

FAITHWEAVER

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

**FALL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

PRE-K&K AGES
5&6
TEACHER GUIDE



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ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

Group

Group resources really work!

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



Relational

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

Experiential

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

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

Group

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We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

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

Let's keep kids safe!

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

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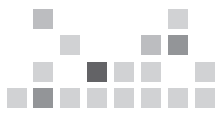
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The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

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

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

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

It's simpler and easier. ■■■■

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

It's made for NOW. ■■■■

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

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

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



Plus, FaithWeaver NOW stays up to date. New content, new tools, new mobile apps, and more every year—all to keep the Bible fresh, relevant, and effective.

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 Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3


Children this age love God’s creation. They enjoy chasing a butterfly or looking at clouds in the sky. They’re in awe of animals and can easily name any animals they see as they tell you all about them. Use this lesson to capture their inherent interest and help them see that God made all the things they enjoy in creation.



► **Bible Point**
God made everything.


Key Verse
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will thank God for his beautiful creation.

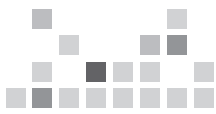
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	God Made It All Learn that God created the heavens and earth.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what an empty box has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Hide the empty Surprise Box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: God Creates the World Arrange the “Creation” cards to learn about the days of Creation.	Bible, CD player, washable markers Teacher Pack: CD, “Creation” cards, and “God’s Creation” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Separate the “Creation” cards, and lay them in random order on the floor where the children will sit.

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: Colorful World Paint a picture of a colorful world.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable watercolor paints (including green and blue), paper towels, cups of water, 1 paintbrush per child Teacher Pack: eyedroppers</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Edible World Make an edible creation scene.</p>	<p>paper plates, small bowls, black and white sandwich cookies, small marshmallows, pretzel sticks, fish-shaped crackers, animal crackers, small round snack crackers, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Place some of each of the snack items in a small bowl for each child.</p>
	<p>Center 3: Days of the First Week Think of ways to act out what happened on each day of Creation.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Creation" cards </p>	
	<p>Center 4: Creative Creations Make creations using building blocks.</p>	<p>Bible, building blocks</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>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>"Wonderful Creation" Prayer Thank God for their favorite creations.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	<p>Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God’s Beginnings With Humans

The book of Genesis gives us the beginnings. Not the beginning of God; God has existed eternally. Nor is it just the beginning of our world. It’s the beginnings of God’s working with humans. In fact, “beginning” is the meaning of the Greek word from which the name *Genesis* came. What better place to start a new season than at the beginning!

Elohim is the Hebrew name used for God in Genesis 1:1. It’s interesting that the name is plural, but the verb *created* is singular. Even though God exists in three persons, the action of creating the universe was unified.

God’s Creation Was Good

Genesis 1:1–2:3 describes a vast variety of things God created, but the focus isn’t so much on the creation as it is on the Creator. Nine times in this passage we read “God said” and then some variation of “and it was so.” God spoke our universe, our planet, and humankind into existence. And what God did was good.

The word translated “good” here is a common Hebrew word that, like our word *good*, can have several meanings. Here, it likely has no moral connotation but means “just as it should be.” God looked at what he had done and knew it was right.

After Creating, God Rested

God was creating a bountiful, beautiful home for the treasured beings that he created last. Notice that God created many of each thing: not just one tree, but “seed-bearing plants and trees...according to their various kinds”; not just one star, but “lights in the expanse of the sky”; not just one fish, but “every living and moving thing with which the water teems.” God

prepared a marvelous earth for his crowning creation to enjoy. And then God created humans. We’re a vital part of everything good that God made.

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth “in all their vast array,” he rested. Why? God wasn’t tired. God didn’t need to rest. No, God rested as a signal that Creation was complete. The seventh day became a holy day—a day to reflect on the wonder of what God had done, a day to smile and to know that it was good.

The Jesus Connection

God’s creation is inspiring, and the gift of his Son is lifesaving. Thank God for the beauty of life in nature and in our hearts through a relationship with Jesus! Show love for God’s creation during the lesson this week, and help others see that the Creator has given them new life through Jesus as well.

What in nature amazes you? Oceans of beautifully colored fish? Massive forests? Take some time to appreciate the creativity of God’s design, and consider how God has designed your life, too. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Learning and
Laughing” (track 2),
“Genesis 1:1” (track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “Learning and Laughing” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Boom, Boom, Ain’t It Great to Be Crazy?”



Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Learning and laughing with all my friends! (*twist in place*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **The Bible says that God made the entire world and everything in it. Let’s sing a song to help us remember that ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING.**

Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing and doing the motions to “Genesis 1:1” (track 3 on the CD).



Genesis 1:1, (*hold up an index finger for each “1”*)

It’s a whole lotta fun (*smile big*)

’Cause that’s where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted, (*put hands together; then move apart*)

Before God told Noah (*cup hands around mouth*)

To build a big boat, (*stretch arms wide*)

Way before Joshua

Marched around Jericho. (*march in place*)



(Chorus)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah! *(spread arms toward the sky)*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah! *(spread arms toward the sky)*

Genesis 1:1, *(hold up an index finger for each "1")*

It's a whole lotta fun *(smile big)*

'Cause that's where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted, *(put hands together; then move apart)*

Before God told Abraham *(cup hands around mouth)*

He'd be the father of nations, *(fold arms and rock like you're holding a baby)*

Way before Jesus *(extend arms like Jesus on the cross)*

Came to redeem us. Yeah! *(hug self)*

(Sing chorus.)

Genesis 1:1, *(hold up an index finger for each "1")*

It's a whole lotta fun *(smile big)*

'Cause that's where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted. *(put hands together; then move apart)*

Before God told David *(cup hands around mouth)*

That he could slay a giant, *(make a throwing motion)*

Way before me *(point to self)*

And everything I see. Yeah! *(point to eyes)*

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1!

"Genesis 1:1" by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **I'm so glad you've come to church today where we'll learn about how**

► GOD MADE EVERYTHING.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

God Made It All

What You'll Do

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



God Made It All
Supplies

Bible





Say: Today we'll look at the beginning of the Bible to learn how ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. Our Key Verse from the Bible, Genesis 1:1, says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Let's say the Key Verse together. Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you.

Say: **Way back in the very beginning of time, there was nothing but darkness**. Have the kids close their eyes and keep them closed.

Ask:

- What do you like or not like about the dark?

Say: **God changed the darkness by creating light and life**. Have children open their eyes. ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. God created the heavens and the earth, plants and animals, and people—everything!

Let's say our Key Verse one more time. Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Ask a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the empty box around the circle so the rest of the children can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what's in the box?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: What can we do with *nothing*? *(Pause.)* Theo, why is the Surprise Box empty?

Theo: Well, we can't do much of anything with nothing!

Teacher: That's right, Theo, but in the Bible today, we'll find out ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING** at the beginning of time when there was *nothing*! Friends, let's read the Bible to find out what happened!

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

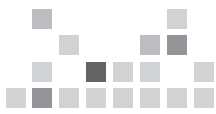
Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Hide the empty Surprise Box where it's easily accessible.





Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.


Bible Time: God Creates the World

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 1, and show the children the words. Tell children the Bible is God's special book.

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING. The Bible tells us that in the beginning there was nothing, just like there was nothing in our Surprise Box. The Bible also tells us that it was very dark. You can make it dark by closing your eyes again. Pause while the kids close their eyes. Now put your hands over your eyes to make it even darker. Keep your eyes closed and listen while I play some sounds. Open your eyes when you hear the first words, and find each card as the song mentions the picture on it.**

Play "It Was Good" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The track begins with sounds of water. When the words to the song begin, have the kids open their eyes and choose the card they hear about. Then have them arrange the cards in order.

 **On the first day, God made light!
And on the first day, God made night.
On the first day, God made light.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the second day, God made the sky,
Way above our heads, oh so high!
On the second day, God made the sky.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the third day, God made the land
And trees and plants, just as he'd planned!
On the third day, God made the land.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the fourth day, God made the sun
And the moon and stars...he made every one!
On the fourth day, God made the sun.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the fifth day, God made fish and birds,
The little swimming fishies and the flying birds.
On the fifth day, God made fish and birds!
And God saw it was good!**



Bible Time: God Creates the World Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- washable markers
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "It Was Good" (track 6)
- "Creation" cards
- "God's Creation" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: God Creates the World Easy Prep

Separate the "Creation" cards, and lay them in random order on the floor where the children will sit.





**On the sixth day, God made man
And all the animals on the land.
On the sixth day, God made man.
And God saw it was good!**

**On the seventh day, God took a rest.
He looked around and called it blessed.
On the seventh day, God took a rest.
And God saw it was good!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Set out the “God’s Creation” poster and washable markers. Encourage kids to draw their favorite things on the poster. For example, if a child loves penguins, he or she might want to draw a penguin on the poster, or another child might want to draw his or her pet on the poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Which day of Creation is the most exciting for you? Why?**
- Hold up the “Creation” cards one by one and give children time to respond to the following question for each card: **Why is everything God made on this day of Creation good?**
- **What are some ways we can enjoy these good things God created?**

Set the “Creation” cards aside for use later in the lesson.

**Center 1: Colorful
World
Supplies**

- My Bible Playground
- washable watercolor paints (including green and blue)
- paper towels
- cups of water
- 1 paintbrush per child
- Teacher Pack**
- eyedroppers

**Center 1: Colorful
World
Easy Prep**

- Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground 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:**
Colorful World

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on





their papers. Invite a child to help you demonstrate the activity on one of the pages. Use an eyedropper to place four to five drops of green and blue watercolor paint in the white circle. Pick up the paper and carefully move it side to side and in a circular motion to allow the watercolor to move on the paper. Then have the child place the page back down and lay folded paper towels on top to absorb excess liquid. A small amount of the watercolor paint design will remain on the page. Let the other children try the experiment on their own pages, and then have them use watercolors to finish creating their colorful worlds.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like most about making your colorful page?
- Tell about the things you painted onto your colorful world.
- What can we do to thank God for creating our world with so many beautiful colors?

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING** in the heavens and on the beautiful earth. Let's remember to thank God for all of the good things he has made.

CENTER 2:

Edible World

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands.

Review the events of Creation as told in the Bible passage, reminding kids of the things God made on each day. Pause after each day to let kids create something from that particular day using the snack items in their bowls. For example, on their paper plates they might place a sandwich cookie that has been separated into two parts, showing how God separated the light from the darkness. The marshmallows can be added to represent clouds in the sky. The snack crackers can represent land. The pretzel sticks can be trees or stick people. Let kids be creative and only make suggestions as needed. After each step of Creation, remind children that everything God made is good.

When all of the items are arranged, have kids pause to thank God for the amazing things he made. Then encourage children to enjoy eating their way through their edible world.

Say: **We enjoy our snack because it's yummy and tastes good. Everything God made is good, too.**



Center 2: Edible World Supplies

-
- paper plates
 - small bowls
 - black and white sandwich cookies
 - small marshmallows
 - pretzel sticks
 - fish-shaped crackers
 - animal crackers
 - small round snack crackers
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Edible World Easy Prep

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Place some of each of the snack items in a small bowl for each child.





Center 3: Days of the
First Week
Supplies

Teacher Pack
"Creation" cards

Center 4: Creative
Creations
Supplies

Bible
building blocks

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's good about your edible creation?
- What other tasty things has God created for our world?
- What can you do to remember to thank God for his creation when you're enjoying a good meal or treat?

Say: ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**, and God wants us to enjoy the world he made. We can thank God for good food, and enjoy mealtimes with our families. There are lots of ways we can enjoy the world God made!

■ CENTER 3:

Days of the First Week

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out the "Creation" cards. Have children think of ways to act out each day. For example, for the first day, kids might close and open their eyes; and for the second day, kids might jump up high with their hands pointed to the sky. Have the kids take turns leading one another in the motions for each card.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like most about the world God created?
- What can you tell someone about that thing?

Say: It's fun to talk about how ► **GOD MADE EVERYTHING**. We thank God when we talk about his wonderful creation.

■ CENTER 4:

Creative Creations

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When God made the world, he started with nothing but he still made everything in our world. God is very creative! We can be creative, too.** Have kids form trios, and give each group building blocks. **We're going to make examples of what God made on each day of Creation using only building blocks. With your group, you can be creative and think of ways to use your blocks to quickly make an example of the things I read about from the Bible.**





Read aloud from Genesis about each day of Creation. Pause after you read what was created and allow kids one minute to build an example of something created on that day.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it hard or easy to create objects using only the blocks?
- What do you think about God creating the whole world out of nothing?

Say: **God was able to make the sky and the land and every living thing without any supplies or anyone’s help. God didn’t need any blocks—or anything at all. God simply spoke and the world was created. Only God is able to do such wonderful things. ► GOD MADE EVERYTHING, including you and me. Let’s thank him for his creative creation.**

Pray: **God, thank you for creating everything. We love your creation! In Jesus’ name, amen.**



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 MADE EVERYTHING. I’d like each of you to choose a way to thank God for his creation this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- Ask your mom or dad to let you take pictures of things you love in God’s creation. Then say a prayer of thanks for what’s in each picture.
- Go outside with a family member or friend. Point out something that God made on each day of Creation.
- Ask your mom or dad to help you visit kids.nationalgeographic.com on the Internet and look at all the wonderful animals God created! Tell what you like most about the way God made each animal.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Playground





Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“Wonderful Creation” Prayer

What You'll Do

Ask kids each to think of one thing from creation they want to thank God for. Tell them to shout the name of that thing when you count to three. Count to three, and have kids shout their thanks. Calm the kids after their shouts of thanks, and then say the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for all the wonderful things you made. 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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

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 to give to parents when they pick up their children.





God Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:4-22

Five- and six-year-olds are beginning to discover the things that make them unique. Now's the time to lay a healthy foundation for kids' self-esteem and introduce them to the truth that God made them with intention. Use this lesson to introduce kids to God's purpose in making them unique and root their confidence in being made exactly as God planned.



► **Bible Point**
God made us.

Key Verse
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will thank God for making them special and unique.

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>	God Made You Special! Think of wonderful things about themselves, and celebrate that God has made them.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what dirt has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, dirt in a resealable bag Teacher Pack: CD	Place the sealed bag of dirt in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Adam and Eve Make figures in dirt to represent Adam and Eve.	Bible, pencils, dirt, large plastic container, wet wipes	Line the bottom of the container with a thin layer of dirt.

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 Made Me Draw self-portraits.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: God Made Us! Make snack figures to represent Adam, Eve, and themselves.</p>	pretzel sticks, small round cookies, 1 resealable plastic bag per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Unique You Look closely at the design of their fingerprints and eyes to see if they find anyone with the exact same design.</p>		
	<p>Center 4: God Made Us Different and Alike Play a game to identify things they have in common with their friends at church.</p>		
<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	
	<p>“You Made Me” Prayer Use their bodies to say an action prayer.</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 Creates Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:4-22

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Creates Humans

.....

God communicates through the Bible to give us a spiritual message—to tell us of his love and his plan for us. Because of this focus, we can't always expect everything we read in the Bible to fall in strict chronological order.

Some scholars see problems in the differences between the accounts of the creation of humans in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2. Others, however, see the account in Chapter 2 as an elaboration of Chapter 1. But notice the emphasis in both accounts: God did it. The emphasis in this account is not upon the creation, but upon the Creator.

God Creates Adam

.....

In Genesis 2:7 we see a bit of the “how” of Adam’s creation. It’s interesting to note that humans were the first of creation not simply spoken into being. God personally formed Adam out of the earth. And then one more difference appears: God breathed life into Adam, and he became a living being. Many here translate *being* as *soul*. No other creature was given that designation. Genesis 1:27 tells us that humans were created in God’s image. And after the creation of humans, God announced that his creation was not only “good,” it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

God Creates Eve

.....

Adam’s need for a mate didn’t come as a surprise to God. The parade of animals for Adam to name had a purpose beyond the naming: It pointed out to Adam that he was alone, that he didn’t have a mate like him—someone who could share his life. After helping Adam come to this realization, God created woman.

Adam and Eve Become One

.....

Many appropriate conclusions have been drawn from Eve’s being created from Adam’s rib—from his side—such as the intent that the two work side by side, that they be equal to each other in standing before God, and that they become “one flesh” in the bond of marriage. However, Adam lost a rib to make Eve. Without her, he was incomplete. And without Adam, Eve wouldn’t have existed. Together, man and woman became a whole being, able to stand together and support each other against the forces that oppose them—just as God had planned from the start.

The Jesus Connection

.....

God made us his very special creation, and because God is good, he gave us Jesus to show us the way to live for God’s glory. Take a moment to thank God for the individuals in your ministry and for the unique and beautiful way he created them. You can ask God to help you show them how important they are and write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Learning and
Laughing” (track 2),
“Genesis 1:1” (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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “Learning and Laughing” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Boom, Boom, Ain’t It Great to Be Crazy?”

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Learning and laughing with all my friends! (*twist in place*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: I’m so glad you’re all here. Today we’ll learn that God created the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—and that ► **GOD MADE US! Let’s sing a song about God creating our world!** Lead the children in singing and doing the motions to “Genesis 1:1” (track 3 on the CD).

Genesis 1:1, (*hold up an index finger for each “1”*)

It’s a whole lotta fun (*smile big*)

’Cause that’s where it all started,

Before the Red Sea parted, (*put hands together; then move apart*)

Before God told Noah (*cup hands around mouth*)

To build a big boat, (*stretch arms wide*)

Way before Joshua

Marched around Jericho. (*march in place*)

(Chorus)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah! (*spread arms toward the sky*)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yeah! (*spread arms toward the sky*)



Genesis 1:1, *(hold up an index finger for each "1")*
It's a whole lotta fun *(smile big)*
'Cause that's where it all started,
Before the Red Sea parted, *(put hands together; then move apart)*
Before God told Abraham *(cup hands around mouth)*
He'd be the father of nations, *(fold arms and rock like you're holding a baby)*
Way before Jesus *(extend arms like Jesus on the cross)*
Came to redeem us. Yeah! *(hug self)*

(Sing chorus.)

Genesis 1:1, *(hold up an index finger for each "1")*
It's a whole lotta fun *(smile big)*
Cause that's where it all started,
Before the Red Sea parted. *(put hands together; then move apart)*
Before God told David *(cup hands around mouth)*
That he could slay a giant, *(make a throwing motion)*
Way before me *(point to self)*
And everything I see. Yeah! *(point to eyes)*

(Repeat chorus 2x.)

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:1!

"Genesis 1:1" by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God made everything we see so special—including you and me! Let's learn more about how ► GOD MADE US.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

God Made You Special!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Genesis 1:1, says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Let's say the Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse. **God made everything in the world! God made the sky, the oceans, all the animals, plants, and people! God made each of you, and God made you special. Let's think of the special ways that ► GOD MADE US.**



God Made You
Special!
Supplies

Bible





Have kids take turns demonstrating their special abilities or qualities such as touching their nose with their tongue, wiggling their ears, or pointing to a freckle. Invite kids to lead everyone in trying to do the action.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are other things that are special about you?**
- **What’s something special about the person sitting next to you?**
- **What do you like most about being God’s special creation?**

Say: **God made the whole world, and God made each of us. You’re all special, and you’re all God’s awesome creations! Let’s say our Key Verse one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).**

3 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Theo’s News

**Theo’s News
Supplies**

- Surprise Box (any box will do)
- dirt in a resealable bag
- Theo puppet
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Here, Theo” (track 5)

**Theo’s News
Easy Prep**

Place the sealed bag of dirt 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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible 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 bag of dirt 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 you do with dirt?
(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this dirt in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, we can make lots of things with dirt.

Teacher: Yes, Theo, we can make things with dirt. But did you know only God can make dirt into a living thing? Friends, let’s read the Bible to find out what living creation God made from dirt and how ► **GOD MADE US.**

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: Adam and Eve

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 2, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD MADE US. Let's learn about the first people God made—Adam and Eve.**

People today are born as tiny babies, but do you know how Adam was born? Not as a tiny baby. God made Adam from the dust of the ground—from dirt! Have kids circle around the plastic container and let them explore the texture of the dirt. Then have them clean their hands with wet wipes.

God made Adam first. Demonstrate drawing a figure of a man in the dirt using a pencil. **You can draw men in the dirt, too.** As children work, continue talking about how God made Adam.

