

# FAITHweAVER

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**SUMMER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PRE-K&K** AGES  
5&6  
**TEACHER GUIDE**



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

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



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

Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

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

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

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

## **It's simpler and easier.** ■■■■

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

## **It's made for NOW.** ■■■■

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

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

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



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

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

*Thom Schultz Joani Schultz*

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





# Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

## 2 Kings 4:1-7

The children you lead have had different experiences. Some kids may've had to rely on God's care to help them through difficult times, much as the widow and her sons did. Others may've never felt those types of serious needs. Regardless of their life experiences, all children can understand that God provides food, clothing, and housing. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God cares for them and they can care for others, too.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Patience, Please</b> Play a waiting game where they have to be patient.	Bible, watch with a second hand	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what cooking oil has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, small bottle of oil, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the small bottle of oil inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Elisha and the Widow</b> Estimate how far a little oil can go, and discover how Elisha helped the widow and her sons.	Bible; 1 paper cup per child; 1 large, clear pitcher with just enough water to fill 2 or 3 cups and another large, clear pitcher filled with water; yellow food coloring; 1 adult volunteer	Add yellow food coloring to water to make it look like cooking oil.  Hide the cups around the room, and arrange for a volunteer to come in with the full pitcher.



### ► Bible Point

God cares for us.

### Key Verse

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will offer help and care to others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Filling the Jar</b> Retell the Scripture, and watch the jars on the student pages fill with oil.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, several pairs of scissors, glue sticks, 1 craft stick per child	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Oil's Well That Ends Well</b> Make an oil and vinegar salad dressing to dip bread in.	oil-based Italian salad dressing, small bowls, 1 loaf of French bread, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	Tear the bread into bite-sized pieces.
	<b>Center 3: Estimating Oil</b> Estimate the number of containers that can be filled with liquid to remember the Bible passage.	pitcher of colored water and cups from the Bible Time activity, various containers, dishpans	Set out a variety of containers such as measuring cups and spoons, jars, bowls, thimbles, and paper cups. Make sure you don't have enough water to fill all of the containers.
	<b>Center 4: God Is Good!</b> Decorate "God Cares" jars to take home.	scissors; a variety of stickers, sequins, and other decorative items; glue sticks; washable markers; slips of paper <b>Teacher Pack:</b> 1 copy per child of the "God Cares Jar" per child (at the end of this lesson)	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>World Prayer</b> Name people God loves, and thank God for his love and care.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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 student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

## Elisha Helps a Widow and Her Sons

## 2 Kings 4:1-7

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Elisha the Prophet

Elisha was a prophet who ministered in Israel during the time of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Elisha's ministry spanned the reigns of four kings: Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash. And he was even consulted by Jehoshaphat, a king of Judah.

In 2 Kings 4:1-7, it is interesting to note that the husband who died had been from “the company of the prophets.” During this time in Israel in which few people followed God, groups of people gathered to promote the worship of God, with older prophets acting as spiritual mentors to younger ones. Thus it is quite possible that Elisha was familiar with the widow and her sons.

## It Seems Cruel, But...

Apparently the man who died had left significant debt. Though it seems cruel, Mosaic law provided that a creditor could force debtors or the children of debtors into slavery in exchange for unpaid debt. And even though the widow had just lost her husband, a creditor was apparently threatening to take her two sons.

The oil the woman possessed wasn't even enough to cook with. The Hebrew word for *oil* used here indicates that she had only a small flask of oil that was used for anointing, not cooking.

## God's Creative Plan

God didn't respond to the widow's need by having Elisha produce a bag of gold coins that would enable her to pay her debt. Instead, knowing that they had only a tiny bit of oil, Elisha asked her and her sons to gather jars from their neighbors to fill with oil. In this way, Elisha made the widow act on her faith in God.

It would have been easy for the widow to refuse Elisha's instructions, fearing that the neighbors would think her crazy for asking for jars when they knew she didn't have anything to fill them with. But she was faithful in following the instructions that came from God through Elisha. And her faithfulness was rewarded!

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus showed even more care and compassion for needy people than Elisha did. And as followers of Jesus, we can model the same care.

Having needs can lead us to greater dependence on God. How has God helped you with needs already? What needs do you need to commit to him now? Ask God for help to depend on him with your needs. You can write your prayer here.

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 no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Come With Me"  
(track 20)

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

# Welcoming Song



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

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

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Begin the CD, and lead the kids in singing "Yay! We Love God" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel". Encourage the kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**We've come to learn about God's love** (*hold hands and march in circle*)  
**And spread his love around.** (*continue marching*)  
**We've come to praise and give him thanks.**  
**Yay! We love God!** (*jump up*)  
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR US. Let's sing a song that tells God that we'll trust him to take care of us, no matter where we go or what happens in life.**

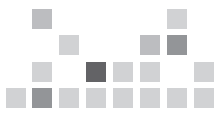
Play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 3 on the CD), and lead kids in singing. After kids have learned the words, encourage them to sing and do the motions in italic parentheses with you.



**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** (*hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers*)  
**With all your heart (with all your heart)** (*pulse clasped hands to the beat*)  
**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** (*lean to the right*)  
**In all your ways (in all your ways)** (*lean to the left*)  
**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** (*raise hands to the ceiling*)  
**He will make your paths straight.** (*slowly lower hands, and point forward*)

**Once you begin that way,** (*take several steps forward*)  
**Don't you ever, ever stray;** (*take several steps backward while shaking head "no"*)  
**You'll be on your way** (*walk in place, and slowly lift hands high*)  
**To an amazing life.** (*hold hands up and open wide*)  
(Repeat.)





*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** *(hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers)*  
**With all your heart (with all your heart)** *(pulse clasped hands to the beat)*  
**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** *(lean to the right)*  
**In all your ways (in all your ways)** *(lean to the left)*  
**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** *(raise hands to the ceiling)*  
**He will make your paths straight.** *(slowly lower hands, and point forward)*  
**Yeah, he will make your paths straight. Oh yeah, he will make your paths straight.**

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

Say: **We can trust God because we know that no matter what, ► GOD CARES FOR US. Let's talk more about how God takes care of all of us.**

.....

## 2

### KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

## Patience, Please

### What You'll Do ■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to 2 Peter 3:9, and show children the words.

Say: **Today's Key Verse** comes from a book in the Bible called **second Peter**. Listen to what the Bible says: "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). This means that God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent. Let's say that together.

Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).**

Say: ***Patient*** and ***repent***...those can be a couple of hard words to understand. But we can simplify them. First we'll learn what it means to be patient. ***Patient*** means to be able to wait for something to happen. ***Repent*** means to stop doing bad things. Let's find out more!

**Close your eyes. Then wait patiently for a minute to pass. When you think the minute's up, raise your hand, but don't open your eyes. I'll call time when the minute's actually up. Ready? Close those eyes, and raise your hand when you think a minute has passed.**

Use your watch to time one minute. Most children will raise their hands long before the minute has actually passed. After a minute, call time and let children open their eyes.



### Patience, Please Supplies

.....

Bible  
a watch with a second  
hand





## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to wait for one full minute?
- Tell why you thought being patient and waiting for the minute to pass was hard or easy for you.
- What are other times that it's hard for you to be patient and wait for something?

Say: In our activity, the minute was longer than you thought it would be. It was hard to be patient and wait for the minute to pass. Sometimes it's hard to be patient, especially when we're waiting for something great to happen, like Christmas or a birthday.

But the Bible tells us that God never has a problem being patient. God wants us all to repent, or stop doing the bad things we do. And God is willing to be patient and wait for that to happen. Instead of getting mad and punishing us for all the wrong things we do, God is patient because he loves us. ► **GOD CARES FOR US** and is patient with us. Let's give God a great big cheer to thank him for loving us so much!

Lead kids in a round of applause and cheering for God. Then have kids repeat the Key Verse with you: **God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).**

## **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 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 kids pass the small bottle of oil around the circle. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this cooking oil in the Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, because we need cooking oil to make many of our foods.

**Teacher:** Friends, what does your mom or dad use cooking oil for?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

### Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box  
will do)

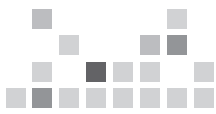
Theo puppet  
small bottle of oil  
CD player

**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the small bottle of  
oil inside the Surprise  
Box, and hide the  
box where it's easily  
accessible.





**Theo:** My mom and dad add oil to recipes for cakes or muffins, and we use oil to cook all kinds of food.

**Teacher:** You know, the Bible tells us about a widow and her two sons. ► **GOD CARES FOR US**, and God cared for the widow and her sons by doing something wonderful with oil. Let's listen to find out what God did!

**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: Elisha and the Widow

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible shows us how ► GOD CARES FOR US. The Bible tells us about a widow who lived with her two sons. Her husband had died, and she owed people a lot of money, but she had no way to pay the people back. Direct the kids to check their pockets for money. She didn't even have food to eat for the next week, so she asked Elisha for help. Elisha was a prophet, which means that he gave people messages from God. Have kids tell about a time they needed help.**

Say: **The widow asked Elisha for help, and Elisha asked the woman what she had in her house and how he could help her. She told him that all she had left that was worth any money was a little bit of cooking oil in a jar. We'll pretend that this colored water is the little bit of oil that the widow had. Hold up the pitcher with a small amount of colored water. Elisha told the widow to go to all of her neighbors and ask to borrow lots and lots of empty jars. Let's pretend to be the woman looking for jars, and let's look around our room for empty paper cups. Help the children find all of the hidden cups; then have them sit down in a circle, making sure that each child is holding an empty cup.**

Say: **After the widow collected lots of jars, Elisha told her to take her small jar of oil and pour oil into the borrowed jars.**

Hold up the pitcher with just a small amount of colored water in it. Ask the children to guess how many of their cups you'll be able to fill with just the little bit of "oil." Then fill the cups with what you have in your pitcher. (You should be able to fill only two or three small cups.) Compare the actual results with the estimates.

Say: **Hmmm. It looks like we could use some more oil—I'd like to be able to fill all of our cups, just like what happened in the Bible.**



### Bible Time: Elisha and the Widow Supplies

Bible  
1 paper cup per child  
1 large, clear pitcher with just enough water to fill 2 or 3 cups and another large, clear pitcher filled with water  
yellow food coloring  
1 adult volunteer

### Bible Time: Elisha and the Widow Easy Prep

Add yellow food coloring to water to make it look like cooking oil.

Hide the cups around the room and arrange for a volunteer to come in with the full pitcher.





Have the volunteer bring in the large pitcher of colored water, and say, **“It looks like we have some more cups to fill. Let me take care of you like God took care of the widow!”** Then ask the children to estimate how many more cups can be filled with the liquid in the large pitcher of “oil.” Pour the liquid into all of the remaining paper cups. Try to make sure you have enough to fill all of the cups (just like in the Bible).

Say: **Just like [name of volunteer] took care of us and brought us more oil, God did a miracle and helped the widow! She had just a little bit of oil to start with, but God gave the widow enough oil to fill *all* of the jars! Elisha then told the woman to sell the oil and use the money to pay back the people she owed money to. She even had enough left over to buy food for herself and her sons. God sent Elisha to help the widow and her sons, and ► GOD CARES FOR US, too.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when we didn’t have enough oil? when more oil was given to us?
- How has God helped you when you’ve needed something?

Say: **God helped the widow and her sons when they were in need. God helps us, too. Maybe we’re sad and need some comfort, or hungry and need something to eat, or lonely and need a friend. God gives us people who love and care for us because ► GOD CARES FOR US.** Let the kids come up one at a time and repeat the Bible Point as they pour the liquid back into the pitchers.

Say: **Just as ► GOD CARES FOR US, just as he cared for the widow and her sons, Jesus also cared for people in need when he was on earth. Jesus healed people who were sick, he gave comfort and love to people who were sad or broken on the inside, and Jesus died for all of us so that we could be forgiven for all of the bad things we do. Jesus cared for people in need when he was on earth, and Jesus is caring for you today! Jesus loves you and wants you to care for people in need just as he did.**

At the end of the Bible Time activity, set aside the supplies for use in the Center 3: “Estimating Oil” activity.

## 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:

# Filling the Jar

## What You'll Do

Set out washable markers, glue sticks, scissors, and craft sticks. Distribute the Lesson 1 pages from My Bible Playground, and have kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR US. When the widow gave Elisha all of her oil, God filled her jars full of oil. Let's make a craft that can remind us of how God took care of the widow and how ► GOD CARES FOR US.**

Have the children each cut out the oil shape on the student page and glue the shape to a craft stick. Help each child cut the slit on the jar on the page; then slip the craft stick and "oil" cutout through the slit from behind the page. Encourage kids to take turns retelling what happened with Elisha and the widow as they move the craft sticks and watch their jars fill with oil.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time someone took care of you or helped you.
- How can remembering what happened to the widow help you the next time you need care?
- Who can you tell about God's love and care?

Say: **God cared for the widow by giving her more oil than she needed. God cares for us by giving us family, friends, and so many blessings. Let's tell everyone that ► GOD CARES FOR US.**

## CENTER 2:

# Oil's Well That Ends Well

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Form groups of four and gather each group around their bowl. Encourage children to work together to place several pieces of torn bread into each group's bowl. As they work, hand out an extra bowl for every group and tell kids not to put bread into this bowl.

Say: **Today, our Bible lesson helped us discover how Elisha made sure that the widow had all the oil she needed—and then some! Oil was very important in Bible times. It was used to bake bread and to cook other good things. Today we also use oil to cook. One of the things we make with oil is salad dressing. The oil and spices**



## Center 1: Filling the Jar Supplies

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
several pairs of scissors  
glue sticks  
1 craft stick per child

## Center 1: Filling the Jar Easy Prep

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

## Center 2: Oil's Well That Ends Well Supplies

oil-based Italian salad  
dressing  
2 small bowls for every  
4 kids  
1 loaf of French bread  
napkins  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

## ALLERGY ALERT

## Center 2: Oil's Well That Ends Well Easy Prep

Tear the bread into bite-sized pieces.



### Center 3: Estimating Oil Supplies

pitcher of colored water and cups from the Bible Time activity various containers dishpans

### Center 3: Estimating Oil Easy Prep

Set out a variety of containers such as measuring cups and spoons, jars, bowls, thimbles, and paper cups. Make sure you don't have enough water to fill all of the containers.

**in this salad dressing will make a great dip for your bread.** Pour salad dressing into the empty bowls. Lead kids in a prayer to thank God for taking care of people in need. Then encourage children to dip their bread pieces in the dressing.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion as they eat.

Ask:

- **How does the oil help our snacks?**
- **How does God help us when we need it?**
- **Why do you think God cares for people in need?**

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR US because he loves everyone! Let's thank God right now.** Encourage each child to say a simple prayer and thank God for the snack and for the ways that God cares for them.

### ■ CENTER 3:

## Estimating Oil

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR US.** And God wants us to help care for others as well. **But sometimes it can be hard to know just the right way to "pour out" our love and care to others.**

Set out the pitcher of colored water and cups. Let children estimate how many of the containers they can fill with the liquid. (Have kids pour the water over dishpans to make cleanup easier.) Ask kids to name a way they can care for others each time they pour "oil" in a container.

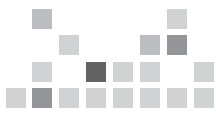
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why weren't we able to fill all the containers?**
- **Tell about a time you wanted to care for someone, but you didn't know how to help.**
- **How can God help you the next time you face a situation like that?**

Say: **God wants us to help and care for others. But sometimes it can be hard to know exactly what to do. When we face times like that, we can turn to God for help. Aren't you glad that ► GOD CARES FOR US!**



**CENTER 4:**

## God is Good!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned what the Bible says happened when God used Elisha to care for a widow and her family. God cared for the widow and her family when they were in need, and ► GOD CARES FOR US when we're in need, too. But sometimes when we're scared or hurting, it's hard to remember that God cares for us. That's why we're going to make "God Cares" jars—to help us remember that ► GOD CARES FOR US.**

Set out the scissors, decorative items, glue sticks, and washable markers. Give each child a copy of the "God Cares Jar" handout, and have kids cut along the dotted line. Have kids fold their cutouts on the solid line and glue the sides of the jar together, leaving the top open. As the glue dries, have kids decorate the blank side of their paper jar with the supplies you laid out.

After they finish, have kids turn their paper jars to the side that says "God Cares!"

Say: **This side tells what your family can do with the jar at home.** Read the instructions to the children. **This jar can help your family remember the times God has cared for your family in the past. And the jar can remind your family that ► GOD CARES FOR US always! Let's go ahead and put in one reminder now!**

Have kids each think of a time God has taken care of his or her family and write or draw that memory on a slip of paper. Have kids place the paper inside the top of their jar. Encourage kids to show their jars to their parents, and to tell them about how God helped the widow and her family.

## 5

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

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



### Center 4: God Is Good! Supplies

.....  
scissors  
a variety of stickers,  
sequins, and other  
decorative items  
glue sticks  
washable markers  
slips of paper  
1 copy per child of  
the "God Cares Jar"  
handout (at the end of  
this lesson)

### Daily Challenges Supplies

.....  
My Bible Playground





## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD CARES FOR US**. I'd like each of you to choose a way that you can care for someone else this week.

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

- **Have your mom or dad help you go through your old toys. Donate the toys you no longer need to your school or church.**
- **Give your pet food and water each day this week.**
- **Have your mom or dad help you make a get well card for someone who is sick. Deliver it and remind that person that God cares for him or her.**

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

## World Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR US, and he loves people all over the world.** Have kids take turns saying the names of people that Jesus loves, such as their moms or dads, relatives, or friends. Then close by having the children repeat each line of the following prayer out loud.

Dear God,  
 Thank you for caring for people in need.  
 Thank you for loving the people from all over the world.  
 Thank you for your love, protection, and care for all of us.  
 In Jesus' name, amen.

Say: There are a lot of people around the world, and God cares for every one of them! Isn't it great to know that ► **GOD CARES FOR US!**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

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

Weaving Faith at  
Home  
Supplies

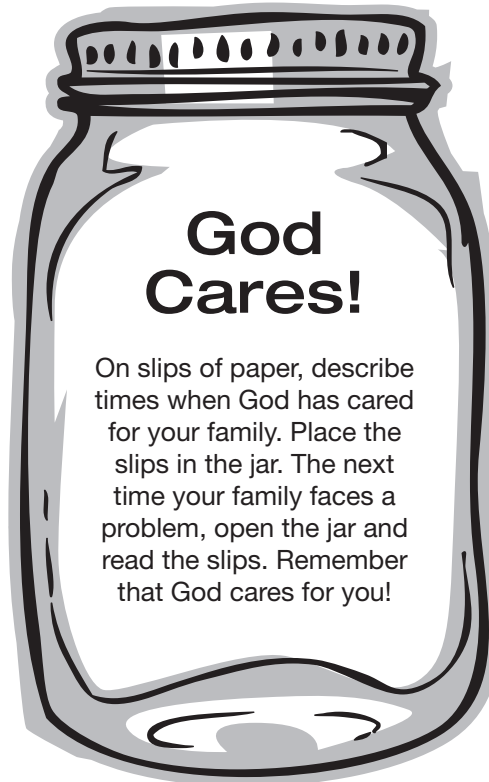
My Bible Playground

Weaving Faith at  
Home  
Easy Prep

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

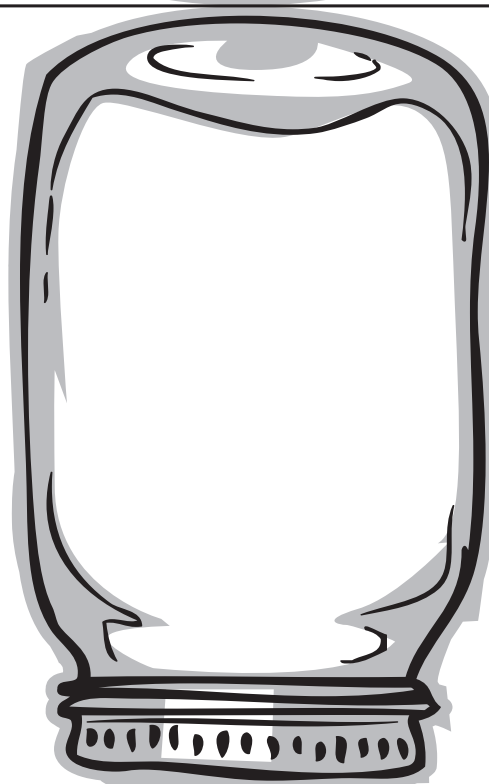


# God Cares Jar



## God Cares!

On slips of paper, describe times when God has cared for your family. Place the slips in the jar. The next time your family faces a problem, open the jar and read the slips. Remember that God cares for you!



**OK  
TO COPY**  
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# God Heals Naaman's Leprosy

2 Kings 5:1-16

The word *humble* will probably be new to most 5- and 6-year-olds, but they'll soon catch on to its meaning. Many kindergarteners are moving beyond the self-centered view of the world that so often pervades the early stages of childhood. They're learning that no person is better than another—we're all made by God. Remind the children that following God shows that we're humble. Use this lesson to help children learn to respect God as number one in their lives!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Pass the Patience</b> Learn a task where they have to be patient with themselves.	Bible, at least 2 inflated balloons	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a jar of muddy water has to do with the Bible today.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, sealed container of muddy water <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the sealed container of muddy water inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Naaman Is Healed</b> Act out the Scripture as they learn how God healed Naaman.	Bible, shaving cream, wet wipes, scissors, craft stick <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "God Heals Naaman" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut Naaman out of the poster, and tape him to a craft stick to make a Naaman puppet. Cut a slit as wide as the Naaman puppet in the river on the right side of the poster.



## ► Bible Point

God wants us to follow him.

## Key Verse

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will follow God.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Obedient Naaman</b> Add “leprosy spots” to pictures of Naaman, and retell what happened in the Bible.	My Bible Playground, white chalk, wet wipes, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Time for a Dip</b> Dip cookies into a river of pudding.	for each child: 1 small, clear plastic cup filled with ½ cup of chocolate pudding; 7 bear- or elf-shaped cookies; 1 spoon; antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Hide and Find</b> Play a hide-and-find game where listening to instructions is a must.	a small object	
	<b>Center 4: Seeing Spots</b> Make a two-layered Naaman—one with spots and one without.	scissors, 1 sheet of wax paper per child, tape, fine-tipped washable markers, permanent markers, 1 copy per child of the “Naaman Outline” handout (at the end of this lesson)	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>“Help Me Follow” Prayer</b> Sing a prayer to God.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# God Heals Naaman's Leprosy

## 2 Kings 5:1-16

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Victory for the Enemy?

As this passage begins, it's easy to be confused by the statement that the Lord gave victory to a commander in the army of Aram. However, it's unlikely that these victories were over Israel. Instead, they were likely victories of Syria (Aram) over the Assyrians who were threatening them. No doubt Naaman didn't recognize God's assistance at the time, but the writer of Kings did.

## Young Girl Offered Advice

At this time a peace treaty between Israel and Aram was in effect, but part of the border was in dispute. It was likely during one of these border skirmishes that the young Israelite girl was taken captive and became a servant in Naaman's household. This girl was aware of the miracles Elisha had performed, and she had faith that he could work a miracle in Naaman's life as well.

It's interesting that a slave girl from Israel was aware that God was working through Elisha, but that the king of Israel didn't think of Elisha when Naaman came to him for healing. The king of Israel saw only a deception designed to provoke a war between the two countries.

## Naaman Struggled With His Pride

When Naaman left for Israel to see Elisha, he took about 750 pounds of silver and 150 pounds of gold. At current prices, that would equal over \$200,000 in silver and nearly \$3 million in gold! Naaman was prepared to pay well for his healing!

Even though Naaman was willing to pay so much money to be healed, initially he was unwilling to follow Elisha's instructions to rinse himself in the Jordan River. Naaman may have hoped for an instant,

easy cure, but God apparently wanted Naaman to learn something from the experience. The Jordan was no doubt muddy, and God may have used this method to reveal Naaman's pride and test his faith. When Naaman's servants finally convinced him to humble himself and do as the prophet said, God healed him.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus set the prime example of humility, giving up his place in heaven and taking his place on earth as a relatively poor Jewish man.

What prideful things are you holding onto? Which of God's commands feels too "beneath you"? Ask God to humble you and help you follow Jesus' example, giving up anything you feel entitled to. You can write your prayer here.

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 its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Yay! We Love God"  
(track 2), "Those Who  
Hope" (Isaiah 40:31)  
(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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. When it's time to begin, start the CD, and lead the kids in singing "Yay! We Love God" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel!" Encourage the kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**We've come to learn about God's love** (*hold hands and march in circle*)

**And spread his love around.** (*continue marching*)

**We've come to praise and give him thanks.**

**Yay! We love God!** (*jump up*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM. We'll hear about a sick man named Naaman. When Naaman followed God's instructions, God helped him to be strong and healthy again. Let's sing a song to praise our God who gives us strength.**

Lead the kids in singing "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 6 on the CD). After kids learn the words, encourage the children to join you in doing the motions in parentheses.



**Who can soar on wings like eagles?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can run and not grow weary?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can walk and not be faint?** (*shrug shoulders*)

(Chorus)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

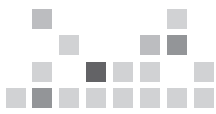
**They'll soar on wings like eagles;** (*flap arms like wings*)

**They will run and not grow weary.** (*run in place*)

**They will walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)

(Sing chorus.)





**I wanna soar on wings like eagles!** (*flap arms like wings*)  
**I wanna run and not grow weary;** (*run in place*)  
**I wanna walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)

(Sing chorus 2x.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM**, and sometimes that means being patient. Let's find out more about patience.

**2**

## KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

# Pass the Patience

## What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to 2 Peter 3:9, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse comes from the book of second Peter in the Bible. Listen to what the Bible says: "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). This means that God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent. Let's say that together.**

Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).**

Say: **God wants everyone, including you and me, to turn away from the bad things we do. And God loves us so much that he's patient with us as we learn to follow him and do what he says. Let's play a game to help us understand what it means to be patient.**

Have children form two single-file lines on one side of the room. Give the first child in each line a balloon. Say: **Each person will have a turn to place the balloon on his or her head and walk to the other side of the room and back without using your hands and without the balloon falling off. If the balloon falls off, you will just place it back on your head and keep going. When you return to the line, you will pass the balloon to the next person in line.** Make sure kids understand that the game isn't a race.

Start the game. Keep playing until everyone has had a turn.



## Pass the Patience Supplies

Bible  
 at least 2 inflated  
 balloons  
 CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Let's All Praise  
 God" (track 18)

## **BALLOON WARNING**

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





## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like when you had to start fresh?
- To repent means to turn around and start fresh. Tell about a time you stopped doing something wrong.
- Why do you think God is patient with us as we learn to repent and obey him?

Say: In this game you had to be patient with yourself as you tried to keep the balloon balanced on your head. You had to walk slowly and not get upset if it fell off. After all, you're not perfect, and it was a hard thing to do. And you had to have patience with the other people in your line as they tried this new task, too.

That's kind of like how it is with God. We're not perfect, so we had trouble with this game. Since we're not perfect, we still do bad things even if we try to follow God all the time. But instead of getting mad every time we mess up, God helps us follow and obey him. ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM**, and he's patient with us as we learn to repent and obey.

## 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 sealed container of muddy water around the circle. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this container of muddy water in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, I heard that the Bible talks about someone who had to take a bath in some very yucky water!

