

FAITHweaver

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

**SPRING
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

PRE-K&K AGES
5&6
TEACHER GUIDE



Get your **FREE**, customizable
DIGITAL COPY
of this teacher guide.
It's as EASY as **1-2-3**.

- 1** Visit **group.com/digital** to set up a free online account for your church.
- 2** Enter the Activation Code below to add this teacher guide to your account.
- 3** Download PDF or Word files to your computer and edit, print, or email them to your teachers.

ONE-TIME ACTIVATION CODE:

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

group.com/sunday-school

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!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead. You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

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

Copyright © 2000 and 2015 Group Publishing, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.



When you see the OK TO COPY icon, this means permission to photocopy the page from FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum for Pre-K & K, Spring, is granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. group.com

Credits

Authors: Gwyn D. Borcharding, Sharon Carey, Teryl Cartwright, Enelle G. Eder, Carol Mader, Larry Shallenberger, Bonnie Temple, Kelli B. Trujillo

Editors: Erica L. Feucht, Scott Firestone IV, Jennifer Hooks, Stephanie Martin, Jessica Sausto, Ali Thompson, Christine Yount Jones

Copy Editors: Lyndsay Gerwing, Deborah Helmers, Becky Helzer, Andrea Zimmerman

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Cover Design and Art Direction: Jeff Spencer

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

Cover Photographer: Rodney Stewart

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. zondervan.com

ISBN 978-1-4707-4871-5

Printed in the United States of America.



Contents

Introduction.....	4
--------------------------	----------

The Lessons

Lesson 1: Jesus Teaches About Commitment—Mark 8:31-38	5
Lesson 2: Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple—John 2:13-22	17
Lesson 3: Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him—John 3:12-21	29
Lesson 4: Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving—Mark 12:41-44	41
* Lesson 5: People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem—Mark 11:1-11	53
* Lesson 6: Jesus Is Alive!—Mark 16:1-8	65
Lesson 7: Jesus Appears to His Disciples—John 20:19-31	77
Lesson 8: Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts—1 Corinthians 12:4-27	91
Lesson 9: Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus—Acts 4:5-14	105
Lesson 10: Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus—Acts 8:26-40	119
Lesson 11: Peter Visits Cornelius—Acts 10:1-44	131
Lesson 12: Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch—Acts 11:19-26	143
Lesson 13: Jesus Sends Power From God—Acts 2:1-21	157

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

The future of Sunday school + family ministry is NOW.



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

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

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

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

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

It's simpler and easier. ■■■■

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

It's made for NOW. ■■■■

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

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

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



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

Thom Schultz Joani Schultz

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



Jesus Teaches About Commitment

Mark 8:31-38

Young children generally find it easy to openly express their love for Jesus, and they'll respond readily to the idea of following him. When children hear and see that you want to follow Jesus, they'll follow suit enthusiastically. Help children discover the reasons we follow Jesus, such as his great love for us and his willingness to go to the cross on our behalf.



► Bible Point


Follow Jesus.

Key Verse


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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn to follow Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Stand Proud Learn a song about the Key Verse.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Be prepared to share an embarrassing story with your kids.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a cross has to do with following Jesus.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, "Jesus Loves Me" cross	Put the "Jesus Loves Me" cross inside your Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Next to Jesus Draw a picture of themselves next to Jesus.	Bible, tape, markers Teacher Pack: "Jesus" poster, "People Follow Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Tape the "Jesus" poster to the wall.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Following Jesus Choose a way to be like Jesus this week.	My Bible Playground, tape, pencils, 1 chenille wire per child	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Happy Pops Make a snack, and say good things about Jesus.	large bowl, popcorn, small cups, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Follow Jesus Game Play a game, and talk about ways they can be like Jesus.	scissors Teacher Pack: "Follow Jesus Game" cards, cut apart 	
	Center 4: Picture Clips Make a cross-shaped picture clip.	poster board, scissors, 1 clothespin and 1 magnet per child, markers, glitter, craft glue	Cut a 4-inch cross shape from the poster board for each child. Write "Follow Jesus" across the center of each cross.
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Happy-to-Follow Prayer Pray about their favorite things about Jesus.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Playground	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Mark 8:31-38

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hi, My Friend!"
(track 2), "Jesus Loves
Me Rock" (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle on the floor. Lead kids in singing "Hi, My Friend!" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Deep and Wide."



Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

I'm so glad you came to class today. (*hug a friend*)

Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

God is here with you and me today! (*hold hands in a circle, and raise them high*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **I'm so glad you came today! Let's sing this next song loudly and clearly so anyone who hears us will know how much we love to ► FOLLOW JESUS!**

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have girls sing the phrase and boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)

Eeeeeee! (*E*)

Ssssss! (*S*)

Uuuuuu! (*U*)

Ssssss! (*S*)

And what's that spell? *(Jesus!)*
 And who do you love? *(Jesus!)*
 And who loves you? *(Jesus!)*
 Who died for you? *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your guy? *(Jesus!)*
 The apple of your eye! *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your friend? *(Jesus!)*
 He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Jesus really does love you. He loves you more than you can possibly imagine!**
And when we ► FOLLOW JESUS, we show that we love him, too. Let's show
Jesus how much we love him right now.

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Stand Proud

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 1:16, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Romans 1:16, says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." The gospel is the truth that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead so we can live forever with him. Our Key Verse means that we're not embarrassed to tell others this good news! Let's say that together.** Lead children in repeating the shortened Key Verse after you: **"I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16).**

Say: **Once I was embarrassed when I [insert your story here]. But I'm not embarrassed or ashamed to tell people that Jesus died for me and came back to life! The gospel is great news! Let's sing a song that shows we're proud to follow Jesus.**

Play "Proud to Follow" (track 7 on the CD), and lead kids in singing to the tune of "Camptown Races." Say: **Let's march in place, standing proudly, and sing a song to tell the world we love Jesus!**




Stand Proud Supplies

Bible
 CD player
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Proud to Follow"
 (track 7)

Stand Proud Easy Prep

Be prepared to share
 an embarrassing story
 with your kids.



 I am proud to follow you, Jesus, Jesus!
 I am proud to follow you
 Everywhere you lead.
 I am not ashamed,
 I am not ashamed,
 Of the gospel, no I'm not!
 I love Jesus Christ!
 I am proud to follow you
 Everywhere you lead.
(Repeat.)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are ways to tell others about Jesus?
- Tell about a time you told others about Jesus.

Say: I want to ► FOLLOW JESUS. Jesus wants everyone to know how much he loves us, because he wants everyone to live with him forever!

.....

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 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 cross around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what do you think the cross stands for?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

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

Theo's News Supplies

.....

Surprise Box (any box will do)

CD player

Theo puppet

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

"Jesus Loves Me" cross

Theo's News Easy Prep

.....

Place the "Jesus Loves Me" cross inside your Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Theo: When we see a cross, it reminds us that Jesus died for our sins and came to life again.

Teacher: We'll learn from the Bible today that the disciples heard Jesus talking about dying and they didn't like it.

Theo: I wouldn't like it either. That would make me sad.

Teacher: Me too! But Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. Jesus wants us to follow him. Friends, let's find out how we can ► **FOLLOW JESUS!**

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Next to Jesus

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Mark 8, and show children the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book. Then point out Jesus on the poster.

Say: **Jesus loves you and me so much that he died for us so we could live in heaven with him forever. Today in the Bible we're going to learn about the disciples—who were a group of men who chose to ► FOLLOW JESUS, too. They loved listening to Jesus teach them. Let's pretend we're with the disciples as we gather around Jesus.** Have children sit on the floor and crowd around "Jesus" on the poster.

Say: **One of the things Jesus told the disciples was that he was going to suffer and die, and then come back to life. Show me how the disciples may have looked when they heard that news.** Pause while kids show you. **One of the disciples, named Peter, didn't like what he heard! Peter took Jesus aside and scolded him. What does it look like when someone scolds you?** Pause while kids show you. **Peter didn't want Jesus to talk about dying. But Jesus said to him, "You aren't thinking about what God wants; you're thinking only about what you want."**

It was important for Jesus to die on the cross so we could be in heaven with him someday. So he told all the people that he wanted them to follow him. Jesus said it wouldn't be easy to follow him. He said not to be ashamed or embarrassed of him and his words.

Jesus' true friends stood up for Jesus. Let's stand up for Jesus right now. Have kids stand up. Show children the "People Follow Jesus" poster. **Let's tell Jesus we're happy to follow him by drawing ourselves next to his picture.**

Have kids draw smiley faces on the "People Follow Jesus" poster to represent themselves.



Bible Time: Next to Jesus Supplies

Bible
tape
markers

Teacher Pack

"Jesus" poster
"People Follow Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Next to Jesus Easy Prep

Tape the "Jesus" poster to the wall.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why are you happy to follow Jesus?
- What can we do to show other people how to follow Jesus?

Say: **The most important thing we can ever do is ► FOLLOW JESUS. We can do what he tells us. We can read the Bible. We can tell our friends about him. And we can help people who need help. All of these things show that we follow Jesus.**

.....

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:

Following Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 1 pages from My Bible Playground, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Give each child a chenille wire, and show him or her how to form a circle with it, twisting the ends together to make a large ring. Form pairs, and have kids lay their student pages on the floor. Have them take three steps back, and then take turns tossing their chenille rings onto their student pages. Have children answer the following for the picture they circle. If a child's ring misses a picture, have the child toss the ring again.

Ask:

- What are the kids in the picture doing to follow Jesus?

After kids have played the game, give them tape so they can each tape their circle around an action they'd like to do next week.

Center 1: Following Jesus Supplies

.....

My Bible Playground
tape
pencils
1 chenille wire per child

Center 1: Following Jesus Easy Prep

.....

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

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was easy or hard about the action you chose?
- What are some other ways to show you follow Jesus?

Say: It's so great to ► FOLLOW JESUS, isn't it? We can tell people about Jesus; bring people to church; and be kind, loving, and caring. God gives us strength to follow Jesus. Other Christians give us encouragement to follow Jesus, too.

CENTER 2:

Happy Pops

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands, and then sit in a circle. Give each child a small cup. Have them each say something good about Jesus, and then take some popcorn from the large bowl and put it into their cups.

Say: These cups are like our hearts, and popcorn is like Jesus' love. It fills our hearts. Jesus wants to fill your heart with his love! He can do that when we ► FOLLOW JESUS.

Invite a child to pray. Then let kids enjoy the snacks.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was fun about our snack time today?
- Tell about a time you told someone else about Jesus.

Say: Jesus wants us to ► FOLLOW JESUS, but he also wants other people to follow him, too! Jesus told others about God's love, and he wants us to tell others. You can make this snack with your family and friends and tell them good things about Jesus, too!

CENTER 3:

Follow Jesus Game

What You'll Do

Lay the "Follow Jesus Game" cards faceup on the ground.



Center 2: Happy Pops Supplies

large bowl
popcorn
small cups
antibacterial gel
(optional)

 **ALLERGY
ALERT**

Center 3: Follow Jesus Game Supplies

scissors
Teacher Pack
"Follow Jesus Game"
cards, cut apart



Center 4: Picture Clips Supplies

poster board
scissors
1 clothespin and 1
magnet per child
markers
glitter
craft glue



Center 4: Picture Clips Easy Prep

Cut a 4-inch cross
shape from the poster
board for each child.
Write "Follow Jesus"
across the center of
each cross.

The cards show the same "following Jesus" scenes that are on the student pages. Each scene is divided in two, so kids can play a matching game.

Show kids which cards go together. Then mix the cards and lay them facedown on the floor. Let kids take turns choosing two cards from the game. If the cards match, the child may keep them. If the cards don't match, the child will turn them over and the next person goes. After kids get all the matches, have them mix the cards and play again.

As kids play, have them show that they ► **FOLLOW JESUS** by being kind and patient. Remind them that Jesus wants us to treat one another with love and respect.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did this game show you about following Jesus?

Say: We show we ► **FOLLOW JESUS** when we are kind, patient, loving, and respectful. Jesus wants us to show love to others, because he loves everyone so much.

■ CENTER 4:

Picture Clips

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a cross that you prepared beforehand. Read the words on the cross to the children. Follow these steps.

1. Encourage children to use the markers and glitter to decorate the crosses.
2. Help kids each glue a clothespin to the back of their cross. Be sure that the bottom of the clothespin lines up with the bottom of the cross.
3. Glue a magnet to the back of each clothespin.
4. Encourage kids to put a picture of themselves in the clip when they get home and then hang the cross on their refrigerator as a reminder to be happy to follow Jesus every day.

Say: It isn't always easy to follow Jesus, especially around people who don't follow him. But Jesus wants us to stand up for him and say, "I ► **FOLLOW JESUS.**" These crosses can help us remember to ► **FOLLOW JESUS.** When we follow Jesus we get to live in heaven with Jesus forever!

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 to ► FOLLOW JESUS. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to help you remember to ► FOLLOW JESUS this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Lead your family in a prayer, asking God to help you follow Jesus.**
2. **Tell a friend that you follow Jesus.**
3. **When you wake up in the morning, tell Jesus that you're going to follow him that day.**

Say: **If you want to lead your family in a prayer, circle choice number 1. If you want to tell a friend you follow Jesus, circle choice number 2. If you want to tell Jesus you'll follow him, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Happy-to-Follow Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **The best thing we can ever do is to ► FOLLOW JESUS. He wants us to be happy to follow him. As I go around the circle, say your favorite thing about Jesus.**

After each child has said a favorite thing about Jesus, close in prayer: **Jesus, we love so many different things about you. Thank you for everything you've done for us. We love you. In your name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Playground

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

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 children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Jesus Clears Merchants From the Temple

John 2:13-22

Most 5- and 6-year-olds are joyful participants in worshipping the Lord. It's easy for them to acknowledge the amazing things God does and believe in his power, goodness, and love. In this lesson, kids will discover that worship is important to God. Follow kids' lead and become like them—childlike—and give yourself in worship to God. You'll leave worry behind and be refreshed by the knowledge of God's presence and love!




► **Bible Point**
 Worship God.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will worship God this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Worship God Play a game and call out ways they aren't ashamed of the gospel.	Bible, large bowl, large bag of wrapped candy	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what an animal has to do with the Bible today.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, plastic animal (or a drawing of an animal) Teacher Pack: CD	Put the animal inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Jesus at the Temple Find out what Jesus did when he discovered the Temple was not being used to worship God.	Bible, CD player, blocks, toy animals, play money Teacher Pack: CD, "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), "Heart" stickers 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Temple Trouble Clean out a temple as Jesus did, and talk about what happened in the Bible.	pencils, clear tape, child-safe scissors, My Bible Playground	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Cleaning Up Snack Make a temple snack, and then “clean it up” by eating it.	can of frosting or package of cream cheese, animal cookies, graham crackers, paper plates, napkins, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Worship Center Experience different ways to worship God.	CD player, streamers, paper, art supplies Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 4: God’s House Is Different Make a foldout church with drawings inside and outside.	1 white business envelope per child, crayons or markers, scissors	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Worship Prayer Share reasons they love Jesus.	streamers from the “Worship Center” activity	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Temple Laws Gone Wrong

Jesus Clears the Temple

The Merchants' Response

The Jesus Connection

Does Jesus need to “drive out” wrong worship from your life? How have distracting thoughts, focus on self, or efforts to appear spiritual hindered your own sincere worship? Take a moment to physically bow down before God. Spend time silently clearing out the “Temple courts” in your life and praising God with a sincere heart. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hi, My Friend!"
(track 2), "Love Is
Patient and Kind"
(1 Corinthians 13:4-5a)
(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 children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle on the floor. Sing "Hi, My Friend!" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Deep and Wide." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

I'm so glad you came to class today. (*hug a friend*)

Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

God is here with you and me today! (*hold hands in a circle, and raise them high*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **We're so glad you're here today! We're going to learn about worshipping God. One way we ► WORSHIP GOD is by singing. Let's worship him now. We'll stand in a circle as we sing, and let's invite Jesus to be with us today.**

Lead kids in singing "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). Invite children to hold hands and sway to the music.



Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.

"Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Singing is a great way to worship God, but it's not the only way we**
► **WORSHIP GOD. Let's find out some other ways we can worship him!**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Worship God

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Romans 1:16, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Romans 1:16, says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Let's say our Key Verse together.**

Lead children in repeating the shortened Key Verse with you several times: **"I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16).**

Say: **The gospel is the good news about Jesus. To be ashamed means being embarrassed. We don't want to be ashamed of the gospel, because the gospel tells us about Jesus and his love for us. In the Bible today, we'll hear how Jesus went out to tell everyone about God because he wasn't ashamed of this good news either. We're going to play a game to help us remember this.**

Place the bowl and bag of wrapped candy in the center of the room. Tell the children when you call "worship God," you want everyone to run to one of two corners while you close your eyes. When you open your eyes, call out the following questions and give children in each corner about 10 seconds to call out as many answers as they can to your question.



Worship God Supplies

Bible
large bowl
large bag of wrapped
candy

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**



Ask:

- **Corner 1:** Name three people you can share the good news about Jesus with.
- **Corner 2:** Name something you can do to share the good news about Jesus with others.

For every answer given, put a piece of candy in the bowl. Then divide the candy evenly among all the children, adding from the bag if necessary.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's the best news you ever got?**
- **When you have good news, who are the people you want to tell first? Why do you want to tell those people first?**

Say: **Worship is important to God. When we ► WORSHIP GOD, we show we aren't ashamed of his message to us. Let's say our Key Verse one more time.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16).**

Say: **We're going to take home some sweet treats to remember that when we leave here we will not be ashamed of the gospel!**

.....

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, and then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 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: You won't believe what I found. It's in the Surprise Box.

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

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box and have kids pass the animal around the circle. Give children time to guess what they might learn in the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, why do you think Theo hid this animal in his box?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo's News Supplies

.....

CD player

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

plastic animal (or a drawing of an animal)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

.....

Put the animal inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Teacher: Theo, what does this animal mean? Why is it in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, Jesus knew that worship is important to God, so he went to the Temple—which is like a church.

Teacher: That's right! And that's why we come to church, too. We want to worship God.

Theo: When Jesus got to the Temple, he found sheep and a lot of other things.

Teacher: Were there any dogs like you at the Temple, Theo?

Theo: I don't know! What do you kids think?

(Pause for kids to answer.)

Teacher: Jesus told everyone that God's church wasn't for animals. The church is for worship. So just like Jesus, we ► **WORSHIP GOD.** Let's find out more!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Jesus at the Temple

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to John 2 and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today's Bible verse tells us that worship is important to God. In Jesus' day, people worshipped God in a Temple. It was a very special, holy place like our church. To get ready for Bible time, let's use these blocks to make a temple.**

Have kids work together to build a temple using the blocks.

As they build, say: **Worship is important to God because he deserves our thanks and praise. He made us and he made everything in our world! Jesus and his friends worshipped in a Temple. They may have sung and prayed like we do today. We worship God in church, but we can also worship God anywhere. Good job building this temple! You did fine work. Now close your eyes as I tell you about Jesus. Let's pretend we're back in the days when Jesus was here.** Have kids close their eyes.

Play "Market Noises" (track 9 on the CD) in the background. Fill the temple with the toy animals and play money as you begin.

