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**SUMMER
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

PRE-K&K AGES
5&6
TEACHER GUIDE



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



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Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

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We know you care about kids...

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6, Summer

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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

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

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

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

It's simpler and easier. ■■■■

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

It's made for NOW. ■■■■

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

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

- Families learn the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- Kids don't just hear the Word. They experience it.
- Simple and easy lessons fit even the busiest lives.
- Kids see God in their everyday world.
- The Scope & Sequence goes through the Bible every three years.
- You can customize it however you like, with both print and digital versions.



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

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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





God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

Five- and 6-year-olds are keenly aware of any disparity between what they're allowed to do as compared with the liberties of others around them. You may often hear them complain, "It's not fair!" when they're told not to do something their friends or peers are doing. Use this lesson to help children understand that our obedience pleases God, whether or not we fully understand the reasons behind everything he asks us to do—and what he asks us is always for our best in the end.



► **Bible Point**
Obey God.

Key Verse

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


Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will obey God and authority figures.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	An Ask Task Ask for wisdom and quickly obey.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a dog treat has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, dog treat Teacher Pack: CD	Place the dog treat in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Abraham Obeys God Follow challenging directions to learn how Abraham obeyed God.	Bible, CD player, about 10 jelly beans per child, resealable plastic bags, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Obedient Puppets Use craft-stick puppets to retell the events in the Bible passage.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, scissors (several pairs), glue, 2 craft sticks and 2 cotton balls per child	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Playdough Surprise Use edible playdough to show what happened to Abraham, and find out that obedience is a sweet surprise.</p>	copy of the “Edible Playdough Recipe” handout (at the end of this lesson); box of white cake mix; stick of butter or margarine, softened; flour; water; food coloring; resealable plastic bags; permanent marker; antibacterial gel (optional)	Follow the “Edible Playdough Recipe” handout to prepare the playdough.
	<p>Center 3: Obedience Race Use a three-legged direction-following game to learn about obedience.</p>	tape, curling ribbon, scissors Teacher Pack: “Love One Another” poster 	Tape the “Love One Another” poster in a prominent place.
	<p>Center 4: Leading the Unwilling Play a game of Tag in which everyone plays by different rules so they can learn about obeying God’s rules.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Joyful Obedience Prayer Pray for God’s help in being obedient this week.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	My Bible Playground	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You might be surprised that you've been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. Rest assured that for this age level, we've chosen to focus on the importance of God's sovereignty and Abraham's obedience. Help kids understand that God's will is best for them.

A Preface for Today's Material

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

Abraham Obeys God's Command to Sacrifice His Son

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

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

Abraham and Isaac Journey to the Place of Sacrifice

It took Abraham and Isaac three days to travel about 50 miles over rough, mountainous terrain. During the

trip, Abraham had time to think. Certainly questions flooded his mind: "What if God really does let Isaac die? What will I tell Sarah? Might this God I'm serving abandon me now after all these promises?" Abraham could easily have justified disobedience in this case—after all, this was the child God had promised to him and Sarah; maybe the voice he had heard wasn't God's after all. But whatever thoughts went through his mind, Abraham never swerved from his steadfast obedience.

Isaac Also Obeyed God

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Come On In"
(track 2), "Be Careful"
(verse 1) (track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Come On In" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore."

Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)

Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*clap hands*)
Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue clapping*)

Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn around*)
Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn again*)

Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)

Say: **I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn that our obedience pleases God, and that we ► OBEY GOD. Let's sing a song about obeying God.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing "Be Careful" (verse 1) (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare."

Be careful to do (*march in place*)
What God has asked you to
Do-do-do-do-do-do, (*jump up and down*)
Do-do-do-do-do-do!
Be careful to do (*march in place*)
What God has asked you to.






Obey God each day. (*bow on the word obey*)
Obey God each day. Obey God each day. (*continue bowing*)
Be careful to do (*march in place*)
What God has asked you to.
Obey God each day. (*bow on the word obey*)

Say: **It brings our hearts peace and joy when we ► OBEY GOD. We may not always know why it's important to obey God, but it's always the very best thing for us to do. We can use the Bible, adults we trust who love God, and the things we learn at church to help us know how to ► OBEY GOD.**



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

An Ask Task

 **Tip** When it comes time to play the game, if your group has more than 8 children, split kids into groups of 5 to 8, and have teams race.

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to James 1:5, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, James 1:5, says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). That means that we ask God for wisdom. *Wisdom* means knowing how to make good choices, especially when things are tricky. Let's practice our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).**

Say: **We ask God for wisdom for many reasons. We ask God for wisdom to know what to do in a difficult situation or to help us understand something that doesn't make sense. Our Key Verse tells us that God gives wisdom freely, so we only have to ask in order to have help.**

Let's play a game to help us remember to ask God for wisdom and to ► OBEY GOD. Have the kids stand in a circle, and choose someone to stand in the middle. Identify that child as "Wisdom." Give a different child a Bible to hold.

Say: **In this game, you'll pass the Bible around the circle.** Have kids quickly pass the Bible around the circle. Then say: **I'm going to add a twist. If you're holding the Bible you'll say "Ask God for wisdom" and Wisdom will give you a direction to follow, like "count to 10." When you finish following the direction, say "Obey God!"** Have Wisdom and the child holding the Bible demonstrate this process. Then have the child pass the

An Ask Task Supplies

Bible





Bible to his or her neighbor who will repeat the process and follow a new command. Help Wisdom with ideas as needed. For example, Wisdom might say to walk quickly around the outside of the circle, twirl three times, or hum a tune. Check for understanding. Then encourage kids to obey Wisdom as quickly as possible.

When kids tire of the game or time runs out, sit with kids in a circle on the floor.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- n **What was it like to obey directions as quickly as possible?**
- n **Tell about a time when you or someone else obeyed someone immediately.**
- n **What do you think is important about obeying right away?**

Say: **It's important that we ► OBEY GOD immediately when we realize he wants us to do something. It pleases God when we obey him and it works out best for us, too. Our Key Verse says that God wants us to ask for wisdom. We can ► OBEY GOD by asking for wisdom anytime. Today we'll hear about a man who obeyed God right away when God asked him to do something.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! How are you?

Theo: Oh, I'm fine, I've been running and playing and now I just really, really, really, really wish I had something yummy to eat. Like a nice big bowl of dog food...doesn't that just sound fantastic?!

Teacher: Well, sorry to tell you this, but dog food sounds pretty bad to me, Theo. But I bet you'll really like what we have in our Surprise Box today.

Theo: Oh my goodness, is it a nice juicy steak? Is it something delicious? I think I can smell something with my doggie nose!

Teacher: Who wants to help Theo open the Surprise Box?

(Invite a willing child to help Theo open the Surprise Box. Let Theo show excitement when he sees the dog treat in the box, but help the child keep it away from Theo. Have kids pass the dog treat around the circle so everyone can see it. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

dog treat

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Bible Exploration:

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the dog treat in
the Surprise Box, and
hide the box where it's
easily accessible.



Theo: Oh my, that looks so scrumptious. It's exactly what I was hoping for! Maybe even better. I want to gobble it up right now.

Teacher: Kids, what kinds of instructions does a dog usually have to obey in order to get a treat?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, when do you get a treat like this from someone?

Theo: Oh, I'd love to eat it without doing any work, but usually someone tells me to do something and I have to obey or I don't get the treat. Sometimes it's really hard for me to obey when all I want is to chow down.

Teacher: It's kind of like when we ► **OBEY GOD**. Sometimes it's not very easy to do what God wants, but we make God so happy when we obey him. Kids, who wants to ask Theo to do a trick so we can give him this treat?

(Choose a willing child. Once Theo has done what he's told, such as sit, lie down, speak, or roll over, have the child give Theo the treat.)

Theo: *(speaking in a muffled voice because his mouth is full)* Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- n Tell about a time you gave an animal a treat.
- n What kinds of things do you like to receive when you obey?

Say: **Theo really liked his treat from the Surprise Box, and when we ► OBEY GOD, it's like a treat for us because it's what's best for us. Whether or not anyone says "good job" when we obey, it's still best for us to obey God. Today we'll learn about a man in the Bible named Abraham. Abraham obeyed God even when God asked him to do something really difficult.**

Bible Time: Abraham Obeys God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids clean their hands, and then sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Open your Bible to Genesis 22 and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **We might obey parents, teachers, or pastors because they love us and know what's best for us. Our obedience pleases them! God loves us and knows what's best for us, too. When we ► OBEY GOD, our obedience makes him happy.**

Abraham waited for a son for a long, long time, and finally God gave Abraham and Sarah a son. Abraham loved his son very much. One day, God told Abraham, "Take your son Isaac, the one you love, and give him to me as an offering." Give each



Bible Time: Abraham Obeys God Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- about 10 jelly beans per child
- resealable plastic bags
- antibacterial gel (optional)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "God Tests Abraham" (track 5)

ALLERGY ALERT





child one jelly bean in a plastic bag. Tell them not to eat the jelly beans yet.

Play “God Tests Abraham” (track 5 on the CD). Listen together and follow the instructions on the CD. Pause the CD when it tells you to, and place a plastic bag in front of you on the floor.

Say: **Look at the jelly bean in front of you. Think about what it tastes like. It’s probably pretty tasty!** Ask kids to talk about how much they’d enjoy that jelly bean.

Say: **Now that you’re sure you want to eat that jelly bean in front of you, will you please give it back to me? If you’re willing to give up your jelly bean, lay it on my plastic bag.** Wait to see what kids do, and then start the CD again.

When track 5 is over, give each child about 10 jelly beans to put in his or her bag. As you discuss the following questions, let kids enjoy their jelly beans.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- n **What were you thinking and feeling when I asked you to give me your only jelly bean?**
- n **Tell about a time you obeyed even though it was difficult.**
- n **In what way can you have a happy heart when you obey God?**

Say: **It was hard for some of you to give up your only piece of candy. Like that, it must have been hard for Abraham to give up Isaac, not knowing what God was going to do. Because Abraham trusted God with his son Isaac, God promised him lots more! God protected Isaac and instead provided a sheep for the offering. Just as God was pleased with Abraham’s obedience, when you ► OBEY GOD, he’s delighted with your heart and attitude.**

Center 1: Obedient Puppets Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
scissors (several pairs)
glue
2 craft sticks and 2
cotton balls per child

Center 1: Obedient Puppets Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
1 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Obedient Puppets





What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages and other supplies, and help kids write their names on their papers with markers. Say: **Today we're learning how Abraham obeyed God when God asked him to do something that didn't make sense to Abraham. Let's make puppets and take turns showing what happened when Abraham obeyed.**

Show kids how to fold their pages along the dotted line so the flap is behind the paper if they look at it from the front. Have kids each cut out the Isaac puppet on the flap they just folded back. Then have them each glue a craft stick to the back of the Isaac figure and then glue two cotton balls to a second craft stick for the ram.

Form pairs. Have kids stand their pages up so they function as a background for their puppet shows. Say: **Now that you have a stage, use your puppets to put on a play for your partner. Tell what happened when Abraham heard from God, and show how Isaac responded. If you're the one listening, do your best to wait patiently for your turn. Allow time. Now switch roles and let your partner show what happened. Try your best to listen carefully and wait patiently while your partner has a turn.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- n What was it like to wait and watch your partner's puppet show?
- n Tell about a time you had to wait for something.
- n What are some ways you can obey God this week?

Say: **When you waited patiently for your partner to tell you about Abraham, you practiced a way to obey. When an adult asks you to do something, you can obey God by doing what the adult says. It's not always easy to do everything we're told. But like Abraham, we can ► OBEY GOD even when God asks us to do something difficult. Like Abraham, we can trust that God knows us and has good plans for our lives.**

■ CENTER 2: Playdough Surprise

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids clean their hands. Clean a table and distribute the bags of playdough. Gather kids around the table and use a permanent marker to write each child's name on his or her bag. Say: **Abraham and Isaac were obedient to God even when God asked them to do something very difficult. Let's do an activity that reminds that when we ► OBEY GOD, he always brings us something sweet in the end.**

Think about what we heard about Abraham and Isaac today—and the part that seemed hardest to you. Use your playdough to sculpt something from that part of our passage. Allow time. If needed, help kids think of symbols they could sculpt.



Center 2: Playdough Surprise Supplies

- copy of the "Edible Playdough Recipe" handout (at the end of this lesson)
- box white cake mix
- stick of butter or margarine, softened
- flour
- water
- food coloring
- resealable plastic bags
- permanent marker
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Center 2: Playdough Surprise Easy Prep

Follow the "Edible Playdough Recipe" handout to prepare the playdough.





Let each child show his or her sculpture, and then say: **God loved Abraham and he loves us, too. He was so pleased when he saw Abraham's obedience, he did something unexpected. He saved Isaac by bringing Abraham a sheep to give as an offering instead.** Make figures of sheep with the kids.

Say: **God told Abraham to do something that sounded crazy. Now I have something for you to do that sounds crazy. On the count of three, take a bite of playdough. One, two, three, go!** Wait for kids to respond. Then help kids understand that although all playdough isn't edible, this playdough is.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

- n **What was it like for you when I told you to eat playdough?**
- n **Tell about a time you were frustrated or confused by a rule you were told to obey.**
- n **What are ways you like to obey God?**

Say: **Obedience is sometimes very difficult, but it's always good when we ► OBEY GOD. We can obey and be angry about it, or we can obey God and our parents joyfully. Like for Abraham, it may not always make sense to us, but our obedience makes God happy and that's even sweeter than our edible playdough.**

■ CENTER 3:

Obedience Race

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **It pleases God when we obey him and do what's right, like Abraham did. Let's play a game of obeying commands and thinking about how we can obey God.**

Choose one child to be the Leader. Say: **Everyone else line up on the opposite wall from the poster.** Help children pair off, and then help partners loosely tie their inside legs together with curling ribbon as if they were going to participate in a three-legged race. Have the Leader stand next to the poster.

Say: **Leader, call out ways that we can obey God, and pairs, take one *big* step together and act out the direction from the Leader.** Continue this until all pairs reach the poster. If the Leader gets stuck and can't think of a way to obey God, give her or him some ideas such as: going to bed when your parents ask you to, telling other people about Jesus, or being kind to your brother or sister—even when it's tough.

As each pair reaches the poster, say: **Choose a picture on the poster and tell your partner what you think is going on in the picture. When the first partner finishes talking about the picture, you listeners will tell how that picture shows obedience to God. When you're done, wait for other kids to finish talking in their pairs, too.**

As kids share their own experiences and make connections, allow them to embellish.

Center 3: Obedience Race Supplies

tape
curling ribbon
scissors

Teacher Pack
"Love One Another"
poster

Center 3: Obedience Race Easy Prep

Tape the "Love One Another" poster in a prominent place.





When all pairs have finished, start over with a new Leader and encourage kids to talk about a different picture. Continue until all pictures are covered by each pair. Then help kids untie their ribbons, and sit with them in a circle.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- n What was easy or difficult about following directions in our game?
- n Why do you sometimes not want to obey?
- n What's one reason that God is happy when we obey him?

Say: **When you followed the directions of the Leader, you had to act out ways to make God happy with obedience. We thought of lots of ways we can ► OBEY GOD and please him every single day. God asks us to do things for our own good and he wants us to obey with a joyful heart, even though we might not understand why. This week, let's think of Abraham and Isaac's obedience as we obey, too.**

CENTER 4:

Leading the Unwilling

What You'll Do

Say: **Abraham chose to obey God. He didn't complain or argue, he just did what God asked and trusted God's plans more than his own plans. We're going to play a really unusual game of Tag to help us understand why it's important to ► OBEY GOD all the time. Everyone will follow different rules, but we'll all try to play together.** Have kids form four groups, and assign different roles to each group. Go to each group and assign roles quietly so other groups are unaware of the roles of those around them.

Group 1 will be the Taggers. To the Taggers, say: **When you catch someone, you'll tell that person to follow you and help you tag other people. When all the kids are caught, your team will win.**

Group 2 will be the Followers. To the Followers, say: **When one of the Taggers catches you, you'll do what they ask you to do. When all the kids are caught, the Taggers will win.**

Group 3 will be the Opposites. To the Opposites, say: **When the game begins, try to get in the way of other people. When you're tagged, do the opposite of whatever you're asked to do. Argue a lot.**

Group 4 will be the Eenie-Meenies. To the Eenie-Meenies, say: **When you're tagged, you'll have a choice about whether or not you do what you're told—you decide. You can also change your mind anytime.**





When all the kids understand their roles, start the game. Allow kids to play for a few minutes. If time allows, let them switch roles.

When the game is done, sit with kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- n What was this game like for you? Why?
- n Tell about a time you or someone else didn't obey God.
- n What are some reasons that it's helpful to obey God?

Say: **It can be frustrating to play a game when everyone follows different rules. When God tells us to do something and we choose not to obey, things get confusing. Abraham knew it was best for him to obey. Like Abraham, we can ► OBEY GOD because we know God's rules are best.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► OBEY GOD. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice obeying God joyfully.**





Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Sing a song about how you can obey God.**
2. **Play a game of Simon Says with your friends, and then tell them why you want to obey God.**
3. **Think of something you usually don't like to do at home, like caring for a pet, cleaning your room, or going to bed on time, and decide to do that thing joyfully.**

Say: **If you want to sing a song, circle choice number 1. If you want to play Simon Says, circle choice number 2. If you want to practice doing something with joy, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Joyful Obedience Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's take a minute to ask God to help us obey him this week. Remember that God can help us anytime and anywhere and it makes him really happy when we ask for his help.** Stand with kids and say this prayer together.

Pray: **Dear God,**

We love you so much (pause for kids to repeat) **and we're so thankful that you love us, too** (pause for kids to repeat). **We know that you want us to obey you and listen to our parents** (pause for kids to repeat). **We know you can give us the strength to obey** (pause for kids to repeat). **Please help me** [fill in with something that you need help to obey God about and allow time for kids to do the same].

In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

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



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Playground

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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



Edible Playdough Recipe

Ingredients:

1 box of white cake mix

1 stick of butter or margarine (softened)

food coloring

water

flour (as needed)

Directions:

Combine the box of cake mix with the softened butter and food coloring. Use an electric mixer on a low setting if possible; otherwise, use your hands and a wooden spoon.

Add flour and water in small quantities as necessary to achieve a good texture.

Divide into as many portions as there are kids in your group and place in individual resealable plastic bags. Let the playdough cool in a fridge if the mixture ends up being a bit soft.

OK
TO COPY





Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

You're about to lead your sometimes fiercely independent 5- and 6-year-olds into this lesson about praying for God's direction. "I can do it by myself!" is a common assertion among kids in this age group. Use this lesson to help kids know that they can pray to God for wisdom. It's good for them to know that they can do things on their own, but that even very wise people need to rely on God.




► Bible Point
Pray to God.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will pray to God regularly.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Words of Wisdom Kids will hide and find toys and learn how to find wisdom.	Bible, 5 to 10 unique toys, blindfolds (optional)	Keep the toys out of sight until after the kids close their eyes.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a bottle of water has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, bottle of water Teacher Pack: CD	Place the bottle of water in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Water in the Desert Reflect on prayers of people in the Bible passage as they think about things in their own lives they want to pray about.	1 copy per child of the "Water for Camels" handout (at the end of this lesson), blocks, broom, washable markers Teacher Pack: "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Spread the blocks across the middle of the floor in a large part of the room to be used as a desert. Put the "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster in a prominent place.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Spin and Pray Make spinners and use them to think of ways to go to God for help.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers, scissors (several pairs), paper fasteners</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Puffy Cakes Make puffy paint wedding cakes for Isaac and Rebekah's wedding.</p>	<p>shaving cream, white liquid glue, food coloring, craft sticks, paper bowls, old T-shirts or smocks (1 per child), permanent marker, wax paper, wet wipes</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Before, During, After Practice praying at all times by praying throughout a simple game.</p>	<p>paper plates, large boots or shoes, paper towel tube, yarn, tape, scissors</p>	<p>Thread the yarn through the paper towel tube and then attach the ends of the yarn to opposite walls. Make the yarn long enough for kids to send the tube across the room on the yarn.</p>
	<p>Center 4: Blind Followers Lead a blindfolded friend down a twisting path using their voices and a piece of string.</p>	<p>blindfolds, 1 length of rope or yarn for every 2 children, masking tape or painter's tape</p>	<p>Make a path on the floor with masking paint or painter's tape. Include twists, turns, and backtracking.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers</p>	
	<p>Walk and Talk Prayer Pray as they walk.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Isaac Marries Rebekah

Genesis 24

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

The Servant's Oath

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

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

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

The Servant's Prayer

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

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

The Servant's Reward

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

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

The Jesus Connection

Eliezer showed tremendous faith in God through his journey and by praying as soon as he arrived. Eliezer prayed in faith and Rebekah acted without hesitation based on faith. How can you promote this kind of faith into your life? You can write your prayer in the space below.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Come On In”
(track 2), “As I
Have Loved You”
(John 13:34) (track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing “Come On In” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Michael, Row the Boat Ashore.”

 **Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah!** (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)


Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*clap hands*)
Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue clapping*)

Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn around*)
Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn again*)

Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)

Say: **I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn that God wants us to ask him when we need help, so we ► PRAY TO GOD. Let's sing a song about one of the most important directions God gave us.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing “As I Have Loved You” (John 13:34) (track 6 on the CD).

 **A new command I give to you:** (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)
A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*shake hands with a friend*)





Love one another. *(high five a friend)*
Love one another. *(high five a friend)*
Love one another. *(high five a friend)*
Love one another. *(high five a friend)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you: *(point finger and move arm up and down)*
Love one another as I have loved you. *(smile at a friend)*
A new command I give to you: *(point finger and move arm up and down)*
Love one another as I have loved you, *(shake hands with a friend)*
As I have loved you, as I have loved you. *(everyone gives high fives together)*

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

Say: Today we’re learning about a man in the Bible who prayed and then listened to God as God showed him what to do. We’ll find out how we can ► PRAY TO GOD when we need wisdom to know what to do.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Words of Wisdom

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sit with kids in a circle. Open your Bible to James 1:5, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, James 1:5, says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). That means when we’re confused or have hard times, we don’t have to feel alone—we can ask God to help us know what to do.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).**

Choose a willing child to be Wisdom and have the rest of the kids close their eyes or wear blindfolds. Take out a toy from its current hiding place. Help Wisdom hide the toy somewhere in the room. When the toy is hidden and Wisdom has come back to stand with you, say: **Open your eyes! There’s something hidden in this room for you to find. We can’t tell you what it is or what it looks like, but Wisdom can help you find it if you ask for help.** Help Wisdom answer questions in hints rather than telling children where it is. Once kids have found the first toy, choose a different child to be Wisdom and play again, selecting a different toy after kids have closed their eyes. Continue playing as time permits.



Words of Wisdom Supplies

Bible
5 to 10 unique toys
blindfolds (optional)

Words of Wisdom Easy Prep

Keep the toys out of sight until after the kids close their eyes.





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
bottle of water
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the bottle of water in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to search for something without knowing what you were looking for?
- What happened when you asked for help?
- What's something you might need wisdom for this week?

Say: **You searched for hidden prizes around the room in the same way that God wants us to search for wisdom. He wants us to ask him for it. We can ► PRAY TO GOD to ask him for wisdom. God is happy to give wisdom to us when we look for it. We need wisdom to help us make good choices. Today we'll learn about someone in the Bible who trusted God to help him with a very important task.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: (*panting and out of breath*) Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Why are you tired and out of breath?

Theo: I've been running and playing in the park with my family. We like to run and chase things. It's so fun, but I'm really hot now! It's really getting toasty outside.

Teacher: Well, that sounds like fun. How about if you hang out with us for a little while? We were just about to take a look at the Surprise Box.

Theo: Oh, boy! That sounds like lots of fun. I love surprises!

(*Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the bottle of water around the circle so everyone can see it. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.*)

Teacher: Kids, what do you use water for?
(*Pause for kids to answer your question.*)

Theo: I sure know I need water right now. I feel like I'm in a desert! Are there any times when people in the Bible felt like I do right now?

Teacher: There's a time in the Bible when water was really important. God used thirsty animals and water to help someone have wisdom and know what to do. It's amazing how God helps us when we ► **PRAY TO GOD.**

Theo: Wow, that sounds really amazing! I want to find out what happened. (Still panting and now pointing to the bottle of water.) Speaking of thirsty animals, that water looks like exactly what I need right about now.



Teacher: (*giving the water to Theo*) Here you go, Theo.
Theo: Ah! That water is refreshing! Have fun, boys and girls!
Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell me about a time when you needed water the way Theo did today.
- What are other things you need?
- What are some things you usually do when you need something?

Say: **There are a lot of things we need to survive. God tells us that we need wisdom and that we can ask him for wisdom. We can also ► PRAY TO GOD for any other needs we face. God loves you and he wants you to go to him whenever you need anything. We're about to learn about camels in the desert and how they helped a man know God's plan for a very special family.**

Bible Time: Water in the Desert

What You'll Do ■■■■

Sit with kids in a circle. Open your Bible to Genesis 24, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear about a man named Abraham who had one son, Isaac. Abraham was old and knew that God wanted his son to get married. So Abraham asked his most trusted servant to go to a faraway place to find a good woman for his son to marry. Abraham told his servant that God's angel would go ahead of him and prepare the way.**

Divide the group of kids in half and have them stand on opposite sides of the Block Desert. Have kids remove their socks and shoes.

Say: **Work together to help everyone get to the same side of this Block Desert. You can't touch any of the blocks.** Allow a couple of minutes for kids to try. Then choose a child to be God's Angel. Say: **God's angel helped Abraham's servant by going in front of him and preparing the way. The Angel in our group will use this broom to help you all cross the Block Desert without touching any blocks.**

After all the kids make it across, have the Angel lead them to the "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster, and have everyone sit around it.

Say: **By the time Abraham's servant crossed the desert, he and his camels were very thirsty.** Invite a child to come find all five camels on the poster.



Bible Time: Water in the Desert Supplies

- 1 copy per child of the "Water for Camels" handout (at the end of this lesson)
- blocks
 - broom
 - washable markers
- Teacher Pack**
- "The Servant Finds Rebekah" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Water in the Desert Easy Prep

Spread the blocks across the middle of the floor in a large part of the room to be used as a desert. Put the "The Servant Find Rebekah" poster in a prominent place.





Say: **The servant came to a deep hole in the ground, called a well. Wells hold clean water for people to use.** Invite a child to show everyone where the well is in this picture. Have all the kids pretend to pull a bucket out of a well to give water to camels.

Say: **When Abraham's servant arrived at the well, he prayed that God would help him know which girl at the well would be the right one for Isaac to marry. He prayed that the girl would bring water for his camels.**

Distribute markers and copies of the "Water for Camels" handout. Encourage kids to draw a picture in the well of something they need God's help with. Allow time. When kids have finished their pictures, invite a child to pray for everyone about the things they drew. You can pray if there's no willing child.

Say: **Even before Abraham's servant finished praying, Rebekah came to where he was. When he asked for water, she said she'd give him enough water for his camels, too. When Abraham's servant prayed, God showed him exactly what he was looking for.**

In the outline of the water jar, have kids each draw a picture of one way God could help them with the need they drew in the well earlier. Allow time.

Say: **Abraham's servant went to Rebekah's house and met her family. He asked whether she could come with him to be Isaac's wife. Rebekah's family agreed, but they wanted her to stay with them a little longer. But Rebekah wanted to follow God's plan immediately, so Rebekah and the servant left right away.**

Have kids bring their markers and well drawings with them as they walk with you back across the Block Desert.

Say: **When Rebekah and Abraham's servant arrived at Abraham's house, Isaac saw Rebekah. The Bible tells us that Isaac loved Rebekah very much. Isaac had been sad because his mom had died not too long before all this happened. When he married Rebekah, his heart was comforted. A lot of people in this passage prayed to God and obeyed God.**

In the heart on the page, have kids each draw something that helps them feel better when they're unhappy. Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the way Abraham's servant and Rebekah trusted God's answers to prayers?**
- **Tell about some times that you could remind yourself or others to pray.**

Say: **We learned from the Bible about how God showed Abraham's servant exactly what he needed to know in order to find a wife for Isaac. God cares about each of**





us and he listens when we pray. We can ► PRAY TO GOD anytime, anywhere, and he'll hear us and help us.



4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Spin and Pray

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 2 My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on their papers. Set out several pairs of scissors and a paper fastener for each child.

Say: **Abraham's servant prayed to ask God for help on his journey. There are lots of things we can ► PRAY TO GOD about. He can help us with anything we face. Let's make something to help us think about praying for wisdom.**

Help kids cut out the praying hands at the bottom of the page. Show kids how to attach the paper fastener loosely to the praying hands and to the center of the page ensuring that the spinner will move freely after it's attached. Say: **Form pairs, and take turns using the spinner. When it stops on a picture, say a way you can seek God's wisdom.** Allow time.

