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SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

INFANTS, TODDLERS & 2s

TEACHER GUIDE

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FAITHWEAVER NOW

Group resources really work!

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

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

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

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

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

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We know you care about kids...

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

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FaithWeaver NOW® Bible Curriculum, Infants, Toddlers and 2-Year-Olds, 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Even the Sunday school Bible curriculum you used just a couple of years ago is already out of date.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

While most of the young children in your group have probably never known true need, they tend to feel and express a tremendous sense of urgency about everything they need or want. If a small child is thirsty, he or she wants a drink—right now! Help little ones understand that just as you take the time to realize and meet their needs, God takes great care to meet all our needs.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Something to Eat** Hear how Elisha helped a widow and her son.	O-shaped cereal **Teacher Pack:** "Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Smooth Oil** Feel baby oil, and hear of God's care.	baby oil	
	Food for Thought Enjoy an action rhyme.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 celebrate that God loves and takes care of people who need help.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player, stuffed toys, baby dolls **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Never-Ending Stores** Hear how Elisha helped the widow.	Bible, graham crackers **Teacher Pack:** "Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Oil Art** Paint a picture with vegetable oil.	construction paper, bowls of vegetable oil, cotton swabs	Copy the "The Widow's Oil" page (at the end of the lesson) onto light-colored construction paper or card stock (1 copy per child).
	Drum Roll Make music with pots and pans.	pots and pans, kitchen utensils, CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Fill 'Er Up** Hear about Elisha and the widow.	Bible, pots and pans, small bottle of vegetable oil, wet wipes **Teacher Pack:** "Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Joyous Jars** Make decorative jars.	1 plastic cup per child; colored tissue paper; scissors; glue; paint shirts, smocks, or wet wipes; plastic dishes or lids	Cut colored tissue paper into 1-inch squares.
	To Market, to Market Play a game about how the widow sold her oil.	towels, 1 plastic cup per child, 2 large plastic containers, water	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Tip 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.

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently bounce a baby to the rhythm.

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children. *(pat baby on the head)*
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one. *(tap baby on the head)*
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones. *(raise hands and shrug)*
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one. *(pat baby on the head)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Something to Eat

Something to Eat Supplies

O-shaped cereal
Teacher Pack
"Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture

! ALLERGY ALERT

What You'll Do

Set a baby 6 months or older on your lap, and show the child the "Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture.

Say: **The woman didn't have any food for herself and her boys. They were poor and hungry. God sent a special person named Elisha to help the woman get food for her family.** Place some O-shaped cereal pieces in your hand. Attempt to feed one piece of cereal to the baby. If the baby enjoys the cereal, you may feed him or her more, one piece at a time. (Check with parents before feeding their child.)

Say: **God took care of the poor woman.** ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Smooth Oil

Smooth Oil Supplies

baby oil

What You'll Do

Set a baby on the floor next to you. Gently rub a small drop of baby oil onto the back of the baby's hand.

Say: **Oil feels good on our skin. I'm taking care of you by rubbing oil on your hand.**

God gave the widow lots of oil so she could buy food to eat. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.

Food for Thought

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap. Say the following rhyme, and do the motions with the baby:

A woman had no food. *(rub the baby's tummy)*
She did not know what to do. *(hold the baby's hands out to the sides)*
Without bread to eat, *(hold baby's hands up to his or her mouth)*
Her days would be through.
God sent a man—*(walk your fingers up the baby's arm)*
He knew what to do. *(place the baby's hands on his or her head)*
He started with a little oil, and it grew and grew! *(stretch the baby's arms out wide)*
The woman took the oil and went to buy some bread—
The woman ate and ate; so happy she was fed. *(rub the baby's tummy)*

Say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Tip 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.

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. Sing while toddlers hold and rock stuffed toys and baby dolls.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
stuffed toys
baby dolls
Teacher Pack
CD (track 2)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. When you sing, have toddlers stand in a circle and follow your motions.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children. *(point to toddlers and yourself)*
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one. *(hold up one finger)*
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones. *(raise hands and shrug)*
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one. *(point to toddlers and yourself)*

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Never-Ending Stores

What You'll Do

Gather some toddlers around you. Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4, and show children the words. Tell them the Bible is God's special book. Show children the "Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture.

Say: **The woman and her sons didn't have any food. All they had was a little bit of oil. They were very hungry.** Have children rub their bellies and pretend to be hungry. **God sent a special man named Elisha to help them. Elisha had the woman pour the oil into many pots and pans. God turned the little bit of oil into lots of oil. Then the woman sold the oil and bought food, and everyone ate. They were so happy.** Give each child a graham cracker to eat. **God took care of the woman and her sons and made sure they had enough food to eat. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

Never-Ending Stores
Supplies

Bible
graham crackers
Teacher Pack
"Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture

! ALLERGY ALERT

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Oil Art

What You'll Do

Give each child a "The Widow's Oil" page. Set shallow bowls of vegetable oil and cotton swabs on the table. Show the children how to dip the cotton swabs into the oil and paint the pictures on their papers.

Say: **Look at the pretty patterns you're making with oil. God used oil to help the woman buy food. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

Oil Art
Supplies

construction paper
bowls of vegetable oil
cotton swabs

Oil Art
Easy Prep

Copy the "The Widow's Oil" page (at the end of the lesson) onto light-colored construction paper or card stock (1 copy per child).

Drum Roll

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's listen to a song to celebrate that ▶ GOD CARES FOR US. The woman in the Bible poured the oil God gave her into jars kind of like our pots and pans. Let's bang on pots and pans while we listen!**

Give each child a pot or pan and a kitchen utensil. Play "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD). Encourage toddlers bang on their pots and pans while the music plays.

Drum Roll
Supplies

pots and pans
kitchen utensils
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 2)

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD Track 2

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Tip 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.

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, point to different children while singing "He cares for you, Jesus cares for you."

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Have children hug at least one friend while you sing.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Fill 'Er Up

What You'll Do

Set out several pots and pans, and have children gather in a circle. Open your Bible to 2 Kings 4, and show kids the words. Tell children the Bible is God's special book. Then show them the "Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture.

Say: **The woman didn't have food for her sons and herself. All she had was a little oil.** Pass a small bottle of vegetable oil around the circle. **The woman did not know what to do. God sent a special man named Elisha to help her. Elisha told the woman to pour her oil into many jars.** Help the children take turns pouring a little oil into a few pots and pans. Let the children touch the oil to see how it feels. Provide wet wipes for children to clean their fingers.

Say: **A special thing happened. The woman had only a little oil. But as she poured the oil, it turned into a lot of oil and filled all of the pots and pans the woman could**

Fill 'Er Up
Supplies

Bible
pots and pans
small bottle of vegetable oil
wet wipes
Teacher Pack
"Elisha and the Widow" teaching picture

find. Then the woman sold her oil and bought food. She knew that God took care of her that day. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Joyous Jars
Supplies

1 plastic cup per child
colored tissue paper
scissors
glue
paint shirts, smocks, or wet wipes
plastic dishes or lids

Joyous Jars
Easy Prep

Cut colored tissue paper into 1-inch squares.

Joyous Jars

What You'll Do

Place the tissue paper on a table or craft area. Pour glue into plastic dishes or on lids. Help kids put on paint shirts or smocks. If you don't have those, keep wet wipes handy to wipe off any messes.

Say: **The woman in the Bible had a jar of oil. God turned a little bit of oil into a whole lot! Let's make our own oil jars to remind us that ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

Show children how to smear glue onto the plastic cups and then cover the cups with the colored tissue paper. Set aside the "jars" to dry, and help kids wash their hands.

To Market, to Market
Supplies

towels
1 plastic cup per child
2 large plastic containers
water

To Market, to Market

What You'll Do

Arrange towels on the floor to protect it, or take this activity outside. Set a plastic container filled with water on one side of the room and an empty plastic container about 10 feet away.

Have the children line up behind the container filled with water, and give each child a plastic cup.

Say: **After God turned the woman's little bit of oil into a lot of oil, the woman took the oil to sell it. Let's pretend that this water is oil. Let's help the woman take her oil to the store so she can sell it and buy food.**

Have one child fill a cup with water, walk to the other container, pour the water into it, and say **▶ GOD CARES FOR US.** When the first child returns, have another child repeat the process, and so on. Ensure each child has a turn.

Say: **You did it! Now the woman can buy food for her family. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US. Hooray!**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

HOME CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus

Nice Serve!

One of the most powerful memories you can give your child is doing a service project as a family. Develop traditions of caring for people in need. Take your child with you to visit a person who's housebound. Make an annual tradition of helping your child choose food to donate. The lifestyle of servanthood you model for your child will last a lifetime.

Your child learned that God cares for us (from 2 Kings 4:1-7). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Smooth Oil

Set your baby on the floor next to you. Gently rub baby oil onto your baby's hand.

Say: **Oil feels good when we rub it on our skin. I'm taking care of you by rubbing oil on your hand. God gave the woman lots and lots of oil so she could sell it and buy food to eat. God cares for us.**

TODDLER

Drum Roll

Say: **Let's sing a song to celebrate that God cares for us. The woman poured the oil God gave her into pots and pans, so we're going to bang on pots and pans while we sing a song.**

Give your child a pot or pan and a kitchen utensil. Play a recorded praise song, or sing one such as "Jesus Loves Me" with your child. Encourage your child to sing and bang on the pots and pans.

2-YEAR-OLD

Joyous Jars

Cut colored tissue paper or construction paper into 1-inch squares. Draw a simple jar shape on paper, and set out a glue stick or bottle of washable glue.

Say: **The woman had a jar of oil. God turned a little bit of oil into a whole lot! Let's make our own oil jar to remind us that God cares for us.**

Help your child glue the paper pieces onto the jar shape. Set aside the "jar" to dry.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Have your child help care for a pet or a household plant. Say a brief prayer of thanks to God for caring for us.
- Together, choose toys to donate to a charity or friend in need. Talk about how because God cares for us, we can care for others.

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The Widow's Oil

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God Heals Naaman's Leprosy

2 Kings 5:1-16

Young children are just beginning to learn the concept of obedience. Acting in obedience to parents or other authority figures can be challenging for small children who are starting to discover and assert their independence. Children often perceive limits as loss of control and may respond with stubbornness or even defiance. This lesson will help children understand that parents and other adults set limits for children because they love them, just as God asks for our obedience because he loves us. Thank you for helping young children understand this essential part of their faith!

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The Man With "Owies"** Hear about a man God healed.	craft stick, tape, scissors, glue **Teacher Pack:** "Naaman's Healing" figures	Cut out the "Naaman's Healing" figures. Tape a craft stick to the back of 1 figure of Naaman. Glue the 2 figures of Naaman together, back to back.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Wash Away** Have pretend owies washed away.	container of washable paint, wet wipes	
	Seven Little Dips Experience a counting game.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶Bible Point
God wants us to follow him.

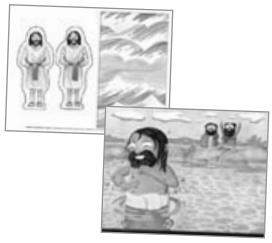
Key Verse
"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children practice obeying commands.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Commander Naaman** Participate in an action play about Naaman.	Bible, craft stick, tape, glue, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Naaman's Healing" figures	Cut out the "Naaman's Healing" figures and the Jordan River square. Tape a craft stick to the back of 1 figure of Naaman. Glue the 2 figures of Naaman together, back to back. Fold up the square like a pocket, and tape or staple the sides. Cut the notch in the center of the bottom of the pocket.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Follow the Leader** Take turns leading an army around the room.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
	The Muddy Old Jordan Experience muddy water and paint the Jordan River.	dishpan, water, dirt, towels, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Muddy Jordan" page (at the end of the lesson), black and brown watercolors, shallow containers, paintbrushes, plastic tablecloth, paint smocks	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Fill a dishpan with a couple inches of water, and add enough dirt or sand to make the water muddy.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The Mighty Commander Naaman** Hear about Naaman in a rhyme, and participate in actions.	Bible, craft stick, tape, glue, scissors, red watercolor paint, several small paintbrushes, water bottle with water **Teacher Pack:** "Naaman's Healing" figures, "God Heals Naaman" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut out the "Naaman's Healing" figures and the Jordan River square. Tape a craft stick to the back of 1 figure of Naaman. Glue the 2 figures of Naaman together, back to back. Fold up the square like a pocket, and tape or staple the sides. Cut the notch in the center of the bottom of the pocket.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Dip and Do** Play a game to practice following directions.	plastic pail, poster board, scissors, marker	Cut several circles from poster board. Write tasks on the circles, such as "Stomp your feet," "Touch your nose," or "Wiggle your fingers." Put the circles in a plastic pail.
	Seven Silly Somethings Hear a rhyme, and practice counting to seven.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Who's That Washing?" (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "Clementine" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, hold an infant on your lap and do the motions given with the lyrics.

Who's that washing in the river, *(rub hands together)*
In the Jordan's muddy tide?
It's the mighty Captain Naaman, *(salute)*
Humbling his foolish pride.

Who's that dipping, seven times, *(pretend to splash feet)*
Like the prophet said to do?
It's the mighty Captain Naaman— *(salute)*
Now his skin looks all brand-new!

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. You can sing it quietly to calm a fussy baby.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 3)

The Man With "Owies"
Supplies

craft stick
tape
scissors
glue
Teacher Pack
"Naaman's Healing" figures

The Man With "Owies"
Easy Prep

Cut out the "Naaman's Healing" figures. Tape a craft stick to the back of 1 figure of Naaman. Glue the 2 figures of Naaman together, back to back.

Wash Away
Supplies

container of washable paint
wet wipes

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Man With "Owies"

What You'll Do

Hold an infant on your lap, and show the child the side of the Naaman figure that shows Naaman with leprosy.

Say: **Oh, look! This man has owies on his arms and face.** Take the infant's hand and touch the figure. **The man needed God's help. God said, "Go dip in the Jordan River."** Make a dipping motion with the figure, and then flip it to the side of Naaman with no leprosy. **Oh, look, the man listened to God, and now his owies are gone!** Help the baby touch the "clean" Naaman. Hug the baby. **God will take care of all** [baby's name]**'s hurts and owies, too! ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM and listen to him.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Wash Away

What You'll Do

Set out a small container of washable paint. Have a supply of wet wipes close by. Sit on the floor, and hold an infant in front of you.

Say: **The man in the Bible today had owies. Let's make some pretend owies on** [baby's name]**.** Touch your finger in the paint and then on the baby's arm in two or three spots. **Naaman wanted his owies to go away, so he asked God to help. God took away his owies.** Take out a wet wipe. **I will help you by washing away your pretend owies.** Gently clean the baby's arm. **God made Naaman well, and he will take care of you when you have hurts. ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM and ask for his help.**

Seven Little Dips

What You'll Do

Hold an infant on your lap.

Say: **God said Naaman should wash in the muddy Jordan River to get well. Naaman didn't want to go, but when he was humble and obeyed, God healed him.** Count to seven on the infant's fingers as you say this rhyme:

One little, two little, three little dips,
Four little, five little, six little dips,
Seven little dips in the river Jordan,
God healed Naaman's skin!

Say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Who's That Washing?" (track 3 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage children to do the actions along with you.

Who's that washing in the river, *(raise hands in shrug)*
In the Jordan's muddy tide? *(make disgusted face)*
It's the mighty Captain Naaman, *(salute)*
Humbling his foolish pride. *(shake head)*
Who's that dipping, seven times,
Like the prophet said to do?
It's the mighty Captain Naaman— *(salute)*
Now his skin looks all brand-new! *(raise hands to sky)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have toddlers walk in a circle.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 3)

Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Commander Naaman

Commander Naaman
Supplies

Bible
craft stick
tape
glue
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Naaman's Healing" figures

Commander Naaman
Easy Prep

Cut out the "Naaman's Healing" figures and the Jordan River square. Tape a craft stick to the back of 1 figure of Naaman. Glue the 2 figures of Naaman together, back to back. Fold up the square like a pocket, and tape or staple the sides. Cut the notch in the center of the bottom of the pocket.

What You'll Do

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5, and show kids the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Naaman was a boss in the king's army. He was very brave.** Show the children how to stand and salute like they would if they were in the army. **One day Naaman got sick. He had owies all over his body.** Show the figure of Naaman with leprosy. **Naaman felt sad.** Have the children make sad faces. **A little girl told Naaman God could make him well. So Naaman went to see Elisha. Elisha said he must go wash seven times in the Jordan River.** Hold up the Jordan River square. Show the children how to hold up their fingers while you demonstrate counting to seven. **Naaman didn't want to wash because the water was dirty. But he decided to obey God.** Slide the stick holding the figure of Naaman into the notch, with the leprosy side showing. Push the stick up and down slowly. **Naaman went to the Jordan and dipped into the water.**

When you pull the figure down for the seventh time, twist the stick so that the "clean" Naaman appears.

Say: **God healed Naaman because Naaman was humble and did what God said. God will take care of us, too.** ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Follow the Leader

What You'll Do

Gather the toddlers.

Say: **Naaman was a boss in the king's army. He was a leader. He'd give orders, and people followed him.**

Tell children they're going to pretend to be a leader like Naaman. Choose one child to be the first Leader. Play "Who's That Washing?" (track 3 on the CD), and have children follow the Leader around the room as the music is playing. Pause the CD, and choose a new Leader. Continue until each toddler has had a turn being the Leader.

Say: **Even though Naaman was a leader, he obeyed God. When he obeyed and followed God, God cured his owies. ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

The Muddy Old Jordan

What You'll Do

Set the dishpan of muddy water on a plastic tablecloth on the floor, lay towels nearby, and call two or three toddlers at a time. Show them the muddy water.

Say: **God told Naaman to wash in the Jordan River if he wanted to get well. But the water was very muddy, like this water. Naaman didn't want to wash in the water.** Allow the children to put their hands in the dishpan, feel the mud, and swish around. **Sometimes it's fun to play in muddy water, but Naaman didn't want to wash in it. But he obeyed God's instructions and dipped seven times in the muddy old Jordan. When he came up the seventh time, he was clean! God healed Naaman!**

Wash and dry the children's hands. Give each child a paint smock and a "Muddy Jordan" page. Show children how to use black and brown watercolor paints and paintbrushes to make a muddy Jordan River on the page.

Say: **God used a muddy river to heal Naaman when he was humble and followed God. ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Follow the Leader
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 3)

The Muddy Old Jordan
Supplies

dishpan
water
dirt
towels
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Muddy Jordan" page (at the end of the lesson)
black and brown watercolors
shallow containers
paintbrushes
plastic tablecloth
paint smocks

The Muddy Old Jordan
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Fill a dishpan with a couple inches of water, and add enough dirt or sand to make the water muddy.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 3)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Who's That Washing?" (track 3 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage kids to do the actions with you.

Who's that washing in the river, *(pretend to wash body)*
In the Jordan's muddy tide? *(make a disgusted face)*
It's the mighty Captain Naaman, *(salute)*
Humbling his foolish pride.
Who's that dipping, seven times, *(pretend to wash body)*
Like the prophet said to do?
It's the mighty Captain Naaman— *(salute)*
Now his skin looks all brand-new! *(raise hands to sky)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. While singing, have each child hug a friend.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Mighty Commander Naaman

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 5, and lay it in front of you. Show children the words and tell them the Bible is God's special book. Ask children to participate in the following actions as you retell what happened.

Say: **Naaman was a boss in the army of the king.** *(stand and salute)*
Men obeyed his orders, and he did mighty things! *(make a muscle)*
One day he got sick; he had sores all over his skin. *(rub your hands down your arms)*
He needed to find a cure so he could be well again. *(put your hand to your forehead, as if searching)*
A little servant girl said, "You should go and see *(point off in the distance)*
If the prophet Elisha can heal your leprosy." *(rub your hands down your arms)*
Now Naaman was a proud man, so when he heard the order *(put your hands on your hips)*
To go dip seven times in the muddy Jordan's water, *(frown)*
He didn't want to go, until his friends said to him, *(shake your head no)*
"You'd quickly do a big task, why not take a little swim?" *(indicate "big" and then "small" with your hands)*

Insert the stick with the Naaman leprosy figure into the Jordan River pocket, and begin to dip the figure up and down inside the pocket. Continue the action play.

Two times, four times, six times, he plunged like a squirmy tadpole. *(dip the figure up and down)*
But when he came up the seventh time, his body was completely whole! *(flip over the figure so the "clean" Naaman shows)*
Naaman learned to be humble, for God was greater than he. *(bow down)*
Right then he began to serve in the one true God's army! *(march in place)*

Say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Set the "God Heals Naaman" poster on the floor, and have the children gather around it.

Say: **Let's use this poster to show how God healed Naaman's leprosy.** Have kids use red watercolor paint to put small dots on Naaman's body in the poster. **Naaman was very sick; he had sores all over his body. Then God told him to dip in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed. Let's show how Naaman was healed!** Let each child use the water bottle to squirt water on the poster. The water should take off the red spots on Naaman. If some spots still remain after each child has squirted the poster, use a wet tissue to wipe off the rest. **God healed Naaman's leprosy when Naaman followed God and obeyed God's command to dip in the Jordan River.**
▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

The Mighty Commander Naaman
Supplies

Bible
craft stick
tape
glue
scissors
red watercolor paint
several small paintbrushes
water bottle with water
Teacher Pack
"Naaman's Healing" figures
"God Heals Naaman" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

The Mighty Commander Naaman
Easy Prep

Cut out the "Naaman's Healing" figures and the Jordan River square. Tape a craft stick to the back of 1 figure of Naaman. Glue the 2 figures of Naaman together, back to back. Fold up the square like a pocket, and tape or staple the sides. Cut the notch in the center of the bottom of the pocket.

Dip and Do
Supplies

plastic pail
poster board
scissors
marker

Dip and Do
Easy Prep

Cut several circles from poster board. Write tasks on the circles, such as "Stomp your feet," "Touch your nose," or "Wiggle your fingers." Put the circles in a plastic pail.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Dip and Do

What You'll Do

Have the children sit on the floor around you. Place the plastic pail with the circles in it on the floor near the children.

Say: **Naaman was a boss. He gave orders, and men obeyed them.** Hold the pail in front of you. **We're going to play a game called Dip and Do. You will dip your hand into this pail and choose a circle with an order on it. I'll read the order and then you'll obey.** As the children pull out the circles, read them aloud and have the children do the tasks. Ensure each child has a turn.

Say: **God's order to Naaman was to dip in the muddy Jordan River. Naaman was humble and obeyed and followed God, and God healed him. ▶ GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM, too.**

Seven Silly Somethings

What You'll Do

Have children each hold up seven fingers.

