group a poster board and markers. Give groups a few minutes to work, and then have groups go in order and use their posters to share about Moses with everyone.

Say: Moses had done something very bad. He'd killed an Egyptian and tried to keep it a secret. Instead of facing the consequences for his wrong actions, he ran away.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Do you think it was right for Moses to run away? Why or why not?
- Tell about a time you felt like running when you did something wrong.

Say: Even though Moses had done something wrong, God was still able to use him. Let's find out how.

Moses had left his home to hide from Pharaoh. He knew Pharaoh would kill him if he were to be caught. He felt out of place in this new land, but he was kind to the daughters of the Midian priest and ended up marrying one of the daughters.

Ask:

Tell about a time you felt you didn't belong somewhere or with someone.

Say: The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The Bible says they cried out to God because of their slavery.



Moses Flees to Midian Supplies

Bibles 4 poster boards markers

Lesson 10



Moses at the Burning Bush Supplies

Bibles small paper grocery bag flashlight crayons scissors

Moses at the Burning Bush Easy Prep

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Prepare a "burning bush." Cut and color the top opening of a small paper grocery bag to look like flames. Cut a hole in the bottom of the bag and place a flashlight in to light up the "flames." See the photo at right.

God Calls Moses to Free the Israelites Supplies

Bibles milk plate cups honey graham crackers antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

Ask:

- What are some things people are slaves to today?
- How would you define what a slave is?

Say: Moses was not with the Israelites in slavery. He was in Midian. He didn't know the Israelites were crying out to God. Moses was going about his everyday business of tending the sheep. God wanted to get Moses' attention and talk to him. God wants to get our attention, too, because ▶ GOD CAN USE US.

Moses at the Burning Bush

What You'll Do

Turn on the flashlight in the "bush." As kids stand around the burning bush, read aloud Exodus 3:1-5. After reading the Scripture, instruct kids to take off their shoes. Then ask a willing child to read Exodus 3:6 aloud for the group. Have kids turn away from the

burning bush and hide their faces.

Say: Moses turned away from God. But that doesn't mean God wasn't there and wasn't listening. Maybe there's something you'd like to talk to God about right now. Take a moment, close your eyes, and pray to God. You can talk to him. Ask him something. Or just listen.

Give kids a minute to pray.



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it important to show the proper respect to God?
- Have you ever been afraid of God? Why or why not?

Say: God had heard the cries of the Israelites and knew what they needed. So he chose to use Moses to free them. ▶ GOD CAN USE US, too. Even though Moses had done something wrong and had fled to Midian 40 years earlier, God still wanted to use Moses to free the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt.

God Calls Moses to Free the Israelites

What You'll Do

In a corner of the room, set out some milk, cups, and a plate of honey graham crackers. Tell kids they can't have any right now but that they can have some later.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 10

Grades 3 & 4





Ask for a willing child to play the part of Moses. The rest of the group will be Israelites. Read aloud Exodus 3:7-10 to "Moses." Have the Israelites pretend to do some kind of hard, physical work, such as swinging a sledgehammer or lifting a heavy load, while you read.

Ask:

- What do God's words and actions say about how he cares about those who
- In what ways does God promise to be with you?

Ask Moses to read aloud Exodus 3:11-14. Instruct the Israelites to keep working while Moses reads.

When Moses has finished reading, ask the Israelites to stop working, and have Moses turn to the Israelites and pretend to be talking to them.

Read aloud Exodus 3:14-20. After you finish reading, have kids clean their hands and give them each a cup of milk and several honey graham crackers.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you were promised something but then had to wait for it.
- How did God use Moses to help the Israelites become free?

Say: God said the Israelites would go to a land flowing with milk and honey. But Moses had to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Moses was nervous. He was afraid to go to Pharaoh. He didn't have a lot of confidence. Moses didn't understand how God could use him. But God made a promise to be with Moses. He let Moses know exactly what to say to Pharaoh. God helped Moses understand that it wasn't because of anything Moses could say or do that God could use him, but because God could do the work through Moses. All Moses had to do was be willing to let God do it.

Even though Moses had failed at times, God could still use him. ▶ GOD CAN USE US. Let's see how that's true.



God Can Use Me!

What You'll Do

Have kids gather around tables. Give each child a piece of aluminum foil and a piece of cardboard. Provide markers and scissors for each table.

God Can Use Me! Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

markers aluminum foil pens tape 1 approximately 6-inch square piece of cardboard per student several pairs of scissors

God Can Use Me! Easy Prep

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

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Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 10 Summer Quarter



Have each child cover a cardboard square with the aluminum foil. Next have each child lay a piece of aluminum foil on the table with the shinier side down.

Say: Sometimes there are things we don't like about ourselves. Maybe it's choices we've made or ways we've treated other people. With a marker, write one thing on the foil that you don't like.

Have kids place the cardboard square centered on the foil to cover up the words they wrote. Then have kids carefully wrap the edges of the foil (trimming the foil as necessary) over the square, taping the foil to the back. When the craft is finished, it should resemble a mirror. Encourage kids to decorate the edges of their mirrors using markers.







Say: Look in your mirrors. You aren't defined by your past. God sees you as you really are—his amazing and wonderful creation. And God can use you!

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids find the "God Can Use Me" section. Give kids time to fill out the two sections.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the talents you have?
- What does it take for God to use you?
- What are some ways God could use you and your talents?

Say: It makes no difference who we are or what good or bad things we've done.

▶ GOD CAN USE US, just like he used Moses. He can use us if we're willing to let him use us. It doesn't matter who we are—what matters is who God is. He can do anything through us that he wants. And he gives us strength to do great things for him.





Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how ▶ GOD CAN USE US.