**Teacher:** Friends, would you want to take a bath in water that looked like this?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** The man in the Bible didn't want to wash in the muddy water, but he followed God's instructions. ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM**, too. Let's listen to find out

## Theo's News Supplies

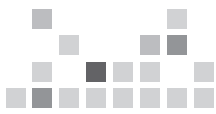
CD player  
Surprise Box (any box will do)  
Theo puppet  
sealed container of muddy water

## Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)

## Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the sealed container of muddy water inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.



how God helped this man follow him!

**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: Naaman Is Healed

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Pretend that the doorway of your meeting room is the door to Elisha's home. Gather the kids on the opposite side of the room from the door. Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM. Naaman was a man who was a great leader of many soldiers. Stand and pretend that you're Naaman's soldiers.** Pause to let kids stand in a straight line.

Say: **Naaman was a great leader, but he was very proud. Naaman always wanted to be first in everything.** Stand up tall as you walk proudly to the front of the line. Lead kids in marching around the room, and then let them sit down.

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM. God wants to be our leader. God wants us to remember that *he's* the great one, not us. Well, even though Naaman was a great leader, he had two problems. First, (hold up one finger) he didn't know God; and second, (hold up two fingers) he was sick with a disease called leprosy. Leprosy is a disease that causes sores all over a person's skin. Let's pretend that we have sores on our arms.** Put a few smudges of shaving cream on each child's arms. Put some on your arms, too. Have willing children talk about a time they were sick and what happened to them.

Say: **Naaman's wife had a young servant girl who loved God. When the girl heard that Naaman was sick, she told Naaman's wife about the prophet Elisha who could cure Naaman. So Naaman went to Israel hoping that he would be healed.**

**Proud Naaman traveled to Israel with his horses and chariots to display his wealth. Chariots are like fancy wagons. Naaman thought he could use his great riches to buy healing for his body. Let's pretend to be proud, rich Naaman and go to Israel with all of our fancy horses and chariots.** Prompt kids to walk tall and proud or pretend to ride horses. Lead them to the doorway of your room.

Say: **► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM. God wants our hearts to be focused on him and thankful, not proud. Naaman was proud that he had beautiful horses and chariots and lots of money.**

**Finally, Naaman arrived at Elisha's house. Pause for the children to knock. But Elisha didn't come to the door. He sent a messenger to tell Naaman to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River to be healed. Naaman couldn't believe**



### Bible Time: Naaman Is Healed Supplies

.....  
Bible  
shaving cream  
wet wipes  
scissors  
craft stick

**Teacher Pack**  
"God Heals Naaman"  
poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: Naaman Is Healed Easy Prep

.....  
Cut Naaman out of the poster, and tape him to a craft stick to make a Naaman puppet. Cut a slit as wide as the Naaman puppet in the river on the right side of the poster.





that Elisha hadn't come to the door himself to give him that message! He thought that Elisha would come out to see such an important man as Naaman! Well, that made Naaman mad. "How dare Elisha not come out of his house to greet me!" he thought. "What a joke! And now he wants me to go wash seven times in that nasty water? No way!" Have the children stomp back toward the other side of the room.

Say: Sometimes following God means being willing to do things that we might not fully understand. Naaman's servants came to Naaman and told him they thought that if Elisha had asked him to do something impressive, Naaman would've done it. So why wouldn't Naaman try a simple thing like washing in the Jordan River? Naaman decided to follow God, and he washed seven times in the muddy water. Let's pretend to go to the river like Naaman and wash our arms.

Encourage kids to slowly count to seven as they bend down and pretend to go into the water seven times. When kids reach the seventh time, have them shout the number seven, and give them wet wipes to clean off all of the shaving cream. Then let the children share high fives. Celebrate that everyone is clean!

Fold the "God Heals Naaman" poster lengthwise, and show children the right side of the poster with the two men and the muddy water. Say: **When Naaman followed God, he got better! The leprosy was gone! Naaman realized that he shouldn't have been so proud and that he should have followed God. Naaman thought, "God is greater than I am!"** Have everyone repeat what Naaman thought. **Naaman went back to Elisha and told him that he believed in God. ► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM, too.**

Show children the Naaman figure you cut out of the poster, and slide it through the slit.

Say: **We're going to dip Naaman in the muddy Jordan River. Each time we dip Naaman, let's all say ways we can follow God.**

Pass the Naaman figure around and allow each child to "dip" the Naaman figure in the river by sticking the figure through the slit in the poster and then pulling the figure down behind the river and then back up above the water. Each time Naaman is dipped in the water, encourage children to shout out ways that they can follow God in their life.

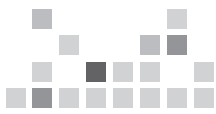
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it hard for proud people like Naaman to follow God?
- What things can stop you from following God?
- What could you say to someone to help him or her follow God?

Say: **God wants us to know how important he is, and not act like we're the most important ones. God is greater than everyone. ► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW 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:

## Obedient Naaman

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Naaman had leprosy, which gave him spots all over his body. Today's pages will help us remember what happened when Naaman followed God.**

Set out white chalk and wet wipes. Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers. Have kids form pairs and help each other retell how Naaman learned to follow God. Ask kids to use chalk to color "leprosy spots" on Naaman's arms. Then, tell how Naaman obeyed and washed in the river as kids use wet wipes to remove the chalk spots.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain why washing in muddy water would be easy or hard for you.
- Why do you think Naaman had such a hard time following Elisha's instructions from God?
- Why is it important to always follow God?

Say: **At first, Naaman was proud and thought he was too great and important to do what God said. Later Naaman learned that God is more important than anyone else. God healed Naaman when he followed God. ► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM, just as Naaman did.**

Center 1: Obedient  
Naaman  
Supplies

My Bible Playground  
white chalk  
wet wipes  
washable markers

Center 1: Obedient  
Naaman  
Easy Prep

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





### Center 2: Time for a Dip Supplies

for each child: 1 small, clear plastic cup filled with ½ cup of chocolate pudding; 7 bear- or elf-shaped cookies; 1 spoon antibacterial gel (optional)

### ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 3: Hide and Find Supplies

a small object

## CENTER 2:

# Time for a Dip

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands.

Say: **In the Bible passage, Naaman finally followed God by dipping in the Jordan River seven times. Before we make a snack to remind us of our Scripture, let's follow God by saying a prayer of thanks.** Have children close their eyes and bow their heads.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for always knowing what's best for us. Thank you for being patient with us as we follow you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Give each child a cup of chocolate pudding and a spoon. Explain that the pudding represents the muddy Jordan River. Then give each child seven bear- or elf-shaped cookies. Tell kids that the cookies represent Naaman. Explain that before kids eat each of their cookies, you'll lead them in dipping their cookies in their pudding seven times. Count to seven for each cookie, and enjoy the treats.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did following my instructions make your cookies taste better?
- How did following God make Naaman's life better?

Say: **God wanted Naaman to follow him. ► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM, too. God knows what's best for us, just as he knew what was best for Naaman. Let's try to remember to follow God all week and do what he wants us to do.**

## CENTER 3:

# Hide and Find

## What You'll Do

Tell kids to form a circle. Say: **Great job following directions! Let's play a game that will help us remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM and his directions.**

Ask a willing child to be the Seeker and stand in a corner with his or her eyes closed. Say: **While your eyes are closed, I'll ask someone to hide an object somewhere in this room. Everyone else will get to see where it's hidden.**

Ask another willing child to be the Hider and hide the small object you brought somewhere in the room. Then have the Seeker turn around and try to find the object.



Encourage children to provide the Seeker with simple directions, such as “Walk,” “Turn,” and “Stop,” to help him or her find the item. Once the Seeker finds the object, choose a new Seeker and a new Hider and continue playing as time allows.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this game like for you?
- How did your friends help you?
- How was having the group help you like having God help you?
- Why do you think it's important to follow God's directions?

Say: It was much easier to win the game when you followed your team's instructions. ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM** and that means following his directions. Let's remember to follow God in everything we say and do.

## ■ CENTER 4:

# Seeing Spots

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **God healed Naaman. Naaman was sick and had spots all over his body, but God healed him. Let's make something that will help us remember what happened.**

Give each child a copy of the “Naaman Outline” handout. Explain that the figure represents Naaman. Set out fine-tipped washable markers and let kids color clothes, hair, and facial features on their figures.

When kids have finished coloring their Naaman figures, go around the room and tape a sheet of wax paper on top of each child's Naaman page. Tape the papers together only at the top so kids can lift the sheet of wax paper.

Show kids how to look through the wax paper to see the Naaman figure underneath. Have kids each use a permanent marker to trace the outline on the wax paper page and then draw spots all over the wax paper figure.

Say: **At first, Naaman wasn't willing to follow God. He thought he was too important to dip himself in the yucky Jordan River. But when Naaman finally let go of his pride and followed God's directions, God healed Naaman! Let's use our papers to see what that was like!**

Lead kids in counting to seven, just as Naaman dipped himself in the river seven times. Then have kids lift the wax paper up to see Naaman's spots disappear! Encourage kids to use their pictures to tell their families about Naaman. Remind them that God wanted Naaman to follow him, and ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM**, too.



## Center 4: Seeing Spots Supplies

scissors  
1 sheet of wax paper  
per child  
tape  
fine-tipped washable  
markers  
permanent markers  
1 copy per child of the  
“Naaman Outline”  
handout (at the end of  
this lesson)





## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why did Naaman have to obey God to be healed?
- Why is it important to follow God's instructions?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.** Just as we counted to seven before lifting the wax paper, Naaman dipped himself in the river seven times. He showed that he wasn't afraid to follow God, and we can, too!

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

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

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

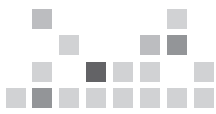
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to remember how we can follow God.

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

- Obey your parents when they ask you to do something you don't like to do.
- Help someone pick up toys, even if you didn't help make the mess.
- Take a bath without whining or complaining—remember that Naaman obeyed God and took a bath in the muddy Jordan River!

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




## “Help Me Follow” Prayer

### What You’ll Do

Say: **Remember that following God requires us to be humble and put others first. Let’s sing our closing prayer and ask God to help us be humble.**

Lead the children in singing “Help Me Follow” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” After kids have learned the words, encourage them to sing and do the motions in parentheses with you.

 **Oh, dear God, please help me** (*point up*)  
**To follow, follow, follow.** (*march in place*)  
**Oh, dear God, please help me—today!** (*point to self; then nod head*)  
**Hallelujah!** (*wave hands high in the air*)

**Oh, dear God, please help me** (*point up*)  
**To follow, follow, follow.** (*march in place*)  
**help me follow** (*point to self*)  
**In all of your ways.** (*hold hands out, palms up*)

End the prayer by saying together, **“In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

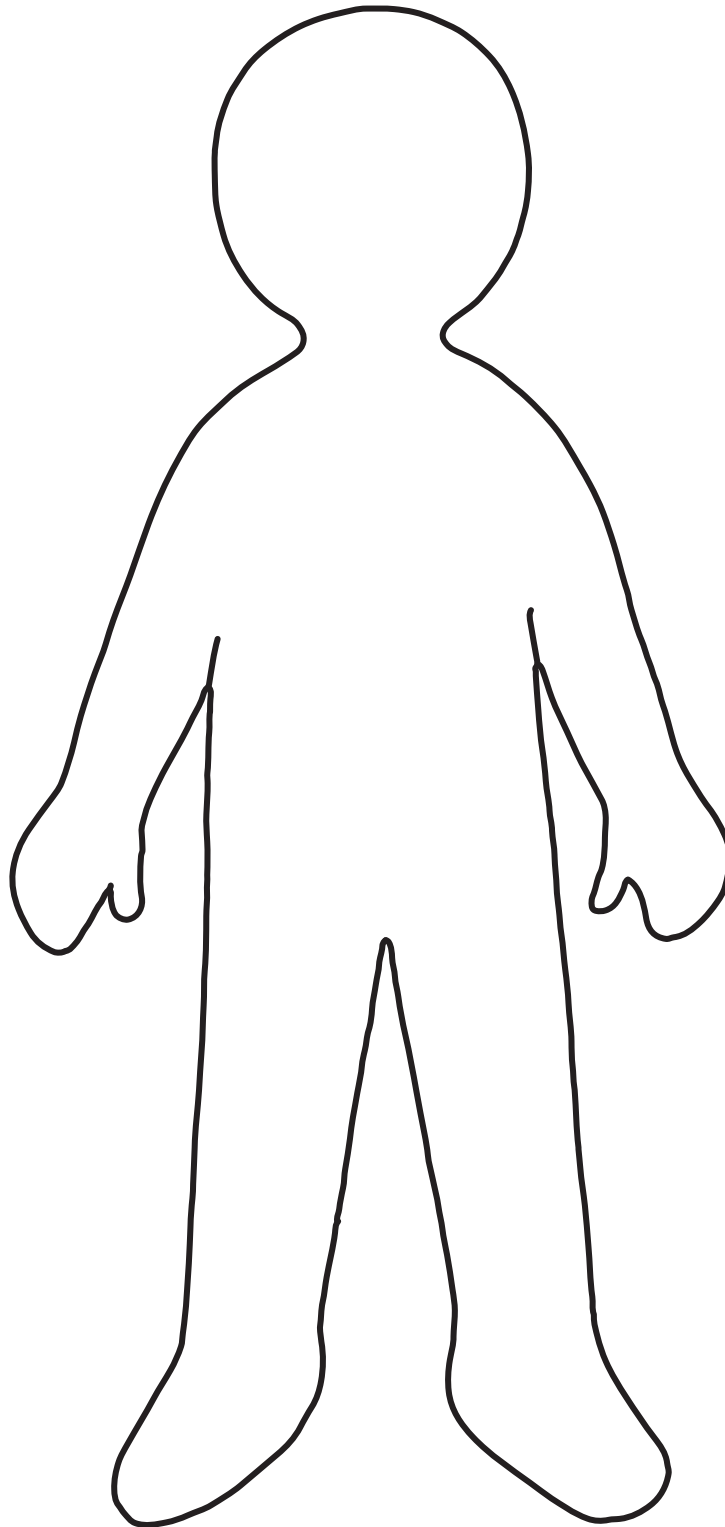
## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



## Naaman Outline



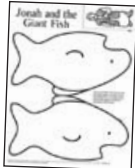

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# Jonah Learns a Lesson

Jonah 1–3

Most 5- and 6-year-olds have been told many times what are the right and wrong things to do. But many children may've never thought about the difference between following God's ways and walking away from God's ways in their own lives. Help your children understand that the wrong things we do are sins and, therefore, are not God's ways. We can know what God wants us to do by reading the Bible and following his instructions. Use this lesson to help children learn the importance of doing what God wants.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Timeout</b> Make a picture of Jonah sitting inside the fish.	Bible, scissors, crayons, stapler <b>Teacher Pack:</b> 1 copy per child of the "Jonah and the Giant Fish" handout 	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what water has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, spray bottle with water in it <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the spray bottle with water inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Jonah</b> Pretend to ride in a boat, sit in a large fish, and travel to Nineveh.	Bible, spray bottle with water in it, blanket, tape, tables, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Nineveh and Tarshish" signs that have been cut apart, separated "Boat Tickets" 	Make a boat by turning a table upside-down and placing it on one side of the room. Make a large fish by placing an upright table in the middle of the room and draping a blanket over it. Tape the Tarshish sign to a wall near the boat and tape the Nineveh sign to the opposite wall.



## ► Bible Point

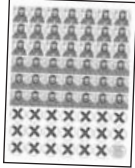
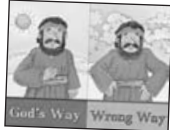
Do what God wants.

## Key Verse

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will understand and do what God wants.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Jonah's Journey</b> Follow "God's way" on the student pages, and remember the adventure of Jonah.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, colored pencils <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Sticker Sheet" 	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Stuck Inside a Fish</b> Make a snack that reminds them of Jonah.	for each child: 1 pita bread half and several gummy bears, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: God's Way</b> Play a game, and learn that God's ways are right.	<b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Smiling Face and Frowning Face" poster 	
	<b>Center 4: Changing Ways</b> Discover how Jonah had a change of heart.	1 clear plastic cup of water per child, 1 arrow per child from the "God's Way Arrows" (at the end of this lesson)	Make copies and cut apart the arrows from the "God's Way Arrows" handout at the end of this lesson. Make extra copies if necessary.
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>Nineveh Prayer</b> Sing a song, and say a prayer asking for God's help in doing what he wants.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families		

# Jonah Learns a Lesson

## Jonah 1–3

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## The Setting

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. The Assyrians were known for their power and cruelty, and it was because of their wickedness that God commanded Jonah to preach to them (Jonah 1:2). According to classical writers, Nineveh was the largest city in the world at that time, encompassing an area about eight miles in circumference. In addition, a group of four large cities in the area was also referred to by the name *Nineveh*.

## The Conflict

Jonah's reluctance to go to Nineveh may have arisen from fear for his own safety—no one likes the bearer of bad news! Or it may be because he feared that the people of Nineveh would repent of their evil ways and that God in his compassion would forgive them. Jonah may have selfishly felt that the salvation of the Ninevites would ruin his credibility as a prophet, since he had foretold their destruction. He also may not have thought it would be fair if God saved Nineveh since his own people, the Israelites, had been punished for their sins. Whatever the reason, it's clear Jonah had no interest in God's call.

## Strange Salvation

Being swallowed by a fish would be traumatic, to say the least, but in this case the event was arranged by God to save Jonah's life. For in the belly of that fish, Jonah came to his senses and realized that he needed to obey God.

We don't know why the people of Nineveh responded so positively to Jonah's message. Perhaps God had prepared their hearts. Or maybe Jonah looked really odd after having spent three days in the digestive juices of a fish, and his journey shook them up. At any rate, God spared the Ninevites when they repented—until

about 150 years later when God exacted judgment on them for returning to their evil ways.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus is often associated with Jonah, because he spent three days in the tomb just as Jonah spent three days in the fish. But he wasn't there for his own lack of following God—he was there for ours.

In what ways have you run from God? How can you follow him better this week? Talk with God about how you're like or unlike Jonah, and thank God for his faithful direction in your life. Ask God to help you follow him even if you don't like where he leads. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Yay! We Love God" (track 2), "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8)

# 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 children together in a circle. When it's time to begin, start the CD, and lead kids in singing "Yay! We Love God" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel" Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**We've come to learn about God's love** (*hold hands and march in a circle*)

**And spread his love around.** (*continue marching*)

**We've come to praise and give him thanks.**

**Yay! We love God!** (*jump up*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today's we'll learn about a man named Jonah who learned to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. God has plans for us, and he leads the way. I'll lead the way for you right now. Let's sing a song, and I'll lead you in doing the motions.**

Begin the CD, and lead the kids in singing "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8 on the CD). Each time the children sing "plans," have them place their hands side by side and look at their hands as if they're reading a book. Have them show their "plans" to other children.



(Verse)

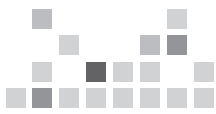
**"For I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

**"I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

(Repeat.)



*(Chorus)*

**They are plans to prosper you  
And not to harm you,  
Plans to give you hope and a future.  
They are plans for good and not disaster.  
Why? Because he tells us so.  
(Repeat from the beginning.)**

*(Repeat verse.)*

"The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God has a plan for your life, and when we trust God's plan we ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

---

**2**

## KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Timeout

#### What You'll Do

Sit in a circle with kids. Open your Bible to 2 Peter 3:9, and show them the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse comes from the book of 2 Peter in the Bible. Listen to what the Bible says: "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). This means that God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent. Let's say that together.**

Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).**

Say: **To be patient means not to be in a hurry, but to wait for something to happen. To repent means to stop doing bad things. God is happy when we obey him. We can ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. God wanted a man named Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh, but Jonah didn't do what God wanted. In fact, Jonah ran the other way! We'll learn from the Bible today about how God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah! God was patient and gave Jonah three whole days to be inside the fish and think about what he'd done. That's a long "timeout"!**

Set out scissors, crayons, and a stapler. Give each child a copy of the "Jonah and the Giant Fish" handout. Have children color the pictures of Jonah and the fish and then cut out all the pictures. Have children staple the fish together, but leave an opening for the mouth so Jonah will fit inside. Help kids place Jonah inside the fish's mouth as a reminder of his "timeout."



#### Timeout Supplies

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Bible  
scissors  
crayons  
stapler

#### Teacher Pack

1 copy per child of  
"Jonah and the Giant  
Fish" handout





## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you got a timeout or had to think about something bad you did.
- What happened after you thought about that bad thing for a while?

Say: **Usually, when God gives us time to think about something bad we've done, we feel sorry for the bad thing and we tell God we're sorry. Today, we'll learn what Jonah did when God gave him a timeout. God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent. We can say we're sorry and ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS!**

Encourage kids to squeeze their fish to open and shut the fishes' mouths as they wait for Jonah to repent. Let kids have fun asking Jonah if he's sorry and if he's repented yet. Have kids take their fish home to remind them that God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent.

.....

## **3** BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

### Theo's News Supplies

.....

CD player  
Surprise Box (any box will do)  
Theo puppet  
spray bottle with water in it

**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

.....

Put the spray bottle with water 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. 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.

*(Ask a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the spray bottle with water around the circle so the rest of the children can see it up close. Give children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this spray bottle in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, you told me that today the Bible lesson has something to do with water.

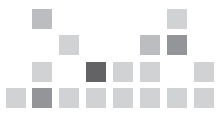
**Teacher:** Friends, what can we use spray bottles for?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Theo:** Things can get pretty wet if you spray them with water.

**Teacher:** That's right, and Jonah ended up getting wet in today's Bible passage. Let's find out what happened when Jonah had to decide whether he was going to ► **DO WHAT GOD WANTS!**





**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: Jonah

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Today, we're discovering how the Bible tells us to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. God told a man named Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh. God told Jonah to warn the people to stop doing bad things. Jonah didn't want to do what God told him to do, so he tried to run away from God.** Give each child a boat ticket, and have the children sit together on the overturned table. Say: **Jonah got on a ship that was headed away from Nineveh.** Point out the signs to Nineveh and Tarshish, and show children that Tarshish is in the opposite direction from Nineveh. Say: **God brought a storm that put the boat in danger. The wind blew and the waves splashed.** Have kids tell about a time they were in a storm, and then have them pretend they are in a boat during a storm. Have kids rock back and forth in the make-believe boat as you spray them lightly with water.

Say: **Jonah didn't even know about the storm. He was asleep in the bottom of the boat. The sailors woke Jonah and asked him why God sent this storm. Jonah knew it was because of his choice not to do what God wanted. God was trying to get Jonah's attention. Jonah told the men to throw him into the stormy sea, and then God would calm the storm. The men didn't want to throw Jonah into the water, but the storm kept getting worse and they were concerned the entire boat would sink. So they threw Jonah overboard.** Have the children climb off the overturned table and pretend they're sinking. **But as Jonah sank into the water, God sent a giant fish to swallow him.** Have kids crawl under the table you covered with the blanket and pretend they're inside a giant fish. **Jonah was in the belly of that fish for three days!** Have kids act out what it would be like if they were inside a fish for three days.

Say: **When Jonah was in the fish's belly, he said a prayer to thank God for saving his life. Jonah promised that he'd change his ways. Then God caused the fish to spit Jonah up on the shore.** One at a time, have the children come out from under the table. Say: **Once more, God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeyed God and went to talk to the people there.** Have the children walk to the Nineveh sign on the wall and say, "Please stop doing bad things! Do what God wants!" Say: **The people listened to Jonah, and they turned away from the bad things they'd done. And Jonah also finally learned to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**



### Bible Time: Jonah Supplies

.....  
Bible  
spray bottle with water  
in it  
blanket  
tape  
tables  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Nineveh and Tarshish"  
signs that have been  
cut apart  
separated "Boat  
Tickets"

### Bible Time: Jonah Easy Prep

.....  
Make a boat by turning a table upside-down and placing it on one side of the room. Make a large fish by placing an upright table in the middle of the room and draping a blanket over it. Tape the Tarshish sign to a wall near the boat, and tape the Nineveh sign to the opposite wall.





## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in the discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it important to ► **DO WHAT GOD WANTS?**
- What are some things you know God wants you to do?

Say: **Jonah had to go through some pretty scary things to learn to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. We can learn from Jonah and remember that God wants us to love others and to love God. The Bible helps us know what God wants us to do. We can also follow Jesus' example to help us obey God. When Jesus was on earth, he obeyed God and followed God's commands. Jesus loved God and wanted to serve and obey 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:

# Jonah's Journey

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers. Say: **Jonah learned that the best way to go through life is to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. The maze on today's page is a good example of that.**

Show children the paths on the student pages—the right destination (Nineveh) and the wrong destination (Tarshish). Have children use colored pencils to trace along the wrong path on their pages, and let children put frowning face stickers at Tarshish. Then let children each trace along the right path and stick a smiling face sticker at Nineveh.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you find the right way on the page?
- What can you do to find out what God wants?
- How does God help you follow his ways?

### Center 1: Jonah's Journey Supplies

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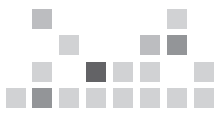
My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
colored pencils  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Sticker Sheet"

### Center 1: Jonah's Journey Easy Prep

.....

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





Say: **The Bible shows us that the ways of the Lord are right. When we obey God, when we're kind and loving, and when we forgive others, these are the right ways to follow God. When we do these things, we ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

## CENTER 2:

# Stuck Inside a Fish

### What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands. Explain that they'll prepare a snack and use it to retell Jonah's adventure. Give each child a pita bread half to represent the big fish and gummy bears to represent Jonah. Have children form pairs and use their snacks to tell their partners what happened to Jonah. Then have kids say a prayer, and let them eat their snacks.

Say: **God loves us and he knows what's best for us. God knew it was best for Jonah to go to Nineveh. It made God happy when Jonah obeyed him and went to Nineveh. We can obey God and ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS, just as Jonah did when he finally went to Nineveh.**

## CENTER 3:

# God's Way

### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's play a game to help us remember that we can ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Take down the Nineveh and Tarshish signs that you used during the Bible Time activity. Flip the signs over to show the Smiling Face and Frowning Face pictures of Jonah. Ask one willing child to be the Leader and hold up both pictures on one side of the room, and have the other children stand on the opposite side of the room. As the Leader holds up the picture of the smiling face (Nineveh), the other children may start crab walking across the room. When the Leader holds up the frowning face (Tarshish), children can stand up and start walking normally. Have the Leader alternate the two signs until all of the children have crossed the room. Then everyone can give high fives and say, ► **"DO WHAT GOD WANTS."**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What made this game hard?**
- **Tell about a time it was hard to do the right thing.**
- **What helps you ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS even when it's hard?**



## Center 2: Stuck Inside a Fish Supplies

for each child: 1 pita bread half and several gummy bears  
antibacterial gel (optional)

## ALLERGY ALERT

## Center 3: God's Way Supplies

### Teacher Pack

"Smiling Face and Frowning Face" poster



#### Center 4: Changing Ways Supplies

1 clear plastic cup of water per child  
1 arrow per child from the “God’s Way Arrows” (at the end of this lesson)

#### Center 4: Changing Ways Easy Prep

Make copies and cut apart the arrows from the “God’s Way Arrows” handout at the end of this lesson. Make extra copies if necessary.