Say: **Abraham's servant prayed, asking for God's direction. There are lots of ways we can know God's direction. We can ► PRAY TO GOD and seek wisdom from the Bible, other Christians, and worshipping God. God is pleased when we seek his direction!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you prayed for God's help.
- How can you trust God to help you?
- Tell about the easiest or most difficult times to remember to pray to God.

Center 1: Spin and Pray Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
scissors (several pairs)
paper fasteners

Center 1: Spin and Pray Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
2 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Center 2: Puffy Cakes Supplies

shaving cream
white liquid glue
food coloring
craft sticks
paper bowls
old T-shirts or smocks
(1 per child)
permanent marker
wax paper
wet wipes

Say: **You might need God's help to know how to treat a mean person at school, to remember to respect and obey your parents, or to find something you lost. Jesus is with us all the time and he wants to hear us ► PRAY TO GOD in everything we do. Praying is just talking to God, and we can talk to him all day, every day.**

■ CENTER 2:

Puffy Cakes

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Wedding cakes are often really fancy. We can pretend to make fancy cakes for Isaac and Rebekah's wedding.**

Have children put on T-shirts or smocks. Then gather everyone around a table. Give a piece of wax paper to each child and write his or her name on the paper with a permanent marker.

Say: **The Bible tells us that Isaac loved Rebekah very much. Let's use a special kind of paint to make beautiful wedding cakes for Isaac and Rebekah. This paint holds its puffy shape even if you move it around so feel free to make something really great.** Put food coloring, glue, and shaving cream into paper bowls. Use at least half of a 4-oz. container of white glue for each cup and use half a can of shaving cream. Have kids use craft sticks to help mix a few different colors. Once mixed, let kids take bits of each mixture to make colorful puffy-paint wedding cakes.

As kids work on their wedding cakes for Isaac and Rebekah, have them tell about how God brought Rebekah and Isaac together through Abraham's servant. Say: **Abraham's servant trusted God and prayed because he knew God would show him what to do. Weddings are really fun and exciting. They're a time to celebrate that God brought two people together to make a new family. God has plans for all of our lives. It's important that we ► PRAY TO GOD and trust God's plans.**

When kids finish with their wedding cakes, help them clean their hands and lay their artwork out to dry. Remind kids not to poke their creations while they're drying.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you like about making a cake for something important?**
- **Why do you think it's important to put your care and heart into praying?**

Say: **When we ► PRAY TO GOD, we can put care into it, like we did for our wedding cakes. Today we're learning about people, like Abraham's servant, who prayed with their hearts and God answered them. This week, let's remember to talk to God about everything we need.**





CENTER 3:

Before, During, After



Tip Make sure the yarn is at children’s waist height so they don’t run into it and choke.

What You’ll Do

Say: **We need God’s help in everything we do, and we can talk to him all the time. We can pray before, during, and after we do things. He’s always there. Let’s practice praying before, during, and after a fun traveling game.**

Set out your supplies. Explain that kids can “travel” in a variety of ways in this center. For example, they can use paper plates as steering wheels, they can use big pairs of boots or shoes for walking, or they can travel by rocket ship by zooming the paper towel tube on the piece of yarn stretched across the room.

Remind kids that the servant prayed before, during, and after his adventure. Before kids “travel” and play with the items, pray the following prayer, with the children echoing each phrase after you. Then encourage them during their play to stop and pray from time to time.

Pray:
**Dear Lord,
Before we go along our way,
You hear us as we pray.
In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Allow time for children to experiment with the supplies. Then say: **Abraham and the servant both prayed! Let’s learn to pray to God before, during, and after we do anything. God wants us to pray always. We ► PRAY TO GOD.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to stop what you were doing and pray?
- What do you think about praying that often every day?
- What is one thing you could do to help yourself talk to God more?

Say: **You stopped and prayed while you were playing and pretending to travel. We can ► PRAY TO GOD anytime and God will listen to us. The more we talk to God, the better we will know his plans for us. God loves us and we love him. We can know God better and follow him more closely if we ► PRAY TO GOD.**



Center 3: Before, During, After Supplies

- paper plates
- large boots or shoes
- paper towel tube
- yarn
- tape
- scissors

Center 3: Before, During, After Easy Prep

Thread the yarn through the paper towel tube and then attach the ends of the yarn to opposite walls. Make the yarn long enough for kids to send the tube across the room on the yarn.





Center 4: Blind Followers Supplies

blindfolds
1 length of rope or yarn
for every 2 children
masking tape or
painter's tape

Center 4: Blind Followers Easy Prep

Make a path on the floor with masking tape or painter's tape. Include twists, turns, and backtracking.

CENTER 4: Blind Followers

What You'll Do

Say: **Abraham's servant prayed and followed God's direction. Let's play a game where we ask for help from each other so we can know where to go.**

Form pairs and give each pair a blindfold and rope or piece of yarn. Have pairs form a line at the start of the path. Have one person in each pair wear a blindfold; the other person in each pair will be the Guide.

Say: **Guides, give your partner one end of the rope and hang on to the other end. In this game, you can't touch your partner at all. You'll lead your blindfolded partner and keep him or her on the taped path.** Check for understanding.

Have the first pair begin the course. The Guide may walk wherever is necessary, but the blindfolded partners must walk only on the taped line. When the first pair has gotten a little way through the course, have the next pair begin. Let guides verbally help only when their partners ask.

Have partners switch roles when they reach the end of the course.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you got help from your partner in this game?**
- **Tell about a time you asked God for help.**
- **What sometimes stops you from praying to God?**

Say: **It wasn't easy completing this game. Like that, it might seem difficult to know what God wants us to do, but God gives us lots of ways to understand him. We can talk to other Christians, read our Bibles, or ► PRAY TO GOD. God wants us to talk to him and when we do, he'll guide us, just as he guided Abraham's servant and many of the people in the Bible.**





5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that we ► **PRAY TO GOD**. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to remind you to pray to God.

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for children to choose from:

1. Ask your parents to help you make a simple map that shows places you've been. Then pray with your parents, asking God to be with you everywhere you go.
2. Ask your parents to help you attach something colorful to your favorite pair of shoes. Each time that colorful object catches your eye, pray to God.
3. Ask your parents or an older family member to tell you some of the ways God's shown them what he wants them to do in life. Then pray together.

Say: If you want to make a map showing where you've been, circle choice number 1. If you want to put something colorful on your shoes, circle choice number 2. If you want to find out how God has shown someone what he wants that person to do, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Walk and Talk Prayer

What You'll Do

Have children repeat each line of this prayer after you as they follow you in walking:

Dear God, (point in any direction, and walk that way)

Thank you for giving us direction

As we walk in life.

This week, please help me [pause for kids to name ways they need God's help this week].

In Jesus' name, amen. (stop walking)



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers



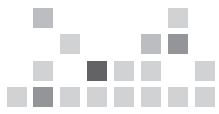


Weaving Faith at Home

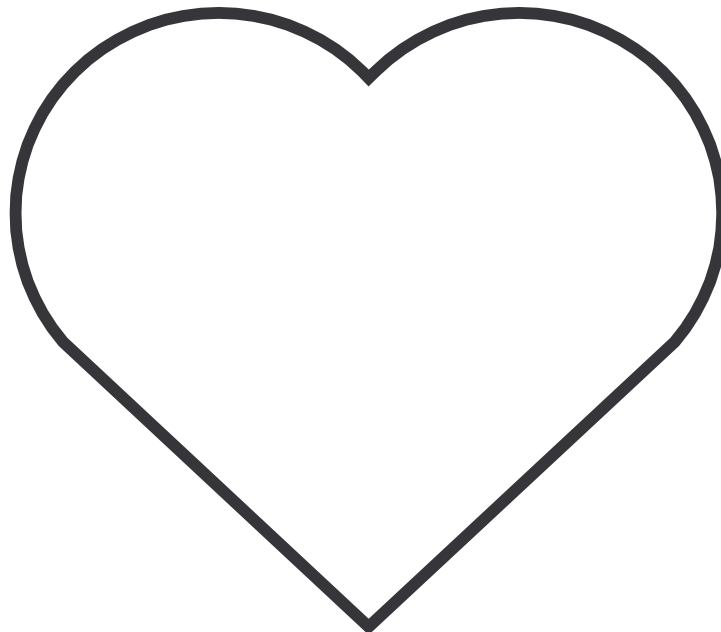
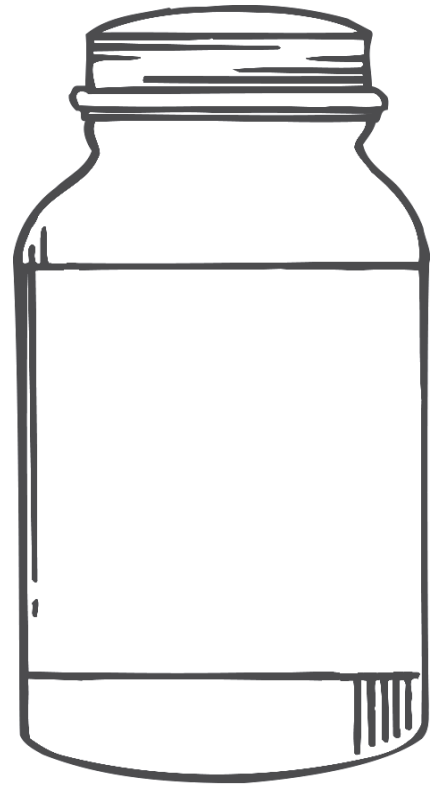
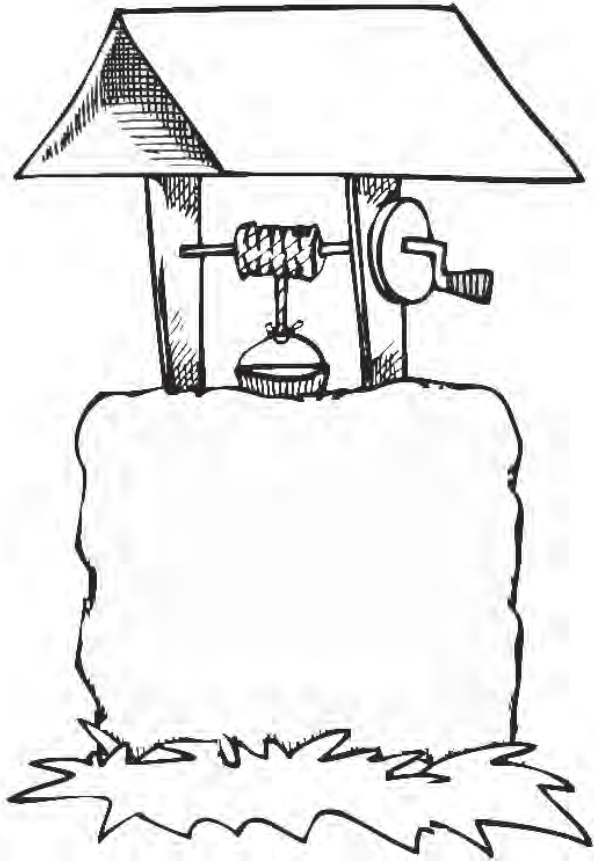
Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and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

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





Water for Camels



**OK
TO COPY**





Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

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

Many 5- and 6-year-olds love trying to trick people, but they don't know the boundary between joking and when the joke or trick becomes a deception or lie. Joking and having fun is not the problem, but intentions are at the heart of the matter. Jacob disguised himself and turned into one of the world's most famous liars. Deep down in their hearts, kids know the difference between joking and lying, but they will need to let God help them with discernment to know their own hearts. Use this lesson to help children learn that God wants them to speak and act with truth, unlike what Jacob and Rebekah did.



► Bible Point

God wants us to tell the truth.

Key Verse

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will be truthful.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcoming Song</p> <p>Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>A Recipe for Good</p> <p>Discover that God can make good things come from bad situations while tasting the difference sugar makes in a sour drink.</p>	<p>Bible, unsweetened lemon or lime juice, club soda, sugar, small paper cups, spoons, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Theo's News</p> <p>Find out what a mask has to do with the Bible.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, mask</p>	<p>Place the mask on Theo, and put Theo in the Surprise Box. Hide the box where it's easily accessible.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Twin vs. Twin</p> <p>Learn how Jacob tricked his father and stole from his brother.</p>	<p>Bible, My Bible Playground, CD player, glue, crayons in a variety of colors, 1 red crayon per child, scissors</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, red fur</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p> <p>Cut the red fur into pieces. You'll need 2 strips per child that are each 1x¼-inch in size.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Favoritism Fallout Play a game with sudden changes to learn how lying and favoritism changes things.</p>	cotton balls	
	<p>Center 2: A Tangle of Lies Make a tangled web and discuss how lies cause us trouble.</p>	1 long piece of yarn	
	<p>Center 3: Isaac's Informants Play a variation of Blindman's Bluff and discover that honesty is what God wants.</p>	1 or 2 blindfolds	
	<p>Center 4: Disappearing Act Discover how honesty brings us closer to God.</p>	CD player, 1 white crayon per child, paper, dark-colored washable markers Teacher Pack: CD	
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Forgiveness Prayer Act out freedom through forgiveness.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Jacob Deceives Esau and Isaac

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

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Broken Family History

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

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

Jacob Extorts Esau’s Birthright

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

Jacob Defrauds Esau of Isaac’s Blessing

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

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

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

God Worked in the Broken Family

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

The Jesus Connection

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Come On In"
(track 2), "Be Careful"
(verses 1-3) (track 10)


1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Come On In" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore."

 **Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah!** (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)


Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*clap hands*)
Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue clapping*)

Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn around*)
Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn again*)

Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)

Say: **I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn about a family that had big problems with honesty, and we'll learn that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. Let's sing a song about pleasing God with our hearts and actions.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing "Be Careful" (verses 1-3) (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare."

 **Be careful to do** (*march in place*)
What God has asked you to
Do-do-do-do-do-do, (*jump up and down*)
Do-do-do-do-do-do!
Be careful to do (*march in place*)





What God has asked you to.

Obey God each day. *(bow on the word obey)*

Obey God each day. Obey God each day. *(continue bowing)*

Be careful to do *(march in place)*

What God has asked you to.

Obey God each day. *(bow on the word obey)*

We can seek God's help and direction, *(shake a different friend's hand on each word help)*

Help and direction, help and direction. *(continue shaking hands)*

We can seek God's help and direction.

Ask God for wisdom. *(point to forehead on each word wisdom)*

Ask God for wisdom. Ask God for wisdom. *(continue pointing)*

We can seek God's help and direction.

Ask God for wisdom. *(point to forehead on each word wisdom)*

'Cause God is happy when we tell the truth. *(clap hands to the beat, and then give a thumbs-up on the word truth)*

When we tell the truth, when we tell the truth, *(raise your thumbs-up higher and higher on each word truth)*

'Cause God is happy when we tell the truth. *(clap hands to the beat, and then give a thumbs-up on the word truth)*

Tell the truth each day. *(give thumbs-up on the word truth, and then act as if you're pointing to a watch on the word day)*

Tell the truth each day. Tell the truth each day. *(continue above motions)*

God is happy when we tell the truth. *(clap hands to the beat, and then give a thumbs-up on the word truth)*

Tell the truth each day. *(give thumbs up on the word truth, and then act as if you're pointing to a watch on the word day)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **We know that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. Honesty is something that takes place in our hearts before any words or actions ever show to anyone else. God knows our hearts and he can help us be honest in our hearts so that we can be honest in our words and actions.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

A Recipe for Good

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Romans 8:28, says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called**



A Recipe for Good Supplies

- Bible
- unsweetened lemon or lime juice
- club soda
- sugar
- small paper cups
- spoons
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). That means that in all things God works for good. Lead kids in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).**

In today’s Bible passage, we’ll learn that a man named Jacob lied so he could steal his brother Esau’s blessing from their father. God wasn’t happy that Jacob lied. Jacob was wrong to trick his father into giving away Esau’s blessing, but God forgave Jacob and let him become the leader of God’s people.

Have kids clean their hands. Hand out the spoons and cups. Fill each of the kids’ cups one quarter full of lemon or lime juice. Tell kids not to drink it yet.

Say: **God loved Jacob and gave him a second chance. Even though Jacob did something wrong, God made something good come from that bad decision. Let’s make something good out of some bad-tasting ingredients. Use the spoon to take a small taste of the juice in your cup.** Encourage kids to each take a small sip of the juice.

After the children have tried the juice, fill the cups the rest of the way with club soda. Tell them to stir and take a small sip of the soda.

Say: **It may seem impossible for these ingredients to taste good, but if we add sugar and stir it in, it’ll make a big difference.**

Using a clean spoon, help kids add sugar to their cups. Allow them to mix it in thoroughly and then taste the drink again.

Say: **Just like adding sugar, God can make something good out of something bad. It feels good knowing that God can take even a bad choice like Jacob’s and change it into something good. We can be grateful that he has the power and love to do this for us, too. Let’s practice our Key Verse together again: In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).** Have the kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think about the flavor of our juice as we added ingredients?**
- **What do you think of the way God treated Jacob after Jacob lied to his father?**
- **Tell about a time you did something wrong and someone forgave you.**
- **Why does being forgiven help you want to make good decisions in the future?**

Say: **Just like how the sugar turned our drink sweet, God can turn any situation from bad to good. Our Key Verse tells us how powerful God is compared with the hard things that can happen. God will forgive us when we make bad choices, but he really wants us to be honest and do the right thing. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. We can honor God by having honest hearts.**





3 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box. Then follow along with the script.

Teacher: Theo, where are you?

Theo: *(make muffled sounds and shake the Surprise Box)*

Teacher: Are you in the Surprise Box?

Theo: *(muffled)* Yes!

Teacher: Kids, who wants to help Theo get out of the Surprise Box?

(Invite a child to help Theo out of the box, and then put the puppet on your hand.)

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's good to see you. Can you tell us what you're wearing today?

Theo: This is my superhero mask! I'm pretending to be SuperPup and I'm here to save the day! I was really curious what it would be like to be someone else. Does anyone want to see my super-cool mask? You can try it on if you want to.

(Have the kids pass the mask around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: It's really fun to dress up when we're playing. But our dress-up play reminded me of a time in the Bible when someone used dressing up to be dishonest. We'll learn about that as we read the Bible today.

Theo: That makes me really sad.

Teacher: It made God sad too, because ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.** But God forgave that person, and then God turned a terrible situation into something good. God can change any situation into something good.

Theo: I think I like where this is going. I've got to go be SuperPup. Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was SuperPup like or unlike normal everyday Theo?
- What's the difference between playing and not being completely real or honest?
- Why do you think it's important to be real and honest?

Say: **Theo dressed up and had fun, but we'll learn that the people in today's Bible passage dressed up and lied to each other. The Bible tells us ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. Let's learn what that means for our lives.**



Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

mask

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the mask on Theo, and put Theo in the Surprise Box. Hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Bible Time: Twin vs. Twin Supplies

Bible
My Bible Playground
CD player
glue
crayons in a variety of colors
1 red crayon per child
scissors
Teacher Pack
CD: "Twins" (track 11)
red fur

Bible Time: Twin vs. Twin Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
3 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

Cut the red fur into
pieces. You'll need 2
strips per child that are
each 1x¼-inch in size.

Bible Time: Twin vs. Twin

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 25, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book. Distribute supplies and the My Bible Playground pages, and help kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **The Bible tells us about Abraham's son, Isaac, and Isaac's wife, Rebekah. Isaac loved Rebekah, his wife. One day, they discovered they were going to have a baby. But instead of one baby, they had two—twins! Twins are two babies that have the same mother and father and are born at the same time.**

The babies' names were Jacob and Esau. Esau was the oldest and back then, fathers gave a special blessing to the oldest son once that son was ready to lead the family. What started off as a good thing for this family became a very serious problem with lying, favoritism, and hatred. This was the family that God promised to use to bless the entire world.

Play "Twins" (track 11 on the CD) and help kids follow along on their My Bible Playground pages. Pause the CD for as long as needed when instructions are given to the kids. They'll be using the red crayon to add red hair to Esau's arms and legs, and they'll be given instructions later on to glue the red fur onto Jacob's hands.

When the track ends, sit with kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids

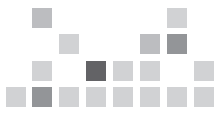
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think was right or wrong about Jacob's and Rebekah's lie?**
- **Why is it important that we're honest?**
- **Tell about a time you told a lie.**
- **What are some reasons that you've lied?**

Say: **Rebekah helped her son Jacob dress up as his brother so he could steal Esau's blessing, and it was an awful lie. When we tell lies, we can make a big mess and cause ugly problems. That's one reason ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. Sometimes it might be difficult to tell the truth, but being honest is always better than lying. No matter what, ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**





4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Favoritism Fallout

What You'll Do

Say: **Isaac and Rebekah each picked favorites between their two children, and they didn't pick the same child. Rebekah's favorite child was Jacob, and Isaac's favorite child was Esau.**

Ask:

- **What's your favorite toy to play with at home?**

Say: **Having a favorite toy is great, but it's wrong when people choose a favorite person and treat others unfairly. That's favoritism and it makes God sad. Favoritism and lying were both huge problems for Jacob and Esau's family.**

Invite two children to be Choosers. Ask each Chooser to pick his or her favorite food and tell everyone what it is. After they share, say: **Each of our choosers will be known by his or her favorite food.** For example, if a child chooses pizza, refer to him or her as Pizza from now on.

Next, allow time for the Choosers to try to convince the rest of the kids to be on their teams by choosing the same favorite foods that they chose. It's okay if teams are very uneven.

Say: **If I tap you on the shoulder during the game, you'll switch teams.** Give every child a few cotton balls. Say: **We're going to have a snowball fight. When I say "go," you'll throw your cotton balls at each other. Remember to cheer for your team as you play. Ready? Get set! Go!**

As kids play, tap several kids on their shoulders. After a minute or two, have all the kids pick up the same number of cotton balls they had at the beginning while you select new Choosers and a new category (favorite color, favorite game, favorite sports team, favorite bedtime story, favorite movie, and so on). Repeat this game as time permits.



Center 1: Favoritism Fallout Supplies

.....
cotton balls





Center 2: A Tangle of Lies Supplies

1 long piece of yarn

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like for you when people didn't choose your team?
- What were you thinking when your teammates left for another team?
- How was that like or unlike lying to someone in your own family?
- What's so important about being truthful with your family?

Say: **Even though we were only talking about our favorite things, our favoritism got in the way of our teamwork. Some teams ended up being bigger than others and it wasn't very fair. The people in our Bible passage today lied to people in their family and some people were treated unfairly because of favoritism. Lying can cause lots of problems and makes it difficult for God's people to show God's love to others.**

► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH** and not to show favoritism. We can make God happy when we're honest.

■ CENTER 2:

A Tangle of Lies

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sit with kids in a circle. Say: **God wants us to tell the truth, but sometimes we're tempted to lie. Maybe you broke your mom's cellphone, you want something your sister has, or you ate candy when your parents told you not to. You might want to lie to cover it up so you don't get in trouble. But lying always makes things worse.**

Ask:

- What happens when you disobey?
- What happens if you lie to hide your disobedience, and then you get caught lying, too?

Say: **Just like lying makes things worse for you, it did the same thing for Jacob. Jacob was jealous of what his brother had; he wanted it. He lied to get it, but his lie caused so many more problems for him and his entire family.**

Have kids stand in a half-circle and give kids the yarn to hold. Make sure there is plenty of space between kids so they can move freely, and make sure there's plenty of slack in the yarn between each child.

Say: **Look at this piece of yarn. It's pretty easy to see where it starts and where it ends. We can see exactly where it goes to get from beginning to end.** Have the first child say something that isn't true and then walk to a different place in the half-circle. The kids holding the yarn nearby will have to follow him or her. For example, kids could say: the sky is orange, grass is purple, the sun is cold, snow is hot, and so on. Help them make a very tangled knot. Continue around the circle as each person tells an untrue thing and then creates another tangle in the yarn.





After the yarn and the kids are very tangled, say: **Now everyone but the two people who were holding the beginning and end of the yarn keep holding their pieces as everyone else steps away. Look at the mess that our lies made!** Ask the two kids holding the ends of the yarn to step away from each other to pull the string and try to untangle it.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be all tangled up in the yarn?
- Why do you think lies tangle up our lives?

Say: **We can't untangle the messes we make when we tell lies. We just get caught in the problems we create. But God can help us out of our bad situations when we apologize and ask him for help. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH, and when we mess up, he can help us make things right again. It's best if we can tell the truth all the time, so we can to work hard and let God help us get better at telling the truth.**

■ CENTER 3:

Isaac's Informants

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. People can be hurt when we lie. In our Bible passage, Jacob's lies hurt his entire family. Esau and Isaac's anger toward Jacob resulted in Jacob leaving the family for many years. They didn't trust Jacob and they were very upset that he tricked them so badly.**

Invite one or two children to play Isaac, depending on the size of your group. Blindfold each Isaac, and then have everyone stand in the middle of the room. Say: **Pretend to be Jacob and move around the room, staying away from Isaac as Isaac walks slowly trying to find someone. When Isaac shouts "Esau!" everyone will stop moving until Isaac reaches out and touches someone.**

After Isaac has found a child, ask that child to give a truthful clue about himself or herself so that Isaac can guess who he or she is. If Isaac can't guess correctly, have the other children take turns giving clues about the tagged child until Isaac guesses the child's identity.

Play several times so that many children can experience being Isaac.



Center 3: Isaac's Informants Supplies

.....
1 or 2 blindfolds





Center 4: Disappearing Act Supplies

CD player
1 white crayon per child
paper
dark-colored washable
markers

Teacher Pack
CD: "Contemplative
Music" (track 8)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Isaacs, what was it like to have to trust people to tell you the truth?
- What things make you feel like you can trust someone?
- How do you feel when you find out someone lied to you?
- What happens when you tell the truth?

Say: **When you pretended to be Isaac, you had to rely on others to tell you the truth. You couldn't see if they were giving you truthful clues, but you had to trust them anyway. Isaac had to trust his family, too, because he couldn't see the truth himself. Lying hurts other people and it makes God's heart sad, too. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.** When someone lies, it usually causes a lot of problems just like it did in our Bible passage. Jacob had many chances to tell the truth. Isaac and Esau needed him to tell the truth, but he didn't. Jacob's family was hurt, but Jacob was hurt by his own lies, too. Lies hurt everyone, even the people telling the lies.

■ CENTER 4:

Disappearing Act

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **God always has good plans in store for us. The best thing we can have in life is a close relationship with God. We can grow closer to God by following his plans and doing what he tells us to do. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH and doing this will help us know and follow God better.**

Distribute a piece of paper and a white crayon to each child. Ask kids to spread out around the room so each person has some space.

Say: **God wants us to tell the truth, but sometimes we make mistakes and mess up. Using your crayon, draw a picture of a situation where you might be tempted to lie.** Play "Contemplative Music" (track 8 on the CD) while kids draw. Restart the track if necessary.

Pause the CD and pray with kids about the times they're tempted to lie. Pray: **God, we know that you want us to tell the truth. We want to be honest and make you happy with us. Sometimes we're tempted to tell lies, and we need your help to be honest in those times.** Invite kids to take a little time to pray by themselves as you softly play "Contemplative Music" again. When kids have finished praying on their own, close the prayer.

Distribute a dark-colored marker to each child. Say: **When you're tempted to lie, you might be tempted to try to cover something up.** Have kids use the marker to try to hide their drawings. Allow time. **This marker is like God's truth. Even if we lie and get away with it at first, eventually our lies will only cause problems.**





Now use your white crayon to draw a picture of a celebration to remind yourself how God celebrates when you tell the truth. Allow time. Use the marker to color over the picture of God’s reaction when we tell the truth. Allow time. We can remember that ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to pray and ask God to help you when you’re tempted to lie?
- What does it feel like to know that you can’t cover up the truth with a lie?
- What can you do to help yourself be honest the next time you’re tempted to tell a lie?

Say: **Jacob lied, but his lie didn’t stay a secret. When everyone found out, that lie became a huge problem for Jacob’s entire family. Just like our crayon drawings showed through, lies don’t stay hidden for very long. ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. And when we do, we can please God with our actions and hearts.**

5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD WANTS US TO TELL THE TRUTH. I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice telling the truth this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. Use dolls or toys to act out ways you can be truthful even when it’s hard.
2. Tell your mom or dad about a time when you haven’t been truthful, and ask for forgiveness.
3. Use sidewalk chalk outside to draw pictures of times that God can help you be truthful.