God made each part of Adam so all the parts worked together. As you name different body parts, guide children to point to those parts on their bodies. **God made Adam's eyes and nose** (pause), **arms and legs** (pause), **and hands and feet** (pause). **God gave Adam a heart to pump blood** (pause) **and a brain to think with** (pause). **God made Adam perfectly.**

Have kids stop drawing. **God made Adam, and ► GOD MADE US. After God created Adam, the Bible says that God breathed life into Adam. We can draw the shape of a person in the dirt, but we can't make that person come alive. Only God can give life!**

Later, God decided that Adam needed a helper. So God made Adam fall asleep. Have kids snore loudly as they pretend to sleep. **Then God took a rib from Adam's side and made another person. God made Eve to be with Adam. Let's draw another person in the dirt to be Eve.** Allow kids to draw their second figure in the dirt.

When God finished making the woman, he brought her to Adam. Adam and Eve were happy together as they lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's the difference between the man God made—Adam—and the people we made with dirt?**
- **Why do you think God made us?**
- **What do you like best about the way God made you?**

Say: **God made Adam and Eve in unique ways and gave them life. ► GOD MADE US in a unique way, too, and we can thank God for giving us life.**



Bible Time: Adam and Eve Supplies

-
- Bible
- pencils
- dirt
- large plastic container
- wet wipes

Bible Time: Adam and Eve Easy Prep

-
- Line the bottom of the container with a thin layer of dirt.





Center 1: God Made Me Supplies

My Bible Playground washable markers

Center 1: God Made Me Easy Prep

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

Center 2: God Made Us! Supplies

pretzel sticks
small round cookies
1 resealable plastic bag per child
antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

God Made Me

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **Think about what you see when you look in a mirror—about what your face looks like. Then draw a picture of yourself on the white space on your pages. Add your eyes, nose, mouth, and other features.**

Invite kids to show each other their self-portraits. Ask each child to complete this sentence with one of his or her unique facial features: "I thank God for how he made my..."

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes your face different from other faces here today?
- What do you like about being the only one in the world with your face?

Say: **God purposely made you and me to look the way we do. Each of us is special to God. ► GOD MADE US each special, and we can thank God for all the special people in the world.**

CENTER 2:

God Made Us!

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Guide children in making three human figures on their paper plates using the snack items.



Say: **The first figure is Adam. The second figure is Eve. And the third figure is you.**
After children make the figures, teach them this rhyme.

God made Adam. *(point to one figure)*
God made Eve. *(point to the second figure)*
And then one day, God made me! *(point to the third figure)*

Pray: **God, thank you for making us and thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.** Allow kids to eat. Provide resealable plastic bags for any leftovers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why are the body parts we added important for people to have?**
- **What great things can you do with the body parts God gave you?**

Say: ► **GOD MADE US** so we can walk, talk, run, and play—and so much more. We can thank God for the way he made us.

■ **CENTER 3:**

Unique You

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: ► **GOD MADE US** alike in many ways. He gave us hands, feet, eyes, ears, and many other parts. What are some other things we have in common? Allow kids to answer. **God also made each of us special. Even though you may have an eye color like someone else, you're the only one in the world with your exact eyes. You're also the only one in the world with your fingerprints.** Have kids hold up their hands and wiggle their fingers. **We can thank God for the wonderful, special way he made us.**

Help kids form trios. **With the friends in your group, look closely at all of your fingerprints and eyes to see if anyone in your group looks just like you.** Allow two minutes. **Now talk about things that are similar and different about your eyes.** Allow two minutes. **Talk about what's different and similar about your fingerprints.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you discover in your groups about your eyes and fingerprints?**
- **What do you like about being the only you in the world?**
- **What can you do to thank God for making you special?**

Say: **God made us alike in a lot of ways, but ► GOD MADE US** different and special, too. **We can thank God for making us unique and special.**





Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Look through your family photos and see the special ways God made each person.**
- **Tell a family member what you like best about the way God made you. Then tell that person what you like best about the way God made him or her.**
- **Do something you're really good at, such as running fast, singing, or drawing pictures. Then thank God for making you good at that!**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“You Made Me” Prayer

What You'll Do

Teach children this action prayer. Say each line and do the action, and then have kids repeat after you.

Pray: **Dear God,** *(fold hands in prayer)*
You made my toes to tap. *(tap toes)*
You made my hands to clap. *(clap hands)*
You made my body to sway. *(sway from side to side)*
You made my voice to pray. *(place hands by mouth)*
And I thank you, God, *(raise arms high)*
That I am wonderfully made. *(hug self)*
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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





Adam and Eve Sin

Genesis 3


Most 5- to 6-year-olds understand and want to follow rules. Children are eager to please adults, so they'll usually ask permission when they're unsure about what to do. Kids may have difficulty understanding that Adam and Eve were only the first—and not the last—people who did wrong things. You'll also find that some kids won't acknowledge when they've sinned. Don't worry; denying sin is a normal part of moral development at any age. But you can still guide kids to make good choices for God. Use this lesson to let kids know that we can make good choices to obey God and avoid sin.



► Bible Point
God wants us to make good choices.

Key Verse
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will learn that we can obey God to avoid sin.

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>Whole-Hearted Love</p> <p>Fill a heart with symbols of love.</p>	<p>Bible, 6-foot piece of yarn, construction paper, washable markers or crayons, scissors</p>	<p>Shape the yarn into a large heart on the floor. Cut out 1 large construction paper heart per child. Ensure there are enough paper hearts to completely fill the yarn heart.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Theo's News</p> <p>Find out how choices affect our heart.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, 2 chenille wires</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Twist a chenille wire into a simple heart shape. Bend a second wire into a heart shape, and then distort the shape by twisting parts of the wire. Put both shapes inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: The First Sin</p> <p>Learn about temptation through an interactive telling of the Bible passage.</p>	<p>Bible, tube sock</p> <p>Teacher Pack: “The First Sin” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</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: Caring for the Garden Discover that taking care of the good things God's given them is a good choice.</p>	My Bible Playground, white paper, washable markers, tape, child-safe scissors	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Banana Split Ruin a perfectly good banana but still make use of it.</p>	½ unpeeled, ripe banana per child; paper plates; antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Bubbling Over Play a game and learn about loving God with their whole heart.</p>	wastebasket, 1 bottle of bubbles and wand for every 3 children	
	<p>Center 4: Pray Before Choosing Learn to ask God about making the right choice.</p>	Teacher Pack: pendant	
<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	
	<p>"Good Choices" Prayer Thank God for his help in making good choices.</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.*





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "It's Good to Have
You..." (track 14),
"Let Your Light Shine"
(Matthew 5:16)
(track 12)

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 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 the kids in doing the actions and singing "It's Good to Have You..." (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?"



It's good to have you in church today. (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let's sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let's learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let's pray.** (*make praying hands*)

We'll make new friends, and we'll have so much fun. (*shake someone's hand*)

We're glad you've joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we're learning that when we disobey God, that's called sin. ► GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES. When we make good choices, we stand out like a shining light for God and stay away from sin. Let's sing a song about letting our lights shine.** Have kids hold up an index finger like a candle as they sing "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) (track 12 on the CD).



Let your light shine before men that

They may see your good deeds and

Praise your Father in heaven.

Let your light shine before men, yeah,

Let your light shine before men.

(Repeat 2x.)

Let your light shine before men, yeah,

Let your light shine before men.

"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) by Carol Smith. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Say: I'm so glad you came to church today. ► **GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES** to obey him.

2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Whole-Hearted Love

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5, says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." That means to love God with all of you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse after you: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Give each child a paper heart and washable markers or crayons. Help kids each write their name on their heart as a way to tell God he has their whole heart. Remind kids that loving God helps us make good choices.

Loving God is always a good choice. Let's fill the inside of this big heart to show how we'll choose to fill our whole hearts with love for God.

Let kids take turns placing their paper hearts inside the yarn heart, and lead them in saying the simplified Key Verse: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

The Bible tells us that God wants our whole heart to be filled with love for him. That means God wants us to love him more than anything. Not just a little bit. Not just sometimes, but every day with all of our heart. ► GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES, and one of the best choices we can make is to love God with all our heart.

Pray: **God, you're awesome and we love you with our whole heart. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about loving God with your whole heart?**
- **What can you do with your paper heart to remind you to love God with your whole heart?**



Whole-Hearted Love Supplies

- Bible
- 6-foot piece of yarn
- construction paper
- washable markers or crayons
- scissors

Whole-Hearted Love Easy Prep

Shape the yarn into a large heart on the floor. Cut out 1 large construction paper heart per child. Ensure that there are enough paper hearts to completely fill the yarn heart.





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
2 chenille wires
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Twist a chenille wire into a simple heart shape. Bend a second wire into a heart shape, and then distort the shape by twisting parts of the wire. Put both shapes inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Bible Time: The First Sin Supplies

Bible
tube sock
Teacher Pack
"The First Sin" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the two shapes around the circle so everyone can see them up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today. Then lay the two shapes side by side on the floor.)

Teacher: Friends, what do you think happened to this second heart?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide these two shapes in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, the first heart is perfect and good. *(Holds up the heart shape.)* But something changed the second heart. *(Holds up the distorted heart.)*

Teacher: You're right, Theo. This reminds me of how God gave Adam and Eve perfect hearts when he first created them. *(Hold up the heart shape.)* But Adam and Eve sinned and that turned their hearts away from God. *(Hold up the bent heart.)* ► **GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES.** Friends, let's read the Bible to learn about when Adam and Eve sinned and did something wrong.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: The First Sin

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 3, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Set out "The First Sin" poster.

Say: **Today we'll hear from the Bible that ► GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES. After God created the world, he rested and said it was good. God told Adam and Eve to obey him while they lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden.** Point to the poster and invite kids to tell you what's beautiful in the picture. **In the middle of the**



garden there was a tree that had fruit Adam and Eve weren't supposed to eat. Point to the tree. The fruit on the tree looked delicious. But Adam and Eve knew that God had said not to eat it.

Ask:

- Tell about a time a parent or a teacher told you not to do something.
- Explain whether it was easy or difficult to obey.

Say: **For a while, Adam and Eve obeyed God. But one day, a bad serpent—maybe like a snake—came to Eve.** Put the tube sock on your hand, and wiggle it like a snake toward the kids. **The serpent laughed and said, “God told you not to eat this fruit? If you eat it, you’ll be like God.”**

Ask:

- Tell about a time someone else told you to do something or take something you knew would get you in trouble.
- What made it easy or difficult to make a good choice and say “no”?

Say: **When we want something that we know we're not supposed to have, that's called temptation—and Eve was tempted by that sneaky serpent!** Wiggle the sock puppet toward the kids again. **Pretty soon, Eve thought the fruit on the tree looked too good to leave alone! She thought God wouldn't notice if she ate a little bit.** Gasp and invite kids to gasp with you.

So Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree. Have kids point to the tree on the poster. **When they ate the fruit, everything looked different to them. They'd sinned by disobeying God. They were embarrassed by their sin and when God came to spend time with them, they hid from God.** Have kids hide their faces with their hands.

God wasn't happy with Adam and Eve. Have kids point to Adam and Eve in the poster. **They had disobeyed God and sinned. Because of their sin, God told Adam and Eve they had to leave the garden and all the wonderful things in it.** Have kids move and sit in another part of the room—leaving the poster behind. **But God still cared for Adam and Eve. God sent them out of the garden, but he gave them clothing and another place to live. Then God blessed them with a family.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about what the serpent said to Eve and Adam about eating the fruit?
- Why do you think Adam and Eve disobeyed God?
- What does the way God took care of Adam and Eve—even after they sinned—tell us about God?

Say: **God knows that everyone has sinned, but God still loves us. ► GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES so we can stay away from sin.**





Center 1: Caring for the Garden Supplies

My Bible Playground
white paper
washable markers
tape
child-safe scissors

Center 1: Caring for the Garden Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
3 pages from each
My Bible Playground
Student Book.

Center 2: Banana Split Supplies

½ unpeeled, ripe
banana per child
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Caring for the Garden

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Say: **Along with telling Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from one of the trees in the Garden of Eden, God told them to take care of land, the plants, and all the living things in the garden.** Have kids look at the picture on the page of a beautiful place, like the Garden of Eden. **God gave Adam and Eve a good home. God told them to make good choices to take care of it. God gives us good things to take care of, too.**

Have kids draw on white paper three things they care for most. Then have kids each cut the items out and tape them to their My Bible Playground page to represent the good things in their own "Garden of Eden."

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about the good things you drew.
- What choices can you make today to care for the good things God's given you?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES. We can choose to take care of our world.**

CENTER 2:

Banana Split

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands.



Say: **When God made Adam and Eve, there was nothing bad in the world. No one was mean. No one disobeyed. Everything was perfect.** Give each child an unpeeled banana half and a paper plate. **God wanted the world to stay perfect, but Adam and Eve chose to do something that was wrong.** Have kids each peel the banana and break it into pieces on their paper plate. **Adam and Eve disobeyed the rule God gave them. When they did, it changed everything forever.** Ask the kids whether the bananas can be put back together again. **The nice world God had made was not so nice anymore. In fact, it was broken. Adam and Eve’s sin had spoiled it. God knew Adam and Eve had made a wrong choice, but he still cared for them.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the way Adam and Eve’s sin changed the world?**
- **What made the banana better before it was broken into pieces?**
- **What do you think about the way God allowed Adam and Eve to still live in the world after they’d broken it?**

Say: **When we mess up, or sin, like Adam and Eve, God forgives us and allows us a chance to still have good things no matter the mess we’ve made. We can still live in the world today and have good things, just like we can still eat and enjoy our bananas even after they’ve been broken.** ► **GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES** and we can always ask him for help—even after we sin.

Pray: **God, thank you for helping us make good choices, and thanks for our snack. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Allow kids to eat their snack.

■ **CENTER 3:**

Bubbling Over

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have children form teams of three, and give each team a bottle of bubbles. Have teams stand 5 feet away from the wastebasket.

Say: **Try to blow your bubbles into the wastebasket from where you’re standing. The goal for your team is to land as many bubbles as you can in the wastebasket. Take turns being the bubble blower. After the bubbles are in the air, your entire team can try to blow them into the wastebasket. Ready? Go!**

Allow kids to attempt for a minute to keep track of any bubbles that make it in—it’s not likely any will at this point. Say: **Great tries! Take two steps toward the bucket and try again.** Allow another minute. If any bubbles go in, celebrate with the teams. Say: **Now get as close as you’d like to the wastebasket and try again. I think we can get a lot**



**Bubbling Over
Supplies**

-
- small wastebasket
 - 1 bottle of bubbles
and wand for every 3
children





of bubbles in this time! Allow one more minute and celebrate the victories. Then have children put the lids on their bubbles and sit in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was difficult about getting the bubbles in the wastebasket when you were far away?**
- **What made it easier as you got closer to the wastebasket?**

Say: **Working hard to make a good choice can be difficult, too. But just as it got easier to blow bubbles into the wastebasket as you got closer, it's easier to make good choices when you stay close to God.**

Ask:

- **What are things you can do to stay close to God?**

Say: **When we love God with our whole heart, that brings us close to God, too.**

► **GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES, and we can do that by loving God with all our heart.** Guide children in repeating today's simplified Key Verse: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

■ CENTER 4:

Pray Before Choosing

What You'll Do ■■■■

Gather children near, and hold the pendant up high out of their reach.

Say: **Just like Adam and Eve, we all sin. What are some things we do that are wrong?** Allow kids to respond. **When we do something wrong, we get farther away from God, just as Adam and Eve were farther away when they had to leave the garden after they sinned.** Have children try to touch the pendant.

You are too far away to touch this pendant. When we do wrong things, we get farther away from God. Sometimes it can be hard to make a good choice. Tell about a time it wasn't easy for you to make a good choice. Help kids think of examples as needed.

We know God still cares for us like he cared for Adam and Eve, even when we make mistakes and when we sin. We can ask God to help us make good choices (have kids make praying hands), and when we do, we grow closer to God. Lower the pendant so kids can now touch it with their praying hands. Then have kids join hands in a circle. **Let's ask God to help us make good choices.**

Center 4: Pray Before
Choosing
Supplies

Teacher Pack
pendant





I'll start our prayer, and then you can say what choices you'd like God's help with. Maybe you want to ask for help in making choices such as treating others with kindness, obeying God, and staying away from sin.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for always caring for us. Please help us to make good choices to...**Have kids fill in what they'd like God's help with. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why did you ask God for help to make good choices?
- When are other times you can ask God for help in making choices?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES, and the first step we can take to make a good choice is to talk to God about it in prayer. We can pray anytime, anywhere for help in making choices to stay away from sin.**

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 MAKE GOOD CHOICES. I'd like each of you to pick one of the good choices below to do this next week.**

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Pray to God before you make a hard choice at home or at school.**
- **Clean a room in your house and take care of the good things God's given you.**
- **Talk with a parent about how the rules in your house keep you safe.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Playground





and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“Good Choices” Prayer

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children stand in a circle and repeat your words and motions in a group prayer. Repeat the prayer if kids struggle the first time with making the motions and repeating the words.

Pray: **Dear God**, *(make praying hands)*

I know you want me to make good choices *(give a thumbs-up)*

And talk to you in prayer. *(cup hands around mouth; then make praying hands)*

I’m happy I can talk to you anytime, *(make a “tick tock” sound like a clock)*

And anywhere. *(spread arms wide)*

Thank you for helping me make good choices *(nod head and smile)*

To stay away from sin and wrong. *(make a motion like you’re pushing something away)*

I love you, God, with all my heart; *(fold arms over chest)*

I love you all day long. *(spread arms wide)*

In Jesus’ name, amen. *(close eyes, bow head, and make praying hands)*

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16


There were terrible consequences when Cain was jealous of Abel. It's not unusual for 5- and 6-year-olds to feel anger and jealousy toward their family members at times. They may stomp their feet, clench their fists, hit, yell, cry, or stick out their tongues. Tell children that no matter what's going on at the time, God wants us to love our families. Use this lesson to help kids understand they can show love to their families.



► Bible Point
God wants us to love our families.

Key Verse
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will show 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>	At the Center Play together with a heart puzzle.	Bible, 1 red construction paper heart per 2 children, scissors	Fold each heart in half and cut along the fold line.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a family picture has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, picture of a family Teacher Pack: CD	Put the picture in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Cain Kills Abel Learn what happened when Cain was jealous of his brother.	Bible, paper towels, tape, 2 bowls, uncooked rice, cotton balls Teacher Pack: “Cain and Abel” poster 	

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: I Love You Draw pictures of their family members, and say why they love them.</p>	My Bible Playground, colored pencils	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Food From God Enjoy a snack that Cain and Abel may have eaten.</p>	deli meat, crackers, knife (for teacher's use only) small bowls, antibacterial gel (optional)	Cut the deli meat into small pieces and keep it cold until you serve it.
	<p>Center 3: Set and Clear Play a relay game to help each other set a table.</p>	table; plastic grocery bag filled with a sheet of construction paper, napkin, paper plate, plastic fork, plastic spoon, plastic cup	
	<p>Center 4: Loving Families Make clothespin families.</p>	1 card stock heart and at least 5 clothespins and 5 round stickers per child, fine-tip markers	
<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	
	<p>Love Your Family Ask God for help in loving each family member.</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.





Cain Kills Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Brothers Cain and Abel

.....

Cain and Abel, the first two humans born on earth, chose different occupations. This early in human history, we see that God created people to be different—to have different interests and skills.

Cain Grows Jealous of Abel

.....

Abel’s sacrifice to God came from true gratitude for what God had done for him; Cain’s apparently came from a feeling of obligation to maintain God’s favor. Abel offered the best he had; Cain offered simply a sampling of his fruits. It’s likely that God accepted or rejected their sacrifices based on the attitude of the giver’s heart. God wants our best and wants our hearts to be right.

God to Cain: Be Careful What You Do

.....

God knew Cain was at a dangerous junction. In Genesis 4:7, God’s message to Cain was a loving warning—be careful what you do; sin can get the best of you. Unfortunately, Cain’s jealousy got the best of him. The evil started by Adam and Eve continued. Cain proceeded with his planned deception and murdered his younger brother, Abel.

