Bible Truths
AND YOU

A Journey through God's Word
in 41 Lessons



Welcome to Bible Truths & You!

Thank you for your desire to share God's Word with young people. It is our sincere hope that this curriculum will illuminate biblical truths in young hearts and empower children to apply what they learn to their personal lives.

The curriculum is designed to primarily be used with children ranging in age from 5 to 8 years old. However, suggestions for adapting the activities for younger and older children have also been provided.

Comprised of 41 separate lessons, each teaching session is designed to last approximately 90 minutes. Every lesson follows the same format and includes discussion questions to help get children thinking, a memory verse and suggested hand motions to get children up and moving, and a concise, easy-to-understand explanation of how each individual Bible story fits into God's big story, the overall metanarrative of Scripture.

Bible Truths & You is designed to be used with the popular *Bible App for Kids*. However, if access to technology is a challenge, each Bible story can be shared using the "Today's Bible Story" section provided inside each lesson or using the Story Card resource listed below.

Find additional downloadable resources to help enrich this curriculum at

BibleAppforKids.com:

- Colouring pages
- Full-colour Story Cards *(use as a storytelling tool)*
- Parent Guides *(use as a take-home resource)*

Again, thank you so much for all you do to help children grow in God's Word.





In the Beginning

Creation of the world
Genesis 1:1-2:4

Character Trait: Positive Self-Image

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that God is the Creator of everything.
- Children will recognise that people are God's most special creation.
- Children will list or draw a specific way they can use the skills and talents God gave them.

Supplies:

- *In the Beginning* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Colouring supplies
- Paper
- A ball *(suitable for throwing)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Share your name and one special thing about yourself.

SAY: Each one of us is so much more than just our outward appearance. We have talents, interests and skills that make each of us unique.

Invite the children to turn and introduce themselves to someone near them. Have them share something special about themselves, too.

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *In the Beginning* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- We live in a beautiful world!
- Just look at the amazing things around you.
- Let's go back to the beginning and see what the Bible tells us about how it all began.
- In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth.
- God moved over the darkness and said, "Light!"
- He called the light "Day" and He called the darkness "Night."
- And that was that, for Day One.
- Then God made a space to separate the waters above from the waters below.
- He called the space "Sky."
- And that was that, for Day Two.
- God gathered the waters together, and dry ground appeared.
- He called the ground "Land" and the waters "Seas."
- Then He made plants like grass, grain and trees.
- Day Three! Done!
- Then God made lights in the sky.
- He made the sun for the day, the moon for the night, and all the stars.

- And that was that, for Day Four.
- God made fish to swim in the waters and birds to fly in the sky.
- "Have babies!" He told them. "Fill the world with splashing and singing."
- And that was that, for Day Five.
- Next, God made animals.
- He made farm animals, wild animals, and animals that crawl on the ground.
- "Just one more thing to make," God said, "the most special thing of all."
- So, in His image, God made man and woman.
- "Have babies," He said. "Take charge of the world. Care for the fish, the birds and the animals."
- And that was that, for Day Six.
- Then God looked at everything He had made.
- "It's very good!" He said.
- So on the seventh day He rested and made that day special.
- And that was that.



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **Who created the world?** *(God)*
- **Can you remember what God did during each of the 7 days of creation?** *(1. He created day and night. 2. He separated the water from the sky. 3. He created land and sea. 4. He made the sun and the moon. 5. He made fish and birds. 6. He made animals for the ground and people. 7. He rested.)*
- **What is the most special thing that God created?** *(Man and woman)*
- **What are some ways that God made us special and unique?** *(Answers might include: We are made to love and have relationships with others, including with God. We are creative. We can think and make choices. We can learn.)*
- **What does this tell you about God?** *(Answers will vary but should include that He is creative and powerful.)*

Ask the children to recall the welcome activity. Ask them to raise their hand if they shared something special about themselves. Next, ask them to raise their hand if they learnt something special about someone else.

SAY: God created everything and everyone carefully and uniquely, including everyone here. In fact, people have been created in His image. What tremendous value, potential and purpose you have! God, who created everything carefully, created you. He loves you and wants you to learn more about Him and love Him, too.



God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: God knows and loves each one of us, and He wants us to know Him, too. In fact, God created people to have a relationship with Him from the very beginning. So, He has created a way for us to learn more about Him. The Bible is God's message to us. It is made up of many different stories that all work together to tell one big story, God's Big Story.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

Then God *(point both hands up)*
looked over *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
all He had made *(pretend to form a ball with your hands)*,
and He saw that it was very good *(draw a smile across your face)*!

Genesis 1:31a (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

SAY: Take turns tossing a ball to one another. Whoever catches the ball must call out one thing God created in the very beginning and then toss the ball to someone else.

