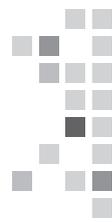


# FAITHWEAVER

Weaving faith into today's families **NOW**<sup>®</sup>



**SPRING  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**GRADES 3 & 4  
TEACHER GUIDE**



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### FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Grades 3 & 4, Spring

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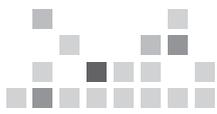
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\* We recommend starting the quarter so that Lessons 5 and 6 align with the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Visit the Digital Download Center for a suggested schedule.



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



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

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## **It's made for NOW.** ■■■■

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

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

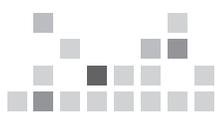
- Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.
- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
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- The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.
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*Thom Schultz Joani Schultz*

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



# Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38

**S**ocially, third- and fourth-graders are eager to be part of a group. Being accepted makes them feel successful and secure, and they may be tempted to stretch their ethics a little to accomplish that goal. Help them see that cliques may come and go, but Jesus is the truest friend they'll ever have. Use this lesson to show kids that following Jesus means putting him first in their lives and that the result will be everlasting security.



► **Bible Point**  
Commit to follow Jesus.

### Key Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will take a step to sacrifice something to spend time with Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Mirror Motions</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pair up to imitate each other's motions.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Go With Jesus!</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Examine what things are important to them and what they need to follow Jesus.	Bibles, CD player, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, several pairs of scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Door to Heaven" sheet 	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>Key Verse Groups</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Break into groups to explore the Key Verse in a different way.	Bibles, CD player, poster board, markers, pens, paper, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

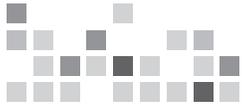
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Committed to Jesus</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Role-play situations in which they can be committed to Jesus.</p>	<p>pens, paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Don’t Be Ashamed” cards</p> 	
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

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





## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Mirror Motions

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids find partners, and have them choose one person to be the Motion Maker and one to be the Imitator. The Motion Maker will pantomime motions, and the Imitator must try to copy him or her. Have kids do this four times. The first time, the original mimes can give verbal clues to their partners to help them know what to do. They could say, "Now we'll brush our teeth" or "Now let's comb our hair." Then have kids switch roles. After both have been the Motion Maker and have used verbal clues, have the pairs mirror their partners' motions without verbal cues.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to try to follow the motions of your partner?
- Tell about someone you like to try to imitate.
- How was following your partner's motions like or unlike following Jesus?

Say: **You did a great job following your partner. The Bible tells us to follow Jesus and not be ashamed. So this week we'll learn how to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

#### Go With Jesus! Supplies

Bibles  
CD player  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens  
several pairs of scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: " 'Tis So Sweet to  
Trust in Jesus" (track 2)  
"Door to Heaven" sheet

#### Go With Jesus! Easy Prep

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

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

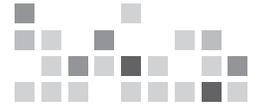
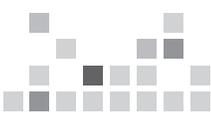
### Go With Jesus!

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure kids all have Bibles, and ask a willing child to read aloud Mark 8:31-38. Then distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Take Up Your Cross" activity.

Say: **On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, there are two keys. On the bottom key, write down several things that you want, need, hope to get, or think are cool.**

Encourage kids to write on both sides of the key. As kids write, punch out the key shape from the "Door to Heaven" sheet. Set it aside for later.



Ask:

- What are some things you listed on your key?
- Why are those things important to you?

Say: Jesus tells us in our Bible passage that following him takes commitment. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Jesus also asked, “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit (or give up) his soul?”

Ask:

- What does it mean to deny ourselves?
- How does denying ourselves show that we’re committed to Jesus?
- What does it take to follow Jesus?
- What are some things that are important to God?

Say: Now on the top key, write things that God likes and values. When you’re done, cut out the two keys.

Play “ ’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (track 2 on the CD) while the kids cut. Have them cut out each key very carefully so that the correct key will fit into the opening of the “Door to Heaven” sheet.

Have kids try to fit their world keys into the keyhole of the “Door to Heaven” sheet. They’ll quickly notice that the key will not fit.

Say: **Let’s get rid of those keys.** Have kids bring their world keys and lay them in a pile. **When we deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus the way Jesus said in the Bible, that means we’re choosing to focus on Jesus and put him first in our lives.**

**We can’t allow our things to be more important than Jesus. Holding on to them makes it difficult to follow Jesus, and if we don’t follow Jesus, we won’t be able to open the door to heaven. Jesus is the only way to open that door. So let’s pick up the other key and see if that one fits.**

Let all kids try their keys before you continue.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

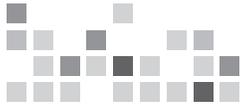
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does focusing on Jesus open the door to heaven?
- How are God’s priorities different from ours?
- What kinds of things might you have to give up to follow Jesus?

Say: **Following Jesus takes commitment. And when we’re willing to lay down our things that seem important and take up the cross, we take the first step in doing our part to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS.** That doesn’t mean that God will never give you the things you like or want. It means that Jesus needs to be more important to you than those things. Let’s see what our Key Verse says about following Jesus.





## Key Verse Groups Supplies

.....

Bibles  
 CD player  
 poster board  
 markers  
 pens  
 paper  
 copies of the lyrics page  
 (at the end of this  
 lesson)

**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: “ ’Tis So Sweet to  
 Trust in Jesus” (track 2)

# Key Verse Groups

## What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids get into four groups, and give each group a Bible. To ensure kids have fun in their groups, you may want to place kids who like music in Group 1, kids who like to draw in Group 2, kids who like drama in Group 3, and kids who are problem solvers in Group 4. If you aren’t sure which kids to put into which group, just ask them what their interests are.

Have kids open their Bibles to the Key Verse, Romans 1:16, and ask for a child in each group to read the verse aloud quietly to the group: “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

Say: **Following Jesus takes commitment. We might have to give something up, make choices that are hard to make, or do some things we don’t feel like we’re ready to do. But the Bible tells us to not be ashamed of the gospel. That means we can take those steps to ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

**Each group is going to give us a new spin on the Key Verse. Group 1 will turn the verse into a song; Group 2 will make a poster; Group 3 will mime the verse; and Group 4 will make a list of ways they can show they’re not ashamed of the gospel.**

Quietly play “ ’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (track 2 on the CD) while kids work. When they’ve finished, have groups take turns reading the original Key Verse and then sharing their new interpretations of the verse.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think being “not ashamed of the gospel” means?**
- **Tell about a time you were not ashamed of the gospel.**
- **How does being “not ashamed of the gospel” show your commitment to Jesus?**

Say: **As we ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS, he wants us to trust him—even though he’s told us it will be hard and will take some sacrifices. Let’s sing a song as a commitment of trust to Jesus.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play “ ’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” (track 2 on the CD). Lead the children in singing the song.

 **’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
 Just to take him at his word,  
 Just to rest upon his promise,  
 Just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”**

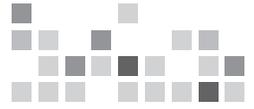
*(Chorus)*

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O, for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.  
And I know that he is with me;  
He'll be with me to the end.

*(Repeat chorus.)*

" 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" by Louisa M.R. Stead.



---

### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Committed to Jesus

### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's do some role-plays about kids facing difficult situations. We'll look at ways they can show they're not ashamed of Jesus.**

Have kids form three groups, and give each group paper, a pen, and a "Don't Be Ashamed" card. Have groups appoint one person to write answers to the questions found on their cards, and then ask the groups to read the scenarios on their cards and answer the two questions that follow. Encourage kids to be as thorough in their responses as possible. After groups have written responses to their questions, have them work for a few minutes to prepare their role-plays. When the groups are ready, have them perform their role-plays.

After all the groups have presented their role-plays, gather the children and have them sit down.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

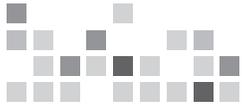
Ask:

- Which of these scenarios did you think was most difficult? Why?
- When have you had a similar experience?
- In these situations, what did it take to follow Jesus?
- How can you show a full commitment to following Jesus?

### Committed to Jesus Supplies

---

pens  
paper  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Don't Be Ashamed"  
cards



### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

Say: **Sometimes following Jesus means giving up something else we want. That's what Jesus meant when he said we need to deny ourselves. Following Jesus, even when it's hard, takes commitment. Let's look at some ways we can ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS this week.**

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:

- **Give up a favorite activity to spend time with Jesus this week. A good way to spend time with Jesus is to read about him in one of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.**
- **Donate a favorite toy to someone.**
- **Talk to someone you don't usually talk to about Jesus.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through 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: **Following Jesus takes commitment, and following through on your Daily Challenges will, too. Let's ► COMMIT TO FOLLOW JESUS this week as we complete our Daily Challenges.**

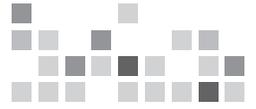
### Weaving Faith at Home

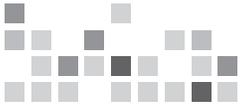
Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about following 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](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer. Thank God for committing to us, and ask him to help us better commit to him. As you close the prayer, have each child say, "I'm not ashamed to follow you, Jesus."



**Lyrics** ■■■■**'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus**

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take him at his word,  
Just to rest upon his promise,  
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

*(Chorus)*

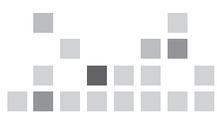
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O, for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.  
And I know that he is with me;  
He'll be with me to the end.

*(Repeat chorus.)*

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" by Louisa M.R. Stead.

**OK**  
TO COPY



# Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

Third- and fourth-graders can understand the difference between right and wrong, but they may have a more difficult time seeing the subtle shades between sincere and insincere actions. Use the account of Jesus clearing the Temple to show kids that God wants our sincere praise and worship, not just empty words and “going through the motions” behavior. Help them see that God deserves our heartfelt praise and that true worship will richly enhance their lives.



### ► Bible Point

God wants sincere worship.

### Key Verse

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will make time to worship God this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>The Key Game</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Join in a chain to play a game of Follow the Leader.	keys on a chain	Clear the furniture from the center of the room, and set out chairs in a circle—1 less chair than the number of people in the group, including you.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Live From the Temple</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out a live report drama based on John 2:13-22.	Bible, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Live From the Temple” script 	Make 1 copy of the “Live From the Temple” script per child.
	<b>Bow Down in Worship</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out the worship actions spoken of in the Key Verse, Psalm 95:6.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

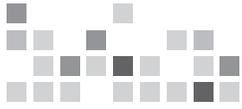
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Worship Whirl Craft</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a craft as a way of worshipping God.	2 white paper plates per child, spray bottle of water, washable tempera paint in several colors, paintbrushes, newspaper	Cover a work area with newspaper, and set out paintbrushes and tempera paints.
	<b>Worship Ways</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Draw a picture and write a letter of praise to God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, crayons, pens, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

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





### The Key Game Supplies

keys on a chain

### The Key Game Easy Prep

Clear the furniture from the center of the room, and set out chairs in a circle—1 less chair than the number of people in the group, including you.

### Live From the Temple Supplies

Bible  
pens

#### Teacher Pack

“Live From the Temple”  
script

### Live From the Temple Easy Prep

Make 1 copy of the  
“Live From the Temple”  
script per child.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### The Key Game

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

When everyone has arrived, explain that you'll start a game by holding your key chain in one hand and by grabbing the hand of a child with your other hand. The child whose hand you grab will grab the hand of another child who will then join the chain. Continue in this manner until all the children are in the chain. All the while you'll lead the chain Follow-the-Leader style by moving under tables, lifting hands, walking in a squat, and so on. Then you'll drop your keys. When you do so, kids must quickly find a chair. The person without a chair is the leader for the next round. Play several rounds.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which part of this game did you enjoy most: forming a chain and following the leader or competing with others for chairs? Why?
- When we join together in worship, what are some ways we compete with each other?

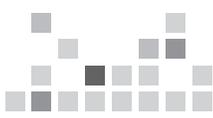
Say: **God loves it when we worship him together. But when we worship, we need to make sure we worship God from our hearts. He wants to make sure it's not about looking the best or competing with others the way you competed for the chairs.**  
▶ **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP**—worship from our hearts. Let's explore more about worshipping together from our hearts.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Live From the Temple

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God loves it when we worship him together—and he wants our worship to be genuine, sincere, and undistracted. One Scripture account shows us just how seriously God takes our worship of him. As a way to explore this Bible passage, we're all going to take part in a skit. Four of us will have speaking parts, and the rest of us will be the crowd.**



Distribute a copy of the “Live From the Temple” script and a pen to each child. Ask for four willing kids to take the speaking parts. Give kids a couple of minutes to look over the script, marking their lines or sound effects. Then have the group perform the skit.

After kids have performed the skit, open your Bible and read aloud John 2:13-17.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was wrong with people selling things in the Temple?
- How could their actions affect people’s worship?

Read aloud John 2:18-22.

Ask:

- What does Jesus mean when he referred to himself as “the Temple”?
- How does this affect our worship?
- What are some things that distract us from sincere worship?
- What are some ways we can focus on God and give him our sincere worship?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** He wanted it from the people in the Bible, and he wants it from us. The people in the Temple let things get in the way of sincere worship. And we sometimes do that, too. There are many ways to worship God. Let’s explore what God’s Word says about that.

## Bow Down in Worship

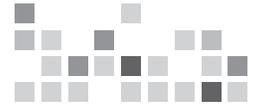
### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse, Psalm 95:6, says: “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6). This verse helps us know that ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP. Let’s act it out.**

As everyone says the verse together, have kids act out appropriate motions: For “bow down,” they can bow down; for “worship,” they can put their hands together as if they are praying; for “kneel,” everyone can kneel. Start by slowly saying and acting out the verse together. Then go faster until your group has said and acted out the verse as fast as you think is possible.

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD.

 **Come, let us bow down in worship.**  
**Let us kneel before the Lord.**  
**Let us bow down in worship.**  
**Let us kneel before him.**

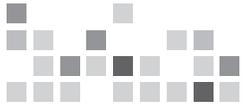


### Bow Down in Worship Supplies

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

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)



**For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.**

“Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Our Key Verse talks about bowing down and kneeling. What are other ways you can worship?**
- **How important is your posture to sincere worship?**
- **Why is it important to sincerely worship God?**

Say: **There are many ways to worship God, and ► GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP—not for people to turn his place of worship into a marketplace. Let’s explore how we can worship God with sincere hearts.**

.....

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Worship Whirl Craft

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child two paper plates. Have children carefully drop a couple of paint drops onto one plate using a paintbrush. Then have children take turns lightly misting the other paper plate with water from the spray bottle. As kids spray water on their plates, be sure they don’t spray too much water and cause puddles; the plates should only be damp. Show children how to drop just a couple of paint drops in each color of tempera paint onto their plates. The colors should swirl around on their damp plates.

#### Worship Whirl Craft Supplies

.....

2 white paper plates  
per child  
spray bottle of water  
washable tempera paint  
in several colors  
paintbrushes  
newspaper

#### Worship Whirl Craft Easy Prep

.....

Cover a work area with newspaper, and set out paintbrushes and tempera paints.

## Talk With Kids

As the paints dry, lead a short discussion.

Ask:

- How was the paint with no water similar to the way we sometimes worship?
- What are some things that can make worship more sincere, similar to the way the water made the paint more exciting?
- What does sincere worship look like?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** Sincerity adds to our worship, just like the water added to our craft. When we worship God with sincere hearts and don't behave as if we were in a marketplace, we can feel close to God and learn more about his great love for us. Let's look at some ways we can sincerely worship God in our lives.

## Worship Ways

### What You'll Do

Distribute pens, crayons, and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Worship Ways" activity. Say: **We're going to try three different ways to worship God. As you try each one, keep your focus on sincerely worshipping him. The first one is worship through drawing.** Have kids work individually to draw a picture in the space provided, depicting themselves worshipping in some way. Allow everyone time to finish, and have willing kids talk about their drawings.

Say: **Next let's worship God through writing. Each of you will write a letter of praise to God just below the picture you drew on your Bible Truth Sleuth page. In your letter, write to God what you love most about him.**

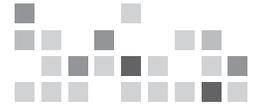
After several minutes, have willing kids read their letters for the group.

Say: **Now let's worship God through music.** Once again, play the song "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3 on the CD). As the song plays, encourage kids to practice different ways to express worship. They may choose to sing along, clap, lift their hands, or kneel. Encourage them to do things to worship God that are fun to them.



**Come, let us bow down in worship.  
 Let us kneel before the Lord.  
 Let us bow down in worship.  
 Let us kneel before him.  
 For he is our God,  
 Yes, he is our God.  
 We are always under his care.  
 He is always there.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

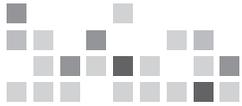


### Worship Ways Supplies

- 
- Bible Truth Sleuth
  - crayons
  - pens
  - CD player
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)

### Worship Ways Easy Prep

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



For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

“Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Talk about which way to worship felt the most natural to you, and why.
- During which way to worship was it the hardest for you to be sincere? Why do you think that is?
- What’s one way you want to sincerely worship God this week?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.** The people selling goods were keeping others from being able to sincerely worship. We can focus on God, and we’ll be pleasing him with our worship.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let’s think of how we can remember this week that ► **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP.**

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

- I will spend time worshipping you through music.
- I will try a new way to worship you every day.
- I will start a worship time at home with my family.