Say: **Naaman dipped seven times in the Jordan River because Elisha told him to. God healed Naaman's leprosy when he was humble and obeyed.**

Play a counting game by helping kids count to seven. Say the following lines. Periodically, as you say the word *seven*, stop and help children count on their fingers to seven. As you play, remind the children that God made lots of things we can count by sevens.

Say: **Seven singing songbirds, sitting in a tree.**
Seven silly songbirds, singing off-key!
Seven swimming critters, shiny yellow fish.
Seven little tails going swish, swish, swish!
Seven little children, seven sunny days,
Seven happy faces, giving God the praise!

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

HOME CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus

Credit Due

You can help your child understand the concept of obedience by using little reminders to give God credit. When your child does something that you would praise him or her for, say something like "Good job! I'm glad God gave you strong legs so you could jump over that puddle!" Praising God for daily accomplishments will help your child understand that God is greater than we are. Eventually it will become natural for your child to realize his or her obedience before God.

Your child learned that God wants us to follow him (from 2 Kings 5:1-16). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Seven Little Dips

Hold your baby on your lap.

Say: **God said Naaman must go and wash in the muddy Jordan River if he wanted to get well.** Count to seven on your baby's fingers as you say this rhyme:

One little, two little, three little dips,

Four little, five little, six little dips,

Seven little dips in the river Jordan,

God healed Naaman's skin!

God wants us to follow him.

TODDLER

Follow the Leader

Say: **Naaman was a commander in the army. He would give orders, and people would follow him.**

Have your child pretend to be a leader like Naaman. Play a favorite song, and have your child lead you around the room as the music is playing. Follow your child, and do whatever he or she does.

Say: **Even though Naaman was a leader, he had to obey God. When he followed God, God healed his owies. God wants us to follow him, too.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Dip and Do

Cut several circles from paper. Write tasks on the circles, such as "Stomp your feet" or "Wiggle your fingers." Put the circles writing-side down.

Say: **Naaman was a boss. He gave orders, and men obeyed him. Choose a circle and I'll read it. Then you'll obey.** Have your child select a circle. Read the tasks aloud, and have your child do them.

Say: **God told Naaman to dip in the muddy Jordan River. When Naaman was humble and followed God, he was healed. God wants us to follow him, too.**

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- At bath time, let your child take a washable doll into the bathtub. Remind your child how Naaman dipped seven times in the Jordan River.
- Practice counting to seven with your child. Take a walk, and look for seven trees, seven birds, or seven flowers. Remind your child that God gave us all the things you are counting.

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Muddy Jordan

! OK TO COPY
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Jonah Learns a Lesson

Jonah 1–3

Little ones are born into a world of rules: "No touching hot stoves!" "Stay off the stairs!" "Don't hit others!" Children learn these rules typically as they break them. As caregivers, we can present boundaries in an encouraging and grace-filled manner. Our "discipline" can be based around the goal of developing children rather than punishing them. Ensure that your expectations are realistic to the child's age. Ask whether your church has a discipline policy, and familiarize yourself with it. When you lovingly guide children toward the behavior you want to see and explain that boundaries help them, too, you'll plant the seeds for understanding why we follow God.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Water Log** Hear the story of Jonah and the big fish.	resealable plastic bag, water, super glue (adults only), blue food coloring **Teacher Pack:** "Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture	Fill a sturdy, resealable plastic bag (such as a freezer bag) one-third full of water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring to the water. Draw a bead of super glue across the groove of the locking device, and close the bag.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Way to Go** Roll a ball down a path.	blocks, ball	Create a path for a ball using blocks.
	Stormy Seas Make "waves," and hear why obeying God is important.	pie tin, water, towel	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 practice following God because God's ways are best.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Which Way?** Learn the story of Jonah and the big fish.	Bible, bedsheet, can of tuna fish, can opener, plastic container with lid **Teacher Pack:** "Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture	Open a can of tuna fish, and put the tuna in a plastic container with a lid.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Fish Sticks** Decorate a picture of Jonah's boat.	craft sticks, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Stormy Seas" page (at the end of the lesson), shallow bowls, glue	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Fill a few shallow bowls with glue.
	Faithful Followers Follow a leader to a yummy surprise!	jump-rope, snacks	Hide the snacks in an out-of-sight location.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The Scoop on Jonah** Learn the story of Jonah and the big fish.	Bible; large, clean, round trash can with lid; tape; scissors; marker; construction paper; rubber ball **Teacher Pack:** "Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture	Cut out 2 large eyes from construction paper, and tape them onto the trash can lid.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**A Fish Tale** Make a fish to remind them of the importance of obeying God.	large plastic cups, tape, markers, colored paper, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Fish Fins and Tail" patterns	Copy onto colored paper the tail and fish fins patterns, and cut out a set of fins and a tail for each child.
	Obey Away Play a game and act out commands.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap, and sing "Why Jonah Obeys" (track 4 on the CD) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently tap the rhythm on the baby's leg.

Jonah didn't obey God.
Jonah told God "no!"
He did what he wanted.
He wouldn't obey
Till a big fish came and took him away.
Jonah, he always listens.
He obeys God's every wish.
He spent one! two! three! nights and days
In the belly of a fish.

Afterward, say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson and to calm a fussy baby.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 4)

Water Log
Supplies

resealable plastic bag
water
super glue (adults only)
blue food coloring
Teacher Pack
"Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture

Water Log
Easy Prep

Fill a sturdy, resealable plastic bag (such as a freezer bag) one-third full of water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring to the water. Draw a bead of super glue across the groove of the locking device, and close the bag.

Way to Go
Supplies

blocks
ball

Way to Go
Easy Prep

Create a path for a ball using blocks.

Stormy Seas
Supplies

pie tin
water
towel

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Water Log

What You'll Do

Set a baby on your lap, and show the child the "Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture and the resealable plastic bag of water you prepared.

Say: **This is Jonah. He didn't want to do what God said. God made a big storm while Jonah was on a boat, and a big fish swallowed Jonah.** Show the baby how to squish the bag and make the water move. **Inside the big fish, Jonah had a chance to think and to remember that God's ways are best. God made the fish let Jonah go, and Jonah did what God wanted him to do. God knows what's best for us, so we ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Way to Go

What You'll Do

Set an infant on the floor next to you. Help the baby roll the ball, or roll the ball through the path as the child watches. Play as long as the baby is interested.

Say: **The blocks guide the ball. God guides us, too. We ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Stormy Seas

What You'll Do

Set a small pie tin with a little water in it in front of a baby. Show the baby how to splash the water. Never leave a baby alone with water.

Say: **What big waves! When Jonah didn't want to listen to God, God sent a big storm to remind him that God's ways are best. God wants us to follow him and do what he wants us to.** Have a towel handy to dry the baby's hands.

Say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Why Jonah Obeys" (track 4 on the CD) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children follow the motions with you.

Jonah didn't obey God.
Jonah told God "no!" *(shake head "no")*
He did what he wanted.
He wouldn't obey *(shake head "no")*
Till a big fish came and took him away.
Jonah, he always listens. *(nod head "yes")*
He obeys God's every wish. *(nod head "yes")*
He spent one! two! three! nights and days
In the belly of a fish.

Afterward, say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children hold hands and swing their arms back and forth.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 4)

The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Which Way?

Which Way?
Supplies

Bible
bedsheet
can of tuna fish
can opener
plastic container with lid
Teacher Pack
"Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture

! ALLERGY ALERT

Which Way?
Easy Prep

Open a can of tuna fish, and put the tuna in a plastic container with a lid.

What You'll Do

Spread out a bedsheet on the floor. Invite a group of toddlers to join you and sit on the sheet. Open your Bible to the book of Jonah, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Let's pretend that this sheet we're sitting on is a big ship and everything around us is the ocean.** Have kids rock back and forth as if on a ship. **God gave Jonah a special job, but Jonah didn't want to obey. Jonah went his own way. He got on the ship instead.** Show the children the "Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture.

God sent a storm to get Jonah's attention. Jonah knew he did something wrong. Jonah jumped in the water. Let's all go into the ocean. Have the children jump out of the ship.

Then God sent a fish to swallow Jonah and keep him in a safe place—the fish's belly. Have the children huddle on the floor while you spread the bedsheet over their heads. Join kids under the sheet. Open the container of tuna you prepared beforehand. Have each child take a turn smelling the tuna. **It must have smelled like this inside the fish. Everyone say "ugh!"** Pause.

Jonah prayed and told God he would do things God's way. The fish let Jonah go, and Jonah did what God wanted. Spread the bedsheet on the floor in front of the children to be a road. Have the children walk on the road.

Jonah went the way God told him and did the job he was supposed to do. We need to listen to God, too. God knows what's best for us, so we ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Fish Sticks

What You'll Do

Have the children sit at the table, and give each child a "Stormy Seas" page. Show children how to dip one side of a craft stick in the glue and then place it on the hull of the boat in the picture. Encourage children to cover the hull with craft sticks.

Say: **Jonah tried to hide on a boat because he didn't want to listen to God. But God found him and taught him to obey. Jonah found out that God's ways are best and he should follow God. We can ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS, too.**

Faithful Followers

What You'll Do

Have children hold on to a jump-rope. Hold on to one end of the rope, and lead the children around the room.

Say: **Keep following me. If you follow me, something good will happen.** Lead kids to the snacks that you hid. **Look, snacks! You followed me, and we found something good to eat. We can to follow God's ways, too. God's ways are best, and we can ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.** Pass out the snacks for the children to enjoy.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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Fish Sticks
Supplies

craft sticks
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Stormy Seas" page (at the end of the lesson)
shallow bowls
glue

Fish Sticks
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Fill a few shallow bowls with glue.

Faithful Followers
Supplies

jump-rope
snacks

! ALLERGY ALERT

Faithful Followers
Easy Prep

Hide the snacks in an out-of-sight location.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 4)

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Why Jonah Obeys" (track 4 on the CD) to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children pretend to be the fish and swallow Jonah on the appropriate line.

Jonah didn't obey God.
Jonah told God "no!"
He did what he wanted.
He wouldn't obey
Till a big fish came and took him away.
Jonah, he always listens.
He obeys God's every wish.
He spent one! two! three! nights and days
In the belly of a fish.

Afterward, say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children find a friend to hug.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: ▶ **DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Scoop on Jonah

What You'll Do

Gather the children around you in a circle. Open your Bible to the book of Jonah and show kids the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us things God wants us to do. It also tells us a story about a man named Jonah.** Hold up the "Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture. **God gave Jonah a special job. Jonah didn't like the job, so he ran away. He got on a boat and tried to get away from God. But God sent a big storm to shake the boat.** Have the children sway back and forth as if they were on a boat during a storm.

Jonah wanted to get off the boat. Jonah sank under the water. But God saved him by sending a big fish to swallow him. Show children the trash-can fish you made. Remove the lid of the trash can, and let children take turns tossing a rubber ball into the "fish's mouth."

Jonah was safe in the fish. But it wasn't fun. It was dark and smelly. Jonah stayed in the fish for three days before he prayed and told God he was sorry. God had the fish spit Jonah up onto the land. Jonah did the job God told him to do. He learned that God's ways are best because God knows best. We can obey God and listen to what he wants, too! We ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Fish Tale

What You'll Do

Give each child a set of the fins, a tail, and a large plastic cup. Help children draw eyes on either side of the cup with a marker and then tape the fins and tails to the cups.

Say: **God sent a big fish to give Jonah a timeout because he didn't want to obey God. Jonah had time to think inside the fish about how God's ways are best. We can obey God's ways, too, and do what God wants. We ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

The Scoop on Jonah
Supplies

Bible
large, clean, round trash can with lid
tape
scissors
marker
construction paper
rubber ball
Teacher Pack
"Jonah and the Fish" teaching picture

The Scoop on Jonah
Easy Prep

Cut out 2 large eyes from construction paper, and tape them onto the trash can lid.

A Fish Tale
Supplies

large plastic cups
tape
markers
colored paper
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Fish Fins and Tail" patterns

A Fish Tale
Easy Prep

Copy onto colored paper the tail and fish fins patterns, and cut out a set of fins and a tail for each child.

Obey Away

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's play a game about obeying. I'll say one way we can obey God, and you act it out.**

Say phrases such as "Share your toys" or "Be nice to others." Act out the phrases with the children to help them structure their motions.

Say: **God wants us to obey. We ▶ DO WHAT GOD WANTS.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that we do what God wants because God's ways are best (from Jonah 1–3). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Way to Go

Set your baby on the floor next to you. Create a path for a ball using blocks. Help your baby roll the ball, or roll the ball through the path as your child watches. Play as long as your baby is interested.

Say: **The blocks guide the ball. God guides us, too. We can do what God wants.**

TODDLER

Faithful Followers

Hide a small bag of snacks. Have your child hold on to a jump-rope or other string. Hold on to one end of the rope, and lead your child around the room.

Say: **Keep following me. If you follow me, something good will happen.** Lead your child to the snacks. **Look, snacks! You followed me, and we found something good to eat. We need to follow God's ways, too. God's ways are best, and we can do what God wants.** Enjoy the snacks together.

2-YEAR-OLD

Obey Away

Say: **Let's play a game about obeying. I'll say one way we can obey God, and you act it out.**

Say phrases such as "Share your toys" or "Be nice to others." Act out the phrases with your child.

Exploration

God made young children to be explorers. They always seem to be getting into things. Although this can be frustrating for parents, exploring their surroundings is how children learn. Consistent limit setting, redirection, and appropriate consequences will keep your child safe and lay a foundation from which he or she will someday begin to understand that God's ways are best.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- During bath time, use plastic toys to retell the story of Jonah and the big fish. Remind your child that Jonah learned to obey God.
- While driving, point out traffic signs. Explain what the signs mean and how they keep us safe. Share with your child that God's ways are best because they keep us safe, too.

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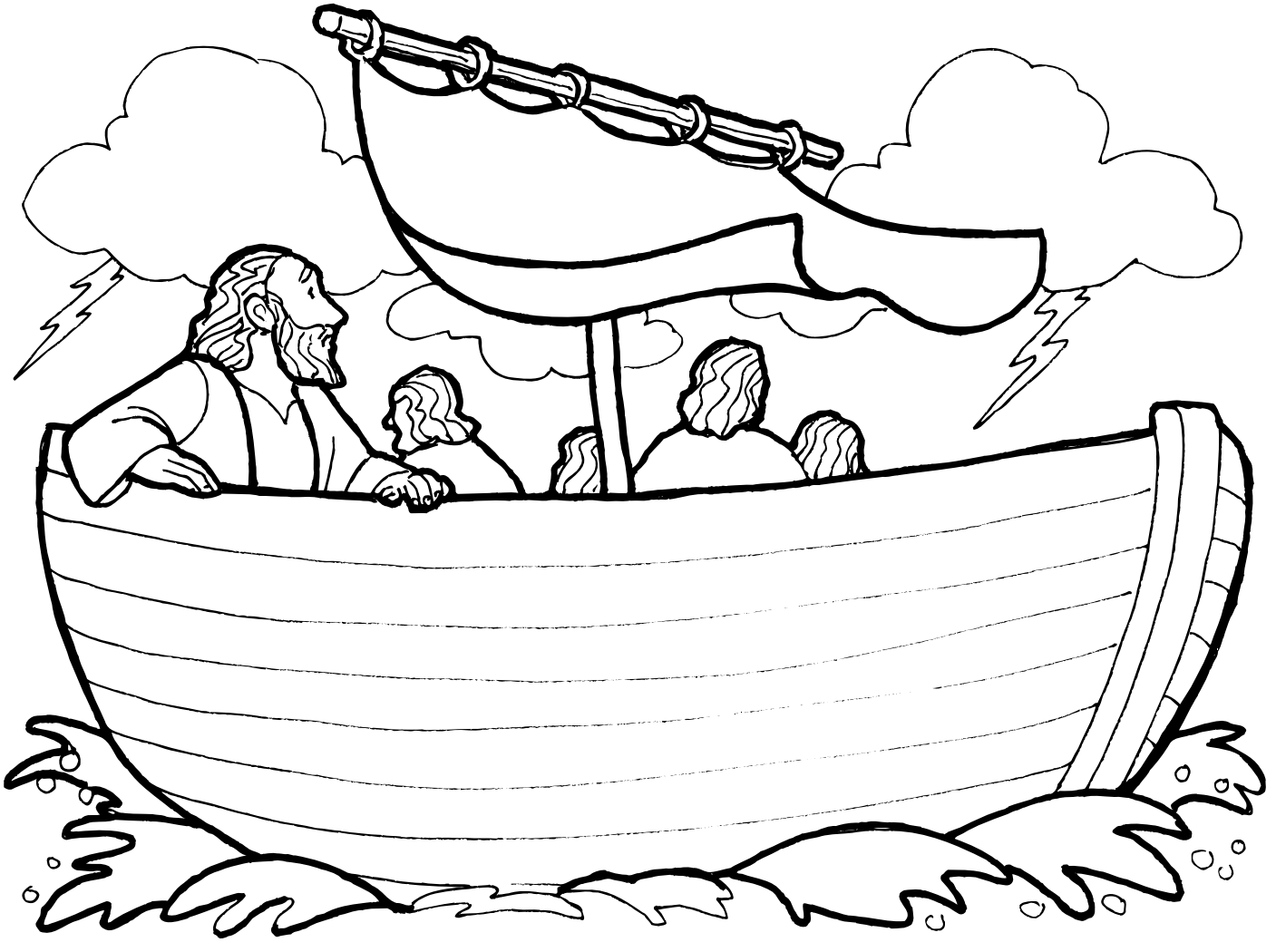
Stormy Seas



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Jonah Complains About God's Compassion Jonah 3:10–4:11

From the moment children begin to understand words, they can learn about God's love for us. It's comforting and exciting for little ones to discover that God created everything and that he loves each of us. From their earliest ages, children can experience different forms of God's love—through the actions and words of the people around them. As you present God as our loving, powerful, and all-knowing creator, emphasize his goodness and how much he loves each of his children. We can all rest in God's goodness and trust in his love.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Sharing God's Love** Learn about sharing God's love.	hand-held mirror **Teacher Pack:** "Heart" stickers	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Where's the Heart?** Play a game about God's love.	scarf **Teacher Pack:** plush heart	
	Let's Share God's Love Listen to a rhyme about sharing God's love.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 share God's love with others.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Showing God's Love** Learn about sharing God's love with others.	Bible, CD player, paper, marker, tape **Teacher Pack:** CD, "Heart" stickers	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Share It! Share It!** Perform an action verse about sharing God's love.		
	God Loves Everyone Glue pictures of children onto the handout as a reminder to share God's love with everyone.	magazines, scissors, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Show God's Love" page (at the end of the lesson), glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out pictures of babies and children from magazines.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Spreading God's Love** Hear how God told Jonah to love the people of Nineveh, and then use heart stickers to share God's love.	Bible, CD player, green construction paper, scissors **Teacher Pack:** CD, "Heart" stickers, "Jonah Complains" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Cut out several leaf shapes from green construction paper.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Show Your Love** Play a game of showing God's love by blowing kisses to a friend.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD, plush heart	
	Lovely Sun Catchers Make sun catchers with hearts and confetti.	one 8½x11-inch piece of clear, self-adhesive plastic per child; scissors; hole puncher; red and pink tissue paper; red yarn; confetti	Cut hearts from red and pink tissue paper and a 6-inch length of red yarn for each child.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Jonah Complains About God's Compassion 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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Do You Share God's Love?" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently bounce a baby to the rhythm and clap baby's hands throughout.

Do you share God's love?
Do you share it with your friends?
Can you tell them he's the light?
Can you tell them he's their friend?
Can you tell them he's their Savior,
And he wants to know them better?
Do you share God's love?
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Sing this song quietly to calm a fussy baby.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 5)

Sharing God's Love
Supplies

hand-held mirror
Teacher Pack
"Heart" stickers

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Sharing God's Love

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap, and have a hand-held mirror nearby.

Say: **Who is this baby?** Hold the mirror in front of the baby's face. **This baby is** [baby's name]**. God loves** [baby's name]**.** Hug the baby. **God wants us to love others.** Help the baby place a heart sticker onto the mirror as he or she looks into it. **God wants us to love our friends.** Help the baby place another heart sticker onto the mirror. **God wants us to share his love with everyone!** Help baby place another heart sticker onto the mirror. Have the baby look in the mirror with the heart stickers surrounding his or her face.

God loves [baby's name] **and wants** [baby's name] **to share his love with everyone.**
▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Where's the Heart?
Supplies

scarf
Teacher Pack
plush heart

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Where's the Heart?

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap, and place the plush heart and a scarf on the floor in front of you.

Say: **Look at the heart on the floor.** Help the baby pick up the heart and hold it. Place the heart on the floor again, and cover it with the scarf. **Where's the heart?** Help the baby remove the scarf and pick up the heart. Repeat this activity several times.

Say: **This heart reminds us of God's love. God loves you and me. God wants us to love others.** ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Let's Share God's Love

What You'll Do

Hold a baby close. Rock and say the following rhyme.

Say: **Let's share God's love,**
With people near and far.
Let's share God's love,
He loves us as we are.
▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Do You Share God's Love?" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children clap their hands with you.

♫ **Do you share God's love?**
Do you share it with your friends?
Can you tell them he's the light?
Can you tell them he's their friend?
Can you tell them he's their Savior,
And he wants to know them better?
Do you share God's love?
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 5)

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Have toddlers hold hands and swing their arms back and forth as you sing.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Showing God's Love

Showing God's Love
Supplies

Bible
CD player
paper
marker
tape
Teacher Pack
"Heart" stickers
CD (track 5)

What You'll Do

Invite a few toddlers to join you. Draw a picture of a child (a stick figure is fine) on paper, and tape it on a wall. Open your Bible to the book of Jonah, and show kids the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **God loves us very much. He wants us to share his love with our teachers.** Give each toddler a hug. **God wants us to share his love with our friends, too.** Have toddlers hug each other. **God also wants us to share his love with everyone.** Give each toddler a heart sticker, and help children place their stickers onto the paper child. Then say: ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Play the song "Do You Share God's Love?" (track 5 on the CD). Have the children hold hands and walk in a circle as they sing the song.

Do you share God's love?
Do you share it with your friends?
Can you tell them he's the light?
Can you tell them he's their friend?
Can you tell them he's their Savior,
And he wants to know them better?
Do you share God's love?
(Repeat.)

When the song is over, have children stand in place and bow their heads.

Pray: **Thank you, God, for loving us. Help us show your love to everyone, especially those who don't know you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Share It! Share It!