Continue as time permits or until every child has had the opportunity to play.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

Have children list (or draw a picture of) their different skills and talents. Next, invite them to list (or draw a picture of) how they might use these abilities to do good in the world.

For younger children...
Make this activity more accessible for younger children by asking them to draw one example of how they can use their skills to help out at home.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by encouraging them to take steps to put their idea into action. Provide an opportunity for older children to pair up with another child to talk about their action steps.

Character Trait: Self-Image
(10 minutes)

SAY: We can look around and admire the beauty and complexity of God's creation today, including inside ourselves.

Encourage the children to think more about their own self-image by asking the following:

- **What kinds of skills and abilities has God given you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Skills, talents and abilities are precious gifts from God. What do these gifts say about how God feels about you?** *(God cared so much about me that He planned and created me carefully and uniquely.)*

Connect with Others:
(5 minutes)

SAY: We can help others appreciate their value by pointing out the special talents and abilities God gave them, too.

Challenge the children to think about their friends and family.

- **What kinds of special skills do they have?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How do the special skills of others help you, too?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to take the time to point out these special talents in others and express their thankfulness for them.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: God created everything, including each of you. Each person is created in God's image with tremendous value and purpose. God loves and wants a relationship with His most treasured creation: you!

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank you for creating everything and each of us carefully and with purpose. Help us to grow in our purpose to know and love you.
Amen.

Notes



The First Sin

The Fall

Genesis 3:1-24

Character Trait: Obedience

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that sin is anything we think, say or do that displeases God.
- Children will recall the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin.
- Children will discuss ways in which God loves and protects us.

Supplies:

- *The First Sin* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Red crayons
- Paper
- Small piece of red construction paper *(for younger children, optional)*
- Pens and/or pencils

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they saw a stop sign or traffic light on their way over to class. Ask them if their mom, dad or family member asked them to follow a rule today.

SAY: Rules and safety signs are designed to help us. They keep us safe from harm.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What did God create?** *(Everything)*
- **What is God's most treasured creation?** *(People, us)*
- **Why are we so valuable?**
  (God created people in His image, and He loves us so much.)

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The First Sin* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, lived in a beautiful garden that God made for them.
- But Satan came as a crafty serpent and tempted Adam and Eve...
- "Did God say you must not eat the fruit from these trees?" the serpent asked Eve.
- "Just the tree in the middle," Eve replied. "If we eat from it, we'll die."
- "You won't die!" said the serpent. "There's a reason why God doesn't want you to eat from that tree. If you do, you'll be like Him. You'll know what He knows!"
- Eve ate the fruit.

- She gave some to Adam, who was with her.
- He ate it, too.
- And at once, they knew things they had never known before.
- One thing they knew was that they were naked!
- They sewed leaves together to cover themselves.
- They'd never felt fear or shame before, so they knew something was wrong.
- "Adam!" God called. "Eve!"
- "We're hiding," said Adam. "We're naked."
- "You know that because you ate from the tree," God sighed.
- Then Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.
- God said, "Serpent, you must crawl on your belly. A woman's son will defeat you. Eve, childbirth will be painful. Adam, growing food will be difficult."
- Then God made clothes for Adam and Eve and sent them out of the garden.
- He put an angel with a flaming sword there, so they could not return.



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **Who made the beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived?** *(God)*
- **Satan came to deceive Eve in the form of a snake/serpent. What did the serpent say to Eve to tempt her to eat the fruit?** *("Did God say you must not eat the fruit from these trees?... You won't die! There's a reason why God doesn't want you to eat from that tree. If you do, you will be like Him. You will know what He knows.")*
- **What happened because of Adam and Eve's disobedience?** *(Childbirth would be painful. Growing food would be difficult. They were sent out of the garden.)*
- **How did God punish the serpent?** *(He will have to crawl on his belly for the rest of his life.)*
- **What did God say would happen to the serpent (Satan)?** *(God said that a woman's son will defeat Satan.)*

SAY: God loved Adam and Eve. He provided them with food to eat, work to do and a beautiful garden to enjoy. Adam and Eve sinned when they chose to disobey God by eating from the forbidden tree. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. Sin brought pain and death into the world, but God made a promise for the future.

SAY: God knows so much more than we will ever know, including what is best for us. He loves us very much that He created rules to help protect and keep us. One of the most important ways we can show God that we trust Him is by choosing to learn and follow His rules. We can choose to obey and follow God.



God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: God loves and wants to protect us. He created rules to help keep us safe. But the first man and woman did not follow God's rules. They disobeyed God and this broke the relationship between God and the people He loved very much.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

So the LORD God *(point both hands up)*
banished them from the Garden of Eden *(cross arms at wristswith closed fists)*,
and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground *(hit fist twice on palm)*
from which he had been made *(pretend to form a ball with your hands)*."