Say: In our game, we had to crab walk when we saw the right destination. Even though we were going the right way, it was harder. Doing what God wants may not seem easy, but we know it’s always for the best. God loves us and will always be with us. He will help us ► **DO WHAT GOD WANTS!**

#### CENTER 4:

## Changing Ways

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Jonah tried to run away from doing what God wanted. He disobeyed and ran the opposite direction. Sometimes we go the wrong way instead of doing what God wants. But we can always change our ways.**

Hand a cup of water and one of the “God’s Way Arrows” to each child. Have children say the following rhyme:

*Jonah, Jonah disobeyed.  
God forgave him anyway.*

Say: **Jonah disobeyed by going the opposite direction from where God wanted him to go. These arrows represent Jonah going the wrong way. Jonah was swallowed up by a huge fish. Inside the fish, Jonah realized that the right thing is to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS us to do.**

Have children hold their arrows on the other sides of their cups and look through their water at their arrow. Instruct children to slowly move the piece of paper away from themselves until they see a change. When they see the change (the arrow switching direction), tell kids to say the rhyme one more time.

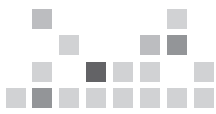
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you about the arrows?
- What surprises you about people disobeying God?
- Why do you think Jonah couldn’t hide from God when he was trying to avoid obeying God?

Say: **We see through this water, just as God sees into our hearts. In the Bible, Jonah learned to ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. When we mess up and go the wrong way in our lives, we can tell God we’re sorry and then ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS, too!**



## 5

LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 ► DO WHAT GOD WANTS. I'd like each of you to choose a way you can do what God wants this week.**

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

- **Help clean up after dinner.**
- **Make a nice card for your teacher.**
- **If you do something wrong, ask for forgiveness from God and from the person you hurt.**

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

## Nineveh Prayer

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Before you pray, teach kids a song that tells what Jonah finally learned. Play "Do What God Wants" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Do Lord." After kids have learned the words, encourage them to sing and do the motions in parentheses with you.



**Do what** (*march in place*)

**Our God wants;** (*point up*)

**His ways are always right!** (*palms together, hands "swim" away*)

**Do what** (*march in place*)

**Our God wants;** (*point up*)

**His ways are always right!** (*palms together, hands "swim" away*)

**Do what** (*march in place*)

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Playground

Nineveh Prayer  
Supplies

CD player

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Do What God Wants" (track 9)



**Our God wants;** *(point up)*

**His ways are always right!** *(palms together, hands “swim” away)*

**Yes, the ways of the Lord** *(point up)*

**Are right!** *(raise both hands high)*

*(Repeat.)*

After the song, ask the kids to join hands and bow their heads as you pray:

**Dear God,**

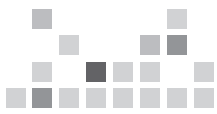
**Thank you for teaching us to do what you want. Please help us follow your ways that you tell us in the Bible. We love you, Lord.**

**In Jesus’ name, amen.**

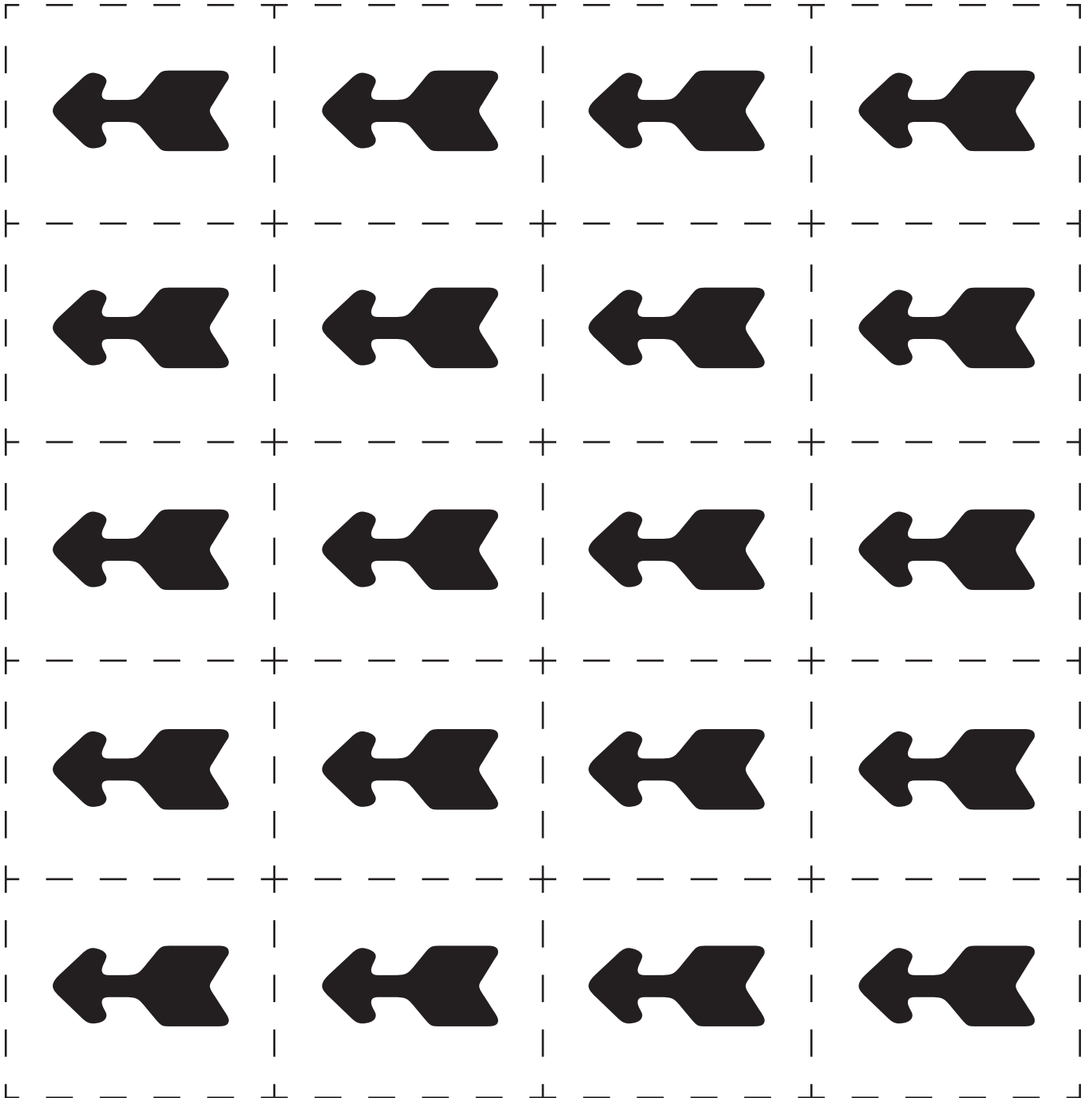
## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



## God's Way Arrows



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# Jonah Complains About God's Compassion

Jonah 3:10–4:11

As 5- and 6-year-olds grow older, they learn that the world is full of different people. Now's the time to help them discover that God loves everyone in this great, big world. This lesson will help you show your kids God's love, and help them remember that we can love others, too. Thank you for modeling love to the children so they can see how to show love to people around them!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Be Patient!</b> Learn patience as they wait for treats.	Bible, small snacks	
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a worm has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, Wiggly Worm	Put the Wiggly Worm inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Jonah and the Vine</b> Listen to the Bible passage and pretend to be Jonah, the vine, and the worm.	Bible, flashlight, tube socks	



► **Bible Point**  
God loves everyone.

**Key Verse**  
 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”  
 (2 Peter 3:9).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
 Children will discover that God loves everyone.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Have a Heart</b> Decorate hearts on their student pages, and ask for God's help in loving people who don't know God.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, scissors, glue, decorative trim	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Squirmy Snacks</b> Make an edible worm and a plant.	the following items per child: 1 large pretzel stick and 1 gummy worm, cream cheese, paper plates, plastic knives, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Worm Reception</b> Pretend they're the worm that ate Jonah's vine.	one 2-inch piece of green tissue paper per child, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jonah Complains" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Use scissors to cut holes (about the size of a penny) along the vine in the poster. If you have a smaller group, cut 1 hole per child. If you have a larger group, cut 1 hole for every 2 or 3 children.
	<b>Center 4: Walkin' Puppets</b> Make puppets, and act out a rhyme about Jonah.	yarn, 1 foam cup per child, crayons, scissors, tape, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>"Help Me Show Love" Prayer</b> Fill in the name of someone they can show love to.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families		

# Jonah Complains About God's Compassion

Jonah 3:10–4:11

Jonah 3:10–4:11

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Not Enough Change

From this passage, it's apparent that Jonah's experience in the belly of the great fish had changed his course of action, but it hadn't really changed his heart. Essentially he told God, "I told you so!" Jonah hadn't really wanted the Ninevites to be saved from destruction, but God saved them anyway, and that made Jonah angry.

## Down in the Dumps

Jonah had preached that Nineveh would be destroyed, so he may have felt that his reputation was at stake. He would have been glad to see Nineveh destroyed. When Jonah complained to God, God rebuked him, so Jonah went out of the city to wait and see what would happen to it.

God made the vine spring up with miraculous speed in order to shade Jonah. God also provided the worm that cut through the plant and caused it to die. Jonah was devastated by its destruction because he had appreciated the shade it provided. Now for the second time since Nineveh had been saved, he expressed a desire to die.

## Great-Hearted God

God put up with Jonah's bad attitude throughout this whole episode. God spared Jonah's life when he disobeyed, and continued to provide for him even after Jonah expressed his anger toward God. God saved the people of Nineveh through Jonah's preaching. But Jonah only responded that it was unfair to save Nineveh. Jonah was selfishly concerned about the vine because it shaded him, but he had no compassion for the more than 120,000 people of Nineveh who needed God. And God didn't like it. When Jonah whined about the destruction of the vine—which God had miraculously provided—and said he wanted to die, God had enough!

## The Point

Was God infuriated or brokenhearted when he spoke the words recorded in Jonah 4:10-11? After all that God brought Jonah through, God sorrowfully acknowledged that Jonah still hadn't gotten the point: God loves everyone, and he wants us to love them, too.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus showed love to a lot of people that other Jews didn't like. He shows us what it looks like to love everyone!

Who are some people you have a hard time loving? What can you do to share God's love with those people? Ask God to help you love everyone as he does. You can write your prayer here.

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.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Yay! We Love God"  
(track 2), "Trust in the  
Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6)  
(track 3)

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

## Welcoming Song



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

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Begin the CD and lead the kids in singing "Yay! We Love God" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel" Encourage the kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**We've come to learn about God's love** (*hold hands and march in a circle*)

**And spread his love around.** (*continue marching*)

**We've come to praise and give him thanks.**

**Yay! We love God!** (*jump up*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE. We can always trust that God will love us. Let's sing about trusting God.** Play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 3 on the CD). After kids have learned the words, encourage them to sing and do the motions in italic parentheses with you.



**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** (*hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers*)

**With all your heart (with all your heart)** (*pulse clasped hands to the beat*)

**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** (*lean to the right*)

**In all your ways (in all your ways)** (*lean to the left*)

**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** (*raise hands to the ceiling*)

**He will make your paths straight.** (*slowly lower hands, and point forward*)

**Once you begin that way,** (*take several steps forward*)

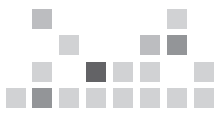
**Don't you ever, ever stray;** (*take several steps backward while shaking head "no"*)

**You'll be on your way** (*walk in place, and slowly lift hands high*)

**To an amazing life.** (*hold hands up and open wide*)

(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)



**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** (*hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers*)

**With all your heart (with all your heart)** (*pulse clasped hands to the beat*)

**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** (*lean to the right*)

**In all your ways (in all your ways)** (*lean to the left*)

**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** (*raise hands to the ceiling*)

**He will make your paths straight.** (*slowly lower hands, and point forward*)

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

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

Say: **It's great to know that we can trust God to love us. ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE, and today, were going to talk about that amazing love!**

## 2

### KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

## Be Patient!

### What You'll Do

Form a circle with kids and sit down. Open your Bible to 2 Peter 3:9, and show them the words. Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). That means that God is patient and wants everyone to repent. Let's say that together.**

Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God is patient, and he wants everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).**

Say: **We practice being patient when we calmly wait for something without complaining. I have some treats for you** (hold up the treats), **but you'll need to wait patiently before I give them to you.** Put the treats aside.

Say: **Repentance means being sorry for the bad things we've done and to turn away from those bad things and do what's right. So our Key Verse means that God is patient with us. God wants us to say we're sorry for the bad things we've done, and then he wants us to stop doing those bad things.**

**Let's play a game where we say our verse in slow motion. You'll need to be patient until the end, and then I'll give you the treats!** Say the simplified Key Verse *very slowly* as you do these simple movements in slow motion.



### Be Patient! Supplies

Bible  
small snacks

**! ALLERGY  
ALERT**



**God** (point up) **is patient**, (*walk in exaggerated slow motion*)  
**And he wants everyone to repent** (*slowly turn around in a circle*)  
 (2 Peter 3:9).

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like as you slowly said the verse and waited for it to end?
- Tell about a time you had to wait a long time for something.

Say: **It's not easy to be patient. The more we want something, the harder it is to wait for it. We can thank God for his patience with us. ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE. He's patient, and he wants everyone to repent.**

Now give kids the treat that they've waited so patiently to receive!

## 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 Wiggly Worm 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:** Theo, why did you hide this worm in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, worms can sometimes get inside plants.

**Teacher:** Friends, what do you know about worms?

(*Pause for kids to answer your question.*)

**Teacher:** In today's Bible passage, we'll see God use a worm to help Jonah learn that  
 ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.** 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.

### Theo's News Supplies

CD player

Surprise Box (any box  
will do)

Theo puppet

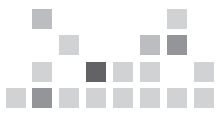
**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Here Theo" (track  
4)

Wiggly Worm

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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



## Bible Time: Jonah and the Vine

### What You'll Do ■■■■■

Open your Bible to Jonah 3, and show children the words. Tell children the Bible is God's special book. Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE.** Explain that the people of Nineveh had been doing bad things for a very long time. God patiently waited for them to be sorry for their sins and to change their ways.

Say: **Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people that if they didn't say they were sorry for the bad things they'd done, God would destroy their city.** Have kids shake with fear and look scared. **The people believed God and said they were sorry they'd been bad. And they stopped doing bad things.** Have kids give hugs to each other.

Say: **► GOD LOVES EVERYONE, including the people of Nineveh. God had waited for the people of Nineveh to stop doing bad things, and finally they changed. This made God very happy.** Have kids give big smiles to each other. **But Jonah wasn't happy.** Have kids make grumpy faces and stomp around. **He didn't love the people of Nineveh the way God did. He didn't want God to be patient and forgive them. So Jonah went outside the city and sat in the hot sun, waiting to see what God would do with Nineveh.** Turn on the flashlight, and ask a few willing kids to sit in the light. Ask them to pretend to be Jonah sitting in the hot sun. Encourage kids to wipe their foreheads and pretend to fan each other.

Say: **God made a vine grow beside Jonah. The plant grew quickly and shaded Jonah.** Ask a few willing children to crouch down; then have them be the Vine and grow around the Jonahs. The children can shade the others by spreading their arms and blocking out the light from the flashlight.

Say: **Jonah was happy that the vine gave him shade from the hot sun. But the next day, God sent a hungry worm to eat the vine.** Let several kids slip the tube socks onto their arms and pretend to be Worms. The Worms can pretend to eat the Vines, and the Vines will wither and no longer block the light from the Jonahs. The Jonahs will again be sitting in the "hot sun" produced by the flashlight.

Say: **Jonah cared about the life of a plant, but God wanted Jonah to care about the lives of all of the people and animals in Nineveh. ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE and God wanted Jonah to show love to everyone as well.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you wanted someone to get punished for doing something bad.
- Why can it be hard to forgive people?
- What can we do to show love to everyone the way God does?



### Bible Time: Jonah and the Vine Supplies

.....  
Bible  
flashlight  
tube socks





### Center 1: Have a Heart Supplies

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
scissors  
glue  
decorative trim

### Center 1: Have a Heart Easy Prep

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

Say: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE** and wants us to love others, too. We can show kindness in our words and actions. We can tell people we meet that God loves them very much. Let's be thankful that we have such a loving and forgiving 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:

## Have a Heart

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out glue, scissors, and decorative trim. Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE**, but Jonah had a hard time understanding that. We know that ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE**, and we can love others, too. It may not be Valentine's Day, but let's make valentines on our pages today to help us remember that ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE**.

Have children use their fingers to trace around the hearts on the pages as they repeat the Bible Point: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE**. Tell kids that God also wants us to love everyone—people who love God and people who don't. Let children glue decorative trim around their hearts.

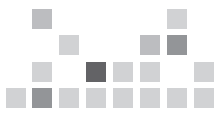
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does God do to show love to us?
- What can you do to show love to others this week?

Say: God loves all people. We can show God's love by helping people, by sharing, and by saying kind words. We can tell people that God loves them. ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE**, and we can love everyone, too.



## CENTER 2:

# Squirmy Snacks

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands.

Say: **God used a plant and a worm to show Jonah that ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE. We're going to make our own vine and worm snack to help us remember what happened in the Bible.**

Form pairs. Give each child a paper plate, a plastic knife, a dab of cream cheese, a gummy worm, and a large pretzel stick. Have children use their snacks to tell what happened to Jonah. When they get to the part where God made the vine grow, have children spread cream cheese on their pretzel sticks. Before children eat their treats, lead them in a prayer to thank God for loving us. Then have children re-enact the worm eating the vine by taking bites out of their pretzel sticks.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why was it important for Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people about God?**
- **Why is it important to love people the way God loves them?**

Say: **God wanted Jonah to go to Nineveh because the people there didn't know about God. ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE. We can tell others about God, just as Jonah did!**

## CENTER 3:

# Worm Reception

## What You'll Do

Say: **Jonah felt bad that the vine died, but he wouldn't have felt sorry if the people of Nineveh had died. He was mad that God took the plant away. He was also mad that God had forgiven the people of Nineveh.** Show children the "Jonah Complains" poster. Encourage children to put leaves on the vine by pushing green tissue paper through the holes that you cut out.

Say: **God wanted Jonah to love the people of Nineveh, but instead Jonah only felt anger. Even when God sent the vine to give Jonah shade, he still couldn't understand that ► GOD LOVES EVERYONE. Let's show how the worm ate away the vine.** Have kids pull the green tissue paper out of the holes, and then have kids stick their fingers through the holes so they look like worms on the vine.



## Center 2: Squirmy Snacks Supplies

for each child: 1 large pretzel stick and 1 gummy worm  
cream cheese  
paper plates  
plastic knives  
antibacterial gel (optional)

## ALLERGY ALERT

## Center 3: Worm Reception Supplies

one 2-inch piece of green tissue paper per child  
scissors  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Jonah Complains" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

## Center 3: Worm Reception Easy Prep

Use scissors to cut holes (about the size of a penny) along the vine in the poster. If you have a smaller group, cut one hole per child. If you have a larger group, cut one hole for every two or three children.





#### Center 4: Walkin' Puppets Supplies

yarn  
1 foam cup per child  
crayons  
scissors  
tape  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Jonah Walked"  
(track 10)

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How could Jonah have shown love to the people of Nineveh?
- Tell about a time you didn't want to forgive someone.
- What could you tell Jonah to help him understand that ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE?**

Say: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE** and wants us to love others the same way he does. We can show kindness in our words and actions. We can tell people we meet that God loves them very much. We can be thankful that we have such a loving and forgiving God!

### ■ **CENTER 4:**

## Walkin' Puppets

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.** You, me, and even people who don't know him or people who do bad things. Jonah didn't understand that. Let's make a puppet Jonah and retell what happened in the Bible.

Set out the paper cups, tape, crayons, and yarn. Have children make two holes at the bottom of their cups so they can stick their fingers through to act as their puppets' legs. Then let the children draw faces on their cup puppets, and have the kids cut and tape strips of yarn to their cups as hair. Use a puppet to demonstrate how the kids might do some of the actions from the following rhyme. For example, show the kids how you can use your free hand to shade your puppet's eyes.

Play "Jonah Walked" (track 10 on the CD), and have the kids move the puppets as the rhyme directs.





Jonah *walked* to Nineveh; he *stood* before the crowd.  
He told them to stop being mean and turn their hearts to God.  
The people *listened* to his words, and they began to pray;  
And Jonah *saw* the people turn away from evil ways.

Jonah *sat* in the hot, hot sun. God grew a plant for shade.  
The next day God sent down a worm to eat the plant away.  
This made Jonah very mad. He jumped up to complain.  
“Why did you let that nice plant die?” he stomped his feet and whined.  
God said, “You love a vine, but not a town...I tell you, this is true:  
I love all people everywhere—and, Jonah, so should you.”

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think it was hard for Jonah to love the people in Nineveh?
- What can we do to help people know more about God and his love?

Say: Jonah didn't like the mean things the people of Nineveh had done, but God wanted Jonah to love them anyway. ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE**, and by being kind and telling everybody about God's love, we can, too.

.....

## 5

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 LOVES EVERYONE**, and we can too! I'd like each of you to choose a way you can love someone who may not know God.

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

- Invite a friend to come to church with you.



### Daily Challenges Supplies

.....

My Bible Playground





- **Make cookies or a card for a friend. Take the gift to the child and then spend some time with him or her.**
- **Pray for people in other countries who don't know God. Pray that they might get to know God someday.**

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

## “Help Me Show Love” Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: ► **GOD LOVES EVERYONE. Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us show love to someone in our lives this week.** Have kids think of someone they want to show love to this week, and lead them in the following prayer.

**Dear God,**  
**Help me show love to [person's name].**  
**In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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





# God Calls Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-8

The faith of 5- and 6-year-olds can be awesome. It's no wonder that Jesus used a child to illustrate the greatest faith in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:1-4). This is the perfect age to encourage your children's growing faith as you help sow God's Word in their hearts. Remember Jesus' words, "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5). Use this lesson to teach kids to grow in their faith and understand that God is holy.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Come and Worship</b> Discover different ways to worship God.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a potholder has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, potholder <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the potholder inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Isaiah</b> Hear the Bible, and pretend to touch hot coals to their lips.	Bible; 1 chocolate cookie per child; napkins; large, clean blanket or towel; CD player; antibacterial gel (optional) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	



## ► Bible Point

God is holy.

## Key Verse

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

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will worship God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: On Bended Knee</b> Use the student pages to show a child kneeling and worshipping God.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, several pairs of scissors, glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Burning Coals</b> Make edible burning coals.	2 marshmallows and 2 pretzel sticks per child, paper plates, a small bowl of chocolate syrup, a small bowl of red sprinkles, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional))	
	<b>Center 3: Filling the Temple</b> Pretend to build a temple with building blocks and fill it with "God's robe."	blocks, large blanket or towel from the Bible Time activity	
	<b>Center 4: Tinfoil Temples</b> Make beautiful paper and foil temples with doors that open and shut.	for each child: 1 sheet of construction paper and 1 piece of aluminum foil (the same size as a piece of construction paper), scissors, glue sticks, crayons, glitter and sequins	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>Holy Prayer</b> Pray to their holy God.	large blanket or towel from the Bible Time activity	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# God Calls Isaiah

## Isaiah 6:1-8

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## The Setup

This passage describes God's call upon the life of Isaiah, yet it occurs in the sixth chapter of the book rather than at its beginning. From the earlier chapters, we learn that Judah's relationship with God was deplorable and that God's anger was burning against his people (Isaiah 5:25). We discover that Isaiah had a terribly difficult task ahead of him if he accepted God's call, because he would be preaching of God's displeasure and the coming destruction of Judah to a people who believed they were in line for God's blessings. These chapters also help to explain Isaiah's statement in today's passage that he lived "among a people of unclean lips."

# The Holiness

In Isaiah 6:1-4, Isaiah describes the experience of witnessing the awesome holiness of God. In this passage, he attempts to describe a heavenly experience, but he has only earthly terms at his disposal. He says that the train of God's robe filled the spacious hall of the heavenly temple; this emphasizes the splendid magnificence of God's glory. Seraphs are a kind of angel not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. The Hebrew root word for seraph means "burn," which may be related to the seraphs' purity in serving God. Their cry of "holy, holy, holy" emphasizes God's indescribable holiness.

# The Glory

The shaking of the doorposts and thresholds and the smoke that filled the temple also describe Isaiah's experience of God's glory and power. All of this likely reminded Isaiah's Hebrew listeners how God's voice shook the earth and terrified the people when God gave the law at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18-19).

## The Forgiveness

Isaiah knew that he was unclean and unworthy, but God prepared a cleansing for him. The burning coal was a symbol of both God's wrath and his forgiveness. The live coal didn't cleanse Isaiah; God did. Once his sin was forgiven, Isaiah demonstrated his faith in God by agreeing to serve God by speaking his message.

## The Jesus Connection

Greater than a mere symbol of forgiveness like coal, God sent his Son, Jesus, to offer us forgiveness. It is through a relationship with Jesus that we have hope of one day being in God's holy presence.

How has God shown his holiness to you? How have you responded? Ask God to show himself to you more fully. You can write your prayer here.

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.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Yay! We Love God"  
(track 2), "Those Who  
Hope" (Isaiah 40:31)  
(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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Begin the CD, and lead the kids in singing "Yay! We Love God" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel" Encourage the kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**We've come to learn about God's love** (*hold hands and march in circle*)

**And spread his love around.** (*continue marching*)

**We've come to praise and give him thanks.**

**Yay! We love God!** (*jump up*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: ► **GOD IS HOLY! God is powerful, and he can help us when we're sad or feeling down. As we sing this next song, let's sing with love and thankfulness for how God helps up keep going strong!**

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 6 on the CD).



**Who can soar on wings like eagles?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can run and not grow weary?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can walk and not be faint?** (*shrug shoulders*)

(Chorus)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

**They'll soar on wings like eagles;** (*flap arms like wings*)

**They will run and not grow weary.** (*run in place*)

**They will walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)

(Sing chorus.)



**I wanna soar on wings like eagles!** (*flap arms like wings*)  
**I wanna run and not grow weary;** (*run in place*)  
**I wanna walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)

(Sing chorus 2x.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Today we'll learn that ► GOD IS HOLY! Let's see what our Key Verse today says about God's holiness.**

---

**2**

## KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

# Come and Worship

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Psalm 95:6, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6). Let's say the Key Verse together.**  
Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse and doing the actions with you.

**Come,** (*motion to come with both hands*)  
**Let us bow down** (*bow at the waist*)  
**In worship,** (*fold hands in prayer*)  
**Let us kneel** (*kneel on the floor*)  
**Before the Lord our Maker.** (*raise both hands high*)  
(Psalm 95:6).

### Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to worship God?**
- **What are some ways you worship God?**

Say: **When we worship God, we tell him that he's the most wonderful, awesome Maker of us and the whole world! We can kneel and pray and sing, just as we've done today. ► GOD IS HOLY and we can worship him!** Lead kids in repeating the words and actions to the Key Verse.



## Come and Worship Supplies

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Bible





### Theo's News Supplies

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

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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

### Bible Time: Isaiah Supplies

Bible  
1 chocolate cookie per child  
napkins  
large, clean blanket or towel  
CD player  
antibacterial gel (optional)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "God Calls Isaiah" (track 11)



## 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 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 potholder around the circle so the rest of the children can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this potholder in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, sometimes my mom uses this when she's handling hot things.

**Teacher:** Friends, who has seen wood burning in a campfire or hot coals in a barbecue grill?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** What happens to the wood or coal after it burns for a while?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Theo:** The wood or coal in a fire gets very, very hot.