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

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Jesus didn't like seeing people turning his Father's Temple into a marketplace.**

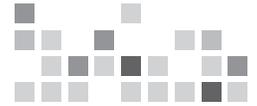
▶ **GOD WANTS SINCERE WORSHIP**—worship focused only on him. Let's follow through on Daily Challenges this week to show God we sincerely want to worship him.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about sincere worship. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Close by singing "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" one more time as a prayer. Encourage kids to close their eyes and kneel as they sing.

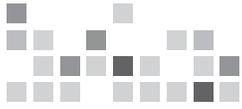


### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)

**Lyrics** ■■■■**Let Us Bow Down in Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)**

Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.

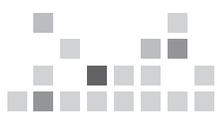
For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

"Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**OK**  
TO COPY



# Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him

John 3:12-21

Third- and fourth-graders no longer see the world in strictly egocentric terms. Unlike very young children, they know that the world really doesn't revolve around them. They've met other kids who are smarter, faster, and more popular, and as a result, many kids at this age already feel somewhat insecure. Use this most important lesson to teach kids that God loves them so much—and thinks they're so important—that he was willing to sacrifice his own Son to ensure them a place in heaven.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Rescue Me</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game about getting saved, and learn the Key Verse.	Bible	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Are You Condemned?</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act out a courtroom scene based on John 3:12-21.	Bibles, pens, paper	Set your room up like a courtroom with a judge's bench, a witness stand, a chair for the defense attorney, and a chair for the prosecutor.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



► **Bible Point**  
Jesus came to save us.

**Key Verse**  
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

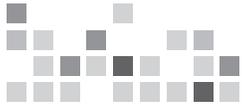
**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will better understand Jesus' mission on earth and will grow in their relationship with him.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Scales of Justice</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Use a scale to compare our good deeds with Jesus' gift of love.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, book, marker, lightweight rock, heavy rock, 10 or more cotton balls, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>Cross Necklace</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a cross necklace.	yarn, markers, hole punch, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> crosses	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





## Rescue Me Supplies

Bible

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Rescue Me

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Choose one child to be a Shark and three kids to be Rescuers. Have the rest of the kids form a circle.

Say: **You're trapped in the water, and the Rescuers are coming to save you. You can only move if you link arms with a Rescuer. Once you link arms, the Rescuer will lead you as fast as possible to the safe area.** (Designate a part of the room as the safe area.) **The Shark will be trying to tag the rescued people before they get to the safe area. However, the Shark can't camp out in front of the safe area.**

Give kids a few minutes to play.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it difficult to get rescued?
- Tell about a real-life rescue you've seen or heard about.
- In those situations, why did the people need a rescuer?

Say: **We all need a rescuer. And God wants to rescue us in real life, because he loves us. In fact, he loves us so much that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to live and experience life just as we do. Our Key Verse, John 3:16, reminds us that ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US.** Read John 3:16 aloud: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).** Let's look at the verses around this to understand more about why Jesus came to earth.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Are You Condemned?

### What You'll Do

Have kids form groups of three, and make sure each group has a Bible, a pen, and paper.

Say: **Today we're going to pretend we're in a courtroom. I'll be the judge. In your groups, decide who will play the defendant, or the person trying to get into heaven. Also choose a defense attorney, who will try to persuade me that the defendant should get into heaven. The third person will play the part of the prosecutor and will try to persuade me that the defendant shouldn't get into heaven. The only witness will be the defendant. The prosecutor will have a chance to question the defendant first, and then the defense attorney will question the defendant. If the defendant wishes to offer any additional information that might help his or her case, the defendant must ask my permission to speak. Please read John 3:12-21. Both sides can choose to use anything from this passage to build your case.**

Give groups a few minutes to decide who will play each part. Then have groups read John 3:12-21 together and write out questions they'll be asking the defendant. Ask groups to come up one at a time to present their cases. Allow time.

Say: **It appears that there is a way for all of us to get into heaven—even though I don't think any of us deserves it! This man, Jesus, has paid for all the sins, or the bad things, we have all done.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How are we all like the defendant in this case?**
- **If we're not condemned, does that mean there are no consequences? Why or why not?**
- **Why do you think believing in Jesus is required for us to have eternal life?**

Say: **It's not my place to condemn anyone who believes in Jesus. You all can have eternal life because of Jesus! ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US.** God, out of his great love for us, sent Jesus to live on earth because he wanted us to be able to spend eternity with him. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so we would not be condemned but have eternal life. By believing in Jesus, God's Son, we have eternal life.

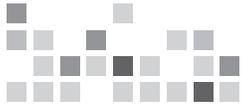


### Are You Condemned? Supplies

Bibles  
pens  
paper

### Are You Condemned? Easy Prep

Set your room up like a courtroom with a judge's bench, a witness stand, a chair for the defense attorney, and a chair for the prosecutor.



### Scales of Justice Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens  
book  
marker  
lightweight rock  
heavy rock  
10 or more cotton balls  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "God So Loved the  
World" (John 3:16)  
(track 4)

### Scales of Justice Easy Prep

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

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Scales of Justice

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We're going to use a scale to weigh a few things.**

Place the marker under the middle of the book. Take the lighter of the two rocks and place it on one side of the book so the book tilts at an angle.

Say: **This rock represents sin. To get into heaven, some people think they need to do good things to outweigh their sins. Let's explore that idea.**

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Scales of Justice" activity. Have them fill in every blank line with all their good deeds. These could be things they've done, things they want to do, or qualities they have that they think are good.

After they're done writing, have willing kids say some of the things on their lists out loud. For each thing mentioned, place one of the cotton balls on the scale. Point out how the scale doesn't move.

Ask:

- **How does this activity relate to our ability to get into heaven?**
- **If we can't get into heaven by being good, how *can* we get there?**

Say: **Throughout his life, Jesus showed us how he wants us to live. Then he gave his life for our sins so those of us who believe in him would have eternal life. That's the ultimate expression of love to each one of us: that ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US. We can sing the words to this verse as a song to help us remember them.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 4 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD several times.

 **I believe in God  
'Cause what he says is true.  
I believe that Jesus died  
To save me and save you.**

**I believe in God  
And all that he came to do.  
I believe that Jesus died  
Because he loved both me and you.**



*(Chorus)*

**For God so loved the world  
He gave his one and only Son,  
That whoever believes in him  
Shall not perish.**

**For God so loved the world  
He gave his one and only Son,  
That whoever believes in him  
Will have eternal life.**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)*

**Will have eternal life, will have eternal life.**

“God So Loved the World” (John 3:16) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have kids form pairs and discuss their answers to the following question.

Ask:

- **What does the verse John 3:16 really mean to you?**

After sharing with their partners, have kids come back together as a large group. Ask for willing kids to share their answers.

Say: **No matter how many good things we do, it isn't enough to get into heaven. Our good deeds don't take away our sin. Only Jesus can do that, and ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US.** Hold up the heavier rock. **This rock represents Jesus. Let's see what happens when we put it on the scale.**

Place the heavier rock on the side with the cotton balls so the weight shifts.

Say: **Jesus has the ability to get us into heaven. He outweighs our sin, and if we believe in him, he will pay for us to get into heaven. We can't ever be good enough to get into heaven, but through Jesus we *can* get into heaven!**

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is sin so “heavy” in our lives?**
- **Why aren't good things we do good enough to tip the scales?**

Say: **Jesus is the only way we can tip the scales. God knew that, and that's why ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US.**



### Cross Necklace Supplies

yarn  
markers  
hole punch  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
crosses

### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

## Cross Necklace

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a cross and a length of yarn long enough to make a necklace. Have children punch a hole at the top of their crosses. Distribute markers, and on one side of the cross have each child write "John 3:16." On the other side of the cross, invite kids to write "I believe in Jesus" if this reflects their beliefs. Have kids decorate their crosses using the markers.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is the cross such a symbol of hope for Christians?**
- **How does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross affect how you see other people who are different from you?**
- **What difference do you want the cross to make in your life this week?**

Say: **The cross is a symbol of death, but it's also a symbol of hope for Christians. ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US by dying on the cross, and all we have to do is believe in him in order to be saved.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **No matter how many good deeds you've done, it's still not enough to get into heaven. The only way you can get into heaven is by believing in Jesus; it is very easy and so simple to do. Believing that ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US is all you have to do.**

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 a Christian adult about how he or she became a Christian.**
- **Ask a Christian leader or parent to pray with you as you ask Jesus to forgive your sins.**
- **If you've already accepted Jesus' gift of eternal life, spend some time getting to know Jesus better: Read the Bible or spend time in prayer.**

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: **Take your cross with you and wear it—or hang it somewhere in your room—to remind you that ► JESUS CAME TO SAVE US. Let's close by thanking God for eternal life through Jesus Christ.**

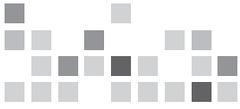
## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus' gift of eternal life. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Have kids pray a short prayer of thanks for God's gift of eternal life.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**God So Loved the World (John 3:16)**

I believe in God  
'Cause what he says is true.  
I believe that Jesus died  
To save me and save you.

I believe in God  
And all that he came to do.  
I believe that Jesus died  
Because he loved both me and you.

*(Chorus)*  
For God so loved the world  
He gave his one and only Son,  
That whoever believes in him  
Shall not perish.

For God so loved the world  
He gave his one and only Son,  
That whoever believes in him  
Will have eternal life.

*(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)*

**Will have eternal life, will have eternal life.**

"God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

The kids in your group are prime targets for today's advertisers. Video games, movies, designer clothes, toys...all may seem so desirable to kids that they can't see beyond their own wants. Use the example of the widow's giving to challenge kids to look beyond their own desires and to see the needs of others. Once they understand the concrete principle of setting aside money for God, they can move on to grasping that intangibles such as time, effort, and prayer are also gifts they can offer to God.



**Bible Point**  
Give cheerfully to God.

### Key Verse

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will choose to cheerfully give to someone.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Giving Has Its Rewards</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game of giving crackers and a refreshing glass of water.</p>	<p>Bible, pitchers of ice water, several crackers per child, 1 cup per child, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Place pitchers of ice water and cups on a table.</p>
<p><b>2</b> Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Giving Thoughts</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read the Bible, share times it was hard to give, hear three people's thoughts as they give, and discuss their attitudes.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, tape, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Giving Thoughts" poster, "Giving Thoughts" cards</p> 	<p>Hang the poster where everyone can see it. Cut apart the cards on the dotted lines.</p>
	<p><b>Choosing to Give</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Give different amounts of coins away, and learn the Key Verse.</p>	<p>Bibles, handful of pennies per child, large resealable plastic bag, offering bowl or jar</p>	

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





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>A Gift of Talents</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Form “talent” groups, and think of ways to use their talents to serve God.	Bible Truth Sleuth, paper, pens, tape, poster board, markers	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	pennies from the “Choosing to Give” activity	

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





### Giving Has Its Rewards Supplies

Bible  
pitchers of ice water  
several crackers per child  
1 cup per child  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Giving Has Its Rewards Easy Prep

Place pitchers of ice water and cups on a table.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Giving Has Its Rewards

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids clean their hands. Give each child several crackers, but tell kids not to eat them yet.

Say: **I brought a snack for us all today. But before we eat, I'd like you to decide how generous you will be in giving away some of your crackers. I'll give you a few moments to think about it, and then when I say "Go," I want you to stand up and quickly give away the number you chose to give, one cracker per person. Then sit down.**

Pause to allow kids to think about how many crackers they'll give away, and then say "Go!" After everyone has given away as many crackers as he or she had decided, give kids a couple of minutes to sit down and eat their crackers. Wait until all the kids have finished eating and are very thirsty before giving them the water.

Have kids form pairs and come up one partner at a time to get a cup of ice water for their thirsty friends. Have them go back to where their partners are and say, "I'm happy to give you this refreshing water." Then have the other partner do the same. When all the partners have been served, read aloud the Key Verse, 2 Corinthians 9:7: **"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).**

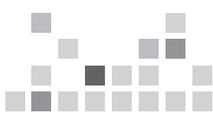
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide how many crackers to give away?
- How many crackers would you consider a generous amount to give? Why?
- Tell about a time someone was generous in giving something to you.

Say: **When we give from our hearts, God blesses us in many different ways. There was a woman in the Bible who happily gave the most valuable thing she possessed without expecting anything in return. She knew to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD. Let's find out what that looks like.**



2

BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Giving Thoughts

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure kids all have Bibles, and have them turn to Mark 12:41-44. Have willing kids read each verse aloud.

Say: **Sometimes it's easy to give, and sometimes it's very hard. Choose a partner, and take turns sharing your answers to the following questions.**

Ask:

- Tell about a time giving was easy for you. What did you give, and how did it make you feel?
- Tell about the hardest time you had giving something away. What was it, and how did you feel doing it? Why did you give it away even though it was so hard?

Say: **Let's listen to our CD and pretend Jesus sat down in our church today. He's listening to a few people's hearts as they give their money during a church service.**

Direct kids' attention to the "Giving Thoughts" poster on the wall, and then play "Frank's Thoughts" (track 5 on the CD). After the segment, stop the CD.

Ask:

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how cheerful would you say Frank's attitude was about giving?

Say: **Now let's listen to Frank's sister-in-law Ruby.**

Play "Ruby's Thoughts" (track 6 on the CD). After the segment, stop the CD.

Ask:

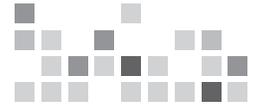
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how cheerful would you say Ruby's attitude was about giving?

Say: **Finally, let's listen to Rosie's thoughts as she gets ready to give her offering.**

Play "Rosie's Thoughts" (track 7 on the CD). After the segment, stop the CD.

Ask:

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how cheerful would you say Rosie's attitude was about giving?



## Giving Thoughts Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- tape
- scissors

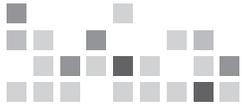
### Teacher Pack

- CD: "Frank's Thoughts" (track 5), "Ruby's Thoughts" (track 6), "Rosie's Thoughts" (track 7); "Giving Thoughts" poster; "Giving Thoughts" cards

## Giving Thoughts Easy Prep

Hang the poster where everyone can see it. Cut apart the cards on the dotted lines.





Have the kids form three groups. Give each group one of the “Giving Thoughts” cards, and have them discuss their answers. When the groups have finished their discussions, have one person from each group share his or her group’s answers with everyone. Once all the groups have shared, gather everyone again in one group.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How were each of the characters’ responses to giving to God different?
- Be honest—which person’s attitude was the most like yours? Explain.
- What are some excuses people could give for only giving a little money?
- How was Rosie like the widow in our Bible passage?

Say: **Like the widow in the Temple, Rosie gave everything she had to God. She chose to give that much. She didn’t feel like she *had* to give—she *wanted* to give. And when she gave, she was cheerful and happy about it. We, too, can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD. Let’s see how we can choose to give cheerfully just as Rosie and the widow in the Temple did.**

## Choosing to Give

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a handful of pennies, and then join kids in forming a large circle.

Say: **I know these are pennies, but let’s imagine each penny is actually a \$10 bill.**

Ask:

- How difficult would it be for you to give away two of the pennies you have in your hand?

Say: **Hold the pennies in your hands. When I say “Decide,” you’ll have five seconds to decide if you want to give two pennies away. Then I’ll say “Go!” and you’ll have to run to put two pennies in the bowl. Ready? Decide! Pause for five seconds. Go!**

Give kids 15 seconds to drop their pennies into the bowl. When time is up, gather them back to the large circle.

Say: **Now return all but two pennies to me.**

Have kids return all but two pennies to the plastic bag.

Say: **Now I want you to give away the two pennies you have in your hand. When I say “Go!” I want you to put those two pennies into the bowl. Ready? Go!**

Allow kids to go and drop their pennies in the bowl.

### Choosing to Give Supplies

Bibles  
handful of pennies per child  
large resealable plastic bag  
offering bowl or jar

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do we have a hard time giving away money?
- How differently would you have felt if you knew those two pennies could buy you something you really wanted or needed?

Say: **It can be hard to give away all we have. God doesn't tell us to give *everything* away, but he does tell us to choose what to give and to give it cheerfully. Our Key Verse, 2 Corinthians 9:7, tells us this.**

Read aloud the Key Verse again: **"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).**

Ask:

- What are some things we can choose to give to God?
- How can we choose to be cheerful when we give?

Say: **When we choose to give with a cheerful heart, we please God—just like the widow in the Bible did. It makes God happy to see us give to him because we want to. Let's figure out what we can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD.**

# 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## A Gift of Talents

### What You'll Do

Create talent groups of three to five kids each. Once all groups are formed, assign one of the following "talents" to each group. Give group members about five minutes to create a gift for the rest of the group by using their particular talent. Then have them share it or perform it for everyone. Some groups may need paper and pens.

- Drama Group—Act out a time you experienced or heard about something important that was given away, and tell what happened. An example could be someone donating clothing to a homeless shelter.
- Music Group—Pick a popular tune or television theme song, and put words to it that talk about giving something away.
- Writing Group—Write a story about something that was given away and how the giver felt. Choose one person as the storyteller to share it with everyone.
- Art Group—Have each group member draw a picture of a time he or she had to give something important away. Then have the kids tape the pictures together like a quilt and hang it on the wall.