Genesis 3:23 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

SAY: God was very clear. He told Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Adam and Eve knew what was right, but they chose to disobey God.

SAY: We will play a game that demonstrates this same thing. It is called "Simon Says." You are to do any action that begins with the phrase "Simon Says." But if you complete an action that does not begin with this phrase, you are "out" of the rest of the game, just as Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden.

Continue the game as time permits or until only one child remains.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

Give each child a piece of paper and a red crayon. Ask them to draw or write something. It can even be as simple as just a mark on the paper. Next, ask them to erase it.

SAY: Our choices are like the red mark on the paper. We might try to hide or ignore bad choices we make. But like Adam and Eve, who tried to hide from God in the garden, nothing we do can take away or completely undo our choices. Only God can forgive sin.

For younger children...
Instead of asking younger children to draw, provide each child with a small piece of red construction paper instead. Then, ask them to erase the red from the paper.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by instructing them to write the memory verse somewhere on their paper. Then, tell them to circle the word "cultivate."

SAY: After Adam and Eve sinned, Adam had to cultivate the ground in order to grow food. Cultivate means to tend and take care of something. The most important thing any of us can do is cultivate our personal relationship with God.

Challenge children to identify specific ways to do this.

Character Trait: Obedience
(10 minutes)

SAY: God provides rules, commandments and people to help us learn because He is good and loves us.

Encourage the children to think more about obedience by asking the following:

- **In what ways is God protecting you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What does this say about how He feels about us?** *(God wants to protect us because He loves us.)*
- **How does choosing to obey Him show how we feel about God?** *(Obeying God shows that we love and trust God. We think He is good and right.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about the people who take care of you. What kinds of rules do they have in place to help keep you safe? Think of some specific ways you can thank them for their love and protection.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God loves us and wants us to obey the rules He has created to protect us.

When sin entered the world, it created separation between God and humans, but God had a plan to defeat sin. God always loves us, and He never stops caring for us. Even when we sin and disobey Him, God is faithful to forgive us when we say we are sorry and ask Him for forgiveness.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank you for loving us so much that you created rules to keep us safe. Help us stay strong against temptation and forgive us when we sin. Instead, may we always choose to trust and obey you.
Amen.

Notes



Two by Two

Noah and the flood
Genesis 6:5-9:17

Character Trait: Diligence

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God protected Noah and his family during the flood.
- Children will discuss why diligence is important.
- Children will explain that diligence is an important way to show honour to God.

Supplies:

- *Two by Two* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Colouring supplies
- Paper
- A Bible

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Explain that you would like to begin today a little differently by first reading the memory verse aloud from the Bible. Intentionally hold your Bible upside down and clearly struggle to find and read Genesis 6:8 aloud. Continue to struggle for a few minutes, making your frustration and carelessness obvious to the children. Then, call on a child to point out what you were doing incorrectly. Point out that books, including the Bible, are designed to be read right-side up. Holding your Bible right-side up, read Genesis 6:8 aloud.

SAY: Doing things the right way is important. Otherwise, things do not work out the way they were designed . Today, we will learn about a man named Noah. He followed God's instructions exactly.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What is sin?** *(Sin is anything we think, say or do that displeases God)*
- **Who tempted Adam and Eve in the garden?** *(Satan)*
- **What did Adam and Eve do when they felt shame?** *(They sewed leaves together to cover themselves. They hid from God.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Two by Two* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- The earth filled up with people, but they sinned so much that God was sorry He had made them.
- He decided to send a flood to wash away everyone on earth.
- There was a man named Noah who wasn't like the others.
- Noah loved God and obeyed Him.
- God decided to spare Noah and his family from the flood.
- God warned Noah about the flood.

- He told him to build an enormous boat with a low roof, three decks, a window, and a door.
- In obedience, Noah built it.
- God told Noah to collect two of every kind of animal. One male. One female.
- Then Noah, his family, and the animals went into the boat.
- God shut the door.
- It rained for forty days and forty nights.
- Water fell from the sky and rose from the oceans and lakes.
- Even the tallest mountains disappeared beneath the flood.
- Meanwhile, Noah, his family, and all the animals were safe in the boat, floating on the flood waters.
- God had not forgotten about Noah, not even for a moment.
- God sent a wind to blow.
- The waters went down.
- The boat rested on Mount Ararat.
- Noah sent out a dove. When it didn't return, he knew it was safe.
- When the ground was dry, God told them to come out.
- He put a rainbow in the sky as a promise that He would never flood the whole earth again.