**Teacher:** In today's Bible passage, you'll hear about a man named Isaiah who touched a hot coal and learned that ► **GOD IS HOLY!**

**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: Isaiah

## What You'll Do

Have the children clean their hands; then open your Bible to Isaiah 6 and show children the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD IS HOLY. Holy means perfect and without sin. God doesn't ever sin. God is perfect, wonderful, and awesome. ► GOD IS HOLY! Let's listen to what happened to Isaiah in the Bible when he found out how amazing God is.**



Play “God Calls Isaiah” (track 11 on the CD). Lay the blanket or towel on the floor when prompted by the track, and have the kids sit around it. Pause the CD when prompted and lead kids in a prayer, having kids tell God something they’re sorry for. The second time you’re directed to pause the CD, you’ll need napkins and chocolate cookies. Kids will touch the cookies to their partners’ lips, and then give the cookies to their partners. Have the children set aside the cookies to eat at the end of this activity. At the end of the track, turn off the CD player, and discuss the following questions.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes it hard to be perfect like God?
- What do you think about the way God forgave Isaiah?

Say: ► **GOD IS HOLY! When Isaiah saw God in heaven, he knew that ► GOD IS HOLY! Isaiah wanted to be forgiven, and he wanted to serve God. Let’s tell everyone about our holy God who loves us!**

Say a prayer thanking God for the treats. Then let kids eat their cookies.

## 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:

## On Bended Knee

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Set out scissors, washable markers, and glue sticks. Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: ► **GOD IS HOLY, and the Bible says that we can kneel down before God to worship him.** Have children cut out the legs at the bottom of their student pages. Then have them each glue the legs to the body of the child in the picture. Tell kids to bend the knees so it appears as if the child is kneeling in prayer.



### Center 1: On Bended Knee Supplies

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
several pairs of scissors  
glue sticks

### Center 1: On Bended Knee Easy Prep

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





### Center 2: Burning Coals Supplies

2 marshmallows and 2  
pretzel sticks per child  
paper plates  
a small bowl of  
chocolate syrup  
a small bowl of red  
sprinkles  
napkins  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 3: Filling the Temple Supplies

blocks  
large blanket or towel  
from the Bible Time  
activity

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it mean that ► **GOD IS HOLY?**
- What other ways can we worship God?
- Why do we worship God?

Say: **We worship God because ► GOD IS HOLY! Praying on our knees, with our eyes closed and our hands folded, is one of the many ways we can worship God. We also worship God when we sing, obey our parents, and help others.**

## CENTER 2:

# Burning Coals

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Say: **Let's make a tasty treat that looks like "burning coals" to remind us of the burning coal we heard about today in the Bible passage.**

Have children form pairs and give each child a paper plate with two marshmallows and two pretzel sticks. Demonstrate how to poke the end of a pretzel stick into each marshmallow. Show kids how to hold the pretzel stick and dip the marshmallow into the chocolate syrup to make it look like a piece of coal. Then encourage kids to dip the top of the marshmallow into the red sprinkles so it "glows" like a burning coal! Let each child make two of the burning coal marshmallows.

Before children eat their treats, lead them in a prayer to thank God for being holy.

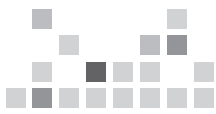
Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD IS HOLY. That means that he's perfect. God has never done anything wrong, and he never will. God wanted Isaiah to give the people God's perfect messages. God wants everyone to know about him. Think of someone you can tell about God this week just like Isaiah bravely told Israel about God. End the activity by kneeling to pray. Ask God to help the children tell others about him, just as Isaiah did.**

## CENTER 3:

# Filling the Temple

## What You'll Do

Say: **► GOD IS HOLY. Isaiah saw God seated on a throne, and God's robe filled the temple in heaven.** Have kids use the blocks to build the biggest temple they can. Then let them take turns wearing the blanket or towel like a giant robe, letting it drape over the blocks and fill the temple.



## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Based on Isaiah's description of God's temple, how big do you think God is?
- What's it like to know that God is bigger than all our problems?

Say: Isaiah knew that ► **GOD IS HOLY**. He saw God in the temple, and God's robe filled that enormous room. The temple shook and filled with smoke, and the angels sang about God's holiness. We know that ► **GOD IS HOLY** because we feel his love and see him reflected in all of his beautiful creation. The Bible tells us that ► **GOD IS HOLY**. Let's tell everyone about our awesome God!

## CENTER 4:

# Tinfoil Temples

## What You'll Do

Say: In the Bible, we heard how Isaiah saw God seated in the temple. Isaiah explained how amazed he was at God's holiness. Explain that kids will be making pictures of temples to remind them of Isaiah's experience.

Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Set out crayons for them to share. Have children draw and color a temple on their paper. Tell them to include big doors on their temples near the bottom of the page.

While kids are drawing and coloring, go around the room and help each of them cut doors out for the temple. Then help kids glue their pieces of aluminum foil to the back of their pieces of construction paper. Demonstrate how to open and close the construction paper doors to see the shiny foil that represents God's holiness. Encourage children to finish their temples by gluing glitter and sequins onto the temple. After everyone has finished making a temple, gather in a circle.

Say: The temple that Isaiah saw was a beautiful place. Isaiah described many shiny, glittery things in the temple, as well as angels and the voice of God. The angels worshipped God and sang praises to him. ► **GOD IS HOLY**, and we can also worship God.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of how Isaiah described the temple?
- What might you do if God invited you to the temple?

Say: ► **GOD IS HOLY**, and he deserves our worship. Take your temple pictures home with you so you can tell your families about what we learned about God today.



## Center 4: Tinfoil Temples Supplies

for each child: 1 sheet of construction paper and 1 piece of aluminum foil (the same size as a piece of construction paper)  
scissors  
glue sticks  
crayons  
glitter and sequins





## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

## Holy Prayer Supplies

large blanket or towel  
from the Bible Time  
activity

# 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 IS HOLY.** I'd like each of you to choose a way you can worship our holy God this week.

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

- **Kneel and sing a worship song to God.**
- **Take a walk through a park with your mom or dad. Thank God for all of the beautiful things he has made.**
- **Draw a picture of your favorite things that God created. Ask your mom or dad to put your drawing on the refrigerator as a reminder to praise God.**

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

## Holy Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Spread out the blanket or towel on the floor, and have the children kneel around it. Go around the group, and have the children each say one way they will worship God this week, such as by praying, singing, reading the Bible, or telling someone about God's awesome love. Then have kids repeat the following words and actions after you.

**Dear God,**

**You** (point up)

**are holy.** (bow head and fold hands in prayer)

**And I** (point to self)

**will worship you.** (point up)

**You** (point up)



**are holy.** (*bow head and fold hands in prayer*)

**My love** (*place hands over heart*)

**For you is true.** (*extend hands in front of you, palms up*)

**In Jesus' name, amen.**



## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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








# Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord

## 2 Chronicles 34

**F**ive- and six-year-olds are developing a better grasp of the alphabet, and some children can print their own names or read short words. For now, all children can listen as someone reads the Bible aloud, and you can also encourage the children to look through Bible picture books to help them follow along. Remind children that soon they'll be able to read all by themselves. As the children learn to read, what better book to introduce them to than the Bible! Thank you for showing God's precious Word to his precious children.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Quiet Worship</b> Sit quietly, listen to music, and draw pictures for God.	Bible, crayons, paper, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a hammer has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, small hammer <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the small hammer inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Josiah Cleans House</b> Pretend to be Josiah's workers and act out what happened in the Bible.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, 1 paintbrush per child <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Josiah Reads God's Word" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut out a simple paper doll and a 1x2-inch paper "board" for each child.



### ► Bible Point

The Bible is God's special book.

### Key Verse

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

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will discover the importance of God's Word.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Finding God's Word</b> Draw on their student pages, and then discover God's Word.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, white crayons	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Royal Roll-Ups</b> Make and eat snacks that remind them of scrolls.	1 tortilla per child, softened cream cheese, raisins, plastic knives, napkins, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Directions for Life</b> Follow directions to put together a glider bird.	Bible <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Glider Bird (disassembled)	
	<b>Center 4: Cleaning Success!</b> Make a scroll and a broom—in one!	½ of a newspaper spread per child, scissors, tape, string	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>Singing Prayer</b> Say how they'll listen to God's Word this week, and then sing a prayer thanking God for the Bible.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord

## 2 Chronicles 34

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

# The Boy King

Josiah began to rule Judah when he was only 8 years old, but he probably didn't rule by himself. Although his father and grandfather, Amon and Manasseh, were evil and cruel, someone had apparently trained Josiah in the ways of the Lord. Fortunately, he chose to follow in the footsteps of his great-grandfather Hezekiah and his ancestor David by obeying the Lord. When he became king, he was advised by others who were faithful followers of God.

## Josiah's Reforms

When he was 20, Josiah demonstrated maturity and wisdom far beyond his years as he began wiping out the places in Judah—and even in the northern kingdom of Israel—that were dedicated to worshipping idols.

When he was 26, Josiah decided to repair and restore the Temple, which had been turned into a house of idolatry by his father, Manasseh. It was during this cleansing that the Book of the Law was found. This was either the book of Deuteronomy or the entire five books of the Law, lost for years under the rule of kings who worshipped idols.

## Josiah's Passion to Follow the Lord

Josiah may never have actually heard the words of the Law before this book was found. When it was read to him, he tore his clothes in grief over the sins of his people. He knew that God must have been terribly angry with the people of Judah and Israel.

Because Josiah humbled himself before God, God honored him and Judah. Josiah humbly read God's Word to the people. And before God and the people, Josiah vowed to return Judah to obedience to the

Lord. God's Word revealed to Josiah the sins of his people, and it caused him to see what he needed to do to truly serve God. And what a change it made! For the rest of Josiah's life, the people of Israel "did not fail to follow the Lord."

## The Jesus Connection

John 1 describes Jesus as the Word made flesh, and he changes our lives!

Consider this: How much do you read the Bible? What's good about your Bible-reading habits, and what needs to change? No matter what you have going on today, be sure to take some time to open God's Word and listen to God's voice. Then pray that God will change you because of what you read. You can write your prayer here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Be Sure" (track 12), "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8)

# 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. Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing "Be Sure" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the actions.



**Be sure to wear a smile; be sure to wear a smile.** (*show big smiles*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to wear a smile.**

**Be sure to greet a friend; be sure to greet a friend.** (*shake hands with others*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to greet a friend.**

**Be sure to listen well; be sure to listen well.** (*sing softly with hands cupped behind ears*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to listen well.**

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Say: **The Bible tells us that Josiah promised to follow the Lord. Let's sing a song that tells us about God's plans for us. Follow me around the room as we sing the song.**

Play "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8 on the CD). Lead the children around the room, and have them do actions such as walking on tiptoe, marching, or waving their hands high.



(Verse)

**"For I know the plans I have for you,"**

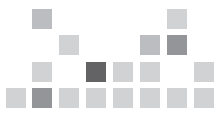
**Declares the Lord.**

**"I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

(Repeat.)





*(Chorus)*

**They are plans to prosper you  
And not to harm you,  
Plans to give you hope and a future.  
They are plans for good and not disaster.  
Why? Because he tells us so.  
(Repeat from the beginning.)**

*(Repeat verse.)*

"The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **This song reminds us that God has a plan for us. Today we're talking about one way God helps us understand his plan—the Bible. ► THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. In the Bible, we can read about God's plans and promises to help us follow him.**

.....

## 2

### KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

## Quiet Worship

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Psalm 95:6, and show children the words. Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6). Let's say that together.**

Lead children in repeating the Key Verse with you: **"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).**

Have kids talk about what they think worship means and ways they can worship God.

Say: **When we worship God, we're showing that we love him and we want to praise him. We can worship God in many ways. We can worship God in loud ways, such as singing with each other, and we can worship God in quiet ways, such as praying and listening to the Bible. Let's practice worshipping God in quiet ways.**

Set out the crayons and paper, and play "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 6 on the CD). If you have time, let the kids listen to other songs on the CD, too.

Ask kids to sit quietly, draw pictures of their favorite things, and then give thanks to God according to what the pictures mean to them. Encourage kids to listen to the CD and quietly sing their praise to God.



### Quiet Worship Supplies

.....

Bible  
crayons  
paper  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Those Who Hope"  
(Isaiah 40:31) (track 6)





## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be quiet and worship God?
- What do you like about worshipping God?

Say: **When we quietly worship God, we can talk to God and listen for what God might want to tell us. Try to have a quiet time this week to worship God. Maybe you can worship God in your room with the door closed. Or maybe you can worship God as you quietly spend time in your yard looking at all of the things God has created. You can worship God by looking at the Bible, God's Word, because we know that ► THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. The Bible tells us that God is holy and we worship him. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.**

Lead the children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).**

.....

## 3

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

### Theo's News Supplies

.....

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

### Theo's News Easy Prep

.....

Put the small hammer  
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 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 small hammer 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 from the Bible today.)*

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

**Theo:** Well, a hammer can help us fix things!

**Teacher:** Friends, have you ever used a hammer? What for?

*(Pause for kids to answer your questions.)*

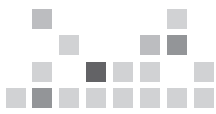
**Theo:** A hammer helps us build things and tear things down.

**Teacher:** The Bible tells us about some workers who were fixing the Temple of God and found something very important. God's Temple is kinda like a church. Let's find out what they discovered there!

**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: Josiah Cleans House

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Before you begin the Bible Time activity, tell kids to put on imaginary tool belts and pretend to be King Josiah's Workers. Open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 34, and show children the words. Say: ► **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. King Josiah knew how important it is to listen to what God said in the Bible.**

Read aloud the following text while leading King Josiah's Workers in their roles as described below.

Say: **Josiah was only 8 years old when he became king. That's only a few years older than you are now! Josiah was a good king who obeyed God. When Josiah grew up, he became a great king who obeyed and loved God.** Place the "Josiah Reads God's Word" poster on the floor, and have children gather around it.

Say: **King Josiah saw that there were lots of idols in his kingdom. Idols are statues that people worship. Let's pretend that these paper dolls are the idols that the people were worshipping. Place the paper dolls on the Temple floor in the poster.**

Say: **The people thought that the idols were more important than God. So King Josiah called all his workers together.** Have kids stand at attention in a straight line and salute.

Say: **"We must get rid of all these bad idols!" King Josiah told the workers. "Smash them, crash them, smush them, crush them!" he called out.** Have the kids each take a paper doll and tear it up as they repeat the words: "Smash them, crash them, smush them, crush them."

Say: **"Stomp them, tromp them—God doesn't want them!"** Have the kids stomp their feet on the paper doll idols as they say, "Stomp them, tromp them—God doesn't want them."

Say: **So King Josiah and his workers got rid of all the idols. When that was done, King Josiah needed his workers for another job.** Have the kids stand at attention and salute. Point to the Temple in the poster. **Parts of God's Temple were old and broken and cracked. So Josiah called for his workers. But this time he wanted them to build—not to tear down.**

Say: **"Hammer up each board; we'll fix it for the Lord!" Josiah said.** Have the kids each glue a paper "board" onto the Temple in the poster as they say the words: "Hammer up each board; we'll fix it for the Lord!"



### Bible Time: Josiah Cleans House Supplies

.....  
Bible  
construction paper  
scissors  
glue sticks  
1 paintbrush per child

**Teacher Pack**  
"Josiah Reads God's Word" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: Josiah Cleans House Easy Prep

.....  
Cut out a simple paper doll and a 1x2-inch paper "board" for each child.





Say: **“Let’s sweep and brush and get rid of this dust!”** Have the children pretend to sweep the poster with paintbrushes as they repeat the sentence: “Let’s sweep and brush and get rid of this dust!”

Say: **While the workers were busy fixing up the Temple, the priest found something very important. It was the Bible, which had been lost and forgotten for many years.**

Pass the Bible around to the kids. As each child holds the Bible, have him or her say,

► **“THE BIBLE IS GOD’S SPECIAL BOOK”** and then pass it to the next child.

Say: **The priest took God’s special book to King Josiah. When Josiah heard the words in God’s special book, he said, “We must follow these laws and do what God wants.”** Point to King Josiah and the crowd on the poster. Say: **King Josiah called together all the people in his kingdom: the rich, the poor, his helpers—everyone.** Have the kids form a circle around you as you hold the Bible. Say: **King Josiah read the Bible to all of them and said, “This book is so important. I promise to follow God and keep his commands. Who else will also promise to follow God?”** And all of the people said, **“We promise.”** Then all of the people followed God, and that pleased God. Have the kids sit in a circle. Say: ► **THE BIBLE IS GOD’S SPECIAL BOOK, and the Bible was important to King Josiah.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think the Bible is so important?
- What could you tell others about the Bible, like King Josiah did?

Say: ► **THE BIBLE IS GOD’S SPECIAL BOOK!** King Josiah and all of the people promised to follow God all of their lives. Let’s promise to follow God’s Word, because it tells us about God’s love and it shows us how to live.

.....

## 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:**

## Finding God's Word

**What You'll Do** 

Set out white crayons and washable markers. Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: **Your page looks like it has a Bible on it. On the page, it says ► “THE BIBLE IS GOD’S SPECIAL BOOK.”** Have children use a white crayon to draw things that remind them of the Bible, such as hearts or crosses, on the blank side of their student pages. Then have them use a washable marker to color over their crayon drawings. The ink from the marker won’t stick to the crayon drawings, and their images will be revealed. Have kids fold their pages along the dotted lines—like Bible pages.

**Talk With Kids** 

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What happened when you colored over your picture with the marker?**
- **How can reading the Bible help us know what God wants?**

Say: **Coloring over your page with a marker helped you see the images you drew. Reading the Bible can help us see what God wants. ► THE BIBLE IS GOD’S SPECIAL BOOK.** God gave us the Bible so we know how to serve him. God wants everyone to know that he loves us and sent us Jesus.

 **CENTER 2:**

## Royal Roll-Ups

**What You'll Do** 

Have children clean their hands before they prepare their snacks. Set out paper plates, napkins, plastic knives, tortillas, softened cream cheese, and raisins. Allow each of the kids to spread a thin layer of cream cheese on their tortillas and then use raisins to form the first letter of his or her name. Or you could write words such as “God,” “love,” or “Bible” on a chalkboard or white board for the kids to copy on their snacks with raisins.

Say: **When the priest found God’s special book, it probably looked more like a scroll instead of the books we’re used to seeing. Let’s make our snacks look like scrolls.** Demonstrate how to carefully lift up one end of a tortilla and roll it up.

**Center 1: Finding  
God’s Word  
Supplies**

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
white crayons

**Center 1: Finding  
God’s Word  
Easy Prep**

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

**Center 2: Royal  
Roll-Ups  
Supplies**

1 tortilla per child  
softened cream cheese  
raisins  
plastic knives  
napkins  
paper plates  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

 **ALLERGY  
ALERT**



### Center 3: Directions for Life Supplies

Bible  
Teacher Pack  
Glider Bird  
(disassembled)

Say: **God loves us so much that he gave us a very special and important book.**

► **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.** God gave us the Bible so we can have everything we need to follow him. It makes God very happy when we follow his Word and tell others about him. Invite a willing child to pray and thank God for the snack. As they eat, have kids share ideas on how they can serve God. For example, they might say they can serve God by telling others about God, bringing friends to church, or helping friends learn to love God.

### CENTER 3:

## Directions for Life

### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Then bring out the parts of the glider bird.

Say: **Hmmm...I wonder what this bunch of stuff will be when it's put together.** Let kids guess as you make a big show of trying to put the glider together—and not getting it right.

Ask:

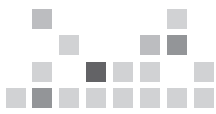
- **What would help me know how to put this together?**

Wait for kids to say “directions or instructions,” and then bring out the directions. Show children how the directions help explain what pieces go where, and have a couple of willing children help you put the glider together. Hold up the completed Glider Bird.

Say: **I wondered what those pieces were going to be, and I even worried a bit, but I didn't need to. These directions were here the entire time. The instructions were good; they helped us put together the Glider Bird.**

Pass the Glider Bird around the circle and let each child inspect it. After the kids play with the glider, continue your discussion.

Say: **King Josiah was worried about the people in his kingdom. He didn't know how to help them obey God and stop worshipping idols, but he knew how important true worship is to God. Hold up a Bible. ► THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. When King Josiah found God's special book, he realized that the Bible is like directions and could help him put together his kingdom in a way that would please God. God was happy that King Josiah promised to follow the Bible and the directions in it. King Josiah followed God's directions and helped his people do the same.**



## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why were directions important for us when we built the Glider Bird?
- How can you follow the directions in the Bible?

Say: ► **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.** We can follow the directions in God's Word to help us do what's right.

## CENTER 4:

# Cleaning Success!

## What You'll Do

Say: **The Bibles we have today look different from the Bibles in King Josiah's day. Instead of looking like a book, God's Word may've looked more like a scroll.**

Use a newspaper to show children how parts of the Bible would have been written on paper and then rolled up and tied with a piece of string. Roll it like a traditional scroll by first rolling the paper down from the top and up from the bottom. The two rolls will meet in the middle. Then roll it into one tube to show kids an alternative style of scroll.

Say: **Now let's try making our own scrolls that will help us remember about King Josiah.**

Give kids each  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a newspaper spread to roll into their own tube scrolls. Once they've rolled the newspapers, secure each "scroll" in two or three areas with tape. Finally, at one end of each scroll, make several 6-inch cuts through all the layers of newspaper. Have kids give the newspapers a shake to loosen the layers.



## Center 4: Cleaning Success! Supplies

$\frac{1}{2}$  of a newspaper  
spread per child  
several pairs of scissors  
tape  
string





Say: **By making those cuts, we've turned our scrolls into brooms! This can help you remember that King Josiah's workers cleaned the Temple and found the Bible—God's special book.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you think it was important to King Josiah to clean God's temple?**
- **Why do you think God's special book was lost and forgotten?**
- **How can you make sure your family doesn't forget the Bible is God's special book?**

Say: **I'm so glad King Josiah and his workers found the Bible and knew that ► THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. We can help our families remember to keep reading the Bible every day!**

## 5

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

### What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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.

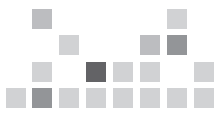
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. I'd like each of you to choose a way you will use the Bible this week.**

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

- **Have your mom or dad read the Bible to you.**
- **Act out any event from the Bible with someone.**
- **Call your grandma or grandpa, and talk about your favorite person in the Bible.**

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




## Singing Prayer

### What You'll Do

Go around the circle and have the kids each tell when a parent or older sibling might read to them from the Bible this week. For example, a child might have a parent read the Bible at bedtime each night. Then close by singing this prayer.

Lead the kids in singing “God, We Thank You” (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Have the children hold their hands side by side as if they’re holding a Bible.

 **God, we thank you for your book;  
Every day we'll take a look!  
The Bible tells us what is true;  
It helps us to follow you.**

**Yes, we will follow;  
Yes, we will follow;  
Yes, we will follow  
Your important words.**  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Have the children close by saying together, **“In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

## Weaving Faith Into Life

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

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



### Singing Prayer Supplies

.....  
CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “God, We Thank  
You” (track 13)







# Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

At this age, friendships become more and more important to 5- and 6-year-olds. So much so that they start to feel tempted to do things just because their friends are doing them. Use this lesson to teach your children that it's wonderful to be brave and do what they know is right. Help kids understand that their wise choices make God happy, and remind them that they can be examples to their friends of bravery for God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Many Ways of Worship</b> Say the Key Verse, and act out ways to worship.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what an unlit match has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, unlit match <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the unlit match inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: A Cool Time in the Furnace</b> Learn how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for God.	Bible, table, child-sized chair	Set up a table near your Bible Exploration area.



► **Bible Point**  
Be brave for God.

## Key Verse

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

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will be brave for God.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Popping in for a Visit</b> Make artwork that helps them remember what happened in the fiery furnace.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, pencils with erasers, red and orange tissue paper, glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Be Proud! Be Loud!</b> Practice standing up for God by shouting praises into edible microphones.	1 flat-bottomed ice-cream cone per child, pudding, napkins, spoons, child-sized chair, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Stand Up for God</b> Play a game and stand up for God.	table, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Center 4: Fiery Folders</b> Trace their footprints, and stand in pretend flames.	1 file folder or 2 pieces of construction paper per child; red, yellow, and orange tissue paper strips about 5 to 6 inches wide; glue; washable markers; tape and construction paper (optional)	Tape together the long edge of two sheets of construction paper as an easy substitute for a file folder.
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>"Only God" Prayer</b> Kneel and pray to our one true God.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace Daniel 3

# Daniel 3

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Daniel and Friends in Exile

When the people of Judah turned away from the Lord, God allowed Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to defeat Judah. At that time, the invaders took a group of young hostages, the brightest and best Judah had to offer, back to Babylon with them. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were among the hostages. We know Daniel's three friends best by the names given them by the Babylonians: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

## Daniel's Friends Refuse to Bow to Idols

Nebuchadnezzar's name meant "Nebo, protect your servant!" The statue Nebuchadnezzar built was perhaps meant to represent the god Nebo. The statue was 90 feet high, but this measurement probably included a tall pedestal, and the statue itself was probably gold-plated, not solid gold. Nevertheless, it must have been an impressive structure, standing about as high as a 10-story building.

Despite an impressive statue that demonstrated the political power of the king, and under threat of death, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to trust God. If God saved them, great! But even if he didn't, they were willing to die before they'd worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol.

## Daniel's Friends Survive the Heat

The furnace the three were thrown into was likely used to fire bricks or to smelt metal. Certainly at its normal operating temperature—probably between 1,600 and 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit—survival inside such a furnace would be humanly impossible. But Nebuchadnezzar had the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual. It was so hot that the soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the

furnace died from their proximity to it! Even so, God saved the three trusting Israelites from harm.

We don't know for sure who the fourth person in the furnace was. Certainly it was a supernatural being, either an angel or possibly Jesus himself. Either way, God was there for them, blessing them for standing strong.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus can relate to the challenges we face as we stand up for God because he has experienced them—and much more.

Are you facing a situation in which you're challenged to stand strong for God? Do you feel ready for the challenge? Rely on him. Pray that he'll give you the strength to keep standing even when everyone around you bows to the pressure. When we stand up for God, he will help us, protect us, and reward us. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Be Sure"  
(track 12), "The  
Plans I Have for You"  
(Jeremiah 29:11)  
(track 8)

# 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. Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing "Be Sure" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the actions.



**Be sure to wear a smile; be sure to wear a smile.** (*show big smiles*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to wear a smile.**

**Be sure to greet a friend; be sure to greet a friend.** (*shake hands with others*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to greet a friend.**

**Be sure to listen well; be sure to listen well.** (*sing softly with hands cupped behind ears*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to listen well.**

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that God gave Daniel's friends strength to face a tough time. The words of this next song come from the Bible. The Bible tells us that God's plans will prosper you, which means they will help you do well. It also says that God's plans are for good and not disaster, which means God's plans always result in God's glory. This song can remind us that God has a plan for our lives. As we sing it, let's remember that we can ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD!** Lead the kids in singing "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8).



(Verse)

**"For I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

**"I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

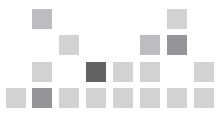
**They are plans to prosper you**

**And not to harm you,**

**Plans to give you hope and a future.**

**They are plans for good and not disaster.**

**Why? Because he tells us so.**



*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

*(Repeat verse.)*

"The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God loves you and has a plan for your life. Knowing that God has a plan for us can help us ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

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## 2

### KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

## Many Ways of Worship

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle with kids and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 95:6, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6). Let's say our Key Verse together.**

Lead kids in repeating the Key Verse with you: **"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).**

Say: **There are many ways we can worship God.** Have kids give examples of ways they can worship God. **We can sing songs to God, we can pray to God, we can read our Bibles, and we can tell others about God. These are all great ways to worship God. Let's play a game to show some of the ways we can worship God.**

Have children form four groups; a group can be as small as one person. Have the first group of children say the Key Verse together: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6) as they pretend to play instruments or sing. Remind kids that singing or playing music is one way we can worship God.