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

- Talk to your parents about the talents you have, and then come up with a way you can use those talents for God.
- Serve someone you know who needs help: a neighbor or elderly person, for example. Help them with yardwork, cleaning, or something else they have trouble doing on their own.
- Allow God to use you by telling a friend about your relationship with Jesus, and invite that person to church.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: ▶ GOD CAN USE US. We won't always understand why he chose us, but if we're willing to let him use us—just like he used Moses—God can accomplish big things through us. Let's think about how God can use us as we follow through with our Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Have kids find the Key Verse, Philippians 4:13, in their Bibles.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bibles

Lesson 10 Summer Quarter



Say: God can use anyone who depends upon him for strength. Let's read our Key Verse, Philippians 4:13, together: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

We're going to say the verse again. This time we will pray it as a silent prayer, except you'll fill your name in where it says "I" and "me." And instead of saying "everything," name something specific, such as obeying your parents, that you need God's strength to help you do.

I'll say the prayer aloud first. Then I'll give you a minute to pray silently.

Say the following prayer, filling in your name and something you need God's strength to help you do. Then give kids a minute to pray silently.

[Your name] **can** [name something specific] **through him who gives** [your name] **strength. Amen.**



The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment Exodus 5:1-6:1

ost third- and fourth-graders take each day as it comes. However, some children this age worry about the future. This is especially true if they experience major life changes. Maybe there has been a death in the family or their parents are having marital or financial problems. These times of uncertainty and change may bring worries and even fear about the future. Unfortunately, children may or may not be able to identify and voice these worries and fears. This lesson will help them understand how to hope in God during difficult times.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Getting Started	Things We Hope For (about 10 min.) Play a game, and name things they hope for.		
2 Bible Exploration	Bricks, Bricks, Bricks! (about 20 min.) Try to make construction paper bricks without the necessary supplies.	Bibles, sheets of card stock, several pairs of scissors, tape, markers, copies of the "Brick Pattern" (at the end of this lesson)	Copy the "Brick Pattern" onto colored card stock. You'll need several copies for each child.
	Hopes in a House of Cards (about 15 min.) Learn the Key Verse, and try to build a house of cards.	Bibles, 20 index cards for every 4 kids, pencils, CD player, several rolls of tape, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





► Bible Point God wants us to hope in him.

Key Verse

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Weaving Faith Into Life Kids will turn to God for hope in tough situations.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Weaving Faith Into Life	Putting Our Hope in God (about 15 min.) Write about situations in which they need hope, and write prayers asking God for hope in those situations.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment

Exodus 5:1-6:1



Setting the Stage

Before going to Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron had met with the elders of Israel. Upon seeing the miracles Moses performed and hearing that God was concerned about them, they bowed down and worshipped (Exodus 4:29-31).

Conflict Begins Between Pharaoh and Moses

In view of common practices of the day, Moses' request for his people to go to the desert to worship God was quite reasonable. However, Pharaoh's response to Moses is understandable. Pharaoh had gods of his own. He knew nothing of Israel's God and looked upon the Lord as a third-rate god since his people were lowly slaves.

The "straw" that the Israelites were forced to gather for making bricks was likely the stubble that remained after grain was reaped. The Israelites used this stubble in the bricks to make them stronger, much as steel mesh or fibers are used to strengthen concrete slabs today.

Moses Shows Frustration to God

It's easy to criticize the Hebrew foremen for their lack of faith when they lashed out at Moses and Aaron, but they were really caught in the middle. They tried to get their own people to meet the quotas of bricks, and when the quotas were missed, the foremen were beaten. They had never seen the Lord's power, so they had no way to know if he could rescue them.

Moses, however, had seen God's power at the burning bush. God had performed miracles before his eyes. His plea to God was sincere: Why have you let this happen? His complaint was not an accusation, but a simple statement of fact. The people had not been freed!

God Encourages Moses

The Lord's response reminded Moses of the purpose of the rescue. The rescue was intended to show Egypt and the world who God is and to demonstrate his power. Yes, God was certainly concerned with the Israelites' cries. But God answered in a way that would show the world that he truly is God. Essentially he told Moses, "Relax and watch. Just wait until you see what I'm going to do!"

Sometimes God's working isn't easy to see, and we easily become discouraged. But we have this account and many others to remind us of God's power and the love he demonstrates for his people. Why shouldn't we hope in God?

The Jesus Connection

God doesn't promise his followers a trouble-free life, but in a growing relationship with Jesus, we have hope—even in difficult circumstances.

The Hebrews lost hope, and we can certainly understand why! Yet God never stopped planning for their future. What are you hoping for today? Remember that God is working out your future—even when it seems impossible. Thank Jesus for his constant involvement in the events of your life. You can write your prayer in the spaces below.

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Grades 3 & 4 Lesson 11 Summer Quarter





Things We Hope For

What You'll Do

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

When everyone has arrived, have kids help you clear tables and chairs from the center of the room, and have kids line up at one end of the room. Stand at the other end facing the kids.

Say: We're going to play a game. I'll call out one of your names, and you'll need to tell everyone one thing that you hope for in the future.

Once you've said what you hope for, I'll give you instructions to move forward. Your goal is to make it to this side of the room.

Some examples of how you might have kids move forward would be "Take three hops forward" or "Take one giant step forward." However, make sure you give instructions that won't allow them to make it all the way across the room.

Play the game until all the children are at least halfway across the room. Now when you give your instructions, make them go backward instead of forward. As soon as the children appear frustrated, stop the game and praise them for playing.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you hoping to accomplish in the game?
- Why is it so frustrating to move backward?

Say: Today we'll learn how the Israelites continued to work as slaves for Pharaoh while things never seemed to go their way. Let's look at a Bible passage that shows how it would've been really easy for them to lose hope in the future. We'll also learn that

GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.





Bricks, Bricks!

What You'll Do

Ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 5:1-9.

Say: We heard about how the Israelites had to make bricks. Well, today we are going to make bricks, too! I have a pattern here for you to use to make your bricks.

Give each child at least two copies of the brick pattern, and explain that you want the kids to pretend they are the Israelites and that they have to make bricks. Don't give them anything other than the patterns—no tape, no glue, no staples, and no scissors.