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **How did God feel when He saw all the sin that filled the world?** *(God became sorry that He had made people.)*
- **Who did God protect from the flood?** *(Noah and his family)*
- **Why did God decide to spare Noah and his family?** *(God spared them because Noah loved and obeyed God.)*
- **What did God tell Noah to collect and take onto the boat?** *(Two of every kind of animal: one male and one female)*
- **How long did it rain?** *(It rained for forty days and forty nights.)*
- **How did Noah know when it was safe to come out of the ark?** *(Noah sent out a dove. When it did not return, Noah knew it was safe.)*
- **God promised to never flood the whole earth again. What did God put in the sky as a reminder of this promise?** *(A rainbow)*

SAY: Noah was not perfect. Noah was human and sinned, just like all of us. But Noah was different than the other people around him. He loved God and obeyed Him. Because of this, God decided to spare Noah and his family from the flood.

SAY: God made a way to carry them safely through the flood, and God has made a way to carry us to safety from our sins, through His Son, Jesus. Everyone faces challenges and suffering sometimes. But when we choose to follow and love Jesus, we can know that we are not alone. God is with us and will help us.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God gave Noah faith to love and obey Him. He made a way to protect Noah from the flood. We all sin and deserve punishment. But God protects those who trust and obey Him today through faith in Jesus.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

But Noah *(hand to chin as if stroking a beard)*
found favor *(raise praying hands over head)*,
with the LORD *(point up)*.

Genesis 6:8 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be the "caller." Have the remaining children sit in a circle. The caller taps the top of the other children's heads while saying, "Rain." This process continues until the caller taps someone and calls out, "Boat!" That child then stands up and chases the caller around the circle. If the child is able to touch or "tag" the caller, then the caller must sit in the middle of the circle *(until someone else is tagged to take his or her place)*. If the caller sits in the empty spot in the circle before being tagged, then he or she is "safe" and the other child becomes the next "caller." Allow the group to play as time permits.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Give each child a piece of paper and provide a variety of different colouring supplies. Ask them to carefully fold their paper in half to create a card. Next, ask the children to draw *(or trace)* one of their hands on the front of the closed card and decorate it. Explain that this hand represents a reminder to be diligent in all we do. Then, ask the children to open up the card.

Point out how the fold in the middle divides the card into two sides, left and right. On the left side, ask the children to write about or draw pictures that show different ways they can be diligent in showing love and care towards their family and friends. On the right side, ask them to write about or draw pictures that show different ways they can be diligent in showing love and care towards others in their community. Invite the children to take the cards home as a personal reminder to show love and care towards everyone.

Character Trait: Diligence

(10 minutes)

SAY: Diligence is showing careful and consistent effort toward something. It is the opposite of careless, neglectful, and lazy. Noah showed diligence by following God's instructions exactly on how to build the boat.

Encourage the children to think more about diligence by asking the following:

- **Why is diligence important?** *(Diligence shows that we care about and take seriously the tasks that God has given us to do.)*
- **How can choosing to be diligent honour God?** *(When we work diligently, we are using all the talents, abilities and resources that God has given us to their greatest potential. Diligence is one way we can show our thankfulness to God.)*
- **How can diligence help you share God with others?** *(Our choices and actions communicate a lot to those around us. Our lives should reflect God's love and what is important to Him. When we are diligent in all we do, we show others that we are dependable, trustworthy and loyal. These are all things that God shows towards us.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about specific tasks or chores for which you are responsible. What kinds of jobs do you complete at home and/or school? *(Answers will vary.)* Are you doing your very best work? *(Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to show more diligence in fulfilling their personal responsibilities.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Noah loved and obeyed God. God saw this and spared him (and his family) from the flood by providing instructions for Noah to follow. Noah was diligent. He carefully built the boat and followed through on everything God told him to do.

SAY: God sees us. God loves us. And He provides instructions for all of us, too, in His Word, the Bible. God is always diligent and never careless in His love for each of us.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Your diligence in loving us. Help us to show Your love to others and bring honor to You in the same careful, dependable and loyal way by proving to be diligent in all we do.
Amen.

Notes



God's Big Promise

Abraham is called by God
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7

Character Trait: Patience

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that trusting God is the right thing to do, even when it is difficult.
- Children will recognise and discuss that God is faithful to keep His promises.
- Children will demonstrate patience by being respectful listeners to others.

Supplies:

- *God's Amazing Promise* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A seed *(or picture of a seed)*
- Cardstock, cardboard or stiff paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Scrap pieces of fabric, yarn and felt
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Hold up the seed (or picture of a seed). Ask the children if they know what it is and then invite them to answer in unison aloud: a seed!

SAY: A seed is similar to a promise. Inside, it holds the promise of some kind of plant to come. When we look at it now, it is tiny and hard to imagine how big it will be one day . But if we are patient and wait for it to grow, it will grow.