Have the second group say the Key Verse together: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6) as they get on their knees and fold their hands as if in prayer. Remind children that praying is one way we can worship God.

Have the children in the third group say the Key Verse together: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6) as they hold open their hands like a Bible and pretend to read it. Remind children that reading God's Word is another way we can worship God.



### Many Ways of Worship Supplies

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Bible





The fourth group will say the Key Verse together: “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6) as they cup their hands around their mouths and pretend to shout to each other. Remind children that telling others about God is another way they can worship God. It’s also a way they can ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Point to each group in turn as a cue for the children to say the Key Verse and act out one way to worship God. Play the game several times, as time allows.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do we worship God?**
- **What are some ways you can worship God at home?**

Say: **We can worship God in so many different ways. We worship God because God is holy, because God made all the world, and because God loves us. There are many reasons that we worship God, just as there are many ways to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD! Let’s say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead the kids in saying the Key Verse with you: **“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).**

## 3

### BIBLE EXPLORATION

## Theo’s News



**Tip** Make sure to use a safety match and not a “strike anywhere” match.

### 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 willing child to open the Surprise Box. Hold up the match 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.)*

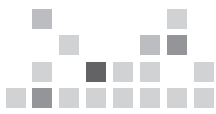
**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this match in our Surprise Box?

### Theo’s News Supplies

CD player  
Surprise Box (any box will do)  
Theo puppet  
unlit match  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “Here, Theo” (track 4)

### Theo’s News Easy Prep

Put the unlit match inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.



**Theo:** Well, a match can help us light a fire!

**Teacher:** Friends, what else can we use matches for?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Theo:** We use matches to light fires, birthday candles, and furnaces.

**Teacher:** Today we'll learn what happened in a fiery, red-hot furnace when three friends showed they could ► **BE BRAVE FOR 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. After Theo's News, put the match out of reach of children.

## Bible Time: A Cool Time in the Furnace

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Then open your Bible to Daniel 3, and show children the words. Tell children the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're going to learn how we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.** Have the kids repeat the Bible Point after you. ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD! That was great! Now let's stand up when we say it!** Lead the children in standing up as they repeat the Bible Point: ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD!**

Ask:

- **How was it different to say the Bible Point while standing up instead of sitting down?**

Say: **We might have felt bigger and more like we meant what we were saying when we stood up. But just standing and saying the Bible Point is pretty easy. Today we'll learn about some friends who stood up for God when it wasn't easy at all.** Ask three willing children to be Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and have them stand in front of the group.

Say: **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were three friends who praised, worshipped, and loved God very much. But the king made a huge golden statue, and he told everyone to worship the statue.** Invite a child to pretend to be the statue. Let the child stand on a child-sized chair, and have someone stand beside the chair to help with balance. Say: **The king called the people together and told them that when they heard the music play, all of them had to bow down to the ground and worship the statue.**

**God wants everyone to worship only him. But the king wanted everyone to worship the statue. The king said that anyone who didn't bow down and worship the statue would be thrown into a blazing, red-hot furnace!**



### Bible Time: A Cool Time in the Furnace Supplies

Bible  
table  
child-sized chair

### Bible Time: A Cool Time in the Furnace Easy Prep

Set up a table near your Bible Exploration area.





When the music played, what do you suppose happened? *Almost* everyone obeyed the king and bowed down to worship the statue. God doesn't want us bowing down to statues. Lead the kids in shaking their heads "no" and refusing to bow down.

Ask:

- Explain why you think worshipping a statue was a bad idea.

Say: **Three of God's people—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—didn't worship the statue. Let's all cheer for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!** Lead the children in cheering.

Say: **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego pleased God by not bowing down to the statue. But the king wasn't happy at all. He told the three men they had one more chance to bow down when they heard the music playing. But if they refused to bow down one more time, they would be thrown into a blazing furnace.**

Have kids pretend to be somewhere really hot.

Say: **The three friends said, "If you throw us into the fire, God will save us. But even if he doesn't, we want you to know that we'll never ever worship a statue, because that would make our God sad. We love God!"** Have the three children say together, **"We love God! We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD!"**

Say: **The king was absolutely furious, and he had his guards make the fiery furnace seven times hotter than usual!** Ask two children to be Guards, and let them pretend to scoop hot coals underneath the table while the other children count to seven. Say: **The guards tied up the three friends and threw them into the furnace.** Tell the Guards to lead the three children under the table. Say: **But the furnace was too hot for the guards!** Have the Guards fall down. Have a willing child join the three under the table as the Angel.

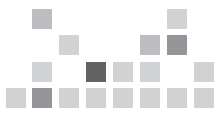
Say: **So the king sat back to watch the furnace, when suddenly he jumped to his feet in surprise! He said, "Look! I see *four* men inside the furnace!" And how many did we put in there? Have the children hold up three fingers. **That's right! We only put three in there! But you know what? The fourth one was sent by God to protect the three friends.****

**The king went over to the furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Come out!"** Lead children in repeating the king's words. Say: **And the three men just walked out.** Have the three children come out from under the table. The Angel can also come out quietly from under the table. Say: **The king looked at the friends. They *looked* okay, and they didn't even smell like smoke! The three men were not hurt in any way!** Lead the children in cheering.

Say: **And best of all, the king could finally see why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. They knew God would protect them. The king made a new rule: No one could say anything bad about the one true God!**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.



Ask:

- What do you think of how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brave for God?
- Why do you think God protected the friends in the furnace?
- How can we ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD?**

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD! We can obey God and tell others about him. Sometimes it might seem scary, but God will protect us, just as he protected the three friends.**

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## 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:

## Popping in for a Visit

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out red and orange tissue paper, glue sticks, and pencils. Distribute the student pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with the washable markers.

Say: **Daniel's friends showed they were brave for God when they were in the fiery furnace. Let's make ourselves reminders of what happened that day.**



### Center 1: Popping in for a Visit Supplies

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My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
pencils with erasers  
red and orange tissue  
paper  
glue sticks

### Center 2: Popping in for a Visit Easy Prep

.....

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





### Center 2: Be Proud! Be Loud! Supplies

1 flat-bottomed ice-cream cone per child  
pudding  
napkins  
spoons  
child-sized chair  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**ALLERGY  
ALERT**

Encourage the children to each make a fire in the furnace by tearing off strips of the tissue paper, crumpling them around their pencil's eraser, and gluing pieces around the figures on their student pages. In pairs, kids will retell what happened to the three friends who were thrown into the fiery furnace. When they tell about the fourth person in the fire, have them each draw an extra person behind the friends on the page. Then have the children finish telling about what happened.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you most about the three friends?
- Tell about a time you had to be brave.
- When might you need to be brave for God?

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.** God is with us and helps us do the right thing, even when it's a difficult or scary thing to do. God will always be with us and makes us strong.

### ■ CENTER 2:

## Be Proud! Be Loud!

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Set out ice-cream cones, a bowl of pudding, napkins, and spoons.

Say: **You may have seen people use microphones. Microphones help make people's voices louder so that more people can hear what's being said or sung. When we use microphones, we want to help others hear what is going on. Let's make some microphones right now.**

Let the children prepare edible microphones by filling their cones with pudding. Then have the kids take turns standing on a child-sized chair and saying something they love about God into their microphones. (Stand next to the chair to support the child who is on the chair.) After all the children have had a turn, say a prayer, and let the kids eat their treats!

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How can we help others know about God's love?
- What things about God could you tell someone who has never heard of him?

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD** by telling others about him. Remember that God is right here with you to help you be strong and brave.

**CENTER 3:**

## Stand Up for God

**What You'll Do**

Direct children to the table you used during the Bible Time activity. Then cue the CD to “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8 on the CD). Say: **Let’s join hands and stand in a circle around the table pretending it’s the fiery furnace.** Choose where the opening to the furnace will be, and point it out to the kids.

Say: **I’ll ask one of you to stand by the CD player with your back to the other kids. That person will push the “play” button. As the song is playing, the rest of us will walk in a circle around the table. Then, the person closest to the CD player will pause the music whenever he or she would like. The person standing closest to the opening of the “furnace” will crawl under the table and say one thing that he or she believes about God, such as “God helps me be strong!”**

If you have time, allow several children to pause and play the CD.

**Talk With Kids**

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego show that they were brave for God?
- How was being in our pretend furnace like or unlike being in the king’s furnace?
- What might you do to show others that you’re brave for God?

Say: **Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we can ►BE BRAVE FOR GOD by telling others about God. We can also ►BE BRAVE FOR GOD by doing what God wants and by telling others how much God loves them! And we can trust that God will help us be strong!**

**CENTER 4:**

## Fiery Folders

**What You'll Do**

Say: **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down and worship the king’s statue—even when they were put into a fiery hot furnace. The flames burned all around their feet, but God wouldn’t let the fire hurt them. Daniel’s friends were brave for God and did what was right.**

Give each child an open file folder and ask him or her to stand on it with one foot on each side of the fold. Use a marker to trace around both feet. At a table, let the kids

**Center 3: Stand Up for God Supplies**

table  
CD player

**Teacher Pack**

CD: “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8)

**Center 4: Fiery Folders Supplies**

1 file folder or 2 pieces of construction paper per child  
red, yellow, and orange tissue paper strips about 5 to 6 inches wide  
glue  
washable markers  
tape and construction paper (optional)

**Center 4: Fiery Folders Easy Prep**

Tape together the long edge of two sheets of construction paper as an easy substitute for a file folder.



spread a line of glue along the outside edges of their folders. Have kids lightly crumple the tissue paper strips and attach the tissue paper to the glue. Let the glue dry for a few minutes before letting kids stand on their footprints. Ask kids to look down at the “fire” around their feet and imagine what it could be like to stand with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego weren’t afraid of the king’s furnace?**
- **What ways do you think God can use you like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?**

Say: **Being brave for God isn’t always easy, but it’s always right. God helped the three friends, and he promises to help us be strong and brave, too. Let’s stand on our fiery folders and say, “I can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.”**

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## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 ■■■■

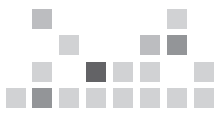
Say: **Today we learned that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. I’d like each of you to choose a way you can be strong and brave for God.**

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- **Remind someone in your family that Jesus loves him or her every day, then give that person a high five or a hug!**
- **If you see children alone during playtime, invite them to play with you. Tell your new friends that Jesus loves them!**
- **Use your toys to act out what happened to Daniel’s friends.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Playground



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



## “Only God” Prayer

### What You'll Do

Kneel together for a prayer. Remind kids that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshipped only God. Have the kids repeat each line after you:

**Dear God,  
Thank you for loving us.  
Help us to be brave for you each day.  
Help us show others your love.**

Ask children to silently think of someone they can share God with this week. Close by saying together, **“In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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








# God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1-23

**F**ive- and six-year-olds are becoming “big kids” now, and many develop a mind-set that they don’t need the protection they’ve received in the past. Kids this age will start asking to do things that once were unsafe for them to do. It’s important to teach kids that no matter our age, we all need God’s protection. Use this lesson to help teach your children that no one ever outgrows the need for our loving God’s protection. Thank you for showing your kids that they can always trust God to care protect them!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Bow and Kneel</b> Take turns kneeling and praising God as they play a game and say the Key Verse together.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a baby doll has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, baby doll <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the baby doll inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Daniel in the Lions' Den</b> Listen to what happened in the Bible from the lions' perspective.	Bible, CD player, 1 paper plate per child, crayons, washable markers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Daniel in the Lions' Den” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	



## ► Bible Point

God protects us.

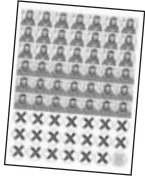
## Key Verse

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

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will trust God to take care of them.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: In the Lions' Den</b> Discuss how God takes care of us and how he took care of Daniel in the lions' den.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, 1 muffin tin liner per child, glue sticks <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Sticker Sheet" 	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Den-Tures</b> Enjoy making and eating lion snacks.	1 half-bagel per child, cream cheese, raisins, pretzel sticks, plastic knives, napkins, plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Protected Pair Pets</b> Learn what it means that God loves and protects us.		
	<b>Center 4: Safe in the Den</b> Make a "lions' den" and look inside.	for each child: 1 coffee filter and a small, white foam cup; washable markers; tape; scissors	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>Care Prayer</b> Take turns pretending to give giant hugs to God.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den

## Daniel 6:1-23

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Daniel Faces Political Turmoil

Daniel was a highly respected adviser to King Darius. Daniel did such a good job as one of three administrators that Darius decided to set him above the others—above the whole kingdom, in fact. The other administrators didn't like that idea one bit, so they sabotaged Daniel. First they tried to find evidence that would discredit him, but they could find no corruption or negligence in his record.

So the officials resorted to deceit to derail Daniel, and they decided to do it on the basis of his faithfulness to God. They knew that Daniel wouldn't give up his faith for any king. They lied to Darius when they said that the royal administrators had all agreed to the edict. They knew that Daniel wouldn't have agreed had he been told about it.

The administrators thought they'd found a way to defeat Daniel, because in Medo-Persian law, once a law was issued by the king, it couldn't be changed. This was based on the idea that the king embodied the law. If a king made a law and then retracted it, there would be a contradiction in the law, which was unthinkable.

## Darius Reluctantly Throws Daniel to the Lions

When Daniel was found praying to God, Darius was trapped. Apparently there was nothing he could do to prevent Daniel from being thrown into the lions' den, and the king was distraught. As unlikely as it seemed that Daniel could still be alive the next morning, Darius was the first one to the den to find out if God had, indeed, saved Daniel. And he had!

There was no law prohibiting Darius from punishing deceitful schemers, so he had Daniel's accusers thrown into the lions' den. They were torn apart by the hungry lions before they hit the floor! Daniel's life of

faith and his trust in God saved him from destruction and brought glory to God.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus promised that we'd face trouble in this world—but that he had overcome it. We may be punished or ridiculed for our faith, but we know Jesus has the power to save us.

When Daniel's circumstances turned negative, he maintained a rhythm of thanksgiving and prayer. What are your hardships? What hungry lions do you face? What are you thankful for today? What do you need from God? Tell him! Ask him! You can write your prayer here.

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.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

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

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

## Welcoming Song



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

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing "Be Sure" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the actions.



**Be sure to wear a smile; be sure to wear a smile.** (*show big smiles*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to wear a smile.**

**Be sure to greet a friend; be sure to greet a friend.** (*shake hands with others*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to greet a friend.**

**Be sure to listen well; be sure to listen well.** (*sing softly with hands cupped behind ears*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to listen well.**

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Say: **In our Bible passage, God took care of Daniel. Let's sing a song and praise God for loving us and caring for us no matter where we go!** Play "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 3 on the CD).



**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** (*hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers*)

**With all your heart (with all your heart)** (*pulse clasped hands to the beat*)

**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** (*lean to the right*)

**In all your ways (in all your ways)** (*lean to the left*)

**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** (*raise hands to the ceiling*)

**He will make your paths straight.** (*slowly lower hands, and point forward*)

**Once you begin that way,** (*take several steps forward*)

**Don't you ever, ever stray;** (*take several steps backward while shaking head "no"*)

**You'll be on your way** (*walk in place, and slowly lift hands high*)

**To an amazing life.** (*hold hands up and open wide*)

(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)





**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** *(hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers)*

**With all your heart (with all your heart)** *(pulse clasped hands to the beat)*

**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** *(lean to the right)*

**In all your ways (in all your ways)** *(lean to the left)*

**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** *(raise hands to the ceiling)*

**He will make your paths straight.** *(slowly lower hands, and point forward)*

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

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

Say: **We can trust God for lots of things, including protection. Today we'll learn that  
► GOD PROTECTS US.**

## 2

### KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

## Bow and Kneel

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle as a group and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 95:6, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6). Let's say this verse together.** Lead children in repeating the Key Verse with you. **"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).**

Ask:

- **Why do you think we sometimes bow our heads or kneel down when we worship?**

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us that God wants us to worship him. We can praise God in many different places and in many different ways. Sometimes we sing our worship in church. Sometimes we kneel down beside our bed and pray words that tell God how much we love him. When we bow our heads or kneel down, we show God that he's important to us. Worshipping God by kneeling or bowing down shows on the outside what we're feeling on the inside.**

Stand together in a large circle. Ask half of the group to bow and the others to kneel. Let the kids who are bowing say the first part of the verse, "Come, let us bow down in worship..." and then let those who are kneeling add the remaining words of the verse, "let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Let them switch positions and say the verse together again.



### Bow and Kneel Supplies

Bible





### Theo's News Supplies

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

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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

Then, with everyone standing in a circle, play a quiet version of Duck, Duck, Goose. Let one child walk around the outside of the circle and tap the others on the shoulder saying, "Bow, Bow, Bow..." When he or she taps someone and says "Kneel," have that child kneel down quickly and give a reason to praise God. The child who's kneeling may then take a turn walking around the circle, tapping the other kids and saying "Kneel." Play the game until each child has had a turn to kneel and praise God.

Say: **Because we worship God in our heart, we can worship him anytime and anywhere. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6). We worship God and we know that**  
► **GOD PROTECTS US.**

## 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 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 baby doll 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:** Theo, why did you hide this baby doll in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, parents protect and care for their babies.

**Teacher:** Friends, what are some things parents have to do to protect and care for a baby?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Theo:** Wowzers, that's a lot of things to do!

**Teacher:** Just as parents protect their children, ► **GOD PROTECTS US**, too. God protected Daniel when Daniel was thrown in with some hungry lions. Let's find out how God protected Daniel.

**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: Daniel in the Lions' Den

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out crayons and washable markers. Hand each child a paper plate. Then open your Bible to Daniel 6, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD PROTECTS US.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you. **Before we begin today's Bible Time, imagine the biggest, meanest, hungriest lion you can think of. Got it? Now draw the face of that lion on your paper plate the best you can.** As the kids draw their lions, say: **We're drawing lions today because God protected Daniel when Daniel was thrown into a den with some mean, hungry lions!**

**Daniel didn't do anything wrong to get in trouble. In fact, he got in trouble because he did everything right! Everybody say, "Daniel loved God."** Pause for the kids to repeat the sentence. **Everybody knew that Daniel loved God—even the king. Daniel was talented, and the king gave Daniel an important job. But the rest of the king's men said, "The king is a fool! Daniel can't rule!"** Lead the children in repeating those words.

Say: **So the king's men came up with a plan. They had the king agree that everyone must pray to *the king*, not to God. If anyone broke that rule, they'd be thrown into the lions' den. Everybody say, "Oh, my!"** Pause while the children respond.

Say: **Was Daniel worried? Not a bit. He knew that ► GOD PROTECTS US. Daniel prayed to God just as he always did. This time when the king's men were spying on Daniel, they caught him breaking the new rule. Everybody say, "Oh, no!"** Pause while the children respond.

Say: **The king's men told the king that Daniel prayed to God. The king was very sad to hear this news, because Daniel was special to him. But a rule's a rule! There was no way that the king could take back his rule. Daniel had to be thrown in with the hungry lions.**

Play "Hungry Lions," (track 14 on the CD) and have the kids hold up their lion faces and follow along with the narrative. Let the kids use crayons to draw big Xs over the lions' mouths as directed on the CD.

Show children the "Daniel in the Lions' Den" poster.

Say: **Let's draw pictures on this poster of the ways that you want God to protect you.** Encourage each child to use a marker to draw a picture on the poster to represent his or her answer to the question: "How would you want God to take care of you?"



### Bible Time: Daniel in the Lions' Den Supplies

.....  
Bible  
CD player  
1 paper plate per child  
crayons  
washable markers  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Hungry Lions"  
(track 14)  
"Daniel in the Lions'  
Den" poster (from the  
Big Bible Poster Pack)





### Center 1: In the Lions' Den

#### Supplies

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
1 paper muffin tin liner  
per child  
glue sticks

**Teacher Pack**  
"Sticker Sheet"

### Center 1: In the Lions' Den

#### Easy Prep

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

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you most about Daniel's experience?
- Tell about what you drew on the poster.
- Why do you think God wants to protect us?

Say: ► **GOD PROTECTS US**, just like he took care of Daniel. Whenever we feel afraid or worried, we can pray to God and tell him about our problems, and God will always protect us in the way that's best!

## 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:

## In the Lions' Den

### What You'll Do

Set out markers, muffin tin liners, and glue sticks. Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: **God protected Daniel while he was in the lions' den by shutting the mouths of the lions. Let's decorate our pages to help us remember how God protected Daniel.**

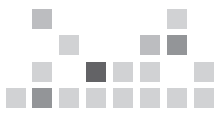
Encourage children each to glue a muffin tin liner "head" onto the large lion's face on the student page. Let kids each draw the lion's face inside the liner and put an X sticker over the lion's mouth.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why did God protect Daniel?
- How has God protected you when you've been worried or afraid?



Say: ► **GOD PROTECTS US**, no matter what we're going through. We can tell God our worries and trust that he'll protect us. When we show others that we trust in God, they'll know that God will protect them, too!

## CENTER 2:

# Den-Tures

### What You'll Do

Set out bagel halves, cream cheese, raisins, pretzel sticks, plastic knives, napkins, and plates. Have kids clean their hands before they prepare their snacks.

Say: **The lions wanted to make a snack out of Daniel, but God protected him by shutting the lions' mouths. Let's make a snack out of the lions to remind us of God's protection.**

Have kids each make a lions' head by spreading cream cheese on a bagel half and putting several pretzel sticks around the bagel to look like a mane. Then let the kids add raisins as eyes and noses. Tell the children to each make an X with two pretzel sticks where the lion's mouth would be to remind the children that God protected Daniel in the lions' den and closed the lions' mouths.

Say: **God protected Daniel by closing the lions' mouths. ► GOD PROTECTS US, too, by giving us a place to live and people who love us. Let's thank God for our snacks and for his protection!**

Invite a child to pray, and then let the kids open *their* mouths and eat the snacks!

## CENTER 3:

# Protected Pair Pets

### What You'll Do

Form pairs. Say: **Today, we're going to pretend to be pets. In each group, one partner will act like a dog, cat, or some other pet. The other partner pretends to take care of and protect their new pet.**

Let children pretend together to brush, feed, walk, and protect and care for their new pet in other ways. After a few minutes, let partners switch roles to allow everyone a chance to care for and protect a pretend pet.



## Center 2: Den-Tures Supplies

1 half-bagel per child  
cream cheese  
raisins  
pretzel sticks  
plastic knives  
napkins  
plates  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**! ALLERGY  
ALERT**



### Center 4: Safe in the Den Supplies

for each child: 1 coffee filter and a small, white foam cup  
washable markers  
tape  
scissors

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things you did to protect and care for your pretend pet?
- What was it like to have someone love and protect you?
- In what ways does your family and God protect you?

Say: **When we protect and care for our real pets, we learn what it means to love something that needs our help. God gives us family and friends who love, protect, and care for us. God loves us, and ► GOD PROTECTS US!**

## CENTER 4:

# Safe in the Den

## What You'll Do

Say: **► GOD PROTECTS US every day, no matter where we are. When Daniel was in the lions' den, God sent an angel to protect Daniel. Let's make our own lions to remind us of how God protected Daniel.**

Give each child a foam cup and coffee filter. Set out the markers, tape, and scissors. Have kids cut a hole in the center of their coffee filters large enough to fit over the mouth of their cup and tape it in place. (If kids are having trouble cutting out the middle of their coffee filters, show them how to fold the coffee filters in half and cut semicircles from the middle.) Help kids each position their filter over a cup and tape it in place. Let kids color the cups and filters like a lion, adding eyes and whiskers on the filter and a closed mouth and a nose on the cup bottom to complete the lion's face.

Form pairs for kids to tell each other what happened to Daniel when he continued praying to God. When they get to the part where God shut the lions' mouths, have kids cover their lion's mouth.



**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What might you have said to the lions if you were Daniel?
- What can you say to God whenever you're worried or afraid?

Say: The lions didn't scare Daniel because he trusted God. We know ► **GOD PROTECTS US**, too. Sometimes God uses other people to help protect us, and sometimes God might even use an angel. We don't always see the ways God is protecting us, but we know that God is always with us. And if we're ever afraid, we can pray.

**5****LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS****Daily Challenges****What You'll Do** ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 PROTECTS US**. I'd like each of you to choose a way you can trust God to protect you.

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- Draw a picture of you and Jesus. Put the picture in your pocket to remind you that God is always with you and always protects you.
- Put a night light in your room. When your room is dark, look at the night light and remember that God protects you during the day and at night.
- Go to the library with your mom or dad, and look at a book about lions. As you look at the book, remember that God will protect you just as God took care of Daniel in the lions' den.

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

**Daily Challenges  
Supplies**

My Bible Playground





## Protection Prayer

### What You'll Do

All together, open up your arms as wide as you can, practicing what it would be like to give God a hug. Then ask everyone to fold their hands in their laps and “hold that hug” until the appropriate time in the prayer. Have the kids repeat each line after you.

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for hearing our worries, and**

**Thank you for protecting us.**

**If we could give you a hug,**

**It would look like this...** *(have children take turns stretching their arms wide as they say, “I love you more than this, God!”)*

Then have the children say together, **“In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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






# God Promises to Restore Israel

## After the Exile

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Most 5- and 6-year-olds know what it's like to care for something that fully relies on them. Children this age love to show care by watering plants or brushing their pet's hair. Now's the perfect time to show kids that, just as we care for others, God cares for all of us. Use this lesson to help grow kids' faith and trust in God who cares for us.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Listening to Prayers</b> Record their voices while praying, and then listen as their voices are played back.	Bible, audio recorder	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what an envelope has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, envelope <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the envelope inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Jeremiah's Letter</b> Experience what it might have been like to be in exile, and listen to Jeremiah's letter.	Bible, an adult volunteer wearing a robe and holding a pen, CD player, sticky notes, crayons, 1 table and 1 chair in the center of the room <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Jeremiah's Letter," "Jeremiah Shares God's Promise" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Give your volunteer "Jeremiah's Letter." During Bible Time, your volunteer will enter, sit at the table, and pretend to write on "Jeremiah's Letter," following along with the CD.



### ► Bible Point

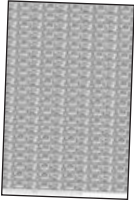
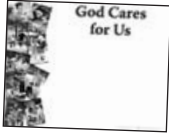
God cares for us.

### Key Verse

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will care for others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Deliver the Letter</b> Glue paper strips on their student pages to represent where Jeremiah's letter traveled.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, glue sticks <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Rough Road" strips 	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.  Separate the "Rough Road" strips.
	<b>Center 2: Veggie Blessings</b> Share a snack of garden vegetables.	vegetables that are in season such as: carrots, celery, fresh peas in their pods, lettuce, and so on; knife; plates; antibacterial wipes, antibacterial gel (optional)	Wash vegetables thoroughly and cut into bite-sized pieces. Have antibacterial wipes available to clean the table.
	<b>Center 3: God Cares</b> Decorate a poster with pictures of themselves and their friends and families.	washable markers, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "God Cares" poster 	
	<b>Center 4: Calendar of Care</b> Make a one-week calendar of activities showing God's care.	washable markers or crayons, 1 copy per child of the "Week-Long Care" handout (at the end of this lesson)	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>"Thanks for the Care" Prayer</b> Sing a prayer thanking God for his care.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile

Jeremiah 29:4-14

# Jeremiah 29:4-14

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Jeremiah's Tough Career

Jeremiah's ministry outlasted five Judean kings, and he witnessed numerous political wranglings as leaders who ignored God attempted to save Judah from destruction through alliances with Egypt and Babylon. Eventually he witnessed the fall of Judah to Babylon in 587 B.C., and died in Egypt a few years later.