Say: Now that you have your patterns, I want you to make as many bricks as you can in one minute. Ready? Go!

After about one minute, have kids stop making bricks.

Ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 5:10-18.

Say: Maybe you felt somewhat hopeless as you tried to make your bricks without the things you needed. The Israelites probably felt the same way-hopeless. It's hard to do something when you don't have all the things you need. The Israelites were asked to make bricks without any straw. This was like working without scissors or glue. The situation seemed hopeless, and it's difficult to have hope when it seems as if things are only getting worse. The Israelites were angry with Moses. Instead of being allowed to leave and worship God, the Israelites now had to work harder. They may have thought that God was abandoning them.

Ask:

Why was it important for the Israelites to continue to put their hope in God in this situation?

Say: There are many places in the Bible where God tells us to hope in him. One verse is Isaiah 40:31.

Make sure kids have Bibles, and help them find the Key Verse, Isaiah 40:31. Ask a willing child to read the passage aloud: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Say: This verse tells us that God is bigger than our circumstances. When we feel weak, God will be strong and help give us strength. Let's see what God told Moses about the way his people were being treated.



Bricks, Bricks, Bricks! Supplies

Ribles sheets of card stock several pairs of scissors tape markers copies of the "Brick Pattern" (at the end of this lesson)

Bricks, Bricks, Bricks! Easy Prep

Copy the "Brick Pattern" onto colored card stock. You'll need several copies for each child.



Have a willing child read aloud Exodus 5:19-6:1.

Say: We're going to make more bricks, but this time I'll give you things you need to help you make them. Write "I put my hope in God" on your bricks. Then you will have a reminder to hope in God no matter what your circumstances!

Give kids more brick patterns. But this time give them scissors, tape, and markers. Have them write on their bricks "I put my hope in God." Then have them make the bricks, with the words on the outside of each brick, and take them home as reminders to put their hope in God.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it look like to hope in the Lord?
- Does this verse mean we'll never face trouble? Why or why not?
- What are some tough situations that you face when it seems as if things only get worse instead of better?
- Why are we able to hope in God?

Say: The situation might have seemed hopeless to the Israelites, but no matter what we're going through ▶ GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.

Hopes in a House of Cards Supplies

Bibles 20 index cards for every 4 kids pencils

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

Teacher Pack

CD: "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 17)

Hopes in a House of Cards

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's look at our Key Verse one more time and see what it says about having hope in God.

Ask a willing child to read aloud the Key Verse, Isaiah 40:31, again: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Ask:

What's hopeful about this verse?

Say: Let's sing a song about hope and hoping in God.

Hand out copies of the lyrics page, and play "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 17 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.

Who can soar on wings like eagles? Who can run and not grow weary? Who can walk and not be faint?



(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord Will renew their strength. Those who hope in the Lord Will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint.

(Sing chorus.)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles! I wanna run and not grow weary; I wanna walk and not be faint.

(Sing chorus.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: It's fun to put our hope in birthday presents and exciting things that happen to us. But ▶ GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. God is the only one who can give strength during tough situations.

Have kids form groups of four. Give each group a Bible, pencils, and 20 index cards. Have each person write on the index cards some of his or her hopes for the future. Then each group will build a house of cards with the index cards.

After all the groups have finished building their houses of cards, let them share their creations with the large group.

Say: Just as certain parts of a house of cards fall down at times, our future will not always turn out the way we had hoped. Sometimes no matter how hard we try things just seem to fall apart. But ▶ GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.

Let's try to build these houses again. Before you begin building, write the Key Verse, Isaiah 40:31, on your index cards.

Encourage kids to refer to the verse in their Bibles as they write it on their cards. As they do, distribute tape to each group.

Say: Remember that when we hope in God, he will give us strength to rise above tough times. This time as you make your house, try to make it stronger than before. Use the tape I've given you to build your house.

Give groups a few minutes to work on their houses.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the hopes you wrote on your cards?
- What's difficult about making a house of cards without tape?
- What's the real-life "tape" we can use to make our hopes stronger?
- How can we know our hopes align with God's hopes for us?

Say: GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. The Israelites had a hard time hoping in God because of their circumstances. But we can hope in God no matter what happens. Hopes we place in him will stand against the strongest wind.

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3 WEAVING FAITH

Putting Our Hope in God Supplies

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

Teacher Pack

CD: "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) (track 18)

Putting Our Hope in God Easy Prep

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

Putting Our Hope in God

What You'll Do

Say: God promises to replace our weakness with his strength. When we ask him for help, he gives it. ▶ GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. Sometimes it can be hard to do that. We might see the bad parts of a situation more than the good - just like the Israelites did. Maybe we've tried to hope in God and bad things still seemed to happen. But we can trust God with our hope. Let's spend some time asking God to help us have hope in tough situations now.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and ask kids to find the "Putting Our Hope in God" activity. Encourage them to write about situations in which they feel they need hope. Then have them choose one of those situations and write a prayer asking God for hope in that situation.

Hand out copies of the lyrics page, and play "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) (track 18 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song.

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 11

 Grades 3 & 4



We can trust him.
We can trust him. Yeah!

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. We can trust him. We can trust him. We can trust him.

"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things you need hope for?
- How do we know that God cares about our hopes?
- Why are we able to hope in God?
- How do you know you can trust God with your future?
- What's keeping you from putting all your hope and trust in God? What can you do this week to overcome that obstacle?

Say: Today we learned how the Israelites were in a very difficult situation and became angry with their leader, Moses. Moses, whom God had chosen to lead the Israelites, could've lost hope. But he turned to God, and God told him not to worry. So Moses put his trust in God. Remember that God is bigger than our circumstances, and we can trust him with the future.

GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: This week let's think about how GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM.