SAY: Today, we will learn about a man named Abraham who trusted God and was patient to wait on God's promise.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Who did God spare from the flood?** *(Noah and his family)*
- **What did God tell Noah to collect and take onto the boat** *(Two of every kind of animal: one male and one female)*
- **God promised to never flood the whole earth again. What did God put in the sky as a reminder of this promise?** *(A rainbow)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God's Amazing Promise* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Abraham lived in Haran.
- "Abraham," God said, " I want you to leave Haran and go to another land."
- God didn't tell Abraham where that was. "Trust Me," God said.
- "Do this," God said, " and your children will become a great nation!"

- "How?" Abraham wondered. His wife, Sarah, was too old to have children.
- "Trust Me," God said.
- "Go where I tell you," God said, "and you will have more descendants than there are stars in the sky! They will bless the whole world. Trust Me."
- So Abraham trusted God.
- He took Sarah, his nephew, Lot, and everything they owned.
- He went where God told him to go. He went to the land of Canaan.
- When he arrived, Abraham camped at Shechem.
- God appeared to him!
- "I will give this land to you and your children," God said.
- Abraham built an altar to God there.
- Abraham travelled around God's promised land. He was glad that he had trusted God.
- So he built another altar and gave thanks to God for all he had been promised.



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **What did God tell Abraham to do?** *(God told him to leave his home in Haran and travel to another land.)*
- **What did God say after He told Abraham what to do?** *("Trust Me.")*
- **What did God promise Abraham?** *(God promised to give Abraham more descendants than there are stars in the sky. He also promised to give the new land to Abraham and his children.)*
- **How did Abraham respond to God's instructions?** *(Abraham showed he trusted God by obeying Him. Abraham travelled to the new land of Canaan. When Abraham arrived in the new land, he gave thanks to God by building an altar.)*

SAY: How would you feel if you found out you had to move to a new place where you had never been before? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Abraham probably felt this way, too, but his trust in God was stronger than his fears. No matter how scared he might have been, Abraham chose to obey God. He travelled to Canaan, and when he arrived, God blessed Abraham with a new life in the brand new land. Trusting God is always the right thing to do, no matter how we feel.



God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: Trusting God is the right thing to do, even when it is difficult. Abraham trusted God, and God was faithful to lead him to a new life in Canaan. God provides a way for each of us to have new life, too, when we choose to trust in and follow Jesus.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

"I will make you *(point forward)*
into a great nation *(raise hands slowly from the floor upward)***.**
I will bless you *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)*
and make you famous *(throw hands up in the air)***,**
and you will be a blessing to others *(sweeping motion with palms up)***...**
All the families on earth *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be blessed *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)* **through you."**

Genesis 12:2, 3b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

SAY: Abraham trusted and obeyed God, not his feelings.
Now, you will be playing a game to practice obedience, too.
Select one child to be the "caller." Have the remaining children sit in a circle. The caller taps the top of the other children's heads while saying, "Stay." This process continues until the caller taps someone and calls out, "Go!"
That child then stands up and chases the caller around the circle. If the child is able to touch or "tag" the caller, then the caller must sit in the middle of the circle *(until someone else is tagged to take his or her place)*. If the caller sits in the empty spot in the circle before being tagged, then he or she is "safe" and the other child becomes the next "caller." Play as time permits.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

SAY: Abraham and his family lived in tents, both when they travelled and probably when they made their new home in Canaan.

Explain that each of them will now make a tent to take home as a reminder of Abraham's trust in God. Provide each child with a piece of cardstock, cardboard or stiff paper. Instruct them to fold it in half like a card. Provide scrap pieces of fabric, yarn and felt for the children to glue to the top of their paper tents. While they work, explain that tents help shield people from the weather and the hot sun.

SAY: God provides instructions to guide and protect us, too, and promises to encourage us while we trust in Him and wait on His timing.

For younger children...
The paper tents can be folded in advance of the lesson for younger children.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by challenging them to think of specific things they can do while they wait on God's timing in their own lives. *(These may include praying, reading God's Word, choosing to be content and grateful, and striving to help those around us who may need help or encouragement.)*

Character Trait: Patience
(10 minutes)

SAY: Patience is the ability to wait calmly. Abraham showed patience in God's timing as he travelled to Canaan.

Encourage the children to think more about patience by asking the following:

- **Why is patience important?** *(It shows that we have self-control and that we do not let our feelings or emotions control us.)*

- **Is it easy or difficult to be patient?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can choosing to be patient honour God?** *(Patience shows that we trust God and His timing.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

Pair each child up with a partner. Encourage them to show patience as they take turns sharing with each other.

SAY: Take turns sharing the tent you made during the activity with each other. Practice patience by listening carefully and asking your partner questions.

Provide a few minutes for the children to share their projects with one another. Walk around the room and provide help and encouragement as necessary. Younger children may benefit from sample questions to ask their partner such as what supplies did they like using the most, why did they select the colors they did and what do they like most about their finished project.