What You'll Do

Invite one or two toddlers to join you, and teach them the following action verse:

Say: **God loves us, yes, he does!** *(hug yourself, and nod your head)*
Share it! Share it! *(wave your arms overhead)*
He wants us to tell everyone! *(point to your mouth)*
Share it! Share it! *(wave your arms overhead)*
Tell it to those who don't know him! *(shake your head)*
Share it! Share it! *(wave your arms overhead)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

God Loves Everyone

What You'll Do

Give each child a "Show God's Love" page. Work with one child at a time. Show the child the magazine pictures that you cut out.

Say: **God wants us to share his love with everyone. He wants us to love others.** Help the child glue several of the magazine pictures onto his or her handout.

These children can remind us that God wants us to share his love with everyone.
▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

God Loves Everyone
Supplies

magazines
scissors
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Show God's Love" page (at the end of this lesson)
glue sticks

God Loves Everyone
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out pictures of babies and children from magazines.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 5)

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Do You Share God's Love?" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage kids to follow the motions.

Do you share God's love? *(hold arms out by sides)*
Do you share it with your friends? *(point to a friend)*
Can you tell them he's the light?
Can you tell them he's their friend? *(point to a friend)*
Can you tell them he's their Savior,
And he wants to know them better?
Do you share God's love? *(hold arms out by sides)*
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Sing "God Takes Care of All His Children" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Have kids hug a friend as they sing.

God takes care of all his children,
His children, his children.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.
The rich ones, the poor ones,
The "we-don't-have-any-more" ones.
God takes care of all his children—
Each and every one.

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Spreading God's Love

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to the book of Jonah, and show kids the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Set the "Jonah Complains" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) on the floor, and have children gather around it.

Say: **Jonah got swallowed by a big fish because he didn't do what God wanted him to do. Our Bible tells us more about Jonah. He got upset because God was kind to some people who made bad choices.** Point to the vine on the poster. **God gave Jonah a big vine to sit under to shade him from the hot, hot sun. Let's add leaves to this vine to show how it shaded Jonah from the sun.** Have kids place the leaves that you cut out on the poster's vine. **But Jonah just kept complaining and whining; Jonah was still mad because God was kind to those people. So God took the leaves off the vine, and Jonah had to sit in the hot, hot sun without any shade.** Have kids blow the leaves off the poster's vine. **God told Jonah that ▶ GOD LOVES EVERYONE. God wants us to love everyone, too.** Have children join you in the following action rhyme:

God loves us when we're good, *(make a happy face)*
And he loves us when we're bad. *(make a sad face)*
When we share God's love with others, *(spread your arms out by your sides)*
It makes him very glad! *(smile, and clap your hands)*

Even though it makes God sad, he loves us when we make bad choices. Have children make sad faces. **God wants us to share his love with our friends.** Have children say, "God loves you." **We can share God's love with everyone!** Have children wave their hands overhead. **Now, while the music plays, let's stick hearts on our friends to spread God's love.**

Play the song "Do You Share God's Love?" (track 5 on the CD), and let children place heart stickers on each other. Then say: ▶ **GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Spreading God's Love
Supplies

Bible
CD player
green construction paper
scissors
Teacher Pack
CD (track 5)
"Heart" stickers
"Jonah Complains" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Spreading God's Love
Easy Prep

Cut out several leaf shapes from green construction paper.

Show Your Love
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 5)
plush heart

Lovely Sun Catchers
Supplies

one 8½x11-inch piece of clear, self-adhesive plastic per child
scissors
hole puncher
red and pink tissue paper
red yarn
confetti

Lovely Sun Catchers
Easy Prep

Cut hearts from red and pink tissue paper and a 6-inch length of red yarn for each child.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Show Your Love

What You'll Do

Invite the 2-year-olds to join you and stand in a circle. Play the song "Do You Share God's Love?" (track 5 on the CD), and have the children pass the plush heart around the circle. Stop the music. Encourage children to blow kisses to the child holding the heart. Start the music again, and repeat the process. Do this several times, allowing each child to have a turn holding the heart and receiving kisses.

Say: **God loves us and wants us to share his love with others. We played a fun game and showed God's love to our friends. We can remember to show God's love to everyone because ▶ GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Lovely Sun Catchers

What You'll Do

Working with one child at a time, lay a sheet of plastic on the table with the paper-backing side up. Peel off half of the paper, and help the child lay tissue paper hearts and sprinkle confetti onto the sticky plastic. Then remove the rest of the paper backing and fold the other half over, sealing the hearts and confetti inside. Use a hole puncher to make a hole at the top, and thread the red yarn through.

Say: **You can hang this sun catcher in your window to remind you to share God's love with everyone! ▶ GOD LOVES EVERYONE.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that God loves everyone (from Jonah 3:10–4:11). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Let's Share God's Love

Hold your baby close. Rock and say the following rhyme.

Let's share God's love,
With people near and far.
Let's share God's love,
He loves us as we are.

God loves everyone.

TODDLER

Share It! Share It!

Do the following action verse with your child:

God loves us, yes, he does! *(hug yourself, and nod your head)*

Share it! Share it! *(wave your arms overhead)*

He wants us to tell everyone! *(point to your mouth)*

Share it! Share it! *(wave your arms overhead)*

Tell it to those who don't know him! *(shake your head)*

Share it! Share it! *(wave your arms overhead)*

2-YEAR-OLD

Show Your Love

You will need a heart-shaped item. Play a favorite song, and pass the heart-shaped item back and forth with your child. See who is holding the heart when the song stops. Give a kiss to your child if he or she is holding the heart. Have your child give you a kiss if you are holding the heart. Start the music again, and repeat the process.

Say: **We played a fun game and showed God's love to each other. We can remember to show God's love to everyone!**

God Loves Everyone

Young children naturally think that the world revolves around them. They're learning that God loves them, and this is a great time to help them understand that God loves everyone. As you tell your child about God's love, remind him or her that God loves everyone and that means they can, too. God wants us to share his love with others. Your child will soon learn to share God's love with others, too.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Have your child help make heart-shaped cookies to take to a neighbor. When you deliver the cookies, encourage your child to tell your neighbor that God loves him or her.
- Cut out a heart from red construction paper. Take turns hiding it in your house and letting your child find it. Each time the heart is found, remind your child that he or she can share God's love with everyone.
- Pray with your child at bedtime. Teach your child to pray for everyone to know God's love.

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Show God's Love

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God Calls Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-8

Holiness is a difficult concept for very young children to grasp. But if you alternate between the word *good* and the word *holy,* young children will begin to understand the meaning through context. Young children can understand and embrace the idea that we praise God because he is good. By talking about and participating in different forms of worship with little ones, you'll encourage even the youngest children to join in praising God. This is how children learn to make worshipping our holy God an important part of their lives.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Holy, Holy, Holy** Hear and do actions to learn about Isaiah.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Angel Whispers** Experience stimulation with soft touches and soft words.	**Teacher Pack:** feather	
	God's World See and touch brightly colored objects.	blanket, basket, assorted bright-colored objects	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 practice serving and praising God.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Send Me** Learn about Isaiah through actions and a puzzle.	Bible, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Isaiah" puzzle	Cut apart the pieces of the "Isaiah" puzzle.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Holy Headbands** Make headbands to wear while singing a song of praise.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Angel" page (at the end of the lesson), crayons, one 11x17-inch piece of construction paper per 5 children, safety scissors, stapler, CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut 11x17-inch construction paper into 2x17-inch strips, 1 strip per child.
	Pop-Up Praise Hide under a blanket and pop up to praise God.	large blanket or bedsheet	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**God Is Holy** Learn about Isaiah through actions and a puzzle.	Bible, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Isaiah" puzzle	Cut apart the pieces of the "Isaiah" puzzle.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Servant Search** Play a game to find helpers.		
	Angel Fans Make angels to wave as they sing a song of praise.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Angel" page (at the end of the lesson), crayons, safety scissors, tape, craft sticks, 1 piece of white construction paper per child, stapler	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut a 6x8-inch rectangle from white construction paper for each child.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "God Is Holy" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, use the baby's hands to do the actions.

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Every day, in every way, *(count on fingers)*
We will praise the Lord. *(wave arms over head)*

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Day and night, in dark or light, *(cover eyes, and then uncover eyes)*
We will praise the Lord. *(bow low)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, use the baby's hands to do the actions.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 6)

Holy, Holy, Holy
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 6)

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Holy, Holy, Holy

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor, and lay or hold an infant in front of you. Do the motions with the baby's hands as you tell the child what happened.

Say: **God let Isaiah see his throne.** Cover the baby's eyes with his or her hands; then gently pull them away. **There were special angels there.** Hold the baby's arms in the air, and slowly move them back and forth while you blow softly on the baby's hands. **The angels worshipped God by saying, "Holy, holy, holy."** Clap the baby's hands together three times, and repeat the words. **God called Isaiah to serve him.** Make a bowing motion with the baby's hands. ▶ **GOD IS HOLY. We worship him, too.** Softly sing or listen to "God Is Holy" (track 6 on the CD) as you gently clap the baby's hands.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Angel Whispers
Supplies

Teacher Pack
feather

Angel Whispers

What You'll Do

Sit in a rocking chair with an infant on your lap. Hold the baby close as you rock.

Whisper: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.** Tickle the back of the infant's hands with the feather. **God gave** [baby's name] **hands to praise him with.** Run the feather up the infant's arm. **God gave** [baby's name] **arms to wave in worship.** ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.** Tickle the baby's face with the feather. [Baby's name] **can praise God with his** [or her] **lips.** ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.** If the infant is enjoying the soft feather touches and soft-spoken words, continue to touch and whisper to the infant.

God's World
Supplies

blanket
basket
assorted bright-colored objects

God's World

What You'll Do

Gather several brightly colored, child-safe objects from around the room, and put them in a basket. Spread a blanket on the floor, and lay an infant on his or her back. Kneel in front of the infant.

Say: **The angels called God holy. They said the earth was full of God's glory.** Take an object from the basket, and hold it near the infant's face. Move the object slowly back and forth to gain the baby's attention. Let the infant reach for and grab the object. **God made many beautiful colors. Look at the pretty colors.** Remove another object from the basket, and try to gain the infant's attention with it so that he or she drops the first object and reaches for the one in your hand. **We can praise God for all the bright colors he made.** Continue to introduce new objects as long as the baby's interest holds.
▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "God Is Holy" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" anytime during the lesson. Encourage kids to do the motions with you.

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Every day, in every way, *(count on your fingers)*
We will praise the Lord. *(wave your arms over your head)*

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Day and night, in dark or light, *(pretend to sleep, and then open your eyes)*
We will praise the Lord. *(bow low)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 6)

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. Encourage kids to do the motions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD IS HOLY.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Send Me

Send Me
Supplies

Bible
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Isaiah" puzzle

Send Me
Easy Prep

Cut apart the pieces of the "Isaiah" puzzle.

What You'll Do

Sit with the children on the floor. Show children the puzzle pieces. Open your Bible to Isaiah 6, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **When God told Isaiah to be his helper, he let Isaiah see some very special things.** Lay down the throne puzzle piece. **Isaiah saw God's throne, or special chair. It was very bright!** Have children shade their eyes. Add the angels piece. **Special angels were flying all around, calling, "Holy, holy, holy!"** Ask children to pretend to be angels by flapping their arms while still sitting. Encourage kids to say, "Holy, holy, holy!" with you. Then add the smoke piece.

When the angels sang, the room shook and filled with smoke. Have children shake their bodies. Add the Isaiah piece. **God asked, "Who will be my helper?" Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!"** Have the children bow down like Isaiah in the picture. **Isaiah told others about our holy God. Isaiah became God's helper because ▶ GOD IS HOLY.** Lead the children in clapping their hands and saying, "Praise God!"

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Holy Headbands

What You'll Do

Give each child an "Angel" page. Work with two toddlers at a time.

Say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY. He is good, and we praise him.** Encourage the children to say, "Praise God." **The special angels praised God by saying, "Holy, holy, holy."** Ask the children to repeat the phrase with you. **Let's make special headbands to wear when we praise God.**

Have the children color the angel on the page. Help toddlers cut around the angel. Measure the strips of construction paper to fit the children's heads, and staple the paper ends together. Staple the angels to the front of the headbands. When the children have completed their headbands, lead them in singing "God Is Holy" (track 6 on the CD) as they wear their headbands. Then say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

♫ **God is holy.** *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Every day, in every way, *(count on your fingers)*
We will praise the Lord. *(wave your arms over your head)*

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Day and night, in dark or light, *(pretend to sleep, and then open your eyes)*
We will praise the Lord. *(bow low)*

Pop-Up Praise

What You'll Do

Let each child take turns climbing under the sheet or blanket. Encourage the other children to say this rhyme with you:

▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**
God is good!
Who can praise him?
We could!

At the end of the rhyme, the child under the blanket can pop up like a jack-in-the-box and say, "Praise God!" Play until each child has had a turn to pop up.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

Holy Headbands
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Angel" page (at the end of the lesson)
crayons
one 11x17-inch piece of construction paper per 5 children
safety scissors
stapler
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 6)

Holy Headbands
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut 11x17-inch construction paper into 2x17-inch strips, 1 strip per child.

Pop-Up Praise
Supplies

large blanket or bedsheet

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 6)

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "God Is Holy" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage kids to do the actions with you.

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Every day, in every way, *(count on your fingers)*
We will praise the Lord. *(wave your arms over your head)*

God is holy. *(point to heaven)*
Holy is the Lord. *(point to heaven)*
Day and night, in dark or light, *(pretend to sleep, and then open your eyes)*
We will praise the Lord. *(bow low)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage kids to do the actions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

God Is Holy

What You'll Do

Have children sit on the floor with you. Open your Bible to Isaiah 6, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Lay out the throne puzzle piece.

Say: **God gave Isaiah a dream. Isaiah saw God's bright, shining throne, or special chair.** Point to the throne piece and have the children shade their eyes. Add the angels puzzle piece. **Special angels were singing to God. They said "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty!"** Have children pretend to flap their wings while remaining seated. Add the smoke piece. **As the angels sang, the room began to shake like an earthquake. Smoke was everywhere.** Have children shake their bodies. Add the Isaiah piece. **Isaiah was afraid.** Have the children bow down.

Then an angel touched Isaiah and said, "God has forgiven your sins." God said, "Who will go and help others?" Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Take the puzzle apart, and let children have turns putting the pieces back together. As they do, repeat this brief version of the Bible passage: (1) God let Isaiah see his throne; (2) the angels called God holy; (3) God's power shook the room; and (4) Isaiah became God's helper. Then say: ▶ **GOD IS HOLY.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Servant Search

What You'll Do

Gather the children in a circle. If your group is large, help children form two groups to do the actions simultaneously so the waiting time isn't so long.

Say: **When God asked Isaiah, "Who will go?" Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!" He became God's helper. Isaiah knew ▶ GOD IS HOLY, so he wanted to be God's helper. We're going to play a game to see if we're helpers.**

Tell children you're going to ask them to do tasks such as bring you a book, hug a friend, or pick up a toy. Choose a child to be the first helper, and assign the child a task. When the child finishes the task, give him or her a hug.

God Is Holy
Supplies

Bible
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Isaiah" puzzle

God Is Holy
Easy Prep

Cut apart the pieces of the "Isaiah" puzzle.

Angel Fans
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Angel" page (at the end of this lesson)
crayons
safety scissors
tape
craft sticks
1 piece of white construction paper per child
stapler

Angel Fans
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut a 6x8-inch rectangle from white construction paper for each child.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Say: **We're God's helpers because ▶ GOD IS HOLY. Thank you for being a good helper.** Repeat until all the children have had turns being helpers.

Angel Fans

What You'll Do

Give each child an "Angel" page. Work with two children at a time.

Say: **In Isaiah's vision, special angels were praising God. They said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty." ▶ GOD IS HOLY.**

Have children color their angels, and then help them cut out the angels. Help children each accordion-fold the rectangle of construction paper. Staple together the folds at one end to make the angel's skirt. Tape the angel to the skirt, covering the stapled end. Flare the other end slightly. Tape a craft stick to the back of the angel's skirt. When all the children have finished their angel fans, encourage them to wave their angels through the air as you sing "G-L-O-R-Y."

♫ **The Lord our God is Almighty!** *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that God is holy (from Isaiah 6:1-8). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Angel Whispers

You will need a feather or a soft tissue. Sit in a rocking chair with your baby on your lap. Hold your baby close as you rock.

Say: **God is holy.** Tickle the back of your baby's hands with the feather. **God gave** [baby's name] **hands to praise him with.** Run the feather up your baby's arm. **God gave** [baby's name] **arms to wave in worship. God is holy!** Tickle your baby's face with the feather. [Baby's name] **can praise God with his** [or her] **lips. God is holy!**

TODDLER

Pop-Up Praise

You'll need a large blanket or bedsheet. Have your child hide under the blanket. Once your child is hidden, say this rhyme:

Say: **God is holy!**
God is good!
Who can praise him?
We could!

At the end of the rhyme, your child should pop up from under the blanket and say, "Praise God!"

2-YEAR-OLD

Servant Search

Say: **When God asked Isaiah, "Who will go?" Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!" He became God's helper. We're going to play a game to practice being a helper.**

Tell your child you're going to ask him or her to do things such as bring you a book, hug you or a sibling, or pick up a toy. When your child finishes each task, give him or her a hug.

Say: **Thank you! You are a good helper!**

Wholly God

Holiness is a difficult concept for very young children to grasp. But if you substitute the word *good* for the word *holy*, your child can relate easier because he or she is learning to distinguish between good and bad. Young children can understand and embrace the idea that we praise God because he's good. Discuss and participate in different forms of worship with your family, and encourage even your youngest child to join in. This is how your child will learn to make worship an important part of his or her life.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- As you sit for a meal, have each person in the family praise God for something. Help your child to think of a praise, too.
- Take a walk with your child, and point out the things in nature that remind us to praise God. For example, "The flowers turn their heads up in praise" or "The birds sing their praises."
- During family times, make a praise list as well as a prayer list.

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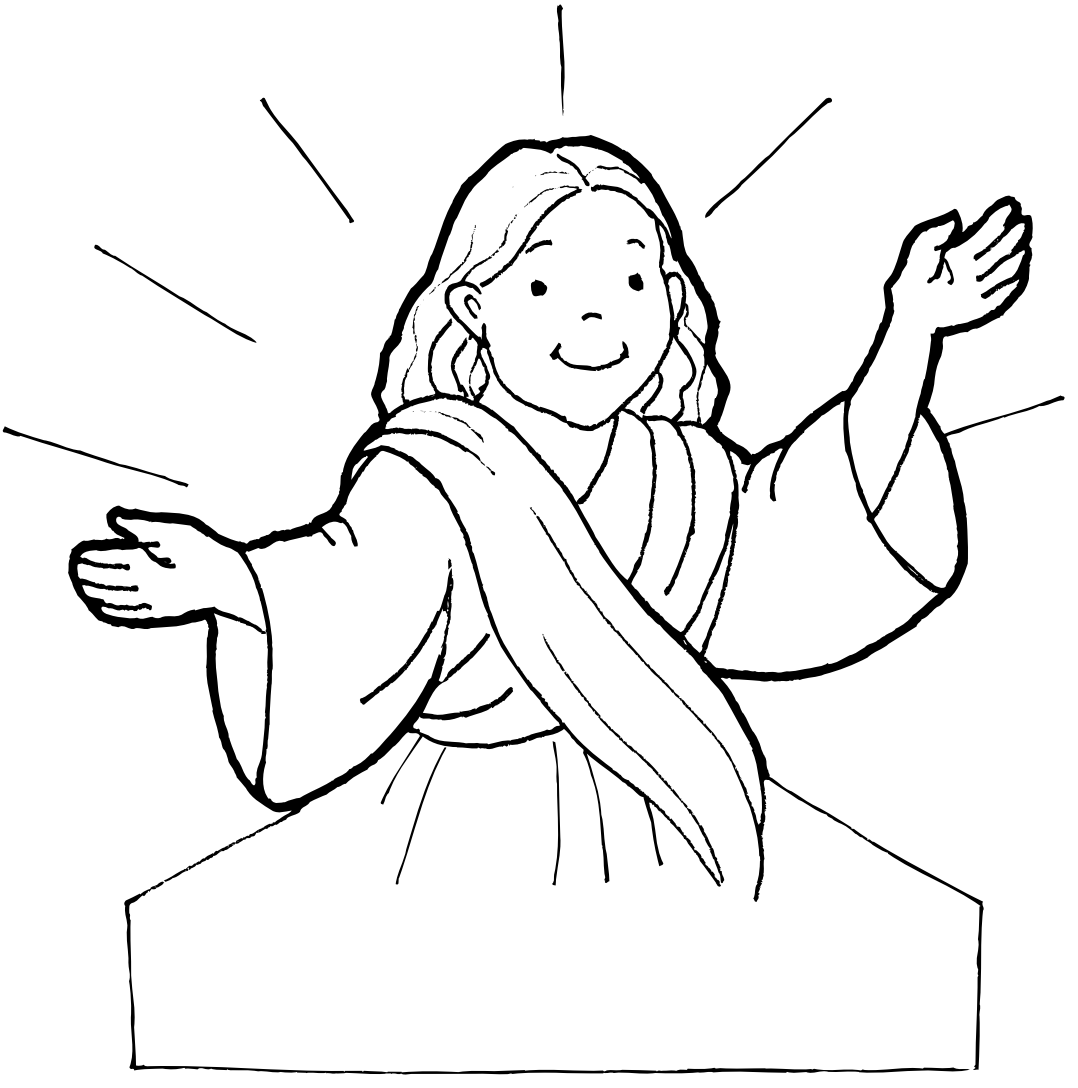
Angel



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Josiah Promises to Follow the Lord 2 Chronicles 34

Young children often have special or favorite toys; even babies favor a certain toy or blanket over another. You can help make the Bible one of these favorites by making it a constant presence with kids. Purchase several illustrated children's Bibles for your room, and have them where children can find them and look at them often. Children will soon have favorite Bible passages, and the Bible will become a staple in your room. Thank you for helping little ones begin to value and treasure the Bible!