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

- When you need to be reminded of what happens when we hope in God, look up the Key Verse, Isaiah 40:31, to help you remember.
- Draw a picture of a hopeless situation you feel like you're in. Then draw another picture of a way God can help in that situation.
- Maybe you're having trouble believing that God can or will help you in your situation. Write a letter to God telling him how you feel. Then ask him to help you find hope.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: When we put our hope in people and circumstances, we're often disappointed. Just look at the Israelites! But ▶ GOD WANTS US TO HOPE IN HIM. He's larger than people and circumstances. Let's hope in God this week as we follow through with our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Give them an opportunity to pray the prayer they wrote on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



Lyrics

Those Who Hope (Isaiah 40:31)

Who can soar on wings like eagles? Who can run and not grow weary? Who can walk and not be faint?

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord Will renew their strength. Those who hope in the Lord Will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint.

(Sing chorus.)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles!
I wanna run and not grow weary;
I wanna walk and not be faint.

(Sing chorus.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.







Lyrics

We Can Trust Him (Psalm 33:4)

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah!

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.

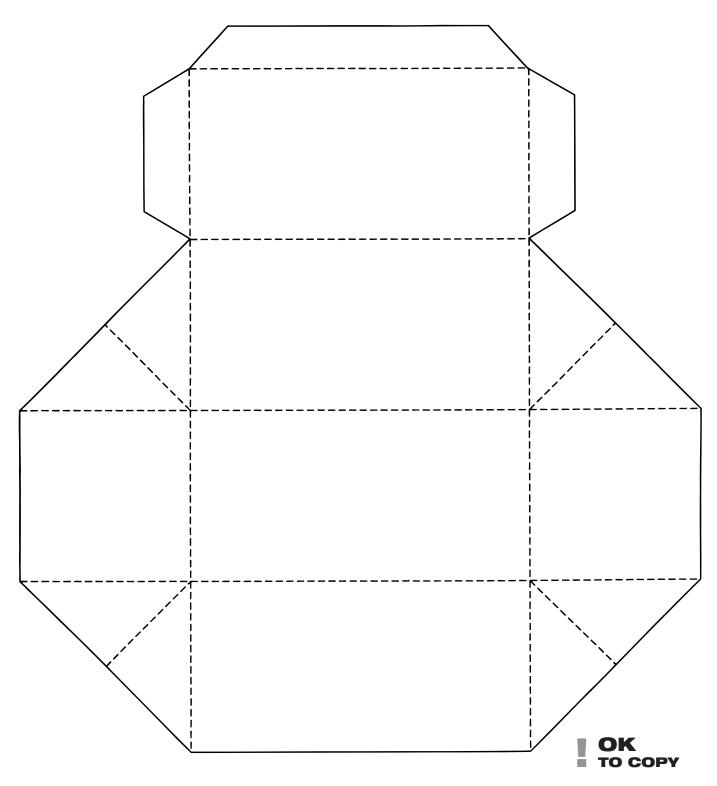
"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved







Brick Pattern





God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8-10:29

y the third grade, many kids are courageous and somewhat daring. If you ask them to do something that is a little scary to them, such as getting something out of a dark closet or basement, they just may do it. Their hearts may be pounding, but they'll face the challenge! With this lesson, you can help them understand that whether they're feeling courageous or afraid, God is always with them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Save Me! (about 10 min.) Play a game that looks at safety and protection.	copy of the "Scenarios" handout (at the end of this lesson), scissors, whiteboard or poster board, markers	Cut apart the "Scenarios" handout (at the end of this lesson).
Bible Exploration	A Frog's Tale (about 25 min.) Listen to a frog tell about the first 4 plagues, make a snack to remind them of God's protection, and talk about how God helped the Israelites.	Bibles, CD player, paper. markers, black construction paper, paper plates, red Fruit Roll- Ups, green fruit candies, sunflower seeds, raisins, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline	
	In Other Words (about 10 min.) Rewrite the Key Verse in their own words.	Bibles, markers, 2 poster boards, scissors, tape	Cut 2 poster boards in half, and hang the 4 pieces on the wall. Write a section of the Key Verse, as shown below, on each piece. 1. So do not fear, for I am with you; 2. do not be dismayed, for I am your God. 3. I will strengthen you and help you; 4. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point God uses his power to help us.

Key Verse

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Weaving Faith Into Life

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Children will praise God for using his power in their lives.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Power Grid (about 15 min.) Examine God's power in various ways. Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, timer, 1 coin per child, 2 balls, magnet, metal paper clips, straws, paper, small plastic bowls, larger plastic bowls the small bowls will fit into, plastic spoons, vinegar, baking soda, leftover raisins from "A Frog's Tale," copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD		Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges (about 5 min.) Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home (about 2 min.) Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Key Verse posters made in the "In Other Words" activity.	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8-10:29

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Pharaoh's Magicians Duplicate Miracles

There are a number of significant questions and difficulties raised in the four chapters from Exodus 7 through Exodus 10. How did Pharaoh's magicians duplicate the miracles? The gods they served weren't real; rather, the magicians' power came from Satan. Certainly some of the miracles were copied through trickery, but it's likely that some were performed through occult powers. In Exodus 8:18-19, the magicians were baffled and attributed the plague of gnats to God's power. Apparently they were unable to duplicate that plague through any type of sorcery.

Pharaoh Keeps Changing His Mind

Why did Pharaoh keep changing his mind and breaking his word? Pharaoh was not unlike many of us who find ourselves making promises to God when times are hard. Then, when we're no longer in a pinch, we rationalize away the promises we made. Pharaoh had a very convenient workforce in the Israelites. When the pressure was off, it became extremely hard for him to release the Israelites. Not only would he lose his slaves, but such an act would be seen by others as a sign of weakness.