Say: **One day, Jesus and his friends decided to go to the Temple. When Jesus got there, people weren't worshipping God. Jesus found people selling cows, sheep, and doves! Go ahead and open your eyes.** Pause for kids to see their temple filled with animals and money. **Jesus loves animals, but he was angry because the people were selling them in the Temple! So he made all the people who were selling things leave the Temple. Jesus told them, "Get out of here! How dare you do this in my father's house!"** Show kids the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster.



Bible Time: Jesus at the Temple Supplies

Bible
CD player
blocks
toy animals
play money
Teacher Pack
CD: "Market Noises" (track 9)
"Jesus Clears the Temple" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)
"Heart" stickers



Let's clear our temple, too. Have kids take the items out of the temple and place them aside. As they take out each item, have them say, "Get these out of here!" Encourage kids to mend the original temple if some blocks have tumbled over in the process.

Say: **When we ► WORSHIP GOD, he wants us to worship him with our whole heart. Let's do an activity that will remind us of our Bible Point.** Encourage each child to place a heart sticker on the "Jesus Clears the Temple" poster as they say "Worship God."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when you opened your eyes and saw your temple?
- Why was it good for Jesus to remove the animals and money from the Temple?

Say: **You looked surprised when you saw the things that filled your temple. Jesus could have been surprised, but he also was angry. He wanted the Temple to be a special place to worship God. God's church shouldn't be crowded with a bunch of people selling animals. Jesus wants us to know that worship is important to God, so we ► WORSHIP GOD. God loves us. We tell God we love him when we worship him!**

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: Temple Trouble

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 2 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Have kids cut out the cross, cow, sheep, and dove shapes at the bottom of the page.

Say: **Jesus was angry because people sold animals in the Temple. Jesus knew that the church is where we ► WORSHIP GOD. So Jesus cleaned out the Temple. Let's clean out our temples like Jesus did and make them places of worship.**

Center 1: Temple Trouble Supplies

pencils
clear tape
child-safe scissors
My Bible Playground

Center 1: Temple Trouble Easy Prep

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

Have each child remove the animals and tape them inside the fenced area on the page. Then have each child tape the cross on the temple.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it important to worship God in the temple?
- What are ways we worship God in our church?

Say: **Now we've cleaned out the temple. The cross reminds us that we ► WORSHIP GOD and worship is important to God.**

CENTER 2:

Cleaning Up Snack

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands before preparing the snack. Pray, thanking God for the snack children are about to make, and ask him to help them remember that we ► **WORSHIP GOD.**

Have kids make a temple by spreading icing on a cookie or graham cracker. Then have each child fill the temple with some animal cookies. Have kids clear out the temples as they eat their animal crackers one by one and say, "We worship God. Get this out of here!"

Say: **I'm so glad we ► WORSHIP GOD! He loves us. He knows everything about us. He cares for us. He helps us. He deserves our worship! Let's say a cheer for God!** Lead kids in a hip-hip-hooray cheer for Jesus.

CENTER 3:

Worship Center

What You'll Do

Stand in a circle with kids.

Say: **We don't have to just sing songs to worship God. You can pray or tell each other why you love God. You could play a song from our CD, move around using these streamers, or even draw a picture for God using these art supplies.**

Encourage kids to explore a variety of ways to worship God spontaneously.



Center 2: Cleaning Up Snack Supplies

can of frosting or
package of cream
cheese
animal cookies
graham crackers
paper plates
napkins
plastic knives
antibacterial gel
(optional)

 **ALLERGY
ALERT**

Center 3: Worship Center Supplies

CD player
streamers
paper
art supplies
Teacher Pack
CD: various songs



Center 4: God's House Is Different Supplies

1 white business
envelope per child
crayons or markers
scissors

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what to do to worship God?
- What's the best part about worshipping God?

Say: **There's no right or wrong way to worship God. What's important is that we ► WORSHIP GOD. Worship makes us feel good. It feels good to tell God we love him.**

■ CENTER 4:

God's House Is Different

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Demonstrate the following for children. Take an envelope and hold the top flap up, with the open slot facing you. Use scissors to cut a vertical line in the center of the front layer from the top to the bottom fold. Cut horizontally from the bottom center to the bottom right and left of the envelope.

Show children that when the envelope is opened, it looks like the inside of a church building.

Give children each an envelope, and help them cut the envelopes in the same way. Have kids draw a cross at the top and center of the open envelope flap. Tell kids to use the crayons or markers to create pictures of what people do inside church, such as praying, singing, reading the Bible, and talking to others.

Say: **We learned from the Bible that worship is important to God. The people in Jesus' time had let animals and salesmen into their place of worship. They weren't worshipping God with all their hearts.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What kinds of things keep us from worshipping God?
- Why is it important to worship God?

Say: **We can take this church home to remind us that worshipping God means focusing on God. This week, remember to not let anything take your attention away from God! When we focus on God only, we ► WORSHIP GOD!**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► WORSHIP GOD. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to remember that we worship God.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Lead your family in singing a worship song, and then explain to them that worship is important to God.**
2. **Draw a picture of yourself worshipping God, and then hang it up in your bedroom to remind you that worship is important to God.**
3. **When you wake up in the morning, worship God by thanking him for another day.**

Say: **If you want to sing a worship song, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to thank God for another day, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Worship Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children take turns finishing the prayer, "Jesus, I love you because..." After each child's prayer, have all children hold their streamers high, twirl them in circles, and say, "Let us worship God." Close by saying the following prayer:

Pray: **God, thank you for teaching us that it's important to ► WORSHIP GOD. Help us worship you forever! In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Worship Prayer Supplies

streamers from the "Worship Center" activity



Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him

John 3:12-21

Many 5- and 6-year-olds enjoy expressing their love. One of the ways they often show love is through hugs—sometimes at the most unexpected times! While kids can't physically hug Jesus, they can understand that God sent him to show God's love to us. Kids love to feel loved—introduce them to the One who loves them beyond human ability. This lesson will explore ways that Jesus loves everyone and the ways Jesus shows God's love to us. Help children understand that Jesus died on the cross to show God's love for us.



► Bible Point


Jesus came to show God's love.

Key Verse

"And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will celebrate that Jesus came to show God's love.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Crown Around the World Sing the Key Verse while moving in a circle.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a picture of the earth and flashlight have to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), CD player, Theo puppet, picture of the earth, flashlight Teacher Pack: CD	Put the flashlight and picture inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: God Sent Jesus Hear about God's love for them.	Bible, CD player, picture of the earth and flashlight from Theo's News, tape Teacher Pack: CD, "Jesus" poster 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Lifeline! Connect a lifeline from Jesus to a child.	My Bible Playground, pencils, glitter pens, index cards, one 12-inch piece of yarn per child, tape, hole punch	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book, and punch a hole through Jesus' hand on each page.
	Center 2: Jesus Loves Everyone in the World Eat a fruit "globe."	1 round fruit per child, such as plums, oranges, or apples; napkins; antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Love Hopscotch Play a game that shows Jesus' love for people.	masking tape, gift-wrap bows, bag	Create a hopscotch path with masking tape.
	Center 4: Why Jesus Came Make their own puppets and retell the Bible passage.	CD player, flashlight, paper plates, wide craft sticks, yarn, scissors, glitter pens, tape, markers Teacher Pack: CD	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Whole World Prayer Pray, inserting names of people Jesus loves.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Nicodemus Sought Jesus

Jesus Summarized God's Plan of Salvation

We Must Respond in Faith

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hi, My Friend"
(track 2), "God's Not
Dead" (track 5)

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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Lead kids in singing "Hi, My Friend!" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Deep and Wide." Encourage them to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

I'm so glad you came to class today. (*hug a friend*)

Hi, my friend! Hi, my friend! (*shake a different friend's hand each time you sing "friend"*)

God is here with you and me today! (*hold hands in a circle, and raise them high*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

Because Jesus died for our sins, everyone who believes in him will live with him forever! Let's celebrate and worship our wonderful, living God and sing "God's Not Dead"!

Play "God's Not Dead" (track 5 on the CD), and encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



(Chorus)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)

I see him in my hands. (*wiggle your hands*)

I see him in my feet. (*wiggle your feet*)
 I see him in the air. (*place one hand above your eyes*)
 I see him everywhere. (*place both hands above your eyes*)
 I see him at the church. (*hold both hands like a roof over your head*)
 I see him on the street. (*point to the ground*)
 And I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)
 No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. (*shake a pointer finger*)

(Repeat chorus.)

Say: **God isn't dead, and he loves you very much. In fact, ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE. Let's learn more about that!**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Crown Around the World

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 2:11, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Philippians 2:11, says, "Jesus Christ is Lord." Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the Key Verse after you: **"Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).**

Have children form a large circle. Teach the children "Crown Around the World" (not on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Have children continue holding hands as they do the motions indicated.

Jesus Christ is Lord. (*circle to the left*)
Jesus Christ is Lord. (*circle to the right*)
Give him the crown, (*hold hands up*)
And all bow down. (*bow toward the center*)

Say: **Lord means leader or king. Jesus is our leader and king.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who are some leaders you know?
- Why is it important to listen to and obey our leaders?



Crown Around the World Supplies

Bible



Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)
CD player
Theo puppet
picture of the earth
flashlight
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track
4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

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

Bible Time: God Sent Jesus Supplies

Bible
CD player
picture of the earth and
flashlight from Theo's
News
tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Why God Sent
Jesus" (track 10)
"Jesus" poster

Say: Jesus is the leader of everything. And ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE. We can be happy that we have a special, loving leader who cares for us.

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 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.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the picture and flashlight around the circle so the rest of the group can see them up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible passage might be about.)

Teacher: Friends, why do you think Theo had a picture of the earth and a flashlight in the box?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this picture and flashlight in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, this picture shows us the whole world—and that includes everyone, everywhere. Jesus came to shine God's love on everyone!

Teacher: In the Bible, Jesus uses the words *world* and *light* to explain that he came to save us. Friends, let's hear about what Jesus said right now!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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 Sent Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 3, and show children the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book.

Ask:

- Have you ever been lost? What happened?
- Tell about when you were found.

Say: **If you were ever lost in a grocery store or mall, you know what it's like to feel lost and maybe even afraid. When our parents find us, we feel so much better and safer. That's kind of like what our Bible Point means, ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE. We're lost because of the bad things we do. Jesus came to earth to save us, to forgive us, and to show us how to live. Because of Jesus, we'll live forever!**

In our Bible passage today, Jesus explains why God sent him. Let's hear all about it!

Invite a child to help you tape the "Jesus" poster to a wall. Turn off the lights, begin "Why God Sent Jesus" (track 10 on the CD), and follow the actions in the script below.

Jesus: **Welcome, children. I'm so glad you're here to listen to why I came to earth. First of all, do you know that I love you?** Recording will have a three-second pause. **Good! Because I do love you so much!** Hold up the picture of the earth and shine the flashlight on it.

Well, God loved the world so much that he gave his Son...that's me. Whoever believes in me won't die, but will live forever. Tell someone sitting next to you how that makes you feel. How do you feel knowing you and everyone who loves me will live in heaven forever? Your teacher will pause the CD. Put the picture and flashlight down and pause the CD.

I came to save you because I love you so much. It's kind of like this...Light (that's me!) has come into the world. Hold up the picture of the earth and shine the flashlight on it. **I came into the world to save you!**

Some people like darkness more than they like light. Turn off the flashlight.

That's because they do bad things. In fact, the people who do bad things don't want to come near the light because they're afraid the light will show all the bad things they do. Turn the flashlight back on and shine it around the picture.

Other people love me and want to be near the light. These people aren't afraid to come near the light because the good things they do, they do through God. The light...that's me!...has come into the world to save each one of you. Shine the flashlight so it moves across each of the kids.

Always remember I love you, and oh yeah—tell everyone about me! Because I love the who-o-o-o-le world! Hold up the picture of the earth. Stop the CD and turn the lights back on.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why did Jesus come to earth?
- Tell what you think about this: ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

Say: **Jesus came to save us! God loves the world, so he sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive our sins, he does. That's the way we get to live in heaven forever. Let's tell this good news to our friends, families, and everyone we meet!**

.....

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:

Lifeline!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Set out glitter pens. Distribute the Lesson 3 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Let kids each draw a child on an index card. Have kids tape one end of the piece of yarn to the child and then thread the other end of the yarn through Jesus' hand on the page.

Say: **Jesus wants us to be close to him. We can come to him anytime.** Show children how to pull the yarn through the hole so the child draws close to Jesus.

Say: ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE. He reaches out to us and saves us!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways we can draw close to Jesus?
- Why is it important to be close to Jesus?

Center 1: Lifeline! Supplies

.....

My Bible Playground
pencils
glitter pens
index cards
one 12-inch piece of
yarn per child
tape
hole punch

Center 1: Lifeline! Easy Prep

.....

Remove the Lesson
3 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book, and
punch a hole through
Jesus' hand on each
page.

Say: ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE** now and forever. When we believe in Jesus, he forgives us. One day we'll live forever with Jesus in heaven!



CENTER 2:

Jesus Loves Everyone in the World

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands.

Say: ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE** to all people, no matter when they lived or where they lived. This fruit looks like the earth. That can remind us of all the people in the world that Jesus came to save, because ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE**.

Have kids tell their addresses (if they can) as they hold their round fruit. Each time a child shares his or her address, say: **You live on our big earth!** ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE** to you, too!

Have children eat their snacks.

Center 2: Jesus Loves Everyone in the World Supplies

1 round fruit per child, such as plums, oranges, or apples
napkins
antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

CENTER 3:

Love Hopscotch

What You'll Do

Set a pile of gift bows at the beginning of the hopscotch path you created earlier, and an empty bag at the opposite end of the path. Hold up one of the bows and show how it looks like someone holding his or her arms across a chest in a loving way.

Say: **Let's play a game.** These bows are people Jesus loves. One at a time, pick up a gift bow, hop or skip along the hopscotch path, place the bow in the bag, and then hop or skip back. Take turns hopping and skipping until you've placed all the bows in the bag. Demonstrate for kids.

Talk With Kids

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can we do to help people know more about Jesus' love?
- Who are some people you could tell about Jesus' love?

Say: ► **JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE** to everyone. But people need to be taught about Jesus so they can find out how much he loves them.



Center 3: Love Hopscotch Supplies

masking tape
gift-wrap bows
bag

Center 3: Love Hopscotch Easy Prep

Create a hopscotch path with masking tape.



Center 4: Why Jesus Came Supplies

CD player
flashlight
paper plates
wide craft sticks
yarn
scissors
glitter pens
tape
markers

Teacher Pack

CD: "Why God Sent Jesus" (track 10)

CENTER 4:

Why Jesus Came

What You'll Do

Set out your supplies, and have children make puppets—and make sure you make one, too. Have kids each fold a plate in half and attach it to a wide craft stick. Ask kids to decorate the plates with yarn hair, markers, and glitter pens. On one side of their plates, have children draw a happy face and on the other side, a frowning face.

Turn on the flashlight, and play "Why God Sent Jesus" (track 10 on the CD). Follow the directions below to help kids present a puppet show with you.

After Jesus says:

"I came into the world to save you," wave around the happy side of the puppet.

"Some people like darkness more than they like light," show and lower the sad side.

"They're afraid the light will show all the bad things they do," have the sad side hide from the flashlight.

"Other people love me and want to be near the light," turn to the happy side and bring the face out into the open, near the flashlight.

"The light—that's me—has come into the world to save each one of you," have the happy side bounce around in joy.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do people need a light?
- How is Jesus like a light?

Say: **God loves the whole world! He sent Jesus to save everyone, so everyone could be in heaven forever with him. Let's make sure we tell others about Jesus' love and the fact that ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE.**

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.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

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 ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE.** Choose one of these Daily Challenges to celebrate this week that Jesus came to show God's love.

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Make a present for Jesus, and tell Jesus that the present is for him because you're thankful that he came to show God's love to you.**
2. **Say a prayer each night before you go to bed, thanking Jesus for coming to show God's love to you.**
3. **Sit in a circle with your family, and tell each other why you are thankful that Jesus came to show God's love to us.**

Say: **If you want to make a present for Jesus, circle choice number 1. If you want to say a prayer thanking Jesus, circle choice number 2. If you want to talk with your family about why you're thankful for Jesus, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Whole World Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **Today we learned that ► JESUS CAME TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE—and to show that love to the whole world. When I point to you, name one person (besides yourself) that Jesus loves. Pray: God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to show us your love. We know you love everyone in the world, and we thank you for loving (go around the circle, pointing to each child who will then name a person). We love you, too, Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Jesus Notices a Widow's Giving

Mark 12:41-44

Your 5- and 6-year-olds are sometimes the most generous people on the planet. Other times, though, they want to be first in line, have the most choices, or get to take the last snack. Just like people of all ages, kids this age can struggle with giving. That's why the example of the widow who gave so much is important for kids to learn about. As they see how she gave so much when she had so little, they'll grow in their ability to give as well. Use this lesson to help children learn to give to God.



► Bible Point


Give to God.

Key Verse

"And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn to give to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	What's Most Important? Talk about items that are important to kids.	Bible, a collection of items or photos that represent things important in kids' lives	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a coin has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, quarter, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the quarter inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: The Widow Hear the account of the widow's generosity.	Bible, CD player, envelope, tape, crayons, scissors Teacher Pack: CD, "Poor Woman's Offering" poster, coin cutouts 	Cut the slit in the poster, and cut apart the coins. Behind the poster, tape an open envelope by the slit. Tape the top of the poster to the wall.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Coin Collection Collect crayon-rubbed coin pictures.	My Bible Playground, pencils, coins, crayons	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Banana Coins Cut bananas into “coin” snacks.	½ banana per child, paper plates, plastic knives, bowl, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Coin Twirl Give their best effort as they play a game.	table, 1 quarter or half dollar for every 2 children	
	Center 4: Bank on It Make a “stained glass” bank.	newspaper, small jars, liquid glue, paintbrushes, tissue paper in various colors	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Coin Prayer Drop coins in an offering basket.	offering basket, pennies	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Watching in the Temple

An Extravagant Offering

Our Gifts

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're Here"
(track 12), "Love is
Patient and Kind"
(1 Corinthians 13:4-5a)
(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 children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in singing "Glad You're Here" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me.

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that it's good to ► GIVE TO GOD. Let's give God our best voices as we sing praise to God!**

Play "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). Invite children to hold hands and sway to the music.



Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.

"Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God gives us so much love and patience. There are so many wonderful ways for us to ► GIVE TO GOD.**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

What's Most Important?

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 2:11, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from Philippians 2:11 says, "And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the shortened Key Verse aloud with you: **"Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).**

Say: **When we say someone is Lord, we mean that person is the most important person of all! To say that Jesus is Lord means that Jesus is more important than anything else. Let's do an activity to help us learn more about what it means that Jesus is Lord.**



What's Most Important? Supplies

Bible
a collection of items or photos that represent things important in kids' lives



Gather kids in a circle around a collection of objects that symbolize the activities and interests important in kids' lives. This collection might include sports equipment, movies, video games, books, and pictures from catalogs and magazines of popular cultural or cartoon figures.

One at a time, have kids choose an item from the collection. Have children each explain what's important about the item they chose. Affirm kids' interests in these items and the fun they associate with them. After each child finishes, have the group say, "[Name of item] is important, but Jesus Christ is Lord."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is the most important thing in your life besides Jesus?
- Why is Jesus more important than anything else?
- What can you do to show others that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life?