Jeremiah prophesied that doom would befall Judah if the people didn't return to the Lord. He was persecuted because he spoke words from the Lord that people didn't want to hear. But he was faithful to God's call in spite of his increasingly difficult circumstances.

## Letter to the Exiles

Jeremiah 29:4-14 is part of a letter to the people of Judah who'd been taken into exile in Babylon. Jeremiah instructed the exiles to settle in, work toward the good of their captors' city, and even to pray for Babylon! This was likely greeted as another unwelcome message from the unpopular prophet.

The “prophets and diviners” Jeremiah mentions were probably false prophets who had been turning Judeans away from God or lying about the amount of time in the exile. Jeremiah knew that the 70-year exile would be a time for Judeans to turn back to God in trust.

## Jeremiah's Glimmer of Hope

Jeremiah 29:10-14 offers hope, a promise of restoration. Why did the Judeans have to remain captive in Babylon for 70 years before experiencing this restoration? Perhaps it was because an entire generation had to live and die in exile because of the sins of its ancestors. Or maybe it was because 70 years equaled the number of sabbath years that the

people had disobeyed God by not letting the land rest (see 2 Chronicles 36:21).

Even as his people were dragged off to Babylon, God had marvelous plans for them—plans that included hope and a future. If the people would call upon God and seek him with all their hearts, turning from the evils of idol worship, then the Lord would restore them to their land.

## The Jesus Connection

If we live in a growing relationship with Jesus, we fix our eyes on him and seek him no matter what.

How would you describe the landscape of your spiritual life right now? How do you need to accept the place God has called you to up to this point? What about the future? Reflect on these questions, and write your thoughts in the form of a prayer. You can write your prayer here.

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 its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Be Sure" (track 12), "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8)

# 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. Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing "Be Sure" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the actions.



**Be sure to wear a smile; be sure to wear a smile.** (*show big smiles*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to wear a smile.**

**Be sure to greet a friend; be sure to greet a friend.** (*shake hands with others*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to greet a friend.**

**Be sure to listen well; be sure to listen well.** (*sing softly with hands cupped behind ears*)

**When you come to God's house, be sure to listen well.**

(Repeat from the beginning 2x.)

Say: ► **GOD CARES FOR US** and he has good plans for us. Let's celebrate God's good plans by singing "The Plans I Have for You."

Play "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8 on the CD). Each time the children sing "plans," have them place their hands side by side and look at their hands as if they're reading a book. Have them show their "plans" to other children.



(Verse)

**"For I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

**"I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

(Repeat.)

(Chorus)

**They are plans to prosper you**

**And not to harm you,**

**Plans to give you hope and a future.**

**They are plans for good and not disaster.**

**Why? Because he tells us so.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)



(Repeat verse.)

"The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **This song reminds us that God knows us, and that he has a plan for us. That's one way we know that ► GOD CARES FOR US. Today we'll learn about some of the different ways God cares for us.**

.....

**2****KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## Listening to Prayers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Place the audio recorder in the middle of the circle. Open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 7:14, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). That means that if we pray, God will hear us. Let's practice our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified Key Verse: **If we pray, God will hear us (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

Say: **God heard Jeremiah pray in a place called Judah. He also heard his people pray in the faraway country of Babylon. God will hear us wherever and whenever we pray. Whether we pray during the day or at night, if we pray when we're alone or with friends, if we pray when we're happy or when we're sad—God will always hear us when we pray. God promises to always listen to us. We're going to use this audio recorder to record our prayers. Then we can listen to them again and remember that if we pray, God will hear us.**

Help kids take turns recording a one- or two-sentence prayer each. Offer suggestions such as praising God, saying thank you to God, asking for God's help, or praying for someone else. Record and play back each child's prayer one at a time. Ask the children who are waiting or have already had a turn to fold their hands and bow their heads, listening quietly during the prayers.

While most children enjoy using an audio recorder, some may feel shy about recording their voices. Encourage these children to simply pray aloud without using the recorder or to pray silently. Then proceed with the next child's turn.



### Listening to Prayers Supplies

.....

Bible  
audio recorder





### Theo's News Supplies

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

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- When can you pray to God?
- What do you like to talk to God about?

Say: **By recording our voices, we can listen to our prayers. Of course, we can't answer our prayers; only God can do that. When God listens, he knows who's praying. God knows what each of us needs and God knows how to help each of us, too. God will answer us in the very best way because ► GOD CARES FOR US. Let's practice our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **If we pray, God will hear us (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

## 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 envelope around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this envelope in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, I love to receive letters!

**Teacher:** Friends, what do you like about getting mail?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** In the Bible, God's people were worried about their future. But they received an exciting letter from Jeremiah that showed them that ► **GOD CARES FOR US.** Let's find out what the letter said.

**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: Jeremiah's Letter

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 29, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD CARES FOR US. God's people had disobeyed God, so God allowed others to take his people to faraway cities. God's people had to live far away from home.** Have children form several groups, and send each group to a different area of the room. Make sure that groups will be able to hear you as well as see Jeremiah sitting at the table. Say: **Now God's people were separated from each other—some even from their friends and families.** Have children tell about a time they've been away from home and what that was like for them.

Say: **God's people missed their home. But God's prophet Jeremiah wrote a letter to the people to give them hope and to remind them that God cares for his people! God told Jeremiah what to write. Let's listen.**

Place your open Bible on the table, and ask your volunteer to sit there. Play "A Letter From Jeremiah" (track 16 on the CD) while your volunteer pretends to write. When the track ends, your volunteer can slide "Jeremiah's Letter" between the pages of the Bible, give the Bible to you, and is free to leave. Gather the children together in one group for a group hug. Have the children sit in a circle; then hold up the Bible with the letter in it.

Say: **Jeremiah's letter is in the Bible! We can read his encouraging letter any time.** Show the kids the words in the book of Jeremiah.

Show children the "Jeremiah Shares God's Promise" poster. Point to Jeremiah on the poster. Have kids name things from Jeremiah's letter that encourage them.

Say: **God wanted his people to follow him. That is what God wants for you, too!** Hand each child a sticky note, and distribute crayons. Say: **Let's draw pictures of things God said he wanted for his people.** Encourage children to draw the pictures and stick them on the poster.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you hear in Jeremiah's letter that shows how much God cared for his people?
- What does God do to show that he cares for you?

Say: **Jeremiah told the people that even though they were far from home, God hadn't forgotten about them. God promised to bring them together again one day. The very best way that God cared for all of his people was by sending Jesus to earth to save us and give us life forever with him in heaven! It's so amazing how much ► GOD CARES FOR US!**



### Bible Time: Jeremiah's Letter Supplies

.....

Bible  
an adult volunteer  
wearing a robe and  
holding a pen  
CD player  
sticky notes  
crayons  
1 table and 1 chair in  
the center of the room

**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "A Letter From  
Jeremiah" (track 16)  
"Jeremiah's Letter"  
"Jeremiah Shares God's  
Promise" poster (from  
the Big Bible Poster  
Pack)

### Bible Time: Jeremiah's Letter Easy Prep

.....

Give your volunteer  
"Jeremiah's Letter."  
During Bible Time, your  
volunteer will enter,  
sit at the table, and  
pretend to write on  
"Jeremiah's Letter,"  
following along with  
the CD.





### Center 1: Deliver the Letter Supplies

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
pencils  
glue sticks

**Teacher Pack**  
“Rough Road” strips

### Center 1: Deliver the Letter Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9  
pages from each My  
Bible Playground student  
book.

Separate the “Rough  
Road” strips.

## 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:

## Deliver the Letter

### What You’ll Do

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers with washable markers. Give each child four of the “Rough Road” strips, and then point out Jeremiah on the page.

Say: **The groups of people around Jeremiah represent God’s people who were far from home. The Bible passage told us how Jeremiah sent a message from God to those people to show God’s care for them. Let’s make pathways on our pages to show how Jeremiah’s message from God traveled to the different groups of God’s people.**

Help children each glue the “Rough Road” strips between Jeremiah and the four groups on the page to represent the paths that Jeremiah’s letter traveled.

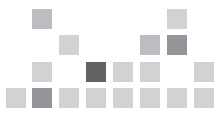
### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How is the way we share good news with our friends different from the way Jeremiah shared God’s good news?**
- **Why is it important to tell others that God cares for them?**

Say: **Jeremiah’s letter must’ve made God’s people feel better. They were probably happy to know that one day they’d all be together again. God cared for his people then, and ► GOD CARES FOR US now!**



**CENTER 2:**

## Veggie Blessings

### What You'll Do

Ask children to clean their hands while you set out plates. Ask one child to pray and thank God for providing food.

Say: **When God's people were taken to live far away from their homes, God told them to build new homes and plant gardens to grow food. They planted fruits and vegetables. God wanted the people to settle down and trust God to take care of them.**

Invite children to examine and identify the vegetables. For example, you might help children tear the lettuce leaves apart and taste them. Or you might show children how to open pea pods and taste the uncooked peas inside. Encourage the kids to sample whatever vegetables they wish.

Children this age may already have strong opinions about certain vegetables. Encourage kids to sample what they wish during the "Veggie Blessings" activity, but don't force them to try something they resist. Seeing friends trying new things will often encourage hesitant children to try, too.

If kids have vegetable gardens at home, ask them to tell their friends what they grow.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do parents encourage kids to eat their vegetables?**
- **Why do you think God wanted his people to plant gardens in Babylon?**

Say: **God wanted his people to plant gardens because he knew they'd be in Babylon for 70 years. Telling people to plant gardens was one way God cared for his people while they were away from home. He provided good food for them. When we work in gardens or eat vegetables, we can remember that ► GOD CARES FOR US.**



### Center 2: Veggie Blessings Supplies

.....  
vegetables that are in season such as: carrots, celery, fresh peas in their pods, lettuce, and so on  
knife  
plates  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### **ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 2: Veggie Blessings Easy Prep

.....  
Wash vegetables thoroughly and cut into bite-sized pieces. Have antibacterial wipes available to clean the table.





### Center 3: God Cares Supplies

washable markers  
tape

#### Teacher Pack

“God Cares” poster

## CENTER 3:

# God Cares

## What You’ll Do

Show children the words on the “God Cares” poster that say ► **“GOD CARES FOR US.”**

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► GOD CARES FOR US. Let’s use markers to draw pictures of friends or family members on this poster.**

Have kids think of friends and family members they can tell about God and how he cares for us. Then help kids practice writing their names and the names of friends and family members on the poster. Have kids draw pictures of the people above their names. When the children have finished, hang the poster on the wall to remind them that God cares for all of his people.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does God do to care for your family?
- How does God use our family and friends to care for us?

Say: **God cares for you, me, and everyone. Like Jeremiah, we can help others see that ► GOD CARES FOR US always.**

## CENTER 4:

# Calendar of Care

## What You’ll Do

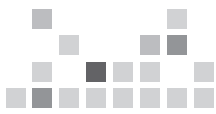
Say: **God takes care of us. Not only is he watching over us today at church, but he’ll also watch over us all week long! Let’s make a calendar for this week to help us remember that wherever we go and whatever we do, ► GOD CARES FOR US.**

Distribute the “Week-Long Care” pages and markers or crayons. Remind kids that the calendar squares correspond to the days of the week. As you read each of the following instructions, allow time for children to choose a day and draw on their calendars. Help children identify each day of the week.

Say: **Draw a cross on the day you go to church to learn more about how ► GOD CARES FOR US. Draw a heart on a day when you can tell someone you love him or her. Draw a happy face on another day when you can help someone. Draw a star on a day when you’ll praise God for all he gives us. Draw a picture of a child on a day when you can tell someone about how ► GOD CARES FOR US.**

### Center 4: Calendar of Care Supplies

washable markers or  
crayons  
1 copy per child of the  
“Week-Long Care”  
handout (at the end of  
this lesson)



Encourage children to further personalize their calendars by drawing pictures or writing words about other activities in their week, such as playing with friends, taking swimming lessons, or going on vacation.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about which day next week you're looking forward to most.
- What's it like knowing that ► **GOD CARES FOR US** every single day?

Say: **No matter what you do, or where you go next week, God will be with you.**

► **GOD CARES FOR US** everywhere we go. God gives us everything we need—food, homes, a beautiful world, and people who love and care for us. All these good gifts come from God. God always cares for us.

## 3

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 CARES FOR US. I'd like each of you to choose a way you can thank God for taking care of you and your family.**

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- **Make a thank-you card for God to thank him for caring for you.**
- **Give each person in your family a big hug. When you hug someone, remind that person that God cares for him or her.**
- **Before you eat, thank God for his care by providing food for your family.**

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



### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





**“Thanks for the Care”  
Prayer  
Supplies**

CD player

**Teacher Pack**

CD: “Thanks for the  
Care” (track 17)

## “Thanks for the Care” Prayer

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Go around the circle and ask the children to each say one way that God takes care of them. Say: **God is so good to us. ► GOD CARES FOR US in so many ways. Let’s sing a song as a prayer of thanks to God.** Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing “Thanks for the Care” (track 17 on the CD) to the tune of “My God Is So Great.”



**Oh, God, you’re so great; you take good care of me.**

**I thank you for loving me so!**

**Oh, God, you’re so great; you take good care of me.**

**I thank you for loving me so!**

**You take care of me,**

**You take care of me,**

**You take care of me each day.**

**Oh, God, you’re so great; you take good care of me.**

**I thank you for loving me so!**

*(Repeat.)*

End the lesson by having the children join you in saying, **“In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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



# Week-Long Care



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday	
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		Saturday	

**OK**  
**TO COPY**  
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# Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel

Nehemiah 1:1–2:9

While certain words such as “sin” and “salvation” can still be a bit above 5- and 6-year-olds’ heads, children this age are very familiar with the concept of asking for forgiveness. It’s important to help kids understand that we can tell God we’re sorry and that God will listen. Use this lesson to help kids discover that we can tell God we’re sorry for our wrongdoings by praying. Thank you for helping children develop a deeper relationship with God, their closest friend!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Whose Voice Is That?</b> Play a listening game, and learn that God hears them wherever they are.	Bible, table	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo’s News</b> Find out what a music player has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, music player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the music player inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Nehemiah Seeks Forgiveness</b> Hear how Nehemiah turned to God.	Bible, blocks or boxes	



## ► Bible Point

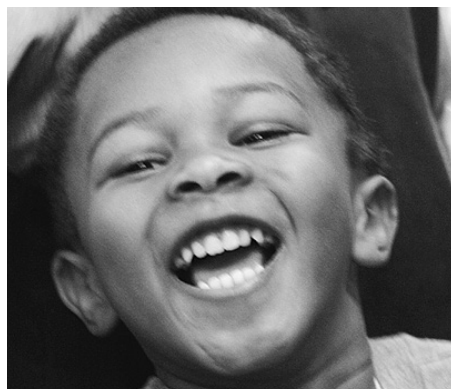
We tell God we’re sorry.

## Key Verse

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will tell God they’re sorry when they do something wrong.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Post-It Prayers</b> Decorate sticky notes as reminders to pray for others.	My Bible Playground, sticky notes, washable markers	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Playground student book
	<b>Center 2: Prayerful Trail Mix</b> Mix a snack to remind them of all the times they can turn to God in prayer.	O-shaped cereal, sour gummy worms, chocolate chips or raisins, 1 plastic cup per child, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Gone Wrong</b> Transfer images of faces to Silly Putty and discover more about God's forgiveness.	Bible, for each child: 1 marble-sized piece of Silly Putty or white glue and cornstarch, paper, pencils	If you'd rather, you can make your own putty by mixing ½ cup white glue with ¼ cup cornstarch. For best results, add the cornstarch 1 tablespoon at a time, mixing thoroughly before adding more cornstarch.
	<b>Center 4: Near to Hear</b> Use cups to make ear trumpets and try them out with friends.	for each child: 2 foam cups and 2 strips of clear packing tape (about 7 to 8 inches long each), scissors, crayons, stickers (optional)	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>"Turn to God" Prayer</b> Turn and face a Bible as they turn to God in prayer.	Bible	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		



# Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel

Nehemiah 1:1–2:9

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Bad News Broke Nehemiah's Heart

The events described in this passage occurred 90 years after the first large group of Hebrews had returned to the land of Judah. And 70 years had passed since the Temple in Jerusalem had been rebuilt. In addition, about 12 years had passed since Ezra had begun to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and had returned to Jerusalem with a large contingent of men, women, and children, as well as excellent funding from the king. It appeared that God was working to restore his people, just as he had promised through Jeremiah and other prophets. Thus Nehemiah was surprised to hear from his brother, Hanani, that Jerusalem still lay in ruins. And that news grieved Nehemiah greatly.

## Nehemiah Responded and Acted Wisely

Nehemiah's initial response wasn't to run to the king for help; rather, he turned to God in prayer. Nehemiah's mourning and fasting demonstrated to God and to those around him how sincerely he cared about the situation in Jerusalem. Nehemiah confessed the sins that he and his ancestors had committed against God.

Then he turned to the king. Nehemiah must have done a good job as cupbearer: Artaxerxes was king for 40 years before dying of natural causes. But even for someone in Nehemiah's trusted position, coming before the king was a scary proposition. And Nehemiah was boldly asking for two enormous favors: permission to make the trip and the king's assistance in making it. Even after having prayed for days, Nehemiah silently said a quick prayer to God before making his request.

## Nehemiah's Faith and Risk Paid Off

Nehemiah's prayer was answered abundantly. Artaxerxes gave him the time off he needed, letters assuring safe passage through lands along the way, and a guarantee of building materials. In addition, the king gave him and his entourage an escort of officers and soldiers on horses! When Nehemiah prayed and humbled himself before God, God answered.

## The Jesus Connection

Sin damages our lives and pulls us from God. But Jesus gives us a path to seek God's forgiveness.

Do you need God to restore an area of your life that has been broken down by sin? Talk to God about it. You can write about it by filling in this prayer:

God, I confess this sin to you:

---

---

---

Here's how I want your help to begin the work of rebuilding:

---

---

---

Thank you for hearing my prayer and helping to restore what is broken.

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## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let's All Praise  
God" (track 18),  
"Those Who Hope"  
(Isaiah 40:31) (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 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. Begin the CD, and lead the kids in singing "Let's All Praise God" (track 18) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the motions.



**We're so happy to be here;** (*sway from side to side*)

**We're so happy we came!** (*sway from side to side*)

**Open our Bibles,** (*hold hands together, palms up, like a book*)

**And clap our hands!** (*clap once*)

**We're so happy we can hardly stand.** (*act as if you're falling; then stand up straight*)

**So, we'll sing, sing, sing for our Jesus,** (*cup hands around mouth*)

**And maybe we'll play a game.** (*pretend to bat a ball*)

**We'll all shout, laugh, clap,** (*clap once*)

**And praise God!**

**Let's all praise God's name!** (*wave hands in the air*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn what happens when ► **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.** Let's praise God by singing "Those Who Hope." When you sing the words "hope in the Lord," turn in a slow circle like you're turning to God to pray.

Begin the CD, and lead the children in singing "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 6 on the CD).



**Who can soar on wings like eagles?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can run and not grow weary?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can walk and not be faint?** (*shrug shoulders*)

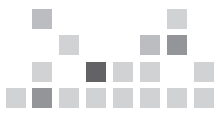
(Chorus)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)



**They'll soar on wings like eagles;** (*flap arms like wings*)  
**They will run and not grow weary.** (*run in place*)  
**They will walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)  
(*Sing chorus.*)

**I wanna soar on wings like eagles!** (*flap arms like wings*)  
**I wanna run and not grow weary;** (*run in place*)  
**I wanna walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)

(*Sing chorus 2x.*)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **When ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY, we know that God will hear us. Let's learn more about that.**

.....

**2****KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## Whose Voice Is That?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Turn the table on its side. Then have children form a circle, take two big steps back, and sit down. Open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 7:14, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). This means that if we pray, God will hear us. Let's practice the Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **If we pray, God will hear us (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

Tell kids that you'll ask one of them to sit behind the table and slowly whisper the simplified Key Verse—If we pray, God will hear us—three times in a disguised voice. Make sure kids' eyes are closed, and discreetly ask a child to hide behind the table and begin speaking in a funny voice.

Ask kids to guess who's behind the table. When they guess correctly, have kids open their eyes as the child comes out from behind the table and rejoins the others. Then mix up the circle, and have kids close their eyes again. Make sure kids are spread out so they can't hear the person beside them stand up if that person is chosen. Choose another willing child to sit behind the table.



### Whose Voice Is That? Supplies

.....

Bible  
table





Continue playing the game, but start adding more than one person behind the table speaking at the same time, first with two, then with three kids at a time.

Ask:

- What made this game harder?
- What's it like knowing that God hears every single person's prayers?

Say: **Our Key Verse** says that if we pray, God will hear us. It doesn't matter how many people are talking to God at the same time. God always hears us, no matter who we are or where we are. And when we do bad things, ► **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY** through prayer. It's great to know that God's always listening, and we can always tell God we're sorry.

### 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 music player around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn from the Bible today.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide this music player in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, you can listen to a music player and hear people talking or singing.

**Teacher:** Friends, have you ever listened to a radio? What do you like to listen to on the radio?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Teacher:** We can listen to the radio, and God listens to us when we pray. Today we'll hear about a man who told God he was sorry. Let's find out what happened!

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** Say goodbye to Theo.

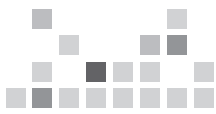
Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

## Theo's News Supplies

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

## Theo's News Easy Prep

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



# Bible Time: Nehemiah Seeks Forgiveness

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the kids in a circle away from the boxes and blocks. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that God is glad when ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY for doing things that are bad. A man named Nehemiah knew this important truth. Nehemiah was an important helper to the king. One day, some family and friends came to Nehemiah with some bad news about God's people who'd been scattered far away from home. The men told Nehemiah that the exiles had finally returned to Jerusalem, but the city was a mess. The wall around the city was broken down and the gates were burned. If the city didn't have any walls around it, bad guys could get into the town.**

Lead the kids to the side of the room where the blocks and boxes are scattered around. Have children sit near the mess.

Say: **Nehemiah was very sad, and it made him think about all the bad things he and his family had done that made God sad.** Have kids talk about a time they did something they knew was bad and needed to apologize.

Say: **Nehemiah knew that ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY when we do bad things, or don't do the things God wants us to do. He prayed to God asking for forgiveness and help to rebuild the wall. Let's take a moment to silently think about things we've done that might not make God happy. Allow time. Nehemiah prayed and told God he was sorry for the bad things he'd done. Let's take a moment to silently pray. You can tell God you're sorry if you want to.** Give kids a moment before moving on.

Say: **The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad, and he asked why. Nehemiah was afraid to tell the king because people weren't supposed to share their problems with such an important person as a king.** Have kids think about a time they were afraid, and then have them pretend to tremble in fear.

Say: **Nehemiah turned to God when he was afraid. He said a quick prayer asking God to give him the strength to talk with the king.** Have kids talk about who they can talk to when they're afraid.

Say: **God gave Nehemiah the courage to tell the king about the broken-down wall in Jerusalem and to ask if he could go help the people rebuild the city. The king allowed Nehemiah to go—he even gave him supplies for the project, and he sent people to protect Nehemiah as he traveled!**



## Bible Time: Nehemiah Seeks Forgiveness Supplies

.....  
Bible  
blocks or boxes





## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time that someone apologized to you for something they did.
- Why do you think God wants us to say we're sorry when we do bad things?

Say: **Nehemiah knew that God wants to hear us ask for forgiveness. Nehemiah also prayed to God when he was sad, when he was afraid, and when he didn't know what to say to the king. The Bible says that Jesus also turned to God when he was on earth, even though Jesus never had to say he was sorry. He lived a perfect life. Jesus came so we could be forgiven when ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

## 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:

## Post-It Prayers

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages along with several sticky notes for each child, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers. Point out the picture of the refrigerator on the student pages.

Say: **Many people put notes on their refrigerators to remind them of things they need to do. Let's make our own refrigerator notes to remind us of reasons to pray to God.**

Have kids use the markers to draw a prayer concern (such as a sick family member) on at least one of the sticky notes. On another sticky note, have kids draw something they enjoy to remind them to thank God. Finally, have kids take a third sticky note and draw a picture of Nehemiah next to a crumbled wall.

Say: **These notes can remind us that ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.** Have kids stick the notes to the fridges on their student pages.

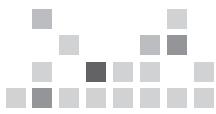
Go around the group and have kids pray silently or out loud for their prayer concerns.

### Center 1: Post-It Prayers Supplies

My Bible Playground  
sticky notes  
washable markers

### Center 1: Post-It Prayers Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10  
pages from each My  
Bible Playground student  
book.



## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's it like knowing you can talk to God?
- Why is it so important to tell God we're sorry?

Say: **When you go home today, ask your parents to put your page on the refrigerator as a reminder of how we can pray to God. Remember that the sticky note with Nehemiah on it can remind us that ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

## CENTER 2:

# Prayerful Trail Mix

## What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Hand everyone a cup. Say: **Let's make trail mix to help us remember what happened to Nehemiah.** As kids go along, they need to make sure they don't fill the cups completely so they can mix all the ingredients together at the end. Help children put O-shaped cereal in their cups and say: **Let's pretend these round treats are the stones that made up parts of the walls around Jerusalem that had fallen down.**

Have kids put a few sour gummy worms in their cups. Say: **Nehemiah told God he was sorry. When we have sour or bad attitudes and do bad things, it's important for us to remember that ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Have kids add the chocolate chips or raisins to their cups. Say: **Nehemiah prayed to God, and God blessed Nehemiah. Let's use these sweet treats to remind us to thank God for the sweet blessings he gives us.**

Have kids place their hands over their cups and gently shake up the ingredients. The children can say a prayer of thanks and then enjoy their tasty treats!

Say: **The Bible says that Nehemiah told God the bad things he and his family had done. When we do things that are bad, ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY, too.**



## Center 2: Prayerful Trail Mix Supplies

O-shaped cereal  
sour gummy worms  
chocolate chips or raisins  
1 plastic cup per child  
antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**



### Center 3: Gone Wrong Supplies

Bible  
for each child: 1  
marble-sized piece  
of Silly Putty or white  
glue and cornstarch  
paper  
pencils

### Center 3: Gone Wrong Easy Prep

If you'd rather, you  
can make your own  
putty by mixing ½  
cup white glue with  
¼ cup cornstarch. For  
best results, add the  
cornstarch 1 tablespoon  
at a time, mixing  
thoroughly before  
adding more cornstarch.

### Center 2: Near to Hear Supplies

for each child: 2 foam  
cups and 2 strips of  
clear packing tape  
(about 7 to 8 inches  
long each)  
scissors  
crayons  
stickers (optional)

## CENTER 3:

# Gone Wrong

## What You'll Do

Sit with children in a circle. Say: **When Nehemiah heard about Jerusalem, he was very sad. He thought of all the ways he disobeyed God. He told God he was sorry. When ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY, God forgives us and no longer remembers the bad things we've done.**

Draw a few simple faces in pencil on a sheet of paper. Give each child a piece of Silly Putty, and demonstrate how to transfer a picture by pressing the Silly Putty over a face. Show children how they can stretch the putty to create different facial expressions. Let kids create angry or mad faces with the putty. Then have them each squeeze the Silly Putty into a ball to erase the picture.

Give kids a few minutes to transfer and erase several of their own pictures, and then read aloud Psalm 103:2-3.