God Is Merciful to Cain

.....

God didn’t question Cain after the murder to gain information. God was offering him a chance to admit his sin and repent. As with Adam and Eve, Cain’s sin in killing Abel was followed by a second sin: trying to hide the sin from God. God’s second question to Cain was one of accusation, encouraging Cain to consider what he had done.

When God pronounced judgment upon Cain for his sin, Cain finally came to his senses and realized that separation from God would mean his own death. As with Adam and Eve, God was merciful, providing protection for Cain even though he didn’t deserve it.

Jealousy and sin ripped apart the family of Adam and Eve. Yet this was the family through whom God worked to populate the earth. God must’ve known from the beginning what a sinful bunch these humans would be, yet he loved them just the same. And that’s a very comforting message for us today.

The Jesus Connection

.....

God has taught us about love through Jesus’ life and through our own families. And he’ll help us love family members the way Jesus loves us: mercifully and unconditionally. How has God taught you about love through your family? Take some time to write a prayer for each member of your immediate family, expressing how God has loved you through them and expressing your love for them. You can also pray for the families in your ministry. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "It's Good to Have You..." (track 14), "All God Made" (entire song) (track 11)

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 the kids in doing the actions and singing "It's Good to Have You..." (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?"

 **It's good to have you in church today.** (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let's sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let's learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let's pray.** (*make praying hands*)

We'll make new friends, and we'll have so much fun. (*shake someone's hand*)

We're glad you've joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: I'm so glad you came to church today! We'll learn that ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** God made everything, including you, me, and our families. Let's sing a song about all God's made.

Lead kids in doing the actions and singing "All God Made" (track 11 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

 **First God made the earth,** (*clap hands*)

The heavens, and the sea! (*raise hands up; then make wave motions with both hands low*)

His gifts of love sent from above; (*cross arms over chest*)

God made the earth for me. (*clap hands*)

And God made people, too;

Their names were Adam and Eve. (*hold out one hand, palm up; then the other*)

God's plan began with just one man, (*hold up one finger*)

And then our God made me. (*point to self*)

God made my family (*put arms on neighbors' shoulders*)

To take good care of me. (*pat neighbors on the back*)





His plan is good; I know I should (*nod head*)
Be as loving as can be. (*give a hug*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** God made each one of us and loves all of us. When we show love to our families, we also show love to God.



2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

At the Center

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5, says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). That means to love God with all of you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Let's put a puzzle together and learn what it means to do something with our whole heart. Give each child a heart puzzle piece and ask kids to guess what it might be. Then have children form pairs and put the pieces together.

Ask:

- **What do you love most about God?**

Say: **God loves us with his whole heart, not just part of it. We can love him the very best we can, too—with our whole heart! When we obey, help, hug, and speak kindly to our families, we're loving God. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** Tell your partner about your family.

Pause for kids to share.

Say: **I'll tell you about a child and you'll work with your partner to figure out if the child is showing love with a whole heart. If the answer is "yes," hold your puzzle pieces close together. If the child isn't showing love with a whole heart, move your puzzle pieces apart.** Read the following scenarios, pausing after each to let pairs respond.

- **A girl pinches her brother or sister.**
- **A boy helps his little sister brush her teeth.**

At the Center Supplies

- Bible
- 1 red construction paper heart per 2 children
- scissors

At the Center Easy Prep

Fold each heart in half and cut along the fold line.





- A girl cleans up the table after dinner with her family.
- A boy disobeys his mom or dad.
- A child prays and thanks God for family.

Ask:

- What can you do to show love to your family?
- What does your family do to show love to you?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** When you love them, you show that you love God with your whole heart.

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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the 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: Friends, what are some things you love to do with your family?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this picture of a family in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, I love to see pictures of families—they're special!

Teacher: You're right, Theo—families are special. ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.**

Theo: I love my family!

Teacher: Friends, let's read the Bible to find out about the first family God created!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

picture of a family

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"

(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the picture in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.



Bible Time: Cain Kills Abel

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 4, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear from the Bible that ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES. Let's find out about some of the problems the very first family had in learning to love each other.** Tape the poster of Cain and Abel to a nearby wall.

Say: **These two people are Cain and Abel—Adam and Eve's sons. Cain worked the land to grow fruits, vegetables, and grain for his family.** Point to the picture of Cain standing by a field of grain. **Abel took care of the animals so his family would have meat.** Point to the picture of Abel standing by the animals.

Ask:

- **What jobs or chores do you help your family with?**

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES. One way we do that is by helping out with chores such as cooking or cleaning or setting the table.** Place an empty bowl by Cain's side of the poster. **Cain was good at what he did. Cain's land produced a lot of food, and Cain had many blessings.** Give each child a small portion of rice on a paper towel. **Cain decided to give some back to God as an offering. But Cain didn't give his best to God.** Have the kids take a few grains of rice—keeping most for themselves—and put the few grains in the bowl. Place the second bowl by Abel's side of the poster.

Say: **Abel was good at what he did, too. Abel took care of lots of sheep and goats and had many blessings.** Give each child a handful of cotton balls. **Abel wanted to give God a gift to show how thankful he was. So Abel looked at all his animals and chose the very best to give back to the Lord.** Have the kids each choose the fluffiest cotton ball and put it in the bowl by Abel's side of the poster. **God was very pleased with Abel's offering. Abel had given the best to God.** Hold up the bowl of cotton balls. **When Cain saw that God liked Abel's offering better than his, Cain became so angry and jealous that he thought of ways to hurt his brother.**

Tell about a time that you felt jealous of someone. Then encourage children to tell about a time they felt jealous and what they did.

Say: **Cain didn't do what was right. He didn't treat Abel in a loving way. In fact, Cain did an awful thing and killed his brother.** Take down the poster, collect the remaining rice, and put the bowls behind you. **God told Cain that he must leave his family and that he would no longer be able to farm the land. But because God cared for Cain, even though Cain had done a terrible thing, God allowed Cain to go to another land and start a family.**



Bible Time: Cain Kills Abel Supplies

- Bible
- paper towels
- tape
- 2 bowls
- uncooked rice
- cotton balls
- Teacher Pack**
- "Cain and Abel" poster





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about what Cain did?
- What do you think about how God treated Cain?
- What can you do to make a better choice than Cain did when you feel jealous?

Say: **When we get angry or jealous, we can talk with each other and use kind words and actions. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** When we love God, it's easier for us to love each other and 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:

I Love You

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Have kids each draw a picture of their family inside the picture frame. Then let the children form pairs and take turns telling a partner what they love about each of their family members.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you love about your family?
- What are your favorite things to do to show your family you love them?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES,** and we can love our families by being kind and caring. When we get mad at a family member, we can talk to an adult and come up with loving ways to treat that person.

Center 1: I Love You Supplies

My Bible Playground
colored pencils

Center 1: I Love You Easy Prep

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





CENTER 2:

Food From God

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Then have kids form pairs, and demonstrate for them how to make a mini sandwich with the food. Give one child in each pair the crackers and the other some meat. Have them work together to make their snack.

Say: **Cain grew grains and plants to feed his family, maybe much like the grains used to make these crackers.** Allow kids to examine the crackers. **Abel raised animals, maybe like the animals farmers raise today to provide meat.** Allow kids to examine the deli meat.

People today still raise plants and animals for food. When we share meals or snacks together, we can be thankful for God's blessings and remember that
▶ **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** Let's tell God how thankful we are for our snack and our families.

Pray: **God, thank you for giving us families to love. And thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids

As children eat their snacks, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What mealtime jobs can you help with at home?
- What can you do during mealtimes to show your family you love them?

Say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES,** and one great way you can do that is to help with mealtime jobs and share meals with your family.

CENTER 3:

Set and Clear

What You'll Do

Gather kids around a table. Show children how to set the plate in the middle of the construction paper (used as a place mat), with a napkin and fork on one side and the spoon on the other side, and a cup above the plate. Then place all the items back in the bag. Have kids line up on the other side of the room.

Say: **You're going to pretend to be a family and work together to set and clear the table. The first person will carry the bag to the table, lay out one item, and then bring the bag back to the next person in line. That person will go to the table and put out another item. Continue until the table is set. Ready? Go!** Have the kids see



Center 2: Food From God Supplies

- deli meat
- knife (for teacher's use only)
- crackers
- small bowls
- antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Food From God Easy Prep

Cut the deli meat into small pieces and keep it cold until you serve it.

Center 3: Set and Clear Supplies

- table
- plastic grocery bag filled with:
 - sheet of construction paper
 - napkin
 - paper plate
 - plastic fork
 - plastic spoon
 - plastic cup





how long it takes them to play the game. **Now we'll play again. This time encourage each other to see if you can get the table set faster.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you helped with a chore at home. Why did you help?
- What are other jobs or chores you can do to help at home?

Say: **We're each an important part of our families. ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES, and when we help out at home, we show love to our family members.**

■ CENTER 4:

Loving Families

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **You're going to make clothespin dolls to represent the people in your families.** Show children how to use a fine-tip marker to draw a face on a sticker and then put the sticker on a clothespin. Let the children each make a clothespin doll for every family member.

Give each child a card stock heart. Say: **Now you can decorate your heart with a picture of your favorite place to go with your family.** Teach children this rhyme as they clip the clothespin dolls around the edges of their hearts:

**God made a family especially for me—
Kind and loving as can be!**



Center 4: Loving Families Supplies

1 card stock heart and at least 5 clothespins and 5 round stickers per child
fine-tip markers





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about what you drew on your heart.
- What do you like most about what your family does at that special place?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** When we spend time with our families having fun, laughing, and playing, we're showing love to our families. When you go home, show each family member the clothespin doll you made of him or her. Then tell everyone what you love most about the special place you drew on your heart.



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 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 LOVE OUR FAMILIES.** I'd like each of you to choose a way to show love to your family this week.

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- Help your brother or sister pick up toys.
- Ask your mom or dad to help you make a family member's favorite snack.
- Draw a picture for someone in your family, and then leave the picture on the person's pillow as a wonderful bedtime surprise.

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Playground





Love Your Family

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle.

Say: **One at a time, we'll thank God for the people in our families. Then we'll thank God for giving us families to love.** Allow each child to thank God for his or her family members.

Pray: **God, thank you for our families. Help us love our families as you want us to love them. 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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



Noah Builds the Ark

Genesis 6:5-22


Five- and six-year-olds are trying to make sense of their world. Often when adults ask young children to do something, kids don't immediately obey. Instead they ask, "Why?" Rather than getting impatient, calmly and lovingly give kids simple reasons for your requests. Noah is a great example of a man who obeyed God even when things didn't make sense. Use this lesson to help children understand they can choose to obey God, too.



► **Bible Point**
God wants us to obey.

Key Verse
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

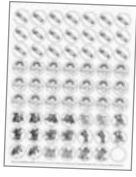
Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will choose to obey God in daily life.

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>	All of Me! Discover ways to use their bodies to show their love for God.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a hammer has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, hammer Teacher Pack: CD	Put the hammer in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Noah's Ark Bring Noah's ark to life with sounds and motions.	Bible, spray bottle filled with water Teacher Pack: "Noah's Ark" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

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: Noah Obeys, I Obey Talk about examples of people obeying.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Edible Arks Use pretzels and animal crackers to build an ark.</p>	animal crackers, pretzel sticks, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Stick Trick Match pictures of animals and “load them onto the ark.”</p>	poster board, marker, 20 wide craft sticks Teacher Pack: sticker sheet 	Draw a simple outline of an ark (similar to the drawing near this activity) on a large sheet of poster board.
	<p>Center 4: Thumbprint Arks Make a paper plate ark and thumbprint animals.</p>	one 9-inch white paper plate per child, scissors, crayons, washable markers, wet wipes	Cut off one half of the outer rim (approximately 2 inches) of the paper plates, keeping the entire arch intact. (See the illustration near this activity.)
<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	
	<p>“Help Me Obey” Prayer Follow the teacher as he or she says a prayer and does actions.</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.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "It's Good to Have
You..." (track 14),
"Arky, Arky" (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. Lead the kids in doing the actions and singing "It's Good to Have You..." (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?"

 **It's good to have you in church today.** (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let's sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let's learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let's pray.** (*make praying hands*)


We'll make new friends, and we'll have so much fun. (*shake someone's hand*)

We're glad you've joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY.** The Bible tells us about how Noah obeyed God and built the ark—a giant boat! Let's sing a song about Noah's adventure.

Lead the children in singing and doing the motions to "Arky, Arky" (track 13 on the CD).

 **The Lord told Noah, there's gonna be a floody, floody.** (*hold arms up; then wiggle fingers to make "rain"*)

Lord told Noah there's gonna be a floody, floody.

Get those animals out of the muddy, muddy, (*shake index finger*)

Children of the Lord.

The Lord told Noah to build him an arky, arky. (*pretend to hammer*)

Lord told Noah to build him an arky, arky.

Build it out of gopher barky, barky,

Children of the Lord.





The animals, the animals they came in by twosies, twosies. (*hold up two fingers and march to the beat*)

Animals, the animals they came in by twosies, twosies.

Elephants and kangaroosies, 'roosies, (*swing arms like an elephant's trunk; then hop like a kangaroo*)

Children of the Lord.

It rained and poured for 40 daysies, daysies. (*wiggle fingers to make "rain"*)

Rained and poured for 40 daysies, daysies.

Almost drove those animals crazies, crazies, (*put hands on either side of your face, open eyes wide*)

Children of the Lord.

The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy. (*make a big circle with arms*)

Look, there's the sun—it dried up the landy, landy.

Everything was fine and dandy, dandy, (*nod your head and smile*)

Children of the Lord.

So rise and shine and give God the glory, glory. (*raise arms, and spread fingers wide like sunshine*)

Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.

Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory,

Children of the Lord.

Say: **God told Noah to prepare for a big flood, and Noah obeyed God. By obeying God, Noah saved his family and many animals—and Noah showed that he loved God with his whole heart. ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY, too. Let's see how we can show God we love him with our whole hearts.**

2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

All of Me!

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5, says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). That means to love God with all of you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**



**All of Me!
Supplies**

Bible





Say: **Loving God isn't just a feeling. It can be acting and doing. Loving God with your whole heart means loving God with every part of you: the thinking part, the moving part, the talking part, and the feeling part. Every single part of us can show love to God.**

Let's play a game to practice loving God with our whole heart. When I say a body part, you act out a way you can use it to love God.

Show me how you can love God with your whole heart by using your hands. Allow children time to respond, and if they need help suggest making praying hands. Ask the kids to think of ways to show they love God using their feet, voice, arms, and other body parts as you continue. Make suggestions as needed.

Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's your favorite way to show you love God? Why?**

Say: **God loves us so much! And ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY to show our love for him. We can show God that we love him with our whole heart when we obey God every day. The Bible tells us that Noah showed love to God by obeying God and building a big boat called an ark. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Love God with your whole heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

**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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the hammer around the circle so everyone can see it up close. 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
- hammer

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

**Theo's News
Easy Prep**

.....

Put the hammer in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Teacher: Friends, what can you do with a hammer?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this hammer in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, you can use a hammer to build all sorts of things!

Teacher: Yes, Theo, we can use a hammer to build things. ► **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY.** The Bible tells us Noah obeyed God and worked hard to build an ark, which is a really big boat.

Theo: Noah probably used a tool like a hammer.

Teacher: That's right, Theo! Friends, let's read the Bible to find out more about Noah and his ark!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: Noah's Ark

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 6, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Invite a child to act out Noah's actions as you tell kids about Noah's obedience. Have the other children form groups to act out and make noises for the following people and animals: men, women, pigs, hens, snakes, mice, and owls.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY. But in Noah's day, people fought and thought mean things about each other. God wanted people to obey him.**

Have the groups line up in this order: men, women, pigs, hens, snakes, mice, owls, and Noah.

Say: **When you hear me talk about the person or animal you're pretending to be, make the animal noise or repeat what the people say.**

As I was saying, back in Noah's day, people did bad things. God asked, "Who'll say they're sorry and be kind?"

"Not I," shouted the men. Pause and allow children to repeat.

"Not I," yelled the women. Pause and repeat.

"Not I," grunted the pigs. Pause and allow kids to make animal sounds.

"Not I," clucked the hens. Pause for animal sounds.

"Not I," hissed the snakes. Pause for animals sounds.

"Not I," squeaked the mice. Pause for animal sounds.

"Not I," hooted the owls. Pause for animal sounds.

"I will—God wants me to obey," said Noah. Pause and allow Noah to repeat.



Bible Time: Noah's Ark Supplies

Bible
spray bottle filled with water

Teacher Pack
"Noah's Ark" poster
(from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





God said, “I’ll send a flood of water because people are disobeying me and being mean to each other. But Noah obeys me. I want Noah to build a huge boat so Noah, his family, and some animals will live. Who’ll help me build the ark?” Repeat the sequence given earlier. Set out the “Noah’s Ark” poster.

Say: **So Noah obeyed God and built the ark. Noah worked hard for a long time building the ark. Noah cut and sawed and sanded and pounded until finally the ark was done.** Lead kids in acting out the motions of building the ark. **God asked, “Who’ll help load food onto the ark for the animals?”** Repeat the sequence given earlier.

Say: **Noah loaded food onto the ark.** Lead kids in acting out the motions of carrying heavy loads of food. **Then God sent the animals, two of each. Onto the ark galloped horses and zebras. Onto the ark pounded elephants and hippos.** Lead kids in acting out the motions and sounds of horses, zebras, elephants, and hippos. Allow the kids to get noisy, and then quiet them with your signal.

Finally this squeaking, squawking zoo was ready to go. When Noah and his family were safely inside the ark, God shut the door. It started to rain and rain and rain. Squirt water from a water bottle over the kids in a fine mist. **I wonder who wanted to be on the ark now.** Lead kids through this new sequence of responses in their groups.

“I wish I was,” **shouted the men.** Pause and allow children to repeat.

“I wish I was,” **yelled the women.** Pause and repeat.

“I wish I was,” **grunted the pigs.** Pause and allow kids to make animal sounds.

“I wish I was,” **clucked the hens.** Pause for animal sounds.

“I wish I was,” **hissed the snakes.** Pause for animal sounds.

“I wish I was,” **squeaked the mice.** Pause for animal sounds.

“I wish I was,” **hooted the owls.** Pause for animal sounds.

“I was on the ark—I obeyed God,” **said Noah.** Pause and allow Noah to repeat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about what Noah did to obey God?
- Why do you think Noah and his family obeyed God even though it was hard?
- Tell about a time someone told you to do something that was hard.

Say: **Noah obeyed God, and everyone on the ark was safe from the flood. ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY. When we obey God, we live as God wants us to. We can be like Noah and obey God, too.**

.....

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re



ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Noah Obeys, I Obey

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Then have children form pairs, and ask them to describe to each other how the people or animals in the pictures are obeying.

Say: **Draw in the blank square a picture of a time you obeyed. Then show your picture to your partner and tell who you were obeying.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who are people you obey?
- What makes it easy or difficult to obey adults?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY.** Noah obeyed God when he listened to him and built an ark. It took Noah a long time but he obeyed God every day. We can obey God, too.

CENTER 2:

Edible Arks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then find partners. Give each child a paper plate and a handful of pretzel sticks and animal crackers.

Say: **Use the pretzels to outline an ark on a paper plate and to make paths leading to the ark.** Pause. **Work with your partner to figure out which animal cracker shapes there are and find each animal a matching partner.** Pause and allow kids to pair animals. **You can march the animals along the paths to the pretzel ark.** Pause and allow kids to move the crackers. **Talk with your partner about what you like about each animal and the special things it can do.** Allow kids to talk about the animals for two minutes. **There are many animals that can learn to obey, and animals obeyed God when they got on the ark.**



Center 1: Noah Obeys, I Obey Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

Center 1: Noah Obeys, I Obey Easy Prep

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

Center 2: Edible Arks Supplies

animal crackers
pretzel sticks
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**



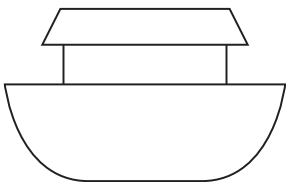


Center 3: Stick Trick Supplies

poster board
marker
20 wide craft sticks
Teacher Pack
sticker sheet

Center 3: Stick Trick Easy Prep

Draw a simple outline of an ark (similar to the drawing included here) on a large sheet of poster board.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can help an animal learn to obey?
- What can help you and me learn to obey?
- What can we do to learn to obey God?