Say: **All the things we talked about are fun or important parts of our lives. But Jesus is the most important! One way we can show Jesus that he is Lord is by giving him our best—like a person we'll hear about in the Bible today. When we ► GIVE TO GOD, we show him how important he is to us.**

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 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 quarter around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, when have you seen quarters?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

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

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

quarter

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track
4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the quarter inside
the Surprise Box, and
hide the box where it's
easily accessible.

Theo: I was hoping if I put a quarter into the box, I'd get a soda pop out, like those machines in hotels!

Teacher: What? Dogs don't even drink soda!

Theo: Oh, I'm just kidding you. I know dogs don't drink soda.

Teacher: Let's find out about a woman in the Bible who used coins to give God her best! She showed us how it's good to ► **GIVE TO GOD.**

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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 Widow

What You'll Do

Gather kids in a circle around the poster. Open your Bible to Mark 12, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **It's important that we ► GIVE TO GOD because he deserves everything! Let's learn about a poor woman** (motion to the poster) **who gave to God, too.**

Play "Best Efforts" (track 13 on the CD), and place two coins in the slit on the poster when the CD says the poor woman put in her coins.

When the track is over, set out the crayons, and give each child a paper coin.

Say: **Draw on your coins one thing you want to give God—it could be your best drawing to hang on the wall, it could be last month's allowance, or it could be welcoming someone with a smile.**

After kids are finished drawing, have them each say the Bible Point and tell their ideas. Then have kids place their coins through the slit on the poster.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things besides coins that we can give to God?**
- **Tell about what you drew that you could give to God.**

Say: **It doesn't matter how much we give. What's important is that we ► GIVE TO GOD like the poor woman gave her two coins.**



Bible Time: The Widow Supplies

Bible
CD player
envelope
tape
crayons
scissors

Teacher Pack

CD: "Best Efforts" (track 13)
"Poor Woman's Offering" poster
coin cutouts

Bible Time: The Widow Supplies

Cut the slit in the poster, and cut apart the coins. Behind the poster, tape an open envelope by the slit. Tape the top of the poster to the wall.



Center 1: Coin Collection Supplies

My Bible Playground
pencils
coins
crayons

Center 1: Coin Collection Easy Prep

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

Center 2: Banana Coins Supplies

½ banana per child
paper plates
plastic knives
bowl
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:

Coin Collection

What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 4 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **The woman in the Bible gave everything she had to God. We'll see what these kids are giving to God. But first, let's rub crayons on some coins.**

Help children each place a coin under their student pages in the appropriate areas. Then have children rub the flat side of a crayon over their pages so the image of the coin shows up. You may need to remove the paper on the crayons for kids to do the rubbing.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are the kids doing in each of these pictures?
- What can you do to give to God at school? at home? at church? in your neighborhood?

Say: **We can ► GIVE TO GOD wherever we are—at home, school, church, or in our neighborhood. We can be kind and loving. We can be helpful and happy. And we can tell others about Jesus. God loves a cheerful giver! That means that God loves it when we give to others with a smile on our face and a happy heart.**

CENTER 2:

Banana Coins

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Distribute a paper plate and a plastic knife to each child.

Say: **We learned about a woman who gave two small coins as a gift to God. It wasn't a lot of money, but it was all she had. Let's give part of our snack away to learn what that was like. The woman knew that it's good to ► GIVE TO GOD—and that's what she did!**

Cut 1 inch off each banana half and distribute the pieces to the children. Have kids cut their banana into coin shapes.

Say: **Put two coin-shaped banana slices into the bowl like the woman who put her two coins into the offering box.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was easy or hard about giving your banana slices away?**
- **Tell about a time you gave something that was hard to give away.**

Say: **The woman had only two small coins, but she wanted to give to God. She gave God all she had. She knew that God would always take care of her. God will take care of us and give us what we need, too. God gives us so much, and that's why we ► GIVE TO GOD.**

Give children the banana “coins” from the bowl and the rest of their banana halves. Encourage kids to cut and count their pieces. Invite a child to say a prayer of thanks before kids eat their snack.

CENTER 3:

Coin Twirl

What You'll Do

Say: **In today's Bible passage we've learned about a woman who gave everything she had to Jesus—just two small coins! We're going to play a game with our coins and learn more about giving to God.**

Form pairs, and have children sit at opposite sides of a table, facing their partner. Give each pair a coin. Show kids how to twirl a coin by holding the coin perpendicular on the tabletop with the index finger of one hand, and flicking it with the fingers of the other hand.

Say: **Be patient with yourself and do your best to keep the coins spinning on the table.**

Have partners take turns twirling the coin. Each time a child twirls the coin, have him or her say: ► **“GIVE TO GOD!”** Collect the coins when kids have finished.



Center 3: Coin Twirl Supplies

.....
table
1 quarter or half dollar
for every 2 children



Center 4: Bank on It Supplies

newspaper
small jars
liquid glue
paintbrushes
tissue paper in various
colors

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you do in this game to do your best?
- What do you have to do in order to give God your best?

Say: **When we ► GIVE TO GOD, we can give him our best no matter where we are or what we're doing. At school we can work hard as we learn; at home we can listen to our parents; at church we can worship with all our hearts; and in our neighborhoods, we can tell people about God. We have lots of ways to ► GIVE TO GOD!**

■ CENTER 4:

Bank on It

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Cover a table with newspaper, and set out small jars, tissue paper in various colors, paintbrushes, and glue.

Say: **We're going to make banks to put money in by tearing tissue paper into small pieces and gluing the pieces to the outside of the jars.**

Have kids help tear the tissue paper and then each brush glue all over the outside of their jars. Show kids how to press the small pieces of tissue paper to the sides of the jar. Then set the jars aside to dry.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- The coins the poor woman gave to God were everything to her. What can you give to God that means a lot to you?

Say: **Take your banks home to help you remember the poor woman who did her best and gave all she had to live on to God. Save money in your banks, and then give to the church or to some people you know who need it. Remember, ► GIVE TO GOD because he gives to 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 ► GIVE TO GOD. Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way to ► GIVE TO GOD this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Share your lunch with a friend at school, and tell him or her that we ► GIVE TO GOD.**
2. **Hug each of your family members, and say that we ► GIVE TO GOD.**
3. **Help your mom or dad clean the kitchen one evening—and do it with a smile!**

Say: **If you want to share your lunch with a friend, circle choice number 1. If you want to hug your family members, circle choice number 2. If you want to help clean the kitchen, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Coin Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Put an offering basket in the center of the circle, and give each child a penny.

Say: **Let's pray and tell God that we love him and that we'll give to him this week. We'll go around the circle. When it's your turn, drop your penny in the offering basket, and tell God how you will give to him this week.** Have each child pray: Dear God, I love you so much. I will give to you by _____.

Some examples are "being nice to my younger brother," "asking my friend to church," "giving snacks to my neighbor," "singing nicely at church," or "saying my prayers each night." When everyone has prayed, close the prayer as follows:



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Coin Prayer Supplies

offering basket
pennies



Pray: **God, we love you very much. We are happy to give you our best, just like the poor woman who gave you her coins did. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11

Most 5- and 6-year-olds are beginning to notice famous people, such as movie and TV actors, sports stars, and the president. At this age, children want people to look up to and seek out role models. They often pretend to be people of importance themselves. We know that Jesus is so much more important than any of these famous people. Use this lesson to help children learn that Jesus is king.



► Bible Point

Jesus is our king.

Key Verse

“And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will celebrate that Jesus is our king.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	He Is Lord! Learn the Key Verse, and cheer for Jesus and each other.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a tambourine has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, tambourine (or coins in a plastic container with lid), CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the tambourine inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: A Path of Praises Draw people praising Jesus as they hear the Bible passage.	Bible, CD player, 2 pieces of white poster board, tape, markers Teacher Pack: CD, “People Praise Jesus” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Tape the 2 pieces of poster board together end to end and place them on the floor.



Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: A Kingly Ride Retell the Bible passage as they move Jesus on a donkey along a road.	My Bible Playground, child-safe scissors	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Crunchy Path Make an edible path.	graham crackers, 1 can of vanilla frosting or package of cream cheese, M&M's candies, Teddy Grahams, plastic knives, waxed paper, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Royal Road March in a parade and sing a song to Jesus.	CD player, poster-board road from the "Bible Time" activity Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 4: Drawing Near Our King Draw a picture of a king and a picture of themselves near the king.	paper, markers	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Praise Prayer Walk along the road as they pray.	poster-board road from the "Bible Time" activity	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Prophecies Fulfilled

The King Comes

Confusing Events

Changed Lives

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're Here"
(track 12), "Jesus
Loves Me Rock" (track
6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Say: **I'm so glad you're here. Let's sing a song to celebrate that we're all here.**

Lead kids in singing "Glad You're Here" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the motions and singing.



Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me.

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Jesus loves you and me. Today, we'll learn that ► JESUS IS OUR KING! Let's rejoice and celebrate our king, Jesus, and how much he loves us!**

Have kids sing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD).



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. *(echo)*
 Little children *(echo)*
 To him belong. *(echo)*
 They are weak, but *(echo)*
 He's so strong! *(echo)*

Jaaayyy! *(J)*
 Eeeeeee! *(E)*
 Ssssss! *(S)*
 Uuuuuu! *(U)*
 Ssssss! *(S)*

And what's that spell? *(Jesus!)*
 And who do you love? *(Jesus!)*
 And who loves you? *(Jesus!)*
 Who died for you? *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your guy? *(Jesus!)*
 The apple of your eye! *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your friend? *(Jesus!)*
 He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **It's so great to know that Jesus loves us. Since ► JESUS IS OUR KING, that means the king loves us!**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

He Is Lord

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Philippians 2:11, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from Philippians 2:11 says, "And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11). A lord is kind of like a king. He is a ruler or leader over a big country where a lot of people live. Jesus is the most important, famous, wonderful Lord and king in all the world! Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the shortened Key Verse aloud with you: **"Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).**



He Is Lord
Supplies

Bible



Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)
Theo puppet
tambourine (or coins
in a plastic container
with lid)
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track
4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the tambourine
inside the Surprise Box,
and hide the box where
it's easily accessible.

Ask:

- What makes Jesus different from the most important and famous person you can think of?

Say: **We may like famous, important people such as the president, a movie star, or a sports star. When we see those people, we may feel like clapping, celebrating, and shouting, "I like you! You're awesome!" Well, you know what? I like you guys, and I think you're really awesome!**

Have kids form two lines and face each other, about 5 feet apart. Let the kids walk one at a time between the two lines. Encourage kids to clap, celebrate, and shout affirmations to the child walking between the lines.

Say: **Our Key Verse from Philippians 2:11 says, "Jesus Christ is Lord." Jesus Christ is Lord of the whole world, the whole universe, *everything*! We love Jesus and think he's awesome. Let's pretend Jesus the Lord is walking between our two lines. Let's clap, celebrate, and cheer for Jesus our Lord! After kids do this, count to three, and have kids shout the Key Verse together: "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:11).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things about Jesus that are worth praising?
- What are some ways you can praise Jesus this week for being our king?

Say: **We can celebrate Jesus as our king by singing, praying, worshipping, and telling everyone about him! ► JESUS IS OUR KING, and we love him!**

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 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 our 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 tambourine around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible passage might be about.)

Teacher: Friends, can you think of any reason Theo would hide a tambourine in our Surprise Box?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

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

Theo: Tambourine? I thought that was a noisy pizza!

Teacher: A noisy pizza? Oh, come on, Theo...You knew it was a tambourine.

Theo: Yes, you're right. It is a tambourine!

Teacher: We can use our tambourines and other instruments when we want to sing and give praise to Jesus.

Theo: That's a great idea!

Teacher: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING!** Let's see how people praised Jesus as a king in the Bible.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: A Path of Praises

What You'll Do

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

Say: **Today in the Bible we're going to read a passage that takes place along a road. Let's pretend a road is right here.** Point to the poster board on the floor.

Have children form two groups, and have groups sit on either side of the road facing each other.

Say: **A big crowd of people is celebrating because Jesus, the king, will be coming along the road in just a few minutes.**

Ask:

- **What are some things we can do to celebrate Jesus coming?**

Show children the "People Praise Jesus" poster. Have children use markers to draw people praising Jesus the king on the poster.

Then have kids draw on the poster-board road things that might be on the ground, such as rocks, flowers, birds, and so on. Play "The Big Celebration" (track 14 on the CD) as kids draw. Pause the CD when told to lead children in a discussion. Then play the rest of the track.



Bible Time: A Path of Praises Supplies

Bible
CD player
2 pieces of white poster board
tape
markers
Teacher Pack
CD: "The Big Celebration" (track 14)
"People Praise Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: A Path of Praises Easy Prep

Tape the 2 pieces of poster board together end to end and place them on the floor.



Center 1: A Kingly Ride Supplies

My Bible Playground
child-safe scissors

Center 1: A Kingly Ride Easy Prep

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

When kids are done drawing, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What could you do if you were going to see a king?
- What can you do to show praise to Jesus this week?

Say: **We can celebrate Jesus as our king by singing, praying, worshipping, and telling everyone about him! ► JESUS IS OUR KING, and we love him!**

.....

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:

A Kingly Ride

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 5 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Have kids cut out the donkey and Jesus figures from the bottom of their My Bible Playground pages.

Say: **Jesus rode on a donkey even though he was a king.**

Have kids lay the page on the table as the road. Help children each fold on the dotted lines so the people look as if they're standing up.

Say: **Put Jesus on the donkey and parade the donkey up the road to Jerusalem. Retell the Bible passage to a partner as you play.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it strange for a king to ride to town on a donkey?
- What are some things you can tell people about Jesus?

Say: **Jesus rode the donkey along the road to Jerusalem. People rejoiced and praised and celebrated their king, Jesus. We show other people that ► JESUS IS OUR KING when we tell others about him and help others in loving and kind ways. Let's tell everyone about our king, Jesus!**

CENTER 2:

Crunchy Path

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands as you lay out a long strip of waxed paper. Kids will each use their goodies to make a section of the road that Jesus and the donkey traveled.

Say: **First we're going to make a road, like the one Jesus used.**

Have kids spread frosting on graham crackers and then place the graham crackers side by side on the waxed paper, as bricks on the road.

Say: **There were people lined up all along the road. Let's pretend these bear cookies are those people.**

Have children make a crowd by lining both sides of the road with Teddy Grahams. Then have them drop M&M's along the path, as the donkey's footsteps.

Invite someone to say a prayer thanking Jesus for being our king. Then let kids eat the goodies!

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **We worked together to make this snack. What can we do to work together to love others?**

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING. And we want to praise him just like those people did so long ago.**

CENTER 3:

Royal Road

What You'll Do

Lay the road that kids decorated during Bible Time on the floor for this center.



Center 2: Crunchy Path Supplies

graham crackers
1 can of vanilla frosting
or package of cream
cheese
M&M's candies
Teddy Grahams
plastic knives
waxed paper
napkins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Royal Road Supplies

CD player
poster-board road
from the "Bible Time"
activity
Teacher Pack
CD: "Jesus Came"
(verse 1) (track 15)



Say: **Let's learn a song.** Sing "Jesus Came" (verse 1) (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

**Jesus came into the town,
A-riding on a donkey.
Clap and sing and shout and praise
To Jesus who sure loves us!**

**Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!
Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Have kids take turns pretending to ride a "donkey" up one side of the road and down the other side. Encourage the other children to follow behind and sing the song while marching and clapping. When everyone has had a turn, have the group sit in a circle.

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING. And we love to praise him.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things kings do?**
- **How is Jesus like or unlike other kings?**
- **What can we do to show Jesus that we love him as our king?**

Say: **It's fun to sing songs to Jesus. ► JESUS IS OUR KING—the greatest king in the whole world, and we can show him that we love him and he is our king.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Drawing Near Our King

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a piece of paper and markers. Encourage kids to use markers to draw a picture of a king and a picture of themselves next to him.

Say: ► **JESUS IS OUR KING and he will lead us wherever we go.**

Have kids go around the circle and show the king pictures they drew. Invite kids to say:
► **JESUS IS OUR KING.**

**Center 4: Drawing
Near Our King
Supplies**

.....
paper
markers

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's important about knowing that ► JESUS IS OUR KING?
- What are ways to let Jesus be your king?

Say: **The people in the Bible celebrated when Jesus came to their town. They were happy to see him. We show other people that ► JESUS IS OUR KING when we worship him, give him our love, and tell others about him.**

.....

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 ► JESUS IS OUR KING. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to remind you that Jesus is our king.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Ask a family member to help you make a crown out of construction paper, and then hang it in your room to remind you that Jesus is king.**
2. **Build a fort in your room as a kingdom for Jesus, and ask Jesus to be your king.**
3. **Draw a picture of yourself praising Jesus.**

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



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



Praise Prayer Supplies

.....
poster-board road
from the "Bible Time"
activity

Praise Prayer

What You'll Do

Lay the road from Bible Time in the center of the group. One at a time, have kids walk along the road and say one statement of praise they want to tell Jesus, such as "I love you for being my king," "Thanks for forgiving me," or "Thanks for loving me!" After everyone has had a chance to praise our king, Jesus, close by praying: **We love you, Jesus! In your name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Jesus Is Alive!

Mark 16:1-8

Some 5- and 6-year-olds may have experienced the death of a grandparent, relative, or pet. However, most children this age have an unrealistic view of death, influenced in part by what they see on television or in movies. The children's limited understanding of death can hamper their understanding of how miraculous it was for Jesus to come back to life. Use this lesson to emphasize that Jesus truly died and was buried—then celebrate with children that Jesus is alive today.



► Bible Point



Jesus is alive.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will celebrate that Jesus is alive.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	He's Alive! Look for signs of life in their partners.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Guess what a cocoon might have to do with Jesus being alive.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, “Butterfly/Cocoon” poster 	Roll up the poster, and tape it so it looks like a cocoon. Put it inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Sensing Jesus Experience the Bible using several senses.	Bible, My Bible Playground, potpourri (or scented soap), tape, rolled-up “Butterfly/Cocoon” poster from Theo's News 	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Roll and tape each page with the butterfly on the inside. Be prepared to lead kids to an empty room, closet, or hallway with a partially open door.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: It's Not What You Think! Build a butterfly.	masking tape, colorful blocks	Use masking tape to make two butterfly shapes on the floor.
	Center 2: Butterfly Snacks Make a yummy snack that connects to the Bible passage.	1 tortilla per child, strawberry cream cheese, chocolate chips, paper plates, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Resurrection Verse Review the Bible passage by singing a song.	CD player, markers, My Bible Playground Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 4: Blooming Flowers Make a flower using ink pads.	brown construction paper, washable ink pads, markers, wet wipes	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Alive Prayer Become still and then lively as they pray.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Mark 16:1-8

The first question skeptics ask about Jesus' resurrection is, Why do the Gospel writers all give different accounts? To answer that question, think about an exciting event in your life at which several people were present. If you asked them to tell about the events of that day, would all their versions of the day be exactly the same? Of course not. We all see things from different perspectives and remember different details of what we see.