Say: **The Bible tells us that when ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY, God forgives us for disobeying him.**

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When God forgives us, how is that like erasing our sins?**
- **What's it like knowing that when God forgives us, he doesn't remember the bad things we did?**

Say: **Nehemiah told God the bad things he and his family had done. Like Nehemiah, ► WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY. Like the images on the putty, when God forgives us, he erases our sin.**

## CENTER 4:

# Near to Hear

## What You'll Do

Say: **Before modern hearing aids, people who needed help hearing used ear trumpets. People would hold them to their ears so they could hear what people were saying. Today, we're going to make our own ear trumpets.**

Set out the cups, scissors, crayons, and stickers. Help children carefully cut a hole in the bottom of their cups. Show children how to take their two cups, holding them so that the bottoms touch, and tape the cups together. Then have children use stickers and markers



to decorate the outside of the cups. Encourage the children to form pairs and try out their ear trumpets. Have one partner put one end of the trumpet to his or her ear and let the other partner whisper the Bible Point— ► **“WE TELL GOD WE’RE SORRY”**—into the other cup. Point out how well they can hear each other even when they whisper.



Have the partners tell each other that they can turn to God and pray anytime.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did your homemade ear trumpet affect your hearing?
- What does God need in order to hear us?
- What are some times you like to talk to God?

Say: **We can talk to God at any time and in any place. God is always near to hear our prayers. When ► WE TELL GOD WE’RE SORRY, God will always hear us!**

.....

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

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

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



### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





## "Turn to God" Prayer Supplies

Bible

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.** I'd like each of you to choose a way you can pray and be more like Nehemiah this week.

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- **If someone tells you he or she is sorry, forgive that person and tell him or her about God's forgiveness.**
- **When you do something bad, pray to God and say that you're sorry.**
- **Have a family prayer time to thank God for forgiving us when we say we're sorry.**

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

## "Turn to God" Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Today we learned how Nehemiah talked to God to say he was sorry and to ask for help and guidance. To end our time together, let's talk to God in prayer.

Stand with the children in a circle facing outward. Place a Bible in the center of the circle. Tell the children you'll say a line of the prayer. Then they'll turn to face the Bible and say, "I will turn to you, God." Then the kids will turn away for the next line.

**When I'm happy because I have new clothes...** (*kids turn around, say "I will turn to you, God," and then turn back*)

**When I'm scared because it's stormy outside...** (*kids turn around, say "I will turn to you, God," and then turn back*)

**When I'm sad because I did bad...** (*kids turn around, say "I will turn to you, God," and then turn back*)

**When I'm thankful because you forgive for me...** (*kids turn around, say "I will turn to you, God," and then turn back*)

**Thank you, God, that I can turn to you anytime and anywhere.** (*kids turn around, say "I will turn to you, God," and continue facing the center as they close the 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 the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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




# Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Nehemiah 2:11–6:19

**F**ive- and six-year-olds love to show they can do things on their own. This independence is great, but it's very important to teach kids that to do our very best, we need God's help. Use this lesson to help kids discover that God helps us do our very best. In everything we do, we can ask God to help us do our best and bring glory to God!



► **Bible Point**  
God helps us.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> <b>Getting Started</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> <b>Key Verse Activity</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Loving Ears</b> Make an optical illusion picture, turning a pair of ears into a heart.	Bible; one 2x2-inch construction paper heart in a dark color, 1 unsharpened pencil, and 1 blank white index card; tape; glue stick; washable markers; scissors	Cut the heart in half vertically so that each child will have two halves of a heart.
<b>3</b> <b>Bible Exploration</b> <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a block has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, block <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the block inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Nehemiah Rebuilds</b> Build a wall while hearing a rhyme about Nehemiah.	Bible, lots of small blocks, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Set the poster next to several piles of small blocks.

## Key Verse

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14)

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will discover how God helps them during daily life.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: The City Walls</b> Cut out and glue blocks to the city walls on the student pages.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, scissors, glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Stacking Up a Snack</b> Try to make an edible wall without “mortar” and then with “mortar.”	1 rice cake per child, plates, plastic knives, softened cream cheese, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Working Wonders</b> Practice working hard for God by doing tasks for the church.	cleaning tools	
	<b>Center 4: Block Wall Bingo</b> Make a bingo game to play with their friends and family.	2 envelopes per child, scissors, 2 copies per child of the “Block Wall Bingo” handout (at the end of this lesson)	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>Prayer Builders</b> Link arms to make a wall as they pray.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

## Nehemiah 2:11–6:19

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Scoping Out the Opposition

Nehemiah 2:10 hints that the task facing Nehemiah would not be easy. At least two of the leaders of people living near Jerusalem—Sanballat and Tobiah—were unhappy about Nehemiah’s plans. They didn’t want anyone to help the Israelites.

Nehemiah inspected the wall in secret because he wanted to keep his intentions to himself until the time was right to reveal them. He already knew about the opposition of Sanballat and Tobiah, but he didn't know if other opposition existed, even within the city of Jerusalem. After conducting an exploratory examination of the ruined wall, he gathered the Jewish officials and told them of his plan, of God's blessing, and of the king's help. And they were ready to start building!

## A Series of Challenges

After the work began, it wasn't long before opposition arose. Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, just to the north of Jerusalem, mocked the Jews. Tobiah, probably the leader of the Ammonites just to the east of Jerusalem, stood beside Sanballat in his opposition.

The secret of the Jews' early success in rebuilding the wall is revealed in Nehemiah 4:6: "the people worked with all their heart." When the wall was about halfway rebuilt and the gaps were being closed, Sanballat and Tobiah met with other enemies of the Jews and plotted their next steps. The Jews responded by praying and posting guards. Half the men worked, as the other half—well-armed—stood guard.

From within the wall, another problem lurked: impoverished Jews in need of loans were being further extorted for more money. Nehemiah quickly rectified the situation.

The final opposition to the rebuilding came in two phases: first an attempt to draw Nehemiah out so that he could be injured or killed, and then an attempt to deceive him into showing fear and weakness by hiding in the Temple. Both attempts failed, and the rebuilding continued.

Despite the challenges, the wall was rebuilt in only 52 days! The people had accepted Nehemiah's goal, and God helped them overcome the challenges along the way.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus was never one to shy away from challenges. He was constantly challenged by religious authorities, and he met those challenges head-on.

What challenges are you facing? How do you need God's help to face them? Read Nehemiah 6:9. Then pray that God will strengthen you as you combat the challenges in your life. You can write your prayer here.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let's All Praise God" (track 18), "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8)

# 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. Begin the CD, and lead the kids in singing "Let's All Praise God" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the motions.



**We're so happy to be here;** (*sway from side to side*)

**We're so happy we came!** (*sway from side to side*)

**Open our Bibles,** (*hold hands together, palms up, like a book*)

**And clap our hands!** (*clap once*)

**We're so happy we can hardly stand.** (*act as if you're falling; then stand up straight*)

**So, we'll sing, sing, sing for our Jesus,** (*cup hands around mouth*)

**And maybe we'll play a game.** (*pretend to bat a ball*)

**We'll all shout, laugh, clap,** (*clap once*)

**And praise God!**

**Let's all praise God's name!** (*wave hands in the air*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that Nehemiah had God's help to rebuild the broken-down wall in Jerusalem. Just as God helped Nehemiah, the Bible says that ► **GOD HELPS US!** Let's sing "The Plans I Have for You" as we get ready to learn more about Nehemiah.

Lead the kids in singing "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 8 on the CD). Each time the children sing "plans," have them place their palms side by side and look at their hands as if they're reading a book. Have them show their "plans" to other children.



(Verse)

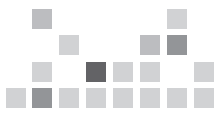
**"For I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

**"I know the plans I have for you,"**

**Declares the Lord.**

(Repeat.)



(Chorus)

**They are plans to prosper you  
And not to harm you,  
Plans to give you hope and a future.  
They are plans for good and not disaster.  
Why? Because he tells us so.  
(Repeat from the beginning.)**

(Repeat verse.)

"The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God has big plans for us! If we tried to do them on our own, it would be impossible. But ► GOD HELPS US follow his plan.**

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## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Loving Ears

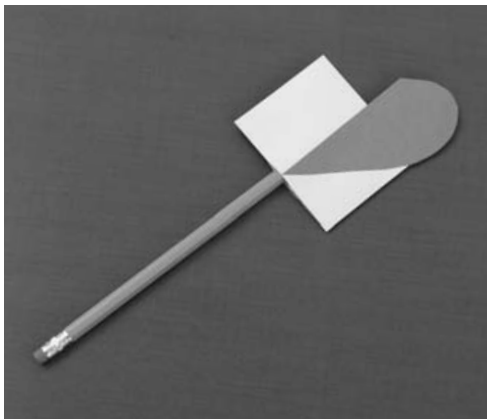
#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **I'm going to make a toy that'll help us remember our Key Verse.**

Hold the index card so it's taller than it is wide. Draw a line straight down the middle of the card from top to bottom. Fold the index card in half, touching the top to the bottom so the fold is at the top and the marker line is visible on both sides.

Hold the heart halves up to your ears and say: **I made two big ears for the toy. Why do you think God gave us ears?** Allow time for responses.

Glue the first ear so its straight edge is lined up against the marker line on the left side of the card. Flip the card over and glue



#### Loving Ears Supplies

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Bible  
one 2x2-inch  
construction paper  
heart in a dark color,  
1 unsharpened pencil,  
and 1 blank white  
index card  
tape  
glue stick  
washable markers  
scissors

#### Loving Ears Easy Prep

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Cut the heart in half  
vertically so that you'll  
have two halves of a  
heart.





the second ear on with the straight edge along the marker line on the right side, with its point touching the bottom edge of the card.

Take the unsharpened pencil and slide it between the folded index card so that the pencil is inside the index card. Tape the pencil to the middle of the card underneath it and then tape the sides of the card shut around the pencil.

Say: **We're going to take turns playing with this toy and practicing today's Key Verse.** Have the first child press his or her palms together as shown so the pencil is upright between his or her two hands. Say: **Roll the pencil quickly back and forth between your hands as you practice the Key Verse: "If we pray, God will hear us" (2 Chronicles 7:14).** Let kids take turns playing with the toy while they repeat the verse several times with you. Encourage them to watch the moving picture on top of the pencil.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you see as the card moved?
- What's it like knowing that God will always hear us when we pray?

Say: **Today we'll read the Bible, and we'll hear about how Nehemiah and his friends prayed. They knew that God would help them and would hear and answer their prayers. We can pray like Nehemiah, because we know that ► GOD HELPS US by listening to us. Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.**

Open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 7:14, and show children the words. Explain that the Bible is God's special book. Lead them in repeating the simplified Key Verse: **If we pray, God will hear us (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

### Theo's News Supplies

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

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

### What You'll Do ■■■■

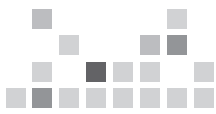
Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**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 block 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:** Theo, why did you hide this block in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Because you can build with blocks, and someone in the Bible built something.

**Teacher:** Friends, what do you like to build with blocks?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Theo:** I like to build walls with my blocks and knock them down!

**Teacher:** You know, the Bible tells about a man named Nehemiah who was very sad that the walls around Jerusalem had collapsed.

**Theo:** Wowzer! Kind of like the time I built a super-humongous wall and I accidentally knocked it down with my tail?

**Teacher:** Oh, Theo, you're so silly! Yes, it's kind of like that. Today we'll learn about how Nehemiah trusted God to help him rebuild the broken-down wall around Jerusalem. Let's find out what happened to Nehemiah!

**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: Nehemiah Rebuilds

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather with kids near the piles of blocks. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 2, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today, we're discovering how God helped Nehemiah and how ► GOD HELPS US. Nehemiah was worried about his people and sad that the wall of the city was broken down.** Point to the blocks on the floor. **Back then, a city needed big, strong walls for protection from invaders. What do you think your house would be like without any walls?** Allow time for discussion.

Say: **Nehemiah told God he was sorry for the wrong things he'd done and asked God for help. God answered Nehemiah's prayers, and the king allowed Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city wall.**

Show kids the "Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem" poster. Say: **In today's Bible passage, we'll hear about how Nehemiah and his friends trusted God to help them as they rebuilt their city's walls. Let's pretend that we're working with Nehemiah and the people. Let's turn this jumble of blocks into a nice, strong wall.** Encourage kids to use the small blocks to build a very tall wall on top of the wall on the poster. As kids work, ask them to tell about a time they had a lot of work to do and needed help getting all of it done.

Say: **The people may've thought, "Oh, what a lot of work!" But they must've been excited, too, to finally rebuild their city. And the people knew that it could be done**



### Bible Time: Nehemiah Rebuilds Supplies

Bible  
lots of small blocks  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall" (track 19)  
"Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: Nehemiah Rebuilds Easy Prep

Set the poster next to several piles of small blocks.





because ► **GOD HELPS US.** Let's listen to what happened to Nehemiah as we continue to build our wall with the blocks.

Play "Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall" (track 19 on the CD). Encourage kids to build as they listen to the rhyme. When the track ends, have the kids finish building the wall on the poster.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain why you think Nehemiah could or couldn't have built the walls without God's help.
- Why does God help people?
- What does God do to help you?

Say: **Nehemiah and God's people had a big party and celebrated when they finished building their wall for God. Our wall looks great, too! Whether we're building a wall, doing chores at home, or helping a neighbor do yard work, we can learn from Nehemiah's example how to trust God to help us. We can pray to God for help because we know ► GOD HELPS US!**

Lead everyone in clapping and cheering for their well-built wall!

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## 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:

## The City Walls

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: **Nehemiah trusted that God would help him. Nehemiah's team worked together to build the wall with God's help and protection. Let's help build the wall on our pages.**

### Center 1: The City Walls Supplies

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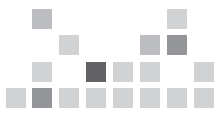
My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
scissors  
glue sticks

### Center 1: The City Walls Easy Prep

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Remove the Lesson 11  
pages from each My  
Bible Playground student  
book.





Have children cut out the bricks at the bottom of their pages and then glue them to the wall to help Nehemiah rebuild the wall. Each time they glue a brick to the wall, have kids name a way God helps them. Remind children that Nehemiah trusted God for help, and we know ► **GOD HELPS US**, too!

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What could've happened if Nehemiah didn't ask for God's help?
- What things can you ask God to help you with this week?

Say: **Nehemiah knew that even though it was going to be hard work, God would help his friends rebuild the city wall. ► GOD HELPS US, just as he helped Nehemiah. In everything we do, we always know that we can ask God for help.**

## ■ CENTER 2:

# Stacking Up a Snack

## What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Give a paper plate and a rice cake to each child. Have children break their rice cakes into smaller pieces over their plates until they have at least 10 chunks each. Now give children two minutes to put the chunks on top of each other to build a tall wall.

Say: **We're building a wall like Nehemiah and his friends did in the Bible. You can see that building a wall is hard work, especially if you have to do it very fast.** Let children build their walls. Point out that the pieces don't stick together very well.

Say: **If you each touch your wall, you'll see that it isn't very strong. It's missing something to make it tall and strong. I'm going to give you some "mortar" so we can try to build our wall again.**

Say: **Mortar is like glue that helps keep the stones together to make them into a wall.** Give each child one tablespoon of cream cheese and a plastic knife. **When I say "Go," quickly rebuild your wall, but this time you can use "mortar" on your stones to help them stick to each other. Ready? Go!** Time the children for two minutes.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was building your wall different with mortar?
- Why did Nehemiah and his friends need God to help fix their wall?



## Center 2: Stacking Up a Snack Supplies

1 rice cake per child  
plates  
plastic knives  
softened cream cheese  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**





### Center 3: Working Wonders Supplies

cleaning tools

Say: **Nehemiah needed God's help to fix the wall, just as we needed mortar to help build our rice cake walls. We need God's help to fix things in our lives, too. It may've seemed impossible to make a wall quickly, but with God's help, it really happened. Remember, ► GOD HELPS US! Now let's thank God for this food!** Invite one child to thank God for the snack.

### CENTER 3:

## Working Wonders



**Tip** If you choose to use cleaners such as wipes or cleaning liquids, make sure that they are non-toxic and safe for young children.

### What You'll Do

Set out the cleaning supplies. Say: **Nehemiah saw the need to rebuild the city walls to protect Jerusalem. He asked God for help and started finding ways he could get involved. We can do things to help others, too!**

Encourage kids to work together to come up with some quick ways to help out at the church using the supplies you set out, such as using wipes to clean the toys in the nursery. Help kids decide on one mini-project that they can do right now. Before starting, ask for God's help.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was our job like what Nehemiah did?
- How can you help others this week?

Say: **You worked with all your heart for God today, just as Nehemiah worked for God in the Bible. But before we started, we asked God to help us. We can be like Nehemiah and know that ► GOD HELPS US do a good job of helping others.**

### CENTER 4:

## Block Wall Bingo

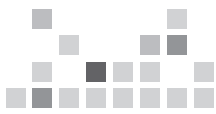
### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's play a game where we rebuild a wall and talk about how ► GOD HELPS US!** Form pairs (join in if there is an uneven number of kids). Hand each pair two copies of the "Block Wall Bingo" handout, a pair of scissors, and an envelope.

### Center 4: Block Wall Bingo Supplies

2 envelopes per child  
scissors  
2 copies per child of the "Block Wall Bingo" handout (at the end of this lesson)





Say: **This will be your game board to play “Block Wall Bingo!” After the game, I’ll give you an extra copy and an envelope so you and your partner can each play this game at home. For now, pick someone to cut out the squares from the bottom of the page. The other person can collect the squares and put them in the envelope.**

Tell children to put their game boards in front of them. Next, have kids take turns drawing one of the squares from their envelope. Have kids share with their partner some way God has helped them in the area pictured on their chosen card and then place the card on one of the squares on their game board. Tell kids that if they pull out a picture they already have, they can put it back into the envelope and draw a new card out again when they have their next turn. Let them try this game for a few minutes to fill up their bingo cards.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s an awesome way your partner said God has helped him or her?**
- **How can playing this game with someone this week remind them that**  
▶ **GOD HELPS US?**

Say: **We know ▶ GOD HELPS US in many different ways. You can take this game home to play with your family. When you show your family the pictures in the envelope, have fun thinking of ways God has helped you.**

Hand an extra game board and envelope to the pairs so each of them can take a game home to play with their family.

.....

**5**

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 HELPS US. I’d like each of you to choose a way you can trust God to help you this week.**



### Daily Challenges Supplies

.....  
My Bible Playground





Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- **Use stuffed animals and blocks to tell your family about how Nehemiah trusted God to help him.**
- **Help your mom or dad with housework, and pray for God's help beforehand.**
- **When you're facing a problem this week, ask for God's help.**

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

## Prayer Builders

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Stand up with kids and make a human wall by having everyone link arms together at their elbows. Say this prayer, and have children repeat it after you one line at a time.

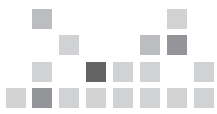
**Dear God,  
Here we stand, oh so tall.  
Connected like a mighty wall.  
Please help us in all we do,  
Every day, we'll trust in you!  
In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

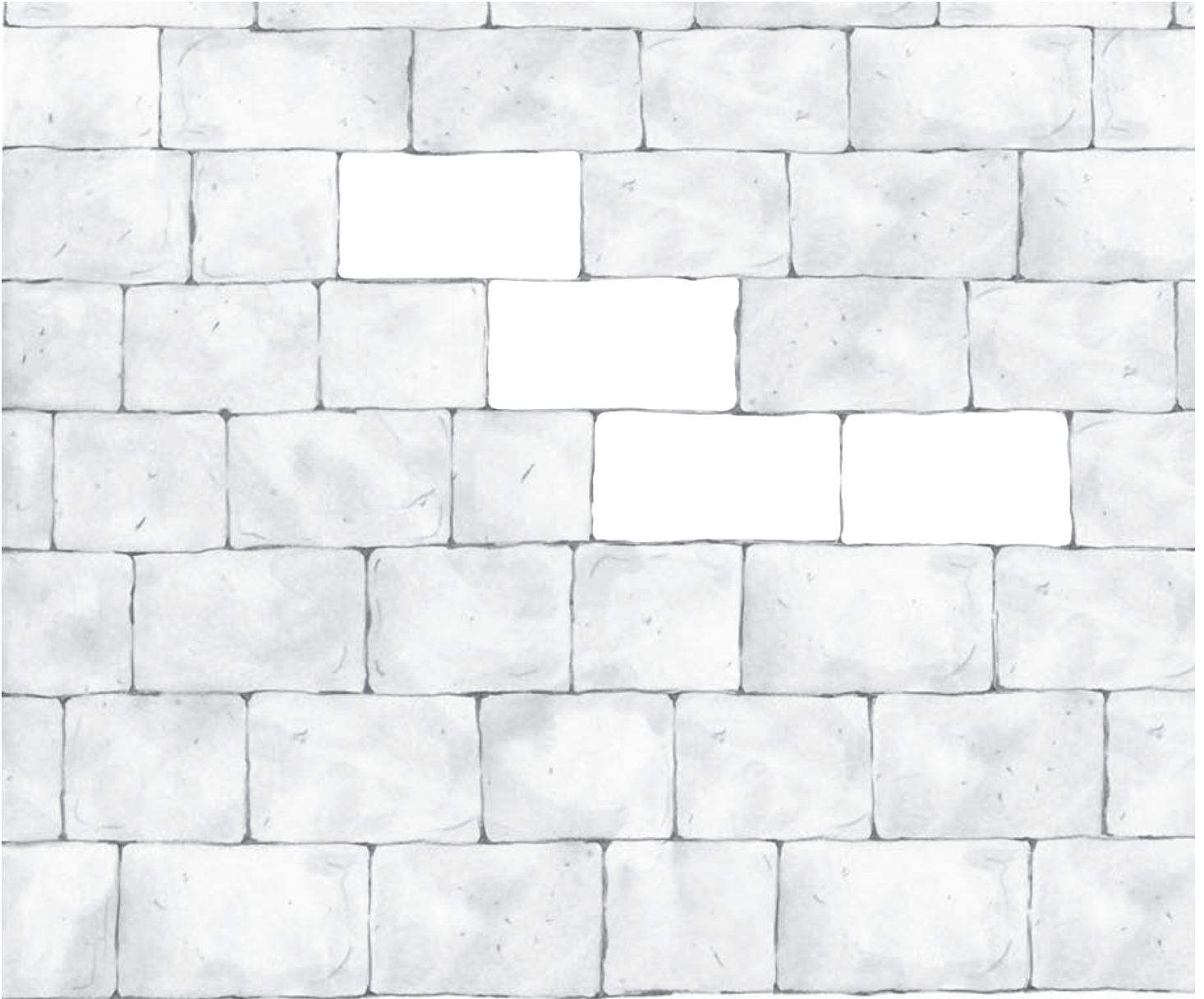
Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and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

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





# Block Wall Bingo



**OK  
TO COPY**  
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# Esther Saves Her People

Esther 2–9

Five- and six-year-olds are becoming aware that others do things differently than they do. Some children may be insecure in social settings because of this. Use this lesson to help your children appreciate that everyone is unique. Thank you for encouraging the children in your care to use their special God-given abilities to serve God. In doing so, you're showing children that they're valuable and that God is thrilled when they serve him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>We Do Good Works!</b> Sing a song and do actions to show the good works they can do for God.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a scepter has to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, ribbon, stick-like object, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Make a "royal scepter" by wrapping a stick, pencil, or other stick-like object with ribbon. Put the scepter inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Esther Saves the Day</b> Learn how Queen Esther served God, and share ways they can serve God.	Bible, CD player, scepter from Theo's News <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	



► **Bible Point**  
Serve God.

## Key Verse

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

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will discover how they can serve God.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: Esther and the Scepter</b> Decorate scepters on their student pages, and retell what they learned in the Bible.	My Bible Playground, glue, washable markers <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, glitter	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Food for a King and Queen</b> Pretend to be kings and queens, and make snacks.	plastic knives, plates, cheese slices, crackers, adult-sized shirts, construction paper, kitchen shears, scissors, tape, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: Move to the Scepter</b> Play a game, and do good works.	scepter from Theo's News	
	<b>Center 4: A Guiding Star</b> Make a thank-you gift for their parents.	1 small paper plate per child, ribbon, washable markers, glitter glue, stickers, scissors, stapler	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>Royal Prayer Chair</b> Sit on a special chair to receive prayers.	blanket, chair	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# Esther Saves Her People

## Esther 2–9

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Esther Becomes Queen of Persia

Xerxes, the Persian king, wanted to replace his queen, whom he'd banished from his presence because she had disobeyed one of his commands. Esther was one of many young virgins brought into Xerxes' harem to be considered for the position. Esther didn't reveal to anyone that she was a Jew. Chosen by the king as the most attractive of all the women brought before him, Esther was made queen.

Commercial and legal affairs were conducted at the king's gate. The fact that Esther's cousin Mordecai sat at the king's gate indicates that he held a high position in Xerxes' government. In his station there, he overheard the plot to assassinate the ruler. After reporting the plot to Xerxes through Queen Esther, Mordecai definitely attained a position of favor with the king, but apparently he was given no reward at the time.

## Haman's Evil Plot

Mordecai's refusal to bow before Haman probably stemmed from his insistence on worshipping God alone. He wasn't about to let Haman, an Amalekite and a descendant of ancient enemies of the Jews, take the place of God. Haman apparently hated all Jews and loved to wield the power of his high position in Xerxes' government. When Mordecai refused to bow to him, Haman decided to wipe out all the Jews in the kingdom.

## Esther and God's People Fast

When Esther realized what the king's decree meant, her response was to fast and to have all the Jews in the city fast as well. Though prayer isn't mentioned here, the intent of the fast was to seek God's favor and direction.

It may seem an easy task for Esther to stand up and tell the king of Haman's plot, but she risked her life by approaching the king uninvited. After Haman was hanged, there was still a problem: The edict to kill all the Jews couldn't be withdrawn. However, Xerxes commanded Esther and Mordecai to write a new decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves. Esther was obedient in serving God where he had placed her, and God used her actions to preserve his people.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus said that he came not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45). And he wants us to do the same! How is God calling you to serve him? In what ways do you feel ill-equipped for the role? Talk to God about your calling to serve, and ask him to help you clearly see that everyone—including you—can serve God. You can write your prayer here.

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.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let's All Praise God" (track 18), "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 3)

# 1

## GETTING STARTED

## Welcoming Song



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

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Begin the CD, and lead the kids in singing "Let's All Praise God" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the motions.



**We're so happy to be here;** (*sway from side to side*)

**We're so happy we came!** (*sway from side to side*)

**Open our Bibles,** (*hold hands together, palms up, like a book*)

**And clap our hands!** (*clap once*)

**We're so happy we can hardly stand.** (*act as if you're falling; then stand up straight*)

**So, we'll sing, sing, sing for our Jesus,** (*cup hands around mouth*)

**And maybe we'll play a game.** (*pretend to bat a ball*)

**We'll all shout, laugh, clap,** (*clap once*)

**And praise God!**

**Let's all praise God's name!** (*wave hands in the air*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that we can ► **SERVE GOD. We can trust God to help us know what we can do to serve him. Let's serve God by praising him.**

Lead the children in singing "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 3 on the CD).