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for putting good things in our lives, like this snack. Please help us obey you and live the way you want us to. In Jesus' name, amen.** Let kids enjoy their snack.

Say: **God made everything to be very good and to obey him—even animals!**
▶ **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY**, and we can learn how to obey him every day by practicing obeying.

CENTER 3:

Stick Trick

What You'll Do

Say: **God told Noah to build an ark, and Noah obeyed.** Point to the ark. **God said, "Bring two of each kind of animal into the ark."** Show children the animal stickers. **Noah obeyed and let pairs of animals into the ark.**

Work together to put one animal sticker on one craft stick and the matching animal sticker on another craft stick. Pause. Then mix the sticks and lay the sticks with the stickers facing down on the floor outside the ark. Pause.

Here are the rules for the game. One at a time turn over two sticks, looking for a matching pair of animals. If you find a pair, you can put the animals in the ark and take another turn. If you don't find a pair, you'll turn the sticks over and let another person play. Continue the game until the ark is filled with pairs of animals.

After children finish the game, congratulate them on obeying the rules, too.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What helped you follow the rules of the game?
- What helps you follow rules at home?
- What are some rules God has for us?

Say: **You obeyed rules and it made our game fun. Noah obeyed God by following rules for building the ark and filling it with animals. We can obey God's rules, too.**
▶ **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY** and to follow his rules always.



CENTER 4:

Thumbprint Arks

What You'll Do

Help kids each write their name on the back of a paper plate "ark."

Say: **You can use brown crayons to color your arks. Draw windows in the top part of the ark, too.** Show children how to color the tips of their thumbs with washable markers and then make thumbprints close together on the ark. **You can add details to your thumbprints and turn them into pairs of bugs, birds, animals, or people. When you're done, clean your thumbs with a wet wipe.**

Allow time for kids to create their arks.

Say: **God told Noah to build the ark because God knew it would keep Noah and his family safe. Noah obeyed God and built the ark. ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY, too, to keep us safe.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are ways rules can keep us from getting hurt?**
- **Why is it important to follow the rules that keep us safe?**

Say: **God loves us and wants what's best for us. ► GOD WANTS US TO OBEY so we can be safe every day.**

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.



Center 4: Thumbprint Arks Supplies

- one 9-inch white paper plate per child
- scissors
- crayons
- washable markers
- wet wipes

Center 4: Thumbprint Arks Easy Prep

Cut off one half of the outer rim (approximately 2 inches) of the paper plates, keeping the entire arch intact. (See the illustration included here.)



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





Talk With Kids

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

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Make your bed in the morning before you go to breakfast.**
- **Using stuffed animals, show your family what happened with Noah. Talk about how your family can obey God like Noah did.**
- **When your mom or dad asks you to stop doing something, stop right away without complaining.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“Help Me Obey” Prayer

What You'll Do

Help kids think of situations where they need help obeying. Then encourage kids to share those things when instructed in this prayer.

Pray: **Dear God**, *(fold hands in prayer)*

Help me to obey when...*(have kids raise hands and share, if they're comfortable)*

I pray that you'll be pleased. *(nod head)*

In Jesus' name, amen. *(fold hands in prayer)*

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO OBEY**, and we can ask God anytime for help obeying.

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16

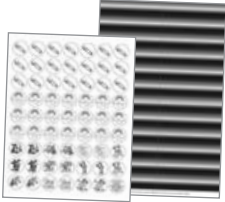
If you promise 5- or 6-year-olds anything, you'd better follow through! Kids this age still think of things in black-or-white terms, so promises made are promises to be kept. Use this lesson to remind children that while adults sometimes forget to keep their promises, God keeps all of his promises. God never lies.



► Bible Point
God never lies.

Key Verse
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will thank God for keeping his promises 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>	Rainbow Reminders Hunt for Rainbow Wrist Reminders to remember God loves them.	Bible, tape Teacher Pack: Rainbow Wrist Reminders, sticker sheet 	Separate the Rainbow Wrist Reminders and hide them around the room.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what sunglasses have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, sunglasses Teacher Pack: CD	Put the sunglasses in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: God's Promise Learn about God's promise in a rainbow.	Bible; 1 piece each of brown, blue, red, yellow, and green construction paper; multiple colors of chenille wires twisted together; CD player	Shape the chenille wires into a rainbow shape, and hide it where it'll be easily accessible. Lay the sheets of paper on the floor around the room.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</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: 3-D Rainbows</p> <p>Make 3-D rainbows on their My Bible Playground pages to remind them that God never lies.</p>	My Bible Playground, stapler, child-safe scissors, several animal crackers per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Rainbow Snacks</p> <p>Make rainbow pictures with fruit ring cereal.</p>	fruit ring cereal separated into small bowls by color groups, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Ark Animals Poem</p> <p>Pretend to be animals.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Center 4: It's Raining Buckets!</p> <p>Play a game to reveal a surprise.</p>	2 large bowls (or buckets), water, plastic cup, small towel, markers, index card, tape	Draw a rainbow on the index card, and tape it to the bottom of one bowl. Fill that bowl with water.
<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	
	<p>Promises Prayer</p> <p>Say a prayer of thanks together.</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.*



God Floods the Earth

Genesis 7–8; 9:8-16

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Speaks to Noah—Noah Obeys

Genesis 6 wraps up with Noah obeying “God” (*Elohim*). Chapter 7 begins with “the Lord” (*Yahweh*) speaking to Noah. The use of these two names in these places is noteworthy. The name *Elohim* tends to be used to emphasize God’s justice, and the name *Yahweh* most often denotes God’s mercy. In Chapter 6, Noah carried out God’s orders that showed God’s judgment on humankind. In Chapter 7, we see the administration of God’s mercy in the salvation of Noah’s family and the animals.

The Flood Arrives

When the flood came, it wasn’t caused only by rain. We read also that “the springs of the great deep burst forth.” Water came shooting upward from under the earth’s surface as rain deluged the earth from above. There was so much water that it covered the highest mountains by more than 20 feet! Some scientists believe that this event involved the sliding of continents and the creation of mountain ranges as subterranean plates slid and crashed together.

Noah and His Family Return to Dry Land

Once the rain stopped, it took almost a year for the water to recede sufficiently for Noah and his family to leave the ark. It’s interesting that one of the birds Noah had sent out to see if the earth was getting dry returned with an olive leaf. The olive branch has come to symbolize peace. Perhaps in the time of Noah it symbolized a new peace between God and his creation.

Notice that Noah had a method for testing to see if the earth was dry, but God told him when he should

leave the ark (Genesis 8:15-17). God was taking care of Noah and his family, just as he had promised.

God Makes a Promise

In Genesis 9:12-16, God again demonstrated his love for Noah. He made another promise, signified by the rainbow. The rainbow will always remind us of God’s promise to Noah and the fact that God always keeps his promises!

The Jesus Connection

Everyone—adults included—struggles to keep commitments and promises. As we juggle responsibilities to family, job, spouse, and friends, we often find these commitments conflicting with each other. And to add to the challenge, we live in a world where the character trait of “faithfulness” isn’t necessarily valued.

Pray for individuals in your ministry that as they model faithfulness and promise-keeping to others, they also paint a picture of a promise-keeping God. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "It's Good to Have
You..." (track 14),
"Arky, Arky" (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 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 the kids in doing the actions and singing "It's Good to Have You..." (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?"

 **It's good to have you in church today.** (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let's sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let's learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let's pray.** (*make praying hands*)


We'll make new friends, and we'll have so much fun. (*shake someone's hand*)

We're glad you've joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we'll learn more about Noah, the ark, and the flood. God kept all of his promises to Noah, and ► GOD NEVER LIES. Let's start by singing a song about Noah and the ark.**

Lead the children in the actions and singing "Arky, Arky" (track 13 on the CD).

 **The Lord told Noah, there's gonna be a floody, floody.** (*hold arms up; then wiggle fingers to make "rain"*)

Lord told Noah there's gonna be a floody, floody.

Get those animals out of the muddy, muddy, (*shake index finger*)

Children of the Lord.

The Lord told Noah to build him an arky, arky. (*pretend to hammer*)

Lord told Noah to build him an arky, arky.

Build it out of gopher barky, barky,

Children of the Lord.

The animals, the animals they came in by twosies, twosies. (*hold up two fingers and march to the beat*)

Animals, the animals they came in by twosies, twosies.



Elephants and kangaroosies, 'roosies, *(swing arms like an elephant's trunk; then hop like a kangaroo)*
Children of the Lord.

It rained and poured for 40 daysies, daysies. *(wiggle fingers to make "rain")*
Rained and poured for 40 daysies, daysies.
Almost drove those animals crazies, crazies, *(put hands on either side of your face, open eyes wide)*
Children of the Lord.

The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy. *(make a big circle with arms)*
Look, there's the sun—it dried up the landy, landy.
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy, *(nod your head and smile)*
Children of the Lord.

So rise and shine and give God the glory, glory. *(raise arms, and spread fingers wide like sunshine)*
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory,
Children of the Lord.

Say: **God promised there would be an end to the rain, and the rain stopped. God kept his promise to Noah because ► GOD NEVER LIES. Let's do something fun to help us remember God's promise to Noah.**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Rainbow Reminders

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5, says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). That means to love God with all of you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

God loves us so much—with his whole heart. We know God loves us that much because God always does what he says he'll do. ► GOD NEVER LIES. In the Bible today we'll learn that God keeps his promises and we'll hear about how God sent a rainbow to Noah as a wonderful way to keep a promise. Let's play a game where we can find a reminder of God's promise.



Rainbow Reminders Supplies

- Bible
- tape
- Teacher Pack**
- Rainbow Wrist Reminders sticker sheet

Rainbow Reminders Easy Prep

Separate the Rainbow Wrist Reminders and hide them around the room.





Invite a child to be the first to play the game. Take the child by the hand and lead him or her around the room looking for a Rainbow Wrist Reminder. When you find one, help him or her put it on, securing it with a rainbow sticker (you may also want to use a piece of tape to reinforce the sticker).

Say: **Because God loves us and always keeps his promises, we can love God with our whole hearts! Now** [name of child who found the wrist reminder] **can choose a friend and promise to help him or her find a Rainbow Wrist Reminder.** Have kids pass a Rainbow Wrist Reminder around the group so they'll know what they're looking for. **When you find one, help your friend put his or her Rainbow Wrist Reminder on and say the Key Verse together: Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).** Lead kids in saying the simplified Key Verse for practice: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Then it'll be the next person's turn to make a promise and guide a new friend to find a Rainbow Wrist Reminder. Tell kids to sit down when they finish and continue to play until everyone has had a turn. (The last child should lead you to find one, too!) Finish by having everyone shout, **"Love God with your whole heart! Deuteronomy 6:5!"**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it easy or difficult to keep going until you helped your friend find a Rainbow Wrist Reminder?
- What makes it easy or difficult to keep a promise you make to a friend?

Say: **We know that God loves us very much and always does what he says he'll do for us. ► GOD NEVER LIES. That's one reason we love him. When we love God with our whole heart, we give thanks for his wonderful promises.** Have children say the simplified Key Verse with you one more time: **Love God with your whole heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

sunglasses

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the sunglasses in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

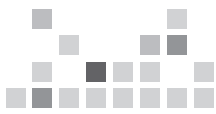
3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

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

Teacher: Friends, when do you like to wear sunglasses?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide these sunglasses in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, you wear sunglasses when it's sunny!

Teacher: That reminds me of the promise God made to Noah. And God kept that promise because ► **GOD NEVER LIES.**

Theo: Sunglasses remind you of the Bible?

Teacher: Well, not the sunglasses, but the bright sun reminds me of the Bible. Friends, let's read the Bible to find out what happened.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: God's Promise

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 7, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD NEVER LIES. Let's listen to what happened when God kept his promise to Noah.**

When you hear a color named on the CD, look at the floor around the room and find the piece of paper that matches that color. Then everyone can sit in a circle around it. When you hear sounds, you can make any motions you want to match the sounds.

Play "Promises Kept" (track 15 on the CD). When kids sit around the blue sheet of paper and close their eyes as directed near the end of the track, quickly lay the chenille wire rainbow on the floor in the center of the circle (or near the circle). Then when the kids open their eyes, they'll have a colorful surprise!



Bible Time: God's Promise Supplies

- Bible
- 1 piece each of brown, blue, red, yellow, and green construction paper
- multiple colors of chenille wires twisted together
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Promises Kept" (track 15)

Bible Time: God's Promise Easy Prep

Shape the chenille wires into a rainbow shape, and hide it where it'll be easily accessible. Lay the sheets of paper on the floor around the room.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the storm God sent to flood the entire world?
- What did you imagine as you listened to the CD?
- Tell about a time you've seen a storm.
- What are some good things that can happen after a storm?

Say: **The rainbow is a reminder of the promise God kept to Noah. God did what he promised, because ► GOD NEVER LIES. Whenever we see a rainbow after a storm, we can say thanks to God for always keeping his promises.**

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:

3-D Rainbows

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages and cut out the rainbows. Demonstrate for them how to staple the rainbow in a 3-D arch over the ark. Then have children clean their hands and form pairs. Kids can use animal crackers to tell their partners about the promise God kept to Noah. After kids talk in pairs, allow them to eat their animal crackers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can you remember about God the next time you see a rainbow?
- What's a promise you've made to a friend or family member?
- What did you do to keep your promise?

Say: **God sent a rainbow to Noah and promised that he'd never send another flood to cover the whole earth. God puts that same reminder in the sky for us to see.**

3-D Rainbows Supplies

My Bible Playground
stapler
child-safe scissors
several animal crackers
per child
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

3-D Rainbows Easy Prep

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





The next time you see a rainbow, say thanks to God for keeping his promise and remember that ► **GOD NEVER LIES.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Rainbow Snacks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Hand out paper plates, and let each child take three cereal pieces of each color. Encourage kids to use the pieces to make rainbow designs on their plates.

Say: **We can find reminders of God's rainbow and his promise in more places than up in the sky. The colors of this cereal can remind us of rainbows and can also remind us to thank God for always keeping his promises like he did for Noah. Let's pray before we eat our snack.**

Pray: **God, thank you for putting rainbows in the sky to remind us of your promise to Noah. Thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What other things can you see that remind you of rainbows and God's promise?**
- **What are ways to thank God for always keeping his promises?**

Say: **God puts reminders of his promises in lots of places. When we find them we can thank God for always doing what he says he'll do, because ► GOD NEVER LIES.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Ark Animals Poem

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play "Ark Animals Poem" (recorded twice on track 16 of the CD), and have kids listen to the poem the first time through. The second time through, encourage kids to act out the animals. Have children listen to the poem several more times, coming up with new ways to act out the animals mentioned.

**"Will God keep his promise? It looks so sunny."
"What is rain?" asked the soft, furry bunny.**



Center 2: Rainbow Snacks Supplies

- fruit ring cereal
- separated into small bowls by color groups
- paper plates
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! **ALLERGY ALERT**

Center 3: Ark Animals Poem Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Ark Animals Poem" (track 16)





“Will God keep his promise? Will I survive?”
Thought the buzzing *bee* in his little beehive.

“Will we see the jungle again and swing from the trees?”
“I hope God keeps his promise,” said the small *monkeys*.

“Will God keep his promise? Of course, of course.”
“We’ll run through the grass,” said the tall, proud *horse*.

Then the rain stopped, and the ark’s door opened wide,
And *all of the animals* went outside.

Noah saw God’s promise in a bright rainbow.
God keeps his promises, ’cause he loves us so!

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the animals wondering if God would keep his promise?
- What makes it easy or difficult to trust God to keep his promises?

Say: God sent a rainbow to Noah and the animals as a promise that he’d never again send a flood to cover the earth. Wherever we are, we don’t have to worry because ► **GOD NEVER LIES**. God will never flood the whole earth again, and we can say thanks to God for keeping his promise.

■ CENTER 4:

It’s Raining Buckets!

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Place the bowls on opposite ends of the room. Have kids line up behind the empty bowl.

Say: **Under the bowl that’s filled with water is a special surprise. To get to it you’ll need to take turns running with the cup to the water bowl, scooping up some water, and bringing it back to pour into the empty bowl. When you get to the very last of the water, use the towel to soak it up and squeeze the last drops into the other bowl. Then you can see the special surprise. Ready? Go!** Allow kids to play the relay game and help them as needed. After the water bowl is emptied, lift it so the kids can see the rainbow.

Say: **When God flooded the earth, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. When the rain stopped, there was a lot of water! But God promised Noah that all of his hard work in building the ark would save him. And God kept his promise because the waters**

Center 4: It’s Raining Buckets! Supplies

2 large bowls (or buckets)
water
plastic cup
small towel
markers
index card
tape

Center 4: It’s Raining Buckets! Easy Prep

Draw a rainbow on the index card, and tape it to the bottom of one bowl. Fill that bowl with water.





went away. Sometimes it takes hard work from us to get to see God’s sweet promises, but God always does what he says he’ll do.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you had to wait for a promise.
- What can we do when a promise is taking a long time?

Say: **When God makes a promise, he keeps it because ► GOD NEVER LIES. We can thank God for keeping his promises even if we have to work hard or wait to see them.**



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 NEVER LIES. I’d like each of you to choose a way to thank God for keeping his promises this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- **When you see a rainbow, thank God for keeping his promise to Noah and for keeping all promises!**
- **Wear your Rainbow Wrist Reminder all day to help you remember that God always keeps his promises.**
- **Talk with your family members about what each person likes most about knowing that God never lies.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they’ve chosen, and then circle it on each child’s My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Playground





Promises Prayer

What You'll Do

Have children form pairs and stand in a circle next to their partners.

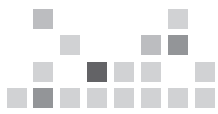
Say: **Tell your partner about a promise you've kept.** Allow time. **Let's pray to thank God for always keeping his promises and to ask for help to keep the promises we make. I'll start our prayer and then you can say one of the promises you've kept.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for giving us an example of always keeping promises. Please help me keep my promise to...** Allow kids to share promises they've kept. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith Into Life

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



People Build a Tower at Babel

Genesis 11:1-9


Five- and six-year-olds are excited to learn how to do things by themselves. Despite their growing independence, kids this age can grasp that we need God to help us grow and learn new things each day. Children will enjoy inviting God into the details of their lives and growth if they know they can. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God is here to help us every day and we can ask for God’s help anytime, anywhere.



► **Bible Point**
We need God.

Key Verse
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will ask God for help 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>	The Whole Part Learn that God wants their whole hearts just as they want a whole cracker.	Bible, at least 1 cracker per child plus 1 extra, antibacterial gel (optional)	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what different languages have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, paper, pen Teacher Pack: CD	Write on a piece of paper “Spanish: <i>Necesitamos a Dios;</i> French: <i>Nous avons besoin de Dieu;</i> German: <i>Wir brauchen Gott.</i> ” Place the paper in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Tower of Babel Learn that we need God, and hear two block puppets talk about what happened to the people of Babel.	Bible, CD player, box of blocks, 2 large blocks, tape, scissors, paper, table, glue sticks Teacher Pack: CD, wiggly eyes, “The Tower of Babel” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Make block puppets using the 2 blocks and the wiggly eyes from the Teacher Pack. Turn a table on its side for a simple puppet stage. Hide the box of blocks in the room. Print or write the sentences used in Theo’s News and cut each word out.

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: Brick by Brick</p> <p>Try to follow orders they can't understand.</p>	My Bible Playground, tape	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Brick Stackin' Snacks</p> <p>Make tower snacks.</p>	mini marshmallows, toothpicks, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: What's That You Say?</p> <p>Play the game of Telephone using different languages.</p>		
	<p>Center 4: A Name for God</p> <p>Watch God's name appear as they try to make a name for themselves.</p>	white crayon, cups of water, washable watercolor paints, 1 paintbrush and 1 piece of white paper per child	Using a white crayon, write "God" in large letters on a white piece of paper for each child.
<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	
	<p>"We Need God" Prayer</p> <p>Draw a prayer list of things they need help with.</p>	index cards, pencils	
	<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.



Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “It’s Good to Have
You...” (track 14), “We
Need God” (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 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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “It’s Good to Have You...” (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of “Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?”

 **It’s good to have you in church today.** (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let’s sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let’s learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let’s pray.** (*make praying hands*)

We’ll make new friends, and we’ll have so much fun. (*shake someone’s hand*)

We’re glad you’ve joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we’ll learn that ► WE NEED GOD. God’s always here to help us, anytime and anywhere. Let’s sing a song about needing God.**

Lead the kids in making praying hands and singing “We Need God” (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of “This Old Man.”

 **Thank you, God!**

This is true!

We need you in all we do.

If it’s night or day;

If we sleep or play—

We need you in all we do.

(Repeat.)

Say: **No matter where we are or what we’re doing, ► WE NEED GOD. When we ask for God’s help and show God we need him, we show God we love him with our whole hearts. Let’s learn more about loving God with all of us—not just part of us.**



2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

The Whole Part

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and gather at a table. Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5, says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). This means that you can love God with your whole heart. Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

Then show kids a cracker, and say: **Who wants a bite of this cracker?** Give the kids each a tiny crumb of the cracker, leaving most of it intact. **Didn't you just love that cracker?** Start to put the cracker away. See if the kids complain that they got only small crumbs. Then say: **Oh, you mean you wanted the whole cracker?**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when I gave you only crumbs?
- Why did you want a whole cracker?

Bring out the cracker again.

Say: **Just as you wanted all of this cracker, God wants all your love. ► WE NEED GOD, and the Bible says to love God with our whole hearts!** Give each child a whole cracker to eat. **What are ways you can love God with your whole heart?** Help children with ideas as needed. When kids have finished eating, lead them in saying the simplified Key Verse once more: **Love God with your whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).**

3

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**



The Whole Part Supplies

Bible
at least 1 cracker per child plus 1 extra antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
paper
pen
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Write on a piece of paper "Spanish: *Necesitamos a Dios*; French: *Nous avons besoin de Dieu*; German: *Wir brauchen Gott*." Place the paper in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Bible Time: Tower of Babel Supplies

Bible
CD player
box of blocks
2 large blocks
tape
scissors
paper
table
glue sticks

Teacher Pack

CD: "Babbling Bricks"
(track 17)
wiggly eyes
"The Tower of Babel"
poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Tower of Babel Easy Prep

Make block puppets using the 2 blocks and the wiggly eyes from the Teacher Pack. Turn a table on its side for a simple puppet stage. Hide the box of blocks in the room. Print or write the sentences used in Theo's News and cut each word out.

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box and give you the foreign language sample to read aloud for the group. The sentences are pronounced: Ness-es-ee-tah-mos ah Dee-os; News av-on bezh-won deh Diy-uh; Veer brow-chen Got. All mean "We need God." Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, why do we need languages or words?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this paper with foreign words on it in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, it helps me understand another language!

Teacher: You're a smart dog, Theo!

(Ask kids if they understood any of the foreign words. Pause for kids to respond.)

Teacher: We need words to talk to each other but it's hard to understand a language you don't speak.

Theo: That's right! I didn't understand those languages.

Teacher: You know what else we need, Theo? ► **WE NEED GOD.** In the Bible today, we'll hear about some people who forgot they needed God and we'll find out what happened to their words!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, say goodbye to Theo.

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

Bible Time: Tower of Babel

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 11, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► WE NEED GOD.**

After the flood, Noah's children grew up and had children, and those children grew up and had children. The world was getting full of people again! Let's listen to our brick puppets, Brickster and Brick Brack, tell us about what happened to the people in a place called Babel.

Invite two children to control the puppets while the CD plays. Play "Babbling Bricks" (track 17 on the CD). Pause the CD while the kids look for the box of blocks and build a tower. Then continue the track to its end.



Say: **Wow! The people wanted to build a tall tower, and they believed they could do great things without God’s help. They forgot about God! So God mixed up their languages so they couldn’t talk to each other.** Set out “The Tower of Babel” poster, the pile of foreign words, and several glue sticks.

Say: **Can any of you say something in a different language?** Let kids tell you a word or two they know in another language. **Here’s a pile of words from other languages. Let’s put these words onto the poster to show that everyone was talking in different languages.** Say the words aloud and have children repeat the foreign words as they place them on the poster. **The people forgot about God, so God mixed up their language and made them scatter. That way they couldn’t depend only on each other. They learned everyone needs God.** Have kids scatter around the room and then shout together ► **“WE NEED GOD!”** Then have children sit in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the way the people of Babel forgot about God?**
- **What do you think about God mixing up their words so they spoke new languages?**
- **Why do you think the people thought they didn’t need God?**
- **When do you need God?**

Say: **God created us to learn how to do all kinds of things, but God also wants us to ask him to be part of what we do. The people of Babel got so busy building their tower that they forgot to ask God for help. ► WE NEED GOD to help us each day in everything we do.**

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: Brick by Brick Supplies

My Bible Playground tape

Center 1: Brick by Brick Easy Prep

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

Center 2: Brick Stackin' Snacks Supplies

mini marshmallows
toothpicks
antibacterial gel (optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

CENTER 1:

Brick by Brick

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **The people of Babel made bricks and stacked them up, up, up into a tower, saying, "Let's make a tower so we can be great and make a name for ourselves!" They forgot that ► WE NEED GOD.**

Demonstrate folding the pages along the dotted lines. Secure the sides with tape to form open-ended bricks. (Be sure the bricks can be reopened later to see the Daily Challenges and at-home activities.) Then play a language game. Say: **Let's use our imaginations and make up words to mean "Pick up your bricks"—such as "Mumbo zumbo."** Make up your new words. **Now let's make up other words to mean "Stack them up."** After you've made up your new words, give your orders and see if kids can follow your directions and build a tower out of their bricks.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was easy or difficult about building a tower when you heard the directions in a different language?
- What can you do when you're having trouble understanding things on your own?
- What can you do when you're having trouble understanding something about God?

Say: **The people forgot about God and they wanted to try to do great things by themselves, so God mixed up the people's language. God wanted to remind them—and us—that ► WE NEED GOD! We can show God we know we need him by asking for his help.**

CENTER 2:

Brick Stackin' Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Then guide them in building small towers using mini marshmallows connected by toothpicks. Say: **As you stack your marshmallow creations and build your tower, tell about ways we need God's help.** Help kids as needed in coming up with examples. **Let's thank God for always being here to help us and also thank him for our snack.**



Pray: **God, we need you and we thank you for always being here to help us. Thank you for our yummy snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat their snack, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about a time this past week you needed help.**
- **What can you do this week if you need help?**

Say: **In the Bible, the people of Babel forgot they needed God. But ► WE NEED GOD always. We can always pray to God and ask for his help.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

What's That You Say?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Explain that you're going to play the game of Telephone.

Say: **I'm going to whisper something in the first person's ear and then that person will whisper the same message to the next person, and so on, until the message gets back to me. Whisper very quietly so only the person you're telling the message to can hear you.**

Using a foreign language, whisper ► **"WE NEED GOD"** into the first child's ear. You can use Spanish: *Necesitamos a Dios* (*Ness-es-ee-tah-mos ah Dee-os*), French: *Nous avons besoin de Dieu* (*News av-on bezh-won deh Diy-uh*), German: *Wir brauchen Gott* (*Veer brow-chen Got*), or a foreign language you're familiar with. Encourage each child to pass the message on as best as he or she can to the next child in the circle. When the message gets back to you, ask the following questions.

Ask:

- **Who can tell me what the special message was?**
- **Why was it so hard for you to understand the message?**
- **Who would like to play again and hear our special message?**

Play the game again, and this time say ► **"WE NEED GOD"** in the children's own language.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why was it easier the second time to understand our special message?**
- **What are things in the Bible that are hard to understand?**
- **Who are people you can talk to about the Bible and God?**





Center 4: A Name for God Supplies

white crayon
cups of water
washable watercolor
paints
1 paintbrush and 1
piece of white paper
per child

Center 4: A Name for God Easy Prep

Using a white crayon,
write "God" in large
letters on a white piece
of paper for each child.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Say: **The people of Babel forgot who was the most important. They didn't think that they needed God. When we remember that God is always most important and we ask for his help, we show him we're thankful and that we know ► WE NEED GOD.**

■ CENTER 4:

A Name for God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children gather, and help them paint their names on their papers.

Say: **When the people of Babel built the tower, they wanted to be great, and they said, "Let's make a name for ourselves." When you try to make a name for yourself, it means that you want to be famous. Have kids name a few famous people. The people wanted to be more famous than God. They acted as if they didn't need God at all, but ► WE NEED GOD. God is most important and we need his help.**

Encourage kids to paint all over the papers until they see God's name appear.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What can you do with your painting so you'll remember to ask God for help?**
- **What can you do to show God that you need him?**

Say: **We can ask for God's help anytime, anywhere, and about anything. ► WE NEED GOD. And God's always here for us!**

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 ► **WE NEED GOD**. I'd like each of you to choose a way to ask God for help this week.

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Ask your mom or dad to help you make a snack for your friends. Ask God to help you make the snack super-yummy.**
- **When you're having trouble understanding something this week, ask for God's help.**
- **If you're playing a sport this week, ask God to help you play your best.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“We Need God” Prayer

What You'll Do

Give kids each an index card and a pencil, and have them spread out around the room to a place where they won't be distracted.

Say: ► **WE NEED GOD** in everything we do. While the room is quiet, draw on your index cards three things you need God's help with. You can draw anything because we can ask God's help for anything. Allow kids three minutes to draw.

Have kids gather back together, and instruct everyone to hold the index cards between praying hands.

Pray: **God, we know we need you and we ask for your help with all of the things on our cards. Thank you for always being here to help us when we ask. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Take your cards home and tape them in a place where you'll see them this week to remember to keep asking for God's help.**

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

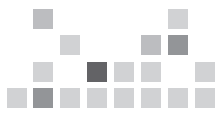
Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



“We Need God” Prayer Supplies

.....
index cards
pencils





Abram Follows God's Direction

Genesis 12:1-8


Abram is a wonderful example of a person who trusted and followed God. Most 5- and 6-year-olds have interacted with trustworthy adults and have an innate sense of trust. With that trust, kids can understand that they can always follow God. Use this lesson to help kids grow in their understanding that they can follow God, too.



► **Bible Point**
We can follow God.

Key Verse
"Trust in the Lord
with all your heart"
(Proverbs 3:5).

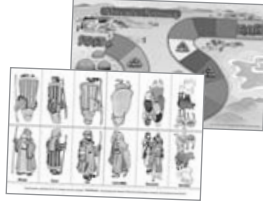
**Weaving Faith
Into Life**
Children will choose to
follow God in daily life.

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>	A Trustworthy God Drop a pencil to learn about trusting God.	Bible, pencil	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what car keys have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, car keys Teacher Pack: CD	Put the car keys in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Abram Follows God Go on a short journey to learn they can trust God.	Bible, backpack, 1 snack-sized pack of raisins per child, items from around the room, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: "Abram's Journey" game board 	Hide the raisins where they'll be easily accessible.

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: Moving Day Draw things they'd like to take with them if they had to move.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Can I Take Your Order? Ask a partner what snack he or she would like, and then serve each other the chosen snacks.</p>	pretzels, cheese crackers, water, apple juice, plastic cups, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	Place the snack items in an area separate from where the kids will eat.
	<p>Center 3: Abram's Journey Play a game to learn about Abram's journey.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Abram's Journey" game board, "Abram's Journey" game pieces, color block</p> 	Separate the "Abram's Journey" game pieces, and fold them so they stand up.
	<p>Center 4: Trusting God Talk to God about following him through challenges.</p>	1 copy per child of the "I Can Follow God" handout (at the end of this lesson), washable markers	
<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	
	<p>Follow God Prayer Ask for God's help in doing new things or things they're afraid to do.</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.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “It’s Good to Have You...” (track 14),
“Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22)

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 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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “It’s Good to Have You...” (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of “Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?”

 **It’s good to have you in church today.** (*nod your head and point to everyone in the room*)

Let’s sing, (*cup hands around mouth*) **let’s learn,** (*point to your head*) **and let’s pray.** (*make praying hands*)

We’ll make new friends, and we’ll have so much fun. (*shake someone’s hand*)

We’re glad you’ve joined us today! (*hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: I’m so glad you’re all here at church today. Let’s sing one more song—watch closely to follow what I do.

Lead the kids in doing the actions and singing “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22 on the CD) to the tune of “Found a Peanut.”

 **Shake a friend’s hand,** (*shake someone’s hand*)

Shake a friend’s hand, (*shake another person’s hand*)

Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello!”*)

Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)

Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello!”*)

Give a big hug, (*hug someone*)

Give a big hug, (*hug another person*)

Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello!”*)

Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)

Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello!”*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)





Say: **Great job following the actions for the song! Today we'll learn about Abram—a man who loved and trusted God so much that he followed God's directions and went to live in a new land. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD, too, because God loves us.**



2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

A Trustworthy God

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Proverbs 3:5, says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." The word *Lord* is another name for God. Let's say the Key Verse together: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

Ask:

- What are ways you can show that you trust someone?
- Who are people who take care of you?

Say: **Parents and other family members love us and take care of us, so we know we can follow what they say. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD, too, because he loves us and cares for us. When God says he'll do something, he'll do it—every time.**

Hold up a pencil, and then let it fall to the ground. **We know for sure that each time we let go of something, it'll fall to the ground. When we drop things, something called gravity pulls them to the ground. Take turns dropping this pencil and let's see if gravity really does work every time.** Each time the pencil hits the ground, lead kids in repeating the Key Verse: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did you trust that the pencil would fall to the ground each time you dropped it? Why or why not?
- What do you think about God *always* doing what he says he'll do?

Say: **You trusted that gravity would pull down the pencil each time you dropped it. You can always trust God. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD and he'll always love and guide us through life. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

A Trustworthy God Supplies

Bible
pencil





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

car keys

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here,
Theo" (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the car keys in the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

Bible Time: Abram Follows God Supplies

Bible

backpack

1 snack-sized pack of
raisins per child

antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack

"Abram's Journey"
game board

ALLERGY ALERT

Bible Time: Abram Follows God Easy Prep

Hide the raisins
where they'll be easily
accessible.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

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

Teacher: My car keys! Theo, why did you put my car keys in the Surprise Box?

Theo: I hid them in the Surprise Box because today you'll be talking about a man who traveled a long way. And when you travel, you need your car keys.

Teacher: Friends, have you ever gone on a long trip? Where did you go?
(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo: What did you take with you on your long trip?
(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: The man we'll hear about today followed and trusted God to take care of him on his long trip. And ► **WE CAN FOLLOW GOD**, too. Friends, let's read the Bible to find out why the man went on the long trip!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: Abram Follows God

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Genesis 12, and show children the words.

Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD.**

A man named Abram lived in a nice place with his family for a long time. But one day, God told Abram to leave his home and go to a new place. God said he'd show Abram where to go and bless him and many others with many good things. Abram knew he



could follow God, so Abram packed up his belongings and his family and followed God to the new place. Show children the game board. First point out where Abram lived and then where he was headed.



Ask:

- Turn to someone next to you and tell about a time you or a friend had to move to a new house or a new city.
- What did you like or not like about moving somewhere new?

Say: **If we had to move today, we could follow God just as Abram did. God will guide us and bless us with good things.**

Ask:

- **If your family had to move, what would you want to take with you? What would you pack?** Pass the backpack around the circle, and have each child mention an item he or she would pack.

Say: **Let's pretend we're on a journey and following God's lead.** Lead the children on a short journey across the room, bringing the backpack with you. Along the way, collect several items from around the room to remind the children of their journey. For example, take your Bible, a pencil from your art supply area, or a jacket from the coat rack. Put the items in the backpack. Then lead kids back to your Bible Time area to sit in a circle again.

Say: **God kept his promise and blessed Abram as he traveled.** Bring out the snacks. **Would you look at these? We've been blessed, too! ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD and trust that God will bless us, just as Abram trusted God. But before we eat the snacks, let's find out how Abram's travels ended.**

During the journey, God showed Abram a special land that God would give to Abram's children someday. Abram wanted to remember all that God had done for him and his family, so he built an altar. Have the kids work together to empty the backpack and place the items in the middle of the circle. **An altar is something that reminds a person of an awesome and wonderful thing God has done. In Abram's day, people usually built altars out of rocks. But we're going to use what we collected on our journey around the room.** Help kids stack the items to make an altar. **Wow! This altar reminds us of our trip around our room, and it reminds us that God has blessed us.**

Pray: **Thank you, God, for leading us and blessing us. We know we can always follow you, God. Thank you for our snack, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have children clean their hands. As they eat their snack, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about the way Abram followed God to a new home?
- What do you think about the altar Abram built to remember all God had done on the journey?
- What special things do you have to remind you of a family trip or adventure?





Center 1: Moving Day Supplies

My Bible Playground washable markers

Center 1: Moving Day Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Say: **Although going to a new place can be scary, it can also be an exciting family adventure and full of blessings. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD and trust God to guide us, just as God guided Abram.** Put the items into the backpack to use for the closing prayer.

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:

Moving Day

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Point out the picture of a moving truck on one of the pages.

Say: **When people move to a new house or city, they pack their belongings into a moving truck like this. You can draw on the truck on your page the things your family would take with you if you moved.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What would you like or not like about moving to a new city?
- Tell about other new things you've had to do that were scary at first, like starting school or riding a bike without training wheels.

Say: **When Abram moved, he followed God's lead. If you had to move, you could trust God to help you not be afraid. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD with new things and trust God to guide us and bless us.**



CENTER 2:

Can I Take Your Order?

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and form pairs by counting off by ones and twos. Then gather everyone.

Say: **Today we're learning about how Abram followed God's directions and trusted God to take care of him. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD, too. And we can follow others' directions and take care of each other.**

We have a couple of choices for your snack today. You can choose to eat pretzels or cheese crackers, and you can choose to drink water or apple juice. The Ones will go first. Ask your partner what he or she would like to eat and drink. Allow time for pairs to talk. Now Ones, you can go to the food table and follow your partners' directions of what he or she wants for snack. Help kids prepare snacks for their partners and then repeat with the Twos. After everyone has a snack, lead kids in prayer.

Pray: **God, thank you for always guiding us and taking care of us. We know we can follow you. Thank you for our tasty snack, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids

As children eat their snacks, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you do to follow directions and make the snack for your partner?
- What was easy or hard about trusting someone else to prepare the snack you chose?
- What's easy or hard about following God's directions?

Say: **Following or trusting someone else—even God—can be difficult. One thing we know for sure is that ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD no matter what. God will always take care of us when we follow him, just as God took care of Abram in the Bible.**

CENTER 3:

Abram's Journey

What You'll Do

Gather children around a table with the "Abram's Journey" game ready to play. Divide kids into no more than six teams, and assign each a different game piece.

Say: **We're going to play a game to learn about Abram's journey. Choose a game piece and then take turns rolling the color block to see where you can move your game piece. Whatever color you roll, move to the next closest space on the game**



Center 2: Can I Take Your Order? Supplies

- pretzels
- cheese crackers
- water
- apple juice
- plastic cups
- paper plates
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Can I Take Your Order? Easy Prep

Place the snack items in an area separate from where the kids will eat.

Center 3: Abram's Journey Supplies

Teacher Pack

- "Abram's Journey" game board
- "Abram's Journey" game pieces
- color block

Center 3: Abram's Journey Easy Prep

Separate the "Abram's Journey" game pieces, and fold them so they stand up.





Center 4: Trusting God Supplies

1 copy per child of the
“I Can Follow God”
handout (at the end of
this lesson)
washable markers

board with that color. If you land on a space with an altar on it, you can roll and move again. Allow kids to play, taking turns rolling the dice and moving the pieces until they finish the game.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you like about your journey in this game?**
- **Why didn't you always know what was going to happen?**

Say: **Abram trusted God to bless him and guide him on his journey. Just like Abram, ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD—when we're not sure what's going to happen, when we're lonely, or even when we're playing a game and having fun!**

■ CENTER 4:

Trusting God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids write their names at the top of a handout page.