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Playground
washable markers





Say: **If you want to act out ways to be truthful, circle choice number 1. If you want to talk to your parents, circle choice number 2. If you want to use sidewalk chalk, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Forgiveness Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **When we do something wrong, we say we're sorry for what we've done. We've all told lies before, and we need God's forgiveness to help us move on and do a better job of being honest next time. Let's pray together.**

Have kids stand with their backs against one wall in the room. As you pray, walk to the other side of the room and have kids follow along as you do the motions indicated in the prayer.

Pray:

Dear God,

We know we've told lies before and it's made you sad. (*hang head and walk slowly*)

Please forgive us for the lies we've told. (*fold hands and bow head*)

Wash us clean and help us tell the truth. (*pretend to wash your arms and walk more quickly*)

Ask willing kids to name a few ways they need God's help to tell the truth this week and have them lead everyone in motions that fit their prayer. Then close with: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30

There's a lot that 5- and 6-year-olds are learning to do. Whether their new skills include tying their shoes, reading a new word, a new math skill, or running really fast, they're changing all the time and in many ways are finding out how God made them special. God can help them with all kinds of things. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God wants to help them with everything they face and encounter.




► **Bible Point**
God helps us.

Key Verse

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will recognize ways God helps them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	All for Good Think about times they've seen God turn a sad situation into something good and listen to some examples.	Bible, washable markers, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 25 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a picture of a police officer has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do) Theo puppet, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, "Police Officer" picture 	Place the "Police Officer" picture in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Rock-or-Treat Deal with the disappointment of being given a poor substitute for what they really want, and learn how God is with them all the time.	Bible, tasty treats such as cupcakes, candy, fruit leather, or anything that will really appeal to your kids (1 per child), napkins, rocks (1 per child), beach ball, antibacterial gel (optional)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: God's Help Color a picture that shows how God has helped them.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: So Easy, It's Impossible Attempt to perform a simple task and realize they can only do it with help.</p>		
	<p>Center 3: Work for Good Help each other build something together and talk about God's help.</p>	blocks	
	<p>Center 4: Lifetime Timelines Create timelines of their lives to understand how long Jacob worked for Laban, and see that God is in control all the time.</p>	washable markers; construction paper; craft supplies such as glitter, buttons, glue, and pompoms	
<p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Thanks-for-Helping Prayer Thank God for his help.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

Genesis 29:15-30

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jacob Flees From Esau to Uncle Laban

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

Jacob Marries Leah, But Loves Rachel

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

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

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

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

Jacob Keeps His Word to Laban

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Come On In"
(track 2), "Be Careful"
(verse 1) (track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Come On In" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Michael, Row Your Boat Ashore."

 **Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah!** (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)

Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*clap hands*)
Clap your hands and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue clapping*)

Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn around*)
Spin around and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*turn again*)

Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*motion to come; then greet a friend*)
Come on in and we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*greet another friend*)

All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*sway arms above head*)
All together, we'll praise God. Hallelujah! (*continue swaying arms*)

Say: **I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn that God works in all situations, and that ► GOD HELPS US. Let's sing a song about obeying God.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing "Be Careful" (verse 1) (track 3 on the CD).

 **Be careful to do** (*march in place*)

What God has asked you to

Do-do-do-do-do-do, (*jump up and down*)

Do-do-do-do-do-do!

Be careful to do (*march in place*)

What God has asked you to.

Obey God each day. (*bow on the word obey*)





Obey God each day. Obey God each day. (*continue bowing*)

Be careful to do (*march in place*)

What God has asked you to.

Obey God each day. (*bow on the word obey*)

Say: Today we'll hear about a man named Jacob whose dishonest words and actions made his brother, Esau, really angry with him. After Jacob had to run away from his brother, God helped him get things back on track. No matter where Jacob went, God always helped him. No matter where we go, ► **GOD HELPS US, too!**



2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

All for Good

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Romans 8:28, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). That means in all things God works for good. Let's practice the Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).**

Have kids form pairs. Say: **Sometimes sad things happen, and God is there with us. Other times great things happen, and God is with us then, too. Our Key Verse tells us that in all things God works for good. God can use both good and sad situations to make something good happen.**

Share with children a time (perhaps when you were their age) something sad happened that later turned out to be a good thing.

Have pairs talk together about a sad thing that has happened in their lives. It could be something serious, or even just something they didn't like, such as having to go to bed earlier than they wanted to. Allow time.

Say: **Even when sad things happen, in all things God works for good.**

Help children each use a washable marker to draw sad faces on their left palm. Then help children each draw a happy face on the palm of the other hand.

Say: **We're going to listen to a poem called "Sad to Glad." If something sounds sad, hold up your hand with the sad face; if something sounds like it might make you glad, high five your neighbor with your happy face hands. When you hear a**

All for Good Supplies

- Bible
- washable markers
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Sad to Glad" (track 12)





bell sound, we'll all practice the Key Verse together with the kids on the CD: **In all things God works for good.**

Play "Sad to Glad" (track 12 on the CD).

Have pairs talk about the same sad things they mentioned earlier, but tell their partners how God can make something good come from those sad situations.

Say: **When things seem bad or sad, just wait. God isn't finished! ► GOD HELPS US all the time, and we can trust him no matter what is going on.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What happened in the poem that seemed sad?**
- **What did you think about the sad things turning out good?**
- **What's one way you can show God you trust him to help you when something sad happens?**

Say: **In our lives, many things happen that don't really go the way we would want them to go. It's so important that we remember that God is working in those times to help something good happen. ► GOD HELPS US whenever we ask and he loves us all the time. Let's find out more about how God helped Jacob when he needed help.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! How are you today?

Theo: Well, I'm not having the best day. I think someone may have taken my favorite bone. I need someone to help me find it.

Teacher: Well, we have to stay here right now, but maybe we can call someone to help you, Theo.

Theo: Friends, who could we call for help?
(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

"Police Officer" picture

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the "Police Officer" picture in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Teacher: Theo, maybe when you get home, you can call [person/people kids mentioned for Theo to call]. For now, I think it would cheer you up to have someone help you open the Surprise Box.

Theo: Oh, boy! I think that would make me feel better. Who wants to help me open the Surprise Box?

(Have Theo choose a willing child and open the Surprise Box with that child. Have the kids pass the "Police Officer" picture around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: This police officer helps people when they're in trouble. If you're in danger or need help finding something that's been taken, you can call this person and they'll help you out. The only thing better than help from a police officer is the way God can help us. It doesn't matter what we need, ► **GOD HELPS US.** We can talk to God all the time and he never gets tired of helping us.

Theo: You really mean that God wants to help all the time and never gets tired?

Teacher: Yeah! God is always there and always listens and always helps.

Theo: Well, that's cool! I'm heading home; I think I might know where to find that bone.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about people who help others?
- Tell about a time you needed help with something.
- What's it like to ask God for help?

Say: **Even though we can't see God, he's always with us. God hears everything we say and think. And he wants to hear us ask for help when we need it. God can help us make good decisions, he can help us when something is difficult, and God can help us follow him and please him. Today we'll learn about a situation in the Bible where a man named Jacob needed God's help. Let's find out more about how ► GOD HELPS US.**

Bible Time: Rock-or-Treat

What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 29:15-30 and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book. Sit with kids in a circle.

Say: **Jacob was a man in the Bible whose dishonesty with his family meant he had to run away from home. His brother was so angry, he wanted to hurt him. He found his uncle Laban and Laban's family. Laban had two daughters named Leah and Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel and he wanted to marry her, so he asked his uncle if he could marry Rachel.**



Bible Time: Rock-or-Treat Supplies

- Bible
- tasty treats such as cupcakes, candy, fruit leather, or anything that will really appeal to your kids (1 per child)
- napkins
- rocks (1 per child)
- beach ball
- antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT





Ask:

- **What's something you really want?**

Say: **Laban agreed to let Jacob marry Rachel, but first Jacob had to work for him for seven years. That's more years than you have probably been alive! That's a long time to work hard.**

Ask:

- **Tell what you think of working for that special thing until you're seven years old.**

Say: **I have a choice for you to make. I'm going to give you a treat, and I have a couple of options for you to choose from.** Show kids the rocks and treats and ask them which one they'd like to have now. Allow time for each child to decide. Say: **Okay, you can have what you chose, but you have to do a chore for me first.** Assign easy chores for the kids to do. Make sure they're not glamorous, but not too hard for them, either.

After they've each done a small task around the room, gather kids in a circle. Say: **The Bible tells us that seven years seemed to go quickly for Jacob because he loved Rachel so much. She was worth waiting for—like how you worked and are waiting for the treat you chose. Well, the time for the wedding finally arrived. It was dark outside when Jacob married his wife, so it was really difficult to see people's faces. It was a great wedding party.**

Take the beach ball and throw it around the circle so each child gets to throw and catch it at least once. When kids catch the beach ball, they can say one of their favorite things at a party.

Have children clean their hands. Say: **Okay, now it's time for you to have your treats. Sit in a circle and wait patiently while I give each of you a treat.** Give each child a napkin and place a rock on top of it, and act as if it's a perfectly normal thing to give them as a snack. Sit down with the kids in the circle.

Say: **What? Don't you like the treat you worked for?** Allow time for kids to respond. When they've talked about their reactions, collect the rocks and tell them that you gave them a treat and now they'll have to do more chores for the other treat. Have kids all do another small chore and then sit with you again.

Say: **When the wedding was over and Jacob was married, he found out that his uncle Laban had tricked him. He'd given Jacob his older daughter, Leah, to marry instead of Rachel.**

Jacob asked Laban, "What did you do? I worked seven years to get Rachel as my wife, not Leah!" Uncle Laban said, "Where we live, the oldest sister has to get married first, and then the younger one can get married. You can marry Rachel if you promise to work *another seven years* for me." Redistribute napkins and then give kids the treats they've been waiting for.

Say: **Jacob married Rachel and then worked another seven years because he loved her so much.**





Allow kids to eat their treats while you say: **Jacob thought Rachel was worth all of this work. Jacob found out that God was always helping him. It was bad when Laban tricked him, but God made good come of something bad.**

Jacob married Rachel and then worked an extra seven years. God helped Jacob in lots of ways. After all of this, God led Jacob to a new place where his family could live safely. God helped Jacob find a place to work and God gave Jacob a new family to love.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you feel when I gave you a rock even though you asked for and worked for a treat?
- Tell about a time you got something different than you asked for.
- How does God help you in times like that?

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US all the time, but that doesn't mean things will always turn out exactly how we think they will. But we can trust God to give us what we need, just as God helped Jacob in his difficult time.**



4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

God's Help

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 4 My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on their papers. Set out a variety of markers.

Say: **God helped Jacob find a safe, new place to live when he left his brother, Esau.** Point to the picture of Jacob walking to a new place. **God helped Jacob find new work to do with his uncle Laban.** Point to the picture of Jacob with the sheep. **God helped Jacob by giving him a new family to love.** Point to the picture of Laban and his daughters. **Just like God helped Jacob, he helps us, too.**



Center 1: God's Help Supplies

My Bible Playground washable markers

Center 1: God's Help Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.





Say: **Maybe God has helped you wait patiently for a new bicycle, say nice things to someone who hurt your feelings, or treat someone kindly; there are lots of ways that** ► **GOD HELPS US.** On the bottom half of your page, draw one way God helps you.

As children draw, encourage discussion by asking kids to tell why they want God's help.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How have you seen God help someone else in your life?
- What's one thing you're facing right now that you need God's help with?

Say: **What you drew on your page shows a way God helps you. God helped Jacob, too, when things seemed really difficult in Jacob's life. God loves us all the time and wants to help us no matter what we've done or what's happening around us.** ► **GOD HELPS US** in so many ways. We can trust God to help us with whatever is going on in our lives. God has helped us all along, and he tells us that he'll keep helping us.

■ CENTER 2:

So Easy, It's Impossible

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God's always with us and he helps us all the time. Some things might seem impossible, but God can help us do anything. Jacob was afraid and in trouble, and God helped him turn his life around and get a new start. Let's try something that can help us understand a little about how Jacob felt.**

Have kids sit at a table or on the floor. Say: **Wiggle your fingers with me.** Wiggle all your fingers. **Fingers are easy to move, aren't they?** Have kids follow along with you as you place either hand palm-down on the flat surface. Now tuck your middle finger under your palm, bending it at the second knuckle. Have kids do the same, and help any kids who are struggling to do this.

Say: **Now wiggle your fingers on the hand on the table without lifting your hand.** Wait while kids do. Walk kids through wiggling each of their fingers. If one of the fingers won't move, or is stuck under their hand, have kids move on to the next finger. They should all be unable to move their ring fingers. Say: **Use all your strength to move that ring finger.** Make sure kids understand they can only use the muscles in their hands.

Now, use your other hand to lift that ring finger off the table just a bit. Allow time. Kids might be surprised at how easily their finger lifted off the table. Say: **Just like using your other hand to help lift that finger made it easy, when God helps us, our difficulties become easier.** If they were able to lift their ring fingers a little bit by lifting their pinkies, help them see how we can do some things on our own, or with the help of a friend or other person, but with God's help, we can do so much more.





Try it with the other hand if you have time and kids are interested.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like when you couldn't lift your own finger off the table without help?
- How is that like or unlike something you can't do because you're too young or too little?
- What's something you can't do on your own that you think you could do with God's help?

Say: Sometimes things we face may seem impossible, scary, or hard to figure out. We aren't meant to accomplish everything on our own—we need God. When we face something that's harder than what we can handle, God will help us. Jacob had some really big problems in his life when he tried to do things on his own. He caused some of the problems, and his uncle Laban caused some of the other problems. But in the end, God used Jacob's family to start a new country called Israel. Even with all that mess going on, God still made something good happen. ► **GOD HELPS US all the time—sometimes in ways we do see and sometimes in ways we don't see.**

CENTER 3:

Work for Good

What You'll Do

Divide the group into teams of five to seven, and toss five to seven blocks randomly in front of each team. Say: **We need help with lots of things in our lives, and that's okay. ► GOD HELPS US all the time, and that's a good thing. These blocks are a mess right now. Just like how God helped Jacob with his life when it was a mess, we're going to help each other with these messy blocks.**

Choose a few kids from each team to be Builders (everyone else will be Planners) and ask the Builders to leave the room with another adult for a short while. When those kids have stepped out, quickly figure out with the rest of the kids what they'll be building. The Planners won't tell the Builders what they're making, but they'll give instructions. Have the Planners sit in circles several feet away from their team's blocks. Invite the Builders to come back into the room and go to their teams.

Say: **You Builders will make something today, but none of you will know what it is. The Planners will tell you what to do and you have to listen carefully and closely to figure out how to work together to build this thing.** Remind the Planners not to tell the Builders what they're making.

Allow a few minutes for kids to work together to create the object they all agreed on beforehand. Then have kids switch roles. Continue until each person has a chance to be a Builder.



Center 3: Work for
Good
Supplies

.....
blocks





Center 4: Lifetime Timelines Supplies

washable markers
construction paper
craft supplies such as
glitter, buttons, glue,
and pompoms

When they've finished, have the Builders each sit in a circle with their team's Planner.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead groups in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to work together in this building activity?
- Builders, what was it like to listen to people tell you how to do something?
- How was this like or unlike the way that God helps us?

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US** all the time. His instructions are always correct, and he always shows us what to do when we pay attention to him. Like in this game, it can be easy to be distracted. But just like how God made something good happen in the middle of the mess of Jacob's life, ► **GOD HELPS US** no matter what our lives look like.

■ CENTER 4:

Lifetime Timelines

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute paper and markers and set out the rest of the supplies. Say: **Jacob spent a long time working to be allowed to marry Rachel, and then he worked seven more years for her. Most of you haven't even been alive for seven years. Let's make timelines of our lives to understand what it was like for Jacob to work that long.**

Let's start off with the very first event in our lives: Each of us was born. Draw and decorate something you needed as a baby on the left side of your paper. Help kids know which side to start on by showing them.

Continue helping kids think about the major events in their lives. They should have plenty of unique things, events that only happened in their lives. For example, some of them might have a new younger sibling, others might have done something memorable with a grandparent or relative, or a friend may have moved away. Help kids document the events that have been meaningful in their lives.

Say: **A year is a really long time. Think about the difference in your life from when you were 4 years old to when you turned 5. A lot of things happen in that one year. One year from now, you'll be more grown up and you'll be in a higher grade at school.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time that things went differently from what you expected.
- How did God help you when things weren't going like you expected?





- Looking at your timeline, what's the most important thing that's happened in your life so far? How do you know God was helping you then?

Say: **Even when Jacob's uncle cheated Jacob and made things hard for him, God was still able to help Jacob and make his life into something good. ► GOD HELPS US. No matter what happens in life, God's in control. When we're scared or confused and we remember God, we can know God is helping us. Just like our Key Verse says, God is with us helping all things work for the good of those who love him.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HELPS US. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to remember that ► GOD HELPS US.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Ask your parents to help you make a list of the ways God helps you in your life right now and thank him for his help. Then pray for God's help with anything you need help with right now.**
2. **Draw a picture for a police officer, nurse, firefighter, or other community helper. Give that person the picture with thanks for allowing God to use him or her to help others.**
3. **Lift a heavy household object with a parent's help, and thank him or her for helping you just as God does.**

Say: **If you want to make a list and pray, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to lift something heavy, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers





Thanks-for-Helping Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **One way we can show God we know he's helping us is by thanking him for what he's doing now. We've talked about how God helps us all the time, and that means he has helped us in the past and is helping us right now. Let's pray and thank him for his help.**

If you did the "God's Help" center, distribute the student pages to each child for the prayer time. If you didn't do that center, ask kids to think of ways ► **GOD HELPS US.** Go around the circle and have each child use his or her drawing to pray, "Thank you, God, for helping me [name what they drew pictures of, such as giving them a home or giving them food]." After everyone has a turn, ask all the children to repeat each line of the following prayer after you:

Pray: **Dear God,
Thank you for always helping us.
We love you.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams

Genesis 37:1-11

Many young children are naturally affectionate and don't hesitate to show love to their families. Point out to your children that God gave them their families to love and care for them. While many 5- and 6-year-olds don't struggle with showing affection, they may need to be reminded to show God's love at times when it's not as easy. Use this lesson about Joseph and his family to help kids understand how they can love their families even when it's not easy.



► Bible Point


Families show God's love.

Key Verse

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will show God's love to their families.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Air Fort Fun Play in an inflated fort.	Bible, 1 large (not fitted) sheet or a play parachute, sturdy tape, electric fan, small bouncy ball	Tape the outer edges of the sheet to the floor of your meeting room, leaving an opening and extra sheet material for the fan to inflate.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a slipper has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, slipper Teacher Pack: CD	Place the slipper in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: The Extra-Special Son Learn what was going on between Joseph and his family and how God wants us to love our families.	Bible, index cards, markers Teacher Pack: "Joseph and His Brothers" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), mask 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: That Gorgeous Coat</p> <p>Decorate a coat to show what Jacob's gift to Joseph looked like, and talk about how their families show love.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, 1 bowl for every 5 kids, 1 paintbrush and 1 smock per child, vinegar, colorful tissue paper, wet wipes	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Family Snacks</p> <p>Make snacks that represent their family members and think about how to show God's love to those people.</p>	1 slice of whole wheat bread per child, jam or jelly, hulled sunflower seeds, plastic knives, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Not-Like-Joseph Play</p> <p>Act like families showing love.</p>	tape, 1 colorful T-shirt for every 6 children	Prepare a stage for a dramatic play. Include whatever props you think will add to the scene.
	<p>Center 4: Love Toss</p> <p>Toss a paper ball back and forth.</p>	3 or 4 pieces of different-colored construction paper, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Crumple the pieces of paper into a ball making it as tight as possible for kids to toss it around.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Jumping Jack Prayer</p> <p>Ask God to help them show love to their family members.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Joseph Dreams Disturbing Dreams

Genesis 37:1-11

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jacob Favors Joseph Over His Other Children

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

Joseph's Coat Creates Jealousy

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

Joseph's Favored Position Creates Resentment

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

How Not to Treat Other Family Members

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

The Jesus Connection

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Here!"
(track 13), "Show
God's Love" (track 14)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song



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


What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "We're Here!" (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of "Looby Loo." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.

 **It's fun to hear God's Word!** (*hold one hand behind ear*)
It's fun to sing and pray! (*make praying hands*)
Come in and join our class! (*motion to come in*)
We're so glad you're here today! (*turn and clap both hands against a partner's, as in Patty-Cake*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we're learning that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. This means that God wants us to show his love to each other and the people in our family. That reminds me of a song.**

Have children stand in a circle and hold hands. Sing "Show God's Love" (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush," walking in a circle as you sing.

 **Love one another, and show God's love,
 Show God's love, show God's love.
 Love one another, and show God's love.
 Show God's love today.**
(Repeat 5x.)

Say: **I'm so glad you're all here today! Today we'll read in the Bible about a boy named Joseph who had a hard time with his brothers. We'll learn how important it is that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE to each other and to others. When family members do a good job of showing love to each other, they can also show God's love to others. God cares a lot about what happens in our families. Let's find out more!**





2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Air Fort Fun

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Romans 8:28, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Romans 8:28, says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." That means, in all things God works for good. Let's practice saying our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28).**

Say: **It may be easier for us to see God working for our good when things are going well, or in the good things that we have or that happen. But our Key Verse tells us something amazing: In all things God works for good. That means even in our troubles, God works for good!**

Crawl under this sheet to see how God works for our good. Without turning on the fan, encourage six to eight kids to get under the sheet. Sit outside the fort with the rest of your kids. You sit at the opening opposite of the fan. Have the kids outside with you help by holding the edges of the sheet down so air doesn't escape when the fan is on. Give the bouncy ball to the last child to go into the fort. Peek your face in so you can see the kids. Be sensitive to any children who feel too closed in and allow them to move to the edge of the group or out of the fort entirely.



Without turning the fan on, have kids inside the fort toss the bouncy ball to each other. The sheet will be in the way since it should be very baggy around the kids and they'll have to work around it. Allow this to continue for a short while.



Air Fort Fun Supplies

- Bible
- 1 large (not fitted) sheet or a play parachute
 - sturdy tape
 - electric fan
 - small bouncy ball

Air Fort Fun Easy Prep

Tape the outer edges of the sheet to the floor of your meeting room, leaving an opening and extra sheet material for the fan to inflate.





Say: **When we have troubles, it can feel like being under this sheet and trying to toss a bouncy ball. Troubles can make us feel stuck or frustrated. We want out of our troubles! Let's help ourselves remember our Key Verse together: In all things God works for good (Romans 8:28)!** Turn on the fan and let the air fort inflate around kids. Have kids who are outside the sheet help you hold the sheet around the fan to keep the air fort inflated, and help kids inside the fort avoid sitting directly in front of the fan.

Have kids toss the bouncy ball again. This time, there will be room for them to play and see each other. Allow kids to play for a few minutes, and then switch roles so a different set of kids can get into the fort. Take each group of kids through the same experience.

Say: **Just like the air filled our air fort and made it easier to see each other and play, God is working inside hard situations to make them good. As we learn more about Joseph, we will find that he had many troubles. But God used those troubles to work for good in the lives of Joseph and his family. We know God is always working for good in our lives, too—even in hard times. We can trust him because he loves us and knows what is best for us. In all things God works for good.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to toss the bouncy ball when the fan wasn't on?
- How is being under this sheet like being in hard times?
- How do you feel when you're having hard times?
- What are some hard times that people have?
- What hard times have you had?

Say: **Even though we'll have hard times in life, God tells us that he'll work all things for good. Whether we're facing hard times or easy times, we can know that God is working to make those times work for good. We'll find out what happened to Joseph and his family. God was working in that bad situation to make things good. Let's find out more!**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet
CD player
slipper

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the slipper in the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.





Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what you've dug up for us today.

Theo: I chewed on it a little bit and then hid it in the Surprise Box for you.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo chewed up...I mean dug up for us today.

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the slipper around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, this slipper is for human feet. You can't wear it. So why'd you stick it in the Surprise Box?

Theo: I know my master really likes to wear slippers when he's almost ready to go to sleep. I heard you're learning about a guy who had dreams, so I thought the slipper might go well with your lesson. Plus, it looked so tasty and chewy, I couldn't resist a little nibble as I dropped it in the box.

Teacher: We don't really agree with your taste in treats, but thanks for bringing this slipper to share with us. You're right, we're going to learn about a boy who had dreams. Some of his dreams made people in his family really upset. He told them those dreams anyway and it caused some bad jealousy from his older brothers.

Theo: Oh man, older brothers can be hard to get along with sometimes. Do any of you have older brothers?

(Pause for kids to answer Theo's question.)

Theo: I a little brother and I really love him, but sometimes, we don't get along too well.

Teacher: Joseph had 10 big brothers who were a lot older and bigger than him, and they were really jealous, too. Today's Bible passage shows a family that had trouble acting the way God wanted them to, even though ► **FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

Theo: Wow! That sounds really exciting! But I think I hear my master. He's not mad, but I think he's disappointed that I disobeyed. It sounds like he's looking for that slipper, so I am going to have to take it back. Have fun, boys and girls, gotta go!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Theo's master isn't mad at him, but he's disappointed. What do you think of that?**
- **Tell about a time you disappointed someone in your family.**
- **What do you think families can do to show each other God's love?**

Say: **God can turn a bad situation around, just like he helped Joseph in really hard times. We're going to learn about families and the way God wants them to love each other. ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE even in tough times, like how Theo's master still loves him even though Theo disobeyed. God loves us so much, and he wants us to share his love by loving other people. The best place to start that is with our families.**





Bible Time: The Extra-Special Son Supplies

Bible
index cards
markers
Teacher Pack
“Joseph and His Brothers” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)
mask

Bible Time: The Extra-Special Son

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sit with kids near the “Joseph and His Brothers” poster. Open your Bible to Genesis 37:1-11, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Today we’ll hear about a family that didn’t always show God’s love, but through all that happened, God was working everything for good. Joseph was a teenager when this happened. He had 11 brothers. That’s a lot of boys in one family!** Point out Joseph and his brothers on the poster.

Invite a child to be Joseph, the Dreamer. Invite one child to be the Dad and another to be the Mom. Everyone else will be the Brothers. Tell kids to act out what people are saying and doing in the passage as you tell them what happened.

Use the “Joseph and His Brothers” poster to illustrate as you talk. Say: **Joseph was his father’s favorite of all 12 of his sons. That made Joseph’s 11 brothers really jealous and angry with him. One day, Joseph told on his brothers for doing something wrong while they were watching their dad’s sheep.** Have kids act out Joseph telling on his brothers.

That made Joseph’s brothers even angrier with him. Have the Brothers shake their fists at Joseph. **Then Joseph’s dad, Jacob, made a beautiful coat for Joseph to wear because Joseph was his favorite son.** Have the Dad give the Dreamer the mask. **This made his brothers even more jealous.** Have the Brothers act angry.

Say: **Then it got worse for Joseph. He started having dreams that meant his brothers would bow down to him some day.** Have the Dreamer lie down to sleep. **In one dream, he saw himself tying up bundles of grain in the field. Joseph saw his bundle stand up and his brothers’ bundles bowing down in front of his bundle.** Have the Brothers bow down to Joseph while he “sleeps.”

Well, Joseph told his brothers about this dream, and I bet you can guess how they felt about it. If you can believe it, Joseph’s brothers had yet another reason not to like him. Joseph had another dream where not just his brothers, but also his father and mother bowed down in front of him. Have the Dreamer fall asleep again. **In his dream, he saw stars and the sun and moon.**

Hand out index cards and a marker to each Brother and to the Mom and Dad. **The stars stood for his brothers and they each bowed before Joseph.** Have the Brothers each draw a star on her or his index card, and then have the Brothers kneel around Joseph and make their star pictures bow to him.

The sun stood for Joseph’s dad since Jacob was the leader of the family, and the Sun bowed down to Joseph. Have the Dad draw the Sun on an index card and then join the Brothers in bowing to Joseph.





And the moon, which stood for Joseph’s mom bowed down in front of him, too.

Have the Mom draw the moon on an index card and then join the Brothers and the Dad in bowing to Joseph.

He told this dream to his brothers and his dad, too. Have the Dreamer wake up. **Even his dad, who liked him more than his brothers, thought the dream was a little rude, and even though his brothers were mad at Joseph, his dad wasn’t.** Have the Brothers act as angry as they can and have the Dad tell Joseph to be careful about what he says.

Let’s play a game to help us remember today’s Bible passage.

Have the kids play a game of Tag. The Dreamer, the Dad, and the Mom will chase the Brothers. When someone catches one of the Brothers, the Brother must bow down to the person who caught her or him. The person bowing must count to 12 and then can get up from bowing and will join the Dad, Mom and Dreamer in chasing the Brothers.