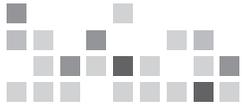


### A Gift of Talents Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
paper  
pens  
tape  
poster board  
markers

### A Gift of Talents Easy Prep

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



When time is up, have each group “give” its talent to the rest of the group. Allow time.

Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “What Can You Give to God?” activity. Have them create a list of as many ways as they can think of to give to another person using these three areas listed on the Bible Truth Sleuth page:

- Things I could buy
- Things I can make
- Things I could do

Have kids share with the group the ideas they came up with. Write a list of answers on the poster board for everyone to see, avoiding duplications. Encourage kids to add unique ideas to their lists.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is it important to share our talents with others?**
- **How has God been generous toward you?**
- **Of the ideas you wrote, which ones are the most practical things for you to be able to do to give cheerfully this week?**

Say: **Our talents are something valuable to us. They make us do things well and make each of us unique. We can use our talents to ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD—just as the widow did.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s commit to giving cheerfully to someone this week. Giving to others is one way we actually give to God!**

Have kids turn to the “What Can You Give to God?” activity on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and then have kids each choose one person (from their neighborhood, school, or church) that they would like to give something to as their Daily Challenge this week.

At the bottom of the page, have kids write the name of the person they’re planning on doing something for this week. Then have kids circle one action on their things they could buy, make, or do list as a commitment to give to that person.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

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

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

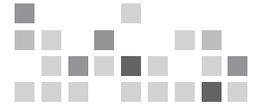
Say: **We can ► GIVE CHEERFULLY TO GOD—just as the widow did! That means we can give money to the church or to missionaries. But it also means we can give our talents or time to others by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about their commitment to give to someone this week and what they learned about cheerful giving. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Give kids each one of the pennies. Give the kids a minute to pray in pairs, thanking God for providing and asking for help to give back cheerfully to God.



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
pennies from the  
“Choosing to Give”  
activity



# People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to admire, and sometimes even idolize, media figures such as sports heroes, movie stars, and television personalities. Unfortunately, the private lives of some of these figures are less than admirable. Use this lesson to introduce kids to the greatest personality of all time—Jesus! Help them see that Jesus is worthy of their admiration and that they can honor him every day as their king.



### ► Bible Point

Jesus is our king.

### Key Verse

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will honor Jesus every day this week.

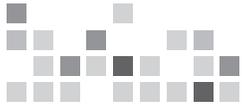
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Fire!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw or write what things they would take with them in a fire.</p>	<p>CD player, pens, paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Celebration Preparation</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make different crafts in groups.</p>	<p>Bibles; tissue paper in several different colors; glue; several pairs of scissors; tape; 10-foot roll of red paper (such as wrapping paper); markers; 2 craft sticks and 1 sheet of card stock for every 3 children <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline</p>	<p>Set up the following 3 tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pompom Table:</b> Place a pair of scissors and 1 craft stick per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, tape, and several colors of tissue paper.</li> <li>• <b>Hand Sign Table:</b> Place a pair of scissors, 1 craft stick, and 1 sheet of card stock per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, glue, and markers.</li> <li>• <b>Mural Table:</b> Place Bibles, the poster boards (or wrapping paper), scissors, and markers at this table.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Making a Big Entrance</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Perform a re-enactment of the Bible account on the CD using craft projects.</p>	<p>Bible, craft projects from the “Celebration Preparation” activity, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Honoring Jesus Every Day</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures of how they spend their time each day.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 5 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>Words and Actions</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Work in groups to create actions to the Key Verse song.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





## Fire! Supplies

CD player

pens

paper

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Tick Tock" (track 8)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Fire!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Ask kids to stand at one end of the room, and give each child a sheet of paper and a pen.

Say: **Pretend your home just caught on fire. You have one minute to choose what you'll take with you, and it must be something you can carry. Think about what you would take.**

Give kids a few moments to think about what they would take.

Say: **Now when the clock starts ticking, draw or write what you would take out of the house in a fire. When the siren begins, you'll need to crawl to safety on the floor, under the pretend smoke, to the opposite side of the room, carrying your paper with you.**

Play the "Tick Tock" segment (track 8 on the CD). This will begin the one-minute countdown. When the siren begins, remind children to crawl on the floor under the smoke. Also remind kids to leave their pens but to take their sheets of paper with them as they crawl. After kids are on the safe side of the room, stop the CD. Ask willing kids to share the most important thing they would want to save in a fire.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are the most important things in your life?**
- **How do you show that these things or people are important to you?**
- **How can we honor Jesus and make him as important as these other things?**

Say: **We all have things that are important to us, and we all have priorities in our lives. These are the things we spend the most time doing and the things that get most of our attention. We show honor to people and things that are important to us. Today we'll think about how there's no person more important than Jesus, because ► JESUS IS OUR KING. Let's look at the Bible and see how people honored Jesus as he arrived in Jerusalem one day.**

**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Celebration Preparation

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We're going to discover how the people in Jerusalem greeted and honored Jesus as he came into the village one day. Let's prepare our own modern-day celebration for Jesus' arrival by making some things to show how we can honor Jesus.**

Show kids the "People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem" picture on the Bible Timeline. Help kids form three groups.

Instruct one group to go to the pompom table. At this table, kids will read Mark 11:4-10 and use the verses to inspire them to make pompoms with craft sticks and colored tissue paper. Ask kids to cut strips of tissue paper about 8 to 10 inches long and no more than 1 inch wide. Then have kids gather the strips of tissue paper together at one end and tape them together. Have them tape the bundled end to one end of a craft stick. As kids make their pompoms, have them suggest ways people use pompoms today; for example, they could be used as a way to cheer for a team.

Ask the second group to read Mark 11:1-7 and use the verses to inspire them to make "number-one" hand signs from card stock. Instruct kids each to hold one of their hands in a number-one sign, place that hand on the card stock, and trace it. Then they will cut out the "number-one" hand sign and glue it onto a craft stick. Kids may choose to write "We're number one!" or "Jesus is number one!" on the hand. Explain that one way "number-one" hand signs are used is to cheer on a sports team.

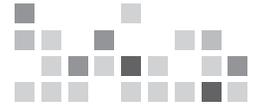
Ask the third group to read Mark 11:8-11 and use the verses to inspire them to make a road for Jesus' entry. Have them cut the two poster boards in half lengthwise and place the four pieces end to end to create a 12-foot section (or have them unroll the wrapping paper). Encourage these group members to draw or write things they would want to lay at Jesus' feet to honor him. (These can be both positive things, such as talents kids can offer Jesus to use in his service, and negative things, such as selfishness kids might offer to give up in order to follow God's will only.) After the kids have finished their mural, ask them to pick up the the pieces of the board. Explain that this will be used as the red carpet when the Bible version is read.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

As the groups are creating, go around and lead kids in discussion based on their groups.

Group 1

Say: **Just as the people in Jesus' day waved palm branches to celebrate victory, we wave pompoms. As you make your pompoms, discuss this question with your group.**



### Celebration Preparation Supplies

- Bibles
- tissue paper in several different colors
- glue
- several pairs of scissors
- tape
- 10-foot roll of red paper (such as wrapping paper)
- markers
- 2 craft sticks and 1 sheet of card stock for every 3 children

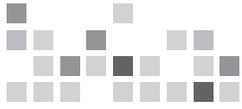
### Teacher Pack

Bible Timeline

### Celebration Preparation Easy Prep

Set up the following 3 tables:

- **Pompom Table:** Place a pair of scissors and 1 craft stick per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, tape, and several colors of tissue paper.
- **Hand Sign Table:** Place a pair of scissors, 1 craft stick, and 1 sheet of card stock per child working at this table. Also set out Bibles, glue, and markers.
- **Mural Table:** Place Bibles, the poster boards (or wrapping paper), scissors, and markers at this table.



Ask:

- What are some other ways we celebrate victory in our world?

Group 2

Say: **Just as the people in Jesus' day worshipped Jesus to show he was important to them, we wave "number-one" hand signs at sporting events to show our favorite team that they are first with us. As you make your "number-one" hand signs, discuss this question with your group.**

Ask:

- What are some other ways you can show Jesus that he is "number one" with you?

Group 3

Say: **Just as the people in Jesus' day laid down their coats and palm branches on the road to welcome him and show him he was important to them, we "roll out the red carpet" when important people come to visit our town. As you create your "red carpet," discuss this question with your group.**

Ask:

- What are some other ways we can show Jesus he is welcome in our lives?

After the three groups have finished with their projects, return to one large group.

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING, and we're going to illustrate that by reading the Bible passage from Mark 11:1-11. At the appropriate time, each group will honor Jesus with its creation.**

## Making a Big Entrance

### Making a Big Entrance Supplies

Bible  
craft projects from the "Celebration Preparation" activity  
CD player  
copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3)

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Read aloud Mark 11:1-11. As you read, allow kids to participate at the appropriate times. Kids will be using their pompoms, "number-one" hand signs, and red carpet while shouting praises to Jesus to go along with what happens in the Bible passage.

Say: **We've honored Jesus by "rolling out the red carpet" and cheering and shouting. Now let's honor Jesus by singing to him.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) (track 3 on the CD). After they listen once, lead kids in singing along with the CD.

🎵 **Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.  
For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.**

**We are always under his care.  
He is always there.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.**

“Let Us Bow Down in Worship” (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved .

Encourage kids to wave their pompoms or “number-one” hand signs during their worship. You can also roll out the “red carpet” here. As a large group, you may want to create motions to the song to help everyone remember the words.

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Jesus was coming toward his death. Why was this occasion worthy of celebration?**
- **What’s a way we can honor Jesus every day?**

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING, and we can honor him—like the people did on Palm Sunday—with our songs and our movements and in all our lives. Although other things in life can be very important to us, Jesus wants us to honor him as our king, and to make him the most important thing in our lives.**

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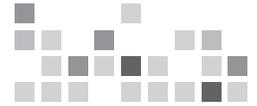
## **3** WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Honoring Jesus Every Day

### **What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Say: **We can honor Jesus with actions and words every day.**

Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “My Time” activity. Explain that they may fill in the two clocks (a.m. and p.m.) with the things they do every day. They may draw pictures to represent what they do at each hour. For example, they might draw a bed to represent sleep, a book to represent school, or a sandwich to represent eating.

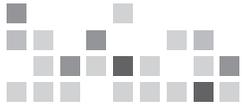


### **Honoring Jesus Every Day Supplies**

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

### **Honoring Jesus Every Day Easy Prep**

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



## Words and Actions Supplies

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

### Teacher Pack

CD: "At the Name of  
Jesus" (Philippians  
2:10-11) (track 9)

After kids have finished their clocks, instruct them to form pairs. Have kids share with their partners the way they spend a normal 24-hour period.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is most of your time spent?
- Is spending time with Jesus a priority in your day? Why or why not?
- How can you better honor Jesus with your time?

Say: **The things we choose to do with our time show our priorities. And if ► JESUS IS OUR KING, it would be good for our priorities to show that—just like the people in Jerusalem who made it a priority to praise Jesus.**

## Words and Actions

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play "At the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10-11) (track 9 on the CD) and lead the children in singing along with the CD.

 **He is Lord!**

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth.  
At the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth,**

**And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness;  
And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness.**

*(Chorus)*

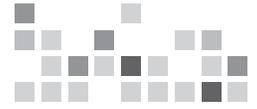
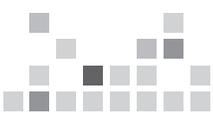
**He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then sing chorus three times.)*

**He is Lord!  
He is Lord!**

"At the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10-11) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Great job singing! In a few minutes, we're going to sing the song again, but this time, let's do it differently. We're going to acknowledge that ► JESUS IS OUR KING through actions and words by making up actions to go with the words of this song!**



Help kids form groups of three, and encourage them to work in their groups to choreograph actions to match the words. Give groups about five minutes to come up with actions.

When each group has created motions, have groups take turns leading the whole group in doing the actions with the words.

After all groups have presented, gather everyone together. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have the kids open to the Key Verse, Philippians 2:10-11. Ask a willing child to read the Key Verse aloud: “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why will everyone bow before Jesus?
- Why does Jesus deserve all the glory?
- What are some ways we can “bow” and “confess” that Jesus is Lord?

Say: **When we sang our song, our words and actions worked together to honor Jesus—just like on Palm Sunday. We can honor Jesus with actions and words in our lives, too. We honor Jesus when we give to others and help people. We honor Jesus when we tell others about him. And we honor Jesus when we spend time with him. We honor Jesus because ► JESUS IS OUR KING.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **For this week’s Daily Challenge, you’ll list on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages seven ways that you will honor Jesus with actions and words every day this week. For example, you might write, “Pray at the dinner table” for Monday or “Work hard on my school project” for Thursday. Or you might write, “Help with yard work” on Saturday or “Help my brother with homework” on Tuesday.**

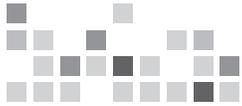
Give kids several minutes to complete their Daily Challenge lists on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Be sure to commit to a Daily Challenge as well. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens





## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING.** He wants to be the Lord of our lives, and that means we honor him in everything we do. We can honor him just like the people did on the first Palm Sunday. Let's demonstrate our willingness to show him honor this week by following through on our Daily Challenges.

## Weaving Faith at Home

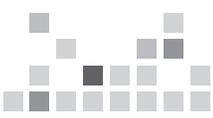
Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about Jesus being our king. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Say: **We can show that ► JESUS IS OUR KING with our actions and words every day. We can play fair. We can love others. We can obey our parents. Let's pray and say one thing to Jesus that honors him. I'll start the prayer, and anyone who wants to can pray after me.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us today about honoring you. I adore you for creating these wonderful children.**

Allow anyone who wants to pray to do so, and encourage kids to remember to make Jesus the most important thing in their lives and to honor him this week.



**Lyrics** ■■■■

## At the Name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11)

**He is Lord!**

**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth.  
At the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
In heaven and earth and under the earth,**

**And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness;  
And every tongue confess to Jesus' holiness.**

*(Chorus)*

**He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!  
He is Lord, Lord, Lord!**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then sing chorus three times.)*

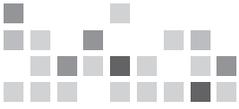
**He is Lord!  
He is Lord!**

"At the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10-11) by Rob Biagi. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**OK  
TO COPY**



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Let Us Bow Down in Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)**

Come, let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before the Lord.  
Let us bow down in worship.  
Let us kneel before him.

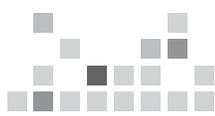
For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

For he is our God,  
Yes, he is our God.  
We are always under his care.  
He is always there.  
Always there.  
He is always there.

"Let Us Bow Down in Worship" (Psalm 95:6-7) by Ben Glover and Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**OK**  
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# Jesus Is Alive!

Mark 16:1-8



## ► Bible Point

Jesus is alive.

## Key Verse

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ” (John 11:25).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will evaluate what they believe about Jesus and grow closer to him.

Kids are used to seeing special effects. The big screen is filled with intergalactic conflicts, time travel, and unstoppable superheroes. Compared with today’s dizzying array of unbelievable feats, kids may view Jesus’ coming back to life with a certain amount of complacency. Help them understand that today’s lesson is about the greatest event in human history! Not only did the event actually happen, unlike the media-produced productions kids are used to, but it has eternal implications for every human ever born. Beat *that*, Hollywood!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find eggs with symbols of Easter.</p>	<p>1 plastic egg per child <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Easter Symbol” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the “Easter Symbol” cards, and place 1 card inside each plastic egg. Then hide eggs inside the room or outside.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experience parts of the Bible.</p>	<p>Bibles, CD player, dark chocolate chips, small paper cups, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Easter” poster</p> 	
	<p><b>Easter Part 2: At the Tomb</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Understand what it was like to find Jesus’ empty tomb.</p>	<p>CD player, scissors, paper, pens, markers, perfume or air freshener <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Easter” poster, netting, ribbon</p> 	<p>Cut the ribbon into 6-inch lengths.</p> <p>Hang up the “Easter” poster where everyone can see it.</p>

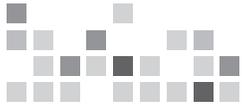
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b></p>	<p><b>Jesus or the World?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Compare Jesus with the world.</p>	Bible, poster board, balloon, masking tape, pin (or toothpick) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline	Cut out a large cross from the poster board. Cover the cross completely with masking tape. Blow up a balloon, and cover it completely with one layer of masking tape.
	<p><b>Celebration Mural</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a mural to learn the Key Verse, and consider what Jesus' resurrection means to them.</p>	Bibles; 11 x 17 sheets of paper; tape; painting or drawing supplies, such as sidewalk chalk, crayons, markers, or paint; paintbrushes	Hang the paper throughout the room to create a sort of gallery. You'll need 1 sheet of paper per child. Set out art supplies.
	<p><b>The Gate to God</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Share about a relationship with Jesus.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Easter" poster 	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





### Easter Egg Hunt Supplies

1 plastic egg per child

#### Teacher Pack

“Easter Symbol” cards

### Easter Egg Hunt Easy Prep

Separate the “Easter Symbol” cards and place 1 card inside each plastic egg. Then hide eggs inside the room or outside.

### Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour Supplies

Bibles  
CD player  
dark chocolate chips  
small paper cups  
tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “A Dark Hour”  
(track 10)  
“Easter” poster

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour Easy Prep

Hang up the “Easter” poster where everyone can see it.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Easter Egg Hunt

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Direct kids to the area where the Easter egg hunt will take place, and explain that the kids will each find one egg.

When everyone has found an egg, return to a large group. Ask kids to open their eggs and see what's inside. Then have willing kids share their symbols of Easter. Briefly discuss the symbols and their meanings. For example, baby animals could represent new birth and starting fresh.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the different ways people celebrate Easter?
- Why is Easter so important?

Say: **Easter is celebrated in many different ways. Some people think of bunnies. Some think of flowers. Some even think of the rock that covered Jesus' tomb. But the real reason we celebrate Easter is because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Let's explore what happened on that very first Easter.**

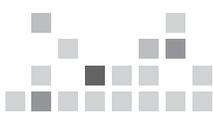
## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Easter Part 1: A Dark Hour

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

This biblical account will be told in two parts. The poster has three scenes that correspond to three parts of the Easter passage, and you'll point out the first two scenes as you explore each part of the account. The third scene will be used in the “Weaving Faith Into Life” section.

Start out by pointing to the first section of the “Easter” poster. Then give each child a paper cup with a dark chocolate chip in it. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have kids open to Mark 15:33-39. Tell them they'll be hearing the sounds of the crucifixion.



Play “A Dark Hour” (track 10 on the CD). Pause the CD after the centurion announces, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Say: **Now put the piece of chocolate into your mouth, and keep it there. You can quietly think about your sins and talk to God about them.** Allow a few minutes for reflection.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was the chocolate different than you expected?**
- **How was that chocolate like the sin we have in our lives?**
- **What was the importance of Jesus dying on the cross?**

Say: **Jesus’ death was very unusual. The sky was very dark. The earth shook. The curtain to the Temple tore from top to bottom. After watching all that happened that day, the Roman soldier was convinced that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus died for our sins. But ► JESUS IS ALIVE today. Let’s see what happened next.**

## Easter Part 2: At the Tomb

### What You’ll Do

Point out the second section of the “Easter” poster.

Say: **After the Sabbath some of the women brought spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body. Let’s listen as Mary Magdalene describes what happened that day.**

Play “Mary Magdalene” (track 11 on the CD).

Give kids each a pen and a piece of paper, and set out markers to share. Have kids write praises and decorate their sheets of paper, thanking Jesus for being alive. When they’re finished, lightly spray each child’s paper with the perfume.

Give each child a piece of netting and a 6-inch piece of ribbon. Have kids fold up their praise papers, put them into the netting, and tie the netting up into a bag.

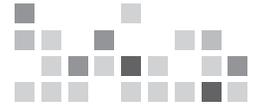
### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some other ways we can thank Jesus for being alive?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus is alive?**

Say: **When the women reached the tomb, they saw something they never expected: an empty tomb. Jesus had come back to life! We celebrate Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. He had died for our sins. Now he was reunited with**



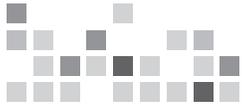
### Easter Part 2: At the Tomb Supplies

CD player  
scissors  
paper  
pens  
markers  
perfume or air freshener  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “Mary Magdalene” (track 11)  
“Easter” poster  
netting  
ribbon

### Easter Part 2: At the Tomb Easy Prep

Cut the ribbon into 6-inch lengths.

Hang up the “Easter” poster where everyone can see it.



### Jesus or the World? Supplies

Bible  
poster board  
balloon  
masking tape  
pin (or toothpick)  
**Teacher Pack**  
Bible Timeline

### **BALLOON WARNING**

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

### Jesus or the World? Easy Prep

Cut out a large cross from the poster board. Cover the cross completely with masking tape. Blow up a balloon and cover it completely with one layer of masking tape.

God the Father. Mary Magdalene and the others had taken spices to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body, but they didn't need them because Jesus had risen! You can take this bag home with you as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us—and that he's alive today!

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Jesus or the World?

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the “Jesus Rises From the Dead” picture on the Bible Timeline. Ask a willing child to read aloud the Key Verse, John 11:25: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’ ”

Say: **We can believe in Jesus and stick to him, or we can believe in the world and the things it has to offer us.**

Hold up the cross and the balloon, both covered in masking tape.

Ask:

- **What happens when we put our trust and hope in the things the world has to offer us?**
- **What happens when we put our trust and hope in Jesus?**
- **Why can we put our trust and hope in Jesus?**

Ask kids to share some of the pressures they face each day. For example, they might mention problems in school, arguments with their friends, or not agreeing with their parents about something. For each pressure a child shares, have that person come up and poke the pin or toothpick through the masking tape into the balloon. The balloon will slowly deflate and crumple.

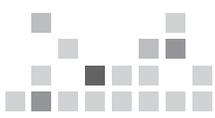
Then ask kids to come up, pray about a pressure, and then poke the pin or toothpick through the masking tape into the cross. The cross will keep its shape.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways the world can crumple around us?**
- **What are some things the cross represents to us?**
- **What are some of the pressures you can give to Jesus?**
- **How does knowing that Jesus died and came back to life help you trust him with those pressures?**



Say: **When the pressures of the world hit us and we put our hope in the world and the temporary pleasures it has to offer, we will be disappointed. The life we have in the world and its temporary pleasures will deflate and leave us crumpled and empty. However, if our hope is in Jesus and his resurrection, we won't be let down, because ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

## Celebration Mural

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Read the Key Verse aloud again: **"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' "** (John 11:25).

Say: **Think about the images this verse makes you think of. What does it look like for Jesus to be the resurrection and the life? Do you see him walking out of the tomb in glory? Do you think of beautiful living things? Do you see Jesus opening his arms to hug you?**

Direct kids to the papers you hung before the lesson. Explain that they will be using the various art supplies to make a gallery of artwork with the images they thought of. Ask kids to create their artwork based on what images the Key Verse brings to mind, such as a cross, the conquering of all sins, an open door to heaven, and so on. After kids have finished creating their gallery, have them write the Key Verse next to their artwork.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did you determine what to draw or paint?**
- **What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?**
- **How can you choose to live with Jesus today?**

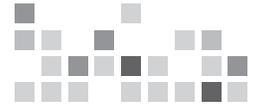
Say: **We celebrate Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Because he lives, we're able to live forever with him. That's a great reason to celebrate!**

## The Gate to God

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out the third scene on the "Easter" poster.

Say: **When the tomb was opened and Jesus had risen, Jesus opened the way for us to be reunited with God. Jesus opened the gate, and now he welcomes us with open arms. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we can be thankful. He has provided a way for us to be with God.**



### Celebration Mural Supplies

- Bibles
- 11 x 17 sheets of paper tape
- painting or drawing supplies, such as sidewalk chalk, crayons, markers, or paint
- paintbrushes

### Celebration Mural Easy Prep

Hang the paper throughout the room to create a sort of gallery. You'll need 1 sheet of paper per child. Set out art supplies.

### The Gate to God Supplies

- Bible Truth Sleuth pens
- Teacher Pack**
- "Easter" poster

### The Gate to God Easy Prep

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



Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "My Relationship With Jesus" activity. Ask kids to find a partner and share three things they know about their relationship with Jesus. For example, kids could share about how they spend time with Jesus, how Jesus has changed them, and what they'd like to thank Jesus for.

When pairs have shared, have them write those things on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What difference does it make to your relationship with Jesus to know that he's alive?
- What things on your list would be different if Jesus had stayed in the tomb? Explain.

Say: **We celebrate Easter because ► JESUS IS ALIVE. That means that we can now have a relationship with Jesus, and we can invite others into a relationship with him, too.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can remember this week that ► JESUS IS ALIVE and ways we can grow in our relationship with Jesus.**

Have kids find the 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 you're not sure if you believe in Jesus, write down what you do believe about Jesus and questions you have about him. Then talk to a Christian adult about your questions.**
- **If you do believe Jesus loves you and died for you, write a song or poem telling him why he's so important to you.**
- **Tell someone about your relationship with Jesus. You'll grow closer to Jesus at the same time as you give someone else an opportunity to know about him!**

Be sure to commit to a Daily Challenge as well. 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.**

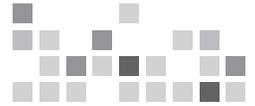
Say: **When Jesus was on the cross, it was a dark day. But we have hope, because  
▶ JESUS IS ALIVE!**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenge they chose and what they learned about Jesus' resurrection. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Invite kids to pray to follow Jesus or to recommit their lives to following him.





# Jesus Appears to His Disciples

John 20:19-31

Third- and fourth-graders are concrete thinkers. As such, they demand proof of assumptions and look for cause and effect in the situations around them. In many ways, they think a lot like the disciple Thomas. Use this lesson to show them that, like Thomas, they need to realize that Jesus is alive.



### ► Bible Point

Believe in Jesus.

### Key Verse

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will think about their faith in Jesus and strengthen their faith in a specific way.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Sensing Stations</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Go to different stations and identify things by using different senses.	paper; pens; CD player; marker; paper bags; several clear jars with lids, each containing a different liquid (such as dishwashing detergent, vegetable oil, tea, soda, lemon juice); items such as a CD, rock, leaf, quarter, and sand; antibacterial gel (optional) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Set up 3 stations: • Seeing Station: Set out paper, pens, and numbered jars containing various liquids. • Hearing Station: Set out paper, pens, and a CD player. • Touching Station: Put items to touch in separate paper bags.
	<b>How'd They Do That?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to build a video game system, and discover what faith is by learning the Key Verse.	Bible, modeling clay, copy of the “Video Game” handout (at the end of this lesson)	
	<b>From Fear to Peace</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Talk about things that bring them fear.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, several pairs of scissors	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>In the Light</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game in light, and then in darkness.	Bible, flashlight	Try to make it so that when you turn out the lights the room is as dark as possible.

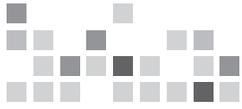
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Rise Up</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experiment with their arms doing unexpected things.	timer or stopwatch	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





## Sensing Stations Supplies

paper  
pens  
CD player  
marker  
paper bags  
several clear jars with  
lids, each containing  
a different liquid  
(such as dishwashing  
detergent, vegetable  
oil, tea, soda, lemon  
juice)  
items such as a CD,  
rock, leaf, quarter, and  
sand  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### Teacher Pack

CD: "What Do You  
Hear?" (track 13)

## Sensing Stations Easy Prep

Set up 3 stations:

- Seeing Station: Set out paper, pens, and numbered jars containing various liquids.
- Hearing Station: Set out paper, pens, and a CD player.
- Touching Station: Put items to touch in separate paper bags.

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Sensing Stations

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Help children form three groups as they arrive. Once everyone has arrived, have each group participate at one or more of the sensing stations as time allows.

At the seeing station, have kids form pairs and identify the liquids by looking at them. They may not touch or shake the jars. Give each pair a pen and paper to record their answers. After kids have guessed, share the correct answers and then have kids rotate to the next sensing station.

At the hearing station, give each child a pen and paper, and then play "What Do You Hear?" (track 13 on the CD). Ask kids to identify the sounds and record their answers. After kids have listened to all the sounds, share the correct answers and then ask them to rotate to the next station.

The correct answers for the sound station are as follows: 1. car horn; 2. train whistle; 3. air being let out of a balloon; 4. vacuum cleaner; 5. thunder; 6. fog horn; 7. bowling pins being knocked over; 8. the pages of a book being turned; 9. someone walking in mud; 10. a deck of cards being shuffled; 11. bubble wrap being popped; 12. skis "shooshing" in the snow; 13. pennies being dropped on a table; 14. crashing waves; 15. someone jumping rope.

At the touching station, kids will take turns reaching into bags and identifying the item inside simply by touching it. After kids have made their guesses, they can look in the bags to see how they did.

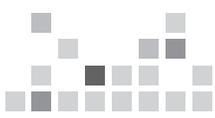
After kids have participated at all three stations, have them clean their hands and return to a large group.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

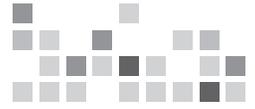
Ask:

- How well did you identify things using only one of your senses?
- How did you know what things were when you couldn't see them or smell them?
- How confident were you that you had the right answers?
- Tell about someone you know who has one sense impaired. How does that person deal with it?



Say: **We have faith in our senses—that what we see or hear or feel is real. Today we’re going to learn that we can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS even though we can’t see him.**

---



**2**

**BIBLE  
EXPLORATION**

## How’d They Do That?

### What You’ll Do

Place the picture of the video game system in a place where all the kids can see it. Help them form groups of four to six, and then distribute modeling clay to each group. Tell the kids that their job is to build a video game system. Give them about five minutes to do so. Deflect any protests by saying, “There’s a sample right there. Give it a try.”

When five minutes have passed, have a willing child read aloud the Key Verse, Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was your reaction when I asked you to build a video game system from clay?**
- **How does a real video game system work?**
- **If you’re not sure *how* it works, how do you know that it *will* work when you go to play the games?**
- **How do you know Jesus is there even when you can’t understand how?**

Say: **We use a lot of things every day that we don’t understand. Think about the lights in this room.** Walk over to the light switch, and turn off the lights. **I may not know exactly how the electricity works and makes the light bulbs work, but I know that when I hit this switch, the lights should come on.** Turn on the lights.

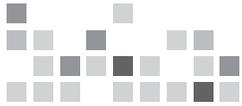
**The same is true with Jesus. We don’t see Jesus with our eyes, but we believe he’s there. We see the results of him being there. It takes faith to believe in Jesus, but that’s exactly what we need. We can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS even though we can’t see him. Now that we know what faith is, let’s see what his disciples discovered.**

### How’d They Do That? Supplies

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Bible  
modeling clay  
copy of the “Video Game” handout (at the end of this lesson)





### From Fear to Peace Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
several pairs of scissors

### From Fear to Peace Easy Prep

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

## From Fear to Peace

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have each child find a partner, and make sure each pair has a Bible. In their pairs, have one child read John 20:19-23 to the other.

Say: **The disciples were afraid. They knew the Jews were mad because Jesus' body was not in the tomb. They weren't sure what had happened in the last few days.**

Turn to your partner, and answer the following questions.

Ask:

- What kinds of things make you afraid?
- When have you been scared because someone was mad at you?
- What do you do when you're afraid?

Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "From Fear to Peace" activity.

Have scissors available, and have kids cut the PEACE/FEAR box from their page. Show the kids how to fold the PEACE/FEAR box accordion style. Demonstrate how they can turn it in one direction to read "Fear" and then how they can turn it to "Peace."

Say: **Jesus can turn fear to peace just as he did when he suddenly appeared in the room and stood among the disciples. What a surprise! Jesus told the disciples to be at peace, and he breathed on them. Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit and told them to forgive others as they had been forgiven.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What could you do to show that you have faith in Jesus?

While in the same pairs, have the other partner read aloud John 20:24-31.

Say: **Now with your partner, answer the following questions about faith.**

Ask:

- What are some things you doubt?
- Do you generally find it easy or hard to believe? Explain.

Once pairs have had a chance to share, have kids gather in a large group and lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways Jesus proves himself today?

Say: Faith is the way we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS even though we can't see him. The disciples had doubts, and Jesus proved himself. Jesus came back physically so the disciples could see him and touch him. Jesus did not want them to doubt his resurrection.

## In the Light

### What You'll Do

Ask kids to stand on one side of the room.

Say: **Okay, everyone walk to the other side of the room. Go!**

Once they've crossed the room, give one child a flashlight, and turn out the lights in the room.

Say: **Now everyone will walk back to the other side of the room. But this time you can use only the one flashlight. Go!**

When kids have reached the opposite side of the room, ask them to walk one more time across the room. This time don't use the flashlight. When kids have finished, turn on the lights and have them sit down.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

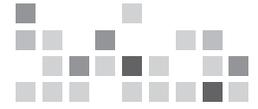
- **Why didn't you have any difficulty walking across the room when all the lights were on?**
- **How much more difficult was it when you had to walk across the room with the lights off and you had only one flashlight to guide you?**

Ask a willing child to read the Key Verse, Hebrews 11:1, aloud: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Ask:

- **What does it mean to have faith?**

Say: **Trusting in God is a big part of our faith in him. Thomas needed to see Jesus to believe, but we can ► BELIEVE IN JESUS even though we can't see him. So we trust that Jesus is the light. Darkness cannot overcome light, but light can overcome darkness. When we have faith in Jesus, we trust that he will always be there for us to help us walk in the light. Jesus will help us overcome the dark parts of our lives.**



### In the Light Supplies

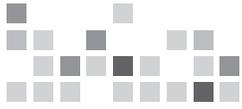
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Bible  
flashlight

### In the Light Easy Prep

---

Try to make it so that when you turn out the lights the room is as dark as possible.



### Rise Up Supplies

timer or stopwatch

### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Rise Up

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids pair up and spread out.

Say: **We're going to see how our bodies can be affected by things, even though we can't see anything affecting them. One of you will hold your arm straight out by your side, palm down and pressing upward. While you're doing this, the other person will be pressing down against the partner's hand with just enough force to keep it in one place—one person pressing up and one pressing down. The person who's pressing up can say out loud things that he or she believes about Jesus. I'll time you for one minute. When I say stop, your partner should stop pressing down and you can both see what happens. Ready? Go!**

Time kids for one minute. When the minute is up, kids' arms will continue rising up, even though they're not controlling them. Reverse roles so the other partners have a chance to press upward; then gather everyone back together.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think would happen when your partner stopped pressing against your arm?
- How do the things you believe about Jesus affect the way you live?
- What are some other things that affect us even though we can't see them?
- How can you believe more strongly in Jesus this week?