Say: **Think about something you had to do this week that was either new to you or was hard to do.** Help kids come up with their ideas. **Draw a picture of that thing on your paper.** Allow time. **The words at the top of your page say, “I can follow God.” What would you like to tell God about your drawing?** Allow responses.

Let's pray about the things on your drawings and ask God to help us follow him as we try to do the things we drew.

Pray: **Dear God,**

Please help as we try to... Have kids who would like to share tell about what they need help with. **We trust you, God, to help us follow you every day and in everything we do. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Take your drawings home with you and put them in a place where you'll see them this week. Keep praying about what's in your drawings. Abram kept talking to God during his journey, and it helped Abram to follow God the whole way.**

► **WE CAN FOLLOW GOD, too, by asking him to guide us every day.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you think prayer helped Abram follow God on his journey?**
- **What do you think God will do this week as you pray about what's in your drawing?**





Say: **It's very important to remember that we can pray to follow God every day, everywhere, no matter what!**



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 ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD. I'd like each of you to choose a way to follow God's lead this week.**

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Collect pictures and other items around your house that remind you of your family. Build an altar with those items and thank God for his help.**
- **When your mom or dad tells you to follow directions, do what they say. It's good practice for following God.**
- **Pray about doing something new or something you're afraid to do, and ask God to lead you.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

Follow God Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids join hands in a circle.

Say: **Let's pray about new things in our lives or things we're scared of and ask God to lead us. I'll say, "God I need your help with..." and then you can share. After each person shares, let's say together, "You can follow God."** Lead kids in the prayer, going around the circle until all are done; close with "amen."

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





Say: **We can always ask God for help when we're trying something new or we're afraid, and God will lead us. ► WE CAN FOLLOW GOD every day, because God loves us.**

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

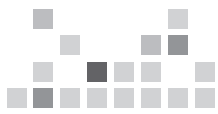




I Can Follow God

OK
TO COPY





Lot and Abram Divide the Land

Genesis 13

Five- and six-year-olds have heard that it's good to get along with others—it's a focal point of early-childhood learning. They can grasp the importance of sharing and treating others with kindness. Lot and Abram are good examples for them of working out a tough issue facing kids this age—how to share well. Use this lesson to show children that getting along with others is something God wants them to do, not just a desire of their parents and teachers.



► Bible Point


God wants us to get along.

Key Verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will get along with others 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>	A Valuable Trust Take turns holding a valued object.	Bible, cellphone	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what water and dirt have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, bottle of water, small bag of dirt or sand Teacher Pack: CD	Place the water and dirt in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Dividing the Land Pretend to go to the two lands and choose which place they'd rather live.	Bible, CD player, 1 cup of water per child, water and dirt from “Theo's News,” sticky notes, washable markers Teacher Pack: CD, “Abram's Journey” game board, “Lot Chooses” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Make a “lush” area designated by the bottle of water. Then place the bag of dirt or sand in a different spot to make a “desert” area.

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: Dividing the Land Help Abram and Lot journey to new lands.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, child-safe scissors, tape, 2 craft sticks per child</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book, and cut the slits on the pages to indicate the directions Abram and Lot took.</p>
	<p>Center 2: You Choose First! Divide pretzels and popcorn.</p>	<p>pretzel rods (not sticks), popcorn, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Tight Squeeze Try to squeeze into a yarn loop.</p>	<p>one 4-foot yarn loop for every 5 children, CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 4: Layout of the Land Share supplies to draw the lands where Lot and Abram settled.</p>	<p>1 sheet of paper per child, washable markers</p>	
<p>5 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</p>	
	<p>“Others First” Prayer Watch a demonstration with the My Bible Playground page and say a prayer.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground page with the Abram and Lot figures cut out and taped to craft sticks</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.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22), “The Song of Abram” (#1) (track 21)


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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22 on the CD) to the tune of “Found a Peanut.”


 **Shake a friend’s hand,** (*shake someone’s hand*)
Shake a friend’s hand, (*shake another person’s hand*)
Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello!”*)
Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)
Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello!”*)

Give a big hug, (*hug someone*)
Give a big hug, (*hug another person*)
Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello!”*)
Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)
Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello!”*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: Today we’ll learn that ► **GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG.** We’ll hear about a man named **Abram** and how he shared and got along with his nephew. Let’s learn two verses in a song about Abram and Lot.

Lead kids in the actions as they sing “The Song of Abram” (#1) (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of “Jack and Jill.”

 **Time had passed for Abram and Lot** (*tap wrist as if tapping a watch*)
They both got very wealthy. (*cup hands*)
Animals and servants, too, (*sweep one hand to left and other hand to right*)
So crowded it soon got. (*bump gently against a friend*)

Abram said to nephew Lot, (*mimic hand-talking*)
“I’ll let you choose land first. (*point in two different directions*)





God wants us to get along—(*put arms around someone’s shoulders*)
That’s what our Lord has taught.” (*shake hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Abram and Lot knew that ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG, so they did. They knew they could trust God’s directions and do what God told them to do. Let’s learn about trusting God.**



2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

A Valuable Trust

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Proverbs 3:5, says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5). Let’s say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse with you: **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5).**

Say: **When you trust someone, you believe that person will do what he or she says. And you know that person will help you and take care of you. We can put all our trust in God, because God’s promised us that he’ll always love us and be with us. And God never lies!**

Show children the cellphone, and say: **This is very special to me.** Tell kids about the phone and why you value it. **I’m going to pass my cellphone around so all of you can see it up close. I trust all of you to take good care of it, because I told you how special it is to me.** After the children have each had a turn holding the phone, thank them for returning it to you safely and carefully.

Say: **I like my cellphone a lot and I trusted each of you to take care of it. I can trust you because I know you and I know you’ll be careful. The more we get to know God and learn about how much he loves us, the more we can trust him with all our hearts.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you like or not like about the way I trusted you to be careful with my cellphone?**

A Valuable Trust Supplies

Bible
cellphone





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
bottle of water
small bag of dirt or sand

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

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

- Why it is easier to trust someone you know well?
- What are some ways you can get to know God better?

Say: **We can trust God with our whole hearts! That means we can trust God with anything that's important to us. We can trust God because we know God, and we know God loves us and will take care of us. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

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

Teacher: Friends, if you could have one of these things from the Surprise Box, which would you rather have? Why?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide these things in the Surprise Box?

Theo: I wanted to see what the kids would choose.

Teacher: The kids did have a choice to make.

Theo: And they chose well!

Teacher: That reminds me of what we're learning today. Abram and Lot had a choice to make. Sometimes, when people have a choice to make, they only think about what's best for themselves. But ► **GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG.** Friends, let's read the Bible to see what Abram and Lot chose.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.



Bible Time: Dividing the Land

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 13, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG. Let's find out how Abram got along with his nephew Lot.**

God told Abram to leave the home where his family lived and go to a new place that God would show him. So Abram packed his bags, took his wife, Sarai, and his nephew Lot, and followed God on a journey to a new place. Lay the game board where kids can see it, and point to the place where Abram started his journey.

Along the way, Abram and Lot became very rich and had lots of animals and people to serve them. Move your finger along the game board. **Soon it was too crowded for all the people and animals to live together in one place. Abram knew that ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG, so he pointed out across all the land they could see and asked Lot to choose where he would like to live. Abram let Lot choose first! Lot could choose either a beautiful land with plenty of water, or a dry land.**

Lead the kids to the lush area you prepared. Have children relax on the floor, and serve everyone a cup of water.

Play "River Sounds" (track 19 on the CD) in the background. Say things such as "Ahhh...this is the life!" and "What nice, cool water to drink and beautiful green grass." Stop the CD at the end of the track.

Then lead kids to the desert area. Play "Whistling Wind" (track 20 on the CD) in the background. Say things such as "Wow, it's hot" and "There aren't many plants or nice things to look at." Stop the CD at the end of the track.

Ask:

- **What land do you think is best? Why?**

Lead kids back to the lush area. Say: **Lot chose the beautiful land that had lots of green plants and fresh water.** Then lead the kids to the desert area. **Abram took the land that was left over.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Set out the "Lot Chooses" poster and markers, and give each child two sticky notes. Have kids draw a stick figure person on each. Collect the notes and put them in a pile.

Say: **When Abram and Lot split up, they each took their families and their things with them. Abram took his things and went with his family to the drier land. And Lot took his things and went with his family to the green land. Let's divide up this pile and put half on one side with Lot and half on the other side with Abram.** Help



Bible Time: Dividing the Land Supplies

-
- Bible
- CD player
- 1 cup of water per child
- water and dirt from "Theo's News"
- sticky notes
- washable markers
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "River Sounds" (track 19), "Whistling Wind" (track 20)
- "Abram's Journey" game board
- "Lot Chooses" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Dividing the Land Easy Prep

.....

Make a "lush" area designated by the bottle of water. Then place the bag of dirt or sand in a different spot to make a "desert" area.





kids divide the sticky notes into two equal piles and stick one pile onto the dry land in the picture and the other pile onto the green land in the picture.

Say: **Abram knew he'd made the right choice in deciding to divide the land, and Abram knew he'd done right when he let Lot choose first. ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG, and letting others go first is one way to do it!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the way Abram and Lot got along?**
- **What surprises you about Abram's decision?**
- **What makes it easy or difficult to allow someone else to choose first?**
- **What are some ways you get along with others?**

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG, and Abram and Lot gave us a great example of how to do that! We can do what God wants us to when we get along with others, too.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ **CENTER 1:**
Dividing the Land

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Set out scissors and tape, and give each child two craft sticks.

Say: **Cut out the figures of Abram and Lot and tape them onto your craft sticks. Then put Abram into the slit that leads to the dry land and Lot into the slit that leads to the lush land. As you move your Abram and Lot stick puppets, share with each other what you learned from the Bible today.**

Center 1: Dividing the Land
Supplies

- My Bible Playground
- child-safe scissors
- tape
- 2 craft sticks per child

Center 1: Dividing the Land
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book, and cut the slits on the pages to indicate the directions Abram and Lot took.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about Abram allowing Lot to have the best land?
- What do you like or not like about the way Abram got along with his nephew, Lot?
- What are things you've shared with family and friends?
- Tell about a time you let someone choose first or go first in a game.

Say: Sometimes the best way to get along is to share, as Abram and Lot shared the land.

► **GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG** just like they did.

■ CENTER 2:

You Choose First!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone, and have kids form pairs. Designate one child in each pair to pretend to be Abram and one child to pretend to be Lot.

Say: **Abram and Lot had many sheep. They probably used a staff, or rod, to help guide and steer the sheep. The rod looked like this.** Give each pair a pretzel rod. **You and your partner hold the pretzel rod between you, and on the count of three, break the pretzel rod into two pieces. If you're pretending to be Abram, allow your friend pretending to be Lot to choose from the pretzel pieces first.** Hand another pretzel rod to each pair, and have kids trade roles and play again.

Next, give each pair of kids a napkin with a pile of popcorn to represent Abram and Lot's sheep. Also give each child a napkin. Say: **With your partner, divide the popcorn pieces evenly. Then use your pretzel rods to "guide" your popcorn sheep from the pile to your napkins.** Allow time.

Pray: **God, thank you for helping us get along each day with our friends and family. Thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- When you were pretending to be Abram, what did you like or not like about letting Lot choose first?
- When you were pretending to be Lot, what did you like or not like about choosing first?



Center 2: You Choose First! Supplies

-
- pretzel rods (not sticks)
 - popcorn
 - napkins
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: Tight Squeeze Supplies

one 4-foot yarn loop for every 5 children

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 8)

Center 4: Layout of the Land Supplies

1 sheet of paper per child
washable markers

Say: **Abram knew that God wanted him to get along with others. Abram was very kind to Lot and let Lot choose first. You were great Abrams and Lots! You now know how much ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG.**

CENTER 3:

Tight Squeeze

What You'll Do

Place one yarn loop on the floor for every five children. Have kids form teams of five.

Say: **Try to get everyone in your group standing in the loop on the floor by the time the music stops.**

Play "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 8 on the CD) while children are playing the game. Periodically stop the music, and let kids hold on to each other to fit as many as they can in their loop. Repeat the game if time allows.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it easy or difficult to get along in such a small space?
- What did you do to help each other?

Say: **Abram knew that ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG. When things got too crowded, Abram knew that he and Lot should live in different areas. Abram let Lot choose the land he wanted to move to first. Abram put Lot before himself and that helped him get along with Lot very well.**

CENTER 4:

Layout of the Land

What You'll Do

Ask children to draw the land that Abram and Lot divided. Place two brown markers on one side of the drawing area and two green markers on the other—kids will have to share to be able to draw their pictures.

Say: **Share your supplies and draw green, well-watered land on one half of your papers and dry, brown land on the other half. After you draw the land, then you can draw the same number of people and animals on both lands.**



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you do for your friends here so everyone could draw a picture?
- What good things happen when you get along with others?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG** with family members, friends, teachers, and everyone. Abram treated Lot the way he probably wanted to be treated. We can treat other people the way that we'd like to be treated, too, and get along with others.



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 GET ALONG**. I'd like each of you to choose a way to get along with others this week.

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- When you're playing with someone, let that person choose which game to play.
- This week, ask someone you've never played with before to play with you.
- Share your snack or dessert with a family member or friend.

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Playground





“Others First” Prayer Supplies

My Bible Playground page with the Abram and Lot figures cut out and taped to craft sticks

“Others First” Prayer

What You’ll Do

You’ll need one of the My Bible Playground pages and a set of Abram and Lot figures on craft sticks. Position Abram and Lot close together near the bottom of the page. Then guide kids through the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God,**

When it comes to getting along,

Help us think of others first, *(move the Lot figure to the green area on the page and ask kids to name family members, friends, and any other people they can put first)*

Before we think of ourselves. *(then move the Abram figure to the other area)*

In Jesus’ name, amen.

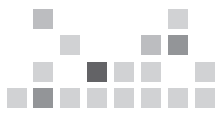
Say: **God puts a lot of special people in our lives and ► GOD WANTS US TO GET ALONG with them. Whenever you’re having trouble getting along with anyone you named, you can ask God for help to put others first.**

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





God Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

Five- and six-year-olds know about making plans. They make plans for which games to play and what they want to do at their birthday parties. But the idea that God has plans for their lives might be new to them. When God made a covenant with Abram, God showed that he had a very special plan for this man. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God loves them and makes good plans for them.



► Bible Point

God has good plans for us.

Key Verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5).

Weaving Faith Into Life

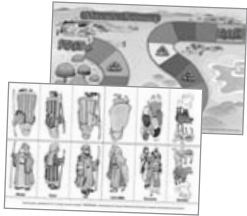
Children will thank God for the good plans he has for them.

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>	We Can Trust Talk about people they can trust.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what a star has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, construction-paper star Teacher Pack: CD	Place the star in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: God’s Covenant Hear about the good plans God had for Abram and pretend to look at the stars.	Bible, Star Maker tube, small flashlight, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put together a Star Maker tube as described in the “Center 4: Star Maker” activity.

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: Starry Night Trace around the stars on the My Bible Playground pages and add glitter glue.</p>	My Bible Playground, yellow and orange crayons, glitter glue	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: So Many Stars Cut bread into star shapes.</p>	bread, star cookie cutters, honey, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Abram's Journey Game Play a board game to learn about waiting for God's good plans.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Abram's Journey" game board, "Abram's Journey" game pieces, color block</p> 	
	<p>Center 4: Star Maker Make "stars" in the night sky and talk about God's good plans.</p>	½ paper-towel tube per child, dark construction paper, scissors, rubber bands, pencils, several small flashlights	Cut 1 construction-paper circle (about 5 inches in diameter) per child.
<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	
	<p>Star Prayer Hold up a star and thank God for his good plans for us.</p>	star from "Theo's News"	
	<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 Makes a Covenant With Abram

Genesis 15:1-18

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God Reveals His Plan to Abram

Abram had just returned from defeating a coalition of kings to rescue his nephew, Lot, and God appeared to him in a vision. Notice that in Haran God simply spoke to Abram; later in Canaan God appeared before Abram; now God appeared in a lengthy vision. With each meeting, God’s plan for Abram became a bit more clear.

God’s first words to Abram were words of comfort. What was bothering Abram was Abram’s continuing lack of a son to be his heir. In response to God’s words of comfort, Abram poured out his heart—pleading with God to bless him in this one area he’d not yet received God’s promised blessing.

Abram Displays Faith in God

When God assured Abram by restating his promise that Abram would have his own son, Abram responded in faith. He believed God, and God declared him righteous because of his faith! Nothing that Abram could *do* in obedience to God could make him righteous, but his faith in God did!

To give Abram complete assurance, God made a covenant with him. In those days a covenant was a very serious thing. The cutting in half of animals described in Genesis 15:10 was to signify that the same would happen to any party breaking the covenant. Notice, however, that Abram wasn’t asked to pass between the animals, which would have sealed his commitment to the covenant. Only God, symbolized by the smoking firepot and blazing torch, passed and sealed God’s commitment to the covenant. Only God was required to fulfill the covenant.

God Promises to Bless Abram’s Descendants

Another interesting note is that each type of animal that was sacrificed was later used in particular cleansing ceremonies and sacrifices.

God’s listing of all the things that were to come for Abram’s descendants accomplished at least two things: First, it confirmed that God’s promise would come true because God could see the results more than 400 years in the future. Second, it assured Abram that even though his people would endure hardship, they would eventually possess the land as God had promised.

The Jesus Connection

Make this your prayer today: *God, your plans are perfect. We thank you for Jesus, who revealed your plans and helped us see that when we follow your direction, you’re with us at every step.*

When have you recognized God’s plans for you? It’s a special feeling when God guides you. Pray for God’s guidance for the individuals in your ministry. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22),
“Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29)


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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “Shake a Friend’s Hand” (track 22 on the CD) to the tune of “Found a Peanut.”

 **Shake a friend’s hand,** (*shake someone’s hand*)
Shake a friend’s hand, (*shake another person’s hand*)
Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello”*)
Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)
Shake a friend’s hand—say “hello!” (*shake another friend’s hand, and say “hello”*)

Give a big hug, (*hug someone*)
Give a big hug, (*hug another person*)
Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello”*)
Thank you, God, for all our friends. (*pat someone on the back*)
Give a big hug—say “hello!” (*hug another friend, and say “hello”*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: Today we’re going to learn that ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. God’s good plans give us joy. Joy means we’re happy! Let’s sing a song to show God how happy we are.**

Sing “Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29 on the CD). As you sing, have children jump up with arms in the air for each “rejoice.”

 Rejoice! Rejoice!	Rejoice in the Lord always.
And again I say rejoice!	And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!	Rejoice in the Lord always.
Again I say rejoice!	And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)





Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Say: I'm so happy that ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US!** Because God makes good plans for our lives, we can trust his plans. Let's learn about trusting God with our whole hearts.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

We Can Trust

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Proverbs 3:5, says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." The word *Lord* is another name for God. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to trust God with all your heart?**

Say: **When we trust God, it means we know God is always with us, always hears us, and always loves us.**

Ask:

- **Who are other people in your life you can trust?**
- **What are things your parents do to take care of you and give you the things you need?** Help children think of things their parents do to take care of them, such as buying groceries, getting them ready for school, or teaching them to how to do things on their own.

Say: **You can trust the adults in your family to make good plans to take care of you and always want the best for you. That's a lot like the way God makes good plans for you.**



We Can Trust Supplies

Bible





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you trust your parents?
- Why can you trust God?

Say: **We know that we can always trust God with all our heart and that God always makes good plans for us. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
construction-paper star
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the star 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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the star 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, how many stars do you think there are in the sky?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this star in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, there are lots and lots and lots of stars in the sky. I like to look at the night sky and the millions of stars.

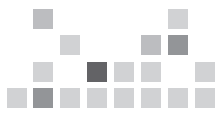
Teacher: I do, too, Theo! That reminds me of when God used the stars to describe a very special promise to Abram.

Theo: He did?

Teacher: Yes, he did—because God had good plans for Abram, and ► **GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US.** Friends, let's find out what happened!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: God's Covenant

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Open your Bible to Genesis 15, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. Let's hear about God's good plans for Abram. Abram himself will tell us about those plans.**

Start out with the children sitting in a circle, and play "Abram's Adventures" (track 24 on the CD). The CD will tell you when to pause for discussion and when to have the kids lie on the floor and look at the ceiling (no need to pause the CD for this part). At that time, turn off the lights, turn on your Star Maker, and shine it so that stars appear on the ceiling. At the end of the track, turn on the lights.