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**This Is the Bible** Learn that the Bible is God's Word.	illustrated children's Bible	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Do You Have a Bible Book?** Hear a rhyme about the Bible.	Bible	
	Finding God's Word Crawl along the floor to find a Bible.	Bible	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 see the Bible as a special gift from God.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The Bible Is God's Word** Learn that the Bible tells us about Jesus.	illustrated children's Bible	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Where's the Bible?** Play a game to find the Word of God.	Bible	
	Bible Stamp Stick a cross on a picture of a Bible to show that it's God's Word.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "God's Word" page (at the end of the lesson) **Teacher Pack:** "Cross" stickers	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**This Is God's Word** Learn that the Bible is the Word of God.	Bible, gift wrap, bow, scissors, tape, glue sticks (optional) **Teacher Pack:** "Josiah Reads God's Word" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Gift-wrap a Bible in colorful paper and a bow. Cut a 1-inch square of gift wrap for each child.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Can You Find It?** Find a Bible in a pile of books.	Bible, children's books	
	Make a Bible Bookmark Make bookmarks to use in their Bibles.	markers or crayons, white card stock, scissors, other items to make a bookmark **Teacher Pack:** "Cross" stickers	Cut one 2x4-inch rectangle from white card stock for each child, and one extra one for your pastor or Christian education director. On the back of the bookmark for your pastor or director, write: "Thank you for helping us learn about God's Word!" Then sign the card from your group.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 7)

What You'll Do

Sing "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Have God's Word?" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently bounce a baby to the rhythm.

The Bible is the Word of God.
It tells us about him and his love.
The Bible has stories that are true—
Stories about God's love for me and you.

Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?
Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?
Reading the Bible the whole book through—
Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?

The Bible is the Word of God.
It tells us about him and his love.
The Bible has stories that are true—
Stories about God's love for me and you.

Afterward, say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, hold an infant on your lap and use the child's hands to do the actions.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

This Is the Bible
Supplies

illustrated children's Bible

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

This Is the Bible

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap.

Say: **This is a Bible.** Place the Bible in the baby's hands. **Can you pat the Bible?** Pat the baby's hands on the Bible. **Can you rub the Bible?** Rub the baby's hands on the Bible. **Can you hug the Bible?** Help the baby hug the Bible to his or her chest.

The Bible is a special book. It is God's Word. ▶ THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Do You Have a Bible Book?
Supplies

Bible

Do You Have a Bible Book?

What You'll Do

Hold a Bible and gently bounce a baby on your lap as you say the following rhyme.

Do you have a Bible book,
A Bible book, a Bible book?
Do you have a Bible book
That is the Word of God?
Oh, yes, I have a Bible book,
A Bible book, a Bible book!
Oh, yes, I have a Bible book
That is the Word of God!

Finding God's Word
Supplies

Bible

Finding God's Word

What You'll Do

Set a crawling baby near you on the floor, and place a Bible close by. Encourage the baby to crawl to the Bible.

Say: **Can you find the Bible? It's God's Word.** When the baby has crawled to the Bible, let the baby touch and hold it.

Say: **The Bible is a special book. It's the Word of God. God's Word is important.**
▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Have God's Word?" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children clap their hands.

The Bible is the Word of God.
It tells us about him and his love.
The Bible has stories that are true—
Stories about God's love for me and you.

Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?
Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?
Reading the Bible the whole book through—
Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?

The Bible is the Word of God.
It tells us about him and his love.
The Bible has stories that are true—
Stories about God's love for me and you.

Afterward, say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 7)

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage children to do the actions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Bible Is God's Word

The Bible Is God's Word Supplies

illustrated children's Bible

What You'll Do

Invite one or two toddlers to join you on the floor. Hold up an illustrated children's Bible.

Say: **This is the Bible. It's the Word of God.** Have toddlers take turns holding the Bible. **The Bible tells us about Jesus.** Open the Bible to a picture of Jesus, and let the children touch the picture of Jesus. **God's Word is important. Can you say "Bible" with me?** Encourage children to say the word *Bible* with you.

Say the following action rhyme with children.

The Bible is the Word of God, *(hold your palms together like an open book)*
Word of God, Word of God. *(hold your palms together like an open book)*
The Bible is the Word of God; *(hold your palms together like an open book)*
It tells us about him. *(point up)*

Read your favorite Bible passage from the children's Bible, showing children the pictures as you read. Then say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Where's the Bible?

What You'll Do

Hold up the Bible, and say: **Do you know what this is? It's a Bible. It's the Word of God.** Place the Bible where the toddler will easily spot it. **Can you find the Bible?** Encourage the toddler to find the Bible.

Say: **Great! You found the Bible—God's Word.** Continue playing the game, hiding the Bible and allowing the toddler to find it until he or she tires of the game. Hold the Bible in your hand. **This is the Bible. ▶ THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Where's the Bible?
Supplies

Bible

Bible Stamp

What You'll Do

Give each child a "God's Word" page. Work with one child at a time. Help each child place a cross sticker on the Bible in the picture. Explain that the cross reminds us of God. Write the child's name on the page and date it. Give it to the child's parent after class.

Say: **The Bible is a very special book. The Bible is the Word of God, and it shows us how to live. We can learn all about God in the Bible. ▶ THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Bible Stamp
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "God's Word" page (at the end of the lesson)
Teacher Pack
"Cross" stickers

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 7)

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Have God's Word?" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom, Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage kids to clap with you on the words "boom, boom."

The Bible is the Word of God.
It tells us about him and his love.
The Bible has stories that are true—
Stories about God's love for me and you.

Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?
Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?
Reading the Bible the whole book through—
Boom, boom, ain't it great to have God's Word?

The Bible is the Word of God.
It tells us about him and his love.
The Bible has stories that are true—
Stories about God's love for me and you.

Afterward, say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage children to do the motions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

This Is God's Word

What You'll Do

Gather the 2-year-olds on the floor in a circle. Hold up the gift-wrapped Bible. Say: **What do you think this is?** Pause. **It's something very special!** Let children help you unwrap the Bible. **This is the Bible. It's God's Word. ▶ THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK. I'm going to tell you a story, and I want you to repeat it after me.**

This is the Bible. *(have children echo the line)*
It's God's Word. *(echo)*
It's a book about Jesus. *(echo)*
It's a book about God's love. *(echo)*
This is the Bible. *(echo)*
It's God's Word. *(echo)*

Pass around the Bible, and let each child take a turn holding it. As each child holds the Bible, encourage him or her to say "Bible" or "God's Word."

Set out the "Josiah Reads God's Word" poster and the squares of gift wrap.

Say: **This man is a king.** Point to Josiah on the poster. **He is reading God's Word to his people.** Point to the crowd of people on the poster. **These people have never heard God's Word before. They're excited to hear it. They're getting a very special gift—God's Word!** Have kids place the squares of gift wrap on the poster. If you want to display the poster afterward, you can use a glue stick to attach the squares of gift wrap. **The Bible is a gift from God. ▶ THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

This Is God's Word
Supplies

Bible
gift wrap
bow
scissors
tape
glue sticks (optional)
Teacher Pack
"Josiah Reads God's Word" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

This Is God's Word
Easy Prep

Gift-wrap a Bible in colorful paper and a bow. Cut a 1-inch square of gift wrap for each child.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Can You Find It?

What You'll Do

Put the children's books and the Bible in a pile on the floor, and invite a 2-year-old to join you. Say: **Can you find the Bible?** Let the child look at the books.

Say: **These are all good books, but the Bible is the most important book of all. It's God's Word.** Encourage the child to find the Bible, and help as needed. Then say: **▶ THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Can You Find It?
Supplies

Bible
children's books

Make a Bible Bookmark
Supplies

markers or crayons
white card stock
scissors
other items to make a bookmark
Teacher Pack
"Cross" stickers

Make a Bible Bookmark
Easy Prep

Cut one 2x4-inch rectangle from white card stock for each child, and one extra one for your pastor or Christian education director. On the back of the bookmark for your pastor or director, write: "Thank you for helping us learn about God's Word!" Then sign the card from your group.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Make a Bible Bookmark

What You'll Do

Work with one child at a time. Demonstrate how to place a cross sticker on the card stock to make a Bible bookmark. Help the children decorate their bookmarks with crayons or markers and other items, such as stickers, stamps, yarn, and so on. Explain that the cross reminds us of God and that the Bible is God's Word.

Say: **You can use this bookmark in your Bible, God's Word.**

Write each child's name on his or her bookmark, and send it home after class.

When children are finished with their own bookmarks, show them the bookmark that you prepared for your pastor or Christian education director. Tell kids whom the bookmark is for, and read the note you wrote on the back. Place a cross sticker on the bookmark, and then help each child sign it with markers or crayons. If you have time during class, lead the kids to the pastor's or director's office, and have the kids present the bookmark. Otherwise, deliver the bookmark afterward.

Say: ▶ **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that the Bible is God's special book (from 2 Chronicles 34). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Finding God's Word

Set your baby near you on the floor, and place a Bible close by. Encourage your baby to crawl or reach for the Bible.

Say: **Can you find the Bible? It's God's Word.** When your baby has crawled to the Bible, let your baby touch and hold it.

Say: **The Bible is a special book. It is the Word of God. The Bible is God's special book.**

TODDLER

Where's the Bible?

Show your toddler a Bible.

Say: **Do you know what this is? It's a Bible. It's God's Word.** Place the Bible in a location where your toddler will easily spot it. **Can you find the Bible?** Encourage your toddler to find the Bible.

Say: **Great! You found the Bible—the Word of God.** Continue hiding the Bible and playing the game until your child tires of the game. **This is the Bible. It is the Word of God. The Bible is God's special book.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Can You Find It?

Put several children's books and a Bible in a pile on the floor, and invite your child to join you.

Say: **Can you find the Bible?** Let your child look through the books.

Say: **These are all good books, but the Bible is the most important book of all. It's God's Word. The Bible is God's special book.** Encourage your child to find the Bible.

My Very Own Bible

Young children have special or favorite toys; even babies favor a certain toy or blanket over another. Purchase an illustrated children's Bible for your child, and read it to him or her often. Your child will soon have favorite Bible passages, and the Bible will become one of your child's most treasured possessions.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Fill up a basket with several books, including a Bible. Play a game with your child, having him or her "find" the Bible. Tell your child that the Bible is God's special book.
- If your child has a Bible, find a special place to keep it in your home. Read it often, and let your child know that it is God's special book. If your child does not have his or her own Bible, take your child to a bookstore to purchase a new children's Bible.

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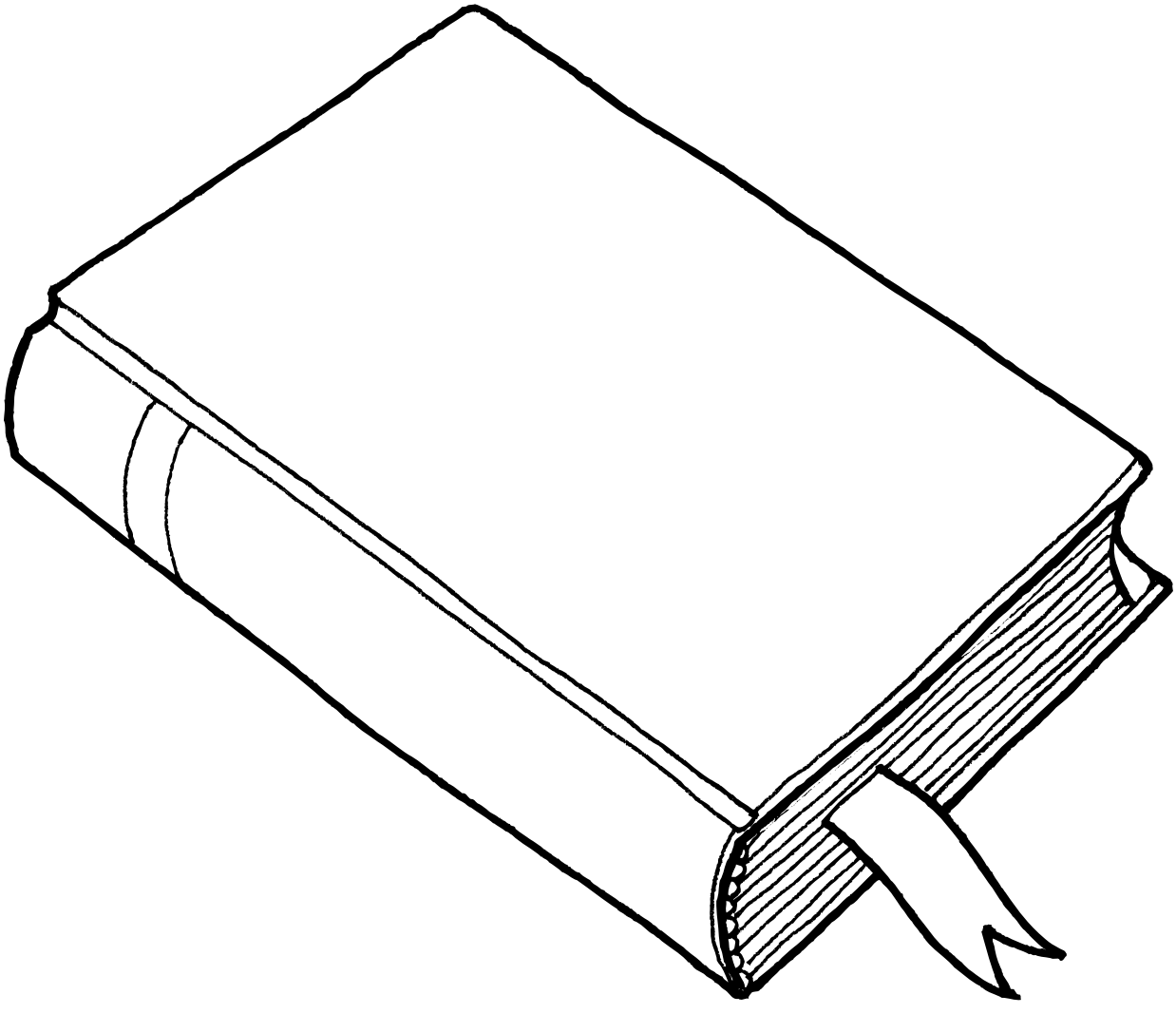
God's Word



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

Although young children are too small to grasp the concept of being brave for God, we can begin to make conversation about God a natural part of their lives. As they get older, children will have plenty of opportunities to wrestle with a world in which God is absent from conversation or is even considered a myth. But when they know him as a fundamental part of their lives from their early childhood, they'll be more ready to stand up for him when the time comes. Parents and caregivers can build a child's devotion to God through daily Bible talks, talking about what God does for them, and prayer.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Hot Rocks** Hear about Daniel's friends.	bowl of warm water, rocks **Teacher Pack:** "Fiery Furnace" teaching picture	Set a few medium-sized rocks in a bowl of warm water.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Hot Stuff** Feel the warmth from a blanket.	blanket	
	Standing Ovation Experience an action rhyme that reminds them of Daniel's friends in the furnace.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 practice being brave for God.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Fire Men** Hear about Daniel's friends in the furnace.	Bible, plastic page protector, card stock, red dry-erase marker, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Fiery Furnace" teaching picture	Put the "Fiery Furnace" teaching picture in the page protector. Cut a strip of card stock large enough to cover the angel, and slip it into the page protector over the angel.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Fired Up!** Decorate a picture of Daniel's friends in the furnace.	glue sticks, red tissue paper, crayons, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel's Friends" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.
	Fire, Fire Act out what happened to Daniel's friends.	small balls, white tube socks, red and yellow markers	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**A Jarring Lesson** Hear about Daniel's friends.	Bible, quart-sized jar, 1 copy of the "Daniel's Friends" handout (at the end of the lesson), scissors, red finger paint, wet wipes	Cut the angel out of the "Daniel's Friends" handout.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Fiery Pictures** Make melted crayon "flames" on the handout.	yellow, red, and orange crayons; knife; wax paper; iron; towel; My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel's Friends" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut two 13-inch pieces of wax paper per child. Use a knife to make crayon shavings.
	God Saves the Day Sing a song about being brave for God.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Daniel's Friends Are Safe in the Fiery Furnace 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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently rock a baby in your arms to the rhythm.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God.
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

Afterward, say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, hold an infant on your lap and use his or her hands to do the actions.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

Hot Rocks
Supplies

bowl of warm water
rocks
Teacher Pack
"Fiery Furnace" teaching picture

Hot Rocks
Easy Prep

Set a few medium-sized rocks in a bowl of warm water.

Hot Stuff
Supplies

blanket

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Hot Rocks

What You'll Do

Set a baby on your lap, and show him or her the "Fiery Furnace" teaching picture.
Say: **A bad king wanted Daniel's friends to pray to him instead of to God. Daniel's friends said, "No way!" The bad king wanted to hurt the men by putting them in a hot place.** Pull a rock out of the water, test it to make sure it's not hot, and touch the baby's hand with it. **This is warm. Daniel's friends would have been hurt if they got too warm. God sent an angel to keep Daniel's friends safe. God protected Daniel's friends because they were brave and stood up for God. We can ▶ BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Hot Stuff

What You'll Do

Place a soft blanket on the floor, and place a baby on the blanket.

Say: **The blanket feels good and warm. God keeps us safe and warm. God stands up for us, so we can ▶ BE BRAVE FOR GOD. We'll never be burned. We'll just feel his warm love.**

Standing Ovation

What You'll Do

Set a baby in front of you. Say this rhyme, and help the baby do the motions.

A bad, old king told Daniel's friends to do wrong—*(gently wave baby's hand back and forth)*
"Pray to this statue when you hear my song." *(make praying hands)*
Daniel's friends said "No! *(wave baby's hand back and forth)*
We will not bow; *(sit the baby on his or her bottom)*
We'll stand for God. He will show us how." *(stand the baby up)*

Say: **We can ▶ BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children pretend to shake their fingers at the bad king.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God.
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

Afterward, say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children do the actions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Fire Men
Supplies

Bible
plastic page protector
card stock
red dry-erase marker
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Fiery Furnace" teaching picture

Fire Men
Easy Prep

Put the "Fiery Furnace" teaching picture in the page protector. Cut a strip of card stock large enough to cover the angel, and slip it into the page protector over the angel.

Fired Up!
Supplies

glue sticks
red tissue paper
crayons
1 copy per child of the "Daniel's Friends" page (at the end of the lesson)

Fired Up!
Easy Prep

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

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Fire Men

What You'll Do

Gather a group of toddlers around you. Open your Bible to Daniel 3, and show kids the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **In our Bible passage, a bad king wanted everyone to pray to his statue. Daniel's friends said "No! God wants us to pray to him only. We will not pray to your statue." The king was mad, and he put Daniel's friends in a big furnace. A furnace is a place with lots of fire. It was not a safe place to be.** Let toddlers take turns scribbling flames with a red dry-erase marker on the "Fiery Furnace" teaching picture in the page protector. **The king looked in the furnace. He thought Daniel's friends would be hurt. But God sent an angel to keep them safe and let them out of the furnace.** Remove the strip of card stock, and reveal the angel. **God protected Daniel's friends because they were brave and stood up for God. We can ▶ BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Fired Up!

What You'll Do

Give each child a copy of the "Daniel's Friends" page.

Say: **The three men in your picture are Daniel's friends. They wouldn't obey the bad king's evil law to worship something other than God. The bad king threw Daniel's friends into the furnace. Let's add flames to our pictures.** Show the children how to tear small pieces of red tissue paper and glue them onto their pictures. **God kept the men safe because they were brave and stood up for him. Let's draw happy faces on the men to show they're safe. We can ▶ BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too, no matter what. God will keep us safe.**

Help children use crayons to draw smiles on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Fire, Fire

What You'll Do

Give each child a white tube sock. Let children scribble on the socks with yellow and red markers. Explain that the socks will be the furnace. Give each child a small ball, and ask children to pretend that the ball is one of Daniel's friends. Let the children re-enact what happened by putting the ball in the sock and drawing it out again. Remind them that we can ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.** Use the ball and sock to retell what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Fire, Fire
Supplies

small balls
white tube socks
red and yellow markers

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children stand at attention every time they sing the word *stand*.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God.
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God;

We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

Afterward, say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have children do the actions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Jarring Lesson

A Jarring Lesson
Supplies

Bible
quart-sized jar
1 copy of the "Daniel's Friends" handout (at the end of the lesson)
scissors
red finger paint
wet wipes

A Jarring Lesson
Easy Prep

Cut the angel out of the "Daniel's Friends" handout.

What You'll Do

Gather the children around you, and open your Bible to Daniel 3. Show kids the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Bible passage is from the book of Daniel. A mean king wanted everyone to pray to his statue. Everyone bowed to the statue and prayed, but Daniel's friends didn't. They stood up for God instead.** Have the children stand up and say, "We're standing up for God."

Say: **The king was angry and had Daniel's friends thrown into a hot furnace.** Put the picture of Daniel's friends into a quart-sized jar. Allow the children to finger-paint red flames on the outside of the jar. Then give them wet wipes to clean their hands. **The king looked into the furnace. What a surprise! The flames didn't burn Daniel's friends. An angel joined them in the fire** (place the angel picture in the jar) **and kept them safe! God saved them because they were brave and stood up for God. We can ▶ BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Fiery Pictures

What You'll Do

Set the supplies on a table. Set a piece of wax paper on the table and then set the handout faceup on top. Show children how to sprinkle crayon shavings on the picture, and then set the second sheet of wax paper on top. Lay a towel on a countertop that's out of children's reach. Place a child's work on the towel, and press it with the iron. The crayons will melt, making "flames," and the edges of the wax paper will fuse together.

Give children their artwork once the pages have cooled, and say: ▶ **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

God Saves the Day

What You'll Do

Sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Have the children hold hands and move together as they sing. Insert a child's name in the second verse. Sing as many verses as you need to include everyone.

The king told us to pray.
To an idol? "No way!"
Oh, no, we will not go—
We'll stand for God today!

[Child's name]**'s in the fire,**
[Child's name]**'s in the fire,**
But God saves; [child's name]**'s brave.**
[Child's name] **is brave for God.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Fiery Pictures
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel's Friends" page (at the end of the lesson)
yellow, red, and orange crayons
knife
wax paper
iron
towel

Fiery Pictures
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut two 13-inch pieces of wax paper per child. Use a knife to make crayon shavings.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

HOME CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus

Praise Pointers

Although young children are too small to grasp the concept of being brave for God, you can begin to make conversation about God a natural part of their lives. When they know him as a fundamental part of their lives from their early childhood, they'll be more ready to stand up for him when the time comes. You can build a child's devotion to God through daily Bible talks, talking about what God does for them, and prayer.

Your child learned that we can be brave for God (from Daniel 3). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Hot Stuff

Place a blanket on the floor, and place your baby on the blanket.

Say: **The blanket feels good and warm. God keeps us warm and safe. We can be brave for God because he stands up for us.**

TODDLER

Fire, Fire

Give your child a white tube sock. Let your child scribble on the sock with yellow and red markers. Explain that the sock will be the furnace. Give your child a small ball, and have him or her pretend that the ball is one of Daniel's friends. Let your child re-enact what happened by putting the ball in the sock and drawing it out again. Remind your child that he or she can be brave for God. Use the ball and sock to retell what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

2-YEAR-OLD

God Saves the Day

Sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." When the song speaks of God's saving, join hands and move around the room.