Say: **Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." We may not be able to see Jesus, but we can see the effect he has on our lives. And when we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS, we can help others find him too.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We know that faith is when we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS even though we can't**



see him. Let's spend some time thinking about where our faith is right now. As you think, choose a Daily Challenge about your faith in Jesus. Maybe you still have some questions about him, and that's okay. You can choose the Daily Challenge that helps you ask those questions. Maybe your faith is the strongest it's ever been and you can't wait to tell others! If that's the case, you can commit to sharing your faith.

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 Jesus, telling him any doubts you have about him.**
- **We show our belief in our actions. Find someone who needs help this week, and then lend a hand!**
- **Share about your faith with non-Christian friends. For extra impact, invite them to church next week!**

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

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Thomas needed to see Jesus in order to believe in him. Even though we can't see Jesus, we can show we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS 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 believing 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](http://group.com/digital).

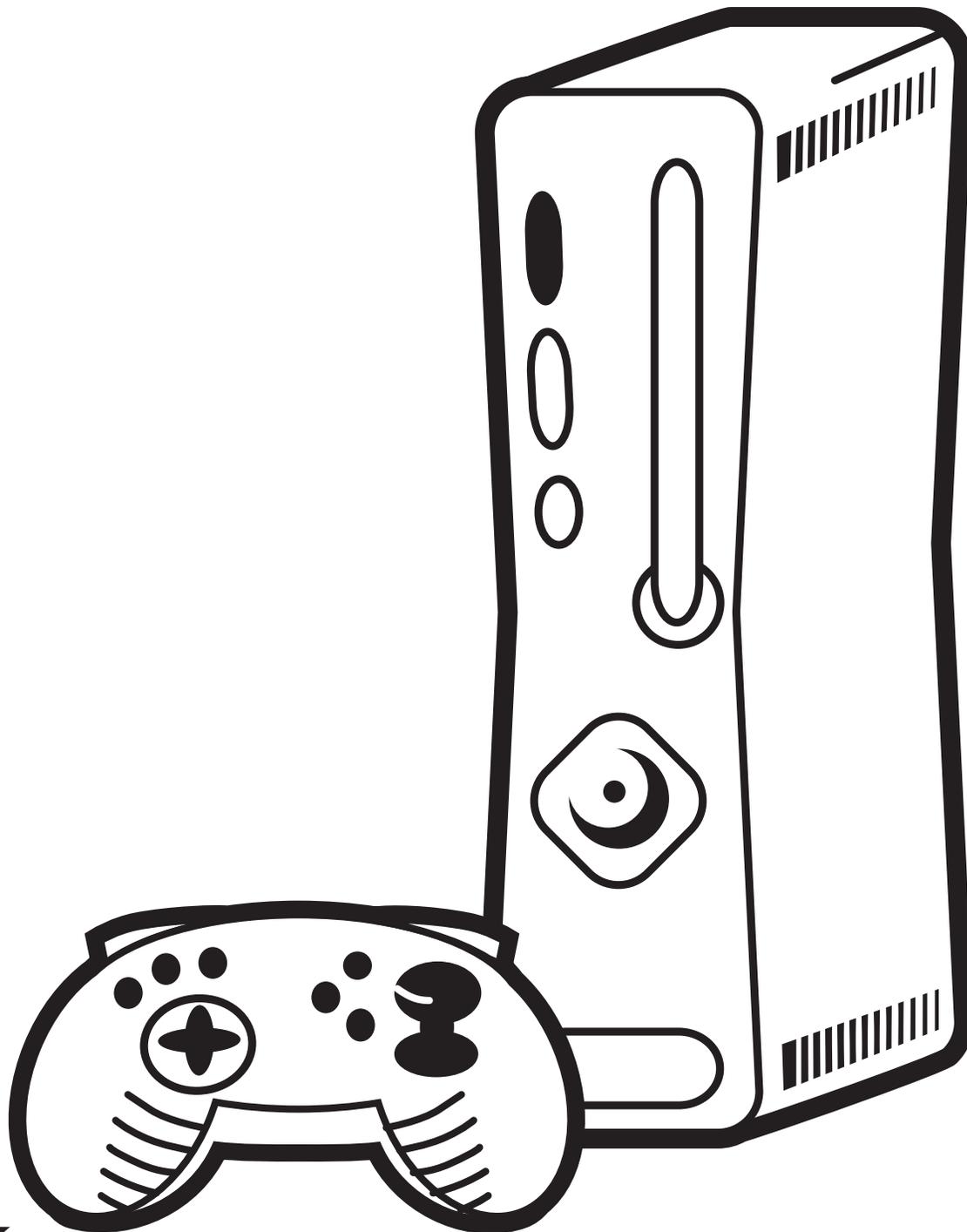
To close, ask kids to stand in a circle.

Say: **Today we've talked about faith, which is believing in Jesus even though we can't see him. So now let's pray for things that are important to us, knowing that God will hear us and answer our prayers.**

Allow any kids who want to pray aloud to do so, and then close the prayer.

Pray: **God, we thank you for Jesus and that you hear our prayers. We thank you that you will answer our prayers. Help us to continue to have faith throughout the week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

# Video Game



**OK  
TO COPY**

Illustrated by bigredlynx  
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# Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

Third- and fourth-graders have high hopes and dreams for what they'll do in life. They're eager and willing to try new things, but they can just as easily be discouraged by their failures. Like the rest of us, they may be tempted to compare themselves with others and to be discontented with themselves. Today's lesson focuses on how God gives people different gifts for serving him. Use this lesson to encourage kids to discover their gifts and talents. Celebrate each person's uniqueness, including your own!



### ► Bible Point

God gives us gifts to serve him.

### Key Verse

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will serve God and others using a special gift.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Something From Nothing?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to make a snack with only one ingredient.	enough instant pudding mix for 1 serving per child, milk, mixing bowl, measuring cup, whisk, small paper cups, spoons, napkins, refrigerator or cooler of ice, antibacterial gel (optional)	If you have more than 10 kids, you may want to double (or triple) the supplies so everyone has a chance to participate.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Spiritual Gifts</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn what the Bible says about spiritual gifts.	Bibles, pens, scissors, copy of the "Spiritual Gifts" handout (at the end of this lesson)	Cut apart the sections of the "Spiritual Gifts" handout.
	<b>Body Parts</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Play a game to complete a body picture.	Bible, paper, marker, tape, pens, scissors, copy of the "Body Parts" handout (at the end of this lesson) with pieces cut out	Hang a sheet of paper where everyone can see it. Draw a large oval in the center to represent a torso and a smaller oval for the head. Set out the "Body Parts" segments.

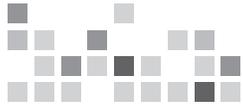
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>My Gifts and Talents</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Identify some of their gifts and help others discern theirs.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>God's Workmanship</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Come up with a list of ways they can use their gifts to serve God.	Bibles, paper, pens, scissors, snack-sized plastic bags	Cut paper into 5-inch strips.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





### Something From Nothing? Supplies

enough instant pudding mix for 1 serving per child  
milk  
mixing bowl  
measuring cup  
whisk  
small paper cups  
spoons  
napkins  
refrigerator or cooler of ice  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Something From Nothing? Easy Prep

If you have more than 10 kids, you may want to double (or triple) the supplies so everyone has a chance to participate.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Something From Nothing?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form groups of four or five. Give each group only one of the items for making the instant pudding. For example, one group would get the bowl, another group the container of milk, another group the whisk, and so on. Don't give the pudding mix to any of the groups. If your group is large, divide up the cups, napkins, or spoons.

Say: **Let's begin today by making a special treat. I want each group to be really creative and make a snack everyone will like with the material I gave your group. You can start now.** Wait for kids to express that this is impossible to do with the supplies they have.

Ask:

- **Why can't you do the job I asked you to do?**
- **What else do you need to do the job?**
- **How *could* we accomplish the job?**

Say: **I left out one very important item.** Bring out the boxes of pudding mix. **Now we can make something if we share our items!**

Have kids clean their hands, put the mix into the bowl, measure and add the milk, and then take turns stirring the pudding. When it's finished, put the pudding in a refrigerator or cooler, and tell kids they'll get to enjoy the treat shortly.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

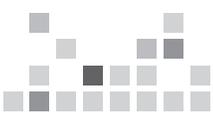
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time you felt like you didn't have enough tools or knowledge to do a task.**
- **What are some things you're good at doing?**

Say: **God has a plan for your life. That means he has a job he wants you to do. But he won't just tell you to do something and not equip you for it, as I did with the snack. ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** And they're all equally important. **Plus he gives us the Holy Spirit to help us—the most important ingredient of all (kind of like the pudding mix was the most important ingredient). When all our different gifts are mixed together, we can do amazing things for God! Let's learn more about how God gives us different gifts.**

Help the kids put the pudding into the paper cups, and then invite kids to eat the pudding.



2

BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Spiritual Gifts

## What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:4-27, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today in the Bible we'll read from 1 Corinthians 12:4-27. We're going to explore what God says about the kinds of spiritual gifts and abilities he gives to people and why he does that. Let's count off by fours, and then we'll form four groups.** Have kids count off by fours; then direct kids to form groups with children who have the same number. **I'm going to assign each group a passage to read and questions to answer. Then we'll share with one another.**

Give each group a Bible and one of the sections of the handout with the following verses and questions.

- Group 1: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. What do all of the gifts and service have in common?
- Group 2: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Why does God give us spiritual gifts? Which gift are you most familiar with? Explain.
- Group 3: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. Why is it important that there are different body parts? Why does God give people different gifts?
- Group 4: 1 Corinthians 12:21-27. What happens when one part hurts? Why? How can we make the whole body healthier?

Give group members several minutes to read the text and answer the questions among themselves. Then lead kids in this discussion, asking groups to share their thoughts on their assigned questions with everyone.

Ask:

Group 1:

- **What do all of the gifts and service have in common?**

Group 2:

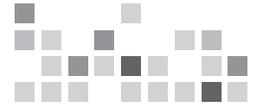
- **Why does God give us spiritual gifts?**
- **Which gift are you most familiar with? Explain.**

Group 3:

- **Why is it important that there are different body parts?**
- **Why does God give people different gifts?**

Group 4:

- **What happens when one part hurts? Why?**
- **How can we make the whole body healthier?**



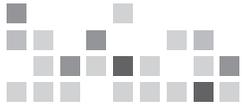
## Spiritual Gifts Supplies

- Bibles
- pens
- scissors
- copy of the "Spiritual Gifts" handout (at the end of this lesson)

## Spiritual Gifts Easy Prep

Cut apart the sections of the "Spiritual Gifts" handout.





## Body Parts Supplies

Bible  
paper  
marker  
tape  
pens  
scissors  
copy of the “Body  
Parts” handout (at the  
end of this lesson) with  
pieces cut out

## Body Parts Easy Prep

Hang a sheet of paper  
where everyone can see  
it. Draw a large oval in  
the center to represent  
a torso and a smaller  
oval for the head. Set  
out the “Body Parts”  
segments.

## Talk With Kids

Lead all the kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why did we need each group to contribute to our discussion?
- How was that like the way the different spiritual gifts can work together?
- Why does it matter that we’re all equally important parts of one body?
- Why is it important that we all use the gifts we’ve been given?

Say: We couldn’t answer those questions without all of the “parts” of us being there because we all had different knowledge. Spiritual gifts are special abilities God gives to his children. ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** God wants us to use our spiritual gifts to help others grow in a relationship with him. There are many different kinds of spiritual gifts because there are many jobs to do! Each one is as important as another. God wants us to honor and respect one another, no matter what our gifts are.

# Body Parts

## What You’ll Do

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

Say: In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, we learn that we are each a unique part of a body. To understand this part of the Bible passage, let’s play a game. This oval is the middle section of a person’s body. You’re each going to choose a body part and then go tape it in the correct place on the torso. If you have more body parts than kids, have kids continue choosing a new body part until they’re all gone. If you have more kids than body parts, have kids work as pairs.

Play until all body parts have been placed. Then have kids close their eyes while you remove one of the pieces of the body. Have kids open their eyes, and ask the following questions.

Ask:

- What’s missing from this body?
- Why is that part important to the whole body?

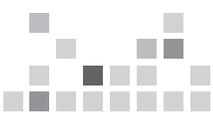
Repeat several times, taking away a different body part each time.

## Talk With Kids

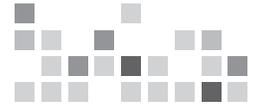
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What gifts has God given you?
- What gifts or abilities have you wished for that you don’t have?
- How can we be content with the gifts we’ve been given?



Say: It's common for people to wish they were someone else. But God wants us to be happy with who we are. First Corinthians 12:18 says, "God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." So if you're a hand, don't wish you were the eyes or the ears. Then we wouldn't have a hand! Remember, ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** He has given *you* gifts! God wants you just the way he made you!



**3** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

## My Gifts and Talents

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** Sometimes we do things so naturally that we don't even realize we have a gift for doing them! Let's see if we can help each other discover some of our gifts today.

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids work in pairs or trios to answer the following questions related to the "My Gifts and Talents" activity.

Ask:

- What pictures do you see that remind you of things you like to do or are good at?
- Why do you like to do those things?
- How did you get good at those things?
- What role has God played in giving you those abilities or interests?

Give kids a few minutes to talk in their pairs or trios.

Say: **Now draw a picture of yourself in the center of the page. Maybe you have a gift that's not shown. You can show it to us in your drawing. Otherwise, you can draw a picture of yourself just standing around. When you've finished drawing yourself, draw a line from the picture of you to the boxes of things you're good at.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What gifts would you add to those listed?
- How can we use our gifts to serve God?

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** If we accept the gifts, we can better serve God and those he loves. God wants you to use your gifts for him.

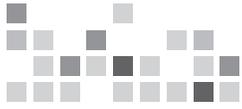
### My Gifts and Talents Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

### My Gifts and Talents Easy Prep

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





### God's Workmanship Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pens  
scissors  
snack-sized plastic bags

### God's Workmanship Easy Prep

Cut paper into 5-inch strips.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

## God's Workmanship

### What You'll Do

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them find the Key Verse, Ephesians 2:10. Ask a willing child to read it aloud: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Say: **Think of the gifts you wrote down in the last activity. Now come up with a list of ways you can use your gifts to serve God. Write as many ideas as you can come up with, one idea per strip of paper.**

Distribute pens and several strips of paper to each child, and then give kids about two minutes to write. Then give kids each a plastic bag to keep their strips in.

Say: **When we say we're God's workmanship that means we're created by God. God created everything for a purpose. The reason he created each of us is to glorify him—to do good works for him. That's what the rest of the Key Verse says: "...created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." That means God wants us to do good things for him, and he has a special plan for each of us.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which idea are you most looking forward to trying out?
- Which idea is most out of your comfort zone?

Say: **These bags of ideas are good representations of the good works God has in store for you to do. ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.** God has special jobs for you to do to serve him, and he'll help you do those jobs by giving you special gifts.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can know that ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM.**

For your Daily Challenge this week, pull one idea out of your bag every day and use it this week for God.

Make sure you do the Daily Challenge as well. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **We love receiving gifts, and God has given each of us a unique set of gifts. He wants us to use those gifts to help people. So let's be thankful that ► GOD GIVES US GIFTS TO SERVE HIM. Let's use our gifts 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 the gifts God gives us. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Pray: **God, thank you for the gifts you've given us. Go around and have each child say one gift out loud. God, help us to use these gifts for your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.**



# Spiritual Gifts

■ **Group 1:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. What do all of the gifts and service have in common?

.....

■ **Group 2:** 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Why does God give us spiritual gifts? Which gift are you most familiar with? Explain.

.....

■ **Group 3:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. Why is it important that there are different body parts? Why does God give people different gifts?

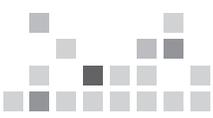
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■ **Group 4:** 1 Corinthians 12:21-27. What happens when one part hurts? Why? How can we make the whole body healthier?