Say: **What an awesome promise God made to Abram! Abram was worried he wouldn't ever have any children, and God promised Abram he'd have so many children he wouldn't be able to count them—just like he couldn't count all the stars in the sky. Let's learn a song to help us remember God's promise to Abram.**

Lead children in singing and doing the motions for "The Song of Abram" (#2) (track 25 on the CD) to the tune of "Jack and Jill."

 **God appeared to Abram,** (*raise hands in air*)
And he said, "You'll have a son!" (*pretend to rock a baby*)
Abram was so happy that (*smile big*)
God had good plans for him! (*hug self*)
(Repeat.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the promise God made to Abram?**
- **What do you like or not like about waiting for something you really want?**
- **What can you do to wait and not complain?**

Say: **Abram learned that God had good plans to give him a son, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and some beautiful land. God had good plans for Abram, and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too, and we can thank God for his good plans—even if we sometimes have to wait for them.**



Bible Time: God's Covenant Supplies

.....
Bible
Star Maker tube
small flashlight
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Abram's Adventures" (track 24), "The Song of Abram" (#2) (track 25)

Bible Time: God's Covenant Easy Prep

.....
Put together a Star Maker tube as described in the "Center 4: Star Maker" activity.





Center 1: Starry Night Supplies

My Bible Playground
yellow and orange
crayons
glitter glue

Center 1: Starry Night Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10
pages from each My
Bible Playground student
book.

Center 2: So Many Stars Supplies

bread
star cookie cutters
honey
plastic knives
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Starry Night

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Tell children to use the crayons to trace around the edges of the stars. Let kids fill in the stars with glitter glue to make the stars sparkle.

Say: **Abram looked at the night sky and talked to God about his hopes for the future. Abram wanted more than anything to have children. When Abram talked to God about his future, God told him the wonderful plans he had for his life.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you hope to be when you grow up?
- What can you do to talk to God about your hopes for your future?

Say: **There are many, many stars in the sky, and God said that Abram would have many, many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. God had good plans for Abram, and ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too.**

CENTER 2:

So Many Stars

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Explain how to use the cookie cutters to cut out a star shape in the bread. Then have kids spread honey on the bread to make their stars shine.



As kids work, say: **Tell about the plans you make when you get up in the morning for your day or things you like to do every day. Do you plan to eat breakfast? to play with friends or brothers and sisters? to go visit a friend?**

Allow children to share.

Say: **Abram made plans, too, and he talked to God about his plans. God told Abram the wonderful plans he had for his life—to have as many children as there were stars in the night sky! God has a wonderful plan for every one of you, too.**

Pray: **God, thank you for making good plans for our lives. Please help us remember to talk to you about the good plans you have for us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how Abram talked to God?
- What can you do to talk to God about his plans for you this week?

Say: **Just as God had good plans for Abram, the Bible tells us that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US, too! We can thank God for his good plans for us.**

■ CENTER 3:

Abram’s Journey Game

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Gather children around a table with the “Abram’s Journey” game ready to play. Have kids form no more than six teams, and assign each a different game piece. Have children play the game by taking turns rolling the color block and moving their game pieces to the next space that has the color rolled. They can roll again if they land on a space with an altar (the pile of rocks). As kids play, tell them how God had a plan even when Abram was making his way to a new land.

Say: **Before Abram got to his new home where God told Abram he’d have so many kids they’d be like the stars in the sky, Abram had a long journey. God asked Abram to move his family and all his things to a new land. Abram obeyed God and followed God because he knew God’s plans were good.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was hard about this game?
- What’s hard about doing something new?



Center 3: Abram’s
Journey Game
Supplies

Teacher Pack
“Abram’s Journey”
game board
“Abram’s Journey”
game pieces
color block





Center 4: Star Maker Supplies

½ paper-towel tube per child
dark construction paper
scissors
rubber bands
pencils
several small flashlights

Center 4: Star Maker Easy Prep

Cut 1 construction-paper circle (about 5 inches in diameter) per child.

Say: **When we do new things or go to places we've never been to before, it can be scary because we don't know for sure what'll happen. It's hard to make a plan for something we've never done before. But ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US every day, even when we're unsure.**

■ CENTER 4:

Star Maker

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Find a partner and help each other cover the end of a cardboard tube with a paper circle. Then rubber-band the papers in place.** Allow time, helping as necessary so the papers are taut and held securely in place with the rubber bands. Then say: **Use sharp pencils to carefully poke holes in the papers.** Allow time. **Now you can take turns shining a flashlight into the open end of the tube so the light shines through the holes.** If possible, dim the lights so it's easier to see the "stars" shine.



After kids enjoy the star show, say: **We made our own little night skies! God showed Abram the night sky to explain how many children Abram would have. God had wonderful plans for Abram.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was so amazing about the plan God had for Abram?**
- **What can you do this week to thank God for his good plans for you?**

Say: **When we look up at the night sky and see the stars, we can remember God's good plans for Abram and that ► GOD HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US!**





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 HAS GOOD PLANS FOR US. I'd like each of you to choose a way to thank God for the good plans he has for your life this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- **Each day, thank God for the wonderful plans he had for you that day!**
- **Act out some of the things you could be when you grow up (such as a doctor or a teacher). Then thank God for the plans he has for your life.**
- **Ask your mom or dad to go outside at night and look at all the stars with you. Then thank God for the good plans he has for your life.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

Star Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle and pass around the star from "Theo's News."

Say: **Think about what you hope to be when you grow up or another plan you have for your life.** Allow time and help kids as needed. **As we pray, we'll pass the star around the circle.** Hold up the star so all can see. **When you've got the star, hold it over your head and say the plan you have for your life.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for all of your good plans. Help us trust your plans for us as we grow up and make plans, too.** Pass the star around and allow willing kids to each share a plan for their life. **In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
My Bible Playground

Star Prayer Supplies

.....
star from "Theo's
News"



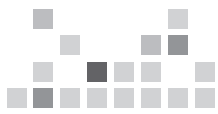


Weaving Faith at Home

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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





Abraham Has Three Visitors

Genesis 18:1–19:29

Five- and six-year-olds have a vibrant sense of wonder. They love discoveries, surprises, and learning about processes of the world around them. Use this lesson to invite kids to watch for the wonders of God all around them—in what they learn from the Bible and in the world today. Kids will learn that God does amazing things.

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>	Can You Hear Me? Talk to each other with background noise.	Bible, items that can be used to make distracting noises (such as paper, toy dishes, pencils, and musical toys)	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a comic strip has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, age-appropriate comic strip Teacher Pack: CD	Place the comic strip in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors Gather inside a sheet tent, and pretend to greet three visitors.	Bible, 1 or 2 large sheets, tables, chairs	Drape sheets over tables or chairs to make a tent.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **Bible Point**
God does amazing things.

Key Verse
“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will talk about amazing things God does and thank him.



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: Miracles Possible Draw pictures of their problems.</p>	My Bible Playground, shallow bowl of baby lotion, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Awesome Apples Examine the seeds of an apple and marvel at all the things that begin with the tiny seeds.</p>	apples, knife (for teacher's use only), napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Surprise Party Prepare a party scene, and talk about the surprise and excitement of when God does amazing things.</p>	party decorations	
	<p>Center 4: Amazing Joy Draw pictures of amazing things God has done in the Bible and in the world today.</p>	1 sheet of paper per child, washable markers	
<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	
	<p>Amazing Prayer Tell something amazing that God does.</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.



Abraham Has Three Visitors

Genesis 18:1–19:29

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. For this age level, we cover only Genesis 18:1-15, the passage where the three visitors tell Abraham and Sarah that their long wait would soon be over—God’s promise to them of a son would be fulfilled within the year.

Abraham: Father of Many

God changed Abram’s name, which means “exalted father,” to Abraham, “father of many.” Abraham and all the males of his household then went through the covenant of circumcision. God also renamed Sarai. Her new name, Sarah, likely stressed that she was to be the mother of nations and kings.

Abraham Shows Hospitality

In Abraham’s desert-dwelling culture, visitors were rare. A warm welcome and hospitality were requirements in the culture of that day, and Abraham knew what it was like to travel in the desert. Thus, he was ready to warmly welcome the travelers.

Many scholars believe that these travelers were angels (see Genesis 19:1). The fact that they knew Sarah’s name may support this, and in Genesis 18:10, it is clear that at least one of them was speaking for God.

For many years, God had been promising Abraham a son. Now God predicted the time of the birth to 99-year-old Abraham and 89-year-old Sarah: Within one year, their son would be born. Sarah’s laughter is understandable. Who would have thought that a 90-year-old woman could have a baby! God does truly amazing things!

Abraham Pleads With God

When God made it clear that his intent was to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham was horrified.

He’d likely done business with people there, and his nephew, Lot, lived there with his family. So Abraham pleaded with God to spare the few who were still faithful. God said the whole city would be saved if only 50 righteous people lived there. It’s helpful to remember here God’s definition of *righteous*. Abraham was declared righteous because of his faith, not because of a righteous lifestyle. As Abraham voiced his pleas ever more carefully, God promised to spare the city if just 10 righteous people were living there. But not even so small a number of faithful people could be found.

God did an amazing thing in sparing the lives of Lot and his family. Lot didn’t appear to deserve it, just as we don’t deserve the grace God gives to us. But we can be thankful that God is wonderfully merciful and still does amazing things for us.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus is God’s most amazing miracle. He gave us eternal life when we were dead in sin. You can thank God for his precious Son and his greatest miracle.

Look for miracles all around you, not just in big, dramatic situations but also in “smaller” things: the beauty of the sunrise, the happy gleam in a baby’s eyes, couples addressing their problems with forgiveness and love. Ask God to help individuals in your ministry to do the same. You can write your prayer here.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Learning and
Laughing" (track 2),
"Rejoice in the Lord
Always" (Philippians
4:4) (track 29)


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 the kids in doing the actions and singing "Learning and Laughing" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?"

 **Boom, boom—** (*throw a fist in the air for each "boom"*)

It's great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each "boom"*)

It's great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Learning and laughing with all my friends! (*twist in place*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each "boom"*)

It's great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!** Amazing things are really good things that can make us say, "Wow!" We can feel joy when God does amazing things. Let's sing a song to show joy because our God does amazing things!

Sing "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (Philippians 4:4) (track 29 on the CD). As you sing, have children jump up with arms in the air for each "rejoice."

 **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)





Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Say: **Amazing things give us joy because they can be surprising, interesting, and one of a kind. Nobody does amazing things like ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. Let's learn about one of the most amazing things God can do.**

2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Can You Hear Me?

What You'll Do

Have sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Luke 11:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Luke 11:9, says, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." That means that we can ask and God will hear us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

Say: **Our Bible verse tells us that if we ask, God will hear us. That's so amazing! God can hear us no matter where we are, what we're doing, or even how loud we're talking! Just to give us an idea of how amazing that is, we're going to practice trying to hear each other.**

Have children form pairs and then form two lines with partners facing each other. Choose one line to go first in the game.

Say: **On the count of three, tell your partner what you had for breakfast. Then everyone on this side (motion toward the other line) will repeat what they heard.** Count to three. **How many of you could hear what your partner said?** Allow responses.

Let's try again. This time, everyone take a big step away from each other. We'll start with the other line this time. On the count of three, tell your partner your favorite color. After you count to three and as children are talking, make as much noise as you can with your voice and noisy items. **Could you hear what your partner said this time?** Allow responses. Then repeat the pattern two more times with partners moving farther apart each time. Make noise as kids try to talk, and ask, "What are you doing after church today?" and "What's your last name?"



Can You Hear Me? Supplies

Bible
items that can be used to make distracting noises (such as paper, toy dishes, pencils, musical toys)





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Was it easier to hear each other when you were closer or when you were farther away? Why?

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!** One amazing thing God can do is hear us all the time. God can hear us no matter where we are! God can also hear us no matter what we say, how quietly we say it, or how much noise is all around us. In fact, God can hear us even when we say things silently in our heads. Isn't that amazing? God wants you to talk to him. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time. Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
age-appropriate comic strip

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the comic strip 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 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the comic strip 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 do you like about comics and jokes?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this comic strip in the Surprise Box?

Theo: It's my favorite comic because it always makes me laugh!

Teacher: I like to laugh, too. Today we're going to learn from the Bible about a time Sarah laughed at God's promise because she thought it sounded impossible.

Theo: Somebody laughed in the Bible?

Teacher: That's right! She was surprised to discover ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.**

Friends, let's find out what happened!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.

Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Genesis 18, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. A man named Abram and his wife, Sarai, had been on a long journey to the new home God had for them. God told them they'd have many children. Then God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah. Abraham and Sarah continued to believe God's promise that they'd have lots of children. Let's find out what amazing things happened to Abraham and Sarah.**

Let's pretend that we're with Abraham in his tent. Lead the children into the tent, and have them get comfortable. **Suddenly Abraham saw something outside his tent.** Peek your head out and look around. **Three special visitors appeared to Abraham. Have you ever had special guests visit your house? When?** Allow responses.

Let's hurry and get out of the tent so we can say hello to our visitors! Help the children come out of the tent saying, "Hello, hello!" Instruct three kids to bring three chairs, and then have everyone sit around the chairs. **Abraham was so excited! He told the visitors that they could rest, have their feet washed, and eat some yummy food. So the guests stayed, ate a lovely meal, and rested. Then one of the visitors told Abraham that Sarah would have a son the next year. Sarah was inside the tent listening.** Have the kids cup their hands behind their ears and lean forward as if they're listening. **Sarah laughed when she heard this because she thought she was too old to have a baby—she was older than your grandma. Sarah was very old. And so she laughed.** Lead the children in different styles of laughing, such as giggling, soft snickering, and loud belly laughs. **Sarah laughed because she thought it was impossible for her to have a baby. But remember, ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS!** Have the kids repeat the Bible Point.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about Abraham and Sarah's special visitors?
- Why would it be amazing to get a message from God?
- What's an amazing thing that's happened for your family—something that made you really happy?
- What did you like most about that amazing thing?



Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors Supplies

.....

Bible
1 or 2 large sheets
tables
chairs

Bible Time: Abraham's Visitors Easy Prep

.....

Drape sheets over
tables or chairs to make
a tent.





Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.** He kept his promise that Abraham and Sarah would have a baby. God blesses us and cares for us today, too. What an amazing God!

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Miracles Possible

What You’ll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **Use the markers to draw pictures on the page of things that seem impossible to you, such as tying your shoes or riding a two-wheeled bicycle.** Allow time for kids to draw. **Now, dip a finger into the lotion and rub the lotion onto the picture of Sarah and the baby.** The smell of baby lotion can help us remember that God made it possible for Sarah and Abraham to have a baby. God can do amazing things—even impossible things! Nothing is impossible with God.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What impossible problem did you draw on your page?
- What can you tell God about the impossible thing you drew?

Say: **Smell the baby lotion and remember how God gave a baby to Sarah and Abraham. What seemed impossible was really possible!** ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS.** You can trust God to help you with your problems, and give thanks for God’s amazing help.

Center 1: Miracles Possible Supplies

My Bible Playground
shallow bowl of baby lotion
washable markers

Center 1: Miracles Possible Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.





CENTER 2:

Awesome Apples

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Say: **We're learning that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. There are amazing things God's made or done all around us every day. For example, did you know that apples are amazing things God makes? What are some things made from apples?** Help kids think of and share food products made from apples.

So many things can be made with this small fruit! That's amazing! But it gets even more amazing when you look at where apples come from. Slice an apple and pull a few seeds out for the kids to look at and touch. **Apples and the trees they grow on come from these tiny seeds. God's done many amazing things in our world, and just one of them is the way God made trees and plants to grow from tiny seeds.**

Slice the rest of the apples, and serve the slices on napkins to children.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion as they enjoy their snack.

Ask:

- What can an apple show us about what God is like?
- What are other amazing things you've seen that God has made or done?

Say: **God did amazing things in the Bible during Abraham and Sarah's time, and he does amazing things in the world today! God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby when they were very old. God did amazing things for Abraham's family, and ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS for you and me.**

CENTER 3:

Surprise Party

What You'll Do

Set out items such as crepe paper streamers, party favors, party hats, and confetti. Let children pretend they're preparing for a surprise party.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do people plan surprise parties for others?
- What makes surprises amazing?
- What do you like about the way God surprises us with the amazing things he does?



Center 2: Awesome Apples Supplies

- apples
- knife (for teacher's use only)
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Surprise Party Supplies

- party decorations





Center 4: Amazing Joy Supplies

1 sheet of paper per child
washable markers

Say: ► **GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS**, and when God sent three special visitors to Abraham and Sarah, that was a special surprise! Sometimes the amazing things God does are surprising, exciting, and make us very happy. We can thank God for all the ways he amazes us.

■ **CENTER 4:**

Amazing Joy

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids draw pictures of amazing things that they've seen, that have happened to their families, or that they've learned about from the Bible. Allow time and help kids think of amazing things to draw.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the amazing things you drew?**

Say: **When God does amazing things, we can be happy about what he's done. Sarah was so happy to hear God's promise of a son, even when that seemed impossible. Sarah believed God would do something amazing because nothing is impossible with God.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about God's promise to give Sarah a son even when it seemed impossible?**
- **What are things that seem impossible to you?**
- **What would you like to ask God about those impossible things?**

Say: **Abraham and Sarah knew that when God promised them a son, God would keep his promise. That's because they knew that ► GOD DOES AMAZING THINGS. The next time you feel like something's impossible, don't give up right away. Ask God for help to make the impossible, possible.**





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 DOES AMAZING THINGS. I'd like each of you to choose a way to watch for the amazing things God does and thank him this week.**

Read these three ideas for kids to choose from:

- **Have your mom or dad take you to a park. Point out all the amazing things that God made in the park.**
- **Have your mom or dad help you go on the Internet and look up something amazing that God has made, such as the Grand Canyon or the Great Barrier Reef.**
- **Ask your family members to each share something amazing they've seen this week and thank God for doing amazing things.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

Amazing Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Think about amazing things God has done, like making rainbows or making plants grow. As we pray, you can share your ideas of amazing things.** Help children say the following prayer and complete the sentence.

Pray: **Dear God, you're so amazing! Thank you for the amazing things that you do, such as...Have children mention their ideas. Thank you for doing impossible things for us, just as you did for Abraham and Sarah. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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






Isaac Is Born

Genesis 21:1-6

Five- and six-year-olds are full of fun and energy, yet they're quite capable of having mood swings. One minute they're laughing as they play outside; the next minute they're sad because it's time to come inside for supper. At this age, children understand happiness as "what I'm feeling right now." Use this lesson to teach kids that God gives happiness that lasts forever—even when things aren't going our way.



► Bible Point
God makes us happy.

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>	Make a Happy Sound! Think of ways to make happy noises for God.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a baby toy has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, noise-making baby toy Teacher Pack: CD	Place the baby toy in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Isaac Is Born Learn about the great joy God brought to Sarah and Abraham.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, "Sarah" poster, Baby Isaac" picture, sticker sheet 	


Key Verse
"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will thank God for making them happy.

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: Joy! Joy! Everywhere Wrap pictures of baby Isaac, and tell others about things that bring them joy.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers Teacher Pack: sticker sheet</p> 	<p>Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Big and Little Taste “big-” and “baby-” size foods.</p>	<p>regular and mini sizes of pretzels and marshmallows, 4 bowls, 1 paper plate per child, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	<p>Separate the food into bowls by size.</p>
	<p>Center 3: Isaac’s Shower Pretend to have a baby shower for baby Isaac.</p>	<p>box wrapped in baby-shower wrapping paper, scissors, 1 baby item per child (borrow from the church nursery, if possible)</p>	<p>Cut a hole on top of the wrapped box large enough for children to reach inside and pull out items.</p>
	<p>Center 4: Handprints Make a handprint picture.</p>	<p>1 copy per child of the “Thank You for Being My Parents!” handout (at the end of this lesson), washable finger paint, paper towels, paper plates, wet wipes</p>	<p>Pour the paint onto paper plates.</p>
<p>5 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</p>	
	<p>“Shake, Rattle, and Remember” Prayer Make a noise with a baby toy and say a prayer of thanks.</p>	<p>baby toy from “Theo’s News”</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.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Learning and
Laughing” (track 2),
“Rejoice in the Lord
Always” (Philippians
4:4) (track 29)

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 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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “Learning and Laughing” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Boom, Boom, Ain’t It Great to Be Crazy?”