Allow time for kids to play.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think about the Brothers having to bow down in our game?**
- **How is that like or unlike the way Joseph’s brothers reacted?**
- **What happens in your family when you all show God’s love?**

Say: **God gave us our families to love and take care of us. We can show God’s love to our families by helping, sharing, and not thinking we’re better than anyone else. It’s important that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD’S LOVE. Just as God wanted Joseph’s family to love and be kind to each other, he wants us to love our families.**

**4 WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE**

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





Center 1: That Gorgeous Coat Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
1 bowl for every 5 kids
1 paintbrush and 1
smock per child
vinegar
colorful tissue paper
wet wipes

Center 1: That Gorgeous Coat Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
5 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

CENTER 1:

That Gorgeous Coat

What You'll Do

Say: **Joseph's dad gave him a colorful coat, but he didn't give anything like it to his other 11 sons. The Bible tells us the coat was really beautiful and that it was a very special gift. Let's make our own coats today to help us remember the beautiful coat that Jacob gave his son Joseph.**

Distribute the Lesson 5 My Bible Playground student pages. Help kids write their names on their papers and put on smocks to protect their clothing. Pour about one-quarter cup of vinegar into each bowl. Set the bowls on the table, along with colorful tissue paper and wet wipes for kids to share.

Let children tear small pieces of tissue paper and place the paper inside the outline of the coat. Say: **Dip your paintbrush into the vinegar in the bowl and then tap off any extra vinegar.** Demonstrate for kids. Allow time.

Paint the vinegar onto the tissue paper, holding the paper in place so it doesn't move around. Demonstrate and allow time.

Make sure all the tissue paper pieces are moist, and then set your papers aside to dry. Help kids as needed.

Have children use wet wipes to remove the tissue color from their fingers if necessary. Help kids remove their painting smocks and sit in a circle on the floor while the vinegar dries.

Ask:

- **What do you think of the colorful coat as a gift to show love?**
- **What gift would you most like to receive?**
- **What gift would you most like to give?**

Once the vinegar is dry, help kids carefully peel off the tissue pieces, and the color will remain on their papers.

Say: **One way Joseph's dad showed Joseph his love was by giving him a special coat. We make others happy when we show them God's love. ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. And we can love everyone in our family. God's love makes things beautiful the way our vinegar and tissue paper made the coat beautiful. Loving the people in our families is more important than getting our way or having what we want.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What would you like or dislike about receiving a coat that looks like the one you made today?**



- How does God show you his love?
- What can you do for other people to show them how much you love them?

Say: **Jacob loved his son Joseph very much and he gave him a beautiful coat like the one we made on our My Bible Playground pages. The Bible even tells us that Joseph was his dad’s favorite son. It’s not good for families to have favorites, but it’s wonderful when ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD’S LOVE. When we show love to our families, there’s plenty to go around and then God’s love ends up showing everywhere we go.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Family Snacks

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table. Say: **Joseph had dreams that were upsetting and frustrating to the rest of his family. God was at work in those dreams, but his family didn’t like the dreams one bit! Joseph’s dreams meant that one day, everyone in his family would bow down before him. His brothers were already really jealous of him, and hearing about his dreams just made it worse.**

Let’s make snacks that can remind us of what Joseph dreamed. Have kids clean their hands. Help kids understand that bread is made from wheat. Distribute bread slices, napkins, and plastic knives and set out the jam and sunflower seeds, but don’t let kids eat yet.

Say: **In Joseph’s first dream, bundles of grain like wheat bowed down, showing that his brothers would someday bow down in front of him.** Have one child be Joseph and the rest of the kids will “bow” their bread slices in front of Joseph’s slice.

Say: **Joseph’s second dream was about everyone in his family. Even his parents bowed to him! In this dream, the sun bowed down in front of Joseph to show him that his dad would bow to him one day. There were 11 stars that bowed to him in his dream, too. The 11 stars showed him that his brothers would bow to him one day. When he shared about this dream from God, it made his entire family pretty unhappy, but God had a plan.** Encourage kids to use the plastic knives to cut their bread slices into shapes that remind them of their family members. Talk with kids about ways that they can show God’s love to their family members.

Say: **God showed his love for us by sending his Son to save us from sin. God sent Jesus as a servant and also as our King. We can show God’s love to our families by finding ways to serve and bless the people God has put in our families.**

Have kids spread jam or jelly on their bread shapes and then sprinkle sunflower seeds on top. When kids are done with their creations, pray: **God, thank you for our families. Please help us show your love. Thank you for this snack. We love you! In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Center 2: Family Snacks Supplies

- 1 slice of whole wheat bread per child
jam or jelly
hulled sunflower seeds
plastic knives
napkins
antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: Not-Like-Joseph Play Supplies

tape
1 colorful T-shirt for every 6 children

Center 3: Not-Like-Joseph Play Easy Prep

Prepare a stage for a dramatic play. Include whatever props you think will add to the scene.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion as they eat their snacks.

Ask:

- Explain which shapes remind you of your family members.
- Tell about a family member that you sometimes have a hard time showing God's love to.
- In what ways could you show God's love to that person in your family?

Say: **No matter what our family members do, God still loves them and no matter what we do, God still loves us. Since God loves each person in our families, it's important for us to do our best to show God's love for our family members. Your family is the most important place for you to show God's love. Joseph's family didn't show God's love even though God wanted them to. When ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE, God's love gets everywhere. Sometimes it's easier to be nice to friends than to our families, but God tells us that he cares a lot about how we act toward our families.**

■ CENTER 3:

Not-Like-Joseph Play

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God loved each person in Joseph's family, and it made God's heart sad to see the people in Joseph's family treating each other so badly. God gave us our families so we could learn how to treat other people. Let's use Joseph's family as a model to practice some ways that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

Divide the group into families of six. Say: **You'll all be a family. In each family, five people will wear a piece of tape and the other person will wear a colorful T-shirt.** Tell the actors they will pretend to be a family.

Say: **The person who wears the colorful shirt in your family will be a special family member. You can all decide what makes that person special, and the person in the colorful shirt cannot be a parent.** Figure out which family role each person will have, and then give kids one of the prompts listed below to tell them a situation to act out. They will act this out in a way that shows God's love.

Say: **Unlike Joseph's family, ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

Prompts:

- It's Sunday morning and your family is going to church. The person in the colorful shirt is running late, and the entire family has to wait on that person.
- The person in the colorful shirt broke something in a store while the whole family was shopping for a birthday present.
- The family is at a talent show for the person in the colorful shirt. The person in the colorful shirt doesn't win.





- The person in the colorful shirt has a toy that belongs to a sister or brother.
- Two kids in the family were playing together. One of them is the person in the colorful shirt. Both of them go to the rest of the family accusing the other one of breaking a rule while they were playing.
- After dinner, the family had cookies for dessert. One person took two cookies so the person in the colorful shirt doesn't get to have any.

Say: Joseph felt great when he received the nice coat. But his brothers were jealous and they were mean to Joseph. Jacob could've given everyone a coat or at least told them they were special, too. Even when things aren't fair, we can decide how we will react to things happening around us. No matter what is happening, it's important to know that ► **FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to think about how to treat each other nicely in this activity?
- Tell about a time things weren't fair in your family.
- Why does God want you to show love even when things seem unfair?

Say: It was a challenge to show love to someone in an unfair situation in this game. God loves us all the time, and he wants us to show his love to our families. Our families are the people closest to us. They know us very well and they love us. Joseph's family didn't show God's love. Sometimes families are hard to get along with because we all know each other so very well, but it's important that ► **FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

■ CENTER 4: Love Toss

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Joseph's brothers weren't very loving toward Joseph. They believed the worst about him when he shared his dream. When we love someone, we can see the best in them. But when we're looking for things to be angry about, those things are easy to find. Let's practice thinking the best of people so we can show God's love.

Have kids stand in a circle and spend a short time talking to a partner about the people in their families. After about a minute, say: **This ball is colorful like Joseph's coat. As we toss this ball of paper, I'll play a song. When you catch the ball, say something you really like about someone in your family. If you're holding the ball when the music stops, wiggle your body.** Begin "Reggae Music 2" (track 7 on the CD). Have kids toss the paper ball to each other, stopping the music randomly. Repeat as time allows.



Center 4: Love Toss Supplies

3 or 4 pieces of
different-colored
construction paper
CD player

Teacher Pack
CD: "Reggae Music 2"
(track 7)

Center 4: Love Toss Easy Prep

Crumple the pieces
of paper into a ball
making it as tight as
possible for kids to toss
it around.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to think of things you like about the people in your family?
- What's one thing that's difficult about getting along with someone in your family?
- When family members don't like something you do, how do you like them to handle that?
- What is one way you can treat your family members the way you want to be treated?

Say: **You named some really incredible things about your families. Joseph's brothers had a hard time loving Joseph because they were jealous of him. God doesn't tell us to be kind to our family only when they're nice to us. He tells us to show his love to our entire family all the time. That's not something we can do without God's help. We can pray and ask God to help us and our ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► FAMILIES SHOW GOD'S LOVE. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice showing love to your family.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Go to a park with your family and find a way to show God's love to someone else there. Talk with your family about how families show God's love to each other and others.**
2. **Ask a family member which game is his or her favorite. Gather other people to play that game for that family member and talk about how God wants families to show his love.**
3. **Make a small present for each person in your family, and give the presents to them at dinner time. Remind them that God loves each of them and so do you.**





Say: **If you want to go to a park, circle choice number 1. If you want to play a game, circle choice number 2. If you want to make presents for your family, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Jumping Jack Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids spread out around the room so they each have their own space. Pray the prayer below naming a different family member each time you jump. Then have each child follow you in saying the prayer and doing a jumping jack for each family member. Since families come in a wide variety of sizes, allow kids to do as many or as few jumping jacks as they wish.

Pray: **Dear God,**

Please help me to show your love to my family (have kids list family members' names).

Have kids do jumping jacks while naming as many or as few family members as kids want to list—for example, if they list more than just their immediate family, that's fine. If kids only want to list their immediate family, that's fine, too. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36

For any person of any age, this lesson contains some very sad content. But for kids age 5 and 6, the Bible content may seem nearly incomprehensible. Regardless of kids' experience, they're capable of understanding that God loves each of them and wants them to do what's right. Use this lesson to help kids see that God can help them control their attitudes and hearts so that they can do what's right.



► Bible Point


God wants us to do what's right.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will do what's right in daily life.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Everything for God Play a version of Hot Potato and learn about how they can do everything for God.	Bible, 1 rolled-up sock, tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, "What's Right" poster 	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what gold coins have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, gold coins	Place the gold coins in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: The Not-So-Brotherly Boys Act out a news broadcast of the events in the Bible passage.	Bible; empty box; large, colorful shirt; empty paper towel tube; yarn Teacher Pack: gold coins	Set up the empty box on one side of the room and place the colorful shirt on the other side of the room.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Bible Scenes Do a sensory activity to help them remember the events in the Bible passage.</p>	My Bible Playground; cotton balls; white glue; short strips of narrow, colorful ribbon; washable markers; 1 penny per child	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Heart Condition Use marshmallows and pretzels to learn how our attitudes drive our actions.</p>	a few large marshmallows per child, small pretzel sticks, paper plates, wet wipes, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Loving Families Make pictures about doing what's right.</p>	markers, paper, craft supplies	
	<p>Center 4: Chain Game Find out what it feels like to be in chains.</p>	scissors, colorful construction paper, tape, washable markers	Cut strips of construction paper at least 1 inch wide and 4 inches long. There should be enough strips for each child to have at least 5.
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Right vs. Wrong Prayer Take steps to the right and left as they pray.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery

Genesis 37:12-36

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You may be surprised you've been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. Rest assured that for this age level, we've chosen to focus on why it's important for kids to do what's right. The material of this lesson may seem fairly heavy, but the focus and the point is to keep God's priorities first in our lives.

Joseph's Brothers Have Had Enough

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

The Brothers Put Joseph Into a Cistern

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

The Brothers Sell Joseph to Traders

When the traders came along, Genesis 37:29 indicates that Reuben was not present. Judah suddenly suggested that they spare Joseph's life. We don't know if this suggestion was prompted by pangs of guilt, the appeal of money, or a desire to punish Joseph even more severely by making a slave of him.

The decision was made, and Joseph was gone before Reuben returned. When he found that Joseph was gone, Reuben was grief-stricken, anguishing over what to do next and, no doubt, what to tell his father.

The Brothers Lie to Jacob About What Happened to Joseph

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

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

The Jesus Connection

God wants us to do what's right no matter what seems justified to us. Humans allowed sin to enter our hearts, but God still chose to save us with the most radical sacrifice that's ever been made.

We can look at God's extravagant example of forgiveness and remember to ask him to help us do what's right in any situation. What's one way you can trust God to help you do what's right? You can write your prayer in the space below.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Here!"
(track 13), "As I Have
Loved You" (John
13:34) (track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead children in doing the motions and singing "We're Here!" (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of "Looby Loo."

It's fun to hear God's Word! (*hold one hand behind ear*)

It's fun to sing and pray! (*make praying hands*)

Come in and join our class! (*motion to come in*)

We're so glad you're here today! (*turn and clap both hands against a partner's, as in Patty-Cake*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Thanks for coming to church today. Today we'll learn that the things we do and think matter, and that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. Let's sing a song about doing what's right by loving one another!** Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 6 on the CD).

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)

Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)

Love one another as I have loved you. (*shake hands with a friend*)

Love one another. (*high five a friend*)

Love one another. (*high five a friend*)

Love one another. (*high five a friend*)

Love one another. (*high five a friend*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)

Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)

Love one another as I have loved you, (*shake hands with a friend*)

As I have loved you, as I have loved you. (*everyone gives high fives together*)

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





Say: I'm so glad you're here today to learn that ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** We'll learn about some people in the Bible who did some pretty hurtful things because they weren't listening to what God wanted. And we'll hear how God helps us do what's right when we listen to him.

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Everything for God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Colossians 3:23, says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). That means that we do everything for God, including using words and actions to love one another. Let's practice saying our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

Say: **We can show with our words that we love God and do everything for him by praying, singing, and telling others about Jesus. We can love God with our actions by being kind, going to church, and caring for people who are sick. All of the things we do can be for God.**

Lay the "What's Right" poster on the floor in the center of the circle. Say: **Let's play a game and sing a song to help us learn our Key Verse from the Bible.** Choose a child to begin, and give him or her a rolled-up sock.

Say: **As the song plays, gently toss or roll the sock across the circle. When the song has finished playing once, you'll pause the CD and the person holding the sock may choose a picture on the poster and say how the person in the picture is doing something for God. When the person with the sock finishes telling about the poster, that person will toss the sock to someone else in the circle who will describe another picture.** Begin the CD, and lead children in singing "Day and Night" (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "Frère Jacques." The song plays twice on the track. Pause it after each time through before playing again.

 **Love God with your words and actions
Every day, every night.
Help me do all that is right.
Help me do what's right.
(Repeat.)**

Play the entire track at least three times so the song plays a total of six times and all the



Everything for God Supplies

- Bible
- 1 rolled-up sock
- tape
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Day and Night" (track 15)
- "What's Right" poster





pictures are described. Say: **There are so many ways to work for God. It makes God happy when he sees us doing everything for him.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of the pictures on the poster shows something you like to do for God?
- Think of something you do every day. What's one way you can do that thing for God?
- Tell what you like about doing things for God

Say: **The Bible says ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. Sometimes people do wrong things, like what we'll hear about from the Bible. We can do everything for God and make his heart happy instead.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"

(track 4)

gold coins

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the gold coins in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! What are you up to today?

Theo: I was trying to find something you'd all like and another human told me these would be great. I don't see what the big deal is, but maybe you do.

Teacher: Well, who are you trying to understand, Theo?

Theo: Actually, it's all of you. The Surprise Box has something that I don't really understand, but I think you'll all be really excited. I'm still not sure. It doesn't even smell good and I don't think I could eat it, so it seems pretty boring to me.

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the gold coins around the circle so everyone can see them up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo: So what makes these shiny things so exciting to people anyway?

(Allow kids some time to explain money to Theo.)

Theo: Huh, I would've never guessed. Do you think my master buys food with this money stuff? If he does, I'd probably like it a lot more.

Teacher: Yes, Theo. He does buy food with money. Money can be used to buy all kinds of things, from the nice, warm bed you have to the clothes that people wear. Theo, why did you hide these coins in the Surprise Box?





Theo: Well, I heard that coins were important in the Bible passage you're reading today.

Teacher: That's true! We're going to read about Joseph and his 11 brothers. His brothers didn't like him much, and they made bad choices and hurt their brother. His brothers weren't thinking about how ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT**. They used money to solve their problems with Joseph when they sold him. God was with Joseph through everything, though.

Theo: Well, I'm sure glad that God was with him because it sounds like he must have had some really hard times. Oh, my mom's calling me! Gotta go!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some other things you could teach Theo about money?
- What are some ways money can be used for bad or good?
- Why is it important to use money for good?

Say: Today Theo learned that money can be used to do good things, like buy us food or to do bad things, like when Joseph's family sold him. Because ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT**, we want to use our money—or anything we have—to do good things. Let's learn more about that.

Bible Time: The Not-So-Brotherly Boys

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 37:12-36, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book. Say: **Let's learn what happened between Joseph and his brothers in the Bible.**

Raise your hand if your mom or dad watches the news on television. Pause. We can find out about big events that happen by watching the news. Let's pretend you're people in a news broadcast and I will be the news reporter.

Choose one child to be Joseph. Have Joseph wear the colorful shirt as a robe and sit on the opposite side of the room from the box.

Give the paper towel tube "camera" to another child, and ask him or her to be the Cameraman.

Choose a third of the remaining boys and girls to be Joseph's Brothers and another third to be Sheep. Say: **Sheep, get on your hands and knees in the "grassy field" and "baa" while I tell you the news report. Brothers, walk around among the sheep.**



Bible Time: The Not-So-Brotherly Boys Supplies

- Bible
- empty box
- large, colorful shirt
- empty paper towel tube
- yarn
- Teacher Pack**
- gold coins

Bible Time: The Not-So-Brotherly Boys Easy Prep

Set up the empty box on one side of the room and place the colorful shirt on the other side of the room.





Have the remaining kids pretend to be the Ishmaelites. Give one child the yarn, and divide the gold coins among the rest. Explain that Ishmaelites were part of a tribe that was different from God's people. Say: **You'll each act out your part when it happens. Be sure to listen carefully so you know when you've been given a new direction for the passage.** Have the Ishmaelites wait "offstage" on the side of the room by Joseph. Turn toward the person with the camera, say "Action!" and begin.

Say: **Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We have a breaking news report of an incident involving a young man named Joseph and his brothers. The report begins in a field, where the brothers are watching their father's flock of sheep.** Encourage the Sheep to walk in the green field and baa. Have the Brothers walk around the Sheep, occasionally reaching down to pet them.

Say: **Eyewitness reports say that Joseph's father sent Joseph to check on his brothers and when his brothers saw him coming, they were not happy about it.** Have Joseph walk slowly toward the brothers, meandering through the room to give the kids time to speak. Tell the Brothers to say such things as, "Here comes that dreamer" and "Look at that beautiful coat Joseph got from Dad." Have Joseph continue to walk around the room, not yet reaching the Brothers, as you continue.

Say: **The brothers want to get rid of Joseph. They're so jealous of him. What will they do?** Have the Brothers gather and whisper loudly, "I'm so sick of seeing Joseph, I can't stand him!" "Let's get rid of Joseph." Choose one child to be Reuben who says, "Let's not kill him. Let's just throw him in a well for now." Say: **Whoa, it's beginning to look like Joseph might be walking into a trap.**

Have Joseph approach the Brothers.

Say: **What's happening now? This doesn't look good. Joseph is walking over to his brothers. His brothers are taking off his beautiful coat!** Motion for the Brothers to remove the shirt. **The brothers threw Joseph in a dry well!** Motion for the Brothers to lead Joseph to the box, and gently help him stand in the box.

Say: **Oh, poor Joseph in that dry well! Wait, there's still more happening.** Motion for the Ishmaelites to approach the "well." **Here comes a gang of traveling Ishmaelites. What will the brothers do now? Pause for children to respond if they decide to. What are they saying? Let's listen!** Direct the Ishmaelites to walk toward the box. Encourage the Brothers to say, "Let's sell Joseph and get some money!" Say: **Can you believe it? Even though ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, the brothers are selling Joseph. The Ishmaelites will take him away to be a slave in Egypt. A slave is someone who works hard for someone else, but slaves aren't paid and cannot leave.** Ask a Brother to help Joseph out of the box. Direct the Ishmaelites to hand the brothers the coins, wrap the yarn around Joseph's wrists, and walk away holding on to the yarn.

Say: **The brothers are leaving now to tell their father a lie.** Have the Brothers say, "Let's tell Dad that a wild animal must have eaten Joseph." Then have them guide their sheep to one side of the room. **Meanwhile, the Ishmaelites are going to Egypt to sell Joseph to an important person there. That's it for our live news report. I'm [your name] reporting live from the grassy field.**





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about what Joseph’s brothers did?
- Tell about a time you had a choice to do something wrong.
- How can you let God help you make right choices?

Say: **We all sometimes struggle with doing what’s right, but we know that ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT. Doing what’s right with our actions begins by doing what’s right with our attitudes and in our hearts. Let’s learn more about how we can do what’s right.**

.....

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Bible Scenes

What You’ll Do

Distribute the Lesson 6 My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on their papers. Have the art supplies handy.

Say: **Joseph’s brothers had bad thoughts and chose to do bad things. When they sold their brother, it made God sad. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT. Let’s use these pages to help us remember what God wants us to do.** Have children form pairs. Pairs can work together to decorate each scene as they talk about what’s happening in the pictures.

Say: **Glue a cotton ball to a sheep in the first picture, and talk about what Joseph’s brothers are doing in this picture.** Allow time, and then have kids glue strips of ribbon to Joseph’s coat in the second picture and talk about Joseph’s brothers’ jealousy.

Say: **Color the well into which the brothers are throwing Joseph in the third picture.** Allow time. Then have kids each glue a penny to the fourth picture, in which the brothers are selling Joseph to be a slave.



Center 1: Bible Scenes Supplies

- My Bible Playground
cotton balls
white glue
short strips of narrow,
colorful ribbon
washable markers
1 penny per child

Center 1: Bible Scenes Easy Prep

- Remove the Lesson
6 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Center 2: Heart Condition Supplies

a few large
marshmallows per
child
small pretzel sticks
paper plates
wet wipes
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Say: **Joseph's brothers were angry with Joseph for a long time before they sold him into slavery. They let their jealousy get out of control and they did some really bad things. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** Jesus can be our friend and help us know how to do what God wants.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was wrong about the brothers' choices?
- Tell about a time you made a wrong choice.
- What do you like about when you make a right choice?

Say: **When we make a wrong choice, we hurt ourselves, others, and God. If we need to know right from wrong, we can pray to God and ask for help. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** And even when we mess up, he still loves us and helps us. Joseph's brothers made really bad choices and God was sad about their choices. We can make God happy when we make right choices.

■ CENTER 2:

Heart Condition

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table. Say: **The things we do happen because of what we think about and feel. If we're always thinking and feeling bad things about people, our actions won't be pleasing to God. ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT, and that starts with the things we think. Let's use our snack time to remind us to have good attitudes so we can do what's right.**

Distribute several pretzel sticks, paper plates, and marshmallows to kids. Say: **These marshmallows are like our hearts. What's inside matters. Touch the marshmallows and roll them gently over the pretzel sticks. What do they feel like?** Allow time. **Now smush the marshmallows harder as you roll them. Keep rolling them for a while.** Allow time. The marshmallows will become a sticky mess and will get all mashed up with the pretzel sticks.

Say: **Can anyone find a way to make the marshmallows unsticky again?** Allow time for kids to try. The more kids try to make them unsticky, the stickier they will become. **These marshmallows are like our hearts. When life is difficult, our hearts show what's inside, just like these marshmallows are showing us their insides.** Have kids set their sticky marshmallows aside on their paper plates and help them clean their hands with wet wipes. Give them a couple more pretzel sticks to use to pick up their marshmallows so they can eat them.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to have marshmallow stuck to everything?
- What's it like when your heart is really angry or sad?
- Tell about a time that you had a bad attitude.
- What can you do to change your attitude when you're feeling bad?

Say: The marshmallows stuck to our hands because the insides are sticky. What's inside the marshmallows matters, and what's inside our hearts matters to God. The more we try to get free from our own mess, the stickier it gets. That's what happened to Joseph's brothers. Their angry hearts started making a mess of everything and they made terrible choices. ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT** all the time, and that means that we need to be careful with our attitudes. It really matters to God what's going on in our hearts and feelings. We can always ask God to help us so we can have a change of heart.

■ CENTER 3:

Loving Families

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Joseph's experiences were really difficult and his brothers made some really bad choices. But God was with Joseph the entire time. In everything that happened to Joseph, Joseph kept honoring God. He knew that ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT**. Part of doing what's right is to love our families.

Set out the supplies and gather kids around. Say: **Choose a person in your family you want to show love to. Make a picture for that person about doing what's right.** If kids finish with one picture and want to make another, allow them to continue as time allows.

Say: **Joseph's brothers were jealous and angry with Joseph and they did something bad. They sold Joseph to be a slave.** ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** Let's pray to God often to ask him for help in knowing right from wrong.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's one way someone in your family shows you how to do what's right?
- Tell about a time that someone helped you make a right choice.
- How can you remember to make right choices even if no one is around to help you?

Say: People can help us remember to do what's right, and God can help us all the time. Joseph's brothers chose to do wrong things and they hurt their brother. But



Center 3: Loving Families Supplies

-
- markers
 - paper
 - craft supplies





Chain Game Supplies

scissors
colorful construction
paper
tape
washable markers

Chain Game Easy Prep

Cut strips of
construction paper at
least 1 inch wide and
4 inches long. There
should be enough strips
for each child to have at
least 5.

there are lots of ways for us to do what's right. We can ask people who love Jesus to help us make right choices, we can pray and ask God for help, and we can remember what happened in the Bible. ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**

■ CENTER 4:

Chain Game

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Joseph's brothers decided to sell him to some men who were passing by. I am going to give each of you several paper strips in different colors. Draw a picture on each one of something that you can do that is right.** Kids might draw a picture of them helping a friend or sibling, obeying their parents, or sharing a favorite toy. Allow time. Then talk with the children about the fact that Joseph's brothers did not choose to do the right thing.

Say: **Joseph's brothers were mean and unkind to Joseph. They chose to sell Joseph and made some very bad choices. Even though Joseph's brothers were mean, ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** Show kids how to use tape to link the strips of paper together to make a chain. Remind the children that Joseph was a slave and that often, slaves are put in chains to make sure they don't run away. Let the children drape their chains around their arms or necks.

Have kids form a line and hold their chains together. Lead kids around the room reminding them to be careful not to break their chains. Lead them in doing different actions (crouch down, reach hands in the air, jump) as they walk. Talk about how chains are difficult to move around in.

Say: **This week when you think about doing a wrong thing, look at your chain and do one of the right things instead. And remember, ► GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. If you're having a hard time choosing the right thing, pray and ask God to help you.**

Have kids remove their chains and place them someplace that they'll remember to take them home. Then sit with kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to try to do simple things with chains on?**
- **How can our wrong actions or attitudes make it hard for us like how the chains made it more difficult to move?**
- **What are some ways that doing the right thing is like not being a slave anymore?**

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.**





5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice doing what's right.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Wear a watch or bracelet on your right wrist all week, and every time you see it, remember that God wants you to do what's right.**
2. **Treat a pet kindly by petting it gently, and remember that God wants us to do what's right.**
3. **If you see someone drop something, pick it up and return it to that person. Remind that person how God wants us to do what's right.**

Say: **If you want to wear a watch or bracelet, circle choice number 1. If you want to hang out with a pet, circle choice number 2. If you want to help someone else, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers





Right vs. Wrong Prayer

What You'll Do

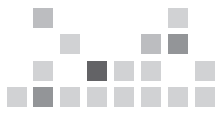
Stand with kids in a circle. When you say “right,” have kids turn to their right and take one step. When you say “wrong,” have kids turn to their left and take one step.

Pray: Dear God, we want to do what's *right* because we know it pleases your heart. Please help us to know the difference between what's *wrong* and what's *right*. We love you and we love doing what's *right*. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

Most of the time, 5- and 6-year-olds enjoy doing things for others. It makes them feel appreciated and valued when they help sweep the floor or set the table. This is a great age to encourage them to keep helping others. Kids this age are growing in empathy and ability to see the needs of others. Use this lesson to help kids make the connection that when they serve others, it pleases God, too.