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Abraham trusted in God's timing. Abraham showed this by leaving his home in Haran and travelling to the new land of Canaan. In doing so, Abraham showed patience, too. This was likely very difficult for Abraham to do, but God was faithful to give Abraham a brand new life in Canaan. When things are difficult for us—including when it is difficult to be patient—we can trust God and know that He will be faithful to keep His promises to us, too.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Your faithfulness. Help us to show our trust in Your ways and in Your timing by choosing to be patient in all we do. Amen.

Notes



Abraham's Big Test

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-7; 22:1-19

Character Trait: Faithful

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify and discuss how Abraham was faithful to God.
- Children will recall different ways God has been faithful to them personally.
- Children will discuss specific ways they can be faithful to God.

Supplies:

- *Abraham's Big Test* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- White paper
- Grey or brown construction paper
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Thank all of them for the sacrifice of their time to be present for the lesson.

SAY: Do you know what a sacrifice is? *(Invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: A sacrifice is giving something important or valuable up for something that is even more important. You could be doing something else right now, but instead, you sacrificed your time to come learn and participate in today's lesson.

SAY: Today, we will learn about someone else who was also willing to sacrifice someone very important to him: Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son to God!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What did God tell Abraham to do?** *(God told him to leave his home in Haran and travel to another land.)*
- **What did God promise Abraham?** *(God promised to give Abraham more descendants than there are stars in the sky. He also promised to give the new land to Abraham and his children.)*
- **How did Abraham respond to God's instructions?** *(Abraham obeyed. He left Haran and travelled to the new land of Canaan.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Abraham's Big Test* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- God promised Abraham a son and, from that son, many descendants who would bless the whole world.
- But Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were too old to have children.
- Twenty years went by. Still, Abraham trusted God's promise.
- When Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, God reminded them of His promise.
- Sarah was going to have a baby!
- When their son was born, Sarah was so joyful that she laughed.
- "God has brought me laughter!" she said.
- So they named their son Isaac, which means "he laughs."
- When Isaac was a boy, God tested Abraham by telling him to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and kill him as a sacrifice to God.
- Abraham was confused, but still he trusted God.
- Isaac carried the wood, and Abraham held the knife and torch.
- Together they climbed the mountain.
- "Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" asked Isaac.
- "God will provide it," Abraham replied.
- Abraham arranged the wood on an altar, tied up Isaac, and laid him on the wood.
- As he raised the knife to kill Isaac, an angel called his name: "Abraham!"
- "Don't hurt the boy!" the angel cried. "God knows you trust His promise. Look, there in the bushes! A ram is caught by its horns! Sacrifice that instead."
- So Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of his son.
- He called the place "God Will Provide," because God provided the sacrifice.
- Just as God has said, His promise came true.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **Why might it have been difficult for Abraham to trust God's promise of many descendants?** *(Many years went by, and Abraham and Sarah were very old.)*
- **Was God faithful to keep His promise to Abraham?** *(Yes, God was faithful. He kept His promise by giving Abraham and Sarah a son.)*
- **Why did Abraham and Sarah name their son Isaac?** *(They named him Isaac because Sarah was so joyful that she laughed. The name Isaac means "he laughs.")*
- **What did God ask Abraham to sacrifice on Mount Moriah?** *(His son, Isaac)*
- **How was Abraham faithful to God?** *(Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac.)*
- **What did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead?** *(A ram)*

SAY: How do you think Abraham felt while climbing the mountain with the son whom he loved so much, the son whom he was going to sacrifice? (Invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)

SAY: Abraham must have felt absolutely awful. However, no matter

how he felt or how difficult it was, Abraham loved God more. Abraham showed this by his following through on what God had asked him to do. When God saw that Abraham trusted Him, God provided another sacrifice, a ram. Many, many years later, God would provide the ultimate sacrifice: His own Son, Jesus.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, but He provided a ram for Abraham to kill instead. In the same way, God provided the ultimate sacrifice for all of us: His Son, Jesus.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

And Abram believed the LORD *(hand on heart, looking up)*,
and the LORD counted him as righteous *(stand tall with one fist on chest)*
because of his faith *(bring hands together in heart shape)*.

Genesis 15:6 (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Designate one area (or corner of the room) as "true" and another area (or corner) as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area (or corner) based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out (or correct) what was false. Use the sample statements provided below or create your own:

- **Abraham and Sarah were very young when they had their son.** *(False)*
- **Abraham and Sarah named their son Frank.** *(False)*
- **Sarah laughed when their son was born because she was so joyful.** *(True)*
- **The name Isaac means "he laughs."** *(True)*
- **God told Abraham to go play a game with Isaac on the mountain.** *(False)*
- **Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac for God.** *(True)*
- **God provided Abraham with a ram to sacrifice instead of Isaac.** *(True)*

For younger children...
Begin the activity by explaining that "true" means that something is correct or accurate and "false" means that something is made up or not true. Then, start the game off with a few very easy to understand true/false statements that are not related to the story.