Especially Good News

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're Here"
(track 12), "God's Not
Dead" (track 5)

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 ■■■■■■

When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Glad You're Here" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare." Encourage children to join you in doing the motions and singing.



Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me.

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that God's Son, ► JESUS, IS ALIVE. Let's celebrate by singing "God's Not Dead."**

Play "God's Not Dead" (track 5 on the CD) and encourage kids to sing with joy and energy!



(Chorus)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)

I see him in my hands. (*wiggle your hands*)

I see him in my feet. (*wiggle your feet*)

I see him in the air. (*place one hand above your eyes*)

I see him everywhere. (*place both hands above your eyes*)

I see him at the church. (*hold both hands like a roof over your head*)

I see him on the street. (*point to the ground*)

And I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. (*shake a pointer finger*)

(Repeat chorus.)

Say: **When we sing that song, it reminds us that God's not dead, and ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's explore this some more.**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

He's Alive!

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 11:25, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 11:25, says, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies' " (John 11:25). This means that people who believe in Jesus will live forever. Let's say it together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

Ask kids to face a partner and join hands. Then ask them to take a minute to see how many "signs of life" they can see, hear, or feel.

Play "Heartbeat" (track 16 on the CD) as partners do this. When the track is over, have partners let go of hands.

He's Alive! Supplies

Bible
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Heartbeat" (track 16)



Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)
Theo puppet
tape
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track
4)
"Butterfly/Cocoon"
poster

Theo's News Easy Prep

Roll up the poster, and
tape it so it looks like a
cocoon. Put it inside the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What signs of life did you notice about your partner?

Say: You know someone is alive if that person is moving, breathing, and his or her heart is beating! When Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins, he stopped moving. He stopped breathing. And his heart stopped beating. Jesus died, and they buried him in the tomb.

Then Jesus came back to life, as we'll hear about in the Bible today. Our sins are forgiven! We can live in heaven when we believe in Jesus! Tell that amazing news to your partner, and give each other a high five! Because ► **JESUS IS ALIVE**, everyone who loves him will live forever!

Allow time for kids to share the good news and give high fives.

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 4 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 cocoon around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a cocoon in the Surprise Box?

Theo: To surprise you, of course.

Teacher: Friends, what do you know about a cocoon?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo: A cocoon reminds me of a sleeping bag!

Teacher: It does look like a sleeping bag.

Theo: But there's a lot more going on inside a cocoon than just sleeping.

Teacher: That's right! There's a surprise in the cocoon.

Theo: It's a butterfly!

Teacher: That's right! We'll hear from the Bible today how some women got a surprise at Jesus' tomb. Jesus wasn't dead; ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Let's listen to the Bible to learn more.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Sensing Jesus

What You'll Do

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

Say: **Jesus had died on a cross. He did this to take away all of the bad things that we do.** Lay the rolled-up cocoon poster in front of you. Place a rolled-up student page in front of each child. **The people wrapped Jesus' body in cloth and put it in a tomb kind of like a cave. Let's pretend the cocoon in front of you is Jesus' body.**

Ask:

- **What happens to a person's body when he or she dies?**

Say: **We're sad when someone dies, because we miss that person. All of Jesus' friends were very sad that he died. They missed him so much.**

Three of Jesus' friends—Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Salome—decided to bring some good-smelling spices to where Jesus was buried because they loved Jesus. Open the bag of potpourri (or bar of soap). Have children pass the bag or soap around and take turns smelling it.

The women walked from their houses to the cave where Jesus lay. Let's pretend to walk to the cave. Show me how sad the women may've looked as they walked. Lead children in looking sad and walking toward the door to the empty room. Stop the procession just before you get there.

When the women were almost there, they knew they had a problem. A giant stone would be in front of the cave so no one could get in. The women decided they'd need to find someone to help them move the stone when they got there. Lead kids the rest of the way to the closet or door.

When they got to the cave, they saw that someone had already moved the stone. Motion to the door that's partly open.

The women must've been surprised that the stone had already been rolled away.



Bible Time: Sensing Jesus Supplies

Bible
My Bible Playground
potpourri (or scented soap)
rolled-up "Butterfly/Cocoon" poster from Theo's News

Bible Time: Sensing Jesus Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Roll and tape each page with the butterfly on the inside. Be prepared to lead kids to an empty room, closet, or hallway with a partially open door.



When they went into the cave, they had another surprise! It was empty! Jesus was gone! Have kids take a peek into the empty room, and say: **Nope! Nothing here!**

The women were upset. They thought Jesus was dead. They thought someone took his body away. Then they saw an angel. The angel told them that Jesus had risen. The angel told them to tell their friends that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Return with the children to where you began. Remind kids of their cocoons, and have them tell the children sitting on either side of them that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE.** Then have kids unroll their cocoons. Unroll the teaching poster as well.

Say: **Your cocoons aren't dead! Bright, wonderful, alive butterflies come out of cocoons. And Jesus isn't dead and buried in the tomb anymore. ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you about what we heard from the Bible today?
- What do you think is the most amazing thing about what we heard?

Say: **Jesus was dead and buried, but he's not dead anymore— ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

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:

It's Not What You Think!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Point to the butterfly outlines on the floor, and say: **Look at these butterflies. Right now they don't have much life in them, do they? Let's add some color!**

Give kids a chance to fill in the parts of the butterflies using the colorful blocks.

Center 1: It's Not What You Think! Supplies

masking tape
colorful blocks

Center 1: It's Not What You Think! Easy Prep

Use masking tape to
outline two butterfly
shapes on the floor.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is Jesus like a butterfly?
- How can we celebrate Jesus coming back to life for us?

Say: **Whenever we see a beautiful butterfly, it can remind us that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Let's tell everyone this awesome, good news!**

CENTER 2:

Butterfly Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands.

Say: **When the women arrived at the cave, they were surprised to see that the stone had been moved. Let's make a snack that helps us remember that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Have kids each roll up their tortillas to look like cocoons. Then have kids unroll their tortillas and spread cream cheese on their tortillas.

Say: **Butterflies can remind us that Jesus came back to life.** Show kids how to make an outline of a butterfly with chocolate chips.

Say: **What beautiful butterflies! ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Ask a child to say a prayer of thanks that Jesus is alive. Then let kids eat the snacks as they celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like about butterflies?
- What do you like about Jesus being alive?

Say: **Butterflies are beautiful when they come out of their cocoons. And it's beautiful that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**



Center 2: Butterfly Snacks Supplies

1 tortilla per child
strawberry cream
cheese
chocolate chips
paper plates
plastic knives
antibacterial gel
(optional)

 **ALLERGY ALERT**



Center 3: Resurrection Verse Supplies

CD player
markers

My Bible Playground

Teacher Pack

CD: "Jesus Came"
(verses 1 & 2) (track
17)

CENTER 3:

Resurrection Verse

What You'll Do

Have kids write their names on their My Bible Playground pages. Then have kids use markers to decorate their butterflies. Show kids how to fold down the middle of the page, hold it on the fold, and move it up and down so it looks like the wings are flapping.

Lead children in singing "Jesus Came" (verses 1 & 2) (track 17 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Encourage kids to flap the butterfly wings to the beat as they sing and fly their butterflies in a circle around the room.

**Jesus came into the town,
A-riding on a donkey.
Clap and sing and shout and praise
To Jesus who sure loves us!**

(Chorus)

**Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!
Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!**

**Jesus died but came to life
On that Easter morning.
He's alive forevermore.
That's why we all are singing!**

(Repeat chorus; then repeat from the beginning.)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you do at Easter to celebrate that Jesus is alive?
- What can you do this week to tell people that Jesus is alive?

Say: **Jesus came back to life— ► JESUS IS ALIVE!** That's the exciting reason we celebrate Easter. Jesus died on the cross to forgive all the wrong things we do. He came back to life so we can live forever with him.

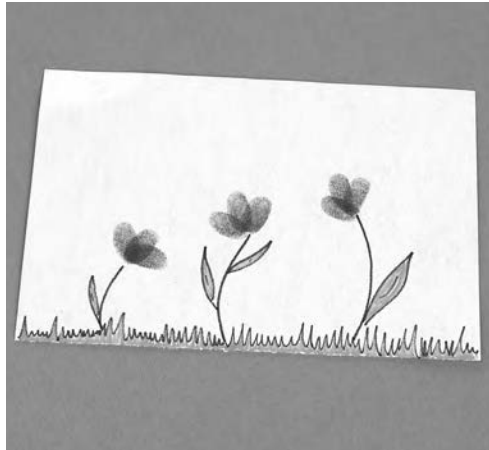
CENTER 4:

Blooming Flowers

What You'll Do

Give each child a piece of brown construction paper.

Say: **In the spring, the whole earth is waking up. But before that happens, in a lot of places it looks like everything is dead. The ground is brown just like this paper.**



But what looks dead really has life in it! Let's create some flowers from this dead ground!

Have kids use markers to draw stems on their papers. Then have them each press a finger onto an ink pad and create a flower at the top of the stem with their thumbprints. Have kids use wet wipes to clean their fingers.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's similar between the flower popping out of the ground and Jesus coming back to life?
- What are ways we can know that Jesus is alive?

Say: **In the fall people bury—or plant—plain, brown flower bulbs in the ground. In the spring beautiful new flowers appear in each bulb's place. The people in the Bible were sad because they thought Jesus was dead. But Jesus did not stay buried in the tomb— ► JESUS IS ALIVE! And Jesus gives beautiful new life to us, too!**

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.



Center 4: Blooming Flowers Supplies

brown construction
paper
washable ink pads
markers
wet wipes

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



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 ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to celebrate that Jesus is alive!**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Each morning when you wake up, ask Jesus to help you live for him that day.**
2. **Have a family member read Mark 16:1-8 with you. Tell your family members that Jesus is alive.**
3. **Ask a parent's permission to pick some flowers from outside, and put them in a vase to remind you that Jesus is alive.**

Say: **If you want to ask Jesus to help you live for him, circle choice number 1. If you want to read Mark 16:1-8, circle choice number 2. If you want to pick some flowers, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Alive Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids stand in a circle, and ask them to be really still and not move a muscle and try not to breathe. Then say the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for our sins. Thank you for coming back to life, so we can live with you forever!** Have kids start jumping up and down and clapping. Then have kids join hands and give them a few seconds to silently thank Jesus that he's alive for us.

Close by praying: **In your name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

John 20:19-31

Your 5- and 6-year-olds have an awesome capacity for belief in Jesus. Adults' rational and scientific views haven't limited children's sense of wonder and acceptance. Children at this age are quick to trust and believe the things they hear. Because of their capacity for belief, they'll want to learn about Jesus' disciples and their belief in him. Use this lesson to help children accept that Jesus is alive and loves them.



► Bible Point


Believe in Jesus.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will show others that they believe in Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Believing in Jesus Learn how different items can help us believe in Jesus.	Bible; 1 copy of the "Belief" handout (at the end of this lesson), cut apart	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a fan has to do with today's Scripture.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, construction paper, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Accordion-fold a sheet of construction paper into a fan, put it inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Believing Thomas Participate in a retelling of the Bible passage.	Bible, red marker, tape, flashlight Teacher Pack: "Jesus" poster, "Jesus Surprises His Friends" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Tape the "Jesus" poster to the wall, and make red dots on Jesus' hands and side for scars.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Air Art Paint pictures by blowing through a straw to create designs.	My Bible Playground, plastic spoons, straws, washable tempera paint, bowls	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Sippy Surprise Share a drink that doesn't taste as they expect.	2 paper cups per child; 2 clear pitchers; chilled, colorless sports drink or juice; water; red food coloring; graham crackers; antibacterial gel (optional)	Fill 1 pitcher with cold water, and add red food coloring until the water resembles a fruit drink. Pour the sports drink into the other pitcher.
	Center 3: Have Faith! Play with bubbles.	bubbles	
	Center 4: Belief Review Make fans and sing a song.	CD player, construction paper, markers Teacher Pack: CD	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Breeze Prayer Thank God for helping them believe in him.	construction paper	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Scared Disciples

Seeing Jesus

Our Advantage

What Is Faith Anyway?

The Jesus Connection

Do you ever feel like Thomas? Jesus revealed himself to Thomas and allayed his doubts. What doubts or faith questions do you have? Speak openly to God about them in prayer, and then look for ways God will reveal himself to you through Scripture, your pastor's words, Christian friends, prayer, nature, or the promptings of the Holy Spirit. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're Here"
(track 12), "Love Is
Patient and Kind"
(1 Corinthians 13:4-5a)
(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 children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead the kids in singing "Glad You're Here" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Old Gray Mare." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me, (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

Glad you're here;

Come, sing and pray with me.

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

Glad you're here;


Come, sing and pray with me. (*cup hands in front of your mouth; then fold hands in prayer*)

We're in God's house today! (*make the outline of a house with your hands*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Say: Today we'll learn that we can ► **BELIEVE IN JESUS** because he loves us so much. Let's sing a song to Jesus and close our eyes while we sing. Even though we can't see Jesus, we believe in him!

Encourage kids to close their eyes as they sing "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). At the end of the song, have kids open their eyes, each punch a fist in the air, and shout "We ► **BELIEVE IN JESUS!**"

 Love is patient and kind.
 Love is not jealous
 Or boastful
 Or proud or rude.
 Love is patient and kind.
 Love is not jealous
 Or boastful
 Or proud or rude.
 Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
 Love is not jealous
 Or boastful
 Or proud or rude.
 Love is patient and kind.
 Love is not jealous
 Or boastful
 Or proud or rude.
 Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
 Love is patient and kind.
 Love is patient and kind.
 Love is patient and kind.

“Love Is Patient and Kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Love is all of those things—and so is Jesus! He loves all of us very much and wants us to love him, too. If we ► BELIEVE IN JESUS, he can show us how to love others, too.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Believing in Jesus

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle, and place the pictures from the handout in a pile in the center of the circle. Open your Bible to John 11:25, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 11:25, says, “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ” (John 11:25). This means that people who believe in Jesus will live forever. Let’s say**



Believing in Jesus Supplies

Bible
 1 copy of the “Belief”
 handout (at the end of
 this lesson), cut apart



Theo's News Supplies

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

Theo's News Easy Prep

Accordion-fold a sheet
of construction paper
into a fan, put it inside
the Surprise Box, and
hide the box where it's
easily accessible.

it together. Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

Say: **Because Jesus died and came back to life again, we have his wonderful promise that we, too, can live forever. When a Christian dies, he or she goes to heaven to be with Jesus. Heaven will be our new home...forever! In heaven there is no sadness or sin or trouble. There is no sickness or dying—only love, joy, and peace with God. What a wonderful place to live forever!**

One at a time, I want each of you to go over to the pictures, pick one, and then come back and sit in a group with other kids who picked the same picture. Help kids get into the correct group when they come back with their picture.

Once each child has a picture and is in a group, have each group stand up and let kids share a way their item can help them believe in Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why did you choose the item you did?**
- **Why do you think these things can help us believe in Jesus?**

Say: **Just having a Bible or singing songs won't get us into heaven. Only believing in Jesus can do that. But Bibles, church, praise songs, and other things like these can help us know Jesus and ► BELIEVE IN JESUS. Living in heaven with Jesus will be wonderful! Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 fan around the circle so the others can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what do you think a fan has to do with the Bible?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this fan in the Surprise Box? (Wave the fan back and forth over the kids so they can feel the breeze.)

Theo: Well, this fan pushes the air around. We can't see the air, but thanks to this fan we can feel it.

Teacher: That reminds me of Jesus! Even if we can't see him, we believe in Jesus!

Theo: You do?

Teacher: Yes. The Bible tells us it's good to ► **BELIEVE IN JESUS**. The Bible tells us about someone who had trouble believing in Jesus without seeing him. Let's find out what happened!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Believing Thomas

What You'll Do

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

Say: **Some people were angry with Jesus' friends. They didn't like Jesus, and they didn't like his friends. Jesus had died on the cross, and Jesus' friends were afraid and sad. They hid in a room and locked the door.** Have everyone huddle in a tight circle, and dim the lights. If you have a door in your room, close it now.

Say: **All of a sudden, Jesus appeared in that room! How did he get in there? The door was locked!** Shine a flashlight on the "Jesus" poster on the wall. **Jesus told his friends, "Peace be with you."**

That must've been a big shock! Now Jesus was alive, just like he said he would be! Jesus showed his friends his hands and side where he'd been hurt. Point to Jesus' hands and side on the poster.

His friends were so happy to see that Jesus was alive! Jesus told them that God had sent him; now Jesus was sending his friends to share this awesome news with others: Jesus is alive! Have kids tell a partner, ► **"BELIEVE IN JESUS! Jesus is alive!"**

Jesus breathed on his friends and gave them the Holy Spirit. Have everyone take a deep breath and then let it out.



Bible Time: Believing Thomas Supplies

Bible
red marker
tape
flashlight

Teacher Pack

"Jesus" poster, "Jesus Surprises His Friends" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Believing Thomas Easy Prep

Tape the "Jesus" poster to the wall, and make red dots on Jesus' hands and side for the scars.



The Holy Spirit gave his friends help and courage to do what Jesus wanted them to! Have kids stand up and act brave.

One of Jesus' friends named Thomas wasn't in the room when Jesus came, so the others told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Have kids repeat the phrase joyfully.

Thomas said that before he'd believe Jesus was alive, he'd have to see Jesus' hands where the nails had been and feel Jesus' side where he had been hurt.

A week later, Jesus' friends again were in a locked room and Thomas was with them. All of a sudden, Jesus appeared! Show children the "Jesus Surprises His Friends" poster.

Jesus told Thomas to touch his hands and side. Encourage each of the kids to come to the poster and touch Jesus' hands and side.

Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" Have kids repeat the phrase. **Jesus loved Thomas and all his friends. He was glad they believed in him, because he knew they had a big job to do—to tell the world that Jesus was alive! Jesus told them that people are blessed who believe in him and haven't seen him yet. Jesus wants everyone to believe in him and live forever!**

Have kids form a line and march around the room, pretending to tell everyone about Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■ ■ ■ ■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was surprising about the way Jesus told Thomas to touch his hands and side?**
- **What can we do to help others ► BELIEVE IN JESUS?**

Say: **Jesus helped Thomas believe that he was alive by showing him! Jesus calls us blessed because we believe without seeing him yet! The Holy Spirit, the Bible, other Christians, and our church help us believe in Jesus. Let's tell everyone to ► BELIEVE IN JESUS and live forever!**

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:

Air Art

What You'll Do

Have children form pairs.

Distribute the Lesson 7 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Set out plastic spoons, straws, and shallow bowls of thin tempera paint.

Show children how to spoon a small amount of paint onto their pages, and then make designs by blowing the paint with their straws. Tell children not to actually dip the straws in the paint, but to let the air do the job.

Say: **See how the air moves the paint? Just like that, Jesus can move inside of us and do wonderful things when we believe in him.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can Jesus do to “move” or do good things in a person’s life?
- What are some ways you can show others you believe in Jesus?

Say: **Even though we can’t see air, we know it’s real. Look at how air made the paint move! Thomas had a hard time believing that Jesus was alive because he couldn’t see him. But many things are real, even if we can’t see them—like your breath or air! Faith is believing in what we don’t see. We can’t see Jesus, but we believe in him. The Bible tells us to ► BELIEVE IN JESUS!**

CENTER 2:

Sippy Surprise

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands, and then give each child two paper cups.