► Bible Point

We can serve God.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will serve God by serving others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	The Everything-for-God Wave Act out ways to serve God.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what a lock has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, lock Teacher Pack: CD	Place the lock in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Joseph Serves God Listen to Joseph tell what happened when he served God.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Grain Collectors Collect grain and save for hard times.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, scissors (several pairs), 1 straw per child, tape	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Planning Ahead Snack Make snacks and prepare for the future just like God helped Joseph get ready for the famine.</p>	0-shaped cereal, one 5-inch piece of yarn per child, tape, 1 slice of bread per child, honey, paper plates, 1 bowl, spoons or knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	Cut yarn into 5-inch pieces. Wrap tape tightly around one end of each piece of yarn so you can thread it through the 0-shaped cereal.
	<p>Center 3: Waterproof Sand Protect sand or dirt from getting wet, and talk about how God is with us in hard times.</p>	resealable plastic bags, sand or dirt, water, pitchers of water, scoops or spoons, plates, tarp	
	<p>Center 4: Dreamy Sculptures Sculpt the dreams that happened in the Bible passage.</p>	modeling dough	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Serving Hands Prayer Mime things they can do for God, and pray for God's help.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge

Genesis 39:20–41:49

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Worked in Joseph’s Life

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

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

God Blessed Egypt Through Joseph

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

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

Joseph Remained Faithful to God

Joseph’s name change and his marriage to an Egyptian woman signaled Joseph’s acceptance into the ruling class of Egypt. However, despite his

marriage to the daughter of a pagan priest and his allegiance to Pharaoh, Joseph remained true to God, and God blessed his efforts by producing abundance in Egypt. Joseph even honored God in the naming of his two sons (Genesis 41:50-52). God didn’t forget Joseph, and Joseph didn’t forget God!

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

The Jesus Connection

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Here!"
(track 13)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "We're Here!" (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of "Looby Loo." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



It's fun to hear God's Word! (*hold one hand behind ear*)

It's fun to sing and pray! (*make praying hands*)

Come in and join our class! (*motion to come in*)

We're so glad you're here today! (*turn and clap both hands against a partner's, as in Patty-Cake*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's wonderful to see you today. Get ready to learn that wherever we go, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD. Let's sing about serving God in everything.** Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions to "Do Everything for God" (not on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."



Do everything for God. (*walk in place*)

Do everything for God. (*pretend to build something*)

When you work and when you play, (*twirl*)

Do everything for God. (*jump and reach for the ceiling*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **It's fun to serve God by singing for him! No matter what we're doing, we can do everything for God. We can sing, play, sleep, and obey our parents for God. Today we'll hear about a man named Joseph who did everything for God. He even did some really tough things for God. That's because ► WE CAN SERVE GOD in every situation.**





2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

The Everything-for-God Wave

What You'll Do

Have kids stand in a circle just a little closer than arm's length away from one another. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Colossians 3:23, says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). That means that we do everything for God. Let's remember our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

Say: **There are so many kinds of things we can do for God. We can do special things for God like making a gift for a friend who is sick, and we can do ordinary things for God like brushing our teeth. We can honor God with all the things we think and do. Let's think of some ways to do everything for God.**

Start the "wave" off by throwing your hands in the air and then acting out something you can do for God. When you finish acting it out, put your hand on the shoulder of the person on your right, say: **Do everything for God,** and freeze.

Say: **When you touch your friend's shoulder, he or she will continue the "wave" and act out something to do for God and then touch the shoulder of a friend, say "Do everything for God," and freeze.** Continue around the circle. It's okay if some kids repeat an idea. Play again if time permits.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to think of ways to do things for God?
- What's something you do that you can change so you're doing it for God?
- What's one way you've served God by helping someone this week?

Say: ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD** all the time and we can do everything for God. We can pray when we're doing what's right and tell God that we're doing it for him. It makes God happy when we do everything for him. Let's find out about someone in the Bible who did everything for God.



The Everything-for-God Waves Supplies

Bible





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet
CD player
lock

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the lock in the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, friends!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's good to see you.

Theo: I'm glad you all are here because my master's gone right now and I really miss him. How do you know if your pet misses you when you're gone?

(Allow time for kids to respond to Theo's question.)

Teacher: Most of the people I know leave their pets in a safe place when they leave. How did you get out, Theo?

Theo: Well, usually my master puts me in my crate, but today, he couldn't find the lock for it. Anyway, isn't there something else we should be doing?

Teacher: We were planning to look in the Surprise Box.

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the lock around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo: Uh-oh. That looks like the lock that goes on my crate. I really don't like it when I have to go in my crate.

Teacher: Theo, I think your master and his family use this lock to keep you safe. You should probably take it back home so your family can keep you safe when they're gone. There was a guy in the Bible who was locked up when he didn't even do anything wrong. He served God even when he was locked in prison, and God helped him even in prison.

Theo: That sounds really interesting. I always just feel sorry for myself when I'm locked up. I guess you're right, though. I should probably take this lock back home so my master and his family can take care of me when they're gone.

Teacher: That's a good idea! Remember, in everything we do ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD.**

Theo: Thanks—that's a good reminder. Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about Theo having to go in his crate when his family's gone?





- How do you act when you have to do something you don't like?
- What could happen if you served God the next time you're asked to do something you don't like?

Say: **All of us have to do things we don't like; even Theo has to be patient when his master is away. I don't really like to [name of household chore you like least], but I do it anyway because it needs to be done. Something that can help me with things I don't want to do is to think of it as a way to serve God. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD all the time no matter what. Let's find out exactly what happened when Joseph served God in a really tough situation.**

Bible Time: Joseph Serves God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 39:20–41:49, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today's Bible passage tells us that ► WE CAN SERVE GOD. Let's listen to Joseph tell us what happened.**

Play "Joseph in Charge" (track 16 on the CD). Be ready to pause the CD for children to interact and share their experiences when the CD instructs you to pause.

Say: **No matter what happened to him or where he went, Joseph served God. Joseph waited and served God for years while he was a slave to other men. And he served God when he was in prison.**

Have kids form pairs. Say: **One day, two men from Pharaoh's house were put in prison with Joseph. In each pair, one of you will be the Cupbearer and the other will be the Baker. Whoever is dreaming will lie down and pretend to sleep while the other person acts out the dream.**

The Cupbearer told Joseph he had this dream: "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

Have kids switch roles. Say: **The baker told Joseph he had this dream: "I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."**

Have kids act out Joseph telling meanings of dreams. Say: **God helped Joseph tell the men the meanings of their dreams and much later, the cupbearer remembered Joseph when Pharaoh needed help understanding a dream.**



Bible Tim: Joseph Serves God Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Joseph in Charge" (track 16)





Then in just one day, Joseph went from being a prisoner and slave to being the second-most important person in all of Egypt. While Joseph took care of the food stores of Egypt, God made it possible for Joseph to save up more than enough food for the bad years that God told him were coming.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time something unfair happened to you like how unfair things happened to Joseph.
- What about Joseph serving God was interesting or surprising to you?
- In what ways can you serve God this week?

Say: Joseph served God in tough situations, and we can, too. We'll always find that we're doing a lot better if we serve God in everything we do. ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD in everything we do. Our Key Verse tells us that we can do everything for God, so let's figure out some ways to make God happy by serving him with all of our actions.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ **CENTER 1:**
Grain Collectors

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Joseph trusted God and served him in every situation he was in. And he praised God for everything that went well. Joseph helped prepare Egypt for a time when there wouldn't be enough food.**

Scatter straws around the room. There should be enough for each child to have one straw.

Say: **Let's play a game to help us remember what Joseph did. We learned there were seven years of good food, so pretend these straws are wheat and go collect one straw to help everyone survive the seven years when there will be almost no food.** On your signal, have children each gather straws to represent the seven years of good food.

Center 1: Grain Collectors Supplies

- My Bible Playground
- washable markers
- scissors (several pairs)
- 1 straw per child
- tape

Center 1: Grain Collectors Easy Prep

- Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.





When kids finish collecting straws, have them sit at a table. Distribute the Lesson 7 My Bible Playground student pages, markers, and scissors and help kids write their names on their papers.

Point out the picture of Joseph and the storage silo on their pages. Say: **Silos are huge containers where people store food such as grain. Joseph filled lots of silos with food so everyone would have enough to eat and no one would starve.** Have kids form pairs. Have partners help one another cut each of their straws into seven pieces.

Say: **Tape the straw pieces to the page so they stick out and look like pieces of grain.** Encourage children to tell their partners what they remember about the Bible passage. Point out that they have just served God by helping each other know about God.

Say: ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD by helping others in need and by doing all of our jobs cheerfully—such as doing chores when we’re asked, being nice during playtime, or doing schoolwork when we have it. No matter where we are, in everything we do, we can serve God!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to help your partner learn about God?
- What are some different ways you can serve God?
- Tell about a time you served God by helping someone.

Say: ► **WE CAN SERVE GOD God all the time. God loves us and he knows it’s best for us when we serve him with all of our hearts. God is pleased when we serve him, just like Joseph served God.**

■ CENTER 2:

Planning Ahead Snack

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around a table. Say: **Joseph served God in good times and bad times. God helped Joseph get an entire country ready for something that was really difficult. Let’s make ourselves some reminders that God takes care of us and we serve God.**

Distribute paper plates, pieces of yarn, spoons or knives, and slices of bread. Pour O-shaped cereal into a bowl and set it in the middle of all of the kids. Encourage kids to talk to God about what’s going on in their lives while they prepare their snacks.



Center 2: Planning Ahead Snack Supplies

- O-shaped cereal
- one 10-inch piece of yarn per child
- tape
- 1 slice of bread per child
- honey
- paper plates
- 1 bowl
- spoons or knives
- antibacterial gel (optional)

Center 2: Planning Ahead Snack Easy Prep

Cut yarn into 5-inch pieces. Wrap tape tightly around one end of each piece of yarn so you can thread it through the O-shaped cereal.

! ALLERGY ALERT





Say: **With this bread and honey, we have enough to eat for now.** Tell kids to spread honey on their pieces of bread. Have kids count seven pieces of O-shaped cereal and place them on top of the bread and honey to represent the seven good years of harvest that Egypt had.

Say: **Before we eat our snack, let's check that we have something to eat later, too.** Have kids count seven more pieces of O-shaped cereal and thread them onto a piece of yarn. Then say: **Your seven pieces of cereal represent the seven years of no food and how God provided for Egypt during that time.** When kids finish threading their pieces of cereal, help them tie the yarn into a bracelet around their wrists.

Pray and thank God for providing this snack. Let kids eat while they discuss the questions below. Tell kids that they'll eat the bread and honey now, but they can save their cereal-bracelets for later when they go home.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to prepare your snack and then work on something else before you could eat it?
- Tell about a time you had to work hard on something or wait a long time for something.
- How can you serve God in the ordinary things you do?

Say: **Just like Joseph served God, ► WE CAN SERVE GOD in everything we do. We can serve God with our work, our hearts, our actions, and even with the things we think. Let's serve God and please him.**

■ CENTER 3:

Waterproof Sand

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **In every situation Joseph faced, he served God and worked with all his heart. Joseph was always working for God. Joseph's life had some really difficult times, and through those times, Joseph served God. Joseph still loved God and wasn't angry. All the tough things that happened to Joseph didn't make his heart hard; he chose to serve God the entire time.**

Lay out a tarp underneath the play area. Set out plastic bags, sand, and pitchers of water. Have kids form as many groups as there are pitchers of water. Say: **This water is like tough times. Joseph had a lot of tough times. He was sold into slavery and thrown into prison even though he didn't do anything wrong. This sand is like Joseph in those hard times.**

Center 3: Waterproof Sand Supplies

resealable plastic bags
sand or dirt
pitchers of water
scoops or spoons
plates
tarp





Have kids talk a little bit about what happens when sand touches water. Distribute plates and scoops. Have kids experiment with ways to keep the sand dry even when it goes through water. Let them use resealable bags and find their own ways to put the sand into the water without letting it get wet.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you find out about keeping the sand dry in the water?
- In what ways is that like what God does when we go through hard times and serve him?
- What can be good about going through a difficult time?

Say: **Just because the sand goes in the water doesn't mean it has to become wet. We can go through tough times and stay close to God the entire time. Joseph chose to serve God in every situation, and God protected him even in bad situations. Joseph didn't serve God because he expected God to make things better, but because he trusted God to be with him all the time. ► WE CAN SERVE GOD in the way Joseph did, too.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Dreamy Sculptures

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God helped Joseph interpret several dreams. There were the dreams of the baker and cupbearer and the dreams that Pharaoh had. Choose your favorite thing and sculpt it with modeling dough.**

Set out modeling dough for kids to sculpt the dreams with. Help kids remember about the different things that happened in the dreams: the cupbearer saw a vine with grapes, the baker had baskets of bread and birds ate the bread, and Pharaoh saw plants and cows that were healthy and sick.

Have kids talk about the dreams as they sculpt. Allow time.

Say: **Joseph gave all credit to God for knowing the meanings of these dreams. God took care of Joseph and Joseph served God.**

Sit with kids in a circle on the floor.



**Center 4: Dreamy
Sculptures
Supplies**

.....
modeling dough





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell why you decided to sculpt the dream you chose.
- What are some ways God gives you important information, like he did for Joseph through the dreams?

Say: **Joseph served God by telling Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams and ► WE CAN SERVE GOD, too. Just like God helped Joseph know the meanings of those dreams, God will give us exactly what we need when we need it. He cares for us and knows us better than we know ourselves.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► WE CAN SERVE GOD. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice serving God.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Every time your dad or mom gives you dinner, thank him or her for serving God by serving you.**
2. **Help an adult friend that your family knows well. You could go pull some weeds, help a mom at the grocery store, or read books with an elderly person. Serve God by showing God's love to your family's friend.**
3. **Help your mom or dad feed or clean up after your pet. Talk about how you're serving God by caring for your pet and helping your parents.**

Say: **If you want to be thankful, circle choice number 1. If you want to help a friend, circle choice number 2. If you want to help care for your pet, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!





Serving Hands Prayer

What You'll Do

Briefly discuss things kids can do with their hands to serve God. Have kids mime doing those things. Have kids pray with you.

Pray: **Dear God,
Thank you for allowing us to serve you.
Please use our hands
to bless other people
and serve you.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

Five- and 6-year-olds are learning how to recognize when they've done something wrong and apologize for it. Giving forgiveness isn't as foreign a concept as it may seem, and many times, kids this age are naturals at it. When a child's friend does something wrong and then asks for forgiveness, the child offering forgiveness isn't likely to harbor a grudge because moving on is generally easy for this age group. Use this lesson to help kids learn the importance of asking for forgiveness and to help them realize that forgiving is moving on.



► Bible Point

God wants us to forgive.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will forgive others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	All for God Work together to act out things they might do for God.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what silverware has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, silverware Teacher Pack: CD	Place the silverware in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Comic Strip Timeline Draw a comic strip to tell the events in the Bible passage.	Bible, 1 copy per child of the "Comic Strip" handout (at the end of this lesson), colored pencils, marker	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Picture of Forgiveness Draw a picture of someone they need to forgive.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, glue sticks, red construction paper, scissors (several pairs)	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Forgiving Snacks Practice giving and receiving forgiveness as they serve each other snacks.</p>	dry cereal, containers of milk, bowls, spoons, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Super Slime Make slime to learn how forgiveness heals friendships and changes us.</p>	2 bottles of school glue, liquid laundry starch (non-aerosol), measuring cup, bowl, glitter, resealable plastic bags, wet wipes	
	<p>Center 4: Freezing Forgiveness Play Freeze Tag and learn how we change when we're forgiven.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Forgive-Me, Forgive-You Prayer Use objects to help them remember to give and receive forgiveness.</p>	Teacher Pack: gold coins	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42–45

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Famine Opens the Door to Reconciliation

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

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

Joseph Tests His Brothers

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

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

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "As I Have Loved
You" (John 13:34)
(track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 6 on the CD).



A new command I give to you: *(point finger and move arm up and down)*

Love one another as I have loved you. *(smile at a friend)*

A new command I give to you: *(point finger and move arm up and down)*

Love one another as I have loved you. *(shake hands with a friend)*

Love one another. *(high five a friend)*

Love one another. *(high five a friend)*

Love one another. *(high five a friend)*

Love one another. *(high five a friend)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you: *(point finger and move arm up and down)*

Love one another as I have loved you. *(smile at a friend)*

A new command I give to you: *(point finger and move arm up and down)*

Love one another as I have loved you, *(shake hands with a friend)*

As I have loved you, as I have loved you. *(everyone gives high fives together)*

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

Say: **Joseph and his brothers had a lot of trouble between them. Joseph had a lot of reasons to be angry with them. But when he saw his brothers for the first time in many years, he forgave them! ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. Let's see what our Key Verse tells us today.**





2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

All for God

What You'll Do

Sit with kids in a circle. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Colossians 3:23, says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). That means that we can do everything for God. Whatever we're doing or thinking, we can praise God. Let's help ourselves remember our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

Say: **There are many ways to do everything for God, but today we'll act out four of them. Wait until I've listed all of them to choose where you want to go.** Point to one corner of the room. **Move to this area if you want to think of ways to make music for God.** Have one child move to that corner and remember "music" to remind kids later.

Point to another corner of the room. **Move to this area if you want to think of ways to play sports for God.** Have one child move to that corner and remember "sports" to remind kids later.

Point to a third corner of the room. **Move to this area if you want to think of ways to help other people for God.** Have one child move to that corner and remember "help others" to remind kids later.

Point to the fourth corner of the room. **Move to this area if you want to think of something else to do for God.** Have one child move to that corner and remember "something else" to remind kids later.

Have each child remind kids of the categories, and then say: **Go to whichever area fits what you like to do.** Allow time.

Say: **Work together with the people in your corner to act out ways to do those things for God.** As kids brainstorm ways to do different things for God, go around to the different groups and affirm their ideas or provide ideas if they're stumped.

After a couple of minutes of kids acting out ideas, have them move to different groups. Ensure that everyone moves to a different corner. Continue to switch stations until time runs out, or until everyone's been to each corner. Then sit with kids in a circle.



All for God Supplies

.....
Bible





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
silverware

Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the silverware in
the Surprise Box, and
hide the box where it's
easily accessible.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a new way you learned that you could serve God.
- What are some things that you do often that you could do for God?
- Tell about a new way you want to serve God this week.

Say: **We do so many different things each day. Each thing we do can be something we do for God. We can remember our Key Verse all the time and do everything for God. Today we'll hear how a man did something really hard for God—he forgave his brothers. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE like this man did. Let's listen to what happened so we can learn to forgive, too.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: What's up, friends?

Teacher: Hey there, Theo! We're doing well. How about you?

Theo: I'm doing great. My family is going to a cookout today. Now's the perfect time for that kind of thing. What's your favorite summertime food?

(Pause for kids to answer.)

Teacher: Summertime is a pretty special and wonderful time.

Theo: You all look like you're ready to open the Surprise Box, am I right? I really want the stuff in there back today, please.

Teacher: Sure, Theo, we can do that. Let's find out what's in there.

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the silverware around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, is this the silverware you're taking to the cookout? How will you use it? You don't have thumbs.

Theo: Hey, I don't think I need thumbs to figure out how to eat food. It's kind of my specialty. But I'm a little nervous about the cookout. I don't want anyone to think I eat funny, so I thought I'd try out some silverware. My brother made fun of the way I eat, so I am trying to be different. I'll show him!

Teacher: I don't think you need to change who you are to make your brother stop teasing you. You can be proud of the way God made you to eat. But I also think it's important that you forgive your brother for teasing you.





Theo: That’s really a tough thing to do. He hurt my feelings!

Teacher: There’s a guy in the Bible who had a big meal with his brothers after they’d been mean to him.

Theo: I guess if Joseph can forgive his brothers, I can forgive mine, too. I guess you can keep the silverware. I’ll just be me and eat with my face. See you later. Thanks!

Teacher: Let’s say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Has your brother or sister ever been mean to you like Theo’s brother was mean to him?
- What do you usually do when your siblings or friends aren’t nice to you?
- What’s tough about forgiving someone when they do something wrong?

Say: **Theo was afraid people would make fun of the way he eats, but he figured out that he could forgive his brother. We can forgive people, too. Today we’ll learn that Joseph forgave his brothers after they were terrible to him. God helped him forgive them, and Joseph even blessed them instead of trying to get even with them.**

▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Bible Time: Comic Strip Timeline

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 42–45, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Joseph and his brothers had a really difficult relationship for a long time. The brothers did some horrible things to Joseph, but God helped Joseph forgive his brothers for what they did. Let’s find out what happened and learn from Joseph.**

Distribute the “Comic Strip” handout and set out colored pencils. Tell kids they’ll be making a comic strip. Say: **Find the square with the “1” in it. As I tell you the first part of what happened in the Bible, draw a picture about it in box 1.** Check for understanding, and then begin.

Point kids to the first box, and say: **Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery. And when he was a slave, he was put in prison even though he didn’t do anything wrong. But God had big plans for Joseph’s life—God helped Joseph become second in command over all of Egypt. Joseph saved the people in Egypt from starving in a time when there wasn’t enough food. Joseph’s brothers had no idea he was so important in Egypt. So when 10 of them went to Egypt to get food, they didn’t recognize him. But he recognized them. In box 1, draw a picture of Joseph**



Bible Time: Comic Strip Timeline Supplies

- Bible
 1 copy per child of the “Comic Strip” handout (at the end of this lesson)
 colored pencils
 marker





feeding the people of Egypt and the brothers getting food from him in Egypt.

Allow two minutes.

Point kids to the second box, and say: **Since Joseph hadn't seen anyone in his family for at least 20 years, he had a lot of questions. But he didn't tell them who he was. To make sure his brothers would come back and bring his youngest brother, Benjamin, Joseph put his brothers in jail for three days. When he let them go, he kept their oldest brother, Reuben, in jail until they brought back their youngest brother, Benjamin. In box 2, draw a picture of Joseph's brothers traveling back to their father and one brother in jail.**

Allow two minutes.

Point kids to the third box, and say: **When the brothers told their dad that the ruler in Egypt wanted them to bring Benjamin to Egypt, their dad was really sad. He'd already lost Joseph and he didn't want to lose Benjamin, too. But when the family ran out of the food they got from Egypt, they had to go back for more. So they brought their youngest brother, and Joseph was so happy to see Benjamin. Joseph let Reuben out of jail and invited his brothers to dinner with him. But he still didn't tell them who he was. In box 3, draw a picture of the oldest brother, Reuben, getting out of jail and the brothers having dinner together.**

Allow two minutes.

Point kids to the fourth box, and say: **After the dinner, Joseph let his brothers go home, but he had his servants hide an expensive silver cup in Benjamin's sack. Then he sent his soldiers to find the silver cup. The brothers were taken back to Joseph. Draw a picture in box 4 of the soldiers finding a silver cup in Benjamin's sack.**

Allow two minutes.

Point kids to the fifth box, and say: **After the brothers were brought back to Joseph, Joseph told them who he was and showed them forgiveness. Joseph cried when he told his brothers who he was. His brothers were afraid Joseph would want to get back at them for being so mean to him. Draw a picture in box 5 of Joseph's brothers finding out who Joseph is.**

Allow two minutes.

Point kids to the sixth box, and say: **Joseph sent his brothers to get their father and move to the best part of Egypt together. When Joseph's dad, Jacob, saw Joseph, he was so happy! The entire family lived near each other for the rest of their lives. Draw a picture in box 6 that shows Joseph and his dad together with his 11 brothers living in Egypt.**

Allow two minutes.

When everyone is finished, have kids bring their comic strips with them and sit in a circle with you.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the way Joseph treated his brothers after they were so mean to him?
- Tell about a time you were unkind to someone and they forgave you.
- What does it mean to you when you say “I forgive you”?

Say: You can look at the comic strip you drew to help you remember that ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**, and he can help us forgive, too! God helped Joseph forgive his brothers. Joseph was a really important man in Egypt and could have gotten back at his brothers for their actions, but instead, he was able to let go of it and move on. The next time you have to decide whether to forgive someone or not, you can pray and ask God to help you forgive.



4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Picture of Forgiveness

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Set out markers, construction paper, scissors, and glue sticks.

Say: **Our Bible Point for this week says ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE. This means God wants us to forgive even when it’s hard. He wants us to forgive because he already forgave us all. Let’s say the Bible Point together.** Lead children in repeating the Bible Point with you: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

Say: **When we forgive someone, we might say, “I forgive you for hurting my feelings.” The Bible says God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Because he forgives us, we can forgive others, too. We’ve all made mistakes and sinned.**

Distribute the Lesson 8 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Ask children to draw a picture of someone who they think they

Center 1: Picture of Forgiveness Supplies

- My Bible Playground washable markers
glue sticks
red construction paper
scissors (several pairs)

Center 1: Picture of Forgiveness Easy Prep

- Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.





Center 2: Forgiving Snacks

Supplies

dry cereal
containers of milk
bowls
spoons
antibacterial gel
(optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

need to forgive. When they've finished drawing, have them each cut out a small paper heart from red construction paper. Invite kids to each say, "I forgive you" and then glue the red heart to the page.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**—each one of us. We can honor God by forgiving others.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell what happened when you forgave someone.
- What do you think it means to forgive someone?
- What do you think about God forgiving us?

Say: We can ask for forgiveness and God forgives all of us, no matter what we've done. God knows it's best for us when we forgive other people, too. That's why ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**. Just like Joseph forgave his brothers even though they hurt him, we can forgive people who hurt us.

■ CENTER 2:

Center 2: Forgiving Snacks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table.

Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers even when they did some very terrible things to him.** ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE, too.** Let's learn more about forgiveness.

Set out bowls of dry cereal, containers of milk, and spoons. Help children find partners. Have one child in each pair pretend to be Joseph and the other child pretend to be one of Joseph's Brothers. Say: **If you're Joseph in your pair, put some cereal and milk in your bowl and set it in front of yourself.** Allow time.

Say: **If you're the Brothers, go to your partner, Joseph, and say, "I'm sorry that I hurt you, Joseph. Will you forgive me?"** Allow time.

Say: **Josephs, answer your partners with, "I forgive you. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE."** Then have each Joseph give his or her partner the bowl of cereal sitting in front of him or her.

Have kids switch roles and repeat. When each child in the pair has a bowl of cereal, say: **Forgiveness heals friendships and helps us be closer to God. Joseph forgave his brothers and ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE, too.** Pray, and then let the children eat and enjoy their snacks.





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to serve each other and practice asking for forgiveness?
- What's easy or hard about asking other people to forgive you?
- Why do you think it's important to ask God for forgiveness?

Say: **Just like we served each other and showed forgiveness, we can forgive each other. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE each other and ask for forgiveness when we've done something wrong. Joseph forgave his brothers and we can forgive, too.**

CENTER 3:

Super Slime



■ **Tip** Avoid food coloring as it will dye hands and clothes, too.

What You'll Do

Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers for really mean things. We can forgive other people, too. Let's make some slime that can show us what forgiveness is like.**

Have kids help you pour both bottles of glue (clear glue and white glue both work fine, they'll just look different) into a bowl. Ask kids to help add at least $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of liquid starch. Add more in small amounts, having kids use their fingers to mix it. If the mixture becomes stringy, you're on the right track. Exact quantities aren't important.

Keep mixing gently and it'll turn into a nice, smooth slime. Make sure to help kids be careful not to spill the starch. Add glitter as desired for consistency. Adding more starch will make the mixture a little less sticky, but also more brittle; add as much or as little as you'd like.

After you're finished making the slime, give each child a portion. Allow kids to play with the slime, feeling its texture and discovering what it does.

After a little while, say: **When someone does something wrong, it can break our friendship or trust with that person.** Pull the slime apart quickly—it should tear and not just stretch. Have kids pull their slime into two pieces, too. **When we let God help us forgive someone else, it heals our friendship again.** Put the slime back together and stretch it out gently to show that the break is no longer visible.

Have kids sculpt a thing they've asked forgiveness for. This won't work very well because the slime doesn't hold its shape. As kids work, tell them: **Forgiveness helps wash away the bad things that happen. When someone asks for forgiveness, it means that person wants to change and not repeat what they did. It's like sculpting with this slime. It doesn't hold its shape. God's forgiveness means our wrong actions melt away like this slime and we can be new and free again.**



Center 3: Super Slime Supplies

- 2 bottles of school glue
- liquid laundry starch (non-aerosol)
- measuring cup
- bowl
- glitter
- resealable plastic bags
- wet wipes





Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers for something really terrible. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**, and when we do, it makes him glad. It also heals friendships and relationships when we forgive. God gave us our families and friends for a reason and when we forgive people, it helps those relationships stay strong. Forgiveness allows us to move on and stop being upset about what happened.



Allow kids a bit more time to play with the slime. Have kids each tell a friend about forgiveness using the slime.

Have kids put the slime away in resealable plastic bags and clean their hands.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes the slime break? What was it like to try to sculpt with it?
- Tell about a time when you or someone else needed forgiveness.
- How can we change after we ask for forgiveness?