The king told us to pray.
To an idol? "No way!"
Oh, no, we will not go—
We'll stand for God today!
[Child's name]**'s in the fire,**
[Child's name]**'s in the fire,**
But God saves; [child's name]**'s brave.**
[Child's name] **is brave for God.**

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Review your home fire-safety rules. Instruct your child never to play with matches. Remind your child that God protected Daniel's friends; if he hadn't, they would've been hurt.
- Retell what happened to Daniel's friends using your fingers. Draw faces on each of your fingers. Make your thumb the king, your index finger the angel, and the remaining fingers Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

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Daniel's Friends

! OK TO COPY
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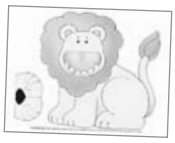
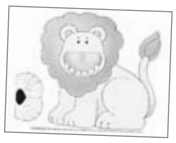
God Protects Daniel in the Lions' Den Daniel 6:1-23

Young children readily identify with their caregivers. They recognize the people who meet their physical needs when they are fed, bathed, and diapered. They also recognize the people who meet their emotional needs when they're held, hugged, and loved. As children grow, they'll learn that God takes care of them through your loving example and that of others. Thank you for being God's hands and feet to these little children!

INFANT

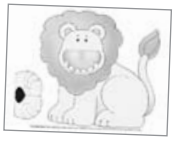
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Daniel and the Lions** Learn how God took care of Daniel in the lions' den.	clear tape, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Lion" puppet figure, self-adhesive hook-and-loop fastener 	Cut out the lion's mouth, and attach it to the lion with clear tape to form a hinge so the mouth will open and close. Attach the fastener to the nose and head of the lion. This will hold the mouth in an open position.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Open and Shut** Play a game to reinforce what happened to Daniel in the lions' den.	box with a hinged lid, tape, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Lion" puppet figure 	Make a copy of the lion's face. Cut out the lion's face, and tape it to the top of the box.
	Daniel's Lullaby Listen to a rhyme about Daniel.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 protect them.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Daniel in the Lion's Den** Learn how God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den.	Bible, clear tape, scissors **Teacher Pack: "**Lion" puppet figure, self-adhesive hook-and-loop fastener 	Cut out the lion's mouth, and attach it to the lion with clear tape to form a hinge so the mouth will open and close. Attach the fastener to the nose and head of the lion. This will hold the mouth in an open position.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**The Angel Shut the Lions' Mouths** Sing an action song about the lions.		
	No, No, Lions! Do a finger-puppet play about the lesson.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel and the Lions" page (at the end of the lesson), tape, scissors	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the Daniel and the lion finger puppets. Be sure to cut along the dotted lines to create the tabs. (Make a set of puppets for yourself as well.)
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**God Closed the Lions' Mouths** Help tell how God protected Daniel from the lions.	Bible, tape **Teacher Pack:** "Daniel in the Lions' Den" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Where Is Daniel?** Do a finger-puppet rhyme about the Bible lesson.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel and the Lions" page (at the end of the lesson), tape, scissors	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the Daniel and the lion finger puppets. Be sure to cut along the dotted lines to create the tabs. (Make a set of puppets for yourself as well.)
	Lion, Lion, Close Your Mouth Play a game to reinforce that God protected Daniel from the lions.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently rock a baby to the rhythm.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God.
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, hold an infant on your lap and use his or her hands to do the actions.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap baby's hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(open baby's arms wide)*

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

Daniel and the Lions
Supplies

clear tape
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Lion" puppet figure
self-adhesive hook-and-loop fastener

Daniel and the Lions
Easy Prep

Cut out the lion's mouth, and attach it to the lion with clear tape to form a hinge so the mouth will open and close. Attach the fastener to the nose and head of the lion. This will hold the mouth in an open position.

Open and Shut
Supplies

box with a hinged lid
tape
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Lion" puppet figure

Open and Shut
Easy Prep

Make a copy of the lion's face. Cut out the lion's face, and tape it to the top of the box.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Daniel and the Lions

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap. Show the baby the lion puppet figure (make sure the mouth is open). Say: **Do you see the lion?** Help the baby touch the lion. **Do you see the lion's mouth? He has sharp teeth!** Help the baby touch the lion's mouth.

A man named Daniel was put with a bunch of lions with sharp teeth. God sent an angel, and the angel shut the lions' mouths just like this! Help baby close the lion's mouth. **God kept Daniel safe from the lions. God takes care of us and keeps us safe, too.** Hug the baby. ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Open and Shut

What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap with the closed box on the floor in front of you.

Say: **When Daniel was in the lions' den, the lions wanted to open their mouths to make a meal out of him. Can you open the box?** Help the baby open the box. **When Daniel was in the lions' den, an angel shut the lions' mouths so they wouldn't hurt Daniel. Can you shut the box?** Let the baby shut the box. Continue helping the baby open and close the box until the baby tires of the game. **The lions had hungry mouths, but the angel shut them. God kept Daniel safe.** ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Daniel's Lullaby

What You'll Do

Hold and rock a baby as you say the following rhyme:

Daniel in the lions' den,
The Lord took good care of him.
He sent an angel down that night,
Made the lions' mouths shut tight.
Daniel in the lions' den,
The Lord took good care of him.

Say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. Have toddlers stand up and then sit down every time they sing "stand up for God."

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

We will stand up for God. *(stand up)*
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. Have children gather around you, and do the actions with them.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD PROTECTS US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel in the Lions' Den
Supplies

Bible
clear tape
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Lion" puppet figure
self-adhesive hook-and-loop fastener

Daniel in the Lions' Den
Easy Prep

Cut out the lion's mouth, and attach it to the lion with clear tape to form a hinge so the mouth will open and close. Attach the fastener to the nose and head of the lion. This will hold the mouth in an open position.

What You'll Do

Invite two toddlers to join you. Place your Bible on the floor in front of you, opened to Daniel 6. Show kids the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **In our Bible lesson, a man named Daniel was put in the lions' den for praying to God.** Have a child pretend to be Daniel and stand by the lion puppet (make sure the mouth is open). **Daniel had to stay with the lions all night. Do you think he was afraid?** Have toddlers nod their heads with you.

During the night, an angel came. Appoint the other toddler to be the angel. **The angel shut the lions' mouths and kept Daniel safe.** Let the toddler close the lion puppet's mouth. **God took care of Daniel and kept him safe. God watches over us, and ▶ GOD PROTECTS US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

The Angel Shut the Lions' Mouths

What You'll Do

Invite one or two toddlers to join you as you sing the following action song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

Daniel in the lions' den, lions' den, lions' den, *(make "claws" like a lion, and hold them up near your face)*

Daniel in the lions' den, and he was there all night. *(tilt your head to one side, and put your hands under your cheek as if you're sleeping)*
An angel shut the lions' mouths, lions' mouths, lions' mouths, *(put your hands over your mouth)*
An angel shut the lions' mouths, and closed them up real tight.

Say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

No, No, Lions!

What You'll Do

Invite two toddlers to join you. Give a set of finger puppets to each child. Wrap the tabs of the puppets around the toddlers' index fingers, and tape the ends so that the children have a puppet on each hand. Use the puppets to perform the following finger play:

Say: **Daniel was sent to the lions' den!** *(have children wiggle their Daniel puppets)*
No, no, lions! *(have children wiggle their lion puppets)*
The lions wanted to make a meal of him! *(wiggle the Daniel puppets)*
No, no, lions! *(wiggle the lion puppets)*
The angel shut the lions' mouths! *(wiggle the Daniel puppets)*
No, no, lions! *(wiggle the lion puppets)*
God took good care of him! *(wiggle the Daniel puppets)*
No, no, lions! *(wiggle the lion puppets)*

Say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

No, No, Lions!
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel and the Lions" page (at the end of the lesson)
tape
scissors

No, No, Lions!
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the Daniel and the lion finger puppets. Be sure to cut along the dotted lines to create the tabs. (Make a set of puppets for yourself as well.)

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. Have children stand up tall each time they sing the word *stand.*

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God.
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Sing "G-L-O-R-Y" (not on CD) to the tune of "Bingo" anytime during the lesson. Have children do the actions with you.

The Lord our God is Almighty! *(point to heaven)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
G-L-O-R-Y! *(clap your hands on each letter)*
His earth is full of glory! *(turn around in a circle with your arms extended forward)*

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

God Closed the Lions' Mouths

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Daniel 6, and show kids the words. Tell them the Bible is God's special book. Set out the "Daniel in the Lions' Den" poster and let children look at it while you talk.

Say: **What sound does a lion make?** Let children make their fiercest roars. **Today I'm going to tell you about some lions and a man named Daniel in the Bible. I need you to help me tell what happened by doing what I do.**

Say: **Daniel was a man of God.** *(point overhead)*
He prayed three times a day. *(put your palms together as if in prayer)*
Along came some mean men *(make a mean face)*
Who took Daniel away. *(spread your arms out to your sides)*
They threw him in the lions' den, *(growl and act like a lion)*
But he was not afraid. *(make muscles)*
An angel shut the lions' mouths, *(clap your hands together)*
And God kept Daniel safe. *(hug yourself)*

Point to the "Daniel in the Lions' Den" poster.

Say: **Let's shut these lions' mouths so they can't eat Daniel.** Give each child a piece of tape. Allow kids to place the pieces of tape over the mouths of the lions on the poster. **God took care of Daniel and kept him safe. God watches over us. ▶ GOD PROTECTS US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Where Is Daniel?

What You'll Do

Invite 2-year-olds to join you. Give a set of finger puppets to each child. Wrap the tabs of the puppets around the children's index fingers and tape the ends, so that the children have a puppet on each hand. Use the puppets to act out the following finger play sung to the tune of "Where Is Thumbkin?":

God Closed the Lions' Mouths
Supplies

Bible
tape
Teacher Pack
"Daniel in the Lions' Den" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Where Is Daniel?
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Daniel and the Lions" page (at the end of the lesson)
tape
scissors

Where Is Daniel?
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out the Daniel and the lion finger puppets. Be sure to cut along the dotted lines to create the tabs. (Make a set of puppets for yourself as well.)

Where is Daniel? Where is Daniel? *(put puppets behind your back)*
Here he is. Here he is. *(bring the Daniel puppet to front)*
Throw him to the lions. Throw him to the lions. *(bring the lion puppet to front)*
In their den, in their den. *(put puppets behind your back)*

Where is Daniel? Where is Daniel? *(put puppets behind your back)*
Here he is. Here he is. *(bring the Daniel puppet to front)*
He's just fine. He's just fine. *(bring the lion puppet to front)*
God took care of him. God took care of him. *(keep puppets in front)*

Say: ▶ **GOD PROTECTS US.**

Lion, Lion, Close Your Mouth

What You'll Do

Gather the 2-year-olds together in a circle. The children sitting in the circle are the lions and should sit with their mouths open. Choose one child to be an angel. Have that child walk around the circle.

Say: **Lion, lion, close your mouth.** When the "angel" touches a "lion," that child should close his or her mouth and bow his or her head. Take turns until every child has had a chance to be the angel.

Say: **When Daniel was in the lions' den, God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths. God kept Daniel safe! ▶ GOD PROTECTS US.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that God protects us (from Daniel 6:1-23). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Daniel's Lullaby

Hold and rock your baby as you say the following rhyme:

Daniel in the lions' den,
The Lord took good care of him.
He sent an angel down that night,
Made the lions' mouths shut tight.
Daniel in the lions' den,
The Lord took good care of him.

Say: **God protects us.**

TODDLER

The Angel Shut the Lions' Mouths

Sing this action song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

Daniel in the lions' den, lions' den, lions' den, *(make "claws" like a lion)*
Daniel in the lions' den; he was there all night. *(put your hands under your cheek as if you're sleeping)*
An angel shut the lions' mouths, lions' mouths, lions' mouths, *(put your hands over your mouth)*
An angel shut the lions' mouths, and closed them up real tight.

2-YEAR-OLD

Lion, Lion, Close Your Mouth

Have your family sit in a circle. Everyone sitting in the circle is a lion and will sit with his or her mouth open. Choose one person to be an angel. Have that person walk around the circle.

Say: **Lion, lion, close your mouth.** When the "angel" touches a "lion," the "lion" will close his or her mouth.

When Daniel was in the lions' den, God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths. God kept Daniel safe. God protects us and keeps us safe, too!

God's Hands

Young children readily identify with their parents. They recognize those who meets their physical needs and their emotional needs. Right now, to your child, you are God's hands and feet. As your child grows older, he or she will learn that God takes care of him or her through your loving and protective example.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Take your child on a trip to the zoo or look through nature magazines. When you find a lion, retell what happened to Daniel in the lions' den. Remind your child that God always protects us.
- Provide a variety of empty, open containers for your child to close. As your child closes the containers, remind him or her that God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths and keep Daniel safe.

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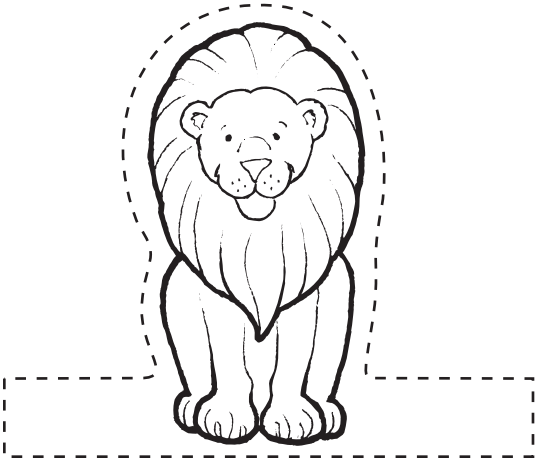
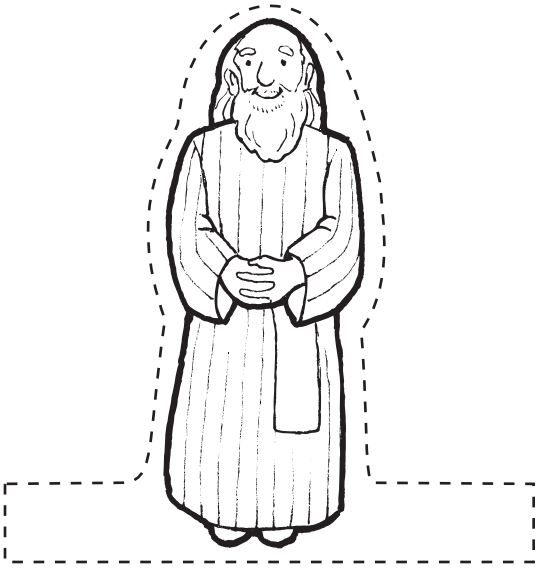
Daniel and the Lions





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God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile Jeremiah 29:4-14

The best way for a child to learn how to care is to receive care. Children this age are learning that they enjoy the love that goes with receiving kisses and hugs, kindness and compassion, grace and forgiveness. They know that a loving parent or caregiver will put a bandage on an "owie" or kiss a hurt away. They know that if they make a poor choice, you'll love them anyway. What a wonderful prelude to introduce the love of God, who cares even more than we, as parents and caregivers, can even dream of caring!

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Following a Promise** Follow a map home.	**Teacher Pack:** "Map" poster	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**An Age-Old Plan** Enjoy an action rhyme about caring.		
	Exchanging Cares Experience caring by taking care of pretend owies.	water, cloth	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 celebrate that God cares and has happy plans for them.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player, stuffed animals, baby dolls **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Happy-Home Plans** Decorate the map from Babylon to home.	Bible **Teacher Pack:** "Map" poster, "Smiley Face" stickers	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**The Happy-Plans Game** Decorate the room with smiles.	poster putty, red copier paper, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Smile" pattern	Make several copies of the "Smile" pattern on red copier paper. Cut out the smiles.
	Paintin' the Town Happy Add color to a picture of Babylon.	washable paints, paintbrushes, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Happy Home" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Happy as You Go** Create a happy home for a family in Babylon.	Bible, craft sticks, coin-sized green construction paper circles, picture of a family **Teacher Pack:** "Map" poster, "Jeremiah Shares God's Promise" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), "Smiley Face" stickers	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**A Care Box** Fashion a care box and fill it with items that show caring.	small Bible, large shoe box with lid, gift wrap, tape, scissors, bandage, toothbrush, comb, snack, stickers	Gift-wrap a large shoe box and its lid separately.
	Happy Where You Are Make a picture of the things God gave his people to enjoy in Babylon.	green and brown construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, leaves, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Happy Home" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut green and brown construction paper into 1-inch squares.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

God Promises to Restore Israel After the Exile 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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 2)

What You'll Do

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with the infants.

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Hug a baby close as you sing, "God is so near."

God is so near;
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Following a Promise
Supplies

Teacher Pack
"Map" poster

Following a Promise

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor with an infant. Lay the "Map" poster in front of you, and point to Babylon.

Say: **God's people lived in Babylon, but Babylon wasn't home. God's people missed their home.** Guide the baby's hand across the map from Babylon to home. **God told his people they would go home one day. God told his people he cared for them. God cares for his people.** Gently clap the baby's hands. **▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

An Age-Old Plan

What You'll Do

Hold an infant on your lap. Take the baby's hands in yours to do the actions that are indicated as you say the following rhyme:

Because he cared for his chosen clan, *(hug the baby)*
For people of old, God had a plan. *(raise the baby's arms up to heaven)*
Today God cares about us, too! *(help the baby pat his or her chest)*
His loving plan will see us through. *(put baby's hands over his or her eyes; then uncover them on the word "see")*

Say: **▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

Exchanging Cares

What You'll Do

Slightly dampen a cloth, and hold an infant on your lap.

Say: **I have an owie. I'm going to put this cool, damp cloth on my owie to make it feel better.** Place the cloth on your pretend owie, and sigh with relief. Then hand the cloth to the baby.

Say: **Can you put the cloth on my owie to make it feel better?** Allow the baby to touch the cloth to the pretend owie. Sigh with relief when the cloth touches your skin. **Oh, my, thank you! That felt so wonderful! Thank you for caring about me! Could I put the cloth on you now?** Repeat the exchange, this time placing the cloth on the baby's skin. **Isn't it wonderful to care about each other? God cares for us and we can care for each other. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

Exchanging Cares
Supplies

water
cloth

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. Encourage toddlers to hold and rock stuffed animals and baby dolls while you sing.

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
stuffed animals
baby dolls
Teacher Pack
CD (track 2)

You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Have toddlers follow your motions.

God is so near; *(hug yourself)*
There's nothing to fear. *(hold your hands out and shake your head)*
I'll turn to see *(shade your eyes with your hand)*
That he's there for me. *(look up with your hand still shading your eyes)*

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Happy-Home Plans

Happy-Home Plans
Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
"Map" poster
"Smiley Face" stickers

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 29, and show children the words. Tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **God's people lived in Babylon, far from their home. But God told them not to be sad. God told his people they would go back home.** Lay out the "Map" poster. Encourage toddlers to run their fingers along the road.

Say: **God told his people to be happy. He told them to plant gardens and build houses in Babylon until they could go home. Let's put stickers there that show happy faces.** Let children put the stickers near Babylon.

Say: **God's plan was that his people would go home. God wanted them to be happy along the way. Let's put stickers on the road.** Have children place stickers along the entire length of the road. **God cared for his people. He had a happy plan for them.** ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

The Happy-Plans Game

What You'll Do

Gather a few toddlers, and say: **God's plans are happy plans.** ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US. God plans good thing for us. Let's use these smiles to remind us how much God cares. God makes happy plans for his children.** Help the toddlers secure poster putty (or tape) to the back of the smiles and post them around the room while saying the following rhyme:

Ha, ha, ha!
Hee, hee, hee!
God's plans are happy as can be!

Say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Paintin' the Town Happy

What You'll Do

Give each toddler a "Happy Home" page.

Say: **God told his people that they could be happy in Babylon. He told them to plant gardens and build houses. God gives us things to make us happy, too. Can you paint the houses, trees, and garden?** Encourage toddlers to paint the picture on their handouts.

Say: **God knew that the people would enjoy all his gifts and they could be happy. God cares for his children. He has happy plans for us. While our pictures dry, let's sing "God Cares for Me."** Lead toddlers in singing the following action song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

The Happy-Plans Game
Supplies

poster putty
red copier paper
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Smile" pattern

The Happy-Plans Game
Easy Prep

Make several copies of the "Smile" pattern on red copier paper. Cut out the smiles.

Paintin' the Town Happy
Supplies

washable paints
paintbrushes
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Happy Home" page (at the end of the lesson)

Paintin' the Town Happy
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

God cares for me. *(point to yourself)*
God cares for you. *(point to a friend)*
God wants only good for us! *(hug yourself)*
He's planned just what to do. *(raise your arms slowly from your waist to overhead)*

Say: **God makes happy plans for his children. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 2)

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. Have children follow the motions with you.

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you; *(point to a friend)*
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.

Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you. *(point to a friend)*
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him

Because he cares for you. *(point to a friend)*
He cares for you.
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD CARES FOR US.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Lead children in the motions as you sing.

God is so near; *(hug yourself)*
There's nothing to fear. *(hold your hands out and shake your head)*
I'll turn to see *(shade your eyes with your hand)*
That he's there for me. *(look up with your hand still shading your eyes)*

Afterward, say: **Our ▶ GOD CARES FOR US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Happy as You Go

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Jeremiah 29. Show children the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **God's people lived in Babylon. They missed the homes they had left, though. God told his people they would go back home.** Lay out the map. **Can you walk your fingers along the road from Babylon to the people's home?** Encourage children to use their fingers and "walk" the road.

Say: **God told his people that they could be happy. They had houses back home, but God knew they could build houses in Babylon, too. Let's build a house in Babylon.** Guide children in laying a few craft sticks together on the map to represent a house. **God told the people to plant gardens in Babylon. Let's lay this pretend**

Happy as You Go
Supplies

Bible
craft sticks
coin-sized green construction paper circles
picture of a family
Teacher Pack
"Map" poster
"Jeremiah Shares God's Promise" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)
"Smiley Face" stickers

A Care Box
Supplies

small Bible
large shoe box with lid
gift wrap
tape
scissors
bandage
toothbrush
comb
snack
stickers

A Care Box
Easy Prep

Gift-wrap a large shoe box and its lid separately.

Happy Where You Are
Supplies

green and brown construction paper
scissors
glue sticks
leaves
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Happy Home" page (at the end of the lesson)

Happy Where You Are
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut green and brown construction paper into 1-inch squares.

broccoli where we think a garden might go. Allow the children to lay the construction paper circles on the map.