Say: **Wait to enjoy your drinks until everyone has been served.** Pour the clear liquid into one cup and the red liquid into the other.

As you pour, ask: **What do you like to drink when you’re really thirsty?** If kids ask what the drinks are, encourage them to guess, but don’t tell them yet.

When everyone has been served, say: **Taste your drinks.**



Center 1: Air Art Supplies

My Bible Playground
plastic spoons
straws
washable tempera paint
bowls

Center 1: Air Art Easy Prep

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

Center 2: Sippy Surprise Supplies

2 paper cups per child
2 clear pitchers
chilled, colorless sports
drink or juice
water
red food coloring
graham crackers
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Sippy Surprise Easy Prep

Fill 1 pitcher with cold
water, and add red food
coloring until the water
resembles a fruit drink.
Pour the sports drink
into the other pitcher.



Center 3: Have Faith! Supplies

bubbles

Allow time for all the kids to discover that the drinks don't taste as they might have expected. Then explain what the two pitchers contain. Distribute graham crackers for children to enjoy with their drinks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As children snack, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you expect when you first took a drink?
- What surprised you when you found out that the drink wasn't what you expected?

Say: This is similar to what Jesus' friends felt when they thought Jesus was dead but then they saw that he was alive again.

Imagine what it must've been like for the disciples who thought their friend Jesus was dead but instead, he was alive! When they saw Jesus alive, they knew he was no ordinary man. They knew Jesus was God's Son, the Savior! Jesus died on the cross but now he's alive! That's why we ► **BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Have Faith!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Let kids play with the bubbles. If you don't have enough bubble containers, have kids take turns playing with the bubbles.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it take to make a bubble?
- Air is real, even though you can't see it with your eyes. What is real about Jesus, even if we can't see him with our eyes?

Say: **Air is inside the bubbles. We can't see air, but we know it's there.**

Have kids each hold a hand a few inches in front of their mouths. Have children take a deep breath and then let it out.

Say: **Air has the strength to make bubbles and move them across the room, even though we can't see the air. Even though we can't see him today, we can have faith and ► BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

Have kids take another deep breath, and let it out again.

Say: **Jesus' love fills our hearts, and he answers our prayers. The disciples told a lot of people so many years ago about Jesus. The good news spread, which is why we are Christians today! What awesome news to share!**

CENTER 4: **Belief Review**

What You'll Do

Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Have kids decorate their papers, and then show them how to accordion-fold their paper like the fan Theo had.

Say: **Wave the fan gently in front of your face. Feel the air.** Remind kids that we know air is real, even though we can't see it.

Lead children in singing "Jesus Came" (all verses) (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Have kids wave their fans to the beat.

**Jesus came into the town,
A-riding on a donkey.
Clap and sing and shout and praise
To Jesus who sure loves us!**

(Chorus)

**Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!
Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus is our king!**

**Jesus died but came to life
On that Easter morning.
He's alive forevermore.
That's why we all are singing!**

(Repeat chorus.)

**Believe in Jesus, he's alive.
He loves you very much!
Believe in Jesus, he's alive.
He loves you very much!**

(Repeat chorus; then repeat from the beginning.)



Center 4: Belief Review Supplies

CD player
construction paper
markers

Teaching Pack
CD: "Jesus Came" (all
verses) (track 18)



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you believe is true about Jesus?
- What can you do to show others you believe in Jesus?

Say: Take your fans home with you to remind you that we ► **BELIEVE IN JESUS** because he is alive. After he came back to life, he visited his friends to make sure they knew he was alive.

.....

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 it's good for us to ► **BELIEVE IN JESUS**. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to show this week that you believe in Jesus.

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. Draw a picture of someone you can tell about Jesus—and then make sure you tell that person.
2. Each night before you go to bed, tell Jesus you believe in him.
3. Ask your mom or dad to help you take your neighbors a plate of cookies, and then tell your neighbors that you believe in Jesus.

Say: If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 1. If you want to tell Jesus you believe in him, circle choice number 2. If you want to bring cookies to a neighbor, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Breeze Prayer

What You'll Do

If kids made fans in the “Center 4: Belief Review” activity, have them bring the fans to the prayer time. If not, give each child a piece of construction paper. Show kids how to accordion-fold the paper to make a fan like the one Theo had in the box. Have kids fan themselves while you say the prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for giving us faith to believe in you, even though we don't see you.** Go around the circle and have kids each say one thing about Jesus they're thankful for. **Thank you, Jesus! We love you so much! In your name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

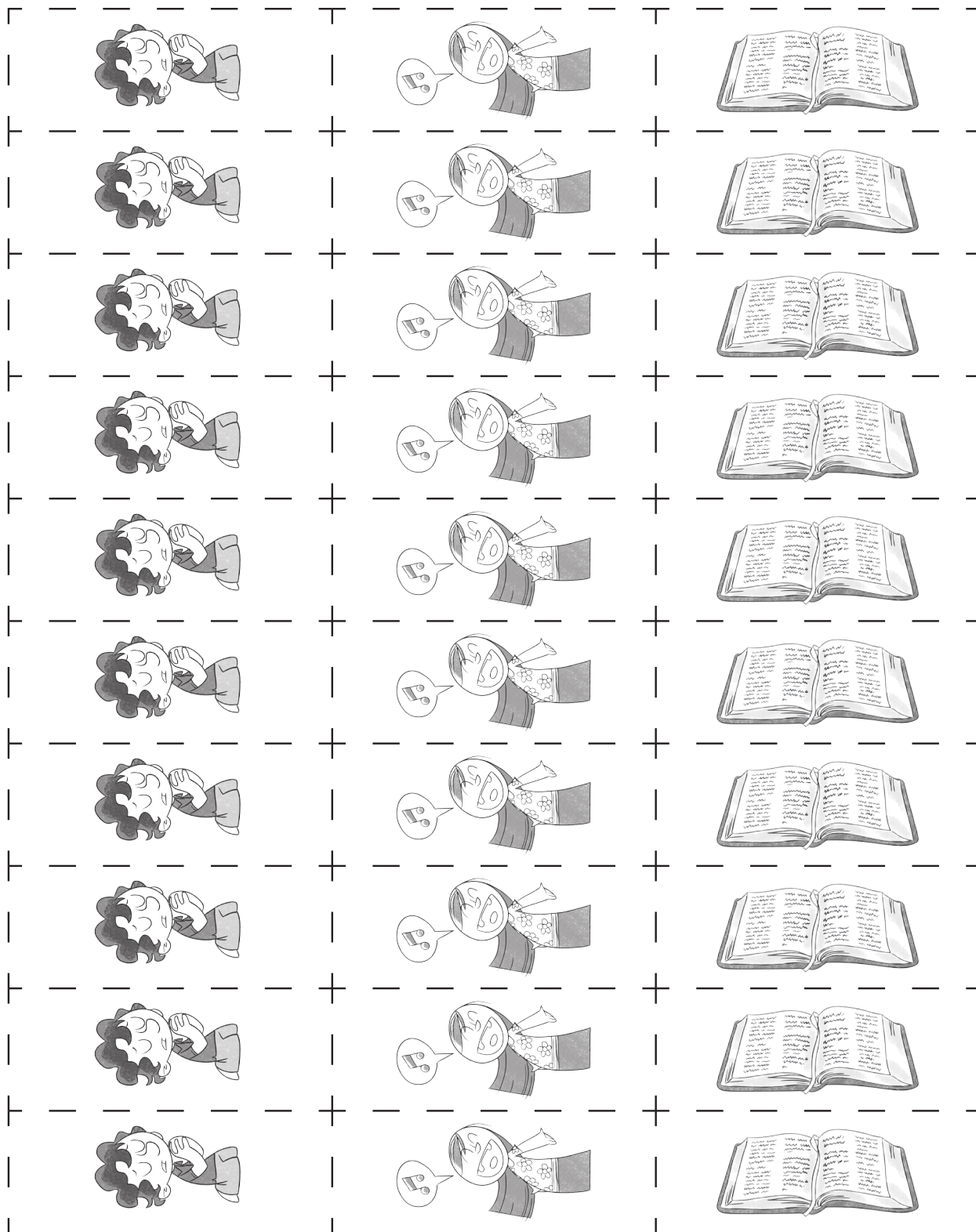
Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Breeze Prayer Supplies

.....
construction paper

Belief



Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

The majority of 5- and 6-year-olds will not be able to tell you what spiritual gifts they've received from God. Some might not even know yet that such gifts come from God. However, children at this age will understand that they do some things well—and those are God-given gifts. Use this lesson to show children that God gives them each special gifts because he loves them and wants them to use their gifts to serve him.



► Bible Point

Serve God.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn to use their gifts to serve God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	A Rolling Message Roll a ball, and learn that the Holy Spirit teaches each one of us.	Bible, ball	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a package of jelly beans has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, bag of jelly beans, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the bag of jelly beans inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Church of Many Colors Build walls of different colors to make a colorful church.	Bible, 4 or 5 lunch bags, 3 connecting blocks per child	Separate the blocks by color, and place each color in a lunch bag.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: I'm a Gift Draw self-portraits, and decorate bows on presents.	My Bible Playground, glitter glue, crayons	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: What's My Gift? Create a hidden treat with jelly beans.	napkins, jelly beans, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: What's Your Part? Play a game where they try to touch multiple body parts at one time.		
	Center 4: Colorful People Glue beautiful colors onto a paper body.	an assortment of colored construction paper, scissors, marker, glue, 1 copy per child of the "Paper Person" handout (at the end of this lesson)	Cut out each Paper Person. For each child, write the child's name and "Serve God" on the back of a Paper Person. Cut out an assortment of small shapes from construction paper.
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	A Flavorful Prayer Experience different flavors.	jelly beans	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Key Points on a Key Passage

Gifts From God

Many Gifts, One Body

Building God's Kingdom

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that God gives special gifts to everyone. Let's use the voices God has given us to tell our friends about how much Jesus loves us!**

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have the girls sing the first phrase and have the boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)

Eeeeeee! (*E*)

Ssssss! (S)
Uuuuuu! (U)
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? *(Jesus!)*
And who do you love? *(Jesus!)*
And who loves you? *(Jesus!)*
Who died for you? *(Jesus!)*
And who's your guy? *(Jesus!)*
The apple of your eye! *(Jesus!)*
And who's your friend? *(Jesus!)*
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: I'm so glad you came today! We're going to learn how we can ► **SERVE GOD.**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

A Rolling Message

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from John 14:26 says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse aloud with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Say: **We can ► SERVE GOD by using our gifts. But one gift that God gave to all of us is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us all about God. We can learn how God wants us to use our gifts...how to show our love to Jesus...and how to treat each other.**

Provide a ball for children to roll as they personalize this verse for one another.

Say: **Each of us will roll the ball to someone across from us in the circle and say, "The Holy Spirit will teach you, [child's name]." Take turns around the circle until each child has had a turn to say and hear the verse. Demonstrate rolling the ball to a child.**



A Rolling Message Supplies

Bible
ball



Theo's News Supplies

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

ALLERGY ALERT

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the bag of jelly
beans inside the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is important to listen to what the Holy Spirit teaches us?
- Why is it important to follow what the Holy Spirit teaches us?

Say: **When we listen to and follow the Holy Spirit, he helps us ► SERVE GOD. Let's shout our Key Verse one more time so everyone can hear how we can learn what God wants us to do.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever 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.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the bag of jelly beans around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible.)

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

Theo: Because they're special. *(Give each of the children two to three candies of different flavors.)*

Teacher: Thanks for these candies! We're going to learn about how God gives special gifts to each of us. Friends, what do you think it would be like if there was only one flavor of jelly bean?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: God gives everyone different gifts so we can ► **SERVE GOD**, help each other, and encourage each other with our gifts. When God gives us a gift, it's because he loves us.

Theo: I'm so glad that God gives gifts!

Teacher: And using God's gifts, one thing we can do is help others.

Theo: Really?

Teacher: Yes, let's learn about the gifts God gives us.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Church of Many Colors

What You'll Do

Invite the children to sit with you in four groups of two to four children each. Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12, and show the children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today in the Bible we'll learn that God created us and that he gives special gifts to each person who believes in Jesus. Our Bible Point today is that we can ► SERVE GOD. Say it with me: ► SERVE GOD.**

I have a different package for each of your groups. Hold the bags up for the children to see.

Tell me what you think is the same about all these bags. Pause for the children to respond.

All of these bags look the same on the outside. Now let's open the bags. Have each group of children sit in a circle and pour the pieces in the center.

Ask:

- **What's the same about the items inside the bags? What's different?**

Say: **Just like each of your groups has connecting blocks but they are different colors, God gives us all gifts but they are different gifts.**

In the Bible, Paul told a group of people called the Corinthians that they all had different gifts. Some people have the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. That means God makes them extra smart. God gives some people the gift of faith. Those people believe God even when everyone else throws their hands up and says, "That's impossible!" But nothing is impossible for God. Have kids point up.

God gives some people the gift of teaching; they like to help others learn new things. God gives these gifts and many more to people who believe in Jesus. We can use our gifts to share God's love with others. And when we do that, we will ► SERVE GOD.

Take two or three blocks and hold them in your hand. Give kids a moment to hold up their blocks.

Now pretend that each of those blocks is a person who goes to our church, and one of those blocks is you. Each person has a different gift to help others. Have



Bible Time: Church of Many Colors Supplies

Bible
4 or 5 lunch bags
3 connecting blocks per child

Bible Time: Church of Many Colors Easy Prep

Separate the blocks by color, and place each color in a lunch bag.



kids click two blocks together to represent the joyful noise that different people and their gifts make in church.

God gives us different gifts. We can ask God to help us use the gifts he gives us even when we're just young boys and girls. Paul told the Corinthians that we're all part of the family of God when we believe in Jesus. We have special work to do that helps others. That's why God gives us different gifts.

Let's build a church together to help us see how God makes this work. First, pretend one block is you, and set it next to you. Pause for children to do this.

Help your group make a wall with the rest of your blocks, and then bring your wall to me. When the kids bring you their walls, put the walls together to form a square or rectangular building. Then encourage each child to put his or her block on the wall.

This is like our church; look how colorful it is! That's because God gives each of us different gifts. Our church is more colorful and more beautiful because we can all use our own special and unique gifts to ► SERVE GOD.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's good about helping someone?
- What are some things you can do to help others in our church?

Say: **You might be able to tell people about a part of the Bible, or smile and help people feel happy that they came to church. God wants us to use the gifts he gives us to serve him. Let's say our Bible Point together. ► SERVE 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:

I'm a Gift

What You'll Do

Say: **God gives us different gifts so we can ► SERVE GOD.** Our gifts are important to help our church body grow and to help tell others about Jesus' love. You're a gift to our church.

Ask:

- What's something you do well?
- What can you do to use that gift to help someone?

Say: **Just as all the presents on your paper are different, God gives us different gifts.** These gifts help us ► **SERVE GOD.** If you're good at talking to others, God can use you to tell others about his love. If you're good at smiling and helping others feel happy, God can use you to welcome people to church. And if you like to pray, God can use you to pray for people who are sick. God gives us all different gifts.

Have kids draw pictures of themselves and others in the white spaces on the presents. Then have them decorate the bows with glitter glue.

CENTER 2:

Center 2: What's My Gift?

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands.

Say: **God gives us different gifts so we can ► SERVE GOD.**

Give children each a napkin and equal amounts of jelly beans.

Say: **We learned today that God gives us different gifts. Let's pretend that the jelly beans are the special gifts God has given you.**

Encourage kids to hide their jelly beans in the napkin by folding the napkin over the jelly beans or wrapping the napkin around the jelly beans.

Say: **Each person who believes in Jesus has a different gift from God hidden inside his or her heart. God can help you use your gift to serve others.**



Center 1: I'm a Gift Supplies

My Bible Playground
glitter glue
crayons

Center 1: I'm a Gift Easy Prep

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

Center 2: What's My Gift? Supplies

napkins
jelly beans
antibacterial gel
(optional)





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some gifts God has given to people in your family?
- How does your family serve God with those gifts?

Choose a child to pray, and then let children enjoy their snack.

■ CENTER 3:

What's Your Part?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Bible says that our church is like a body. We're going to pretend that we're important parts of the body. The Bible tells us that each of our gifts is very important, just as each part of the body is important to the whole body. A face can't see if it doesn't have eyes.** Put your hands on your face, and have kids each put their hands on their faces.

Say: **Legs can't stand up if they don't have feet at the end to walk on, knees in the middle to bend with, or hips at the top to move with.** Stretch out one leg and bend it, and have kids safely kick their legs and bend their knees.

Say: **The Bible tells us that each of us has special gifts and talents that can be used to help others in the body of Christ. I'm going to call out the name of body parts to understand how a body connects together. When you hear a body part, such as ear, nose, hand, or whatever, quickly put your hand on that body part.**

Begin calling out names of two to four body parts at a time. When all the children are frantically trying to touch two different body parts at a time, have them say the Bible Point. Then have children return to their starting positions to begin the game again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this game like for you?
- Why are all our body parts important?
- Why are all God's gifts important?

Say: **We can use our gifts to ► SERVE GOD.**

CENTER 4:

Colorful People

What You'll Do

Set out the assorted pieces of construction paper and glue. Have the paper people in your hand and ready to give to the children.

Say: **Today we learned that we each have special gifts and that all of us together make up the body of Christ.** Distribute the paper people to the children.

Ask:

- **What gifts does our pastor have? your teachers? your friends?**

Say: **All the people in churches around the world make up the body of Christ. Let's pretend that each of these little colored pieces of paper is a person who knows God and has a gift from God to help others.** Show the children the back of their cutout people with their names and the Bible Point written on them. Read the Bible Point to the children: ► **SERVE GOD.** Have them repeat the Bible Point after you.

Let kids glue the colored pieces of paper onto the paper people. Set the Colorful People aside to dry until the children are ready to go home.

Talk With Kids

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think is one of the special gifts God has given you?**
- **What can you do to help serve God right now?**

Say: **Just as each of these "people" has different colors of different shapes and sizes, each person in our church has a different gift. But all of our gifts fit together to form the body of Christ, and this body can ► SERVE GOD.**

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.



Center 4: Colorful People Supplies

an assortment of colored construction paper
scissors
marker
glue
1 copy per child of the "Paper Person" handout (at the end of this lesson)

Center 4: Colorful People Easy Prep

Cut out each Paper Person. For each child, write the child's name and "Serve God" on the back of a Paper Person. Cut out an assortment of small shapes from construction paper.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



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 with our different gifts we can ► SERVE GOD! Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way that you can serve God this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Pray for someone you love. Ask God to take care of that person and help that person.**
2. **Give the gift of helping to each person in your family this week!**
3. **Make a nice card or color a pretty picture for your pastor or another person at church.**

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

A Flavorful Prayer

A Flavorful Prayer Supplies

jelly beans

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give children each two or three jelly beans, and allow them to eat as you discuss the following.