God Hardens Pharaoh's Heart

Was it right of God to harden Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 9:12; 10:1, 27; 11:10)? God's sovereignty as it relates to our free will is a mystery to which we have no certain answers. But notice that God didn't harden Pharaoh's heart until the sixth plague. Prior to that, Pharaoh had repeatedly hardened his own heart. Perhaps there was a point at which Pharaoh had so set himself against God that God allowed him to live with the consequences of his choices, further

hardening Pharaoh's heart because he knew that was Pharaoh's intention and initial choice.

God's Plan for the Plagues on Egypt

Why did God allow all of these things to happen? The answer, though mentioned in several places, is clearly stated in Exodus 7:5: "The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." The Israelites had been treated poorly by the Egyptians, and when they cried out to God, he responded. He let the Egyptians (and surrounding nations as well) see that he truly is God. He used his mighty power to rescue his people and to demonstrate to all who would hear about him that he is worthy of worship and obedience.

The Jesus Connection

Everyone needs God's help and power to survive the difficulties of life. Jesus empowers his followers and helps his friends!

Waiting on God's timing is difficult for most Christians. Take a moment to pray about something you're waiting for. Ask God to give you the patience and faith to wait for his perfect timing. You can write your prayer on the lines below.

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-	

Grades 3 & 4

Lesson 12 Summer Quarter



Save Me! Supplies

copy of the "Scenarios" handout (at the end of this lesson) scissors whiteboard or poster board markers

Save Me! Easy Prep

Cut apart the "Scenarios" handout (at the end of this lesson)

A Frog's Tale Supplies

Bibles
CD player
paper
markers
black construction paper
paper plates
red Fruit Roll-Ups
green fruit candies
sunflower seeds
raisins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack

Bible Timeline CD: "A Frog's Tale, Part 1" (track 19), "A Frog's Tale, Part 2" (track 20)

ALLERGY ALERT



Save Me!

What You'll Do

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

Say: Let's play a game that helps us think about situations where we need protection or help. Have kids form four groups. Give each group a section from the "Scenarios" handout.

Say: In your group, figure out what protection you need for your situation. First you'll act out what it would be like to be in that situation without having the things you need. Then you'll act out the situation again, but this time you'll have everything you need for protection.

Give groups time to act out their situations both without and with the proper safety equipment.

Ask:

■ What were some of the things needed in these situations?

On a whiteboard or poster board, list the things kids say.

Talk With Kids

After making your list, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

How can we make sure we have the right equipment for a particular situation?

Say: Today we'll see how God used his power to protect and save the Israelites. We'll learn that ▶ GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US, too.

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BIBI F

EXPLORATION

A Frog's Tale

What You'll Do ■■■■■

Show kids the "God Sends Plagues on Egypt" picture on the Bible Timeline. Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them turn to Exodus 7.

Summer Quarter

Lesson 12

Grades 3 & 4



Say: Today we'll be reading from Exodus chapters 7 through 10. It's about nine plagues God sent on Egypt. When Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites, God sent some terrible plagues and disasters on the Egyptians. Let's listen as we hear one frog's perspective on the whole situation.

Distribute papers and markers to kids. While kids are listening to the following track, have them draw the plagues they hear. When a new plague is mentioned, just have them draw right over the old drawing. By the end it will look like a mess.

Play "A Frog's Tale, Part 1" (track 19 on the CD). At the end of Part 1, stop the CD.

Say: Wow! A lot has happened, and we're still not finished! Before we learn about more of the plagues that Pharaoh and the Egyptians experienced, let's think about what's happened so far.

Have kids sit at tables, and give them each a paper plate. Have kids clean their hands, and distribute a red Fruit Roll-Up, several green fruit candies, sunflower seeds, and raisins. Have kids roll out the Fruit Roll-Ups on their paper plates so that they're flat, and ask kids to refer to Exodus 7:14–8:32 as you give the following instructions.

Say: Imagine that this Fruit Roll-Up is the Nile River and it has been turned to blood. This is the first plague that Farley described. Place your green fruit candies on the Nile River. These represent the plague of frogs (like Farley). Next place the sunflower seeds, which represent all the gnats the Egyptians experienced, on the river. Finally, place the raisins on your Nile River. These represent all the flies.

Now roll up your Nile River with the frogs, gnats, and flies inside it. Even though the Egyptians experienced all these plagues, God kept the plagues away from the Israelites, like the "plagues" rolled up in your hands right now.

God used his power to bring terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. God also used his power to protect the Israelites. God wanted the best for the Israelites. God used his power to help the Israelites, and ▶ GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.

Say: Now let's listen to Farley again to hear what else happened. You can eat your fruit snack while you listen.

Play "A Frog's Tale, Part 2" (track 20 on the CD). Have kids continue to draw things as they hear them mentioned. For the darkness, kids can cover their drawings with the sheets of black construction paper.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

What are some words that come to mind as you think about the plagues that Egypt endured?



In Other Words Supplies

Bibles markers 2 poster boards scissors tape

In Other Words Easy Prep

Cut 2 poster boards in half, and hang the 4 pieces on the wall. Write a section of the Key Verse, as shown below, on each piece.

- 1. So do not fear, for I am with you;
- 2. do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
- 3. I will strengthen you and help you;
- 4. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- Think about a time you felt God telling you to do something. Did you listen right away? Why or why not?
- How do you think God uses his power to protect people from bad things today?

Say: God wants us to know that he's powerful—so powerful that he can send plagues down upon the earth. God also wants us to know that he loves us. We don't need to be afraid when we face difficult times because ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.

In Other Words

What You'll Do

Have kids form four groups. Make sure each group has a Bible, and help kids find the Key Verse, Isaiah 41:10, in their Bibles. Ask a willing child from each group to read the verse aloud to his or her group: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Say: This verse has some sections that are hard to understand, so let's break it down. I'm going to send each group to a sheet of poster board that's hanging on the wall. When you get to your sheet, work with your group to write the section in your own words. I'll give you one minute; then you'll move to another sheet.