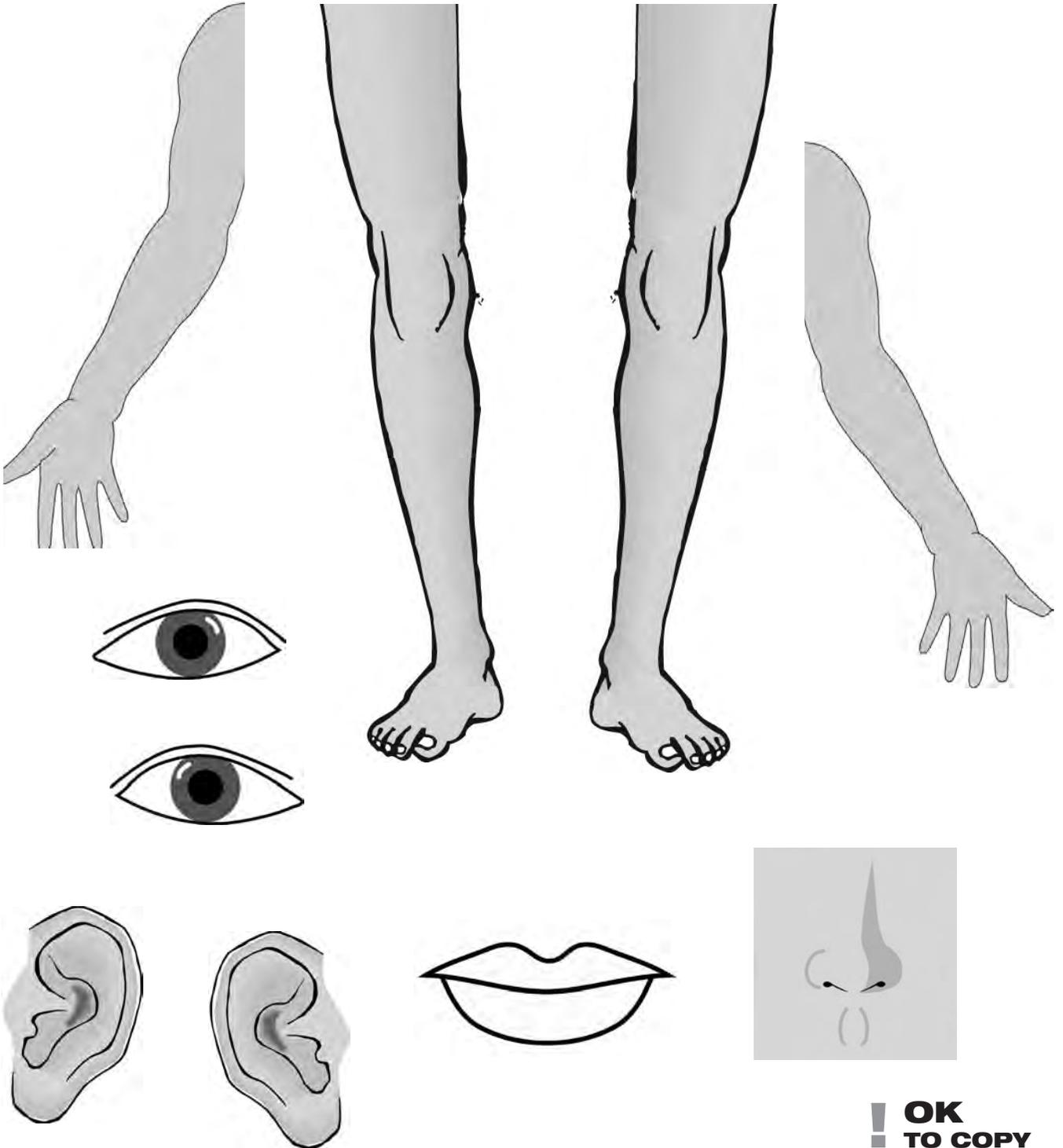
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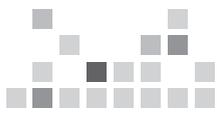


# Body Parts



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# Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus Acts 4:5-14



► **Bible Point**  
Trusting God makes us brave.

**Key Verse**  
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will trust God for strength as they do something difficult this week.

Peer pressure is beginning to be a significant factor in the lives of your kids. Whether it's speaking up for their faith or speaking up for a friend who's being made fun of, third- and fourth-graders can be mightily influenced by how others may respond to their words and actions. Use this lesson to teach them that God will help them be brave, just as he helped Peter stand up to the Sanhedrin.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Scary Charades</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play Charades to act out different things they could be afraid of.	scissors, copies of the “Scary” handout (at the end of this lesson)	Cut apart the segments of the “Scary” handout. You'll need 1 segment per pair.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Trials</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Prepare a case for or against Peter and John.	Bibles, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Key Verse Song</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

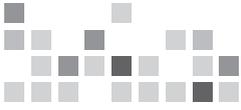
***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Depths of Bravery</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Act out what they would do in tough situations.	Bible Truth Sleuth	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>Like a Rock!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Write a portion of Joshua 1:9 on a rock.	1 smooth rock per child, markers	Gather smooth rocks that have at least 2 to 3 inches of surface area for kids to write a short phrase on them. Set the rocks and the markers out.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





### Scary Charades Supplies

scissors  
copies of the “Scary”  
handout (at the end of  
this lesson)

### Scary Charades Easy Prep

Cut apart the segments  
of the “Scary”  
handout.  
You’ll need 1 segment  
per pair.

### Trials Supplies

Bibles  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “The Trial” (track  
15)

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Scary Charades

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form pairs, and give each pair one of the segments from the “Scary”  
handout.

Say: **There are a lot of things in our lives that we could be afraid of. I’ve given each pair a slip of paper with something scary written on it, and you’ll act it out for the rest of the group. You can’t use words, though, just actions. The rest of the group will try to guess what the scary thing is.**

Give pairs a couple of minutes to figure out how they want to act out their scary thing. Then let each pair act as the rest of the group guesses.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think was the scariest situation? Explain.
- Tell about a time you were scared.

Say: **These are things that could be scary to some people, although not everyone is afraid of the same things. One thing that may be scary is telling other people about Jesus. Today we’ll learn that we don’t need to be afraid to share our faith, because ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE!**

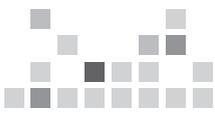
## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Trials

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them open to Acts 4:5-14. Ask for a couple of willing children to read the passage aloud. Then divide the group in half.

Say: **Today you’ll be part of a trial. Half of you will be the prosecution, and the other half will be defense. Who’s on trial? Peter and John.**



Have kids reread Acts 4:5-14 in their groups and use the text to prepare their cases. After each group has had a chance to present its side, play “The Trial” (track 15 on the CD).

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Peter show bravery?
- Tell about a time you showed bravery.
- What made you brave in that moment?

Say: Sometimes it’s hard to be brave on our own, but ► **TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.** We saw Peter trust in God, and it made Peter brave enough to speak out when he was in real danger. We can overcome anything when we trust in God.

## Key Verse Song

### What You’ll Do

Say: As Christians, we sometimes face difficult situations as we try to stand up for Jesus. ► **TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE** in those situations.

Let’s open our Bibles to the Key Verse, Joshua 1:9. Follow along while I read it aloud: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). Have kids repeat the verse with you.

Say: Let’s sing a song about our Key Verse and learn why we can be courageous. Every time you hear the words *be strong*, make a muscle with your arm and at the same time point up with your other arm. This shows how our strength comes from God. When you hear the word *courageous*, stand up like you’re getting ready to tackle someone in football. This shows that we’re going to stand firm no matter what.

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Wherever You Go”(Joshua 1:9) (track 16 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD.

 **Have I not commanded you?**  
**Be strong and courageous.**  
**Do not be terrified;**  
**Do not be discouraged,**  
**For the Lord your God**  
**Will be with you wherever you go.**  
**Wherever you go.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

**Wherever you go.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

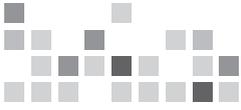
“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



### Key Verse Song Supplies

- .....
- Bibles
  - CD player
  - copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this  
lesson)
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: “Wherever You Go”  
(Joshua 1:9) (track 16)





### Depths of Bravery Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

### Depths of Bravery Easy Prep

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

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it important for us to be brave?
- What are some situations in which you may need to be a brave Christian?
- How can we be brave in those kinds of situations?

Say: **We can be courageous because God is with us in every situation we face—just like God was with Peter when he bravely proclaimed Jesus’ resurrection.**

▶ **TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Depths of Bravery

## What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs by selecting partners who are wearing different color shirts than they are. Distribute this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have the kids turn to the “Depths of Bravery” activity.

Say: **In your pairs, look at each of the scenarios and discuss together how you could respond. There will be courageous solutions and not-so-courageous solutions. What you decide to do is up to you, but be realistic and honest! I’ll ask you to act out for the group the choice you made for how to respond for one of the scenarios and tell about why you made that choice.**

Give pairs time to come up with solutions for each scenario. As they work, circulate among the pairs. Stop by each pair and point out one of the scenarios you’d like them to act out the solution for. It’s okay if two or more pairs share a scenario to act out, as this will offer more possible solutions.

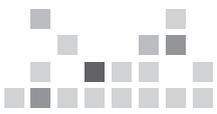
## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which solutions did you think were bravest?
- Tell about a time you were brave in your faith.
- What would help you be more courageous?

Say: **To do the courageous thing in some situations can be difficult—like standing up to a bully at school, telling our parents the truth when we’ve done something wrong, defending someone else, or being a friend to someone nobody else likes. It**



takes courage, but it's the right thing to do. And ► **TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.** Let's make something that will remind us to have courage like a rock this week.

## Like a Rock!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the rocks and markers. Have kids write on their rocks the following portion from Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous."

After kids have written this portion of the verse on their rocks, allow them to decorate the rocks. Allow about five minutes for kids to complete the craft.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How would you describe these rocks?
- How does being brave require us to be strong, like these rocks?
- What's something God's calling you to be brave in right now?

Say: Today we decorated these stones, or rocks, as a reminder of how ► **TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.** God commanded us to be strong and brave, just like Peter was strong and brave, but he also told us that we didn't have to be afraid or discouraged. Isn't that great? We can be confident that we can do what God tells us to do and know that he will be right there with us!

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think this week about how ► **TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.**

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:

- Trust God for bravery as you work to be nice to someone who isn't usually nice to you.
- Trust God for bravery as you tell a non-Christian family member or friend about Jesus.
- Trust God for bravery as you ask God to show you the life he wants you to live.



### Like a Rock! Supplies

1 smooth rock per child  
markers

### Like a Rock! Easy Prep

Gather smooth rocks that have at least 2 to 3 inches of surface area for kids to write a short phrase on them. Set the rocks and the markers out.

### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens





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.**

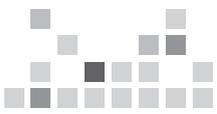
Say: **Today we've learned about what it means to know that ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE. We saw that God was with Peter as he proclaimed Jesus' resurrection. He wants to walk with you through whatever you're going through, and as you follow through on your Daily Challenges.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how trusting God makes us brave. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray. Invite kids to pair up with their partners from the "Depths of Bravery" activity and pray for courage in a real-life situation similar to one they discussed.



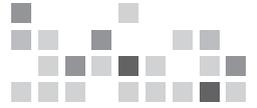
Lyrics 

## Wherever You Go (Joshua 1:9)

Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be terrified;  
Do not be discouraged,  
For the Lord your God  
Will be with you wherever you go.  
Wherever you go.  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

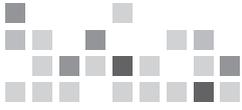
Wherever you go.  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

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



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# Scary

THE DARK

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HEIGHTS

-----

A BEAR

-----

THE FIRST DAY AT A NEW SCHOOL

-----

BUNGEE JUMPING

-----

MONSTER MOVIES

-----

TELLING YOUR PARENTS ABOUT A

BAD GRADE

-----

EARTHQUAKES

-----

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

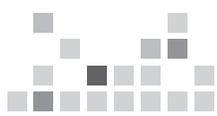
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ROLLER COASTERS

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# Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus Acts 8:26-40

**M**iddle-elementary kids may often feel bombarded with advice and instructions. They're told what to do at school, at home, in sports, and by the media. Throw into the mix the peer pressure that's beginning to blossom at this age, and kids may not know who to listen to. Use Philip's example in today's lesson to emphasize that God, through his Holy Spirit, is standing by to guide them through every situation.



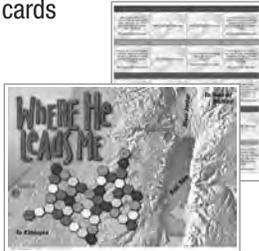
**► Bible Point**  
Follow where God leads.

### Key Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will seek God's guidance to follow where God leads.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Listen and Obey</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game of following directions.	paper, scissors, copies of the "Listen" handout (at the end of this lesson)	Cut apart the segments from the "Listen" handout. You'll need 1 segment per child.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Philip and the Ethiopian</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read Acts 8:26-40, and play a game.	Bible, 2 different coins <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Where He Leads Me" game board and game cards 	Set out the game board and the 2 coins. Separate the "Where He Leads Me" game cards, and stack them facedown numerically with "20" at the bottom of the stack and "1" at the top.
	<b>Verse Pictures</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Sing the Key Verse, and draw pictures of portions of it.	Bibles, CD player, markers, paper, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

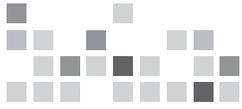
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Air Art</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Blow paint around on a paper using a straw.	washable tempera paints, construction paper, 1 straw per child	
	<b>Ways God Leads</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Explore ways God leads people.	pens, Bible Truth Sleuth, crafts from the "Air Art" activity	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	

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





### Listen and Obey Supplies

paper  
scissors  
copies of the “Listen”  
handout (at the end of  
this lesson)

### Listen and Obey Easy Prep

Cut apart the segments  
from the “Listen”  
handout. You’ll need 1  
segment per child.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Listen and Obey

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, gather kids to explain the opening game.

During this game, kids will walk around the room whispering. All but one child will whisper the word *listen*, while that one child will whisper a different command that the other kids must obey. Give kids each a segment of the “Listen” handout which will tell them what they’ll be whispering.

**Say: I have given everyone here a slip of paper. One of you has a command written on your slip of paper that everyone else is supposed to obey. You’ll walk around the room whispering the command that’s written on your paper to different people.**

**The “listeners” need to not only whisper but also listen for this command as they walk around. As soon as you hear what you think is a command, do that thing, but don’t tell anyone where you heard it.**

**Is everyone ready? Go!**

Allow kids to play for five minutes or until everyone has received a command and obeyed it. Be sure kids actually whisper as they walk around.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was your strategy going into this game?**
- **Was it difficult at times to respond to the command you heard? Explain.**
- **How is this like trying to listen to and understand what God wants us to do?**

**Say: God communicates with us in many ways. God can speak to us in a still, small voice inside us, and he can speak through our parents and other adults, for example. When God speaks, it’s important that we quickly ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS. In our Bible passage today, we’ll learn about a man who heard what God wanted him to do and obeyed right away.**

**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Philip and the Ethiopian

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's play a game about responding to God's leading. Your team will draw a card, possibly read a verse, and then move according to the instructions on the card.**

Have kids form two teams, Team A and Team B. Give each team a coin as a pawn. Choose a number between 1 and 10, and have the teams try to guess the number. The team that guesses closest to that number will play first.

Have a player from the first team draw a "Where He Leads Me" card. Team members will take turns reading a passage of Scripture if the card has one and moving their team's playing piece on the game board as indicated on the card. Keep going until you've gone through all 20 cards, which will complete the Scripture passage.

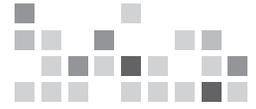
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

After the game has concluded with one of the teams reaching the end and the other team back at "start," lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How was playing this game like responding to God's leading as opposed to the world's leading?**
- **Describe the differences between where the two teams ended up on the board.**
- **How is that like what happens when we listen to the world's leading versus God's leading?**
- **What are some things that could happen if you *did* respond immediately to God's leading?**
- **What are some things that could happen if you *didn't* respond immediately to God's leading?**

Say: **Philip is a great example to us of a person who immediately obeyed God. And look at the wonderful things that happened! He led the Ethiopian to Jesus and baptized him. The Ethiopian obeyed God immediately, too. When he realized God wanted him to be baptized, he did it right then and there! Philip and the Ethiopian are examples of how we must immediately ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.**



### Philip and the Ethiopian Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - 2 different coins
  - Teacher Pack**
  - "Where He Leads Me" game board and game cards

### Philip and the Ethiopian Easy Prep

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Set out the game board and the 2 coins. Separate the "Where He Leads Me" game cards, and stack them facedown numerically with "20" at the bottom of the stack and "1" at the top.



## Verse Pictures Supplies

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

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust in the Lord"  
(Proverbs 3:5-6) (track  
12)

## Verse Pictures

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse this week is Proverbs 3:5-6.** Make sure kids have Bibles, and help them find the verse. Ask them to read it aloud with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).**

Have kids form groups of four. Set out markers, and give each child a piece of paper. Assign each part to a different person in the foursome. Each child can write the following portion of the Key Verse on the top of his or her paper:

Child 1—Trust in the Lord with all your heart

Child 2—and lean not on your own understanding;

Child 3—in all your ways acknowledge him,

Child 4—and he will make your paths straight.

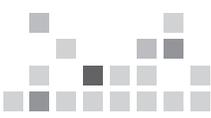
When everyone has finished writing, encourage kids to add appropriate illustrations. These illustrations may show what the portion of the verse means or may illustrate how that portion of Scripture would be helpful in a situation kids can relate to.

Say: **Now let's sing a song about our Key Verse.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 17 on the CD). Play the song once, and then encourage each child to hold up his or her paper when the appropriate words come up in the song.