**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** (*hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers*)

**With all your heart (with all your heart)** (*pulse clasped hands to the beat*)

**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** (*lean to the right*)

**In all your ways (in all your ways)** (*lean to the left*)

**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** (*raise hands to the ceiling*)

**He will make your paths straight.** (*slowly lower hands, and point forward*)

**Once you begin that way,** (*take several steps forward*)

**Don't you ever, ever stray;** (*take several steps backward while shaking head "no"*)





**You'll be on your way** (*walk in place, and slowly lift hands high*)  
**To an amazing life.** (*hold hands up and open wide*)  
(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord)** (*hold your hands together without interlocking your fingers*)

**With all your heart (with all your heart)** (*pulse clasped hands to the beat*)

**And lean not on your own understanding (understanding);** (*lean to the right*)

**In all your ways (in all your ways)** (*lean to the left*)

**Acknowledge him (acknowledge him)** (*raise hands to the ceiling*)

**He will make your paths straight.** (*slowly lower hands, and point forward*)

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

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

Say: **As we ► SERVE GOD, we can trust that God will guide our ways. God loves us and helps us know the best way to serve.**

.....

## 2

### KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

## We Do Good Works!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a circle with kids and sit down. Open your Bible to Ephesians 2:10, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). To "do good works" means that God created us to serve him. Let's practice the Key Verse together.**

Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God created us to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).**

Ask: **What are some good works you've done?** Allow time for kids to respond.

Say: **God created us to do good works, such as helping others and loving others. Let's sing a song to remind us that we were created to ► SERVE GOD by doing good works.**

Sing "Do Good Works" (tracks 20 and 21 on the CD) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." Encourage the kids to sing the words and do the actions. The words for track 20 follow;



### We Do Good Works! Supplies

.....

Bible

CD player

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Do Good Works"  
(tracks 20 and 21)





track 21 is an instrumental version of the same song so you can sing new verses using some of the children's ideas of good works.

**This is the way we do good works,** (*hold out hands, palms up*)

**Do good works, do good works.**

**This is the way we do good works**

**That God made us to do.** (*raise hands up; then point thumbs to chest*)

**This is the way we hug a friend,** (*hug someone*)

**Hug a friend, hug a friend.**

**This is the way we do good works**

**That God made us to do.** (*raise hands up; then point thumbs to chest*)

**This is the way we help at home,** (*pretend that you're dusting furniture or sweeping the floor*)

**Help at home, help at home.**

**This is the way we do good works**

**That God made us to do.** (*raise hands up; then point thumbs to chest*)

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Say: **God made each of us, and we're all special! Works is another word for actions. God created us to do good works and to ► SERVE GOD. We can show God how much we love him by doing good works that please him.**

### Theo's News Supplies

CD player  
Surprise Box (any box  
will do)  
Theo puppet  
ribbon  
stick-like object  
tape

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Make a "royal scepter"  
by wrapping a stick,  
pencil, or other stick-  
like object with ribbon.  
Put the scepter inside  
the Surprise Box, and  
hide the box where it's  
easily accessible.

## 3

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

## What You'll Do

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

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

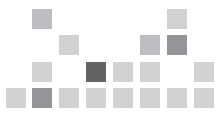
**Theo:** I hid it in the Surprise Box.

**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 scepter 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:** Theo, why did you hide this stick in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, it's not just any stick; it's a special stick!



**Teacher:** Friends, what do you think this special stick could be used for?  
(*Pause for kids to answer your question.*)

**Theo:** I think this would make for a great stick to play fetch with.

**Teacher:** Today, we're learning what the Bible says about a woman named Esther who married a king. Even though Esther was the queen, she couldn't speak to the king unless he asked for her and reached out with his scepter.

(*Have Theo "point" with the scepter.*)

**Theo:** A king's scepter is a long stick that's sometimes made of gold and has fancy carvings and jewels on it.

**Teacher:** Now let's listen to the Bible and hear how God used Esther to do some good works for his people. We'll also talk about ways we can ► **SERVE GOD.**

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!

**Teacher:** Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use. Set the scepter aside for use in the Bible Time activity.

## Bible Time: Esther Saves the Day

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Today we're learning that we can ► SERVE GOD, just as a woman named Esther served God in the Bible. Each time you hear someone say *queen*, place your hands on your head to make a crown and say, ► "SERVE GOD."** Demonstrate how to make a circle with your thumbs and pinkie fingers touching, and place the "crown" on your head.

Play "Esther's Story" (track 22 on the CD), and have kids make the crowns and respond to the story as they listen to it. (Each time *queen* is said on the CD, there's a brief pause so that the children can respond.) Follow along with all of the motions from the CD, pausing the CD as directed while kids tell about times they were afraid.

Afterward, give one child the scepter from Theo's News, and have him or her pretend to be the King or Queen. Have the King or Queen stand on the far side of the room while the other kids stand on the other side of the room. When the King or Queen holds up the scepter, kids can walk forward. When the King or Queen holds the scepter down, the other kids will stop. When children arrive at the other side of the room, they can each say one way they can ► **SERVE GOD.** Continue until all children have crossed the room and have said one idea. If time permits, choose another King or Queen, and play again.



### Bible Time: Esther Saves the Day Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
scepter from Theo's News  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Esther's Story" (track 22)





### Center 1: Esther and the Scepter Supplies

My Bible Playground  
glue  
washable markers  
**Teacher Pack**  
glitter

### Center 1: Esther and the Scepter Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What could've happened if Queen Esther was too afraid to serve God?
- What incredible things could happen if you ► **SERVE GOD?**

Say: **God made Queen Esther to do special things. God made each of you to do special things too, and you can ► 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:

## Esther and the Scepter

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have kids write their names on their papers with washable markers.

Say: **Esther may've been nervous about risking her life by talking to the king, but she knew she could ► SERVE GOD. Let's decorate the king's scepter on our pages as a reminder of how Esther served God and saved her people.**

Give kids glue, markers, and glitter, and let them decorate the scepters on their student pages. Have children share what they remember about Esther and how she served God.

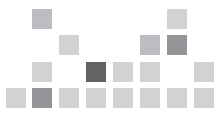
## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What surprised you about what happened to Esther?
- What are some ways you can ► **SERVE GOD** at school?

Say: **Each one of you is so special to God! And even though you'll probably never get to stand before a king, you can ► SERVE GOD at your school, at home, and with your family and friends. You can be kind and loving and tell everyone about God!**

**CENTER 2:**

## Food for a King and Queen

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Set out plastic knives, plates, slices of cheese, and crackers. Say: **Today we're going to pretend we're kings and queens, and we'll have a royal meal together.**

Set out adult-sized shirts for kids to wear as pretend robes, and let them make crowns by cutting a crown design out of the construction paper and taping the ends together.

Say: **The name *Esther* means star. In honor of that, we're going to have star-shaped snacks.**

Have children clean their hands, and help them cut similar-sized small squares of cheese. Demonstrate how to put one square on top of another, offset to look like a star. Let them make several stars and put the stars on crackers. Encourage children to do good works by serving one another the snacks they've made. Say a prayer of thanksgiving, and let children enjoy the snacks they've been given.

Say: **God created us to do good works, and you all served God by making special snacks for each other. You were all stars today, just as Queen Esther was a star in her time! You can ► SERVE GOD every day, just as Esther served God.**

**CENTER 3:**

## Move to the Scepter

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's play a game to help us think of ways we can ► SERVE GOD and do good works, such as hugging a neighbor, patting someone on the back, and telling people that God loves them.**

Choose a willing child to be a King or Queen by giving the scepter from the Theo's News activity to that child. Have the King or Queen hold up the scepter and say one good work for the other kids to do immediately, such as "Hug as many children as you can," "Pat other children on the back," or "Say 'God loves you' to other children." As long as the scepter is up, the kids will continue to do that good work.

When the King or Queen lowers the scepter, everyone stops. Then he or she will choose someone to take his or her place for the next round. The new King or Queen will hold up the scepter and say another good work for all of the kids to do. If you have time, continue until all of the children have had a chance to be the King or Queen and hold up the scepter and say good works for the other kids to do.

**Center 2: Food for a King and Queen Supplies**

plastic knives  
plates  
cheese slices  
crackers  
adult-sized shirts  
construction paper  
kitchen shears  
scissors  
tape  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT****Center 3: Move to the Scepter Supplies**

scepter from Theo's News





#### Center 4: A Guiding Star Supplies

1 small paper plate per child  
ribbon  
washable markers  
glitter glue  
stickers  
scissors  
stapler

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made it easy or hard to come up with ways to ► SERVE GOD?
- Explain if you think being your size and age makes it easy or hard to ► SERVE GOD.

Say: God used Esther, a normal girl, to save the Jewish people. Esther may not have been what comes to mind when you think of a hero, but because she was willing to ► SERVE GOD, she was able to save God's people. Like Esther, we can always be on the lookout for different ways to ► SERVE GOD!

### ■ CENTER 4:

## A Guiding Star

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Esther's name means *star*. People once used the stars in the night sky to show them where to go. They'd find a star, or group of stars, to help guide them in the right direction. When we look for ways to ► SERVE GOD, there are people who can help guide us in the right direction. They're like our guiding stars!

Ask children to each cut the center out of a small paper plate. Then have them staple two ribbons to the bottom of their circles so they resemble award ribbons. Tell the children to decorate the top of this award with star drawings, glitter glue, and stickers. Explain to children that Esther had a family member who helped guide her to do the right thing, just as they have parents to guide them. Have children present these awards to their parents as a thank you for being a "guiding star" in their lives.

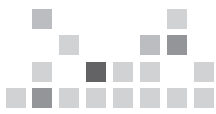
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways your parents guide you?
- How can God use you to guide or help other people?

Say: Today, the Bible taught us how God used Esther to save her people. God uses your parents to help you and to guide you, too. And we can ► SERVE GOD by helping others!



## 5

LASTING  
IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage children to share 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 ► SERVE GOD. I'd like each of you to choose a way you can ► SERVE GOD this week by helping others.**

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- **Have your mom or dad help you save pennies this week, and then give them to a local charity.**
- **Smile at someone who seems sad.**
- **Call a friend or relative who lives far away. Tell the person that Jesus loves him or her and so do you!**

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

## Royal Prayer Chair

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Cover a chair with a blanket to make a "royal chair." Give each child an opportunity to sit on the chair while other kids take turns praying for the child. Kids could pray, **"Thanks, God, for using [name of child] to do your good works."** After each child who wants to participate has had a chance to sit in the chair, close by having the kids fold their hands and bow their heads while you say the following prayer.

**Dear God,**  
**Thank you for creating Queen Esther to do good works and save the people.**  
**Thank you for using each of us to serve you and to tell others about you.**  
**In Jesus' name, amen.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

My Bible Playground

Royal Prayer Chair  
Supplies

blanket  
chair





## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

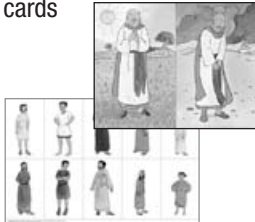




# Job Remains Faithful in Suffering

Job 1:1–2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17

Five- and six-year-olds have had different experiences with sadness. Unfortunately, some children may've experienced great suffering, even at a young age. Some kids may've experienced physical suffering through injuries or illnesses; other children may've experienced emotional suffering through the divorce of their parents or the death of loved ones. Be sensitive to what's going on in your children's lives. When giving examples of trials and sufferings, be as personal as you can *without* using names or causing embarrassment. Use this lesson to assure your children that God loves us and helps us when we're sad.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Lots of Good Works</b> Say a cheer, and act out the many ways they can do good works.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what bandages have to do with the Bible.	CD player, Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, box of adhesive bandages <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put the box of adhesive bandages inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time: Faithful Job</b> Hear about Job, and learn that God helps us when we're sad.	Bible, cotton balls, tape, blocks, adhesive bandages <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Job" poster, "Job's Children" cards 	Fold the poster in half, and lay it down with Job's happy face showing.  Separate the "Job's Children" cards, and tape each one to a block so they can "stand" around the poster.



## ► Bible Point

God helps us when we're sad.

## Key Verse

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

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will look to God for help when they're sad.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>4</b> <b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	<b>Center 1: When I Hurt</b> Put bandages on self-portraits to show that God helps us when we're hurting.	My Bible Playground, washable markers, adhesive bandages	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<b>Center 2: Sweet 'n Sour Living</b> Make and taste fruit kabobs with various toppings.	strawberries (or apple slices), paper plates, toothpicks, bowl of granulated sugar, bowl of powdered sugar, bowl of unsweetened lemon-lime drink mix, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<b>Center 3: When You're Feeling Sad</b> Sing a song as a reminder that God's with us when we're sad.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>Center 4: Rainbow Me</b> Make self-portraits.	for each child: two 8½x11 sheets of white paper; 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green, and 1 blue crayon; pencils; scissors; glue sticks	
<b>5</b> <b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	<b>"Stick With God" Prayer</b> Say a prayer, and stick bandages on themselves.	1 adhesive bandage per child	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

# Job Remains Faithful in Suffering

Job 1:1–2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Job Is Tested

In the book of Job, Satan came before God and claimed that Job, a righteous and extremely wealthy man, remained faithful to God only because he had been blessed by God. Satan suggested that Job would reject God if all Job had was taken from him. God allowed the test, and Job was stripped of everything: his wealth, his family, and his health. Three friends tried to comfort him but ended up criticizing and blaming him instead. All the while, Job insisted on his innocence and refused to turn against God. In the end, God spoke to Job and chastised Job as well as his three friends for the fallacies in their arguments.

## Job Asks God the Eternal Question: Why?

When Job lost his family, he didn't hesitate to express his grief. He didn't lose his faith in God, but he expressed human emotions. And his words indicated that he knew God was in charge and was worthy of praise even in the midst of suffering. Even when he lost his health, Job "did not sin in what he said" (Job 2:10). He simply questioned why God would allow such suffering to be inflicted on an innocent man.

God spoke to Job, answering Job's questions with a series of questions that underlined how little Job knew about God (Job 38–41). Job had begun to question God's righteousness and love. God silenced those doubts, but also made it clear that he owed no one an explanation for the reasons for Job's suffering.

## Job Believes

Realizing that God hadn't turned against him, Job was willing to accept that God had a reason for allowing him to suffer, even though God never revealed that reason. Job was relieved to discover that God still cared about him and was with him through all he had

endured. And the restoration of Job's wealth along with the blessing of a new family demonstrated to Job that God had not abandoned him.

## The Jesus Connection

In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5), Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” We’re blessed when we suffer because then we can experience Jesus’ hope all the more clearly.

When have you suffered, and what part did hope (or a lack of hope) play in that suffering? What's an area of pain in your life right now? Ask God to use it to reveal more of himself and his hope to you. You can write your prayer here.



## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Let's All Praise  
God" (track 18),  
"Those Who Hope"  
(Isaiah 40:31) (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 children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Let's All Praise God" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Encourage kids to join you in doing the motions.



**We're so happy to be here;** (*sway from side to side*)

**We're so happy we came!** (*sway from side to side*)

**Open our Bibles,** (*hold hands together, palms up, like a book*)

**And clap our hands!** (*clap once*)

**We're so happy we can hardly stand.** (*act as if you're falling; then stand up straight*)

**So, we'll sing, sing, sing for our Jesus,** (*cup hands around mouth*)

**And maybe we'll play a game.** (*pretend to bat a ball*)

**We'll all shout, laugh, clap,** (*clap once*)

**And praise God!**

**Let's all praise God's name!** (*wave hands in the air*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.** Let's sing a song and praise God who gives us strength in tough times.

Lead the kids in singing "Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) (track 6 on the CD). Encourage the children to join you in singing and doing the motions.



**Who can soar on wings like eagles?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can run and not grow weary?** (*shrug shoulders*)

**Who can walk and not be faint?** (*shrug shoulders*)

(Chorus)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

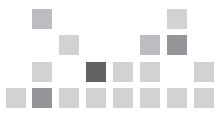
**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

**Those who hope in the Lord** (*point up*)

**Will renew their strength.** (*show strong muscles*)

**They'll soar on wings like eagles;** (*flap arms like wings*)





**They will run and not grow weary.** (*run in place*)  
**They will walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)  
(*Sing chorus.*)

**I wanna soar on wings like eagles!** (*flap arms like wings*)  
**I wanna run and not grow weary;** (*run in place*)  
**I wanna walk and not be faint.** (*walk in place*)  
(*Sing chorus 2x.*)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **We sometimes go through hard times. But we can have hope in God, because**  
► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

**2****KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## Lots of Good Works

### What You'll Do ■■■■■

Form a circle with children and sit down. Open your Bible to Ephesians 2:10, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). This means that God created us to do good works. Let's practice our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse: **God created us to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).**

Ask kids to talk about the kinds of work they do at home, at school, and at church. Then lead them in the following activity, having them repeat your motions and the Key Verse.

**Leader: God created us,** (*point up; then point at children*)  
**Children: To do good works!** (*show muscles*)  
**Leader: When you pick up toys,** (*pretend to pick up toys*)  
**Children: God created us to do good works!** (*pretend to pick up toys*)  
**Leader: When you help your parents,** (*hold out hands, palms up*)  
**Children: God created us to do good works!** (*hold out hands, palms up*)  
**Leader: When you make new friends,** (*shake hands with someone*)  
**Children: God created us to do good works!** (*shake hands with someone*)  
**Leader: God created us,** (*point up; then point at children*)  
**Children: To do good works!** (*make muscles*)

Say: **Let's say our Key Verse together one more time.** Lead the children in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God created us to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).**



### Lots of Good Works Supplies

Bible





### Theo's News Supplies

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

### Theo's News Easy Prep

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

### Bible Time: Faithful Job Supplies

Bible  
cotton balls  
tape  
blocks  
adhesive bandages  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Job" poster  
"Job's Children" cards

## 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 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 kids pass the box of bandages 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:** Theo, why did you hide this box of bandages in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** Well, sometimes we need bandages when we're hurt.

**Teacher:** Friends, can you tell me about the last time you needed a bandage?

*(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

**Theo:** I remember the last time I needed a bandage. I was super sad.

**Teacher:** Sometimes we use bandages when we get cuts or scrapes. A bandage doesn't heal the "owie"; it just protects the cut or scrape and keeps it clean. ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD**—on the inside and on the outside.

**Theo:** And you know what? God sticks by you longer than a bandage does.

**Teacher:** Let's listen to the Bible to find out how God helped Job when he was hurting.

**Theo:** Have fun, boys and girls!

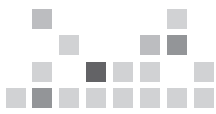
**Teacher:** Say goodbye to Theo.

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: Faithful Job

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Job 1, and show children the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book. Say: **The Bible tells us how ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD. God's book tells us about a good man named Job who worshipped God. Job was rich and he owned lots of animals. He had lots of sheep and camels and donkeys and oxen.** Put some cotton balls by the poster. **Job also had many servants** (place more cotton balls by the poster) **to help take care of the animals, and to help his wife and their 10 children.**



**Job knew that God had blessed him, and Job gave God the credit for his success.** Explain that the cotton balls beside the poster represent God's blessings for Job. **But Satan, the devil, wanted to test Job. Satan thought that if Job lost all his blessings, then he'd stop worshipping God. But God knew that Job would believe in God no matter what. So Satan tested Job.**

Say: **One day, a messenger came to Job and told him that all of his oxen and donkeys had been taken away.** Let each child remove a couple of cotton balls to represent the animals that were taken away. Turn the poster over so Job's sad face is showing.

Say: **Later, someone else came to Job to report that lightning had burned up Job's sheep and servants.** Pause and let each child remove several cotton balls to represent the sheep and servants.

Say: **Then another person told Job that his camels had been stolen.** Let each child remove a few cotton balls to represent the camels that were taken away. Make sure all of the cotton balls have been removed.

Have kids talk with someone next to them about a time they were really sad.

Say: **I'm sure Job was sad and discouraged. But the Bible tells us that Job believed in God and put his hope in God. Job knew that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD. Job wasn't feeling a physical hurt, like a stubbed toe or a skinned knee. Job was hurting in his heart—he was sad. God comforts us whether we're hurting on the outside or in our hearts.**

**The most difficult suffering that Job faced was the loss of his children. A messenger told Job that a terrible wind had blown down the house that Job's children were in.** Pause to let kids remove the blocks with the pictures of Job's children from around the poster. The blocks should remain someplace accessible for later use in this activity.

Say: **Throughout all of these terrible things, Job continued to believe in God. Job knew that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD. Unfortunately, Job's troubles weren't over. Satan caused terrible sores to appear on Job's body. I'm sure Job didn't have bandages like we have today, but we're going to use our bandages to remind us of the many sores that Job had on his body.** Let the kids stick bandages on the poster.

Have kids talk about a time it felt like everything was going wrong in their lives.

Say: **People told Job to stop believing in God because of all the bad things that had happened to him. But Job knew that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD, so Job kept hoping in God and loving God. And do you know what God did? God healed Job's sores.** Turn the poster over to show a smiling Job with no bandages. Say: **God gave Job even more money and more animals than before.** Let the children put back the cotton balls and add even more cotton balls. Say: **And God gave Job more sons and daughters.** Let the children place the blocks that show Job's children on the poster again.



### Bible Time: Faithful Job Easy Prep

.....  
Fold the poster in half, and lay it down with Job's happy face showing.

Separate the "Job's Children" cards, and tape each one to a block so they can "stand" around the poster.





Say: **Job praised God for his blessings. No matter what bad things had happened in his life, Job put his trust and hope in God.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you were hurting.
- What did God do to help you when you were hurting?

Say: **Although many sad things happened to Job, God was with him the whole time.**

► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD**, and we know that God is with us, even in bad times. God loves us and will help us when we're sad.

## 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:

## When I Hurt

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have the kids write their names on their papers with washable markers. Give the kids each an adhesive bandage.

Say: **Use the markers to color in the person on the page to resemble yourself.** Allow kids time to finish their drawings, and then have kids talk about different things in life that can make them sad and things that hurt on the outside.

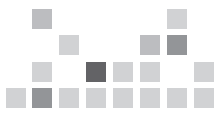
Say: **The next time you're sad, remember that ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD. Let's stick a bandage on our drawings of ourselves to help us remember that.**

### Center 1: When I Hurt Supplies

My Bible Playground  
washable markers  
adhesive bandages

### Center 1: When I Hurt Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13  
pages from each My  
Bible Playground student  
book.



## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does a bandage help you when you're sad?
- What are some ways God helps you when you're sad?

Say: Throughout Job's trials and hurts, he still trusted God. When we have problems, we can talk to God about our problems and ask God to take care of us because ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

## CENTER 2:

# Sweet 'n Sour Living

## What You'll Do

Have kids clean their hands and form pairs. Give each child a paper plate and some toothpicks. Then give each child four pieces of fruit. Ask kids to sample one piece of fruit, and have them describe to their partner how it tastes. Pass around the bowl with granulated sugar and allow each child to put a piece of fruit on a toothpick, dip it in the bowl to lightly coat the fruit, and then pass the bowl on to the next child. Pass around the lemon-lime drink mix bowl, directing children to very lightly coat their fruit with this topping. Finish by passing around the bowl of powdered sugar for kids to each dip their last piece of fruit in. Ask a willing child to pray, thanking God for the snack.

Say: **We're going to eat our fruit to help us remember a little more about Job's life. First, pick up the fruit you dipped in sugar. This is a reminder of Job's sweet life at the beginning. Try it.** Have kids talk to their partners about how it tastes. **Pretty good, right? Job's life was pretty good, too.**

**Now pick up the second fruit and try it.** Have kids talk with their partners about the taste. **Remember how Job's life had some bad things happen? He didn't like what happened, and it seemed like his life had turned sour just like our fruit.**

**Let's try the last fruit.** Have kids talk about the taste. **Do you remember what finally happened to Job? Job's life had turned sweet again. In fact, it was even sweeter than before.**

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think Job's life got even better after all his difficulties?
- How does God make our life better when we're sad?

Say: **The fruit underneath didn't change its taste, even though we used different toppings. The outside changed, but not the fruit inside. Job had good and bad**



## Center 2: Sweet 'n Sour Living Supplies

strawberries (or apple slices)  
paper plates  
toothpicks  
bowl of granulated sugar  
bowl of powdered sugar  
bowl of unsweetened lemon-lime drink mix  
antibacterial gel (optional)

## ! ALLERGY ALERT



### Center 3: When You're Feeling Sad Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "When You're Feeling Sad" (track 23)

things happen to him, but he didn't change his attitude toward God, even though he didn't know things would ever get better. Remember, ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

### CENTER 3:

## When You're Feeling Sad

### What You'll Do

Say: Job knew even when bad things are happening that ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.** When we're sad, we know we can always trust God to help us, too. Let's sing a song to help us remember what we're learning today.

Play "When You're Feeling Sad" (track 23 on the CD). Have kids follow you in doing the motions.



**When you're feeling sad,** *(walk around with a sad look)*

**When you're feeling sad,** *(walk around with a sad look)*

**Hope in the Lord,** *(point to the sky)*

**Yes! And be strong!** *(flex muscles)*

*(Repeat 2x)*

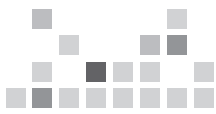
### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Job show that he was strong for God when his life was sad?
- How does God help us be strong in sad times?

Say: Sometimes when we're sad, we walk around with a sad look on our face. It's normal to be sad, but we can remember that God will help give us the strength to keep going. ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

 **CENTER 4:**

## Rainbow Me

### What You'll Do

Hand each child one sheet of white paper. Have children use pencils to divide their papers into four squares. Then ask them to use a different color of crayon to completely fill each square on their papers. (One square will be red, one yellow, one green, and one blue.)

Hand each child another sheet of white paper. Have children fold these in half, from top to bottom, then once again, from left to right. Tell children to draw a circle using crayons on the folded paper. Help children cut the circles out of the middle of their folded paper.

Because the papers are folded, with one cut they'll each have four equal circles. Tell children to draw their own smiling faces in each of the four circles, trying to make each face look the same. As kids follow along, demonstrate how to glue a face in the middle of each different color block on the first piece of paper.



Say: **Sometimes good things happen to us, and sometimes bad things happen to us. Even when we have bad things happen to us, like Job did, we can still love and praise God. We need God even more when we're sad or hurt because he takes care of us.**

**Look at your picture. Even though the background changed, your picture didn't. Our situations in life may change—we might be happy or sad or angry or excited—but we can always show how much we love God, and that will help us stay strong.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

-  **When have you felt sad or hurt like Job did in the Bible?**
-  **Why do we need God to help us in bad times?**

Say: **We may have hard times that we don't understand, but we know that God always loves us no matter what happens, and we love God no matter what happens, too. ► GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**



### Center 4: Rainbow Me Supplies

.....  
for each child: two  
8½x11 sheets of white  
paper; 1 red, 1 yellow,  
1 green, and 1 blue  
crayon  
pencils  
scissors  
glue sticks





## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

## “Stick With God” Prayer Supplies

1 adhesive bandage per  
child

# 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to sit in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share 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 HELPS US WHEN WE’RE SAD.** I’d like each of you to choose a way you can ask God to help you when you’re sad.

Read these three Daily Challenge ideas for kids to choose from.

- If you or someone else has an “owie” this week, ask God to help the owie feel better.
- If you’re sad or feel all alone this week, talk to God—he’s always with you.
- If you’re mad, upset, or sad this week, draw a picture of what’s upsetting you and talk to God about it.

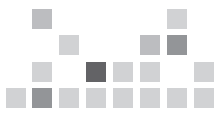
Have kids each whisper in your ear to tell you which idea they’ve chosen, and then circle it on each child’s My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at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

## “Stick With God” Prayer

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child an adhesive bandage. Tell children that they’ll stick the bandages on their hands or clothing during the prayer.

Say: You may wear the bandages home to remind yourselves that ► **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE’RE SAD.**



Lead children in the following prayer.

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for taking care of us in good times** (make a happy face)  
**and in hard times.** (make a sad face)

**Help us to stick with you when we're happy and when we're sad just like you**  
**always stick with us.** (stick the bandage on your clothes or hands)

**In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