Send each group to a different sheet of poster board. Help groups who struggle to write the verse in their own words. For example, the first section might be reworded: "Don't be afraid of anything, because God is always here." The second section could say: "Don't lose hope, because I'm God." The third section might read: "I'll use my power to help you in tough times." And the last section could be rewritten: "I'll use my strength to lift you up."

After one minute, have groups rotate to another poster board and come up with a different way to write that section. It's okay if kids come up with similar ways to say the verse. You may even want to encourage them to refer to other groups' ideas to help them with their own. Continue until groups have each been to all the poster boards.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does rewording help you understand the verses?
- Which section of the Key Verse is the most powerful to you? Why?
- How can we be sure God will use his power to help us?

Say: For God USES HIS POWER TO HELP US. He has the power to send plagues, as he did in Egypt. But he also tells us not to be afraid, not to be sad, and not to lose hope, because he'll give us strength and help us. That's an encouraging promise!





Power Grid

What You'll Do

Say: ► GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US. Let's look at some of the ways he does that.

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth page, and ask kids to find the "Power Grid" activity. Encourage kids to each grab a coin, lay their Bible Truth Sleuth pages on the ground, stand three feet away, and toss the coin onto the grid. Whichever space the coin lands on, have them do that activity. Kids will end up doing different activities.

If there's more than one child who needs supplies, just have the kids wait patiently.

Give kids time to work. Then hand out copies of the lyrics page, and play "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) (track 18 on the CD). Lead the kids in singing the song.

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah!

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him.



Power Grid Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth CD player timer 1 coin per child 2 balls magnet metal paper clips straws paper small plastic bowls larger plastic bowls the small bowls will fit into plastic spoons vinegar baking soda leftover raisins from "A Frog's Tale" copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack:

CD: "We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) (track 18)



Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.

We can trust him.

We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.

We can trust him.

We can trust him.

We can trust him.

We can trust him.

"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's something new you discovered about God's power from this activity?
- Tell about a time you've experienced God using his power in your life.
- What does God need from us in order to use his power in our lives?

Say: God is all-powerful, but he still cares about us. Sometimes he'll do things to get our attention—just as he did with the plagues. But what he really wants to do is help us. ▶ GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.



LASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how ▶ GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US.

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

- Write down something you need God's help with. Share it with a parent, and pray together.
- Write your own song to praise God for using his power to help you.
- Send an email or card to a friend to tell him or her how God has used his power in your life.

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

Summer Quarter

Lesson 12

Grades 3 & 4



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: God probably won't have to use plagues to get your attention, but he can use his power to do amazing things in your life. Let's show we trust that ▶ GOD USES HIS POWER TO HELP US by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Allow kids to stand near the section of poster with the Key Verse that most spoke the them. Have them pray that God would use his power in their lives.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Key Verse Posters made in the "In Other Words" activity

Grades 3 & 4



Lyrics

We Can Trust Him (Psalm 33:4)

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.
We can trust him.

If there's one thing we can count on, It's that God will never let us down, and We can trust everything he does. He keeps his promises. We know because

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him. Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him. We can trust him.

Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true. We can trust him.
We can trust him.
Yeah, the Word of the Lord holds true.
We can trust him.

"We Can Trust Him" (Psalm 33:4) by Jay Stocker. © 2007, 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Scenarios

1. You are going bungee jumping; what protection do you need?
You are going hiking in the mountains for a weekend; what protection do you need?
3. You are going to play football; what protection do you need?
4. You are going scuba diving; what protection do you need?



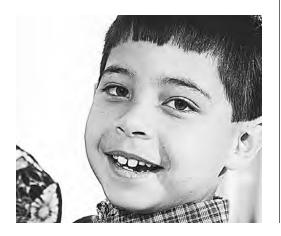


The Israelites Escape From Egypt Exodus 11:1-12:36

Third- and fourth-graders want to excel in everything they do. But just like all of us, they sometimes make mistakes and bad choices. Use this lesson to help kids understand that they have freedom in Jesus to be forgiven for the wrong things they do and that God will help them to be the best they can be.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP	
1 Getting Started	Tied Up in Knots (about 10 min.) Create a human knot and try to free themselves.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD		
2 Bible Exploration	Preparing and Waiting (about 20 min.) Make preparations as the Israelites did for the tenth plague.	Bibles, 1 large sheet of poster board for every 3 or 4 kids, several pairs of scissors, several rolls of tape, a few matzo crackers per child, paper plates, red markers or crayons, antibacterial gel (optional)		
	Get Out of Egypt! (about 10 min.) Pack a bag to leave Egypt.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





► Bible Point Jesus sets us free.

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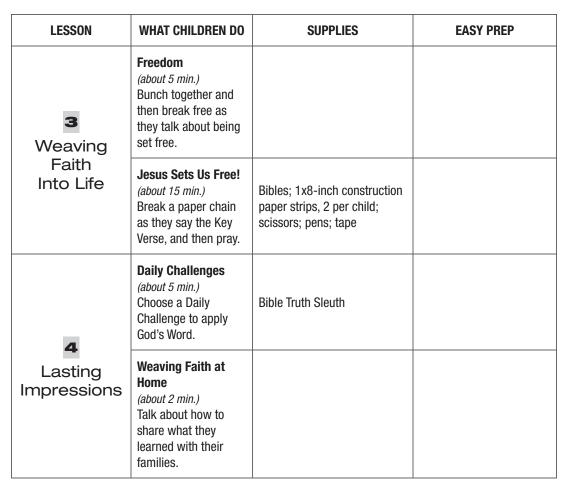
Key Verse "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Weaving Faith Into Life Children will ask Jesus

•••••

for freedom from burdens and sins.