Say: **God told people to enjoy being a family in Babylon. Let's put a picture of a family in the house.** Help a child place a picture of a family inside the stick house. **God planned good things for his people because he cared about them.**

Set out the "Jeremiah Shares God's Promise" poster and the stickers. Say: **When the people heard the good news from God, they were very excited. Show me how you act when you are very excited!** Let kids jump, dance, smile, and laugh. **When we're excited, we act very happy. Let's put smiley faces on these people to show how happy they were.** Encourage each child to put a smiley-face sticker on a person in the poster. **God had happy plans for his people. God has happy plans for us, too. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Care Box

What You'll Do

Gather the children around you.

Say**: God cared about the people in Babylon. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US, too. Let's make a care box. First, let's decorate the care box, and make it look happy.** Encourage children to use the stickers to decorate the outside of the box.

Say: **Let's put some things in the box that would show someone we care. The bandage will help someone who's hurt. The comb, toothbrush, and food are things someone can use every day. The Bible will tell the person that God loves him or her.** Let the children place the items into the care box.

Say: **If someone got a box like this one, that person would know that God cares. We can help show other people that God cares. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US, too.**

Happy Where You Are

What You'll Do

Give each child a copy of the "Happy Home" handout. Set out glue sticks and the construction paper squares.

Say: **God told his people to be happy while they were in Babylon. He told them to build houses. Can you put the brown paper on the roofs of the houses in the**

picture? Let children glue the brown-paper squares flat against the houses. **God told the people to enjoy the lives they had there. He gave them trees to enjoy. Can you add green to the trees in the picture?** Guide children in crumpling the green paper into balls that can be glued to the trees for a three-dimensional effect.

Say: **God also told the people to plant gardens. God knew that the people would enjoy flowers. Let's add some vegetables and flowers now.** Pass out leaves or flower petals, and allow the children to glue these to their pictures. **What beautiful pictures! And what a lovely way God has made his people happy! God has given us things to make us happy, too. ▶ GOD CARES FOR US, too.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

HOME CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus

TLC

The best way for a child to learn how to care is by receiving care. Young children are learning that they enjoy the love that goes with getting kisses and hugs, kindness and compassion, grace and forgiveness. What wonderful ways to introduce the love of God who cares even more than we, as parents, can even dream of caring!

Your child learned that God cares for us (from Jeremiah 29:4-14). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

An Age-Old Plan

Hold your baby on your lap. Take your baby's hands in yours to do the actions that are indicated as you say the following rhyme:

Say: **Because he cared for his chosen clan,** *(hug your baby)*
For people of old, God had a plan. *(raise your baby's arms up to heaven)*
Today God cares about us, too! *(help your baby pat his or her chest)*
His loving plan will see us through. *(put baby's hands over his or her eyes; then uncover them on the word "see")*

God cares for us!

TODDLER

The Happy-Plans Game

Cut out several smile shapes from red construction paper.

Say: **God's plans are happy plans. God cares for us. He plans only the best for us. Let's use these smiles to remind us how much God cares.** Help your toddler secure poster putty or tape to the smiles and post them around the house while saying the following rhyme:

Ha, ha, ha!
Hee, hee, hee!
God's plans are happy as can be!

2-YEAR-OLD

A Care Box

You'll need items such as a shoe box, a bandage, a toothbrush, a comb, a snack, and a Bible.

Say: **God cared about the people in Babylon. God cares about us, too. Let's make a care box. First, we'll decorate the care box and make it look happy.** Encourage your child to use crayons and stickers to decorate the box.

Let's put some things in the box that would show someone that we care. Have your child place the items into the care box. Let your child come with you when you mail the box or take it to a local charity.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Play outside with your child. Look at the grass, flowers, and trees. Talk about how God gave us these things because he cares for us and wants us to enjoy them.
- Plan an outing with your child. Discuss what you want to do. Talk about how the plan includes happy things. Remind your child that God makes happy plans for his people.

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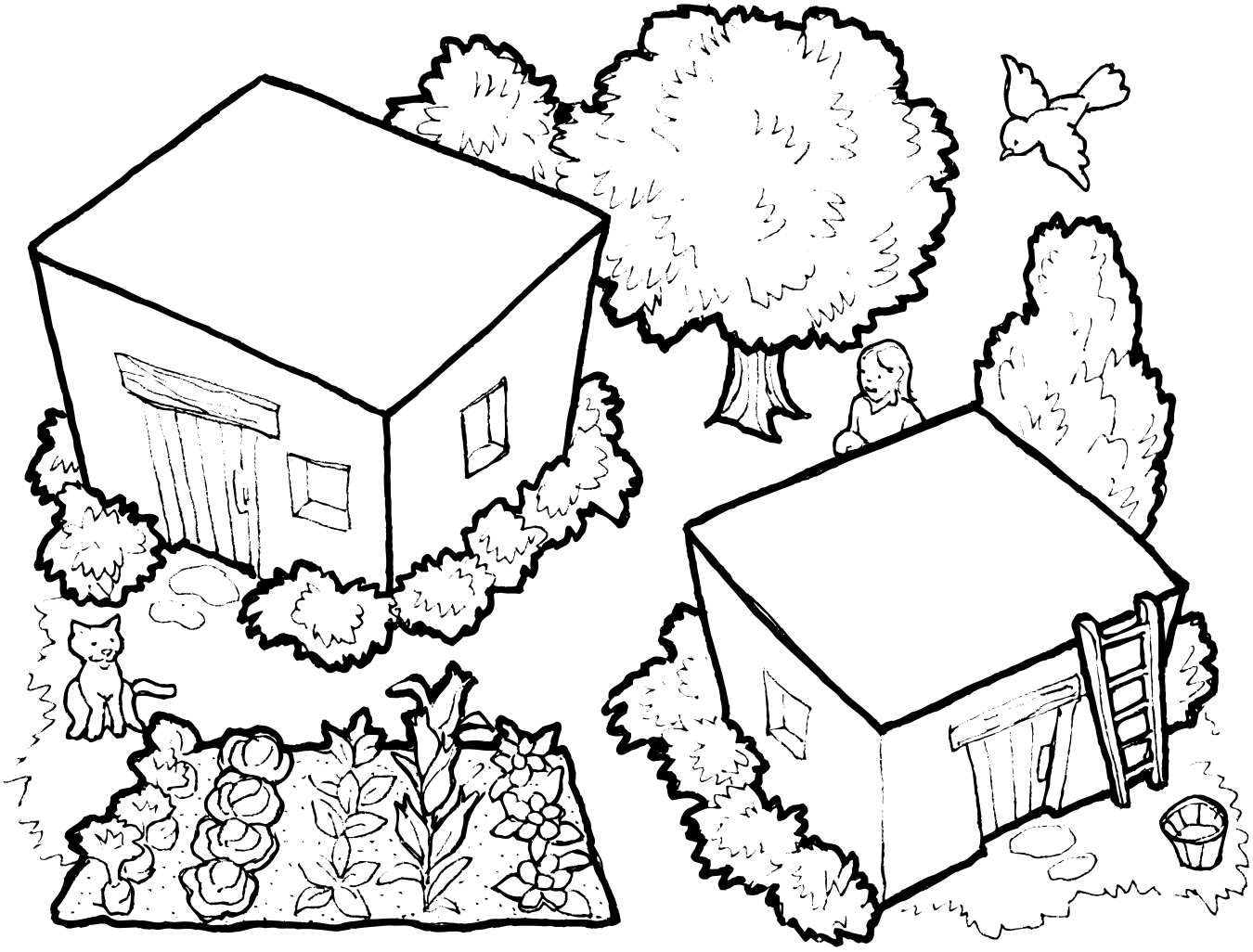
Happy Home



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Nehemiah Seeks God's Forgiveness for Israel Nehemiah 1:1–2:9

There will be times in your class when small children need to apologize for their actions. Whether it's saying sorry for taking another child's toy or apologizing for hitting, children have ample opportunities to practice saying the words "I'm sorry." And as children learn to ask their friends for forgiveness, they'll also begin to understand what it means to turn to God and apologize when we've wronged him. Young children may not always willingly apologize, and it's important not to force them to. When children feel genuine regret for their actions, an apology naturally follows—and the outcome can be highly positive as their peers shrug and say, "That's okay. Want to play?" And undoubtedly, your kids will have as many opportunities to forgive their friends as they do to apologize. As little ones learn that their mistakes are forgivable, they'll begin to understand that God forgives us and wants us to say we're sorry when we've wronged him, too.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The King's Answer** Learn how Nehemiah turned to God.	scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture	Cut out the crowns and Nehemiah's hands. Place the tabs in the slots to complete the picture.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**A Jubilant Result** Play a hand game about turning to God in prayer.		
	A Fistful of Rhyme Pretend to build while hearing a rhyme about Nehemiah.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 practice ways to tell God they're sorry.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Taking Leave** See the king's crown, and place Nehemiah's hands in prayer.	Bible, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture	Cut out the crowns and Nehemiah's hands. Place the tabs in the slots to set the crowns on the king's and queen's heads. Lay the hands nearby.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Triumphant Tool March** Gather their tools and march to help Nehemiah rebuild.	toy tools, CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
	Praying Hands Learn about prayer by making praying hands.	1 straw per child, tape, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Hands" page (at the end of the lesson), scissors	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out each set of hands from the pages.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**A Prayerful Query** Crown the king and queen, and make praying hands for Nehemiah.	Bible, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture	Cut out the crowns and Nehemiah's hands.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Build It Tall** Build walls like Nehemiah did.	small blocks	
	What Hands Are These? Discover hands that turn to God in prayer.	scissors, tape, 1 straw per child, stuffed animals, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Hands" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out each set of hands from the pages.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 9 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently sway with the baby to the rhythm.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that he is with me;
He'll be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

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

Afterward, say: ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Hug a baby close as you sing, "God is so near."

God is so near
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 9)

The King's Answer
Supplies

scissors
Teacher Pack
"Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture

The King's Answer
Easy Prep

Cut out the crowns and Nehemiah's hands. Place the tabs in the slots to complete the picture.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The King's Answer

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor with an infant. Place the "Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture in front of you. Point to the king and queen.

Say: **The king and queen were sitting on their thrones one day when Nehemiah came to see them.** Guide the baby's hands to touch the crowns; then point to Nehemiah. **Nehemiah wanted God to protect his hometown, even though the people in his hometown hadn't followed God's rules. Nehemiah said he was sorry to God when he prayed.** Help the baby clasp his or her hands in prayer. **God heard Nehemiah's prayer. The king said Nehemiah could go. Nehemiah told God he was sorry, and God took care of him. ▶ WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Jubilant Result

What You'll Do

Sit with an infant on the floor. Gently hold the baby's hands in yours. Place the baby's hands over his or her eyes as if playing Peekaboo.

Say: **Nehemiah didn't know if God would save his hometown because the people hadn't followed God's rules.** Move the baby's hands from his or her eyes and into a praying position. **So Nehemiah said he was sorry to God when he prayed. God saved Nehemiah's hometown. Hooray! ▶ WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.** Spread the baby's hands upward jubilantly. Repeat the sequence as long as the baby is interested.

A Fistful of Rhyme

What You'll Do

Hold an infant on your lap. Clasp the baby's hands into loose fists, and "build" one fist on top of the other. Build with fists so that the left is on top, then the right is on top, and so on. Say the following rhyme, building with the baby's fists in rhythm:

Say: **Nehemiah said sorry.**

When he talked to God alone.
Nehemiah begged the king.
He wanted to go home.
Nehemiah prayed to God.
The king said he could go!
Nehemiah knew that it
Was God who had made it so.

▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 9 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, lead toddlers in the motions.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, *(point up)*
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise, *(put your fist on your palm)*
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord." *(point up)*
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, *(pretend to draw a smile on your face)*
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that he is with me; *(put your hands on your heart)*
He'll be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 9)

How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more! *(raise your hands and look up)*

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

Afterward, say: ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Have toddlers stand and hold hands as they sing.

♫ **God is so near**
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Taking Leave

Taking Leave
Supplies

Bible
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture

Taking Leave
Easy Prep

Cut out the crowns and Nehemiah's hands. Place the tabs in the slots to set the crowns on the king's and queen's heads. Lay the hands nearby.

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor with a few toddlers and the "Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1, and show kids the words. Tell them the Bible is God's special book. Point to the king and queen in the picture.

Say: **The king and queen were on their thrones. Kings and queens have crowns. Would you like to touch their crowns?** Guide toddlers in touching the crowns. **Can you place a pretend crown on your head?** Allow children to pantomime placing crowns on their heads.

Nehemiah went to see the king and queen. He was sad because his people hadn't followed God, and he told God he was sorry. Point to Nehemiah in the picture. **Nehemiah wanted to go help rebuild the wall around his hometown. Nehemiah wondered if the king would let him go. Nehemiah prayed for God's help.** Let the children help you put Nehemiah's hands in the slot on the picture.

God heard Nehemiah say he was sorry, and the king said Nehemiah could go home. Nehemiah said sorry to God, and God took care of him. Can you place your hands in a praying position like Nehemiah did? Demonstrate folding your hands in prayer. **We can pray, too. We can tell God we're sorry when we do wrong things, just like Nehemiah did.** ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Triumphant Tool March

What You'll Do

Gather a few toddlers.

Say: **After Nehemiah told God he was sorry his people didn't obey God, the king told Nehemiah he could help rebuild the wall around his hometown. Nehemiah gathered people to help him. They took tools with them and made the long trip.** Pass out toy tools.

Play "This Is the Way We Build" (track 10 on the CD). Let children march around the room as the song plays. On the words "build the wall," lead the children in shaking their tools high above their heads triumphantly. Make certain children are far enough apart so no one gets hit with a tool.

After the song, have the children use their tools to pretend to help Nehemiah rebuild the wall.

Say: **Like Nehemiah, ▶ WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Triumphant Tool March
Supplies

toy tools
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 10)

Praying Hands

What You'll Do

Give each toddler a set of hands from the "Hands" page. Guide toddlers in taping the hands to a straw to make hands clasped in prayer. The straw should protrude from the bottom as a handle.

Say: **Nehemiah wanted to go home. He knew his people hadn't obeyed God, and he was sorry. He wasn't sure the king would let him go home. So Nehemiah said he was sorry to God and asked for his help. Nehemiah prayed, and God helped him. Can you hold up Nehemiah's hands and pretend they're yours?**

Demonstrate how to hold the straw, and place Nehemiah's hands near your chin as if praying.

Say: **When ▶ WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY, he forgives us and helps us. You can use your own hands to pray and tell God you're sorry if you do something wrong. God wants to forgive us and tell us it's okay. We can say sorry to God just like Nehemiah did.**

Praying Hands
Supplies

1 straw per child
tape
1 copy per child of the "Hands" page (at the end of the lesson)
scissors

Praying Hands
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out each set of hands from the pages.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 9)

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 9 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, lead children in the motions.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, *(point up)*
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise, *(put your fist on your palm)*
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord." *(point up)*
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, *(pretend to draw a smile on your face)*
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that he is with me; *(put your hands on your heart)*
He'll be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more! *(raise your hands and look up)*

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

Afterward, say: ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Encourage children to hug themselves as they sing.

God is so near
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Prayerful Query

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1. Show children the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book. Point to the "Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture.

Say: **Can you find the king and queen?** Pause for children to point out the king and queen. **Kings and queens make rules, they wear fancy clothes and crowns, and they're in charge of people.** Help children insert the tabs in the slots to place the crowns on the king's and queen's heads. **Kings and queens make important decisions and say, "Yes, you can" and "No, you can't."** Let children practice saying these statements with royal authority. Then point to Nehemiah in the teaching picture.

Say: **Nehemiah went to see the king and queen. Nehemiah wanted to go home to help rebuild the wall around his hometown. He knew his people hadn't obeyed God, and he was sorry. He told God he was sorry. Nehemiah prayed to God because he needed the king's permission to go home and he was afraid the king would say no.**

Nehemiah prayed for God's help. He'll need some praying hands. Can you place his hands in the picture? Let the children put Nehemiah's hands in the slot where they belong. **Nehemiah prayed, and God softened the king's heart. The king said Nehemiah could go home. Nehemiah told God he was sorry, and God forgave him. God helped Nehemiah.** ▶ **WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.**

A Prayerful Query
Supplies

Bible
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Nehemiah and the King" teaching picture

A Prayerful Query
Easy Prep

Cut out the crowns and Nehemiah's hands.

Build It Tall
Supplies

small blocks

What Hands Are These?
Supplies

scissors
tape
1 straw per child
stuffed animals
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Hands" page (at the end of the lesson)

What Hands Are These?
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out each set of hands from the pages.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Build It Tall

What You'll Do

You will need several small blocks per child.

Say: **Nehemiah wanted to help rebuild the walls around his hometown. Can you build some walls?** Guide children in using blocks to build walls. **Nehemiah said he was sorry to God for the way his people had acted. God heard Nehemiah's prayer and sent him home to rebuild the walls. ▶ WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY, too.**

What Hands Are These?

What You'll Do

Give each child a straw and a set of hands from the "Hands" page. Help children tape the hands to the straw so that the hands are praying. The straw should protrude from the bottom of the hands so that it makes a handle.

Say: **Nehemiah was sad about how his people had disobeyed God. So Nehemiah said sorry to God and asked God to help him get home.** Give each child a stuffed animal or doll. **Can you hold up Nehemiah's praying hands and help your toy friend pray?** Show children how to use the straw to hold Nehemiah's hands in front of the stuffed animal or doll.

Nehemiah used praying hands to say he was sorry to God. What kind of hands are these? Hold up one of the hands from the page. Lead children in answering, "Praying hands!" Then touch your own "real" hands. **What kind of hands are these?** Let children answer, "Praying hands!" Touch several of the children's hands. **What kind of hands are these?** Let children respond, "Praying hands!"

You can use your own hands to pray and say sorry to God when you do wrong things. ▶ WE TELL GOD WE'RE SORRY.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that we tell God we're sorry (from Nehemiah 1:1–2:9). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

A Jubilant Result

Say: **Nehemiah didn't know if God would save his hometown because the people hadn't followed God's rules.** Move your baby's hands from his or her eyes and into a praying position. **So Nehemiah said he was sorry to God when he prayed. God saved Nehemiah's hometown. Hooray! We tell God we're sorry.**

TODDLER

Triumphant Tool March

Say: **After Nehemiah said sorry to God, the king told Nehemiah that he could help rebuild the wall around his hometown. Nehemiah gathered people to help him. They took tools with them and made the long trip.** Give your child several toy tools.

Play a favorite praise song and march around the room together. Then have your child use the tools to pretend to help Nehemiah rebuild the wall.

Say: **Nehemiah said sorry to God. We can say sorry, too!**

2-YEAR-OLD

Build It Tall

You'll need several small blocks.

Say: **Nehemiah wanted to help rebuild the walls around his hometown. Can you build some walls?** Guide your child in using the blocks to build walls. **Nehemiah said sorry to God, and God forgave him. God heard Nehemiah's prayer and sent him home to rebuild the walls.**

We can say sorry to God, too!

Building Resilience

There will be times when small children need to apologize for their actions. Whether it's saying sorry for taking another child's toy or apologizing for hitting, children have ample opportunities to practice saying the words "I'm sorry." And as children learn to ask you and their friends for forgiveness, they'll also begin to understand what it means to turn to God and apologize when we've wronged him.

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Use pillows to build a wall. Remind your child that Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls around his hometown. God answered Nehemiah's prayer when he said sorry and asked for help.
- Pray with your child at bedtime. Show your child by your example how we can say sorry to God through prayer when we've done something wrong.

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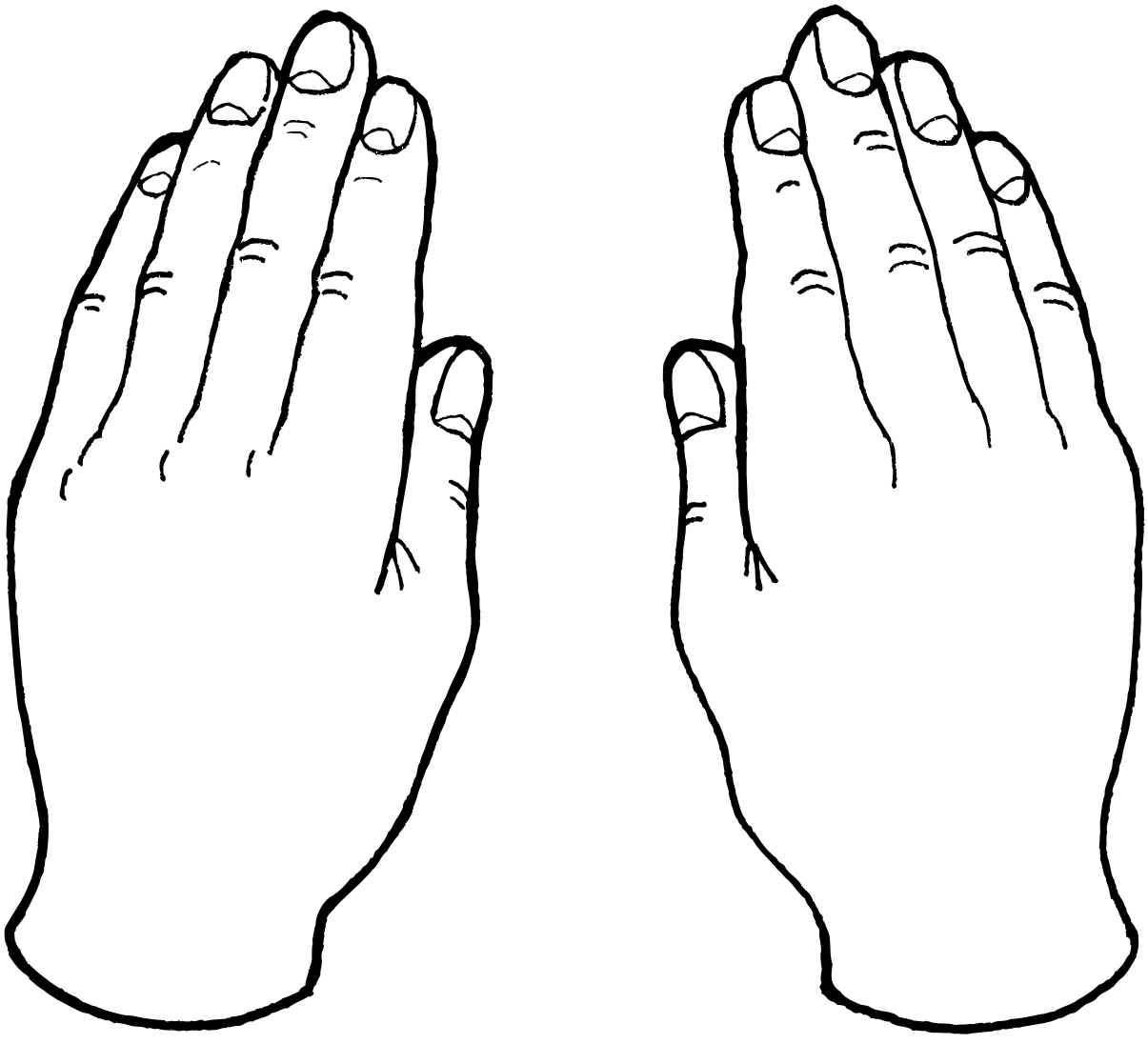
Hands



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Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Nehemiah 2:11–6:19

Young children love being helpers, and they love being helped. Tap into this eagerness to teach them that when they help others, they're being good helpers for God. Small children can also learn early on that God is our great Helper—working for us every day in big and small ways. God helps us when we ask him to, and even helps us during times we don't know we need his help. During your time with kids, encourage kids when they help others by saying things such as, "You did such a good job! God is happy when we help others, because God helps us."