For older children...
Make the activity even more challenging by including questions about previous lessons, too. If time permits, extend the activity further by inviting a volunteer to come up with different true/false statements also.

Provide each child with some grey or brown construction paper. *(Tissue paper can also be used for this step.)* Instruct them to rip up the paper into small pieces, then roll it up into small balls. Next, provide each child with a piece of white construction paper and invite them to glue the balls onto the paper to create an altar, just like the altar that Abraham used for his sacrifice to God.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac and then provided a ram instead. God no longer needs our sacrifices because of what Jesus has already done: Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. But we can honor God by choosing to make personal sacrifices: using our time and talents to serve Him and bless others.

As they glue the paper stones onto their altars, encourage the children to think of different ways they can make personal sacrifices to God with their own time, choices and abilities.

Character Trait: Faithful

(10 minutes)

SAY: Being faithful means being loyal, true, and trustworthy. God was faithful to give Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. Abraham showed faithfulness to God by being willing to sacrifice Isaac for God.

Encourage the children to think more about faithfulness by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of being faithful?** *(Not trustworthy, undependable, unreliable)*
- **God was faithful to keep His promise to Abraham by giving him a son. In what ways has God kept His promises to you?** *(Answers will vary but may include providing food, shelter, clothing, people to care for them, and providing forgiveness from sin through His Son, Jesus.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can be faithful to God?** *(Answers will vary but may include choosing to obey God even when it is difficult, learning about/studying God's Word, and sharing Jesus with others.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about a promise that you have made to someone else or something you said that you would do. Have you kept this promise or commitment? *(Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to show that they are faithful by always trying to follow through on what they promise.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: One way we show love and respect towards others is by being faithful. God showed His faithfulness to Abraham by providing a son. Abraham was faithful to show that he loved God above everything else by being willing to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. All of us can show God our love and faithfulness by making sacrifices of our time, choosing to spend time talking with God in prayer and learning more about Him by studying His Word, the Bible.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for being a God who is faithful. Help us to show our thankfulness by proving to be faithful to You always, even when it is difficult.
Amen.

Notes



The Dreamer

Joseph is sold into slavery
Genesis 37; 39:1-6

Character Trait: Honesty

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall specific ways that God was with Joseph and cared for him.
- Children will explain specific ways that God is with them and cares for them.
- Children will discuss the importance of being honest even when it is difficult.

Supplies:

- *The Dreamer* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Pencils, pens and/or crayons
- White paper
- Various different colours of tissue paper, construction paper and/or yarn
- Scissors
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you have ever received a gift. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

SAY: Today, we will be learning about a man named Joseph who also received a gift. It was a brightly coloured coat from his father. But that's just the beginning of Joseph's story.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Was God faithful to keep His promise to Abraham?** *(Yes, God was faithful. He kept His promise by giving Abraham and Sarah a son.)*
- **What did God ask Abraham to sacrifice?** *(His son, Isaac)*
- **What did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead?** *(A ram)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Dreamer* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved his son Joseph the most.
- He gave Joseph a special, brightly coloured coat.
- Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They hated him.
- Joseph also had special dreams.
- "In my dream, we were tying up bundles of wheat," he said, "and your bundles bowed down to mine!"
- Joseph's brothers hated him even more.
- Joseph had another dream.

- "The sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down before me."
- His father and brothers grumbled. "Are you saying you will rule over us?"
- One day, Joseph's brothers were in the fields watching their sheep.
- They saw him coming to see them.
- They planned to kill him and put an end to all his dreams.
- "It would be wrong to kill our brother," said Reuben. "Let's throw him in this empty well."
- So they tore off Joseph's special coat and threw him into the well.
- Ishmaelite traders came by on their way to Egypt.
- "Let's sell Joseph as a slave to the Ishmaelites!" suggested Judah.
- So the brothers sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver.
- The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in goat's blood and showed it to Jacob.
- "My son is dead!" he wept.
- Meanwhile, Joseph was taken to Egypt.
- But God was with Joseph.
- In Egypt, the Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's captains.
- God blessed Joseph and made him successful.
- Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole household.