•••••



Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



The Israelites Escape From Egypt

Exodus 11:1-12:36

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God Sends the Last Plague: Death

One of the first things to notice is that the last plague is the only one in which God required that his people respond in a particular way to be safe from the plague. While there's not direct information about how every plague affected Israel, we do know that the plague that killed many of the Egyptians' animals didn't kill the Israelites' livestock (Exodus 9:1-6). We also know that the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was not hit by the plague of hail or the plague of darkness (Exodus 9:26; 10:23). However, up to this point, the protection God provided for the Israelites didn't require any faith or action on their part. They had seen the devastation of the Egyptians compared to their own safety; they had seen God's power at work. It was time for them to exhibit some faith!

God Requires the Blood of an Innocent Lamb

The act of faith required of the Israelites was the sacrifice of an innocent lamb, whose blood was to be displayed on the doorposts. The lamb died in place of the firstborn child. This sacrifice became a symbol that the Israelites understood: An innocent life had to be taken to spare them from death. Although they didn't understand it at the time, that sacrifice looked forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who shed his blood and died so that all who believe in him might be saved from spiritual death and eternity apart from God.

For over 400 years, the people of Israel had lived in a foreign land, and they must have been very familiar with the Egyptians' gods. But through the plagues, God showed the Hebrews what he could and would do for them. When the time came for them to step out in an act of faith, they were ready.

Death Passes Over the Israelites

On that horrible and wonderful night, "the Lord kept vigil" (Exodus 12:42) to free his people from slavery in Egypt. It's wonderful to know that we serve a God who keeps a vigil over us, freeing us from sin through his Son, Jesus, and protecting us from those who would draw us away from him.

The Jesus Connection

Everyone needs God's help and power to survive the difficulties of life. Jesus empowers his followers and helps his friends!

Waiting on God's timing is difficult for most Christians. For people in our culture and mind-set, it's unnatural to take time and wait for anything. We like to take matters into our own hands. That can be problematic when the hands we're taking from are God's. He's able to do anything and everything. Take a moment to pray about something you're waiting for. Ask God to give you the patience and faith to wait for his perfect timing. You can write your prayer on the lines below.

lines below.			

Lesson 13 Su

Summer Quarter



Tied Up in Knots Supplies

CD player **Teacher Pack** CD: "Flight of the Bumblebee" (track 21)



Tied Up in Knots

What You'll Do

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

When everyone has arrived, have kids stand in a tight circle. Tell them to put their right hands in the center of the circle and to each grab someone else's hand, but not the hand of the person standing next to them! Then have them put their left hands in the center of the circle and each grab a different person's hand. Explain that they must continue to hold hands during the whole activity.

Say: Now you are all tied up in knots. Without letting go of one another's hands, work together to untie the knot until you're in one big circle again. You'll need to twist and turn, and some of you may have to bend down so others can step over hands and arms. This is not a race. The object is to untie your knot without letting go of anyone's hand. Go!

Play "Flight of the Bumblebee" (track 21 on the CD) while kids try to get untangled. Give kids ample time to complete this activity. If kids have a lot of trouble, you may want to help them solve the problem.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did your group work together so everyone could be free?
- What are some situations that make you feel as if you're all tied up in knots?
- What do you do when you feel tied up in knots?

Say: In the Bible today, we'll learn more about the Israelites and their slavery in Egypt. Because Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go free, they probably felt tied up in a knot like the one you were in during our game. We will find out how God freed the Israelites and learn that ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE, too.





Preparing and Waiting

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 11:1. Make sure kids have a Bible, and help them find the passage.

Say: In this passage from the Bible, the Israelites were still in Egypt under Pharaoh's rule. God had sent nine plagues to try to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, but Pharaoh had refused each time.

After the ninth plague, God told Moses that he was going to bring one more plague on Egypt and after that, Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. Let's find out about the last plague.

Have kids form groups of three or four for the remainder of the Bible Exploration activities. Tell kids to think of these small groups as their "families." In their groups, have kids read Exodus 11:4-10.

Say: God's plan was to kill the Egyptian firstborn sons, but he wanted to spare the lives of the Israelites. So God told the Israelites how to prepare. Let's see what it might have been like to prepare for that plague. First we'll need houses for our families.

Let each group designate an area of the room as its "house." Groups could arrange chairs in a square, choose a corner of the room, or even crawl under a table. Then explain that each house needs a doorway.

Give each group a large sheet of poster board, tape, and scissors. Instruct groups to cut a large arched or rectangular doorway out of the poster board. Have kids tape or otherwise post their doorways near the areas they chose as their houses. Then have groups gather near their doorways.

Say: To get ready for the tenth plague, God said that the Israelites should get rid of the yeast in their homes and make bread without yeast. This is known as unleavened bread. The Israelites had to be ready to leave Egypt in a hurry. They didn't have time to wait for the dough to rise. God even told Moses to tell the people to eat with their sandals on and their coats ready to go. Let's get an idea of what that was like.

Show kids a plate of matzo crackers, and explain that the crackers are similar to the unleavened bread the Israelites ate. Give each group one paper plate. Place a supply of crackers on one side of your room. Have kids clean their hands, and then have a willing child from each group quickly go get enough crackers for each group member to have a few. Encourage the kids to tell their group to quickly eat the crackers. Then have kids answer the following question. Invite groups to share their answers with the rest of the group.



Preparing and Waiting Supplies

Bibles

1 large sheet of poster board for every 3 or 4 kids several pairs of scissors several rolls of tape a few matzo crackers per child paper plates red markers or crayons antibacterial gel (optional)





Ask:

Tell about a time you had to do something under a quick deadline.

Say: After the families had eaten their meals of unleavened bread, they still had more to do to prepare for the Passover. God told Moses that each family should select a Passover lamb without any defects to use as a sacrifice. If a family was too small to have a lamb, they were to join with another family. God said to sacrifice the lambs, take some of the lambs' blood, and put it on the sides and tops of the door frames of their houses. Let's read the Bible to find out why.

Have kids in each group read Exodus 12:12-13.

Say: The blood painted on the doorways would keep the Israelites safe.

Ask:

Why would a lamb's blood be a sign of safety?

Say: One thing the Israelites probably did was pray for their families. Let's do that now.