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Texture Touches** Feel different textures while hearing the Bible passage.	blanket **Teacher Pack:** sandpaper square, wood square	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Happy Builders** Hear a rhyme and feel it "played" on their toes.	blanket	
	Building Blocks Experience building a tower with blocks.	blocks	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶Bible Point
God helps 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 experience how God helps us.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Building the Wall** Join in telling the Bible passage.	Bible, scissors, stapler **Teacher Pack:** sandpaper square, wood square, "Nehemiah's Wall" figures	Cut the figures along the dotted lines, and place the rebuilt wall figure behind the broken-down wall figure. Staple the figures together across the bottom only.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Bag Blocks** Make blocks and build a wall.	paper grocery sacks, newspaper, masking tape	
	Sturdy Walls Create walls with crackers.	small square crackers, craft sticks, cream cheese, paper plates	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Nehemiah's Wall** Participate in actions as they hear a Bible passage in rhyme.	Bible, stapler, scissors, square crackers **Teacher Pack:** "Nehemiah's Wall" figures, "Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	Cut the figures along the dotted lines, and place the rebuilt wall figure behind the broken-down wall figure. Staple the figures together across the bottom only. Set the poster aside with the square crackers.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Pounding Boards** Hammer pretend nails into boards.	blocks of wood, toy hammers	
	Rows and Rows Use pretzel sticks to make rows on a wall.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "The Wall" page (at the end of the lesson), pretzel sticks, CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 10)

What You'll Do

Sing "This Is the Way We Build" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "Mulberry Bush" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, lay an infant on the floor in front of you, and do the actions with his or her hands, arms, and legs.

This is the way we build the wall, *(tap fists together)*
Build the wall, build the wall. *(make a hammering motion)*
This is the way we build the wall *(make a hammering motion)*
Around Jerusalem! *(stretch baby's arms out)*

This is the way we stack the stones, *(pretend to stack stones)*
Stack the stones, stack the stones. *(pretend to stack stones)*
This is the way we build the wall *(pretend to stack stones)*
Around Jerusalem! *(stretch baby's arms out)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Hug a baby close as you sing.

God is so near
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Texture Touches

Texture Touches
Supplies

blanket
Teacher Pack
sandpaper square
wood square

What You'll Do

Lay an infant on the floor in front of you.

Say: **Nehemiah was sad because the wall around Jerusalem had fallen.** Hold up a blanket between you and the baby, and drop it quickly.

Say: **Oh, no! Fall down!** Repeat this a few times.

Say: **God told Nehemiah to build the wall again, so Nehemiah called for help.** Put your cupped hand to your mouth. **"Come help me, come help me!" The helpers came and started to build the wall. They used rough stones.** Touch the infant's fingers to the sandpaper square. **They used smooth wood to make the gates.** Guide the baby's fingers across the wood square. **All the helpers worked hard for God.** Hug the child. **Soon Nehemiah was happy again because the wall was rebuilt. He had lots of help, and ▶ GOD HELPS US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Happy Builders
Supplies

blanket

Happy Builders

What You'll Do

Lay an infant on a blanket on the floor, and remove the child's socks. Wiggle each of the baby's toes gently as you say this rhyme:

This happy builder carried stones.
This happy builder sawed wood.
This happy builder hammered nails.
This happy builder said, "God helps us!"
This happy builder worked as hard as he could!

Say: **▶ GOD HELPS US.**

Building Blocks
Supplies

blocks

Building Blocks

What You'll Do

Set an infant on the floor in front of you with his or her back to you. Help steady the baby with your legs. Place a few blocks in front of the baby.

Say: **Can** [baby's name] **help me build a tower?**

Put a block in the baby's hand, and guide him or her to put it on top of another block. Hug the baby.

Say: **What a good helper! You're helping build a tower! We can work hard for God because ▶ GOD HELPS US.** Repeat the game without going above three or four

blocks high. Let the infant do as much as possible without assistance. Continue praising the baby for his or her efforts.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "This Is the Way We Build" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "Mulberry Bush" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, lead children in doing the actions.

This is the way we build the wall, *(tap your fists together)*
Build the wall, build the wall. *(make a hammering motion)*
This is the way we build the wall *(make a hammering motion)*
Around Jerusalem! *(stretch your arms out as you turn in a circle)*
This is the way we stack the stones, *(pretend to stack stones)*
Stack the stones, stack the stones. *(pretend to stack stones)*
This is the way we build the wall *(pretend to stack stones)*
Around Jerusalem! *(stretch your arms out as you turn in a circle)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Encourage toddlers to hold their hands outstretched as they sing.

God is so near
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 10)

Building the Wall
Supplies

Bible
scissors
stapler
Teacher Pack
sandpaper square
wood square
"Nehemiah's Wall" figures

Building the Wall
Easy Prep

Cut the figures along the dotted lines, and place the rebuilt wall figure behind the broken-down wall figure. Staple the figures together across the bottom only.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Building the Wall

What You'll Do

Gather the children, and open your Bible to Nehemiah 2. Show kids the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Nehemiah was sad because the wall around Jerusalem was broken.** Ask the children to show you their sad faces. Then show them the figure of the broken-down wall. **Nehemiah loved Jerusalem, so he prayed and asked God to help him build a new wall.** Ask the children to show you how they pray.

Say: **Nehemiah went to Jerusalem and found helpers who would work on the new wall. They gathered rough stones for the wall.** Pass around the sandpaper square, and let the children feel it. **Everyone worked hard. Priests helped build part of the wall.** Fold down the first flap to display part of the new wall.

Rich people helped to build a section of the wall. Fold down the second flap. **They used smooth wood to build new gates for the wall.** Pass around the wood square, and let the children feel it. Then fold down the third flap to display a gate in the wall.

Say: **Regular people helped build the wall, too. The builders all worked hard together, and soon the new wall was finished.** Ask the children to cheer and clap as you fold down the fourth flap to reveal the entire new wall. **Nehemiah was happy. God was pleased with all those who worked hard to build the wall. They worked hard because they knew that ▶ GOD HELPS US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Bag Blocks

Bag Blocks
Supplies

paper grocery sacks
newspaper
masking tape

What You'll Do

Work with the children in small groups. Open a paper grocery sack, and set it on the floor. Show the children how to crumple up newspaper and stuff it into the sack. When the sack is full, open another sack and slide it over the top of the filled sack. Tape it securely around the bottom. Repeat the process to make several large blocks.

Say: **Nehemiah wanted to build a new wall around Jerusalem. It was a big job, and he couldn't do it alone. He needed God's help, and he needed good workers.** Tell

the children that they are going to build a wall with the blocks they made. Let children carry and set up the blocks to build the wall. **You've been good workers! You've worked together, and God is happy when we work together. ▶ GOD HELPS US, and we can help each other.**

Sturdy Walls

What You'll Do

Gather the children at a table. Give each child a paper plate and a craft stick, and set out cream cheese and small square crackers. Help children put cream cheese along the edge of one cracker and stick another cracker to it. Repeat until they have made "walls" with all their crackers. As they work, sing this song to the tune of "The Muffin Man":

Can you build a sturdy wall,
A sturdy wall, a sturdy wall?
Can you ask God for his help,
Like Nehemiah did?

Say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Sturdy Walls
Supplies

small square crackers
craft sticks
cream cheese
paper plates

ALLERGY ALERT

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "This Is the Way We Build" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "Mulberry Bush" anytime during the lesson. Have children do the actions with you as you sing.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 10)

This is the way we build the wall, *(tap your fists together)*
Build the wall, build the wall. *(make a hammering motion)*
This is the way we build the wall *(make a hammering motion)*
Around Jerusalem! *(stretch your arms out as you turn in a circle)*
This is the way we stack the stones, *(pretend to stack stones)*
Stack the stones, stack the stones. *(pretend to stack stones)*
This is the way we build the wall *(pretend to stack stones)*
Around Jerusalem! *(stretch your arms out as you turn in a circle)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Sing "God Is So Near" (not on the CD) to the tune of "God Is So Good" anytime during the lesson. Have children look up as they sing.

God is so near
There's nothing to fear.
I'll turn to see
That he's there for me.

Afterward, say: **Our** ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Nehemiah's Wall
Supplies

Bible
stapler
scissors
square crackers
Teacher Pack
"Nehemiah's Wall" figures
"Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Nehemiah's Wall
Easy Prep

Cut the figures along the dotted lines, and place the rebuilt wall figure behind the broken-down wall figure. Staple the figures together across the bottom only. Set the poster aside with the square crackers.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Nehemiah's Wall

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Nehemiah 2, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Encourage children to do the actions as you tell the story using this rhyme:

The wall around Jerusalem was burned and broken down.
It made Nehemiah sad; on his face he wore a frown.
(have the children make frowning faces as you show the broken-down wall figure)

He prayed and asked God just what he should do,
To rebuild the wall and make it look brand new!
(have the children bow their heads and pretend to pray)

Then he went to Jerusalem and talked to many folks.
They gathered up some stones, some cedar, and some oaks.
(have the children pretend to bend over and pick up heavy stones)

Each family started to build a section of the wall.
The builders worked hard! No job was too small!
(fold down the first flap of the figure, and reveal part of the new wall)

From morning until night, you could hear tap-tapping,
Filling in the holes that had been left gapping!
(have the children tap their feet as you fold down the second flap)

Bad men tried to stop the building of the wall,
But God stopped their evil tricks from making it fall!
(fold down the third flap)

The people kept on building, they hammered and they sawed.
Working day and night, they wanted to please God!
(have the children make hammering motions as you fold down the fourth flap)

Fifty-two days later, the wall stood strong and neat!
With God's help, their job was complete.
(have the children give each other high fives)

Set out the "Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem" poster. Point to the wall.

Say: **Let's help God's people finish building the wall.** Give children the square crackers and encourage them to start stacking the crackers on top of the wall in the poster. Let children work with the crackers for several minutes. If a "wall" of crackers falls down, just encourage the child to build it back up again. When children are finished, let kids enjoy the treat. Say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Pounding Boards

Pounding Boards
Supplies

blocks of wood
toy hammers

What You'll Do

Give each child a toy hammer and a block of wood. Show children how to pretend they are pounding nails into boards.

Say: **Nehemiah asked God for help to rebuild the new wall around Jerusalem. People came to help. Their hammers went tap, tap, just like your hammer is doing. God was happy with their hard work.** ▶ **GOD HELPS US work hard.**

Rows and Rows
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "The Wall" page (at the end of the lesson)
pretzel sticks
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 10)

ALLERGY ALERT

Rows and Rows
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Rows and Rows

What You'll Do

Say: **When Nehemiah and his workers built the wall with God's help, they had to lay the stones in straight rows. We're going to glue "stones" in rows on our walls.**

Give each child a copy of "The Wall" handout, and help children lay a row of pretzel sticks along the wall in the picture. As children work, play "This Is the Way We Build" (track 10 on the CD). Repeat the rows until the wall is full, and then let kids enjoy the snack.

Say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that God helps us (from Nehemiah 2:11–6:19). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Happy Builders

Lay your baby on a blanket on the floor, and remove his or her socks. Wiggle each of your baby's toes gently as you say this rhyme:

This happy builder carried stones.
This happy builder sawed wood.
This happy builder hammered nails.
This happy builder said, "We will work with God's help!"
This happy builder worked as hard as he could!

Say: **God helps us work hard!**

TODDLER

Sturdy Walls

Give your child a paper plate and crackers. Show your child how to stack the crackers like bricks. As you work, sing this song to the tune of "The Muffin Man":

♫ **Can you build a sturdy wall,**
A sturdy wall, a sturdy wall?
Can you ask God for his help,
Like Nehemiah did?

Say: **God helps us, too!**

2-YEAR-OLD

Pounding Boards

Give your child a toy hammer and a block of wood. Show your child how to pretend to pound nails into boards.

Say: **The people who built the new wall around Jerusalem had to build wooden gates. Their hammers went tap, tap, just like your hammer is doing. God was happy with their hard work. God helped them as they built the wall. God helps us, too!**

Little Helpers

Young children love being helpers, and they love being helped. Tap into this eagerness to teach them that when they help others, they're being good helpers for God. Small children can also learn early on that God is our great Helper—working for us every day in big and small ways. God helps us when we ask him to, and even helps us during times we don't know we need his help. Encourage your kids when they help others by saying things such as, "You did such a good job! God is happy when we help others, because God helps us."

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Remind your child to ask for God's help in everyday tasks, such as during chores. Before you do a task together, say a brief prayer together asking God to be with you as you work.
- Put up a chart with your child's name on it. Add a star each time your child completes a job. Remember to make your expectations age-appropriate and to thank God for his help after a completed chore.

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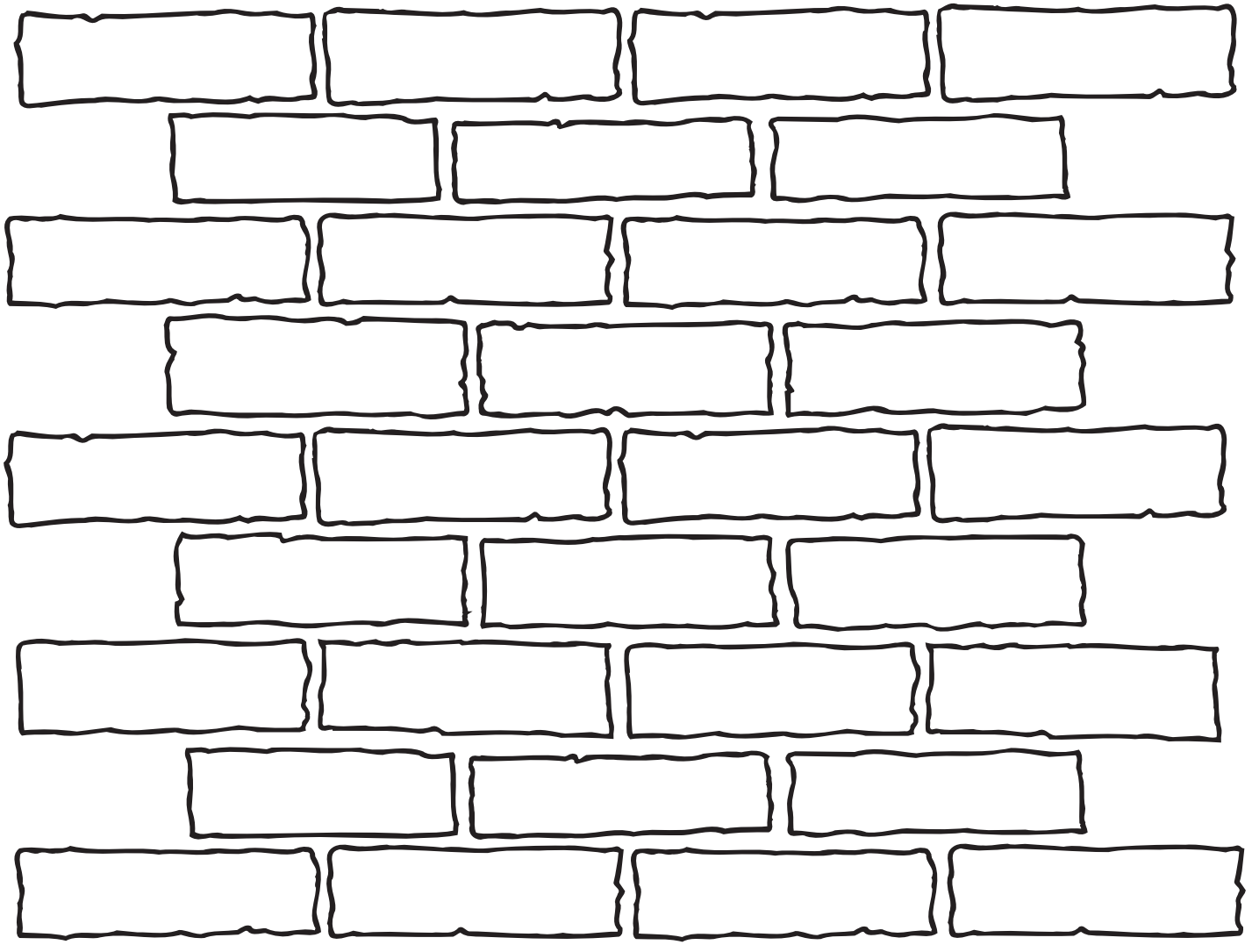
The Wall



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Esther Saves Her People

Esther 2–9

Sometimes even as adults, we feel inadequate when someone mentions that we can serve God. Imagine how a small child must feel. *How can I serve God?* he or she might think. *I'm too small.* Yet, all through the Bible, we find examples of God entrusting children with his important work. It was a child's lunch that fed the multitudes, after all. Thank you for empowering the children in your care to be willing and eager participants in God's plans!

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The Chance to Touch** Touch a king's scepter and tassel like Esther did.	scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Scepter" cutout, gold tassel	Cut out the scepter, and tie or staple the tassel to the scepter.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Scepter Speculation** Hear Esther's thoughts in rhyme.	stuffed animal, tape **Teacher Pack:** "Scepter" cutout	
	Little Babies Gently bounce along with a song about serving the Lord.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶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 ask God how they can serve him.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**The Royal Wave** Portray King Xerxes' power with the royal wave of the scepter.	Bible, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Scepter" cutout, gold tassel	Cut out the scepter, and tie or staple the tassel to the scepter.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**The Mordecai Mash** Do an action rhyme about Mordecai.		
	Born to Serve Place decorations on birthday months to celebrate their worth in God.	birthday gift wrap, ribbon, scissors, glue sticks, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Calendar Celebration" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut birthday gift wrap and ribbon into small pieces of various shapes and sizes. Find out each toddler's birthday month.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Touching Power** Re-enact how Esther faced the power of the scepter.	Bible, 2 beach towels, scissors **Teacher Pack:** "Scepter" cutout, gold tassel	Cut out the scepter and tie or staple the tassel to the scepter.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Choose Me Choo-Choo** Make a human train and chant as they "rumble and roll."		
	Birthday Baubles Celebrate their births and God's plan for them.	glue, birthday party favors, markers, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Calendar Celebration" page (at the end of the lesson)	Rremove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Find out each child's birthday month.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 9 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently sway with the baby back and forth to the rhythm.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that he is with me;
He'll be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

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

Afterward, say: **It's good to ▶ SERVE GOD.**

Sing "I Know That God Can Use Me" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Gently bounce baby to the rhythm.

I know that God can use me, can use me, can use me.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.
To tell of his goodness, his kindness and mercy.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.

Afterward, say: **We can ▶ SERVE GOD.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 9)

The Chance to Touch
Supplies

scissors
Teacher Pack
"Scepter" cutout
gold tassel

The Chance to Touch
Easy Prep

Cut out the scepter, and tie or staple the tassel to the scepter.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Chance to Touch

What You'll Do

Sit with an infant on your lap, and hold the scepter in one hand.

Say: **King Xerxes had a scepter. Would you like to touch this scepter?** Let the baby touch the scepter and tassel. **Esther was the queen, and she was Jewish. Some mean men were going to hurt the Jewish people. Esther needed to ask the king for help, but she was afraid. But when the king held out his scepter, he let Esther touch it.** Guide the baby in touching the scepter. **That meant she could talk to the king. Esther told the king about the bad men and saved her people. Esther served God. Like Esther, we ▶ SERVE GOD, too.**

Scepter Speculation
Supplies

stuffed animal
tape
Teacher Pack
"Scepter" cutout

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Scepter Speculation

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor with an infant in front of you. Tape the scepter to the paw of a stuffed animal. Let the baby reach out to touch the scepter as you say this rhyme:

I can serve God; yes, I can.
I must be brave and do what I can.
To hear God's voice; then see the king
To ask for help that he can bring.

We ▶ SERVE GOD.

Little Babies

What You'll Do

Gently bounce a baby on your knees as you sing this song to the tune of "Ten Little Indians":

One little, two little, three little babies,
Four little, five little, six little babies,
Seven little, eight little, nine little babies,
Ten babies to serve God.
One little, two little, three little servants,
Four little, five little, six little servants,
Seven little, eight little, nine little servants,
Ten little servants for God.

We ▶ SERVE GOD.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 9 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, let toddlers do the actions.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, *(point up)*
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise, *(put your fist on your palm)*
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord." *(point up)*
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 9)

How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, *(pretend to draw a smile on your face)*
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that he is with me; *(put your hands on your heart)*
He'll be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more! *(raise your hands and look up)*

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

Afterward, say: **It's great to ▶ SERVE GOD.**

Sing "I Know That God Can Use Me" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Encourage kids to sway to the beat.

I know that God can use me, can use me, can use me.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.
To tell of his goodness, his kindness and mercy.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.

Afterward, say: **We can all ▶ SERVE GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Royal Wave

The Royal Wave
Supplies

Bible
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Scepter" cutout
gold tassel

The Royal Wave
Easy Prep

Cut out the scepter, and tie or staple the tassel to the scepter.

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Esther 2. Show children the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **King Xerxes had a scepter. The scepter showed his power. When he waved it, he was reminding people that he was king!** Demonstrate how to wave the scepter with kingly and queenly pomp and splendor. Pass the scepter around, and let each toddler wave the scepter. **Esther was the queen, and she was Jewish. Some mean men were planning to hurt all of the Jewish people. Esther needed to ask the king for help. Esther was scared.**

But Mordecai believed that Esther could serve God by going to the king. So Esther went to see the king. When the king held out his scepter, it meant she could talk with him. Can you hold out this scepter like King Xerxes did? Let each toddler hold out the scepter. You may wish to play the part of Esther and touch the scepter as each child plays the part of King Xerxes. **Esther told the king about the bad men and saved her people. Esther served God. We can ▶ SERVE GOD, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

The Mordecai Mash

What You'll Do

Gather a few toddlers.