 **Trust in the Lord** (*trust in the Lord*)  
**With all your heart** (*with all your heart*).  
**Lean not on your own understanding** (*understanding*).  
**In all your ways** (*in all your ways*),  
**Acknowledge him** (*acknowledge him*);  
**He will make your paths straight.**  
**Once you begin that way,**  
**Don't you ever, ever stray;**  
**You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**  
**Once you begin that way,**  
**Don't you ever, ever stray;**  
**You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**  
(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Trust in the Lord** (*trust in the Lord*)  
**With all your heart** (*with all your heart*).  
**Lean not on your own understanding** (*understanding*).  
**In all your ways** (*in all your ways*),  
**Acknowledge him** (*acknowledge him*);  
**He will make your paths straight.**



**Yeah, he will make your paths straight.  
Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

“Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does this verse mean when it says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart”?**
- **What does “lean not on your own understanding” mean?**
- **What does “in all your ways acknowledge him” mean?**
- **How do you think God can make your paths straight?**

Say: **This verse promises us that as we trust in the Lord and his wisdom and guidance, he will bless us and make our paths straight. When God speaks to us and leads us, whether it’s through our parents or his voice, we must respond to his leading with obedience and do what he says—just like Philip did with the Ethiopian! Let’s ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.**

**3 WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE**

## Air Art

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Once again, have kids repeat the Key Verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, with you: **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).**

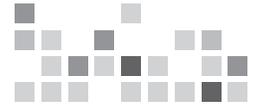
Distribute construction paper and a straw to each person. Then let kids pick colors and carefully pour small amounts of each color of paint onto their papers. When everyone has paint, encourage kids to blow gently through their straws to make straight lines with the paint. After this, allow children to use their straws to gently blow the paint around on the paper to create unique designs. Have them leave the top of the paper blank (for adding words later). Have kids show their pictures to one another, being careful not to tilt them while the paint is wet.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

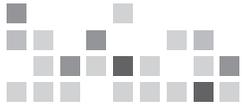
- **What did you design with your air art?**



**Air Art  
Supplies**

- washable tempera paints
- construction paper
- 1 straw per child





### Ways God Leads Supplies

pens  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
crafts from the “Air Art”  
activity

### Ways God Leads Easy Prep

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

- How well did the paint follow your leading?
- How was this similar to how we sometimes follow God’s leading?
- How can you let God lead you in the right direction?

Say: **We need God’s wisdom to know what is right to do, and we need his power to do the right thing in any and all situations. We need his guidance. But when he speaks, however he chooses to speak, we must ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS right away. Philip did that, and it led to a life change for the Ethiopian. Let’s look at some ways God speaks to us and leads us.**

## Ways God Leads

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

In this activity, kids will select from a list ways they feel God has led them in the past. Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids form pairs to work on the “Ways God Leads” activity. After they’ve finished, discuss with the entire group ways God leads us. Then have kids share how they or someone they know has been led by God in one of the ways listed on the Bible Truth Sleuth page.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you determine whether a message comes from God or a false source?
- Can you think of any ways God has spoken to you that weren’t on your Bible Truth Sleuth page? Talk about that.
- Where do you feel God leading you right now in your life? What can you do to act on that?

Say: **We might end up going to unexpected places, but if we ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS, he promises to take care of us. So if you feel God leading you somewhere (like Philip with the Ethiopian), I encourage you to follow him. Let’s commit to following God’s lead this week.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS.**

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:

- **Think about a situation where you know you can follow God better, and then pray and ask God to guide you in that situation.**
- **Read your Bible to find God's guidance. Some good places to start are the book of Proverbs and the "Word for the Week" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth page.**
- **Talk to a trusted Christian about God's guidance. Ask how he or she has been guided before and how you can begin to follow God in your own 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.

#### 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.**

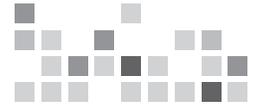
Say: **God led Philip to talk to the Ethiopian, and he's leading us, too. If we ► FOLLOW WHERE GOD LEADS us, we'll be aligned with his heart. So let's follow God this week by completing our Daily Challenges.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about following 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](http://group.com/digital).

As a closing prayer, have kids take their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and silently pray about the area they drew earlier in which they need God's leading.

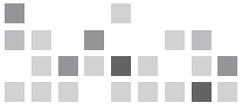


#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth pens

#### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth



## Lyrics ■■■■

### Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6)

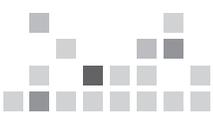
**Trust in the Lord** (*trust in the Lord*)  
**With all your heart** (*with all your heart*).  
**Lean not on your own understanding** (*understanding*).  
**In all your ways** (*in all your ways*),  
**Acknowledge him** (*acknowledge him*);  
**He will make your paths straight.**  
**Once you begin that way,**  
**Don't you ever, ever stray;**  
**You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**  
**Once you begin that way,**  
**Don't you ever, ever stray;**  
**You'll be on your way to an amazing life.**  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**Trust in the Lord** (*trust in the Lord*)  
**With all your heart** (*with all your heart*).  
**Lean not on your own understanding** (*understanding*).  
**In all your ways** (*in all your ways*),  
**Acknowledge him** (*acknowledge him*);  
**He will make your paths straight.**

**Yeah, he will make your paths straight.**  
**Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

"Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



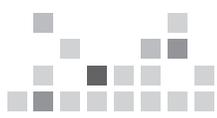


# Listen

Listen	Listen
Listen	Go stand in the corner.

**OK**  
**TO COPY**





# Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:1-44

Third- and fourth-graders have feelings that may be easily hurt, and they are sensitive to the criticism of others. They may be afraid to share their faith because of the scorn or ridicule that may result. Middle-elementary kids don't want to risk being cast out of their social group, so it might be difficult to convince them that sharing their faith is worth the effort. Use today's lesson to help kids understand that God wants us to tell everyone about Jesus—even when it's hard.



### ► Bible Point

Tell everyone about Jesus.

### Key Verse

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will tell someone about a relationship with Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>We Four and No More</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a club and rules for entrance.	paper, pens	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Peter Visits Cornelius</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game about favorites.	Bibles, masking tape	
	<b>Telling the World</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a collage of different types of people to tell about Jesus.	construction paper, several pairs of scissors, glue sticks, markers, 1 copy per group of 4 kids of the “People” handout (at the end of this lesson)	

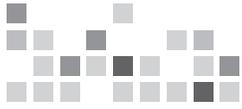
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Tell All Nations</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out how they can share about Jesus with others.	Bibles, CD player, 1 coin for every 2 kids, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Tell All Nations" poster 	
	<b>Go!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think of how they can share about Jesus.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





## We Four and No More Supplies

paper  
pens

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## We Four and No More

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids create groups of four by each finding three other people with whom they have something unique in common. Encourage them to find something in common that's likely to be different from the other groups. For example, have them find someone who was born outside your state, doesn't have a pet, ate eggs for breakfast this morning, or likes spinach.

Explain that each group is now a club. Have kids choose a President, a Scribe, and two Representatives for their club.

Give each club a piece of paper and a pen.

Say: **Every club has two things in common: a name and rules that qualify people to join. Representatives, your job is to help provide ideas for a name for your group and to help think of unique things your group has in common. Scribes, your job is to write down their ideas. Presidents, your job is to help make the final decision for a club name and to choose the three rules for entrance into your club.**

Give clubs a few minutes to come up with their names and rules.

Say: **I'm going to give you 15 seconds to tell as many people as you can which club you're in and why just the few of you can be a part of it. When I call "stop," come back to your club.**

Give the signal to go. After 15 seconds, have kids return to their clubs.

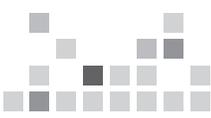
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what your club would be all about?
- Did you find any other clubs you'd be able to join? Why or why not?
- Tell about a time you didn't fit in or didn't meet certain requirements.
- What rules are there to be a part of Jesus' family?

Say: **When the church began about 2,000 years ago, people persecuted those who believed in Jesus. That means they made fun of and hurt those people just because they believed in Jesus. So the people who were persecuted only talked to Jews—people who were like themselves—about Jesus.**



Ask:

- How is that like how we formed our clubs?
- What was wrong with people only telling others who were like themselves about Jesus?

Say: God wants us to ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.** Let's see what happened when Peter built up the courage to talk to a non-Jew about Jesus.

**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Peter Visits Cornelius

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in one big circle.

Say: **When we hear about something we really want, most of us would probably try to figure out a way to get it. Well, that's exactly what an Italian centurion (or military official) in the Bible did. His name was Cornelius. Let's read about him.**

Have a willing child read aloud Acts 10:1-8.

Say: **There are many reasons God cared about how Cornelius felt. God loved Cornelius, and Cornelius loved God. Cornelius wanted to serve God with all his heart and soul. Besides, God doesn't play favorites; he had a bigger plan than for just the Jewish nation—he had all nations of people in mind.**

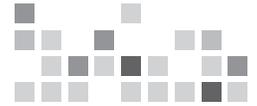
With masking tape, place an X in the center of the circle of kids. Have kids stand up in their circle.

Say: **The X you see in the middle of this circle represents Jesus. I am going to ask you some questions, and if you can answer yes to any question, you may take one small step toward the X. If you can get to the X, that means you are accepted by Jesus. Here are my questions.**

Ask:

- Are you a centurion in the Italian Regiment?
- Do you give money generously to the poor?
- Do you pray every single day?
- Are you Jewish?

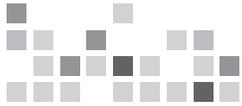
Have a willing child read aloud Acts 10:9-16. Say: **Okay, now I'm going to ask a couple more questions. If you answer yes to any of them, you have to take a step backward.**



### Peter Visits Cornelius Supplies

Bibles  
masking tape





Ask:

- Have you ever eaten a pig? This includes pork chops, sausage pizza, ham, bacon, bratwurst, and sausage patties.
- Have you ever eaten a bird that flies? This includes pheasant, duck, chicken, or turkey.
- Have you ever eaten lizard gizzard?

Say: These criteria might sound strange to you, but those were the rules Peter was used to. So you can imagine how confusing it was when he got this vision. Okay, I have one final question for you. If you can answer yes to this question, you can go directly to the X and be accepted by Jesus.

Ask:

- Do you breathe air?

Say: Everyone who breathes air is accepted by God. That means *everyone* is accepted by God. But Peter had always believed that God was for only the Jewish nation of people. God had to show Peter through a vision (or dream) that all the unclean animals were like the rest of the people in the world. He no longer had to stay away from them, because God wanted to make them clean, too. And he wanted all the Jews to begin to make friends with the Gentiles (everyone who was not born a Jew) and to tell them about Jesus, too. ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.** And that's just what Peter did. Have a willing child read aloud Acts 10:34-44.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it about Cornelius that made him different?
- What do you think about all the rules we had for who could be part of Jesus' family?
- Do you think God plays favorites? Explain.
- What do you think about Peter's vision?
- How was Peter's attitude like or unlike how we sometimes treat others?
- Why is it important to share Jesus with people who are different from us?

Say: Maybe we need to change our thoughts, just as Peter did. We need to realize that God wants us to ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS**, not just people we can talk to easily and that we know well. Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Let's see how we can go and tell all nations about Jesus, just as he commanded.

# Telling the World

## What You'll Do

Have kids return to their groups of four from the starting activity. Give each group a “People” handout, scissors, a glue stick, construction paper, and markers. Have groups each choose a picture of one person they feel would be the easiest person to tell about Jesus and glue that picture in the center of their collages. Then have kids add other pictures around that person.

Say: **Discuss with your group members some similarities and differences among the people in your collage.** Allow time.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did you determine which person would be the easiest to tell about Jesus?**
- **What are some of the similarities and differences between Peter and Cornelius?**

Say: **We’ve seen how Peter went outside his comfort zone to share about Jesus with someone different from him. God wants us to step out of our comfort zones and ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS, too.**

# 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

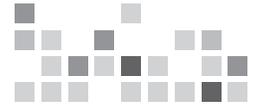
## Tell All Nations

### What You'll Do

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 18 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD.

 **The Bible says: “Therefore go And make disciples of all the nations” now.**  
**The Bible says: “Therefore go And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**Baptize them in the name of the Father,  
 The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.**  
*(Repeat.)*

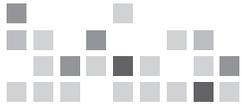


### Telling the World Supplies

- construction paper
- several pairs of scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- 1 copy per group of 4 kids of the “People” handout (at the end of this lesson)

### Tell All Nations Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- 1 coin for every 2 children
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 18)
- “Tell All Nations” poster



**Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations now.  
The Bible says: “Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**Baptize them in the name of the Father,  
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
(Repeat.)**

**Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations now.  
The Bible says: “Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations” now.  
(Repeat.)**

“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have kids split into pairs. Make sure each pair has a Bible, and then set the “Tell All Nations” poster on the floor and give each pair a coin.

Say: **Let’s open our Bibles to the Key Verse, Matthew 28:19-20, and read the important command Jesus gave his disciples and us from the song we just sang.**

Have a willing child read aloud Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Ask:

- **What do you think *nations* means in this passage?**

Say: **A nation can be defined as a group of people who come from the same place or have something in common.**

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to “make disciples of all nations”?**
- **Why is it important to follow God?**
- **Why is it good to know that Jesus is always with us as we tell others about him?**

Say: **We’re going to play a game that will help us understand how we can go tell every nation about Jesus. Each pair will take turns tossing a coin onto the poster. Whichever picture your coin lands on, your pair will act out a situation where one person in the picture is telling the other person or people about Jesus.**

Have everyone take a turn tossing the coin. When pairs know their situations, allow time for them to act out the situation within the pair. If time allows, have pairs toss a coin again and switch roles, so that both partners get to practice telling the other about Jesus. Then

gather the kids back together.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's the most comfortable way to tell others about Jesus?
- When have you been uncomfortable telling others about Jesus?
- How can you seek out situations to talk about Jesus?

Say: Jesus commanded us to tell others about him, even if it's uncomfortable. Peter did it, and we can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS, too.**

## Go!

### What You'll Do

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

Say: In your Bible Truth Sleuth pages, you will find a collage of people from all parts of the world. Select a picture of a person who you think is most like you, and circle that picture. Then in the area that says "like me," write how you would tell that person about Jesus.

Then select a picture of a person you think is least like you, and circle that picture. In the area that says "not like me," write how you could tell that person about Jesus.

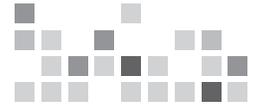
## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made you pick the person you did?
- What might you tell someone who is a lot like you about Jesus?
- How can we get more comfortable with people who aren't like us?
- What could you tell someone who's very different from you about Jesus?

Say: It's not always easy to talk about God to people who are like us—much less people who aren't like us. But God wants everyone to hear about him. Peter obeyed God and told someone new about God. We can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS, too.**



### Go! Supplies

.....  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### Go! Easy Prep

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



## Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

# 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS this week.**

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 out your faith story. Doing this will help you be prepared if someone asks about it as you're telling them about Jesus.**
- **Find someone in your school who is different from you, and tell that person about Jesus.**
- **Talk with a family member about what you each know about Jesus.**

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

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: **Peter might have been uncomfortable going to Cornelius' house. But Peter knew that God wanted him to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. Let's do the same 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 how they can tell everyone about 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](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer. Have kids quietly think of someone they know but aren't like, and pray that God would give them strength to talk to that person.

**Lyrics** 

## Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)

The Bible says: “Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations” now.  
The Bible says: “Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations” now.

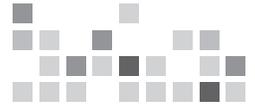
Baptize them in the name of the Father,  
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
(Repeat.)

Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations now.  
The Bible says: “Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations” now.

Baptize them in the name of the Father,  
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
(Repeat.)

Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations now.  
The Bible says: “Therefore go  
And make disciples of all the nations” now.  
(Repeat.)

“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

 **OK**  
**TO COPY**

# People



**OK**  
**TO COPY**

Photography by 41st Dawn.

# Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch Acts 11:19-26

Third- and fourth-graders are becoming increasingly independent and have a dawning realization that grown-ups aren't the only people who can make a difference in the lives of people around them. They have a role, too! Use this lesson to help kids learn that they can encourage others in their faith. God can, and will, use them to impact other people's lives in a positive way.



**► Bible Point**  
Encourage each other to believe in Jesus.

**Key Verse**  
“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness” (Hebrews 3:13).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will encourage someone this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Human Sculptures</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pretend they're ice sculptures and butter sculptures, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>No Gentiles Allowed</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game forming groups and not letting others in.	Bible	
	<b>Encouraging Christians</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Retell the Bible passage in their own words.	Bibles, index cards, pens	

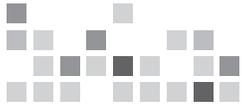
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Musical Encouragers</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a musical game while writing encouraging notes to one another.	Bible Truth Sleuth, markers, CD player, tables with chairs <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	<b>Giant Encouragement</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make a big card for church workers.	poster board, paper, glue sticks, markers, craft materials	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





## Human Sculptures Supplies

Bibles

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

# Human Sculptures

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Raise your hand if you've seen an ice sculpture or a butter sculpture.** Pause for responses.

Say: **People use many different things to create artwork. We're going to make human sculptures. The person in each pair whose birthday is next will stand up straight and frozen like you're a block of ice. You'll hold yourself in that position so that nothing can move you. The other partner is the ice sculptor. You'll try to make the frozen person move into different positions.**

**If you're an ice block, you need to be as strong as you can so that it's hard for your partner to move you. If you're the ice sculptor, it's your job to move your partner into different positions without hurting your partner. I'll give you about one minute to try moving your partner's hands, arms, legs, or feet.**

Give kids a moment to form pairs, and then give pairs about a minute to try this activity. Then have them switch roles and do it again.