Give each group a red marker or crayon, and let kids take turns marking the tops and sides of their groups' doorways. As a child marks the doorway, have him or her say a prayer out loud for one of his or her own family members. Allow all the children to pray and mark the doorways.

Say: Then the Israelites went into their homes to wait until midnight, when the Lord would send the tenth and final plague on Egypt.

Have groups enter their "houses" and sit down to wait. Turn off the lights, and let kids sit in silence for several minutes. Encourage kids to close their eyes and imagine as they wait. Then ask the following questions in a hushed voice.

Talk With Kids

Have kids think about their answers rather than saying them aloud.

- How does this plague affect your opinion of God?
- How does this plague show God's power and love?

Let kids sit in silence for a few minutes or so. Then read aloud Exodus 12:29-30 in an expressive voice.

Say: Can you imagine what that night must have been like? All of the Egyptians were affected by this last plague, but not one of the firstborn Israelite sons was killed!

Have kids stay in their houses with their families for the next activity.



Get Out of Egypt!

What You'll Do

Ask a willing child to read aloud Exodus 12:31-36.

Say: The Egyptians wanted the Israelites to leave, and they wanted them to leave quickly! The Egyptians were afraid more terrible things would happen if the Israelites stayed in Egypt. So the Egyptians gave the Israelites anything they asked for so they would leave Egypt fast! The Israelites took everything they had, plus all the things the Egyptians gave them, and they left Egypt.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Get Out of Egypt!" activity.

Say: Now let's think about the Israelites leaving Egypt. In your family group, talk about what you'd take out of Egypt if you were an Israelite who had to leave quickly. Then draw those things on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Have kids draw pictures of things they think the Israelites may have taken with them. Include among those things the items listed in the Bible, such as their dough before the yeast was added, articles of silver and gold, and clothing.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of the things the Israelites took surprised you the most? Why?
- Why was it so important that Israel be freed from bondage to Egypt?
- How do we determine the things that are most important to us?
- What things would you take with you? Why?

Say: Just as the Israelites left Egypt when they were set free, let's discover different ways that ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE.



Freedom

What You'll Do

Ask a willing child to represent how people need Jesus to free them. Ask everyone to form a large circle, and have the child stand in the center. Then have kids start saying things people need to be freed from. Encourage kids to list specific fears, burdens, and



Get Out of Egypt! Supplies

Bibles Bible Truth Sleuth pens

Get Out of Egypt! Easy Prep

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



sins. For example, kids might mention things like hurting others, fear of telling others about Jesus, or being tempted by their friends. As kids list things they need Jesus to free them from, have them make the circle tighter and tighter until the child is completely crowded in.

Talk With Kids

When kids are in a circle as tight as they can get, have them stay there as you lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is this like being trapped by sins and burdens?
- What can we do to be freed from those sins and burdens?

Say: When we believe in Jesus and have a relationship with him, ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE. All we have to do is ask. On the count of three, let's yell "Set us free!" and then quickly spread out around the room. Ready? One, two, three! Set us free!

When kids have spread out, have them sit where they are.

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Being trapped by sin is a terrible feeling. Why do we often stay in that state for so long?
- How did freedom affect the Israelites?
- How can freedom affect your life?

Say: There's nothing better than being set free—just look at the Israelites! When ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE, he takes away our sins, he helps us overcome our fears, and he gives us strength to deal with problems and temptation.

Jesus Sets Us Free!

What You'll Do

Set out the strips of paper, pens, and tape. Have kids form groups of three.

Say: There are lots of things in our lives that bring us down and bind us like chains. Our sins get in the way of us having a relationship with God and living a life that glorifies God. When we're afraid, it's hard to take risks and live a good life. If we face problems and hard times, we might feel weak.

In your groups, write on a strip of paper one specific thing that makes us feel bound. These could be sins, fears, or problems we face. Then we'll see what the Bible says about those bindings.

Have kids complete as many strips as they can. As kids write on their strips, take a few strips and tape them together to make a paper chain. Then have kids start adding to the

Jesus Sets Us Free! Supplies

Ribles 1x8-inch construction paper strips, 2 per child scissors pens tape

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chain as they finish writing. When they finish, lay the chain in the center of the room and gather around it.

Say: We came up with a lot of things that bind us! But we don't have to live our lives bound up by sins, fears, and problems. ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE! Let's see what our Key Verse says about that.

Help kids find the Key Verse, John 8:36, in their Bibles. Ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Say: Our Key Verse for this week tells us that if the Son sets us free, we'll be free indeed. That means if we believe in Jesus and his power, we'll be set free. We need to know Jesus to be set free.

Together as a group, say the Key Verse. Each time kids say the Key Verse, have a different child break a link off the paper chain in the center. Have kids repeat the Key Verse and break the paper chain until the chain is completely broken and the remnants are lying on the floor.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does the Key Verse reassure you?
- How does Jesus set us free? What steps do you need to take to experience his freedom?
- Are there any chains that Jesus couldn't break in our lives? Explain.
- What does freedom look like in our lives?

Say: God freed the Israelites from slavery. And he wants to free us from the chains that bind us. So he sent his Son to free us. And if ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE, we are free indeed!



LASTING

IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think about how we can live this week in light of the fact that ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE.

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

Jesus sets us free from our sins. If you don't think you're a Christian, ask a Christian adult to help you pray for Jesus to set you free from sin.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

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- Draw a picture of a fear you need Jesus to set you free from. Then write the Key Verse on your picture and hang it in a place you'll see it to remember that Jesus sets you free from fears.
- Write a story about what it's like to be freed from sins and burdens. You can make it a creative story or a story about a time you knew Jesus had freed you from something.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: The Israelites were in chains of slavery, but we're in chains, too. Chains of sin. But ▶ JESUS SETS US FREE from our chains. Let's experience his freedom this week by following through on our Daily Challenges.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Give kids an opportunity to thank Jesus for setting us free.