Say: **Just like when Joseph forgave his brothers and God helped heal their relationships, when we forgive, it's good for us, too. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.** It will help us be healthy.

■ CENTER 4:

Freezing Forgiveness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Joseph forgave his brothers and ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE, too.** When you ask for forgiveness, it means that you're sorry for what you did wrong and that you want to act differently in the future. It's important to mean it when we say we're sorry.





Let's play a game to help us remember how forgiveness works. Choose a few willing children. One child will be Forgiveness, and the others will be Taggers. Everyone else will run from the Taggers.

Say: **When you're caught by a Tagger, freeze and stand still until Forgiveness comes to you. When Forgiveness arrives, ask to be forgiven and Forgiveness will say, "I forgive you." Then you'll change how you've been moving.**

Start out the game with everyone skipping. Allow time. Once someone is tagged and has been forgiven, that person will need to choose a new way to move around. Kids could hop on both feet, frog hop, run on all fours, or run backward, for example.

Allow kids to play for a while. Occasionally have kids change roles.

When the game has ended, say: **Forgiveness means being sorry for wrong actions and wanting to change in the future. The only way we can change is by asking God for help. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE and when we ask him to help us, we can forgive and be forgiven.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to change your actions after you were tagged?
- How is that like or unlike changing your actions when you ask for forgiveness?
- What's one way you know you've forgiven someone else?

Say: **In our game, Forgiveness set us free. It's the same in everything we do. Joseph forgave his brothers for doing wrong things to him. God did great things in Joseph's life even though his brothers did those wrong things. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE, and with his help, we can. Remember to talk to God when you need help with forgiveness.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers





Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice forgiveness.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Ask a parent or another trusted adult to tell you about a time he or she forgave someone.
2. Tell a friend "I forgive you" right after he or she does something that hurts you.
3. Draw a picture of a time you forgave someone and hang it on your mirror so you see it each morning and remember to forgive people.

Say: If you want to hear someone tell about forgiveness, circle choice number 1. If you want to forgive someone, circle choice number 2. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs.

Forgive-Me-Forgive-You Prayer

What You'll Do

Distribute gold coins, and then stand in a circle with kids. Say: **It's important for us to know how to forgive and ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness goes both ways. ► GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE.**

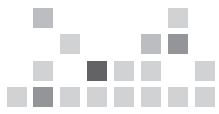
Have kids practice passing the coins to represent giving forgiveness to each other. Have kids ask for and give "forgiveness" to each other as you have them change directions they're going around the circle. After a few passes, say: **We all ask for and give forgiveness. This week, let's practice both things. Joseph forgave his brothers, and just like that, we can forgive, too.**

Pray: **Dear God, we're so thankful for your forgiveness. We want to learn to forgive each other and ask for forgiveness, too. Please help us to forgive every day. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



“Comic Strip” Handout

1

2

3

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5

6

OK
TO COPY





God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

Most of your 5- and 6-year-olds have experienced fear from various experiences such as thunderstorms or other life situations. And they're reliant on others' protection in their daily lives. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God can, and is, protecting them in those times they're afraid.



► Bible Point


God protects us.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will realize that God protects them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Chores for God Do chores and serve God.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a baby blanket has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, baby blanket Teacher Pack: CD	Place the baby blanket in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Moses' Friends Help Moses get to safety.	Bible, baby doll, basket, blanket Teacher Pack: "River Nile" poster, "The Princess Finds Moses" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Basket Baby Help float Moses down the river and talk about God's protection.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, scissors (several pairs), brown raffia, glue	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Submersible Snacks Use plastic bags to keep their snacks dry and help them understand how God protects us.</p>	Chex mix, resealable plastic bags, permanent marker, dishpans of water, towels, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Boating Along Make paper boats and float them in pans of water.</p>	paper, crayons, pennies, dishpans of water	
	<p>Center 4: Water Wars Have a water war to show how God protects us.</p>	clean sponges, 1 bucket of water for every 5 kids, large plastic trash bags, scissors, tape	Cut arm holes and head holes in trash bags so kids can wear the bags over their clothes. Put a few inches of water in each bucket.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Safety Prayer Pray under an umbrella and thank God for his protection.</p>	umbrella	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





God Protects Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:10

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Pharaoh Feels Threatened by the Hebrews

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

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

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

The Midwives Remain Faithful and Are Blessed

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

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

God Protects Baby Moses

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Join the Fun"
 (track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Join the Fun" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
We can sing. (*pretend to conduct*)
We can pray. (*make praying hands*)
We can worship God today! (*place hands in front of you and bow*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
 (Repeat.)

Say: **I'm so glad you're here today to learn that ► GOD PROTECTS US and that God is our helper! Help me sing a song about trusting God to protect us wherever we are.** Lead the children in singing and doing the motions of "God Will Protect Us" to the tune of "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" (not on the CD).

God will protect us, that is true. (*point up on "God"; nod head on "that is true"*)
He will protect me and you. (*point up on "he"; then point to self and to child on "me and you"*)
Whenever we go out, (*extend arms out wide*)
We don't even have to shout (*raise voice a little louder on "shout"*)
Because God will protect us, that is true! (*point up on "God"; nod head on "that is true"*)
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la! (*roll fists one over the other on the first seven "las"; then open hands and thrust arms into the air on the last "la"*)

Say: **We can trust God all the time because ► GOD PROTECTS US. Right now, while we're sitting in this room, God is protecting us. When you traveled to church today, God protected you. Today we'll learn about a little baby boy who God protected even in some scary times.**





2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Chores for God

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Colossians 3:23, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Colossians 3:23, says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). That means that we can do everything in a way that serves God. Let's help ourselves remember our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Do everything for God (Colossians 3:23).**

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us to do everything for God. When we help by doing chores in our families, we can remember we're really doing them for God. We know that God loves us very much, so when we do something for God, we do the best we can, and we work cheerfully.**

Have kids form groups of four to six. Say: **We do a lot of different things each day. Some things are really fun and some can feel like work. Whatever we're doing, we can work for God.** Let's pretend to do some chores for God. Have the kids in each group get ready to work together to act out different chores.

Say: **Set the table for God.** Allow time. Continue to give suggestions of chores kids can do for God. As children play, move among them and comment about how we might do tasks differently if we remember to do them for God. For example, you might comment on the difference between doing something grumpily or cheerfully and doing our best or doing just enough to get by.

Say: **Today we'll hear about how God protected baby Moses—his mother and sister did their best for God, and they did it cheerfully. We can do our best and work cheerfully when we do our jobs, too. Remembering that God loves us makes us want to do everything for God.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like for you to work for God in this activity?**
- **What's it usually like for you to do chores?**
- **What jobs can you do for God at home this week?**



Chores for God Supplies

Bible





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
baby blanket
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the baby blanket in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Say: **Just as we did in our activity, we can do everything for God. And we can know that as we do, God will take care of us. Today we'll hear about some women who worked for God, and God protected their family. And we'll hear how ► GOD PROTECTS US, too.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! You look really sleepy today.

Theo: (*yawning*) I watched movies with my friends last night and I stayed up pretty late. I didn't get enough sleep, so I am pretty tired.

Teacher: It can be fun to stay up late sometimes, but it's always better for us to get lots of sleep. I hope you had fun.

Theo: Yeah, I had tons of fun! It was totally worth it. Hey, wanna see what I brought in the Surprise Box today?

(*Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the baby blanket around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.*)

Teacher: Theo, is this your blanket?

Theo: Yes, it sure is. Just seeing it makes me feel ready to go to sleep...but I brought it because I heard there's a baby here today—but I don't see him. Anyone know if we can use this blanket for the baby?

(*Pause for kids to answer Theo's question.*)

Teacher: Actually, we're learning about a baby today, and how God protected him in a pretty amazing way. And we're learning ► **GOD PROTECTS US, too.**

Theo: That sounds really cool. I wish I could stay, but I think I'd fall asleep. I'm gonna go home and take a nap. Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about Theo bringing a blanket to take care of the baby he heard about?**



- Tell about a time you helped take care of a baby.
- What are some ways you know God takes care of you?

Say: **We’ve seen people take care of us—even Theo showed that he wants to take care of others. But even more than any person can take care of us, ► GOD PROTECTS US and takes care of us. Today we’ll learn that just as God protected the baby in the Bible, ► GOD PROTECTS US all the time.**

Bible Time: Moses’ Friends

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 1, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Today we’re learning that ► GOD PROTECTS US. The Bible tells us about a man named Joseph who was Pharaoh’s right-hand man. But when a new leader takes over and doesn’t know how Joseph helped the Egyptians, things get scary. Let’s hear how God protected his people, even after the new leader took control.**

Choose two children to be Soldiers, one person to be Pharaoh’s Daughter, one person to be Miriam, and another person to be Moses’ Mom. Ask the other kids to join you in being sound effects. Then say: **Let’s jump into this Bible passage now.**

The mean new Pharaoh makes God’s people, the Israelites, work way too hard! He doesn’t pay them or give them a choice about working. God’s people are very sad being Pharaoh’s slaves. Have the sound effects kids make the sound of footsteps approaching.

Say: **Shh! I hear someone coming. Crouch down as tiny as you can so nobody can see you!** Crouch down and hide from the Soldiers.

Say: **Pharaoh wants to get rid of all of the Israelite baby boys.** Have the Soldiers go around asking if anyone has seen any Israelite baby boys. After looking around for a little while, have the soldiers walk away.

Say: **How mean they are! You can lift your heads now. They’re gone. One day a baby boy was born to one Israelite family.** Encourage the sound effects kids to cheer. **They were so sad when they heard that Pharaoh wanted to get rid of the baby boys. They tried to hide the baby for a while, but babies can’t help crying sometimes, and they knew they couldn’t hide him from the mean Egyptians much longer. So the baby’s mom and sister made a special basket, put the baby in it, and then put it in the water!**

While the sound effects kids make the sound of water flowing, have Miriam and Moses’ Mom place the baby doll in the basket and then set the basket in front of the “River Nile” poster. Have Miriam walk past the children and pretend to secretly watch her brother float along the river.



Bible Time: Moses’ Friend Supplies

-
- Bible
 - baby doll
 - basket
 - blanket

Teacher Pack

- “River Nile” poster
- “The Princess Finds Moses” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Say: **God protected the family and the baby! Miriam was hiding in the tall grass watching the basket to make sure the baby was safe. And then Pharaoh's daughter, who was a princess, saw the basket and took the baby out of the basket.**

As Miriam watches from a short distance, have Pharaoh's daughter take the basket out of the water and look surprised.

Say: **Pharaoh's daughter was surprised when she saw the baby inside! He was crying, and she felt sorry for him.**

Ask:

- **Have you ever been sad and someone helped you?**

Say: **Pharaoh's daughter wanted to take care of the baby so he'd stop crying. Miriam told Pharaoh's daughter that she could find someone to help her take care of the baby. Guess who that would be?**

Allow time for kids to guess.

Point to Moses' Mom and say: **Moses' sister, Miriam, chose Moses' own mother! So Miriam went and got her mother to take care of him!** Have Pharaoh's Daughter give the baby back to Moses' Mom. Say: **No soldier ever hurt baby Moses. God protected him with a basket, a loving family, and Pharaoh's daughter. What a day! Remember, ► GOD PROTECTS US, too.**

Show children "The Princess Finds Moses" poster.

Say: **Moses' family was afraid for him and didn't know how to save him from the soldiers, but they knew God would protect him. Let's cover baby Moses with a blanket like his sister and mom did. As we do, let's remember that even when we're afraid and don't know what to do, ► GOD PROTECTS US.** Let the children take turns covering the poster and hiding the baby Moses with a blanket. Encourage the children to say "God protects us" each time.

Set aside the props for use later in the lesson.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways God protected Moses?**
- **When has God protected you?**
- **What does it mean to you to hear that God always protects you?**

Say: **God hid Moses from Pharaoh by sending him to grow up in Pharaoh's house. Only God can make plans like that! ► GOD PROTECTS US, too. He gives us homes, families, friends, and our wonderful church.**





4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Basket Baby

What You'll Do

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, markers, and scissors. Set out the raffia and glue. Say: **God protected Moses and kept him safe. ► GOD PROTECTS US, too. Let's use these pages to help us remember what God did for Moses.**

Have kids cut along the solid lines to remove baby Moses from the page. Help kids glue the raffia around Moses' basket, and then fold the page along the dotted lines along both sides of the river so the reeds stand up.

Have kids form pairs. Encourage kids to sail baby Moses down the river and talk about how God protected him. Say: **There were all kinds of things for God to protect Moses from on that river. While one partner guides the baby down the river, the other partner will create obstacles.** Have the obstacle-creating partners use markers to draw crocodiles, Egyptian soldiers, river rapids, or other possible dangers that God saved Moses from. Encourage kids to dodge the obstacles and use both partners' pages to show this experience.

Say: **Moses was just a baby and God protected him from Pharaoh. Just like God protected Moses, ► GOD PROTECTS US. God used a very special plan and saved Moses from Pharaoh by hiding him in the only place no one would look for him—Pharaoh's own palace! He used a basket, Moses' family, and Pharaoh's daughter to protect Moses.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to help protect Moses from Pharaoh?
- Tell about a time you've helped protect someone or something.
- Tell about a time God used someone to help protect you.

Say: **God uses people and situations to help protect us. ► GOD PROTECTS US**



Center 1: Basket Baby Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
scissors (several pairs)
brown raffia
glue

Center 1: Basket Baby Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
9 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Center 2: Submersible Snacks

Supplies

Chex mix
resealable plastic bags
permanent marker
dishpans of water
towels
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

from harm all the time. Things seemed really bad when Moses' mom and sister put him in a basket and set the basket on the river, but God was there protecting Moses at that exact moment. We can talk to God anytime we need his protection and no matter what we face, we know God is with us.

CENTER 2:

Submersible Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table. Say: **God protected Moses and God protects us, too. Even if we go through hard times, God will care for us and protect us. Let's have a snack that'll remind us of how God protects us.**

Set out Chex mix, resealable plastic bags, and dishpans of water. Say: **Moses' mom and sister put him in a woven basket, but they put something on the basket to keep it floating. Baskets look kind of like these cereal squares.** Have kids use the Chex cereal squares to talk about the basket Moses was put in as a baby. When they're done, tell kids to put the Chex mix in individual plastic bags. Write each child's name on his or her bag, and have kids set the bags in the water. Allow kids to play a bit if they want to simulate the way the river moved the basket along.

Say: **Just like God protected baby Moses from drowning in the river, this plastic bag has protected your cereal and kept it from getting wet.** Have kids remove their bags from the water, use towels to dry the bags off, and sit down to eat their snacks.

Say: **These plastic bags are clear, but they kept our food dry. We can't always see how God is protecting us, but we can trust that he's always there taking care of us.**
► **GOD PROTECTS US** even when we don't realize it.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why was it important that we used the plastic bags for our snacks today?**
- **What is something that God protects people from?**
- **What is one way you can tell God is protecting us right now?**

Say: **Just like the plastic bags protected our snacks from getting wet, ► GOD PROTECTS US** all the time whether we know it or not. **Even if we have difficult times, we can trust God in those hard times. Just like our snacks went into the water but didn't get ruined, ► GOD PROTECTS US** when we're going through hard times. **God was with Moses in the river full of crocodiles and danger, and God is always with us—we can trust he is protecting us no matter what we face!**



CENTER 3:

Boating Along

What You'll Do

Say: **God protected Moses on the water of a huge river called the Nile. Moses floated in a basket. Let's make paper boats to remind us how Moses floated on the Nile.**

Distribute crayons and paper. Say: **Paper doesn't usually float, so we'll use crayons to help make the boats more waterproof. It's like how Moses' mom and sister made the basket waterproof for Moses.** Have kids color their paper boats using crayons. Talk with kids about how God protected Moses in the basket.

Have kids follow along as you demonstrate step by step how to fold the paper boat. Help kids as necessary. When the paper boats are finished, say: **Find a partner and gently push your boats across the water to each other as you talk about how God protected Moses on the Nile River.** After a little while, give pairs a few pennies and have them see how many pennies their boats can hold before they sink.

Allow time. When kids are done, help them dry off and then sit together in a circle.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was your boat like or unlike a floaty toy you've used at the pool?
- Tell about a time you or someone you know was in danger.
- Explain whether you think God is protecting you when you face hard times.

Say: **We made boats that floated on water, but they wouldn't be strong enough to protect a baby on a river, the way God protected Moses. God is so strong. He protected Moses on the Nile River and in Pharaoh's house. Moses was in a dangerous situation, but God was with him. We'll face hard times, but God will be with us in those times, too. ► GOD PROTECTS US at home, when we're playing, and here at church.**

CENTER 4:

Water Wars

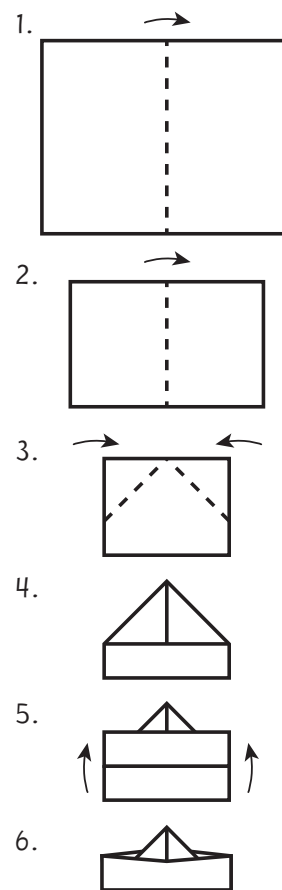
What You'll Do

Say: **God protected Moses by helping him float to exactly the right place. God helped Pharaoh's daughter love Moses and even made it so his mom could take care of him. ► GOD PROTECTS US, too, in ways we see and in ways we don't see. Let's have a water war to help us think about how God protects us.**



Boating Along Supplies

- paper
- crayons
- pennies
- dishpans of water





Water Wars Supplies

clean sponges
1 bucket of water for
every 5 kids
large plastic trash bags
scissors
tape

Water Wars Easy Prep

Cut arm holes and head
holes in trash bags so
kids can wear the bags
over their clothes. Put a
few inches of water in
each bucket.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

Take kids to an outside area. Divide the group into teams of five. Give each team a bucket and a few sponges and have kids put on trash bags.

Have teams face each other, and say: **This is a water war! Your goal is to get the other team wet using only your wet sponges, and you want to stay as dry as you can.** Have kids stand 10 feet apart and explain that they'll throw sponges back and forth, aiming for each other (no aiming for faces!). Say: **On your mark, get set, go!**

Allow kids to play for a while. If you have three teams, have the teams stand in a triangle.

When time is up, help kids remove their plastic bags and go back inside together. Point out how the plastic bags kept their clothes dry, and then sit with kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think when you realized you'd stayed dry?**
- **How is God's protection for us better than how the plastic bag protected you?**
- **What is one way you can trust God's protection for you this week?**

Say: **Just like this plastic bag protected your clothes, ► GOD PROTECTS US. God protected baby Moses in a river full of crocodiles and God protected Moses when Pharaoh's soldiers wanted to hurt him. We can trust God all the time to protect us. God's protection doesn't mean hard times won't happen in our lives. God will be with us in those hard times. It's like how the wet sponges still hit you, but the plastic bag helped you.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD PROTECTS US. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice thanking God for his protection.**





Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Sing a praise song to God in thanks for his protection anytime you feel afraid.**
2. **With help from one of your parents, write a letter to your local police station. Thank them for letting God use them to protect you every day.**
3. **Go for a walk with your dad or mom and talk about the things you see along the way that help keep you safe. Pray as you walk and thank God for providing those things.**

Say: **If you want to sing a song to God, circle choice number 1. If you want to write a letter, circle choice number 2. If you want to take a walk, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Safety Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids stand together under an umbrella. Say: **Let's thank God for protecting us like these umbrellas protect us in the rain. Let's thank God for the ways he protects. When I pause, each of you can call out a way that God protects you.**

Pray: **Dear God, we know you've protected us in so many ways and we're really thankful for your protection. Thank you for the times we've known you're keeping us safe, such as:** (pause for kids to say times God has kept them safe) **and thank you for the times we don't even know you're protecting us. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Safety Prayer Supplies

.....
umbrella





Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–3:20

Five- and 6-year-olds are familiar with the idea of working to accomplish things. They build forts so they can play in them, they're able to help with household chores, and they're able to understand working now so they can play later. Use this lesson to show kids how God can use them to help other people.



► Bible Point


God can use us.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will look for ways God can use them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Rock Solid Learn how God gives kids strength to do anything.	Bible, 1 heavy rock for every 5 kids	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a match and twigs have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, match and twigs Teacher Pack: CD	Place the match and twigs in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Great Blazes Make a burning bush and listen to what God and Moses talked about.	Bible, CD player, cotton balls, glue, squares of yellow and orange tissue paper, flashlight Teacher Pack: CD, "Moses Sees the Burning Bush" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) "Burning Bush" poster 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p> <p><i>about 20 min.</i></p> <p><i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Hot Branches</p> <p>Decorate branches to represent the burning bush God used to speak to Moses.</p>	My Bible Playground; washable markers; twigs or sticks; flashlight; glue; red, orange, and yellow glitter	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Outside the Box</p> <p>Use things for different purposes than they were made for to learn how God can use us for anything.</p>	plates, pretzels, raisins antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Shoe Tag</p> <p>Play a game of Tag, and talk about why Moses took off his shoes.</p>	flashlight	
	<p>Center 4: Facing Our Fears</p> <p>Talk about fears and how God can help them face those fears.</p>		
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges</p> <p>Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Ready to Go Prayer</p> <p>Tell God they're ready for him to use them.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home</p> <p>Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–3:20

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Moses Succeeds and Fails in Egypt

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

Moses Escapes to Midian

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

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

Moses Goes to Mount Horeb

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

God Calls Moses to Serve

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Join the Fun"
(track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song




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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Join the Fun" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

 **Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend.** (*shake a friend's hand*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
We can sing. (*pretend to conduct*)
We can pray. (*make praying hands*)
We can worship God today! (*place hands in front of you and bow*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **I'm so glad to see you! Today we'll learn that ► GOD CAN USE US. Let's sing a song about how ► GOD CAN USE US anywhere.** Lead the children in singing and doing the motions for "God Can Use Us" to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (not on the CD).

 **God can use us where we are,**
Use us here, or send us far. (*point down, and then point with thumbs to the sides*)
In our houses, in our cars (*hold fingertips together to form a rooftop, and then pretend to grasp a steering wheel*)
In the daytime, under stars. (*hold hands around face, and then reach hands up and open and close fingers*)
God can use us where we are,
Use us here, or send us far. (*point down, and then point with thumbs to the sides*)

Say: **Thanks for being here. Today we'll hear about someone in the Bible who did amazing things for God. ► GOD CAN USE US, too, in everything we do. Let's find out what our Key Verse has to say.**





2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Rock Solid

What You'll Do

Sit with kids in a circle. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible (Philippians 4:13) says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). That means that no matter what happens, God gives me strength to deal with everything. Let's help ourselves remember our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

Show kids the large rocks. Say: **These rocks are really heavy, and they're also really strong. They could be used to hold up something heavy or to build a wall or house. These rocks could probably hold up a car if we drove a car onto them.** Form circles of five kids each. Pass a rock around each circle asking kids to each do something to demonstrate their strength with it. Allow kids to be creative or copy one another as long as they're safe in handling the rock.

Say: **Now, pass the rock around the circle again, and when it comes to you, say the name of someone who's really strong.** Allow time.

Have kids repeat the simplified Key Verse with you again: **I can do everything because God gives me strength.** Have children take turns picking up the rock and lifting it to their waists. As they hold the rock, have them each say one thing that's hard for them to do. Then ask the rest of the circle to repeat the Key Verse with that child's name: [Child's name] can do everything because God gives [her or him] strength. Continue in this manner until everyone has lifted a heavy rock.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did your strength compare with how strong the rock is?**
- **What are some things we need strength for?**
- **Aside from just your muscles, what are some other ways you can be strong?**

Say: **There are lots of ways we can show that we're strong, whether it's by lifting a heavy rock or by doing what's right for God. ► GOD CAN USE US to do what's right. We may think it's hard to sit quietly in church, sing in front of others, pray, or tell someone about Jesus. But our Key Verse says we can do everything because God gives us strength!**



Rock Solid Supplies

-
- Bible
 - 1 heavy rock for every
 - 5 kids





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
match and twigs
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the match and twigs in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hey, friends! It's good to see your faces!

Teacher: Well, hello, Theo! It's good to see you, too. Where have you been this week?

Theo: I went camping with my friends and family in the desert. Boy, was it hot! The best part was at night when we had to light a campfire just to keep warm. Can you believe it? What's your favorite outdoor thing to do with your family?

(Pause for kids to answer Theo's question.)

Teacher: I've heard that deserts get pretty cool at night. Did you have fun?

Theo: Yeah, it was tons of fun. Everyone told stories around the campfire and we sang songs. Well, some of us howled along, but it was beautiful anyway. I actually brought back a souvenir of my favorite thing from the trip. Want to see it?

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the match and twigs around the circle so everyone can see them up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo: Can we have a campfire right here? It's the best. Everyone sings and has fun together.

Teacher: Uh, no, we can't, Theo. We're inside a building and fires aren't allowed inside a building. They're really best for camping trips like the one you've just been on. But today we'll hear about a fire when we read the Bible. God made a special fire for a man named Moses, and he told Moses about his plans for him.

Theo: Campfire conversations are so fun!

Teacher: Imagine having a campfire conversation that God planned just for you! That's what happened for Moses. God wanted to tell Moses that he was going to use Moses to set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt. Just like God used Moses to do big things,

► **GOD CAN USE US**, too.

Theo: I need to go home and help my family put away our camping supplies. Have fun learning about God's campfire conversation with Moses! Goodbye!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.





Ask:

- Tell about a time you helped with a fire.
- What are some ways God can use people to help each other?
- What is one way you like to help other people for God?

Say: Theo helped us find out that God used a fire to show Moses what God’s plans were for his life. God had plans for Moses’ life and they were totally different from what Moses was expecting. Just like God used Moses to make amazing things happen, ► **GOD CAN USE US**, too. God’s plans are the best! Let’s find out what amazing plans God had for Moses.

Bible Time: Great Blazes

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Exodus 2, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, wanted to kill all the Israelite baby boys, but God protected one of those baby boys, named Moses. And Moses even ended up growing up in Pharaoh’s house. Moses had all the good things that rich people in Egypt could want—nice clothes, lots of good food, and more money than he could spend.** Have kids pretend to be pampered.

Say: **But Moses saw how unhappy his people, the Israelites, were. The Israelites were slaves to Pharaoh. One day, Moses saw an Egyptian slave master mistreating one of Moses’ people.** Have kids pretend to be mean to a slave. **Moses got so mad that he sinned and killed the Egyptian slave master who was hurting the slave.**

Afterward, Moses ran far, far away into the desert so Pharaoh’s men couldn’t find him. There Moses lived, became a shepherd, and got married. His life was a lot different there than it had been before. Have kids pretend to run in a hot desert.

Show children the “Moses Sees the Burning Bush” poster. Say: **Moses took care of sheep for many years and didn’t want to do anything else. But God wanted to use Moses to do a very special job back in Egypt. Even though Moses didn’t think he could be anything other than a shepherd, God wanted to use him. Let’s glue some cotton balls to the sheep so they look like the sheep Moses watched over.** Allow time.

One day, a strange thing happened. Moses saw a bush. It looked like an ordinary bush that was on fire. But when Moses got close, he saw that the bush wasn’t burning up! He couldn’t figure out how a bush could be on fire but not burn up from the fire. Let’s make a fiery-looking bush, maybe like the one Moses saw, and then we’ll find out what happened next.

Hand each child a few squares of yellow and orange tissue paper. Show children how to loosely crinkle the squares, as if making flowers. Smear some glue in the center of



Bible Time: Great Blazes Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - cotton balls
 - glue
 - squares of yellow and orange tissue paper
 - flashlight
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “The Burning Bush” (track 20)
 - “Moses Sees the Burning Bush” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)
 - “Burning Bush” poster





the “Burning Bush” poster. Lay the “Burning Bush” poster in the middle of the circle and have kids take turns randomly pressing their crinkled tissues into the glue. When kids have secured the fiery-looking tissues, turn off the lights and bring out the flashlight and stand it up under the “Burning Bush” poster. Allow kids to take turns moving the flashlight so it looks like the flames are moving.

Say: **Well, Moses saw that a bush was on fire, but the branches and leaves on the bush weren’t burning up. Amazing! God used a bush to get Moses’ attention. God wanted to use Moses in a special way, too.**

Let’s listen to God as he talks to Moses. We’ll pretend to be Moses, so get ready to take off your shoes when God asks him to and say along with the children on the CD, “God can use you, Moses!” when you hear the fiery sounds.