Ask:

- **What if every candy tasted exactly the same?**

Say: **Just as your candies all tasted different, God gives us different gifts. And we can use those gifts to ► SERVE GOD.** Have kids all take turns and say a gift they're thankful for.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gifts you have given us to use for you each day we live. Help us love you every day and bring you joy through our work and play. In Jesus' name, amen.**

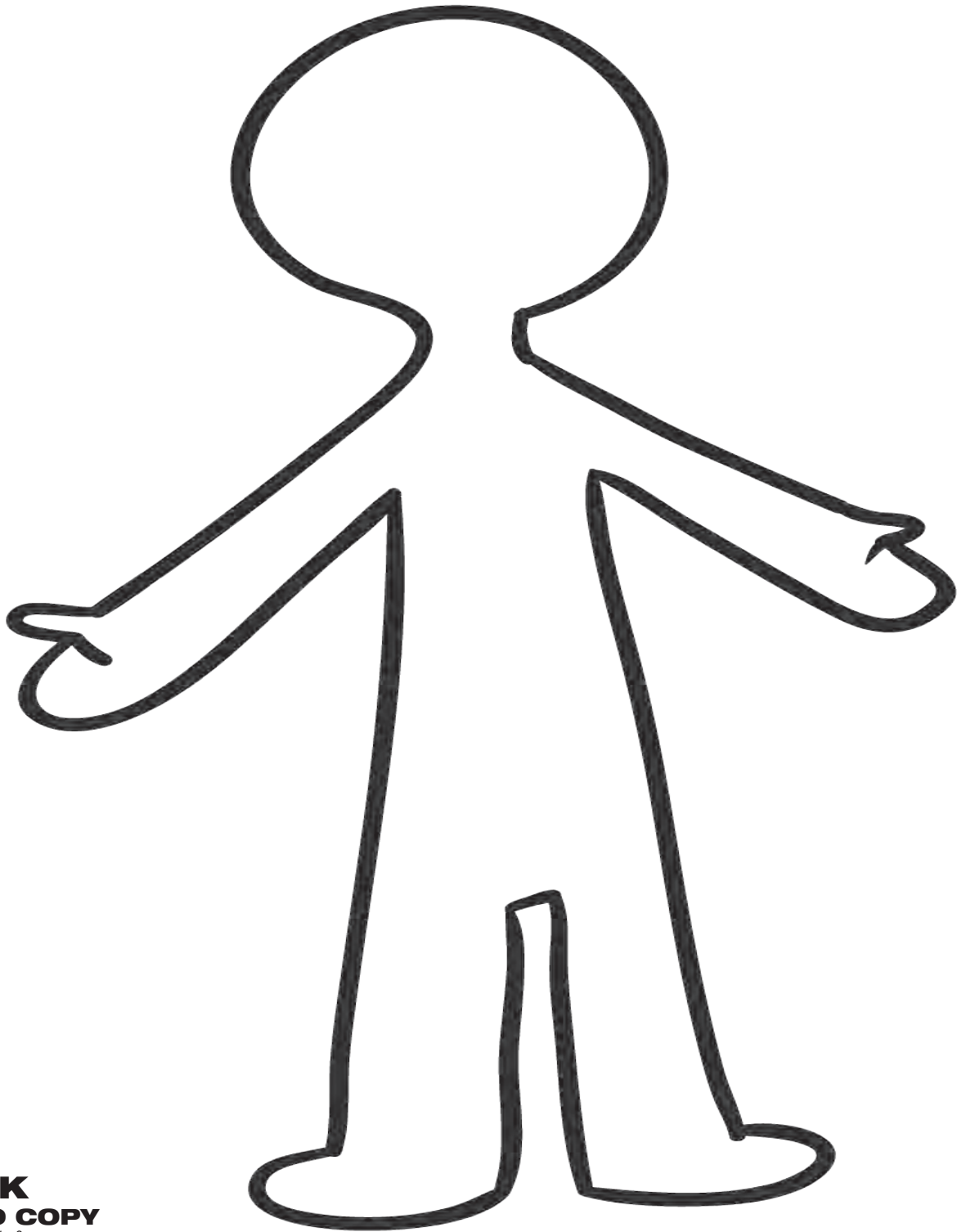
Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Paper Person



**OK
TO COPY**
Illustrated by Wes Comer.

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

Some 5- and 6-year-olds tend to feel little and intimidated when outside their world of family and friends. They feel intimidated by new and uncertain situations—a new Sunday school, a new baby sitter, playing big-kid sports such as soccer or T-ball. Children need to know that God is a source for constant courage. Use this lesson to help children realize that just as God helped Peter be brave and tell others about Jesus, God helps us be brave in all we do, too.



►Bible Point
God helps us be brave.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask God to help them be brave this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Learn to Be a Learner Teach each other how to do something.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a trophy has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, trophy or other prize, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the trophy or other prize inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Brave Belief Be like Peter and bravely say what they believe.	Bible	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Peter's Courage Make a mask shake with fear, and then say a poem about courage.	My Bible Playground, 1 envelope per child, paper clips, tape, scissors, pencils	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book, and cut out the mouth on each page.
	Center 2: Shakin' Snack Shake a snack and say a fear; then enjoy the snack and say how God helps them be brave.	bowls, cereal, raisins, M&M's, aluminum foil, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Speak Out Record beliefs and speak out for Jesus.	audio recorder, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 4: Fold Away Fear Create a folding picture that shows them being brave.	crayons, 1 copy per child of the 2-sided "Fold Away" handout (at the end of the lesson)	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Brave Prayer Pray about fears they want to give to God.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Earthly Power

Heavenly Power

Powerful Truth

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.** Jesus was the bravest person of all when he died on the cross for our sins. Let's worship Jesus by singing our next song.

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have the girls sing the first phrase and have the boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)

Eeeeeee! (E)
Ssssss! (S)
Uuuuuu! (U)
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)
And who do you love? (Jesus!)
And who loves you? (Jesus!)
Who died for you? (Jesus!)
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Jesus had to be brave on the cross, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too.**
Let's explore bravery some more.

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Learn to Be a Learner

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified version of the Key Verse aloud with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Say: **God loves us and wants to teach us more about his love and how to live his way. That's why God sent us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will teach us and help us remember that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Let's do an activity where we can practice being teachers and learners.

Have kids form a line. Have the first child teach the next child how to do something. It might



Learn to Be a Learner Supplies

Bible



be fishing, or playing the piano, or dancing, or baking cookies. Then have that child teach the next one in line how to do something. And so on through the line.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did you like being the Learner or the Teacher more? Why?
- What are some things the Holy Spirit can teach us?

Say: **Today the Holy Spirit will teach us that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

As you say the following phrases, have children respond with the simplified Key Verse.

Say: **Each time you come to church...***(The Holy Spirit will teach you!)*

Each time you hear from the Bible...*(The Holy Spirit will teach you!)*

Each time you practice loving others...*(The Holy Spirit will teach you!)*

.....

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

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

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put 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 trophy around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, when do we get trophies?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

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

Theo: I won this trophy in the 9th Annual Waggiest Tail Competition!

Teacher: Congratulations, Theo! Let's congratulate Theo, kids!

(Pause for kids to congratulate Theo.)

Theo: Thank you, friends!

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

trophy or other prize
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track
4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the trophy inside the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

Teacher: People get trophies at other times, too!

Theo: They do?

Teacher: Yes, people may get trophies if they win a race or play a musical instrument in front of lots of people in a contest.

Theo: That's great!

Teacher: Today we're going to read about how Peter and John had courage. They deserved a trophy for being brave! Let's find out how ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE!**

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Brave Belief

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Acts 4, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Two of Jesus' followers, Peter and John, bravely told people that Jesus had died and then came back to life! Peter and John even healed people. One poor man couldn't walk since he was born. Peter told the man, "In the name of Jesus, walk!" And the man did!**

Have kids form pairs. Have one partner stand and be Peter, and have the other partner sit and be the crippled man.

Say: **Peter told the crippled man, "In the name of Jesus, walk!"** Have Peters say that and then help the partner up to walk a few steps together.

Say: **The healed man was so happy, he jumped up and down with joy! Have everyone jump up and down. He also followed Peter and John as they bravely continued to tell people about Jesus.**

Some rulers and important people weren't happy about Peter and John telling people about Jesus, so they threw them in jail. Have kids act as if they're holding jail cell bars and looking between them.

The next day, Peter and John were brought before the rulers and important people. Have the kids stand quietly with their arms at their sides.

The rulers wanted to know why Peter and John performed miracles and spread the name of Jesus to everyone. They asked, "By what name did you do this?" Have kids raise a fist in the air and repeat the question.

Then the Holy Spirit helped Peter to be brave. Peter told the leaders that it was by the name of Jesus that the crippled man (have kids sit down) was healed! Have kids jump up. **Peter told the leaders that they had crucified Jesus on a cross, but God**



**Bible Time: Brave
Belief
Supplies**

Bible



raised him from the dead. No other name—except Jesus—will save us. Have kids say, “Only Jesus saves us.”

When the people saw Peter and John’s courage, they were amazed. Have kids look amazed and surprised and then sit back down. **Peter and John were ordinary people—just like you and me. But the people realized Peter and John had been with Jesus.**

Say: **Let’s pretend we’re with Peter and John, and let’s take turns saying what we believe about Jesus. Remember, ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE!**

Invite kids, one at a time, to stand in front of the group and tell what they believe, such as “We’ll live forever because of Jesus.”

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how God helped Peter and John be brave?
- Tell about a time God helped you be brave.

Say: **God helped Peter and John be brave, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too. God wants everyone to know about Jesus, because he wants everyone to live with him forever.**

.....

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:

Peter’s Courage

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Some people say that when we’re afraid, we “shake with fear.” Let’s make our pages show how Peter might’ve been afraid and “shook with fear.”** Pause and have kids show how Peter might’ve looked when he was afraid.

Center 1: Peter’s Courage Supplies

.....

My Bible Playground
1 envelope per child
paper clips
tape
scissors
pencils

Center 1: Peter’s Courage Easy Prep

.....

Remove the Lesson
9 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book, and cut
out the mouth on each
page.

Say: **But God helped Peter be brave!** Pause and have kids show how Peter might've looked when God helped him.

Let each child put a handful of paper clips into an envelope and seal it.

Say: **Tape the envelope to the back of the page at the top.**

Teach kids the poem that follows. Then encourage them to hold their pages to their faces as masks, and have each child repeat the poem through the open mouth on the page. Each time children say "scared" or "shiver and shake," have them rattle their pages in fear. On "brave," have them hold their pages still.

**Even though Peter might have been scared,
Still he dared
To be brave for Jesus!
Even though I may shiver and shake,
Lord, please make
Me brave for Jesus.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does it mean to be brave?**
- **What can we do to be brave like Peter was?**

Say: **God helped Peter be brave, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too. We need to be like Peter and tell everyone about Jesus!**

Have kids tell one another the Bible Point as they speak through their masks.

CENTER 2:

Shakin' Snack

What You'll Do

Say: **We're going to shake our fears away! Are you ready? Let's go!**

Have children clean their hands; then let them each combine cereal, raisins, and M&M's in a bowl. Help kids cover their bowls tightly with aluminum foil.

Say: **Tell us something you're afraid of, something that makes you "shake" with fear.** Have kids shake their bowls while they tell you.

When the snack has been mixed, pray, and let kids eat it while you ask these questions.



Center 2: Shakin' Snack Supplies

bowls
cereal
raisins
M&M's
aluminum foil
antibacterial gel (optional)

 **ALLERGY ALERT**



Speak Out Supplies

CD player
audio recorder
Teacher Pack
CD: "God Helps Us"
(track 21)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you do when you're afraid?
- What can God help us do when we're afraid?

Say: **It's okay to be scared, but if we ask him ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

■ CENTER 3:

Speak Out



■ **Tip** Most smartphones have a "Voice Memos" app that lets you record right into the phone and then play it back.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Peter was brave when he told people about Jesus!**

Let each child have a turn recording something he or she believes about Jesus, such as "Jesus is God's Son" or "Jesus loves everyone." After everyone has recorded a belief, have kids sing this song and record it as well. When they've finished, play back the messages.

Sing "God Helps Us" (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."



**God helps us to be brave.
God helps us to be brave.
Hey, ho, we all should know,
God helps us to be brave.
(Repeat 2x.)**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was recording this song like for you?
- What are things you do at church that may scare you?

Say: **We can depend on God. God helped Peter be brave, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too!**

CENTER 4:

Fold Away Fear

What You'll Do

Say: **We're going to fold away our fears by making two "doors."**

Give each child one of the papers. Have them follow your instructions to make two "doors" that meet in the center of the paper.

Say: **Fold the paper on the two dotted lines, so that the two sides meet in the center of the paper.** Allow time.

Say: **While everyone is afraid of something, God can help all of us be brave no matter what we face.**

Have kids close the "doors" on their papers and draw something they're afraid of on the outside. As kids finish this drawing, say: **Open the "doors" and draw a picture on the inside of yourself being brave!**

Read the words on the page to children, and have kids each add their name in the space provided. Assist any children who need help with writing.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is it important to be brave?**
- **Tell about a time God helped you be brave.**

Say: **Everyone has fears. Some people are afraid of the dark, some are afraid of bees, and some are afraid to meet new people. Whenever we feel afraid, we can ask for God's help. No matter what happens, we can remember that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

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.



Fold Away Fear Supplies

crayons

1 copy per child of the 2-sided "Fold Away" handout (at the end of the lesson)

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. Choose one of these Daily Challenges about being brave to do this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Tell each person in your family one thing you're afraid of, and then tell them that God helps us be brave.**
2. **Draw a picture of something that makes you afraid, and then ask God to help you be brave.**
3. **Be brave and tell a friend about Jesus. With God's help, you can do anything!**

Say: **If you want to tell people in your family what you're afraid of, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to tell a friend about Jesus, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Brave Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids tell you things that frighten them, such as going to bed in the dark or standing in front of a group of people.

Pray: **Dear God, we give you our fears...** Have kids mention fears they want to give to God.

Then have everyone repeat each of these last lines after you:

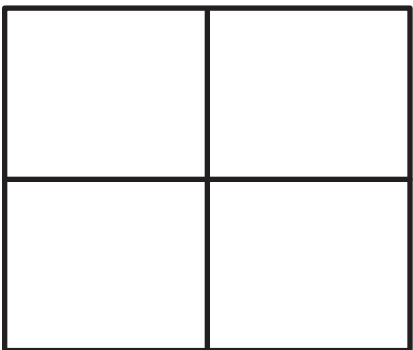
**Thank you, God,
For helping us be brave.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

“Fold Away” Handout



OK
TO COPY

Spring Quarter

Lesson 9

Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6

God Helps

Be Brave

Philip Tells the Ethiopian About Jesus

Acts 8:26-40

Most 5- and 6-year-olds are learning to respond quickly when asked to do something. However, kids often respond faster to “Come in for ice cream” than “It’s time to clean up!” It’s difficult for children this age to listen because they’re still learning how to prioritize what’s being asked of them with what they want to do. Use this lesson to help children listen to God and follow the direction of the Holy Spirit—as Philip did in the Bible.



► **Bible Point**
 Listen to God.

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

Weaving Faith Into Life
 Kids will listen to God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Now I Know Sing an ABC song about the Holy Spirit.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what a megaphone has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, megaphone (or paper rolled to look like a megaphone), CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the megaphone inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Philip Listens Listen and respond to instructions as Philip does in the Bible.	Bible, CD player, 2 spoons per child Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Listening to God Use cotton swabs to decorate their student pages.	My Bible Playground, pencils, cotton swabs, bowls, paint	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Eager Ears Make and eat a snack that looks like a face with large ears.	3 apple slices per child, raisins, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: I Hear Something! Listen and find the source of the noise.		
	Center 4: Ear Exercises Make a shaker and learn about listening to God.	1 plastic Easter egg (or small plastic container) per child, paper clips	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Listening Prayer Pray and listen for God to speak to them.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Philip Obeyed God's Leading

Since the Ethiopian eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, we can assume he knew something of the Jewish faith. He may have been fully committed to the faith because he had traveled quite a distance to worship, perhaps as far as 200 miles! He had likely been inspired by his time of worship, because he was reading from Isaiah as he rode along. We might find it strange that Philip could hear what he was reading, but it was common in ancient times to read aloud. In fact, the language was such that sounding out the words was almost necessary.

At the Holy Spirit's prompting, Philip overcame not only any fears or questions about non-Jews becoming Christians, but also any racial prejudice he may have had. The Ethiopian was a native of what is now northern Sudan and was black-skinned. God is not concerned with the color of our skin, and neither was Philip.

When Philip told the man about Jesus, the Ethiopian apparently expressed belief immediately. Baptism was taken very seriously in the early church. Philip must have been fully convinced of the certainty

The Jesus Connection

We often don't know why God guides us to do certain things. But when we know what God wants us to do, we must respond in faith and action. Who knows what God will do through us if we respond faithfully to the guidance of his Holy Spirit?

In what area of your life is God leading you to listen closely to his voice? You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19),
"Love Is Patient and
Kind" (1 Corinthians
13:4-5a) (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 ■■■■■■

When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that we can ► **LISTEN TO GOD.** Let's continue to worship by singing "Love Is Patient and Kind." We have such a wonderful, loving God!

Lead kids in singing "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 3 on the CD). Invite children to hold hands and sway to the music.



Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous

Or boastful

Or proud or rude.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.

Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is patient and kind.

"Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **When we are patient and kind, we listen to other people. We also ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let's find out more about that.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Now I Know

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse after you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Encourage children to spend a few minutes sharing about the things they're learning at home or school. Some may be learning to read, spell their name, count, tie their shoes, or ride a bike.

Say: **Wow! You're all learning so many new things every day! Isn't it great to have people at home and at school who can teach you all these wonderful things? God has also given us the Holy Spirit to teach us!** Have kids clap their hands with you to celebrate God giving us the Holy Spirit.

Say: **Now let's sing a song together about the Holy Spirit!**

Teach children the following "ABC Song" to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."



Now I Know Supplies

Bible



A-B-C-D-E-F-G, the Holy Spirit teaches me.
H-I-J-K-L-M-N, I learned that Jesus is my friend.
O-P-Q-R-S-T-U, he teaches me good things to do.
V and W-X-Y-Z, the Holy Spirit teaches me.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about something you learned from a teacher.
- What can we do to listen to God and learn from him?

Say: **The Holy Spirit helps us learn more about God and helps us so that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 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 megaphone around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, have you talked through a megaphone before? When?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

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

Theo: Megaphones are used to make a voice sound louder, so others can hear it. But you can also hold a megaphone up to your ear, and it will help you hear better.

Teacher: Thanks! We do have a lot of good things to hear today.

Theo: Like what?

Teacher: Today in the Bible we'll learn how Philip listened to God! Let's find out some ways we can ► **LISTEN TO GOD**, too!

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet
megaphone (or paper rolled to look like a megaphone)

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the megaphone inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Philip Listens

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 8, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us to be brave and that we can ► LISTEN TO GOD. Let's listen to the Bible to hear how Philip listened to God and obeyed him. While we listen, we'll hear a beat and then be asked to repeat it back by hitting spoons together. Let's try it once.**

Hand out two spoons to each child. Beat a simple rhythm, such as clap, clap, clap-clap-clap. Have kids repeat back the rhythm by hitting their spoons together.