Say: **We're going to do this activity again, but this time instead of being an ice sculpture, you're going to be a butter sculpture. Since butter is soft and easy to move around, the person who is being sculpted will be loose and easy to move.**

**If you're the butter, you'll move your body wherever your sculptor guides you. If you're the sculptor, you'll carefully move your partner's hands, arms, legs, or feet into different positions that are comfortable for your partner. As you sculpt your partner, say something encouraging to him or her. For example, you could say, "I learn a lot from you when we talk together," or "You do a great job of listening to people who are talking."**

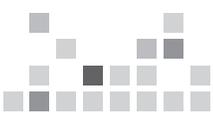
Give pairs about a minute to sculpt, and then have them switch roles and do it again.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

When the second minute has passed, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it easy or hard to sculpt your partner the first time? Why?
- Was the second time easier? Why or why not?



Have a willing child read the Key Verse, Hebrews 3:13: “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Ask:

- **What is deceitfulness?**
- **How can sin be deceitful?**
- **How do you think sin’s deceitfulness can harden us?**
- **How was our sculpting experience the first time like what happens when we have sin in our lives?**
- **How does encouraging each other help us soften?**

Say: **We can ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Let’s take a look at how Barnabas encouraged the early Christians in Antioch.**

**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## No Gentiles Allowed

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Direct kids to scatter around the room. Explain that you’ll call out a random number and they’ll form groups of that number. Once they have a group of the correct number, they should jump up and down and shout “hooray!” Some kids will be left out of the groups, so they won’t be able to celebrate.

Call out a number that’s less than the number of kids in your group and that will leave some kids out. For example, if you have 12 kids, you could call out the number 5.

After all the groups have formed, have kids scatter again. Repeat the activity several times.

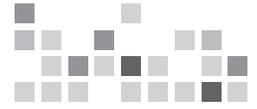
Now have kids form groups of three or four, making sure everyone is included. Have kids discuss these questions in their groups.

Ask:

- **What did you think when you couldn’t find a group?**
- **When you were in a group, what was it like leaving others out?**

Open your Bible to Acts 11:19-21, and show the passage to the kids.

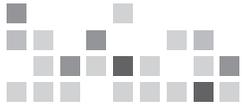
Say: **The events in this Bible passage take place shortly after a well-known believer was stoned to death for believing in Jesus. His name was Stephen. When other believers heard about Stephen’s brutal death, they all scattered. When the believers scattered, they didn’t talk about Jesus to anyone who was different from**



### No Gentiles Allowed Supplies

Bible





### Encouraging Christians Supplies

Bibles  
index cards  
pens

them. They wanted to stay safe rather than help others know who Jesus was. So they were very selective when it came to telling people about Jesus.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How are the believers' actions like us only letting certain people into our groups during our game?
- What keeps us from telling everyone we meet about Jesus?

Say: Sometimes it makes us uncomfortable, but when we ► **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS**, we're being obedient. There was one group of Jews who started telling others about Jesus even though they weren't Jews. Let's learn about them now.

## Encouraging Christians

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids form trios, and give each group a Bible, an index card, and a pen. Have kids turn in their Bibles to Acts 11. Assign each group one of the following sections of the Bible passage: Acts 11:19-21, Acts 11:22-24, Acts 11:25-26. Make sure each passage is assigned to a group. It's okay if a passage is assigned to more than one group.

Say: **Each group needs to choose a Reader, a Recorder, and an Encourager. The Reader will read your passage out loud to the group. Then the Recorder will write down your group's answers to the questions I ask in a moment. The Encourager will help the group stay on track and report back to all of us later.**

Allow about one minute for the Readers to read the passages you assigned. Then ask the following questions. After each question, ask trios to research and discuss the answer, and have the Recorder write the group's response on its card.

Ask:

- In your passage, who was the encourager?
- Who was encouraged in your passage?
- How did the encourager in your passage encourage others?
- What happened because of their encouragement?

After trios have finished recording their answers, start with the group that discussed verses 19-21, and have each Encourager share with the other groups each of their answers.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways could the Holy Spirit make a difference in Barnabas’ desire to encourage the believers?
- What are some things that encourage you in your faith?
- Is it easy or hard for you to encourage others in their faith? Explain.
- Why is it good for us to encourage one another?

Say: **It can be hard for us to encourage others in faith. Sometimes we may feel like we need to be encouraged ourselves or that we don’t know how to encourage people. Barnabas had help—Acts 19:24 says he was full of the Holy Spirit! God wants to help us ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Let’s see how we can do that.**

# 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Musical Encouragers

### What You’ll Do

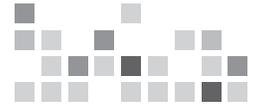
Have kids sit at the tables. Distribute markers and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the “Encouragers” activity. Ask kids to write their names somewhere on their papers.

Say: **God knows we need to be encouraged. That’s why he tells us to do it! So we’re going to encourage one another in our faith, just like the believers in the Bible did.**

Move the chairs away from the tables, and cue the CD to “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 16 on the CD). You’ll start and pause the CD several times during this song and “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 17 on the CD).

When you begin the music, have each person move one space to the left and write something to encourage the person whose name is on the paper. When the music stops, have kids stop writing and move to the next paper. Continue starting and stopping the music until kids make it back to their original positions.

When kids return to their own papers, have them read the encouraging comments from their peers. Allow one minute for kids to read.



### Musical Encouragers Supplies

- Bible Truth Sleuth markers
- CD player
- tables with chairs

#### Teacher Pack

- CD: “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 16), “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 17)

### Musical Encouragers Easy Prep

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



### Giant Encouragement Supplies

poster board  
paper  
glue sticks  
markers  
craft materials

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did it feel better to encourage others or to read the words of encouragement others wrote? Why?
- How did reading the words of encouragement help you want to pass encouragement on to others?

Say: It feels good to be encouraged. When other Christians encourage us in our faith, it makes us want to keep growing in our faith. Barnabas saw the power of encouragement firsthand. That's why it's good to ► **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

## Giant Encouragement

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Christians ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.** God loves us so much that he puts people in our lives who encourage us as we grow. God wants you to be that kind of person, too. Before we leave, we're going to practice encouraging others in their faith. We're going to take a few minutes and create a giant greeting card to give to the people in our church who serve God.

Ask:

- Who are some people in our church who help us grow closer to Jesus, and how do they help?

Distribute paper, and have available glue sticks, markers, and craft materials. Say: **We're going to decorate a giant encouragement card. On your piece of paper, draw an encouraging picture or write a note of encouragement to someone who serves in our church. Be creative, but be sincere. Then bring the paper up and glue it onto the poster board to make a collage card.**

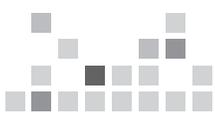
Give kids time to write and draw. Help them think of ways they can portray their encouragement in words and pictures. Then go as a group to the church office, lobby, or a common area to display the card where church staff will see it.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

When you return, lead kids in this discussion.

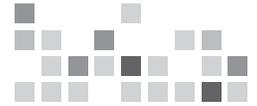
Ask:

- Why is it important to encourage one another?
- Who are some people you know who could use some encouragement? Why?
- Which encouraging exercise from today could you use to encourage someone this week?



Say: **A little encouragement can go a long way—just as it did with Barnabas and the church in Antioch. Just think about how great you feel when someone encourages you. So let's ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

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## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can be encouragers.**

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:

- **Watch for a time when someone in your family seems discouraged this week. Then encourage him or her with words or actions.**
- **Decide to go out of your way to encourage at least one person every day. Write down in a journal what you did or said, and then pray for the people you encouraged.**
- **Send a card to a Christian friend, telling that person you appreciate him or her. Encourage your friend with your words. You could even draw an encouraging picture in your letter.**

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.**

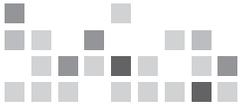
Say: **Barnabas knew it was important to tell everyone about Jesus—no matter who the person was. Just like Barnabas, we can ► ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BELIEVE IN JESUS. Let's encourage—and be encouraged—this week by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Truth Sleuth pens





## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Have kids stand in a circle and pray a prayer of thanks to God for the person to their left. Start with the person on your left, and end the prayer with this closing. Pray: **Dear God, you know how much we need to be encouraged as we grow closer to you. Help us this week to look for ways to encourage others in their faith. Help us to be strong in our faith and to be good followers of you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

# Jesus Sends Power From God

Acts 2:1-21

Third- and fourth-graders are interested in science and how things work. They have at least a cursory knowledge of the power sources that fuel the world—the sun, electricity, and engines. Today’s lesson can introduce your kids to God’s power source provided expressly for them. Help your kids see that the Holy Spirit is available to guide them every day and to power their faith as they grow.



**► Bible Point**  
God gives us the Holy Spirit.

**Key Verse**  
“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will seek the Holy Spirit’s help as they serve God in a specific way.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Advice Column</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write advice columns, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles, paper, pens, advice column	Find and print an advice column from the Internet, or cut one out of a newspaper.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Here Comes the Holy Spirit!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experience Scripture by listening to the CD.	Bibles, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>How Can I Have the Power?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Search the Scripture in small groups.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

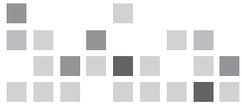
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Windsock Craft</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make windsocks.	Bible, 1 foam cup per child, several pairs of scissors, glue, crayons or markers, crepe paper streamers, hole punch, yarn	
	<b>Power Prayer</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pray and acknowledge the power of the Holy Spirit.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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





### Advice Column Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pens  
advice column

### Advice Column Easy Prep

Find and print an  
advice column from the  
Internet, or cut one out  
of a newspaper.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Advice Column

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, gather kids in a circle and show them the advice column.

Ask:

- **What do you know about advice columns?**

Have willing kids share what they know about advice columns.

Say: **An advice column is usually written by someone who is answering questions. People who read newspapers might write to the advice columnist at the newspaper to ask a question about a certain topic. The advice columnist, or writer, might answer that question by writing a response in the advice column.**

**Today you've all become honorary advice columnists!**

Form groups of three, and give each group a piece of paper and a pen. Instruct each group to decide who will be the Questioner, the Advice Writer, and the Advice Giver.

Encourage each group to come up with a big question they'd really like to have answered. For example, one group might ask, "Why do mosquito bites itch so much?" Have the Questioner in each group write the question at the top of the group's page, and then have each group trade papers with another group.

Say: **Take five minutes in your group to come up with an answer to the question you received. Make it as funny or as serious as you want. It might not be the right answer, but that's okay. Just make it up! The Advice Writer will write your column.**

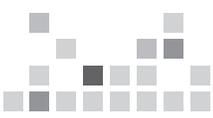
Give groups five minutes to write their advice columns. Then have them present their columns by having each Advice Giver read the column including the question and answer aloud.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like getting an answer to your question?**
- **How accurate was the answer to your question?**



Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them look up the Key Verse, John 14:26. Ask a willing child to read it aloud: “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Ask:

- What is a counselor?
- Tell about someone who has been a good counselor to you.

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We may not be able to read the advice the Holy Spirit gives, but we can sure use his help to know more about God and serve God the best we can! Let’s look today at how the Holy Spirit teaches us, reminds us of what Jesus said to us, and gives us power to do things for God.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Here Comes the Holy Spirit!

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Divide kids into four groups. Group 1 will be the Wind, Group 2 will be the Fire, Group 3 will be the Crowd, and Group 4 will be the Mockers.

Read aloud Acts 2:1-2, and have Group 1 blow like a mighty wind. Read aloud Acts 2:3-4, and have Group 2 go around and touch the top of people’s heads to represent the tongues of fire. Read aloud Acts 2:5-12, and have Group 3 look amazed and astonished. Read aloud Acts 2:13, and have Group 4 act like mockers. Finally, gather everyone around you and read aloud Acts 2:14-21.

Say: **Now let’s hear Peter explaining to some very confused people what just happened.** Play “Here Comes the Holy Spirit” (track 14 on the CD).

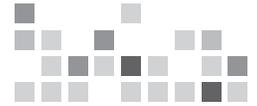
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you react to what you just heard?
- How is the Holy Spirit different from Jesus and God?

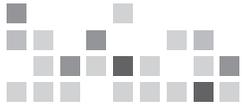
Say: **Even though the languages sounded very different, the people who were there with the disciples were able to understand everything that was said. God sent the Holy Spirit to help everyone speak different languages so people from other countries could understand the languages, too. The Holy Spirit is powerful! ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT,** and he will help us do amazing things, too.



### Here Comes the Holy Spirit! Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Here Comes the Holy Spirit” (track 14)





### How Can I Have the Power? Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### How Can I Have the Power? Easy Prep

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

### Windsock Craft Supplies

Bible  
1 foam cup per child  
several pairs of scissors  
glue  
crayons or markers  
crepe paper streamers  
hole punch  
yarn

## How Can I Have the Power?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When everyone who was gathered heard men speaking in different languages, some of them thought the disciples were drunk. Peter explained what was happening by quoting from the book of Joel in the Old Testament. Let's see what Peter said.**

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids form pairs and read Acts 2:17-21 together. Then have them individually fill in the answer to the first question of the "Peter Explains the Power" activity and share their answers with their partners. Then have kids find new partners to answer the second question and so on until they've answered all four questions.

Say: **Peter explained that God had sent the Holy Spirit and that many powerful things would happen. Peter knew that the power they had received that day was from God. Later in this chapter in verse 41, we can read that because of the power of the Holy Spirit about 3,000 people believed in Jesus that day.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some questions you have about the Holy Spirit?
- What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us?

Say: **We need the Holy Spirit just as much now as people did back when Peter was preaching. We can take comfort that ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT and thank him for helping us.**

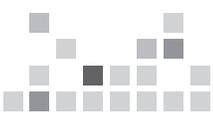
## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Windsock Craft

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **To help remind us that the Holy Spirit is available to help us do things for God, we're going to make windsocks. Then you can take them home and hang them up outside where they can blow in the wind.**

Give each child a foam cup and scissors, and set out the other craft supplies. Ask kids to cut the bottom out of the cup. Then let them decorate the cup with crayons or markers. Ask kids to glue the streamers to one end of the cup. On the other end of the



cup, have kids punch holes on opposite sides and thread yarn to make a handle from which to hang the cup.

Say: **When you see the windsock blowing in the wind, you can think of the wind and other things that we believe in even though we can't see them.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things the wind can do?
- How is the wind like the Holy Spirit?
- What are some things you can do for God with the help and power of the Holy Spirit?

Say: **The wind can help remind you of the power of the Holy Spirit in your lives. You can remember that ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us do things for him.**

## Power Prayer

### What You'll Do

Say: **Jesus taught us many things, and ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us remember those things. When you feel as if you are in situations that are hard for you, you can remember that you have the Holy Spirit to help you.**

**Think about how the Holy Spirit is with you always. We're going to have a quiet time of reflection. First we'll listen to this song about the Holy Spirit, and afterward I'd like you to quietly thank God for the Holy Spirit, and ask him to show you opportunities to seek the Holy Spirit's help.**

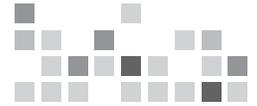
Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play "The Spirit Gives Me Life" (Romans 8:10b) (track 19 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD.



**God is with me wherever I go.  
Christ is in me, and I know that I know  
'Cause he gave his life.  
He lived and died.**

**And now the Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God.  
The Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God. Yeah!  
The Spirit gives me life.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*



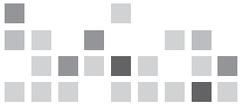
### Power Prayer Supplies

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

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "The Spirit Gives  
Me Life" (Romans  
8:10b) (track 19)





## The Spirit gives me life. The Spirit gives me life.

“The Spirit Gives Me Life” (Romans 8:10b) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

After kids finish singing the song, play it again quietly, dim the lights, and allow time for quiet reflection.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were some things you thought of that the Holy Spirit can help you with?
- How can you rely on the Holy Spirit for help?

Say: **Our song says that the Spirit gives us life. When the Spirit first came to the Christians in Acts 2, it brought life as thousands of people developed a relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit can work in our lives too because ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT. He can help with any of the things you reflected on.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think this week about the difference the Holy Spirit can make in our lives.**

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

- **Spend time listening for the Holy Spirit this week. When you think you hear the Spirit leading you, follow the leading!**
- **Talk to someone about Jesus this week. Before you do, pray that the Holy Spirit would help you say the right words—words that person needs to hear.**
- **Just as the Holy Spirit helps us, we can help others. Ask your parents how you can help this week—whether it's doing an extra chore, helping with your siblings, or helping in some other way they come up with.**

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.**

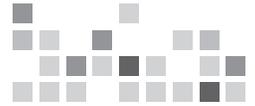
Say: **When Jesus went back to be with his Father, God wanted us to have another helper here on earth. We have that help because ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT, and he can help us as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

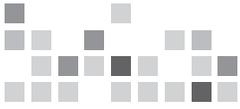
## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God sending us the Holy Spirit. 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](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer, thanking God for sending us the Holy Spirit and for being with us always.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**The Spirit Gives Me Life (Romans 8:10b)**

God is with me wherever I go.  
Christ is in me, and I know that I know  
'Cause he gave his life.  
He lived and died.

And now the Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God.  
The Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God. Yeah!  
The Spirit gives me life.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**The Spirit gives me life.**  
**The Spirit gives me life.**

"The Spirit Gives Me Life" (Romans 8:10b) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