Play “The Burning Bush” (track 20 on the CD). When the track finishes, turn the overhead lights back on.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think about taking off your shoes to talk to God?**
- **Tell about someone you know who loves God. How do you know that person loves God?**
- **What is one thing you’ve done for God?**

Say: **God met Moses at a special place to catch his attention—a burning bush—and Moses listened to God. God wants us to pay attention so we can listen to his plans for us, too. God told Moses he had big plans for him. ► GOD CAN USE US, too, and he has big plans for us. Let’s pay close attention so we hear God when he talks to us about his plans for us.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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





CENTER 1:

Hot Branches

What You'll Do

Say: **Moses and God met at the burning bush, and God told Moses about his really big plans. God had great plans for Moses' life, and ► GOD CAN USE US, too. God used a burning bush to talk to Moses. Let's make something to help us remember what God used to get Moses' attention.**

Distribute the Lesson 10 My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on their papers. Set out glitter, glue, and sticks.

Tell children to design their pages to look like the burning bush might have looked. They can glue the sticks to the pages as the branches. Say: **Now you can glue the red, orange, and yellow glitter to the pages as the flames.** As the glue dries, have kids use the flashlight to shine on the glitter and tell about what happened between God and Moses at the burning bush.

Say: **God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. God wanted Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to set the Israelites free from being slaves. God speaks to us today through the Bible, church, Christian friends, and prayer. ► GOD CAN USE US to do many things, such as tell others about Jesus and show his love through our kind actions. It's exciting when God uses us to do his will.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's something that's caught your attention, kind of like God caught Moses' attention?**
- **Tell about a way God speaks to you.**
- **What's one way you think God might use you?**

Say: **You made beautiful burning bushes to remind you of God's big plans for Moses. ► GOD CAN USE US to do amazing things for him. We can serve God and accomplish things for him every day. God had big plans for Moses and he has big plans for you, too. You can pray and talk to God anytime to ask him to show you how to do those plans.**



Center 1: Hot Branches Supplies

- My Bible Playground
- washable markers
- twigs or sticks
- flashlight
- glue
- red, orange, and yellow
- glitter

Center 1: Hot Branches Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.





Center 2: Outside the Box Supplies

plates
pretzels
raisins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Center 1: Shoe Tag Supplies

flashlight

■ CENTER 2:

Outside the Box

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table. Say: ► **GOD CAN USE US in so many different ways. God used Moses to do something Moses felt like he couldn't do by himself. Let's make a snack and think about how we use different things.**

Set out the plates, pretzels, and raisins. Tell kids to get a few pretzels and then use the pretzels to get raisins for their snack. Say: **You might choose to stick a pretzel through a raisin or use two pretzels to pick up a raisin. Think of creative ways to get your snack.** Allow time for kids to get their raisins without using their fingers directly.

Say: **Moses thought he would be best off as a shepherd, but God wanted him to lead his entire nation of people. God used Moses for something Moses wasn't ever expecting. Just like we used things in our snack today in ways different from what we're used to, we know ► GOD CAN USE US in many different ways, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was different about the way you got your snack today compared with what you expected to do?
- How did God do something different with Moses from what Moses was expecting?
- What can you do to be ready for whatever God wants to do with you?

Say: **Instead of using your hands and fingers to pick up raisins, you used pretzels. God uses us for what he intends, and it's not always what we're expecting. Moses wasn't expecting God to talk to him and tell him to lead his people that day, but he followed God's instructions anyway. ► GOD CAN USE US, and it's best if we listen easily and quickly when he tells us what to do.**

■ CENTER 3:

Shoe Tag

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God had Moses remove his shoes while God was talking to him from the burning bush. God told Moses that the ground he was standing on was holy. Moses removed his shoes and stood before God. Let's play a game of Tag to help us remember how God told Moses about his plans.**





Give one child the flashlight. This child will be the Burning Bush. Turn off the overhead lights in your room and have the Burning Bush shine the light on different kids. Say: **If you're caught in the beam of the light, you'll remove one of your shoes and carry it. Once you've removed a shoe, you're free to move. If you have no more shoes on, you'll become the Burning Bush.** Play several rounds, having kids put their shoes back on each time a new person is the Burning Bush. When the game is over, turn the lights back on and sit with kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to remove your shoes when the flashlight was shining on you?
- What's one way you can show God you're ready for him to use you?

Say: **Like the way you stopped and paid attention when you saw the light in our game, Moses stopped and paid attention when he saw the burning bush. And Moses showed God he was ready to listen by taking off his shoes like you did. When God asked Moses to go save his people from Egypt, Moses was nervous, but God told him that he'd be ready when the time was right. ► GOD CAN USE US just as he used Moses. We can be ready to listen to God all the time, and when he tells us what he wants us to do, we can follow him right away.**

■ CENTER 4:

Facing Our Fears

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God didn't ask Moses to do something that was easy or comfortable, but it was a big and amazing plan! Moses told God he wasn't any good at speaking in front of people, and he was afraid. No matter what Moses' fears were, God promised to be with Moses and to make things work for him.**

Tell kids to form pairs. Have partners tell each other something they're really scared of. It could be spiders, the dark, or anything else. Allow time.

Say: **Show your partner what you would normally act like if you met the thing you're scared of.** Allow time.

Say: **When we let God use us, things won't always go the way that we think they should, but they'll go God's way, and that's lots better.** Remind kids that the Key Verse says: I can do everything because God gives me strength.

Say: **Now let's say our Key Verse together and act out how we can face our fears with God's help. "I can do everything because God gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).**





Allow time for partners to trade off showing how God gives them strength even in scary times.

Repeat this activity, this time thinking of something they know God can help them with.

Continue as time allows. Then sit with kids in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to think of something that scares you?
- What does it mean to have strength from God?
- How will you feel the next time you face a scary thing knowing that God can use you?

Say: **Today you thought about ways that God can help you anytime you feel afraid. God told Moses his plans for him, and Moses was scared. But God promised to be there with him. God makes us the same promise and ► GOD CAN USE US, too.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD CAN USE US. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice following God's plans.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Invite a friend to church, and remember that God can use you to bring your friends closer to him.
2. Ask a family member to help you write a prayer for God to use you to do amazing things, like he used Moses.
3. Play games with a retired friend or neighbor. Remember that God can use you to bless other people.





Say: **If you want to invite a friend to church, circle choice number 1. If you want to write a prayer, circle choice number 2. If you want to play games, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Ready to Go Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's tell God we're ready for him to use us in whatever way fits his plans for us. God used Moses to save all of his people from Egypt. ► GOD CAN USE US for anything, too.**

Have kids stand along a wall on one side of the room. When you pause during the prayer, the first child will say, "God can use me to [have kids fill in the blank]" and run to the other side of the room. As soon as the first child reaches the other side of the room, the next child will follow.

Pray: **Dear God, we're so excited to know that you have plans for us and you can use us to do big things. We have ideas of what we can do, and we know your plans for each of us are even bigger.** Pause for kids to run and say what God can use them to accomplish. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





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

Your 5- and 6-year-olds can identify their emotions and express appropriate feelings. Your children need to know that God is always with them and that he's especially close to them when they're sad. Use this lesson to help your children know that God is always with us and that he'll always take care of us.



► Bible Point


God is with us when we're sad.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will look to God when they're sad.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Doing the Impossible Defy gravity and learn that with God, anything is possible.	Bible, index cards, 1 hard-sided cup of any size per child, water, dishpan	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what eyeglasses have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, eyeglasses Teacher Pack: CD	Place the glasses in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Blinded by Sadness Hear the Bible passage, and understand what the Israelites were feeling when Pharaoh punished them.	Bible, My Bible Playground, CD player, washable markers, kitchen timer, scissors (several pairs), glue sticks, 1 wide craft stick and 1 golf-ball-sized piece of modeling dough per child, tape Teacher Pack: CD, "Teardrop" stickers, "The Israelites Work Hard" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>4</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Not by Sight Lead one another by faith, and discover that God is with us even when we can't see him.</p>	masks from the "Bible Time" activity	
	<p>Center 2: Build It Now! Try to reconstruct apples without adequate supplies.</p>	apple slices, crushed-up shredded wheat cereal, caramel sauce, plates, spoons, wet wipes, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Caring Hearts Comfort a teddy bear or doll.</p>	teddy bears or dolls, small blankets	
	<p>Center 4: Invisible Muscles Push against a wall, and feel their arms be pushed up by invisible muscles.</p>	kitchen timer	
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>God Is With Me Prayer Jump in the middle of a circle and thank God for being with them.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment

Exodus 5:1–6:1

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Setting the Stage

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

Conflict Begins Between Pharaoh and Moses

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

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

Moses Shows Frustration to God

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

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

God Encourages Moses

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

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

The Jesus Connection

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

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Join the Fun"
(track 18), "As I Have
Loved You" (John
13:34) (track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Join the Fun" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
We can sing. (*pretend to conduct*)
We can pray. (*make praying hands*)
We can worship God today! (*place hands in front of you and bow*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
(Repeat.)

Say: I'm so glad to see you! Today we'll learn that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. God loves us and wants us to love one another. He cares when we're sad, and he comforts us. He wants us to love and comfort others when they're sad, too.** Lead kids in singing and doing the motions to "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 6 on the CD).

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)
A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*shake hands with a friend*)

Love one another. (*high five a friend*)
Love one another. (*high five a friend*)
Love one another. (*high five a friend*)
Love one another. (*high five a friend*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)
A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you, (*shake hands with a friend*)





As I have loved you, as I have loved you. (*everyone gives high fives together*)

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

Say: **I love singing songs with you about God’s love. Today we’ll learn how God loved the Israelites and helped them when they were sad. Just like that, ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE’RE SAD.** The next time you’re sad, you can know that God is with you. **Let’s get ready to learn about our Key Verse today!**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Doing the Impossible

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible (Philippians 4:13) says, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). That means that I can do everything because God gives me strength. Let’s help ourselves remember our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

Have kids form pairs and tell their partner about things that are impossible to do. Give kids a couple of minutes to talk about impossible things.

Distribute cups to all of the kids and help children put water in their cups. Ask: **What would happen if you turned your cup upside down?** Kids will know that the water would spill and cause a mess. Give kids each an index card, and tell them to place the index card over the top of the cup. Talk about the weight of the water compared with the weight of the card.

Ask:

- **What makes you think it would be impossible for us to turn this cup upside down and have the water stay inside the cup?** Allow kids to talk a little about this question.

Say: **I can do everything because God gives me strength.** Help kids take turns flipping their cups over above the dishpan carefully and help them let go of the card. The water should stay in each of the cups if the card covers the mouth of the cup completely. Say: **What we thought was impossible actually wasn’t. The water doesn’t fall out because of this card.** Have kids turn their cups back upright and repeat the activity again a few times.



Doing the Impossible Supplies

- index cards
- 1 hard-sided cup of any size per child
- water
- dishpan





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about being able to do something that seemed impossible?
- Tell about a time you had a really hard time doing something on your own.
- What is one way you can trust God's strength to help you when you're sad?

Say: **We saw something that seemed impossible when we turned our cups upside down. With God, nothing is impossible! Our Key Verse tells us that we can do everything because God gives us strength. We're going to learn about how God gave people strength in a really difficult time. We can have God's strength when things are difficult. Let's find out more about how ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD!**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet
CD player
eyeglasses

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the glasses in the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! How are you doing today?

Theo: My mom says I have to go to see the doctor, so I'm bummed.

Teacher: What are you going to the doctor for?

Theo: I have to get them to look at my eyes and tell me if I can see okay. Do you know anyone who's been to the eye doctor before? What was it like?

(Pause for kids to answer Theo's question.)

Theo: That doesn't sound so bad after all. I kind of hope I end up with glasses that look as cool as my dad's.

Teacher: Maybe you can help us see what's in the Surprise Box.

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the glasses around the circle so everyone can see them up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo: I hid my dad's glasses in there because I was hoping to show off how awesome they are.

Teacher: Glasses help people see! In our Bible passage, we're going to learn how the Israelites were so sad they couldn't see that God was with them.

Theo: Maybe they needed some special glasses!





Teacher: They didn't believe that God was with them when they were sad. Let's find out how they learned to believe that God was working for them even when life was hard.

Remember that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD**, too.

Theo: Neat-o! Well, you all have fun! I'm gonna go get some really cool new glasses.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think of Theo not wanting to have glasses?
- Tell about a time you've felt sad about something.
- How does it help to know that God is with you when you're sad?

Say: Theo wasn't happy to get glasses at first, but he realized there could be some great things about it. Today we'll hear how the Israelites were having tough times and didn't remember that God was right there with them. Sometimes we can feel alone when we're sad, but we can remember that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD**.

Bible Time: Blinded by Sadness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 5, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Exodus tells us about a man named Moses and his brother, Aaron. They were leaders of God's people, the Israelites. God wanted to use Moses and Aaron to help the Israelites escape from mean Pharaoh because they were being treated so badly as slaves.**

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him, "God says, 'Let my people go so they can worship me!' " Ask kids to repeat, "Let my people go!" Do you know what Pharaoh said? Pause for responses. Pharaoh said "No!" Ask kids to shout "No!" Pharaoh would not let God's people go. In fact, he made the slaves work even harder.

Ask:

- What's the hardest job you've ever done?

Show children "The Israelites Work Hard" poster.

Say: **Being a slave to Pharaoh and the Egyptians was very hard work!** Point to the slaves looking dirty and sweaty. **Pharaoh forced the Israelites to make a lot of bricks from clay, but he didn't give them everything they needed to make the bricks. Let's pretend to be the Israelites and try to make enough bricks for Pharaoh.**



Bible Time: Blinded by Sadness Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Playground
- CD player
- washable markers
- kitchen timer
- scissors (several pairs)
- glue sticks
- 1 wide craft stick and 1 golf-ball sized piece of modeling dough per child
- tape

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Moses' Song" (verses 1-3) (track 22)
- "Teardrop" stickers
- "The Israelites Work Hard" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Blinded by Sadness Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.





Bring out the kitchen timer, and give each child a piece of modeling dough. Tell kids they have to make their dough into several rectangular bricks and stack all of them on the poster before the timer goes off. (Children may not be able to make a rectangle from the clay. That's okay.) Set the timer for 10 seconds, and have children try to make their bricks. When the timer goes off, say: **You have to sit and be quiet in a timeout because you didn't make enough bricks to put on the poster for Pharaoh. Put your heads down for just a few seconds, and then you can sit up normally again.**

It's a good thing we weren't Pharaoh's slaves! We'd be in trouble all the time! The Israelites were always in trouble! The Israelites even started getting mad at Moses and Aaron because their lives were getting harder and harder instead of getting better. The Israelites were very, very sad. Let's pretend that we're Israelites again.


Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and help kids write their names at the top. Help kids carefully cut out the eyeholes, and then have them each glue a craft stick to the bottom of the page to make a mask. Then have children hold the masks in front of their faces and pretend to be Israelites.

Bring out the "Teardrop" stickers, and give two stickers to each child. Show kids how to place a teardrop over each of the eyeholes to show their sadness. Then have children put their masks back in front of their faces.

Say: **We can't see anything through our masks. We're blind. The teardrops are in the way. That's what happened to the Israelites. Their sadness blinded them. They couldn't see that God was using Moses and Aaron to help them. They were so sad they couldn't see the good thing that God was doing to set them free. They couldn't see that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

The next time you're sad, remember that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. God not only cares for you when you're sad, he can change something sad into something wonderful.

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "Moses' Song" (verses 1-3) (track 22 on the CD), sung to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." Have children wave their masks as they sing.

 **God protected Moses, Moses, Moses.** *(have kids walk in a circle)*
God protected Moses,
And kept him safe, you see!

God protects me every day, every day, every day. *(have kids walk in the opposite direction)*
God protects me every day,
And keeps me safe, you see!

God can use us anywhere, anywhere, anywhere. *(have kids walk in the opposite direction)*
God can use us anywhere,
So let him! Don't you see?





God is with us when we're sad, *(place mask in front of face)*

When we're sad, when we're sad.

God is with us when we're sad,

So trust him! Can't you see? *(remove the mask)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **God's people, the Israelites, were very sad, and they forgot that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.** Even if things seem really difficult in your life, you can know God is with you, and that can comfort you.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be in timeout even though you did your best?
- Tell about a time things didn't go the way you expected.
- How can you remember that God is with you the next time you're sad?

Say: **No matter what is going on, God is always with us, but it's extra important to know that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.** God was with the Israelites, even though they couldn't see him, and if we always pay attention to God, we'll know that he's there with us when we're sad. Remember what it felt like to be blinded by tears and sorrow, and know that you can see God even in those times.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

Not by Sight

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Moses and his brother, Aaron, went to speak to Pharaoh about letting God's people go free. When they did, Pharaoh was angry and punished the people. God's people couldn't see that God was with them in this hard time.**

Form pairs, and have one partner hold the mask in front of his or her face. Have the



Center 1: Not by Sight Supplies

.....
masks from the "Bible Time" activity





second partner stand behind the first. Say: **If you're standing behind your partner, hold his or her shoulders and lead your friend around the room.** Allow time. Then switch so each partner gets a chance to be blinded by the tears and to walk by faith! Remind children that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD** even when we can't see what he's doing.

Say: **We may not be able to see God, but we can believe that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. He'll help us just as he helped the Israelites and set them free from being Pharaoh's slaves.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did your partners help you when you couldn't see them?
- How is it hard to trust when you can't see?
- How can God help you when you can't see him?

Say: **The Israelites were blinded by their sadness and ended up missing a chance to see God helping them. ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD, and just like we did with our partners, we can walk by faith trusting God to help us—even if we can't see the good things he has planned for us.**

■ CENTER 2:

Build It Now!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around a table. Distribute plates, shredded wheat cereal, and several apple slices to each child. Say: **When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh to tell him what God wanted, Pharaoh was mean. He made it harder for the Israelites to work, but he still expected the same number of bricks. Let's use our snack to help us remember that ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Tell kids they have three minutes to each reconstruct an apple from the slices they've been given. It's okay that kids probably won't have enough slices to make a whole apple. Tell them to work hard and do what you told them to do.

After three minutes, say: **Pharaoh told his slave masters that the Israelites were lazy! He wanted them to make bricks and build things for him without even giving them the right supplies.** Tell kids to get any other supplies they think they might need to complete the task. Tell kids they can use the caramel sauce, and show them how to combine it with the shredded wheat cereal to make the apple slices stick together.

Say: **Okay, now you've gone and gotten yourselves some more supplies, so get back to work. Rebuild those apples! But this time, you'll have only two minutes.**

As kids work, pretend to be Pharaoh and tell them to stop complaining if they say they

Center 2: Build It Now! Supplies

apple slices
crushed up shredded
wheat cereal
caramel sauce
plates
spoons
wet wipes
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! **ALLERGY
ALERT**





don't have enough apple slices or don't have the right ones. Be careful not to hurt the feelings of sensitive children who might take you too seriously.

After two minutes, inspect their work and pretend to be Pharaoh as you say: **None of you made a complete apple. I had expected you to finish.** Be careful not to hurt kids' feelings, but make sure they have an experience that they'll remember.

Say: **That was tough, wasn't it? The Israelites had a rough time as slaves for Pharaoh. But God was with them. They forgot that and just saw how difficult everything was.**

Have kids eat their snacks as you discuss the following questions. Hand out wet wipes when necessary to help kids clean their hands after eating their snacks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What frustrated you or made you sad while you were making your snack?
- When have you been frustrated about something that wasn't fair or didn't go well?
- What does it mean that God is with you when you're sad?

Say: **When Pharaoh gave the Israelites harder work to do, God was already working on his plan to help his people, but they forgot that he was with them. When you made your snacks, you didn't have the right supplies, and it may've been frustrating for you. It's important to always remember that even when things are really hard in our lives, ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD, and he'll take care of us.**

■ CENTER 3:

Caring Hearts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **There are many ways we can know God is with us when we're sad. God sent Moses, who grew up in the palace, to help save his people. Sometimes God sends people to us, too, to help us know he's with us.**

Distribute teddy bears or dolls and blankets and have kids form pairs. Say: **Pretend these teddy bears [or dolls] are sad. Show how you could comfort them if they were crying.** Allow time. Encourage kids to snuggle the bears or dolls with a blanket, rock them, or sing to them.

Say: **Now take turns with your partner in pretending that one of you is sad and the other person will comfort the sad person.** Allow time. Encourage kids to listen to each other and remind each other that God is with them when they're sad.



Center 3: Caring Hearts Supplies

.....
teddy bears or dolls
small blankets





Say: **Sometimes God uses other people to show us how he's with us when we're sad. God sent Moses to the Israelites to remind them that God was with them when they were sad.**

Sit with kids in a circle as they hold the teddy bears.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did your partner do or say that could help comfort you when you're sad?**
- **Tell about a time that God used someone to help you when things weren't going well.**
- **How can God use you to show someone that he's with them when they're sad?**

Say: **We can't see God, but we know he's there. ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD, and we can talk to him. God can comfort us like we comforted these teddy bears and our friends just now. Just like Moses obeyed God and helped the Israelites, we can also help other people when they're sad and let them know God loves them.**

■ CENTER 4:

Invisible Muscles

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **We can't see God with us, but we know he's there. ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD. When we're sad, we can pray, read our Bible, talk to other Christians, or sing songs to praise God to help us remember that God's with us all the time. Let's do something that will show us how God is with us.**

Ask all the kids to stand in a line with their arms just a few inches from a wall. Say: **Stand with your arm close to the wall, pushing against it with the back of your hand. Push your arm directly against the wall as hard as you can.**

Set a kitchen timer for one minute, and have kids continue to press their hand against the wall. As kids push against the wall, say: **Pharaoh made the Israelites work really hard. He gave them jobs that weren't even possible to complete and then hurt them when they couldn't do those jobs. ► GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD, and he was with the Israelites. They got so tangled up in their sadness that they couldn't remember God was with them, though.** Ask kids to talk about times they've had to do something that made them sad, and ask if they remember how God was with them at those times. Keep reminding kids to push hard against the wall with all their strength.

Once the timer goes off, have kids turn around and relax their arms completely. Their arms should float upward without them trying.

Center 4: Invisible Muscles Supplies

.....
kitchen timer





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking about while you were pushing against that wall?
- What do you think about when you're sad?
- What can you do to rely on God the next time you're sad?

Say: Your arm was floating up on its own, without any help—this is kind of like the way God helps us when we're sad. We might be pushing against something big and difficult like this wall, but God is with us the entire time. Sometimes we don't remember how good it is that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD**. Even when we're doing something like pushing against a wall or when something sad happens in our lives, we can praise God and thank him for being with us.



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD**. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice remembering God is with you and others.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Sing a song to God when you're sad. Keep singing and praising God as long as you can.
2. Go to a park with your family. If you see someone get hurt, cry, or look sad, you could tell the person that God is with him or her in sad times.
3. Give a hug to anyone in your family when they look sad, and remind them that God is with them when they're sad.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers





Say: **If you want to sing a song, circle choice number 1. If you want to go to a park, circle choice number 2. If you want to encourage someone in your family, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

God Is With Me Prayer

What You'll Do

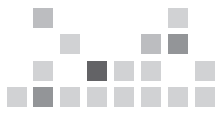
Say: **God is with us all the time, and especially when we're sad.** Have kids stand in a circle as you pray.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for being with us when we're sad. We're so thankful because we know that no matter what's going on, we're not alone.** Then jump into the middle of the circle and say: **God is with me!** Have kids all follow by jumping into the circle and saying, "God is with me." **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8–10:29

Five- and 6-year-olds are aware that the world around them is more powerful than they are. They may be afraid of thunderstorms or the dark. They're very small and exist in a very large world. Use this lesson to help kids see that there's nothing that's stronger than God and that God always uses his power for their good.



► Bible Point

God is powerful.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will know that God is more powerful than anything else.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Rhyming Strong Learn a rhyme.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what an extension cord has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, extension cord Teacher Pack: CD	Place the extension cord in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Plagues of Drawings Make a picture assembly line to learn about the Bible.	Bible, paper, washable markers	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: What Is That Smell? Use strong smells to compare what happened for the Israelites and the Egyptians.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, vinegar, mothball, liquid perfume, vanilla, 4 opaque containers	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Put each of the strong-scented supplies into an opaque container.
	<p>Center 2: More Powerful Than a Speeding Blender Compare their own strength to that of a blender, and see how God is much stronger than anything else.</p>	measuring cup, ½ gallon of yogurt, 1 liter of orange juice, frozen fruit, sturdy cups, mixing spoons, blender, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Nothing to Fear Sculpt something they're scared of, and worship God instead of being scared.</p>	modeling dough	
	<p>Center 4: Power Walk Go for a walk, and talk about the powerful things they see and how God is more powerful than any of them.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>Power Prayer Pray for God's power as kids go into the week ahead.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Exodus 7:8–10:29

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Pharaoh’s Magicians Duplicate Miracles

There are a number of significant questions and difficulties raised in the four chapters from Exodus 7 through Exodus 10. *How did Pharaoh’s magicians duplicate the miracles?* The gods they served weren’t real; rather, the magicians’ power came from Satan. Certainly some of the miracles were copied through trickery, but it’s likely that some were performed through occult powers. In Exodus 8:18-19, the magicians were baffled and attributed the plague of gnats to God’s power. Apparently they were unable to duplicate that plague through any type of sorcery.

Pharaoh Keeps Changing His Mind

Why did Pharaoh keep changing his mind and breaking his word? Pharaoh was not unlike many of us who find ourselves making promises to God when times are hard. Then, when we’re no longer in a pinch, we rationalize away the promises we made. Pharaoh had a very convenient workforce in the Israelites. When the pressure was off, it became extremely hard for him to release the Israelites. Not only would he lose his slaves, but such an act would be seen by others as a sign of weakness.

God Hardens Pharaoh’s Heart

Was it right of God to harden Pharaoh’s heart (Exodus 9:12; 10:1, 27; 11:10)? God’s sovereignty as it relates to our free will is a mystery to which we have no certain answers. But notice that God didn’t harden Pharaoh’s heart until the sixth plague. Prior to that, Pharaoh had repeatedly hardened his own heart. Perhaps there was a point at which Pharaoh had so set himself against God that God allowed him to live with the consequences of his choices, further

hardening Pharaoh’s heart because he knew that was Pharaoh’s intention and initial choice.

God’s Plan for the Plagues on Egypt

Why did God allow all of these things to happen? The answer, though mentioned in several places, is clearly stated in Exodus 7:5: “The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” The Israelites had been treated poorly by the Egyptians, and when they cried out to God, he responded. He let the Egyptians (and surrounding nations as well) see that he truly is God. He used his mighty power to rescue his people and to demonstrate to all who would hear about him that he is worthy of worship and obedience.

The Jesus Connection

Everyone needs God’s help and power to survive the difficulties of life. Jesus empowers his followers and helps his friends!

Waiting on God’s timing is difficult for most Christians. Take a moment to pray about something you’re waiting for. Ask God to give you the patience and faith to wait for his perfect timing. You can write your prayer on the lines below.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Join the Fun"
(track 18), "As I Have
Loved You" (John
13:34) (track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Join the Fun" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Old MacDonald."

Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
We can sing. (*pretend to conduct*)
We can pray. (*make praying hands*)
We can worship God today! (*place hands in front of you and bow*)
Join the fun, and come on in. Make yourself a friend. (*shake a friend's hand*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **Welcome to church! Today we'll learn that ► GOD IS POWERFUL. God loves us powerfully and he wants us to love others, too.** Lead kids in singing and doing the motions to "As I Have Loved You" (John 13:34) (track 6 on the CD).

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)
A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*shake hands with a friend*)

Love one another. (*high five a friend*)
Love one another. (*high five a friend*)
Love one another. (*high five a friend*)
Love one another. (*high five a friend*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you. (*smile at a friend*)
A new command I give to you: (*point finger and move arm up and down*)
Love one another as I have loved you, (*shake hands with a friend*)
As I have loved you, as I have loved you. (*everyone gives high fives together*)

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





Say: It's fun to sing songs to God! Today we'll hear about a time God showed his power to an entire country of people. ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**, and he loves us very much. No matter what is going on around us, God is stronger than anything we face.