Play "Philip Listens to God" (track 22 on the CD) and pause the CD when directed. Afterward, collect the spoons.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was easy or hard about being a good listener, obeying, and repeating the beat back to me with your spoons?**
- **What can you do to listen and obey God and "repeat back" what God wants you do to in your life?**

Say: **Each time God told Philip to go somewhere, Philip listened! You did a great job listening and obeying while listening, too. We can ► LISTEN TO 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.



Bible Time: Philip Listens Supplies

Bible
CD player
2 spoons per child
Teacher Pack
CD: "Philip Listens to
God" (track 22)



Center 1: Listening to God Supplies

My Bible Playground
pencils
cotton swabs
bowls
paint

Center 1: Listening to God Easy Prep

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

Center 2: Eager Ears Supplies

3 apple slices per child
raisins
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

CENTER 1:

Listening to God

What You'll Do

Set out shallow bowls of paint and several cotton swabs for each child. Distribute the Lesson 10 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **Cotton swabs are sometimes used to clean around our ears! We use our ears to hear and listen! There are lots of ways we can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

Have kids use the cotton swabs to paint around the edge of each way to listen to God. As kids each decorate a picture, have them tell a nearby person the way to listen to God shown in their picture.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which pictures show your favorite ways to listen to God?
- Tell about a time you used your ears and were a good listener to your parents.

Say: **God wants everyone to ► LISTEN TO GOD so we know how much he loves us!**

CENTER 2:

Eager Ears

What You'll Do

Say: **God has very important things to tell us, and he wants to make sure we hear each and every word. We can be eager to listen to God. That means we can be excited and ready to listen and learn all that we can about our wonderful God.**

Have kids clean their hands. Give each child a paper plate. Place 3 apples slices and a handful of raisins on each of their plates.

Say: **Why do you think God gave us eyes? noses? mouths? ears?**

Encourage kids to put the two apple slices on each side of their plates to look like ears and one at the bottom center of their plates to look like a mouth. Then have kids use the raisins to give their faces eyes and noses.



Ask:

- When are times you can use your ears to listen to God?

Say: **When we listen to songs about God, we use our ears to hear of the wonderful things he has done. Listening to the Bible helps us hear of God's love and the good plans he has for us.**

Let's thank God for our snack and for giving us eager ears to listen to him.

Before the children eat their Eager Ears, lead kids in a prayer of thanks to God for their snack.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes you happy and want to smile?
- What can you do to listen to and obey God this week?

Say: **God uses our parents, teachers, and others to show how much he loves and cares for us. Listening to what they tell us about God is always a good way to use our ears.** Cup one of your hands over your ear and gesture like you're listening to kids. Have kids cup their ears like they're listening, too.

■ CENTER 3:

I Hear Something!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids close their eyes and not open them until you say so. Go around to different parts of the room and clap your hands. Encourage kids to listen and go to where they think the sound is coming from. You also could give kids the opportunity to be the person making the noise. Encourage children to move slowly for safety.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you have to do to listen in this game?
- What did Philip have to do to listen in the Bible?
- What gets in the way of us listening to God today?

Say: **That was fun listening in this game! We can be like Philip and listen to God. Let's remember to always ► LISTEN TO GOD and obey him!**



Center 4: Ear Exercises Supplies

1 plastic Easter egg (or small plastic container) per child
paper clips

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

CENTER 4:

Ear Exercises

What You'll Do

Say: **Philip was a good listener. He was ready to do what God told him to do. Philip didn't just talk to God; he listened to God, too. We're going to exercise our ears so we can learn to listen, too. And we'll make some wonderful sounds at the same time.**

Give kids each a plastic egg or plastic container. Let kids fill the container with paper clips. Have kids form a circle and hold their shakers.

Say: **Everyone give your shaker a good shake.** Let kids make some noise with their shakers.

Say: **Now we're going to go around the circle and listen to each other shake the shaker and say the Bible Point: ► LISTEN TO GOD.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about this game?
- What do you like about listening to God?

Say: **It's fun to listen to God. We may not be used to listening to God, but we can learn to listen carefully like Philip did. You can take your shaker home and use it to tell your parents about what we learned from the Bible today, and how we can ► LISTEN TO GOD.**

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 to ► LISTEN TO GOD. Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way you can listen to God this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Draw a picture of God talking to you, and then hang it in your room to remind you that we can listen to God.**
2. **Play a game of Follow the Leader with your friends. When you're finished playing, tell your friends that God wants us to listen to and follow him.**
3. **Ask a family member what his or her favorite thing about God is—and then listen carefully to what he or she says.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 1. If you want to play Follow the Leader, circle choice number 2. If you want to talk to a family member about God, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Listening Prayer

What You'll Do

Ask:

- **What do people do when they pray—talk or listen?**

Say: **God wants us to listen to him when we pray—not just talk. And God will talk to us like he talked to Philip. Let's listen to God now.**

Pray: **God, we want to listen to you. Sometimes that's hard because of all the things going on around us. So we can listen to you right now.** Invite kids to just sit quietly and listen to God. After 15 seconds, pray: **Thank you for helping us listen to 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 children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:1-44

One of the best things about 5- and 6-year-olds is that most of them are fearless when it comes to talking to people. They hold nothing back—and sometimes that can be really embarrassing for adults! But it also means they aren't afraid to tell people about Jesus. If only everyone could talk about Jesus so fearlessly! Use this lesson to help kids learn how to tell other people about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	A Helpful Teacher Learn how to sign the phrase “Jesus loves you and me.”	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a rainbow has to do with the Bible today.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, picture of a rainbow, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the picture of a rainbow inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Peter's Vision Experience Peter's vision.	Bible, towel, toy animals, markers Teacher Pack: “Peter Visits Cornelius” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Hide the toy animals in the towel.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

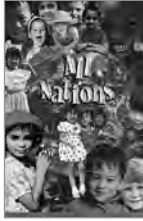
Tell everyone about Jesus.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will tell others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: What a Sight! Make a bedsheet filled with animals, like that in the Bible passage.	My Bible Playground, markers	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Okay to Eat Make an edible sheet filled with animals.	1 fruit leather per child, animal crackers, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Shape Up! Use modeling dough to make the people and animals in the story.	bandanna, modeling dough	
	Center 4: Fingerprints Learn that each of us is different.	paper, pencils, light-colored construction paper, glue, washable ink pad, wet wipes	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	All Nations Prayer Pray for people as they put together a puzzle.	Teacher Pack: "All Nations" puzzle, separated 	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Meet Cornelius

God Speaks: A Tale of Two Visions

The Jesus Connection

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "God's Not Dead" (track 5)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we'll learn that we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. God loves everyone, and he wants everyone to live forever with him. Let's celebrate and sing our next song.**

Play "God's Not Dead" (track 5 on the CD) and encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the actions.



(Chorus)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

God's not dead, no! (*cup both hands around mouth, and then shake a pointer finger on "no"*)

He is alive. (*wave both hands overhead*)

I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)

I see him in my hands. (*wiggle your hands*)
 I see him in my feet. (*wiggle your feet*)
 I see him in the air. (*place one hand above your eyes*)
 I see him everywhere. (*place both hands above your eyes*)
 I see him at the church. (*hold both hands like a roof over your head*)
 I see him on the street. (*point to the ground*)
 And I know he's living in me. (*point to your forehead, and then point to your chest*)
 No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. (*shake a pointer finger*)

(Repeat chorus.)

Say: **God's not dead—and neither is his Son, Jesus! We can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

A Helpful Teacher

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse after you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Ask:

- What do you picture when I say the words *Holy Spirit*?
- What would you like the Holy Spirit to teach you?

Say: **One thing the Holy Spirit teaches us is that we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. Let's learn a way to tell others that Jesus is for everyone. Today I'm going to show you how to use sign language to say, "Jesus loves you and me."** Sign "Jesus loves you and me" (see below).

Say: **Sign language is a way to say words with our hands instead of our voices. Watch carefully, and follow along with your hands.**

To sign the word *Jesus*, indicate the marks of the nails on Jesus' hands by using the left middle finger to touch the right palm and then using the right middle finger to touch the left palm. Show kids the sign for *love* by crossing closed or flat hands over your heart



A Helpful Teacher Supplies

Bible



with palms facing in. For the words *you* and *me*, simply point to someone else and then to yourself. If some of the children already know sign language, invite them to help teach the others.

Say: **Jesus loves you and me.** Have kids each sign “Jesus loves you and me” with their hands.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s important about telling other people that Jesus loves you and me?

Say: **It’s always fun to learn something new, especially when you have a teacher to help you learn. That’s why God gave us the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit can teach us how to do the right thing and how to learn more about Jesus and about God’s Word. Let’s say our Key Verse together one more time!** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

.....

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo’s News

Theo’s News Supplies

.....

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
picture of a rainbow
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “Here, Theo” (track 4)

Theo’s News Easy Prep

.....

Put the picture of a rainbow inside 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, and begin “Here, Theo” (track 4 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 of the rainbow around the circle so others can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, what do you think a rainbow has to do with the Bible?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

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

Theo: To see if you’d be able to find it. What did you notice about this rainbow?

Teacher: It’s in the sky.

Theo: Yes! What else?

Teacher: It’s in the shape of a semi-circle.

Theo: Yes! What else?

Teacher: There are lots of different colors in it.

Theo: Yes, there are so many beautiful colors!

Teacher: And God made all the colors in the world. He made big and little people, rich and poor people, and people who live all over the world. God loves us all!

Theo: Wow, really?

Teacher: Yes and today we'll hear about two people in the Bible who learned that we can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.** Let's find out what happened!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Peter's Vision

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Acts 10, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Peter and many Jewish people like him thought that Jesus' love was just for Jewish people. But even Peter had a lot to learn. One day, a man named Cornelius had a visit from an angel. The angel said, "Go get Peter. God wants us to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS."** Have kids repeat the Bible Point: ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**

Say: **So Cornelius sent some men to Peter. Peter was praying on the roof of a house. Maybe he went there because it was quiet there and he felt closer to God.** Have kids close their eyes as if praying. Tell them to keep their eyes closed until you tell them to open them.

Say: **While he prayed, Peter saw something amazing. For coming down, down, down out of heaven was a sheet full of wiggly animals.** Place the towel full of animals on the floor; then have kids open their eyes.

God told Peter that it was okay to like animals that he wasn't used to and to love people he wasn't used to. Peter heard God's voice three times; then the sheet was taken back to heaven. Have kids hold the edge of the towel and bounce it up and down three times. Then have kids on each side slowly walk their edges into the center. Gather the edges of the towel so all the animals are inside, and then place it out of sight.

Say: **Peter finally got it! Peter hurried with the servants to Cornelius' home and told him what he saw. He said that it doesn't matter what we eat, where we live, or what we look like. We can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS!** Show kids the "Peter Visits Cornelius" poster. Encourage kids to each draw a smiley face on the poster and say the Bible Point aloud: ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**



Bible Time: Peter's Vision Supplies

Bible
towel
toy animals
markers

Teacher Pack
"Peter Visits Cornelius"
poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time Easy Prep

Hide the toy animals in the towel.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about what happened to Peter?
- Why do you think God wanted Peter to love everyone?

Say: It makes no difference what people look like, what they eat, where they live, or what job they have. We can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS!**

.....

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

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

■ CENTER 1:

What a Sight!

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 11 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **We're going to draw some animals together! I want you draw an animal, and each time you draw a different animal, say the name of a friend or family member you can tell about Jesus.**

Give kids time to draw and offer names.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What animals did you draw?
- What could you say to the people you named?

Say: **God made people all different sizes, colors, and shapes. Wouldn't it be boring if everyone were the same? No matter where a person lives, what a person eats, or what a person looks like, you can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS!**

Center 1: What a Sight! Supplies

.....

My Bible Playground
markers

Center 1: What a Sight! Easy Prep

.....

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

CENTER 2:

Okay to Eat

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Give each child a paper plate and a piece of fruit leather.

Say: ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. It doesn't matter where we live or what we eat. Spread the news!**

Have each child unroll the leather so it looks like the sheet in the Bible passage. Then let kids fill each of their "sheets" with all kinds of animals. Ask someone to pray, and then let the kids enjoy their snacks.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things God has created in the world that you like to eat?
- What's important about thanking God for the things we eat?

Say: **God wants us to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. The more people who know about him, the more people who can live with him forever in heaven!**

CENTER 3:

Shape Up!

What You'll Do

Set out a handful of modeling dough for each child.

Say: **Peter sure saw all kinds of animals. He probably saw animals like goats and pigs and donkeys. He also saw reptiles and birds.**

Encourage children to use the dough to make figures from the Bible passage, making as many figures as they want. They can make Cornelius, Peter, and the animals. Let them use the dough shapes to retell what they've heard. Children can use the bandanna as the sheet from the vision.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Peter learn in his dream?
- What can we do to tell others that Jesus loves you and me?



Center 2: Okay to Eat Supplies

1 fruit leather per child
animal crackers
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Shape Up! Supplies

bandanna
modeling dough



Center 4: Fingerprints Supplies

paper
pencils
light-colored
construction paper
glue
washable ink pad
wet wipes

Say: You can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS**, no matter where you live, what you eat, or what you look like. Let's tell all people that Jesus loves them!

CENTER 4:

Fingerprints

What You'll Do

Say: Let's learn about how God made people in all different shapes and sizes.

Have kids each trace one of their hands onto the paper.

Say: **Each of us is different, and one of the cool things that's different about us is our fingerprints!**

Use the ink pad and help kids each press a fingerprint on their hand shapes and then use a wet wipe to clean their fingers. Allow children to compare their fingerprints with the fingerprints of other children.

Say: **Isn't it great that God made people in all different shapes and sizes? Even our fingerprints are different!** Hold up your hand and wiggle your fingers.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's similar or different about the fingerprints you see?
- In what other ways are you the same as other people? What's different about you?

Say: **The one thing that's the same for each of us is God's love. Not one person is left out of God's love. His arms reach out and hug everyone. So we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS**, because God sent Jesus to earth for everyone.

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've learned from the Bible today.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

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've learned that we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. Choose one of these Daily Challenges to tell people about Jesus this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Tell a friend at school about Jesus—while sharing your lunch with him or her, too!**
2. **Tell each of your family members about Jesus and his love for them.**
3. **Take your neighbor some cookies with a note attached, telling him or her about Jesus' love.**

Say: **If you want to tell a friend about Jesus, circle choice number 1. If you want to tell family members about Jesus, circle choice number 2. If you want to take cookies to a neighbor, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

All Nations Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■

Set out the "All Nations" puzzle pieces, and hand a piece to any child who would like to pray out loud. One at a time, have children each say a prayer for someone they want to tell about Jesus. As each child prays, help the child place the piece into the puzzle.

After everyone has prayed, say: **God loves us all of us. We all fit together like one big puzzle.**

Have kids join hands around the puzzle. Have kids repeat each line after you as you say the following prayer.

Pray: **Thank you, Jesus,
For loving everyone.
In your name, amen.**



**All Nations Prayer
Prayer
Supplies**

Teacher Pack
"All Nations" puzzle,
separated



Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Barnabas Encourages Christians in Antioch

Acts 11:19-26

Your 5- and 6-year-olds are often asked to help out with easy concrete tasks like cleaning up toys or passing out snacks. Though these opportunities to help may seem small to adults, they're very meaningful to young children. Helping someone complete a task validates a child's abilities and boosts self-esteem as the child recognizes that he or she has made a significant contribution. Use this lesson to point kids in a new direction: helping others spiritually. Though spiritual help isn't always concrete, it's something kids this age can do—and the impact is eternal. Help kids see throughout this lesson that they can help others love Jesus.



► Bible Point


Help others love Jesus.

Key Verse


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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will encourage others in their faith.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Super-Special Messages Run a relay "race" to deliver encouraging messages.	Bible	Enlist the aid of an adult helper for this activity.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a smiling face has to do with the Bible today.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, picture of a smiling face glued to construction paper, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the picture inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Barnabas in the Bible Listen to the Bible passage, and pretend to be Barnabas and the people in Antioch.	Bible, 2 envelopes, red construction paper, brown construction paper, scissors, glue sticks Teacher Pack: "Saul and Barnabas Encourage Christians" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut out 1 small, red, paper heart and 1 small, brown, paper cross for every 2 children. Put the hearts in one envelope and the crosses in the other.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Smiles of Faith Help Barnabas visit Antioch, and draw smiles on the faces of the people there.	My Bible Playground, glue, child-safe scissors, crayons or markers	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Let-Me-Help Snack Help each other make snacks.	graham crackers, softened cream cheese, raisins, paper plates, plastic knives, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Help Me Remember! Play a matching game by helping each other remember things.	Teacher Pack: “Matching Cards,” separated	
	Center 4: Stick With Jesus Create their own stickers.	1 adhesive-paper sheet per 2 kids, markers, glue, child-safe scissors, glitter	Use a marker to divide each sheet of adhesive paper into 8 rectangles. Then cut the sheets in half so each child will have a sheet of 4 rectangles.
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Help-Me-to-Help Prayer Say an action prayer.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Reason to Praise

Reason to Scatter

Spreading the News

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we'll learn about a man named Barnabas and how he helped other Christians feel happy and believe in Jesus. Let's sing a song about how we can**
► **HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS.**

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD) Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have girls sing the phrase and boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)

Eeeeeee! (*E*)

Ssssss! (S)
Uuuuuu! (U)
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)
And who do you love? (Jesus!)
And who loves you? (Jesus!)
Who died for you? (Jesus!)
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Jesus loves you and me. We can ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS.**

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Super-Special Messages

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have everyone sit in a circle. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse after you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Ask:

- **What's easy or difficult about learning something new?**

Say: **The Holy Spirit can teach us by giving us special messages to share with others. In the Bible, we'll hear about how the Holy Spirit gave a man named Barnabas special messages to share. Let's play a game where we share special messages.**



Super-Special Messages Supplies

Bible

Super-Special Messages Easy Prep

Enlist the aid of an adult helper for this activity.



Have half of the kids line up on one side of the room and the other half line up on the other side. Stand on one side with one group of kids, and have your adult helper stand on the other side with the other group.

Say: **We're going to run a "Super-Special Message Delivery Race"! I'll begin by whispering a special message in the ear of the first person in line on my side.**

The special messages should be simple, encouraging statements such as "Jesus loves you," "You are special to God," "The Holy Spirit is always with you," or "Believe in Jesus."

Have the child who was whispered to race across the room to the first person in line on the other side and say the message to that child.

Have the adult helper on that side of the room whisper a special message into the ear of the first person in line, who will then run to your side to deliver the message to the second person.

Have kids continue running back and forth, racing to deliver their super-special secret messages. Give this message to the last runner: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is it important to tell our friends about Jesus?**
- **What are some ways we can tell our friends about Jesus?**

Say: **Good job delivering messages! The Holy Spirit has messages for you that will ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS. The Holy Spirit will give you special messages to share with people. The Holy Spirit will give you ideas of nice things to say, kind things to do, or special things to pray for other people. This is a way that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say that special message again one more time.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

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, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
picture of a smiling face
glued to construction
paper
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

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

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 smiling face around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn about in the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this smiling face in our Surprise Box?

Theo: Well I was going to put a frowning face in, but a smiling face is so much better. Don't you agree, kids?

(Pause for kids to respond.)

Teacher: Okay, but you still haven't told us why you put the smiling face into the Surprise Box.

Theo: To make you smile, of course...