 **Boom, boom**—*(throw a fist in the air for each “boom”)*

It’s great to be in church. *(clap to the beat)*

Boom, boom—*(throw a fist in the air for each “boom”)*

It’s great to be in church. *(clap to the beat)*

Learning and laughing with all my friends! *(twist in place)*

Boom, boom—*(throw a fist in the air for each “boom”)*

It’s great to be in church. *(clap to the beat)*

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.** Today we’ll learn about Abraham and his wife, Sarah, and how God gave them a baby boy. What joy! When people are full of joy, they’re very happy and we say that they’re rejoicing! Let’s sing this song and rejoice!

Sing “Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29 on the CD). As you sing, have children jump up with arms in the air for each “rejoice.”

 **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)



Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY**, and when we're happy we rejoice. Let's rejoice some more and make happy sounds.

2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Make a Happy Sound!

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Luke 11:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Luke 11:9, says, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." That means we can ask and God will hear us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that God will always hear us when we talk to him. We can be happy because God loves us and hears us, not just every now and then, but *always!***

Ask:

- Tell about a time you asked God for something.
- What happened after you asked God?

Say: **God heard Abraham and Sarah when they asked him for a child. God gave them a son and that made them very happy! ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY, too! We can thank God because he hears us and listens to us. One way to thank God is by making a happy noise. When we make our happy noise, we know that God will hear us!**

Invite a child to think of a happy noise such as singing, laughing, or clapping. Have the children repeat the sound and spread the joyful noise (like a wave) as fast as they can around the circle, making sure that everyone can join in. Let several other children think of happy noises that they can send around the circle.



Make a Happy Sound! Supplies

Bible





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
 Theo puppet
 CD player
 noise-making baby toy
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Here, Theo"
 (track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

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

Say: **God heard our happy noises. We can be sure that no matter where we are, what we say, or how we say it, God will hear us. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the baby toy 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 do you think a baby toy has to do with the Bible?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this toy in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Because babies play with it.

Teacher: That's right, Theo, babies do play with toys like this. But why did you bring a baby toy today?

Theo: I heard something very special happened with a baby in the Bible.

Teacher: That's right, Theo. ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY**, and this week we'll find out how God made Abraham and Sarah very happy!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, 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.



Bible Time: Isaac Is Born

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 21, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY. God had told Abraham and Sarah that they'd have a baby. But they were older than most of your grandparents or great-grandparents! They were very old.** Lay the poster of Sarah on the floor so kids can see it.

Ask:

- Tell about someone you know who's very old.

Say: **People usually don't have babies when they're very old! But God did something amazing for Abraham and Sarah. And God does amazing things for us when ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy.** Bring out the "Baby Isaac" picture. **Abraham and Sarah were very happy!**

Ask:

- Tell about any families you know who've just had a baby.
- What do parents do to care for new babies?

Invite a child to help you fold in the three corners of the picture of baby Isaac so it looks like he's being wrapped in a blanket.

Say: **Happy parents might wrap their baby in a blanket to make sure the baby is warm.** Invite another child to stick a baby-pin sticker on the picture to secure the "blanket." **Abraham and Sarah loved their new baby and happily cared for him.** Pass the Isaac picture carefully around the circle, like a real baby. **God made Abraham and Sarah very happy.** Lay the wrapped baby Isaac in Sarah's arms on the poster.

Sarah said that God made her happy, and everyone who heard about her happiness at having a baby would laugh with her. Abraham and Sarah named the baby *Isaac*, which means "he laughs."

Ask:

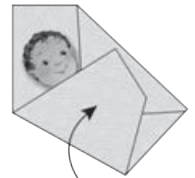
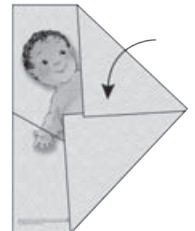
- Why do you think Sarah was so happy?
- When have you been very happy?
- What do you do when you're happy?

Say: **When people are really happy or filled with joy, they might laugh, just as Sarah laughed when God finally gave her a baby boy.** Pick up the baby picture, and have the children pass it around the circle again. The first child who holds the picture will say "Ha," the next child will say "Ha-ha," the third one will say "Ha-ha-ha," and so on. The kids will be laughing before the picture gets around the circle!



Bible Time: Isaac Is Born Supplies

Bible
 Teacher Pack
 "Sarah" poster
 "Baby Isaac" picture
 sticker sheet





Say: **It feels good to laugh! Abraham and Sarah felt so happy about their baby. That kind of happiness is called *joy*—a feeling deep down inside that comes from God. We feel joy because ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the amazing thing God did?**
- **What can you do to thank God the next time you're laughing and happy?**

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY! And we can thank God every time something makes us smile and laugh.**

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:

Joy! Joy! Everywhere

What You'll Do ■■■■

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **Isaac's birth made his parents very happy! Draw on the sides of your pages two things God's given you that make you happy. You might draw favorite foods, stuffed toys, or friends.**

After children are finished drawing, help them fold their pages to wrap baby Isaac in a blanket and secure each "blanket" with a baby-pin sticker.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about the things you drew on your picture.**
- **Why do those things make you happy?**

Center 1: Joy! Joy! Everywhere Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

Teacher Pack
sticker sheet

Center 1: Joy! Joy! Everywhere Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12
pages from each My
Bible Playground student
book.





Say: **God loved Abraham and Sarah, and he gave them baby Isaac. ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY with blessings, too. We can thank God for making us happy.**

■ **CENTER 2:**

Big and Little

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then say: **A baby is smaller than a grown-up, but sometimes a baby looks a lot like someone else. Many families spend a lot of time guessing what their new baby will look like. They wonder what color hair and eyes the baby will have. They wonder what the baby's nose will look like. They wonder if the baby will look like them or someone else they know.**

Show children the food items and talk about how the miniature items look just like the big items, only smaller. Say: **Take a few of each item in the bowls. As you eat, match the regular and mini items to each other or sort out all the regular size items into one pile and all the minis into another pile. Before we enjoy our snack, let's pray.**

Pray: **God, thank you for making us happy. Thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Talk about a person people say you look like—maybe your mom or dad.**
- **Why do you think you look so much like that person?**

Say: **It's fun to guess what babies will look like. God makes each of us special, and God gives us families and people around us to love us and who can make us happy. God gave Abraham and Sarah a family the day that Isaac was born, and they were happy. ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY, too.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Isaac's Shower

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Often when a baby is born, people have a party to "shower" the baby's parents with gifts. Let's pretend that we're at a baby shower for baby Isaac! I'll ask one of you to close your eyes and pull something out of the box. Then you can feel the item and guess what it is. When you guess correctly, the other children will all shout: ► GOD MAKES US HAPPY!**



Center 2: Big and Little Supplies

- regular and mini sizes of pretzels and marshmallows
- 4 bowls
- 1 paper plate per child
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Big and Little Easy Prep

Separate the food into bowls by size.

Center 3: Isaac's Shower Supplies

- box wrapped in baby-shower wrapping paper
- scissors
- 1 baby item per child (borrow from the church nursery, if possible)

Center 3: Isaac's Shower Easy Prep

Cut a hole on top of the wrapped box large enough for children to reach inside and pull out items.





Center 4: Handprints Supplies

1 copy per child of the
“Thank You for Being
My Parents!” handout
(at the end of this
lesson)
washable finger paint
paper towels
paper plates
wet wipes

Center 4: Handprints Easy Prep

Pour the paint onto
paper plates.

Invite a child to go first. Say: **Close your eyes and keep them closed while you reach into the box. Pull out one item and guess what it is by the way it feels in your hands. Everyone else, stay quiet until there’s a correct guess.**

When the child guesses correctly, have all the children shout the Bible Point. Let each child have a chance to pull an item out of the box.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do babies make families so happy?**
- **Tell about other good things that make your family happy.**

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.** God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy named Isaac. God gives us our families to love us and that makes us happy, too.

■ CENTER 4:

Handprints

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.** Just like Abraham and Sarah were happy the day Isaac was born, your parents were very happy when you were born. At the hospital, the nurses made prints of your feet. Sometimes people make handprints of their babies, too. Today we’re going to make your handprints for your parents.

Help children dip their hands into the finger paint and then make handprints on the handout pages. Use wet wipes to wash children’s hands. Set aside the pictures to dry.

Say: **The words at the top of the page say “Thank you for being my parents!” Give your picture to your mom or dad to say thank you for taking such good care of you.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What things besides your handprints were you born with that make you special?**
- **What do you do now to celebrate your birthday and make it a happy day each year?**

Say: **The day Isaac was born was a happy day for Abraham and Sarah. The day you were born was a happy day for your parents. This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, so you can give your handprint picture to your parents on Thanksgiving and tell them you’re so thankful that God chose them to be your**



parents. You can also say you're thankful for all the reasons your family is happy! Then, together, you can thank God because ► **GOD MAKES US HAPPY.**



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 MAKES US HAPPY. I'd like each of you to choose a way to thank God when you feel happy this week.**

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Ask your family to play your favorite game with you. When you finish playing, thank God for the happiness he gives you through your family!**
- **With your mom or dad, go through each room in your house and talk about a happy memory you have about that room. Thank God for filling your house with happiness!**
- **Have your mom or dad help you make a dessert for your family. Before you give it to them, thank God for helping you bring happiness to your family.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“Shake, Rattle, and Remember” Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Think of good things that God has given you.** Have each child take a turn making noise with the toy from “Theo's News” and completing the sentence in the following prayer.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

“Shake, Rattle, and Remember” Prayer Supplies

baby toy from “Theo's News”





Pray: **Dear God, You make us so happy! We're thankful for all the good things you've given us, especially...** Have the children make noise with the toy and say what they're thankful for. **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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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





Thank You for Being My Parents!

! **OK**
■ **TO COPY**





God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

Genesis 21:8-21


Five- and six-year-olds are beginning to catch on to the power found in manners. “Please” becomes the key word that seems to deliver most of a child’s desires. Children at this age may have difficulty understanding that God doesn’t always answer our prayers in the way we want them to be answered, no matter how nicely we ask. Even so, use this lesson to teach children that God always hears us when we pray.



► Bible Point
God hears us when we pray.
.....

Key Verse
“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9).
.....

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will talk to God.
.....

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>	God Listens Whisper through a door, and have the door open.	Bible	Ask another adult to help during this activity.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what headphones have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, headphones Teacher Pack: CD	Place the headphones in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael Find out how Hagar learned that God hears us when we pray.	Bible, CD player, washable markers Teacher Pack: CD, “God Provides” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	

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: Hear Today Make desert scenes to remind them that God heard Hagar and God hears us.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, glue sticks, 1 sheet of sandpaper, 1 sheet of blue tissue paper, scissors</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Cut one 1-inch square each of blue tissue paper and sandpaper for each child.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Please and Thank You Have fun making and asking for food and drinks.</p>	<p>punch bowl with flavored drink, ladle, carrot sticks, crackers, paper plates, cups, and napkins</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Say What? Listen to the sound of other children's voices, and guess who's talking.</p>		
	<p>Center 4: Drawn to Prayer Draw a prayer to God.</p>	<p>paper, washable markers, stickers</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Be a FaithWeaver Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>"Thanks for Listening" Prayer Thank God for hearing and answering their prayers.</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.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Learning and
Laughing” (track 2),
“Rejoice in the Lord
Always” (Philippians
4:4) (track 29)


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 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 the kids in doing the actions and singing “Learning and Laughing” (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of “Boom, Boom, Ain’t It Great to Be Crazy?”

 **Boom, boom—** (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

Learning and laughing with all my friends! (*twist in place*)

Boom, boom— (*throw a fist in the air for each “boom”*)

It’s great to be in church. (*clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we’ll learn that ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.** We can be happy that we can talk to God every day, everywhere. Let’s sing a song and be happy because of God.

Sing “Rejoice in the Lord Always” (Philippians 4:4) (track 29 on the CD). As you sing, have children jump up with arms in the air for each “rejoice.”

 **Rejoice! Rejoice!**

And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again I say rejoice!

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Rejoice! Rejoice!

And again I say rejoice!





Rejoice! Rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!
And again I say rejoice!

Say: I'm so happy you're at church today and I'm so happy that ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY!** Let's learn more about the way God listens to us.

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

God Listens

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Luke 11:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Luke 11:9, says, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." That means that we can ask and God will hear us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

Say: **Now let's have some fun discovering what it's like when God hears us.**

Have children form two groups. Have one group be the Talkers and one group the Listeners.

Say: **One at a time the Talkers will whisper through the door something they'd like to say to God, and then they will knock on the door.** Have an adult volunteer take the Talkers outside your room and tell the children to form a line.

Stay with the Listeners on the other side of the door, and have them also form a line. Have the first child in line put his or her ear to the door and listen to the child on the other side. Say: **When you hear the knock at the door, you can open the door.** Each time the door is opened, have the Talker repeat what he or she whispered through the door, but loudly this time so everyone can hear. Lead the Listeners in shouting, **"Knock and the door will be opened to you!"** If time allows, let each child have a turn to talk and listen.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like or not like about trying to hear a whisper through a door?
- What do you like about the way God can hear you, no matter what?



God Listens Supplies

Bible

God Listens Easy Prep

Ask another adult to help during this activity.





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
headphones
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Theo's News Easy Prep

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

Say: **God hears us when we pray, and he knows the best way to answer our prayers. Remember that you can ask and God will hear you!** Lead the kids in saying the simplified Key Verse one more time: **Ask and God will hear you (Luke 11:9).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

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

Teacher: Friends, what can we use headphones for?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide these headphones in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, we can use headphones to listen to things like music, even when it's noisy around us.

Teacher: That's right, Theo! It can be hard to hear when we live in such a noisy world.

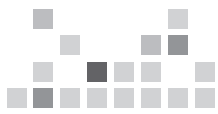
Theo: Yes it can—even for dogs, and we have some of the best ears around!

Teacher: You're right again, Theo. But no one can hear quite like God can. No matter what, we can always know that ► **GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.** Friends, let's read the Bible and find out how God heard Hagar when she cried out to him.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Friends, say goodbye to Theo.

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



Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Genesis 21, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today the Bible tells us that ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. One day, a man named Abraham decided to have a big party for his son Isaac. Let's pretend that we're at Isaac's party as we listen to the CD. First, think about some things you'd like to say to God. You'll get a chance to say them as we listen to the CD.** Help kids decide what they'd like to say. **Every time you hear "God loves to hear us talk to him" and the music on the CD, I'll call on a few of you to share what you want to talk to God about.**

Play "God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael" (track 28 on the CD). Pause the CD each time you hear music, and call on children to tell what they'd like to say to God. Stop the CD at the end of the track.

Ask:

- **What's amazing about the way God heard Hagar and Ishmael's cries?**
- **What's amazing about the way God could hear each of you when you talked?**

Set out the "God Provides" poster, and say: **Everyone take a marker and draw one of the things you said during the song.** Allow time. **Now everyone point to what you drew on the poster while we pray about our drawings.** Take a minute to pray with each child for what he or she drew on the poster. Close the prayer with **"In Jesus' name, amen."** Then say: **God heard our prayers just now!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What made Hagar and Ishmael's prayers different from ours?**
- **Why do you think prayers don't always have to be said out loud with words?**
- **What do you think about what God did to answer Hagar and Ishmael's prayers?**

Say: **Just as God heard Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael, ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. God is always listening to us, no matter where we are or what we're doing. God loves to hear us and answer our prayers.**



Bible Time: Hagar and Ishmael Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - washable markers
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael" (track 28)
 - "God Provides" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Center 1: Hear Today Supplies

My Bible Playground
glue sticks
1 sheet of sandpaper
1 sheet of blue tissue
paper
scissors

Center 1: Hear Today Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
13 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book. Cut one
1-inch square each of
blue tissue paper and
sandpaper for each
child.

Center 2: Please and Thank You Supplies

punch bowl with
flavored drink
ladle
carrot sticks
crackers
paper plates
cups
napkins

ALLERGY
ALERT

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

CENTER 1:

Hear Today

What You'll Do

Help kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Then have children form pairs.

Say: **Work with your partners to each glue the square of sandpaper to the desert on your page. As you and your partner work, talk about how Hagar and Ishmael prayed. Allow time. Now glue the square of blue tissue paper to the well and talk about what happened after Hagar and Ishmael prayed to God.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Touch the sandpaper on your page and tell about something that gave you a hard time this week.
- Touch the blue paper on your page and tell about something wonderful that happened this week.
- What do you like about the way God wants us to talk to him about everything?

Say: **God heard Hagar when she cried out to him in the desert. She was scared being all alone in the desert and without any water. God loved hearing Hagar and Ishmael's prayers, just as he loves hearing yours and mine. God wants us to talk to him about everything, and ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

CENTER 2:

Please and Thank You

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Say: **Let's practice asking and receiving!** Have kids form pairs. Invite one child in each pair to go first. **Ask your partner for something to**



eat. Help the partner make a special snack for the child with the carrot sticks and crackers and deliver it to his or her friend. Turn back to the first child. **Now you may ask for something to drink.** Let the partner use the ladle to get a drink in a cup, and then bring it back to the child. Have kids switch roles until everyone has a snack.

Say: **God hears you when you ask for things in prayer. God hears you when you pray just as clearly as you heard your partner ask for a snack. It doesn't matter where we are, what we're doing, or how busy it is around us— ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

Pray: **God, thank you for hearing what we ask for when we pray and thank you for our snack. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children eat, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about the way God can always hear us when we talk to him?**
- **What are some questions you would like to ask God?**

Say: **It was fun to practice asking and receiving at snack time! Let's always remember that we can ask God about anything, and that ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Say What?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a large circle facing outward. Instruct children to close their eyes as you stand in the middle of the circle.

Say: **I'll walk around the inside of the circle and tap someone gently on the top of the head. When I tap you, you can say a prayer to God. Then everyone else will try to guess who spoke. Raise your hands when you have a guess. Whoever guesses correctly can take a turn in the middle of the circle and choose someone new to say a prayer.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was hard about trying to guess your friends' voices? What was easy?**
- **What are some differences in our voices?**





Center 4: Drawn to Prayer Supplies

.....
paper
washable markers
stickers

Say: **God knows each of our voices, and he knows exactly what we need before we even ask. Isn't that great? You can spend some time this week letting God hear your voice and remember that ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY!**

■ CENTER 4:

Drawn to Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We can pray for ourselves and we can also pray for others. God hears all of our prayers, no matter what they're about. Use the markers and stickers to make a picture of a prayer you'd like to tell God about someone you know—maybe a prayer for one of your family members or friends.**

Allow kids time to create their prayer pictures, and then say: **Turn to a partner and tell about the prayer you drew.** Allow kids to share.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's good about praying for someone else?
- What do you like or not like about drawing a picture as a way to pray?
- What's your favorite way to pray?

Say: **God hears our prayers no matter how we pray or what our prayers are about. God heard Ishmael's prayers through his crying, and Hagar's cries for Ishmael. ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY whether we say our prayers for ourselves or for others, and whether we use words or say our prayers in other ways.**

.....

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.

Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
My Bible Playground





Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HEARS US WHEN WE PRAY. I'd like each of you to choose a way to talk to God this week.**

Read these three ideas for children to choose from:

- **Ask your mom or dad to help you record your voice as you pray. Play the recording back and listen—God heard your prayer, just like you hear it on the recording!**
- **Whisper a prayer really quietly, and then shout a prayer really loudly! Remember that God hears you no matter how quiet or how loud you are.**
- **Draw a prayer you have for a family member, and then give him or her your picture. Then tell your family member you're praying for him or her.**

Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

“Thanks for Listening” Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **Bow your heads and think of something or someone to pray for. God will hear your prayers, even if you choose to not say them out loud.** Invite each child to complete the sentence in the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, we're so thankful that you hear us when we pray. Thank you for being so good to us and answering our prayers. I pray for...** Invite those who would like to share to say the things or people they want to pray for. **Help us remember to talk to you every day. We love you, God! 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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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