2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Rhyming Strong

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Philippians 4:13, says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). That means that God helps me be strong so I can do anything I need to do. Let's help ourselves remember our Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

Say: **Think about some things you're really scared of.** Allow time, and then let kids share some things. **Today we're learning that God can beat all of those things because he's so strong. God doesn't want us to be afraid because he's always with us and he'll always help us be strong to get through anything. Let's learn a rhyme to help us remember our Key Verse.** Lead children in repeating the words and actions after you:

When I'm scared, *(open eyes wide and look afraid)*
I sometimes shake. *(shiver)*
When I feel afraid, *(cover eyes)*
No chance I'll take. *(turn head side to side)*
Then I remember, *(point to forehead)*
God's with me. *(point to self)*
He'll keep me safe, *(hug self)*
Safe as I can be. *(nod head up and down)*

Give each child a turn to act out something scary. Then have each child's neighbor say: **God is stronger than** [whatever the child is afraid of]. Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about God being stronger than any scary thing?**
- **Tell about a time you were really scared.**
- **How can God's power help you next time you're scared?**

Rhyming Strong
Supplies

Bible





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
extension cord
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the extension cord in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Say: **You showed each other how God is more powerful than the things you're scared of. Today we'll hear how God used his power to take care of and save his people. And we'll learn to trust that ► GOD IS POWERFUL enough to take care of us, too. We're going to learn about a time in the Bible when God showed his strength to a lot of people at the same time.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the extension cord around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what can we do with an extension cord?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this extension cord in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, I got a new toy and it plugs into the wall, but I wanted to use it outside. So I needed some power for outside. On my way to go play, I thought of you all, so I threw it in the box. You know, everyone wants things with more power.

Teacher: We're learning about power today, but instead of learning about an extension cord, we're learning about God's power. God made power, so even the outlets on the wall are full of God's power. God did some things in our Bible passage today that an extension cord could never do! ► **GOD IS POWERFUL!**

Theo: Wow, that sounds electrifyingly fun! I'm gonna go take this back home now.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is the kind of power that Theo was thinking of important?**





- Why is God's power important to you?
- What does it mean to you that God is more powerful than anything else?

Say: We learned with Theo about how God's power is way better than the power that comes from an extension cord. And we know that since ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**, we're always safe with God. Let's hear how God used his power to free his people from a bad situation.

Bible Time: Plagues of Drawings

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Exodus 7, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **God did some really powerful things to help Moses and the Israelites. God showed his awesome power, and it was unlike anything that the people had ever seen before.** Give kids each a piece of paper and set out markers. Help kids write their names on one side of their papers. Have kids draw a quick picture of their favorite place to be on that same side and then turn their papers over and pass their pictures to the person on the right.

Say: **Moses and his brother, Aaron, went to Pharaoh and said, "God wants you to let his people go." Pharaoh said, "No!" God wanted to show Pharaoh his mighty power. So God sent plagues to help Pharaoh change his mind. A *plague* is when there's too much of one thing and it becomes a problem.**

Say: **First God told Aaron to touch his staff to the river and God turned all of Egypt's water into blood. It was red, you couldn't drink it, and it smelled awful! Do you think Pharaoh let them go? Moses said, "Let my people go!" Pharaoh said "No!" But God kept his people, the Israelites, safe and showed everyone that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.** Pause for kids to draw a quick picture of a stinky river on the page and then pass the pictures to the right.

Say: **Then God told Aaron to reach out his staff over the water of Egypt and God sent frogs all over the land. They covered everything! When Moses said, "Let my people go," Pharaoh said, "No!" But God kept his people, the Israelites, safe to show everyone that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.** Pause for kids to draw a picture of frogs and then pass the pictures to the right.

Say: **Then God sent teeny, tiny gnats** (have kids pinch their pointer fingers and thumbs together and make small "bzzzzz" sounds), **and then he sent bigger flies that covered the ground and walls and everything! Pharaoh still said, "No!" But God kept his people, the Israelites, safe to show everyone that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.** Have kids draw a quick picture of flies and then pass the pictures to the right.

Say: **God made the Egyptians' animals die, but none of the Israelites' animals died.** Have kids draw a quick picture of a sick animal, and then pass the pictures to the right.
Say: **Then God made the Egyptians have sores and owies all over their bodies, but**



Bible Time: Plagues of Drawings Supplies

-
- Bible
 - paper
 - washable markers





the Israelites didn't have any sores on them. Have kids draw a picture of a person with sores and then pass the pictures to the right.

Say: **God wanted Pharaoh to quit being mean to his people and he wanted his people to be able to worship him. God wanted Pharaoh to let his people go but Pharaoh said "No!" every time. In everything that happened, God kept his people, the Israelites, safe to show everyone that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.**

Next God sent big, icy balls of hail. Have kids draw ice on the pictures and then pass them to the right. Say: **Moses said, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!" Say: So then God sent locusts that were like flying grasshoppers! They ate up all the food that was growing!** Have kids draw a picture of a bug eating food and then pass the picture to the right. Say: **Pharaoh kept saying "No, I won't let your people go worship you!" And God kept doing impossible things to show Pharaoh he wanted his people to be free. God kept his people, the Israelites, safe to show everyone that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.**

Say: **Pharaoh wanted to keep God's people and use them as slaves forever. So God sent darkness over the land. It was very, very dark for three days.** Have kids each draw darkness on top of everything else on the picture and then give it back to the person whose name is on the back of the page. Say: **Through everything, God kept his people, the Israelites, safe to show everyone that ► GOD IS POWERFUL.**

It's easy for us to forget that God can do anything. You and I can't create darkness. We can't tell the insects what to eat or make thousands of frogs hop around. What's impossible for you and me is easy for God because ► GOD IS POWERFUL!

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to get your picture of your favorite place back and see it changed so much?**
- **Tell about a way you know God's power can change things.**
- **What happens when we pray to our big, powerful God?**

Say: **God's miracles were difficult for Egypt because Egypt wasn't obeying God's plan for Israel, but God protected his people, the Israelites, from everything. Whenever we're scared, we can trust that God is way bigger and way stronger than anything we're scared of. We can talk to God anytime and God is right there listening to us. God showed Egypt that ► GOD IS POWERFUL, and he still takes care of us today the way he took care of Israel then. Pray to God the next time you're scared.**





4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

What *Is* That Smell?

What You'll Do

Say: **Today we heard about Moses and the Israelites and how God did mighty things to help them be free from Pharaoh. Sometimes we're afraid of things that seem stronger than us and could hurt us. But God is more powerful than anything else that ever will exist, and God will take care of us!**

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages and set out markers. Once kids have written their names on their pages, set out the containers with the smells in them.

Say: **These bottles have different smells in them. Some smells are good, and some smells are not so good. Let's see what they have to do with the plagues in Egypt. But first let's remind ourselves about the plagues.** Lead kids to talk about each of the pictures on the page and the plagues that happened to Egypt.

Say: **God protected his people, the Israelites, from the hard things he did to Egypt. Even though the plagues hurt the Egyptians, they didn't bother the Israelites.** Have kids choose which of the pictures seemed scariest to them and draw sad faces on them.

Have kids pass around the bad smells. Then say: **These smells remind us of all the bad things that happened because of the plagues.**

God is so strong that he could send plagues to warn the Egyptians that they should let the Israelites go. He wanted Pharaoh to know that he's stronger than anyone else. Draw a happy face on the picture that's strangest to you. Allow time.

Have kids pass around the good smells. Then say: **These good smells remind us of how God protected his people, even when the plagues hit right where they lived.**

God loves you just like he loved the Israelites. And ► GOD IS POWERFUL and he'll take good care of you.

Gather everyone in a circle.



Center 1: What *Is* That Smell? Supplies

- My Bible Playground
- washable markers
- vinegar
- mothball
- liquid perfume
- vanilla
- 4 opaque containers

Center 1: What *Is* That Smell? Easy Prep

- Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Put each of the strong-scented supplies into an opaque container.





Center 2: More Powerful Than a Speeding Blender Supplies

measuring cup
 ½ gallon of yogurt
 1 liter of orange juice
 frozen fruit
 sturdy cups
 mixing spoons
 blender
 antibacterial gel
 (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think of the smells?
- What are some smells that remind you of good times? bad times?
- What's a good way to remind yourself about God the next time you're scared?

Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL.** We smelled some strong scents, and God is even better than the strongest good smell you can imagine. God did things in Egypt that were impossible in order to show that he's stronger than anything they could imagine. God is powerful in our lives, too. We can talk to God anytime because he loves us so much.

■ CENTER 2:

More Powerful Than a Speeding Blender

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table.

Say: **Moses told Pharaoh to let his people go, but Pharaoh didn't budge. God showed Pharaoh and all of Egypt one miracle after another so they could see his power. Let's think about power as we make our snacks.**

First have children try to make a smoothie by hand. Give each child a cup and a spoon. Let kids add about ¼ cup of orange juice, ⅛ cup of yogurt, and ¼ cup of frozen fruit to their cups, and tell them to stir the mixture by hand. Have kids stop after about a minute to see how their smoothies are coming along.

Say: **We need something that's a little stronger than we are. Anyone have any better ideas about how to make a smoothie?** Let several kids share ideas. Then suggest a blender, if no one else does, and bring it out.

Have kids pour the contents of their cups into the blender. Let a few children take turns pushing the buttons to increase the power. Say: **Look how quickly the blender did what we were really slow at! Just like this blender is way more powerful than we are, God is way more powerful than anything in the whole wide world! No matter what we face, we can know that ► GOD IS POWERFUL!**

Pour the blended smoothie into each of the children's cups, say a prayer of thanks to our powerful God, and then let kids enjoy their treat.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like for you to try to make a smoothie using your muscles?
- Tell about a time you needed help to do something.
- What's something you need God's powerful help with?

Say: Just like the blender was much stronger than we are, we're wimpy compared with God—but we know God loves us anyway. ► **GOD IS POWERFUL.** There's nothing in this world that can stop him from loving us. And God can rescue us from anything just like he did impossible things to help his people. Remember to trust God's incredible power the next time you're scared.

■ CENTER 3:

Nothing to Fear

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: God made darkness, bugs, frogs, hail, sickness, and even turned a river of water into stinky blood. He did all of that because ► **GOD IS POWERFUL** and he wanted his people to be able to worship him. We might think the things we're scared of are powerful, but they're just wimps compared to God. Let's think about that.

Set out a handful of modeling dough for each child. Say: **Shape the clay into something you're afraid of, such as a big dog, a lightning bolt in a storm, or a bully.** Have kids form groups of five, and have each child talk about his or her fear and then smash the dough while saying the Bible Point: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL.**

Say: **No matter what we face, God is more powerful than our worst fears. Instead of being scared, we can trust God and praise him. When we think about God and praise him for his power, we don't have any time to be afraid!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to smash that thing that scares you?
- Tell about a time you saw someone step in and protect you from something scary.
- How does God step in when his people get scared?

Say: ► **GOD IS POWERFUL,** and we can worship and praise him for how amazing he is! God showed his power to the Egyptians and Israelites, and God shows his power for us every day. Whenever we're afraid, God can smash that fear because he's more powerful than whatever we're afraid of.



Center 3: Nothing to
Fear
Supplies

.....
modeling dough





CENTER 4: Power Walk

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God made the entire world and he used his power to do that. ► GOD IS POWERFUL and we can see that in everything around us. God used his power to show Pharaoh he had to let the Israelites go. Let's look for things that show God's power here today.**

Take kids for a walk around the room, around the church, or outside. Have kids point out things that show God's power. They might see the sun and feel its warmth, perhaps they'll notice an outlet or power cord and say how God made electricity, or they might see an airplane go by and say how God is stronger than the airplane. Each time a child points out something powerful, ask him or her to tell how they know that thing is powerful and how they know God is more powerful.

When you're done with your walk, gather kids in a circle and say: **God did amazing things to show Pharaoh how powerful God is. God still does amazing things today and he loves us very much. God's power can be seen in everything. Wow! God's power is amazing!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What is the most powerful thing you saw today?**
- **What is the most powerful thing you've ever done?**
- **How do you know God is more powerful than you or even the strongest person or invention?**

Say: **God invented everything and he showed his great big power to Pharaoh when he sent the plagues. ► GOD IS POWERFUL in every way we can imagine. You're loved by your powerful God, and that is something amazing. Whenever you face something scary, you're not alone—God is with you.**





5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD IS POWERFUL**. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice remembering God's power.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. When you see someone who needs help, use your strength to help that person and then tell him or her that God is more powerful than either of you.
2. With your parents, go around the house turning the lights on and off. Every time you turn off a light, thank God for being more powerful than anything.
3. Pray for God's power anytime you're afraid.

Say: If you want to help someone else, circle choice number 1. If you want to play with the lights, circle choice number 2. If you want to pray, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Power Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Flex your muscles as we pray today.

Pray: Dear God, we love you and we want to use all of our strength for you. You're way more powerful than we are, and we need you to go with us everywhere we go this week and help us be strong for you. In Jesus' name, amen.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers





Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





The Israelites Escape From Egypt

Exodus 11:1–12:36


Your 5- and 6-year-olds know what it means to want their freedom. They know the feeling of being cooped up in a car or stuck inside because of a timeout. Kids this age often want more freedom than their dependence on others can allow. It's important for kids this age to realize that their connection with God is their own. Use this lesson to help kids understand that sin traps us, and it's Jesus' forgiveness that sets us free.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus sets us free.

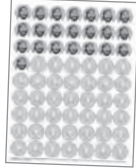

Key Verse
"I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will believe that Jesus sets them free.

<p>1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.</p>		
<p>2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Watermelon Lift Learn that we can do more with help and can do everything with God.</p>	<p>Bible, large watermelon, tablecloth</p>	
<p>3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Theo's News Find out what walking or running shoes have to do with the Bible.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, walking or running shoes, leash Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Place the walking or running shoes in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible. Put a leash on Theo.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: It's Good to Be Free Experience the joy of freedom from sins while hearing how God set the Israelites free.</p>	<p>Bible, 1 balloon per child, tape Teacher Pack: "The Israelites Leave Egypt" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), gold coins</p> 	<p>Inflate balloons and keep them off to the side.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Pack It Up, Move It Out Pack backpacks.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers Teacher Pack: “Smiling Jesus” stickers</p> 	<p>Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: The No-Time-for-Yeast Feast Make snacks on the go.</p>	<p>chocolate-hazelnut spread, matzo crackers, thin-sliced apples, spoons, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Packing Race Race to pack their shoes.</p>	<p>2 suitcases or travel bags, robe, kitchen timer</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Back-to-School Bags Decorate bags for holding their school supplies.</p>	<p>1 gift bag per child; art supplies such as stickers, markers, glitter, ribbon, glue</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers</p>	
	<p>Freedom Prayer Thank Jesus for their freedom.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: “Smiling Jesus” poster</p> 	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		


Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song

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

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.


Say: **I'm so glad to see you! Today we'll learn that ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Let's sing a song about Jesus setting us free.** Lead the children in singing and acting out the motions for "J-E-S-U-S" to the tune of "Bingo" (not on the CD).

 **God the father sent his Son,** (*hold hands and walk in a circle*)
And Jesus was his name—yes! (*continue walking in a circle*)
J-E-S-U-S! (*clap hands together for each letter*)
J-E-S-U-S! (*pat tummy for each letter*)
J-E-S-U-S! (*bend over slightly, and pat knees for each letter*)
He came to set us free—yes! (*crouch for the first part, and then spring up on the word "yes!"*)

Say: **It's great to sing about how ► JESUS SETS US FREE. Today we'll hear how God freed an entire nation from slavery.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Watermelon Lift

 **Tip** When you're done with the watermelon, put it in a safe place so you can offer it to volunteers after church.

What You'll Do

Spread the tablecloth on the floor and have children sit in a circle around it. Open your Bible to Philippians 4:13, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Watermelon Lift Supplies

Bible
large watermelon
tablecloth

 **ALLERGY
ALERT**





Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Philippians 4:13, says, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). That means that I can do everything because God gives me strength. Let’s help ourselves remember our Key Verse.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **I can do everything because God gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).**

Place the watermelon in the center of the circle on the tablecloth. Invite children to come forward one at a time and try to pick it up. After everyone has had a turn, have kids form teams of five or six kids and lift the watermelon together.

Say: **Lifting this watermelon became easier when you had extra strength. Your friends’ strength may have been enough help for this job, or maybe you needed even more help. Lifting a watermelon is hard work for your body, and some things are hard in other ways.** Have kids think of some other things they do that are difficult in other ways.

Say: **Sometimes it’s hard to share and be kind. It’s hard to think of others when we want to do things for ourselves. God promises to give us strength to do what’s right. We can always count on God to give us strength to do loving things. Because ► JESUS SETS US FREE, we can follow and obey him. No matter what God asks of us, we can remember this: I can do everything because God gives me strength.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like trying to lift that watermelon all by yourself? when you had help?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to show love or to help others?
- When will you need God’s strength this coming week?

Say: **There are lots of things that can be difficult to do. God tells us it’s good for us to work hard to do what’s right. It helps us be stronger and it makes God happy. ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and that means he helps us be strong enough to do what’s right. Let’s find out about a time that God freed people from slavery.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo’s News

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it’s time for Theo’s News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin “Here, Theo” (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.



Theo’s News Supplies

- Surprise Box (any box will do)
- Theo puppet
- CD player
- walking or running shoes
- leash

Teacher Pack

CD: “Here, Theo” (track 4)

Theo’s News Easy Prep

Place the walking or running shoes in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible. Put a leash on Theo.





Bible Time: It's Good to Be Free Supplies

Bible

1 balloon per child

tape

Teacher Pack

“The Israelites Leave Egypt” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

gold coins

Bible Time: It's Good to Be Free Easy Prep

Inflate balloons and keep them off to the side.

BALLOON WARNING

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

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It looks like you're ready to go for a walk.

Theo: Did you say WALK?! Those are the best. Oh my goodness, I can hardly stand still just thinking about it. Open the Surprise Box so we can go!

Teacher: Okay, Theo. Who wants to open the Surprise Box?

(Ask for a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the shoes around the circle so everyone can see them up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo: *(panting)* Put them on! Come on, let's go!

Teacher: Oh, Theo. I'm a little busy right now. We can't go for a walk right now, but we're learning about some people who took a really, really long walk very suddenly. God told them to leave quickly, so they did. They were as excited as you are about leaving, too. They just had time to put on their shoes and go right out the door. No looking back.

Theo: I thought I heard something about a long walk and I thought you might be just the people for it!

Teacher: We're going to stay here and learn about the really long walk in the Bible, but I hope you get to have your walk today after all. The Bible even mentions that the Israelites had dogs, so I'd guess those dogs got to go for the long walk, too.

Theo: Oh, I bet those dogs were happy!

Teacher: Probably so. The Israelites were sure happy to be leaving their slavery in Egypt. And we have freedom in Jesus that we're excited about, too. ► **JESUS SETS US FREE**, and that's exactly what happened for the Israelites.

Theo: That's cool. If you don't mind, I think I'll take these shoes with me to see if someone else will please take me for a walk. Have fun learning about those trekking Israelites!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you saw an excited dog like Theo.
- Tell about the longest walk you've ever been on.
- What amazes you about the Israelites leaving Egypt very quickly?

Say: **Theo was excited about going for a walk just like the Israelites were excited to go for a walk—out of Egypt! God told his people to leave Egypt quickly. Just like he set the Israelites free from slavery, ► JESUS SETS US FREE from sin.**

Bible Time: It's Good to Be Free

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 11, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.





Say: **Let's pretend we're Israelites in our home. It's a very small home. Can you help me build a home out of things in our room, such as chairs, blocks, large toys, and tables?** Create the "house" in a corner of the room, being sure it's large enough for all of you to stand in, yet small enough so you're a bit crowded. Gather kids in the "house." Have kids do a couple of quick activities such as jumping or spinning to help them notice the tightness of the space they're in. Say: **Oh, look! It's Moses!** Pretend to be Moses and give this speech.

Moses: *(said with a sense of urgency)* **Hurry! Hurry! Have you heard the news? Pharaoh finally respects God's power and wants us to leave Egypt quickly. Just moments ago, he called me to the palace and told me to get you out of Egypt. Now we'll be able to worship God whenever we want and we won't be slaves! God has set us free! We need to escape before Pharaoh changes his mind again. Let's hurry and go out the door one at a time. As you leave the house, say, "God has set us free!"**

After everyone is out, have children sit in a circle. As Moses, give one inflated balloon to each child. Have children each think of a bad thing they've done. As Moses, lead children in the following prayer:

Dear God, please forgive the bad things I've done, and set me free. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tell kids their balloons represent their sins. Have them sit on their balloons to pop them, and then have them throw their sins away. Say: **God set us free from our sins because of Jesus. We no longer have to do those bad things.**

Show children "The Israelites Leave Egypt" poster.

Say: **It felt good to ask God to forgive us and throw away our sins. It must have felt good to the Israelites to finally be set free. The Israelites had time to pack only what they needed and bring very simple food with them to eat. But God even provided for their future.** Point to the gold the Israelites are carrying. **God told the Israelites to ask the Egyptians to give them valuable things to take with them, like money and gold objects.** Give each child a gold coin to take home as a reminder that **► JESUS SETS US FREE.**

Say: **God's freedom lasts forever and cannot be taken away, because ► JESUS SETS US FREE from our sin. Let's tape our balloons to the poster to remind us that just as God set the Israelites free, ► JESUS SETS US FREE, too. Remember to thank Jesus for coming to earth to save us. Let's tell everyone!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to be set free from inside the tiny house?**
- **What was it like to pop the balloon and throw away your sin?**
- **What's one way you can tell someone that ► JESUS SETS US FREE?**





Center 1: Pack It Up, Move It Out Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
Teacher Pack
“Smiling Jesus”
stickers

Center 1: Pack It Up, Move It Out Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
13 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

Say: The good news that ► **JESUS SETS US FREE** is something we can celebrate all the time. The Israelites were freed very suddenly from over 400 years of slavery. They were excited for their freedom. We’re free from all of the trouble sin causes in our lives, and we can praise God for that!

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Pack It Up, Move It Out

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. ► **JESUS SETS US FREE** as well—we can be free from our sin. The Israelites had to pack their bags quickly and leave their homes without much time to pack and prepare. They had to think quickly about what was important and what could be left behind. Let’s practice our packing skills, too.

Distribute the Lesson 13 My Bible Playground student pages and washable markers. Help kids write their names on their papers.

Ask children to draw pictures inside the backpack of things they want to take on a long journey. Give kids each a “Smiling Jesus” sticker to put in the backpack, too. Say: **Think about the things that are important for you to have every day; things like a place to sleep, soap to clean with, and food to eat. Also pack some things you really like. The Israelites went on a really long journey, so they needed lots of supplies, but they had to think quickly about what to bring.**

The Israelites must have packed just what they needed for a long trip—simple food, clothes, and their animals. God set the Israelites free from slavery! God’s freedom lasts forever, because ► **JESUS SETS US FREE** from our sin. We can enjoy closeness with God and freedom from our sins and we can tell others about it, too. Thank you, God!



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain the things that were most important for you to bring with you.
- Tell about a time your family packed for a trip and what it was like getting ready.
- In what ways can you be ready to share about Jesus this week?

Say: **God freed the Israelites from their terrible slavery. The Israelites were really happy, but also had to pack up and move out fast. Just like the Israelites were excited to be free, we can be excited to be free from our sins. ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and that is the most important thing in our lives. We can be ready all the time to share about Jesus just like the Israelites were ready to move when God told them to leave their homes.**

■ CENTER 2:

The No-Time-for-Yeast Feast

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table. Say: **When the Israelites left Egypt, God told them not to even take the time to let their bread rise. When we make bread with yeast, it takes a long time for the yeast to rise.**

Say: **Look at these matzo crackers. They're a kind of bread, but they don't have any air in them because there's no yeast in them. They're more like a cracker than a piece of bread, but this is what the Israelites ate since they needed to get out of Egypt fast.**

Set out the chocolate-hazelnut spread, thin apple slices, matzo crackers, and spoons. Show kids how to spread the chocolate-hazelnut mixture over their matzo crackers and then set a thin apple slice on top of it. Say: **Today we're going to make our snacks as fast as possible. Ready? Set! Go!**

Put kids in pairs, and have kids use their fingers positioned like walking feet and pretend they're the Israelites leaving Egypt. Say: **Run your fingers along your matzo crackers as you tell your partner what happened in the Bible passage.**

After kids tell the events in the passage, pray over the snacks and enjoy.

Say: **Today many Jewish people still celebrate what God did to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. They eat these matzo crackers and talk about the way God rescued their ancestors. ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and we can celebrate that just like the way the Jews celebrate God freeing the Israelites so long ago.**



Center 2: The No-Time-for-Yeast Feast Supplies

- chocolate-hazelnut spread
matzo crackers
thin-sliced apples
spoons
napkins
antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: Packing Race Supplies

2 suitcases or travel bags
robe
kitchen timer

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to rush to make your snack?
- Tell about a time you had to do something quickly.
- What are some ways you can thank Jesus right away?

Say: **We raced to make our snacks just like the Israelites made their food quickly when God set them free. God did amazing things to help his people be free from the mean Pharaoh, and Jesus did the most amazing thing ever by dying on the cross and coming back to life in order to free us from our sin. ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and when we tell other people about Jesus, we make him happy.**

■ CENTER 3:

Packing Race

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Israelites packed quickly and happily. They had to get everything important into their bags before Pharaoh changed his mind. Let's have a race to help us remember what God did for the Israelites and how ► JESUS SETS US FREE.**

Have children sit in a large circle with the suitcases open in the center. Choose a willing child to be Moses and wear the robe. Divide the rest of the group into two teams. Say: **When you hear Moses say "Pack fast," all of you will take off your shoes and pack them into your team's suitcase as fast as possible. The first team to finish will jump up and say "Jesus sets us free!"** To begin, set the timer for 15 seconds (as kids get faster, set the timer for less time). Show Moses how to start the timer. Have Moses walk around the outside of the circle. When Moses is ready, have him or her stop and say, "Pack fast!" and start the timer. After each round, choose a new Moses and begin again.

When kids are finished with the game, sit in a circle together.

Say: **When we sin, we can hurry to ask for forgiveness so we can feel free from our sins. The Israelites had to hurry to pack in case Pharaoh changed his mind. They wanted to escape from slavery as fast as possible. It feels good to be free! ► JESUS SETS US FREE from our sins so we can live forever with him.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to race to get packed?
- How is that like or unlike what you want to do when you need forgiveness?
- Why do you want to ask for forgiveness right away?





Say: **God helped the Israelites be free from slavery, and they had to pack up fast like we did. Today, ► JESUS SETS US FREE from sin. That means all we have to do is ask for forgiveness and we can be free. But we really want to ask for forgiveness right away so we can be free quickly.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Back-to-School Bags

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When the Israelites escaped from Egypt, they left their homes behind, but they took some belongings and even asked their Egyptian neighbors for valuable things to help them on their way. Let's make bags to remind us that God is with us when we're away from home, just as he was with the Israelites.**

Set out the art supplies, and distribute one gift bag per child. Help children write their names on their bags. Say: **Decorate your bag to remind you that we can follow Jesus because ► JESUS SETS US FREE.** As children create, move among them and discuss the following questions.

Ask:

- **Where will you take your bag?**
- **What will you carry in your bag?**
- **How could you use your bag to tell others about God's love?**

Say: **You can use your bag when you go to preschool or kindergarten, or whenever you're away from home.**

When children are done decorating their bags, help them glue on flat ribbon to make a handle if the bags don't have handles.

Say: **Wherever you take your bag, remember God's people and God's promise to set them free. We're glad that ► JESUS SETS US FREE so we can follow and obey him.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's it like to have a really great bag to carry your special things in?**
- **What's so special about Jesus' love and forgiveness?**

Say: **God set the Israelites free and they were so happy that they celebrated and did exactly what God said when he told them to leave their homes. ► JESUS SETS US FREE, and we can tell other people about how excited we are to be free. Take your bag with you as a reminder of the places God will take you.**



Center 4: Back-to-School Bags Supplies

1 gift bag per child
art supplies such as
stickers, markers,
glitter, ribbon, glue





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

Freedom Prayer Supplies

Teacher Pack
“Smiling Jesus” poster

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS SETS US FREE. I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice sharing Jesus with other people.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Paint a picture of the Israelites packing up and leaving Egypt to be free. Give the picture to a trusted neighbor, and tell him or her how Jesus set you free.**
2. **Make lemonade and ask your parents to help you set up a table and chairs to make a free lemonade stand for a short while. Tell each person you meet that Jesus sets us free and that’s why the lemonade is free.**
3. **Play a game of Freeze Tag with your friends, and every time you get tagged, thank Jesus for setting you free.**

Say: **If you want to paint a picture, circle choice number 1. If you want to make lemonade, circle choice number 2. If you want to play a game with friends, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Freedom Prayer

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God set the Israelites free, and ► JESUS SETS US FREE. We’re free from sin, and we’re free to share God’s love. Let’s thank Jesus for the freedom we have through him.** Place the “Smiling Jesus” poster on the floor. Sit with kids in a circle around the poster. During the prayer, when it’s each child’s turn to say something they’re free to do, have him or her jump up and say that thing and then sit back down.





Pray: **Dear God, thank you for setting us free and helping us be forgiven from our sins. We're so thankful that we're free to** [allow kids to each say anything they love doing and are free to do]. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