Teacher: Friends, when was a time you felt very happy?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo: I'm happy right now!

Teacher: That's good. Today we're going to learn from the Bible about a man named Barnabas and how a group of people became very, very happy. We'll find out how we can ► **HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS**, too!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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: Barnabas in the Bible

What You'll Do

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

Say: **The Bible tells us about some people in a town called Antioch. Some of them believed in Jesus, but they wanted to learn more about him.**

Invite a child from the group to be Barnabas, and have him or her stand by the door.

Have the child playing Barnabas knock loudly on the door, and then run over to the rest of the kids.

Say: **Hi, Barnabas!** Have kids wave to "Barnabas."

The people of Antioch were so happy when Barnabas arrived!



Bible Time: Barnabas in the Bible Supplies

Bible
2 envelopes
red construction paper
brown construction paper
scissors
glue sticks

Teacher Pack

"Saul and Barnabas Encourage Christians" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Barnabas in the Bible Easy Prep

Cut out 1 small, red, paper heart and 1 small, brown, paper cross for every 2 children. Put the hearts in one envelope and the crosses in the other.



Have the kids clap and cheer to welcome Barnabas. Lead them in cheering, **“Wel-come, Barnabas! Wel-come, Barnabas! Wel-come, Barnabas!”**

Say: **Barnabas was a good man. He had great faith in Jesus, and he trusted the Holy Spirit to teach him.**

Help kids form two equal groups, and have the two groups stand a few feet apart from each other.

Say: **Barnabas encouraged the Christians in Antioch—he helped them feel happy and learn about Jesus.**

Give the child playing Barnabas the envelope full of paper hearts. Have Barnabas pass out the hearts to one of the groups of children.

Say: **Barnabas helped the Christians in Antioch love Jesus with their whole hearts.**

Ask:

- **What are some ways we can help others love Jesus with their whole hearts the way Barnabas did?**

Show children the “Saul and Barnabas Encourage Christians” poster. Encourage the group of kids with the hearts to come to the poster and each glue a heart to the poster to remind them that Jesus wants us to love him with our whole heart.

Say: **Jesus wants us to love him with our whole heart and ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS!**

Point to the other group of kids.

Say: **There were also people in Antioch who didn’t know about Jesus and didn’t have a friendship with him.**

Give Barnabas the envelope filled with paper crosses. Have Barnabas give one of the crosses to each child in the second group. Have these kids come to the poster and each glue a cross to the poster to remind them that we can ► **HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS**, just like Barnabas did!

Say: **Barnabas told everyone about Jesus. He told them that Jesus loved them and wanted to be their friend. He helped them believe in Jesus. Barnabas made the people in Antioch feel very happy.**

Have groups smile, cheer, and clap to celebrate as they say: **Let’s ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can you do to help others feel happy the way Barnabas did?
- What can you do to help others love Jesus the way Barnabas did?

Say: **Today we're going to learn about many ways that we can be like Barnabas and**
► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS.

.....

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:

Smiles of Faith

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Barnabas helped the people in Antioch believe in Jesus.** Prompt the kids to repeat the Bible Point: **► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS.**

Distribute the Lesson 12 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers.

Say: **God used Barnabas to help other people love Jesus. Let's cut out the picture of Barnabas, and then add him to the crowd of people.**

Have kids use child-safe scissors to cut out the picture of Barnabas at the bottom of the page. Then have them glue Barnabas to the empty spot in the picture.

Say: **Barnabas helped the people in Antioch love Jesus. That made them very happy!**

Have kids draw smiles on the faces of all the people in the picture. Then invite them to color the picture.



Center 1: Smiles of Faith Supplies

.....

My Bible Playground
glue
child-safe scissors
crayons or markers

Center 1: Smiles of Faith Easy Prep

.....

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



Center 2: Let-Me-Help Snack Supplies

graham crackers
softened cream cheese
raisins
paper plates
plastic knives
napkins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes people happy when they learn about Jesus?
- What can you do to help other people be happy to learn about Jesus?

Say: **Barnabas helped other people believe in Jesus and it made them happy. We can also ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS by being friendly, nice, and loving. We can tell other people about the Bible and invite them to church. We can help people be friends with Jesus.**

■ CENTER 2:

Let-Me-Help Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and form pairs. Set out the supplies.

Say: **Barnabas helped other people believe in Jesus. Right now you're going to be like Barnabas and help each other. You're going to help your partner make a snack that tells about Jesus.**

Demonstrate how to make a snack by spreading cream cheese on a large graham cracker and then making a cross on the graham cracker using raisins.

Say: **It's important to learn how to help each other, so your job is to take turns helping each other make your snack.**

Have kids help their partners spread cream cheese on their graham crackers or help them make raisin crosses.

Ask:

- What did you do to help your partner?

Say: **Congratulations on doing such a great job helping each other!** Lead kids in a prayer of thanks to God, and let them eat their snacks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was special about the way your partner helped you make your snack?
- Barnabas helped the people in Antioch believe in Jesus. What can you do to help other people believe in Jesus?

Say: **There are lots of ways we can ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS. We can be**

friendly and nice. We can give hugs and share toys. We can tell each other about Jesus' love. We can pray for each other. Let's try to be like Barnabas this week and help each other believe in Jesus!



CENTER 3:

Help Me Remember!

What You'll Do

Say: **We're going to play a game, but you'll need to be patient and wait your turn.**

Mix up the "Matching Cards," and spread them out facedown on the floor.

Say: **There are pictures on these cards that match! Your job is to try to find the pairs by helping each other match the different pictures.**

Have children go to the "game board" one at a time and select two cards to turn over. If they do not select a matching pair, they will simply show everyone the two cards they turned over, and then put them back in the same place on the floor, facedown. The next child will then take a turn as the rest of the group helps each player remember where the different pictures are.



If a match is found, take the paired cards off the game board and set them to the side face up. Let another child take the next turn. Continue in this manner until all four pairs are selected.

If you're able, shuffle the cards and repeat the game again; kids will enjoy the sense of accomplishment they feel as they get better and better at working together to remember where the cards are placed.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

-  **What did you do to help each other?**
-  **What are some other ways to help love others?**

Say: **God used Barnabas to help the people in Antioch believe in Jesus. And God can use you to help your friends and family members believe in Jesus and become better friends with him! We can ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS!**

Center 3: Help Me
Remember!
Supplies

Teacher Pack
"Matching Cards,"
separated



Center 4: Stick With Jesus Supplies

1 adhesive-paper sheet
per 2 kids
markers
glue
child-safe scissors
glitter

Center 4: Stick With Jesus Easy Prep

Use a marker to divide each sheet of adhesive paper into 8 rectangles. Then cut the sheets in half so each child will have a sheet of 4 rectangles.

CENTER 4:

Stick With Jesus

What You'll Do

Give children each a half-sheet of adhesive paper, and have them write their names on the back.

Say: **I'm going to say something, and then I want you to draw a picture of it in one of the rectangles on your paper. Ready?**

Smiley face. I'd like you to draw a smiley face. Give kids time to draw their smiley faces, and then direct them to draw the following three things on three more rectangles. Allow time for them to finish each one: a heart, a Bible, a church.

When kids are done drawing, give them glitter and glue. Encourage kids to use the supplies to decorate the pictures they just created.

Say: **We learned today that we can ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS. We just drew four different ways that we can help people love Jesus.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Point out one of the kids' smiley faces.

Ask:

- **What does this smiley face show us?**
- **What are some ways we can smile and be happy in knowing Jesus loves us?**

Hold up a heart drawing.

Ask:

- **What ideas does this heart give us for how to help others love Jesus?**

Hold up a drawing of a Bible.

Ask:

- **What can the Bible tell us about how to help people love Jesus?**

Hold up a drawing of a church.

Ask:

- **What does a church tell us about how to help others love Jesus?**

Say: **There are so many ways we can help people believe in and love Jesus! The four drawings you made are on special paper—you just created stickers! You can**

help people love Jesus by sharing your stickers! You can give them to a friend or family member, you can wear one on your shirt, or you can stick them in places where others will see them and learn about Jesus.

Help kids use child-safe scissors to cut the stickers apart.



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 ► HELP OTHERS LOVE JESUS.** Choose one of these Daily Challenges to help others love Jesus this week.

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Pray for a friend at school who doesn't know Jesus.**
2. **Give someone in your family a hug, and tell that person that Jesus wants us to love him.**
3. **Draw a picture of yourself telling others about Jesus, and then hang it in your room to remind you that we can help others love Jesus!**

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

Help-Me-to-Help Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the group stand in a circle. Encourage kids to ask God to show them a way to help another person learn about Jesus. Then lead the group in this eyes-open prayer by having them repeat each line and action after you.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



Pray: **Dear God,**

I believe in you. *(point your index finger up to sky)*

I love you with all my heart. *(put both hands over heart)*

We want to help each other *(hold hands with the people next to you)*

believe in you. *(point finger to the sky)*

Help us help others. *(fold hands in prayer)*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



Jesus Sends Power From God

Acts 2:1-21

Five- and six-year-olds learn in concrete ways and need hands-on opportunities to grasp the basic truth about the Holy Spirit. At this age, kids need to be shown that ice, water, and steam are all forms of water, but appear differently. Similarly, kids need to be shown how God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God gave us the Holy Spirit to teach us, guide us, and give us the power to tell all people about God's love.



►Bible Point


God gives us the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will tell others that God gives us the Holy Spirit.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Teach Me! Color three sides of a triangle.	Bible Teacher Pack: "Trinity" Triangles, separated	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a fan has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, paper fan, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the fan inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: The Holy Spirit Make puppets.	Bible, CD player, flashlight, paper fan from Theo's News, My Bible Playground, stapler, markers Teacher Pack: CD	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Holy Spirit Helps Use props to retell an event in the Bible.	CD player, props and puppets from the “Bible Time” activity Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 2: Three-in-One Enjoy a three-in-one snack.	milk, cups, chocolate syrup, cookies, spoon, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: A-Maze-ing Spirit Be led around the room.		
	Center 4: Pouring Out the Spirit Pour water over decorated cups.	paper cups, crayons, pitchers of water, measuring cups, towels	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Flaming Prayer Thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit.	flashlight	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Passover

Speaking in Other Tongues?

Peter: A Changed Man

The Jesus Connection

When God has something big for us to do, he'll empower us to do it. And God may use us in remarkable ways if we're willing to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pray and ask God how he wants to use your life for his glory. Trust him to empower you to accomplish his plans. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



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

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT. Let's sing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" in our most powerful, loud, and happy voices to show how powerful Jesus can help us be!**

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have the girls sing the first phrase and have the boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)

Eeeeeee! (E)
Ssssss! (S)
Uuuuuu! (U)
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)
And who do you love? (Jesus!)
And who loves you? (Jesus!)
Who died for you? (Jesus!)
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Teach Me!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse after you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Go around the circle and say the Key Verse followed by each child's name.

Ask:

- **Who are people at church who teach you? at home? at school?**

Say: **Parents or grandparents may teach you to wash your hands, tie your shoes, and love your brothers and sisters. Pastors and teachers help you learn about Jesus and how much God loves you. Today we're learning about how God sent a**



Teach Me! Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
"Trinity" Triangles,
separated



powerful teacher—the Holy Spirit! Our Key Verse from the Bible says “The Holy Spirit will teach you” (John 14:26).

Give each child a Trinity Triangle. Hold up a triangle.

Say: **God has three sides.** Show kids the blue side of the triangle.

God is the Father who created everything. Have kids name some things that God created. Then have kids each point their finger at the blue side. Then point to the yellow side.

Say: **God is the Son—Jesus, who saves us.** Have kids name other ways Jesus shows he loves us. Then have kids each point their finger at the yellow side. Then point to the red side.

Say: **God is the Holy Spirit who teaches us.** Have kids name ways the Holy Spirit teaches us. Then have kids each point their finger at the red side. Show kids the three sides of the triangle.

Say: **All three—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are God. Just like one triangle is made from three sides.**

God loves us so much that he sent Jesus. And Jesus came to earth to save us. Then when Jesus went to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to teach us.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin “Here, Theo” (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up 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 fan around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible.)

Teacher: Friends, what do people use fans for?

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

paper fan

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Here, Theo” (track
4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the fan inside the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a fan in the Surprise Box?

Theo: I just want you to know I'm your biggest *fan*.

Teacher: Oh yeah?

Theo: Yeah, you're really *cool*.

Teacher: Oh! Because a fan cools me off?

Theo: Coming up with these jokes is a...*breeze*!

Teacher: Okay, seriously, a fan helps a person make a breeze to cool off on a hot day.

Today we're going to hear about a room that was filled with a powerful breeze!

Theo: What kind of powerful breeze?

Teacher: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT!** Let's find out what the breeze was!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: 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 Holy Spirit

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Open your Bible to Acts 2, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today in the Bible we're going to learn that ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

First we're going to make puppets, and then we'll pretend we're in the room with Jesus' friends.

Have kids follow these instructions to make puppets:

- **Design your page to look like you—same color of eyes, hair, and clothes.**
- **Fold the page and staple the side and top together to form a puppet.**
- **Leave the bottom open to slide your hand into your puppet.**

Have kids sit in a circle and hold up their completed puppets so everyone can see them, but tell them not to put them on their hands yet.

Say: **Look at all of us in one place! In the Bible, Jesus' friends heard a sound like the blowing of a strong wind. It came from heaven and filled the whole house!**

Walk around to the kids and wave the paper fan gently so they can feel the air on their faces. Play "Windy Day" (track 20 on the CD), and dim the lights.

Say: **Then the people saw what looked like a flame of fire that rested on each one of them!** Shine the flashlight on each child's head.



Bible Time: The Holy Spirit Supplies

Bible
CD player
flashlight
paper fan from Theo's News
My Bible Playground
stapler
markers
Teacher Pack
CD: "Windy Day" (track 20)

Bible Time: The Holy Spirit Easy Prep

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



Say: **The fire didn't hurt them or burn them. All the people were filled with the Holy Spirit!** Have kids slide their hands into their puppets.

Say: **Just like your hand is filling your puppet, the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends and taught them to do something amazing—they began to speak in other languages!** Tell one child to say “hola” while moving his or her puppet. Then have another child say “bonjour” and move the puppet and another child say “hello.”

Say: **Hola is Spanish and bonjour is French for the English word hello.** Go around the circle and have each child say one of the words.

On the count of three, have kids shout their words again and again while they move their puppets. Tell them to keep going until you motion for them to stop.

After about 30 seconds, stop the kids and say: **When people heard this sound, they crowded around those people who believed in Jesus! The crowd heard many languages! The crowd asked, “How do these people know how to speak all these languages?”** Have kids repeat the question.

They were so surprised. Some people, however, thought the new Christians were just being silly. Peter stood up with the new Christians so he could talk to the crowd. Have all the kids stand up.

Peter wanted to tell the crowd that God promised he'd “pour out” his Holy Spirit. That means ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT. Just like your hand helps your puppet move, the Holy Spirit fills us and helps us live. Have kids move their puppets as they repeat each of the following lines after you.

**God said he would give us the Holy Spirit!
The Holy Spirit fills us.
The Holy Spirit teaches us.
The Holy Spirit helps us remember all Jesus did.
God wants everyone to follow him and live with him forever!**

Encourage children to move their puppets as they each tell the Bible Point to two kids standing close to them. Then have children sit again, and turn off the CD.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **You filled your puppet with your hand and made it move. What do people do when they're filled with the Holy Spirit?**
- **Why is it important to listen to the Holy Spirit?**

Say: **I think the new Christians were so surprised and happy when God gave them the Holy Spirit. Just like when you put your hand in your puppet and helped it move (put your hand in a puppet and make it move).**

Say: **God puts his Holy Spirit in believers and helps them tell others about Jesus! God will always live inside of them and help them tell others about him. ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT.**



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:

Holy Spirit Helps

What You'll Do

Replay "Windy Day" (track 20 on the CD), and let kids use the props and puppets from Bible Time to tell the Bible passage themselves.

Ask:

- Tell about a time someone helped you like the Holy Spirit helped the people in the Bible.
- What do you need the Holy Spirit's help with today?

Say: **When God gave the Holy Spirit to the believers, God filled them and lived inside of them. Just like you help your puppet move when your hand fills it, the Holy Spirit fills us and helps us live like Jesus.**

CENTER 2:

Three-in-One

What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands.

Say: **God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Let's talk about this during our snack.**

First we have God the Father. Give kids each a cookie.

Center 1: Holy Spirit Helps Supplies

CD player
props and puppets
from the "Bible Time"
activity

Teacher Pack
CD: "Windy Day" (track
20)

Center 2: Three-in- One Supplies

milk
cups
chocolate syrup
cookies
spoon
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**! ALLERGY
ALERT**



Then we have the Son. Give kids the milk.

Finally, there's the Holy Spirit. Walk around and pour a little syrup into each cup, stirring as you go. Then pray.

Say: **Dip your cookie into your chocolate milk to experience all three things at once as you eat your snack.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As kids enjoy their treats, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to dip your cookie and experience the milk, the chocolate, and cookie all together?**

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT**, but we can't forget there are two other parts: God the Father and Jesus the Son.

■ **CENTER 3:**

A-Maze-ing Spirit

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT** to teach us and lead us. Find a partner, and pick one person to be the Leader and the other person the Follower.

Have kids take turns leading each other from one side of the room to the other. The Follower should close his or her eyes while the Leader leads. Afterward, have kids swap roles.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was easy or difficult about leading?**
- **What was easy or difficult about following?**
- **What's easy or difficult about following the Holy Spirit?**

Say: **When we're not sure what to do, the Holy Spirit can help us. That's why God sent the Holy Spirit—to help us when we need help!**

CENTER 4:

Pouring Out the Spirit

What You'll Do

Say: **Peter told the crowd that God had promised he'd "pour out" his Holy Spirit. That means the Holy Spirit fills us, lives in us, and helps us tell everyone about Jesus' love!**

Have kids color the cups to look like a crowd of people—old and young, men and women, with different colors of hair, skin, and eyes. Then let the kids have fun using the measuring cups to fill the cups with water.

As they fill each cup, have children say, ► **"GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT."**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways that we can let God fill us?
- What can we do to show others we are filled by God?

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit fills us and helps us live like Jesus would want us to. The Holy Spirit helps us tell everyone about Jesus and his love.**

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 tell what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

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

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT. Choose one of these Daily Challenges as a way you can think about that this week.**



Center 4: Pouring Out the Spirit Supplies

paper cups
crayons
pitchers of water
measuring cups
towels

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



Flaming Prayer Supplies

flashlight

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Have a parent turn on a fan in your bedroom, and then thank God together for sending the Holy Spirit.**
2. **Retell today's Bible passage to your friends at school, and explain that God gives us the Holy Spirit.**
3. **Read a Bible passage with a family member, and then thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit.**

Say: **If you want to have a parent turn on a fan for you, circle choice number 1. If you want to tell friends about the Bible passage, circle choice number 2. If you want to read the Bible with a family member, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Flaming Prayer

What You'll Do

Shine the flashlight one at a time on each child, and have everyone pray with you:

Thanks, God, for giving your Holy Spirit to help [child's name].

After you shine a light on and name a child, have that child thank God for something the Holy Spirit has taught him or her.

Close with: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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