Say: **Esther and her cousin Mordecai served God. When Esther was afraid, Mordecai helped her remember to be brave and do what was right. Let's do an action rhyme about Mordecai.**

We are strong in the Lord. *(make muscles)*
Scepter, crown, or mighty sword *(pantomime waving sword)*
Doesn't stop the God of all *(point to heaven, and shake your head)*
Who we serve when we stand tall. *(stand on your tiptoes)*

We ▶ SERVE GOD.

Born to Serve

What You'll Do

Gather a few toddlers. Give each child a "Calendar Celebration" page.

Say: **When Esther was afraid, Mordecai encouraged her. He told Esther that she was born to be queen. Mordecai believed that God knew Esther would grow up to save her people.**

God knew when you were born, and God has a plan for you. Find each child's birthday month on the calendar on the "Calendar Celebration" page. Help each child glue birthday paper and ribbons onto his or her birthday month.

Say: **Mordecai believed Esther was born to serve God. God has a plan for each one of you to serve him, too! We ▶ SERVE GOD.**

Born to Serve
Supplies

birthday gift wrap
ribbon
scissors
glue sticks
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Calendar Celebration" page (at the end of the lesson)

Born to Serve
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut birthday gift wrap and ribbon into small pieces of various shapes and sizes. Find out each toddler's birthday month.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 9)

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 9 on the CD) anytime during the lesson. As you sing, lead children in the actions.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, *(point up)*
Just to take him at his word,
Just to rest upon his promise, *(put your fist on your palm)*
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord." *(point up)*
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, *(pretend to draw a smile on your face)*
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that he is with me; *(put your hands on your heart)*
He'll be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! *(put your hands on your heart)*
O for grace to trust him more! *(raise your hands and look up)*

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

Afterward, say: **It's great to ▶ SERVE GOD.**

Sing "I Know That God Can Use Me" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Encourage kids to sway to the beat.

I know that God can use me, can use me, can use me.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.
To tell of his goodness, his kindness and mercy.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.

Afterward, say: **We can all ▶ SERVE GOD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Touching Power

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Esther 2. Show children the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **King Xerxes was a king. He had a scepter to show his power. The scepter probably looked something like this. When Xerxes held out the scepter, he was reminding people of his power as king. Would you like to pretend to be King Xerxes?** Let children take turns wearing a beach-towel "robe" and holding the scepter.

Esther was the queen. She had lovely royal clothes, too. Place another beach towel around a girl's shoulders. **But Esther did not have a scepter. Esther could not even go to see the king unless he invited her. It was the rule.** Remove the towel from the girl's shoulders.

Some mean men were planning to hurt the Jewish people, who were Esther's people. Esther knew she needed the king to help them. Esther was afraid. But Esther's cousin, Mordecai, told her to serve God by going to the king. Mordecai told Esther to be brave! So Esther went to see the king. When the king held out his scepter, it meant she could talk with him. Do you know what Esther did? Esther touched the scepter. Let children take turns portraying both Xerxes and Esther. Instruct Esther to touch the scepter when it is held out to her.

Say: **Esther told King Xerxes about the bad men and saved her people. Esther served God because she was willing. We can ▶ SERVE GOD, too.**

Touching Power
Supplies

Bible
2 beach towels
scissors
Teacher Pack
"Scepter" cutout
gold tassel

Touching Power
Easy Prep

Cut out the scepter, and tie or staple the tassel to the scepter.

Birthday Baubles
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Calendar Celebration" page (at the end of the lesson)
glue
birthday party favors
markers

Birthday Baubles
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Find out each child's birthday month.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose Me Choo-Choo

What You'll Do

Have the children line up train-style with their hands on the waists of the child in front of them. Take the position at the front of the train.

Say: **Esther saved her people by serving God. God chose her. And she said, "I'm willing. Choose me." Let's do the same. Can you say, "Choose me, choose me"?** Practice this a few times. Then encourage children to move around the room in a train as they chant "Choose me, choose me" in rhythm. Continue as long as children are interested.

Say: **We can ▶ SERVE GOD like Esther did.**

Birthday Baubles

What You'll Do

Set out child-safe birthday party favors and glue. Give each child a "Calendar Celebration" page.

Say: **Esther knew that she must talk to King Xerxes, but she was afraid. Mordecai told Esther to be brave. He told Esther that she had been born to be queen and to serve God.**

God knew when you were born, and he has a plan for you, too. Guide children in using markers to circle their birthday months on their pages. **Mordecai believed that God knew Esther would grow up to save her people. God had a plan for Esther from the moment she was born. God has a plan for you, too. That's cause for celebration!** Let children play with the birthday party favors, gluing the smaller ones onto their calendars.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

HOME CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus

Something to Give

Sometimes even as adults, we feel inadequate when someone mentions that we can serve God. Imagine how a little child must feel. *How can I serve God?* a small child might wonder. Yet, all through the Bible, we find examples of God entrusting children with his important work. It was a child's lunch that fed the multitudes, after all. Remember to encourage your child to be a willing part of God's plans. God will do the rest.

Your child learned that we can all serve God (from Esther 2–9). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Little Babies

Sing this song to the tune of "Ten Little Indians":

One little, two little, three little babies,
Four little, five little, six little babies,
Seven little, eight little, nine little babies,
Ten babies to serve God.
One little, two little, three little servants,
Four little, five little, six little servants,
Seven little, eight little, nine little servants,
Ten servants for the Lord.

Say: **We serve God.**

TODDLER

The Mordecai Mash

Say: **Mordecai helped Esther remember to be brave and serve God.** Do the following action rhyme with your toddler:

We are strong in the Lord. *(make muscles)*
Scepter, crown, or mighty sword *(pantomime waving sword)*
Doesn't stop the God of all *(point to heaven, and shake your head)*
Who we serve when we stand tall. *(stand on your tiptoes)*

2-YEAR-OLD

Choose Me Choo-Choo

Make a train with your child and other family members.

Say: **Esther saved her people because she was willing to serve God. God chose her. And she said, "I'm willing. Choose me." Let's do the same. Can you say, "Choose me, choose me"?** Practice this a few times.

As you "rumble and roll" around the room, chant "Choose me, choose me."

Say: **Esther served God. You can, too. We serve God.**

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Take a trip to church, and walk with your child through the various places inside the church. Let your child stand behind the pulpit, sit in the choir loft, or stand to "teach" the Sunday school class. Talk about how people serve God in the church.
- Plan an outing to a business in the community. Talk about how the people who work in those places can show God's love in how they treat people. Discuss how people in the community serve God.

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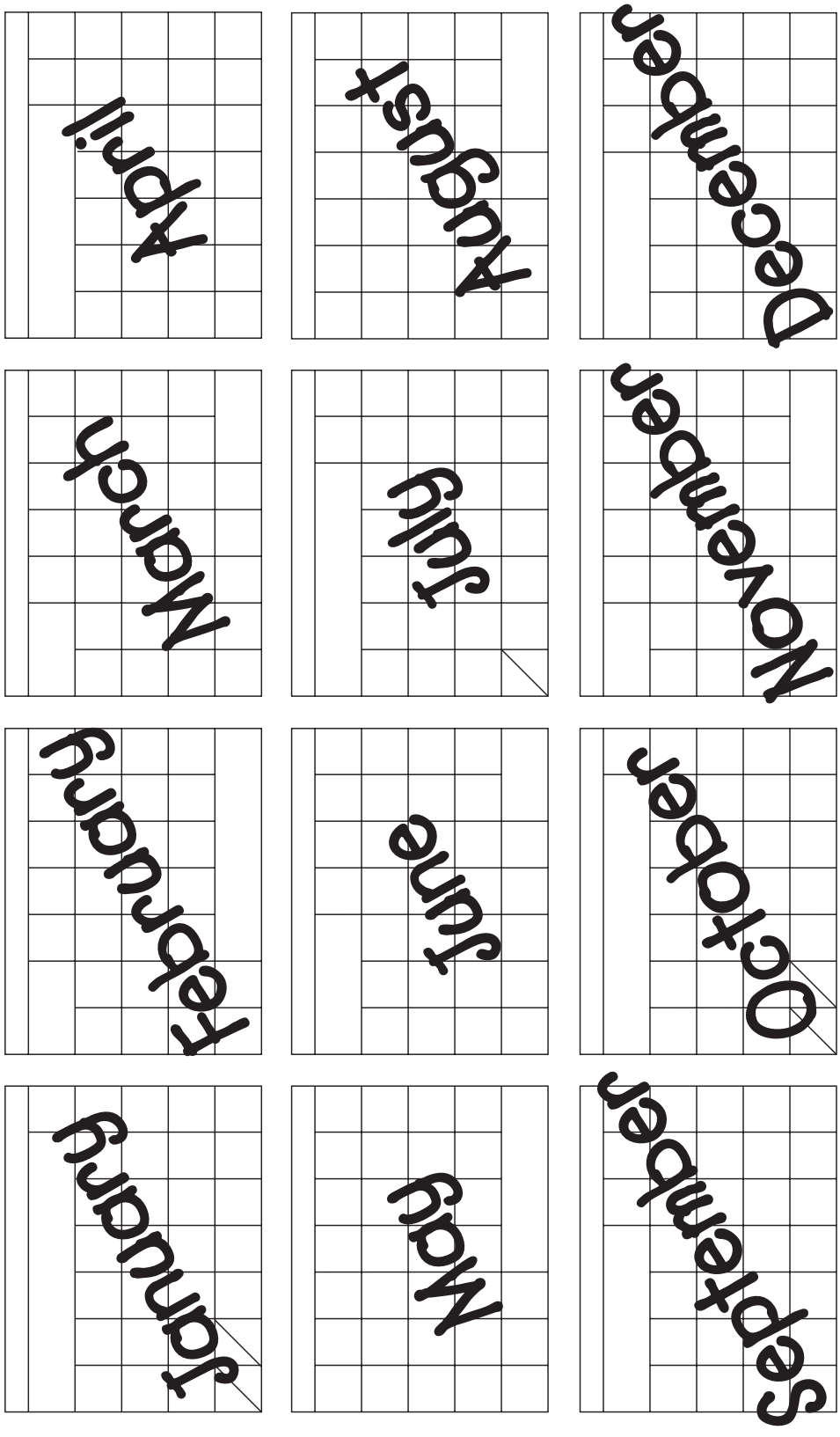
Calendar Celebration



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Job Remains Faithful in Suffering

Job 1:1–2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17

Small children experience many bumps and bruises as they explore their worlds. They bring their hurts to a trusted adult for kisses and hugs to "make things better." What a wonderful opportunity to teach children that the greatest "hurt healer" is God, who is always ready to lavish heavenly kisses on us because God helps us when we're sad.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Job Feels Better** Look at creation, and hear how God helped Job.		
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Helpful Wipes** Wipe a doll's tears away.	doll, handkerchief	
	Help for Hurts Experience an action rhyme about God's care.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

▶ 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 thank God for being there when they're sad.

TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**Seeing Is Believing** See that God showed Job wonderful things when he was sad.	Bible, scissors, 1 sheet of heavy paper per child **Teacher Pack:** "Glasses" pattern	Make copies of the "Glasses" pattern on heavy paper or card stock; you'll need 1 copy for each child. Cut out the frames and lenses portion of each pair of glasses. Fold back the earpieces.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**He Helps Every Hurt** Sing an action song that tells us to rely on God to help hurts.		
	Majestic Thoughts Make Job's mouth happy, and help him remember God's majesty in his thoughts.	red crayons, scissors, old magazines, glue sticks, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Job Remembers" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut pictures from magazines of nature scenes that inspire a sense of wonder. Examples might be mountains, rivers, powerful animals, or massive trees.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	**Sing and Celebrate** Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player **Teacher Pack:** CD	
2 Bible Exploration	**No Wonder Job Felt Better** Identify God's wonders that helped Job feel better when he was sad.	Bible, scissors, heavy paper, pictures of God's creation **Teacher Pack:** "Glasses" pattern	Make copies of the "Glasses" pattern on heavy paper or card stock; you'll need 1 copy for each child. Cut out the frames and lenses portion of each pair of glasses. Fold back the earpieces. Gather pictures of God's creation—pictures showing God-made wonders, not man-made things. Place these in visible spots around the room.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	**Wipe It Away** Have tears and sores wiped away.	wet wipes, mirror, makeup concealer stick	
	Changing Thoughts Bend Job's thoughts into happy ones.	4 chenille wires per child, glue, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Job Remembers" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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.

INFANT

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, gently rock a baby in your arms.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God.
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God.

We will stand up for God;
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Sing "I Know That God Can Use Me" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Gently swing a baby to the rhythm as you sing.

I know that God can use me, can use me, can use me.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.
To tell of his goodness, his kindness and mercy.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Job Feels Better

What You'll Do

Stand by a window with an infant, or look at a pastoral scene in a picture book. Let the baby touch the glass in the window or the picture in the book.

Say: **God gives us good things. Job, a man in the Bible, was very sad. He was hurting.** Make a sad face. **Then God reminded Job of all the good things around him. That made Job feel better.** Make a happy face. ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Helpful Wipes
Supplies

doll
handkerchief

Helpful Wipes

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor with an infant. Hold a doll and a handkerchief.

Say: **Sometimes we feel sad. I think this poor baby doll is crying. She must be hurt. Let's wipe away her tears.** Hand the handkerchief to the baby. **Can you wipe the baby's tears?** Guide the baby's hand to wipe the pretend tears from the doll's face.
▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Help for Hurts

What You'll Do

Hold an infant facing you. Take the baby's hands to do the actions with the following rhyme:

When I'm hurting and have fears, *(put the baby's hands on your cheeks)*
When my eyes are full of tears, *(help the baby touch your eyes)*
God above will often say, *(put the baby's hands on your mouth)*
"Didn't I make a lovely day?" *(stretch the baby's arms up)*
And when my thoughts are oh-so-sad, *(help the baby touch your furrowed brow)*
God will help to make me glad. *(let the baby feel your smiling mouth)*
God knows just what I should hear, *(guide the baby to touch your ear)*
And he draws me very near. *(draw the baby close for a hug)*

Say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, have toddlers stand up and then sit down every time they sing "stand up for God."

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else,
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

Sing "I Know That God Can Use Me" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. As you sing, encourage children to clap.

I know that God can use me, can use me, can use me.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.
To tell of his goodness, his kindness and mercy.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Seeing Is Believing

Seeing Is Believing
Supplies

Bible
scissors
1 sheet of heavy paper per child
Teacher Pack
"Glasses" pattern

Seeing Is Believing
Easy Prep

Make copies of the "Glasses" pattern on heavy paper or card stock; you'll need 1 copy for each child. Cut out the frames and lenses portion of each pair of glasses. Fold back the earpieces.

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to the book of Job, and show kids the words. Tell them that the Bible is God's special book. Give each child a pair of glasses that you made.

Say: **Job was a good man who loved God. Then bad things happened to Job. He got sick, and he had sores on his body. Job was sad. But God reminded Job of the wonders around him. Let's put on our glasses so that we can know what Job saw.** Help children put on their glasses and look around. **Oh, I see so many wonderful things. What do you see?** Pause for children to answer. Remind the children that all good things come from God. **God showed Job wonderful things so he could feel better when he was hurting and sad.** ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

He Helps Every Hurt

What You'll Do

Stand in a circle with a few toddlers.

Say: **God wants to help with our hurts. God cares about your head, your hands, your toes, and all the rest of you! We can sing a song that reminds us that God cares about our bodies. As we sing about a body part, we'll put it in and out of the circle.** Sing the following to the tune of "The Hokey Pokey":

God made this big toe. *(point to one big toe)*

And God made that big toe. *(point to your other big toe)*
God made our toes, and so he's sure to know! *(wiggle both toes)*
Is that toe unhappy? *(point to one big toe)*
Does it make us cry? *(point to imaginary tears)*
We know that God will help. *(clap your hands)*

Continue the song with other body parts such as hands, elbows, knees, and heads.

Say: **God knows all about us—our fingers, toes, and everything else. And God cares. ▶ GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Majestic Thoughts

What You'll Do

Give each toddler a "Job Remembers" page. Set out red crayons, the magazine pictures, and glue sticks.

Say: **Job was sad. He cried out to God. God showed Job wonderful things, and Job felt better. Can you make Job smile?** Encourage toddlers to use the red crayons to draw a smile on Job's face in the picture. **Job remembered that God made those wonderful things.** Help children glue the magazine pictures into the thought bubbles in the picture. **Job remembered that God, who makes wonderful things, loved him. God helped Job when Job was sad. ▶ GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD, too.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING **STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "We Will Stand Up" (track 8 on the CD) to the tune of "99 Bottles of Pop" anytime during the lesson. Have children stand up tall as they sing.

Majestic Thoughts
Supplies

red crayons
scissors
old magazines
glue sticks
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Job Remembers" page (at the end of the lesson)

Majestic Thoughts
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut pictures from magazines of nature scenes that inspire a sense of wonder. Examples might be mountains, rivers, powerful animals, or massive trees.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD (track 8)

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

We will stand up for God. *(stand up)*
Bad king, we will not bow.
Whatever you say, whatever you do,
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

We will stand up for God; *(stand up)*
We will stand up tall.
We will not worship anything else;
We will stand up tall for God. *(stand up)*

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Sing "I Know That God Can Use Me" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" anytime during the lesson. Encourage kids to clap to the beat as you sing.

I know that God can use me, can use me, can use me.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.
To tell of his goodness, his kindness and mercy.
I know that God can use me to tell of his love.

Afterward, say: ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

No Wonder Job Felt Better
Supplies

Bible
scissors
heavy paper
pictures of God's creation
Teacher Pack
"Glasses" pattern

No Wonder Job Felt Better
Easy Prep

Make copies of the "Glasses" pattern on heavy paper or card stock; you'll need 1 copy for each child. Cut out the frames and lenses portion of each pair of glasses. Fold back the earpieces. Gather pictures of God's creation—pictures showing God-made wonders, not man-made things. Place these in visible spots around the room.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

No Wonder Job Felt Better

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to the book of Job, and show kids the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book. Give each child a pair of the glasses that you made.

Say: **Job loved and served God. But bad things happened to Job. Job was very sad. He had no money and no family. Job even had terrible sores all over his body. Job cried. He was hurting. God came to Job and reminded Job of all the good things around him. There are pictures all around the room of things God might have shown Job. But you'll have to put on your glasses to find them.** Help children put on their glasses. Encourage them to search for and collect the pictures.

Say: **What wonderful things did you find?** Let children describe each picture.

Say: **God made those things. No wonder Job felt better. Job knew that God, who made such wonderful things, cared about him. God helped Job remember God's creation when he was hurting and sad.**

▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Wipe It Away

What You'll Do

Sit on the floor with children.

Say: **Job was so sad that he cried and cried. No one could wipe away his tears or make him feel better.** Use a makeup concealer stick to draw tears on any children who are willing. Let them see their tears in a mirror. **Now you have tears just like Job. Job had sores on his body, too.** Use the concealer to draw a few "sores" on children's arms.

Say: **No wonder Job was sad. Can you make sad faces like Job?** Let children make sad faces in the mirror. **God cared that Job was hurting. God always cares when his children hurt. He can wipe sadness away.** Use wet wipes to clean away all the tears and sores. **God loves us, and he cares when we're hurt and sad.** ▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Wipe It Away
Supplies

wet wipes
mirror
makeup concealer stick

Changing Thoughts

What You'll Do

Give each child a "Job Remembers" page and four chenille wires.

Say: **Job was sad. Can you take a chenille wire and make Job a sad mouth?** Guide children in making sad mouths for Job. Don't glue the mouths onto the picture yet. **Then God reminded Job of good things. Maybe Job thought about mountains! Can you make mountains?** Children may bend the chenille wires into mountains and glue them into one of Job's thought bubbles. **Maybe Job thought about fire!** Help children create flames and glue them into another thought bubble. **Maybe Job thought about the beautiful oceans!** Help children create waves and glue them into the last thought bubble. **Maybe Job thought of all this and smiled. Before we glue on Job's mouth, let's turn it around so that he is smiling.** Guide children in reversing the sad mouth into a happy one and then gluing it onto their pictures. **God came to Job to help him.**
▶ **GOD HELPS US WHEN WE'RE SAD.**

Changing Thoughts
Supplies

4 chenille wires per child
glue
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Job Remembers" page (at the end of this lesson)

Changing Thoughts
Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Student book.

Weaving Faith at Home
Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow in Jesus. 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.

Growing With Jesus

HOME CONNECT®

Your child learned that God helps us when we're sad (from Job 1:1–2:10 and 42:1-6, 10-17). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Helpful Wipes

Sit on the floor with your baby. Hold a doll and a handkerchief.

Say: **Sometimes even babies are sad. I think this poor baby doll is crying. She must be hurt. Let's wipe her tears away.** Hand the handkerchief to your baby. **Would you like to wipe the baby's tears?** Guide your baby's hand to wipe the pretend tears from the doll's face. **God helps us when we're sad, too.**

TODDLER

He Helps Every Hurt

Sing the following to the tune of "The Hokey Pokey"with your toddler:

♫ **God made this big toe.** *(point to one big toe)*
God made that big toe. *(point to your other toe)*
God made our toes, and so he's sure to know. *(wiggle both toes)*
Is that toe unhappy? *(point to your toe)*
Does it make us cry? *(point to imaginary tears)*
We know that God will help. *(clap your hands)*

Continue the song with other body parts such as hands, elbows, knees, and heads.

2-YEAR-OLD

Wipe It Away

Sit on the floor with your child.

Say: **Job was so sad that he cried and cried. No one could wipe away his tears or make him feel better.** Use a makeup concealer stick to draw tears on your child. **Now you have tears just like Job.**

Job was sad. Can you make sad faces like Job? Let your child make sad faces in a mirror. **God cared that Job was hurting. God can wipe sadness away.** Use wet wipes to clean away all the tears. **God loves us, and he cares that we are hurting. God helps us when we're sad.**

All Better

Small children experience many bumps and bruises. They bring their hurts to Mommy or Daddy for kisses and hugs. What a wonderful opportunity to teach your child that the greatest "hurt healer" is God, who is always ready to lavish heavenly kisses on us and help us when we're sad!

Help your child become a FaithWeaver with these ideas:

- Play with your child and a stuffed toy. Let your child comfort the animal or doll as if it were hurt. Discuss how God comforts and helps us when we are sad.
- Look for God's majesty in the things around you. When you go outside, tell your child that our mighty God made the biggest tree and flung the stars into the sky! Remind your child that this same powerful God loves us, and he is in control, even when we are sad.

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Job Remembers

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