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** *(Joseph was their father's favorite son.)*
- **What was the gift that Jacob, their father, gave to Joseph?** *(A special, brightly coloured coat)*
- **Why did Joseph's brothers and father grumble at Joseph when he explained his dream?** *(They thought Joseph was telling them that he would rule over them.)*
- **Why did the brothers dip Joseph's coat in goat's blood before showing it to their father?** *(They were lying. They wanted Jacob to think that Joseph was dead.)*
- **How was God with Joseph? How did God care for him?** *(God made Joseph successful.)*

SAY: It would have been very easy for Joseph to feel abandoned and alone. His brothers sold him into slavery, and he was taken from his home and family. But Joseph was never alone. No matter what happened, God was always with Joseph. We can know that God is always with us, too (Psalm 145:18, Zephaniah 3:17).

God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: We all face hardship, struggles, and sadness. But just as He was with Joseph during his hard times, in the same way we can trust that God will be with us.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

The Lord *(point up)*
was with Joseph *(wrap arms around chest)*,
so he succeeded *(throw arms out wide with a smile)*
in everything he did... *(pound fists together)*
Genesis 39:2a (NLT)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

Select one child to be "it." Children who are tagged by the selected child cannot move and must stand with one arm out. Children are only "unstuck" when another child passes under their arm. The game continues until all the players are stuck. The last person to be stuck is "it" for the next game. Play as time permits.

SAY: It would have been easy for Joseph to feel very stuck in his situation, and it can be easy for us to feel this way, too, sometimes. But we can know that the same God who is always in control (Proverbs 16:33, 19:21) is also with us. We are never truly stuck, no matter how we may feel.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of white paper and instruct them to draw the outline of a big coat on the paper. *(Remind the children that there is no right or wrong way to draw the coat. Point out that no one knows what the coat really looked like. Encourage them to use their imagination.)* Then, make a variety of different colours of tissue paper, construction paper, and/or yarn available for use. Invite them to cut and glue down the various supplies to make a beautiful, colourful coat to remind them of Joseph's story.

SAY: A coat is often worn to protect us from the elements. But we all have something much stronger and much more powerful always with us: God. What are some specific ways that you can know that God is with you and cares for you? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include loving adults in their lives whom God has provided for them and the guidance God has provided through His Word, the Bible.)*

For younger children...
The outline of a coat can be pre-drawn on the paper for the children to use or a template of a coat can be cut out of a scrap piece of cardboard for the children to trace onto their papers.

For older children...
Challenge older children to draw Joseph wearing the beautiful coat they created on their paper.

Character Trait: Honesty
(10 minutes)

SAY: Honesty means speaking and acting truthfully. Joseph was showing honesty when he shared his dream with his family, even though they did not like it. But Joseph's brothers were not honest when they dipped Joseph's coat in the goat's blood. They misled their father into thinking that Joseph was dead.

Encourage the children to think more about honesty by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of honesty?** *(Lying or acting untruthfully)*
- **Why is honesty important?** *(It shows that someone can be trusted.)*
- **Is it always easy to be honest? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can being honest even when it is difficult bring honour to God?** *(Answers will vary.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can be honest with others is by asking for help when we need it. Think about a skill you would like to learn or a task you need to complete that you cannot do alone.

Challenge the children to find someone who may be able to help them by being honest about their need for help.



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Joseph was never alone. God was always with him. Joseph was not successful on his own, either. It was God who blessed him with success in Egypt. The same is true for all of us as well. We are never alone, no matter how we feel, and God is the source of all our blessings, too.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
What a wonderful feeling to know that You are always with us. Help us to remember this promise and Your faithfulness, even when our feelings may tempt us to think otherwise.
Amen.

Notes



Dreams Come True

Joseph's rise to power
Genesis 39-45

Character Trait: Integrity

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall how God brought about good from the bad situation Joseph's brothers caused.
- Children will discuss specific ways that they can live with integrity.
- Children will express on the importance of living life with integrity.

Supplies:

- *Dreams Come True* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A book
- Clean, empty plastic bottles with caps *(one for each child)*
- Clean water *(enough to fill one bottle for each child)*
- Liquid soap
- Food colouring
- Glitter *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Hold up a book for the group to see. Point out how it has been carefully designed from the cover to the interior pages.

SAY: This book was no accident. It was carefully designed and made for a purpose—just like each of us. And the God who created us still sees us and is always in control. God is the ultimate designer, and His ways are much greater and complex than we could ever understand (Isaiah 55:8-9). God is able to bring about good, even when we are unable to see it—just like He did in today's story.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** *(Joseph was their father's favorite son.)*
- **What was the gift that Jacob, their father, gave to Joseph?** *(A special, brightly coloured coat)*
- **Why did the brothers dip Joseph's coat in goat's blood before showing it to their father?** *(They were lying. They wanted Jacob to think that Joseph was dead.)*
- **How did God bless Joseph while he was in Egypt?** *(God made Joseph successful.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Dreams Come True* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Joseph served Potiphar well.
- Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to sin against God.
- But Joseph refused, so she lied about him.
- Potiphar believed her, and Joseph was thrown into prison.
- In prison, Joseph met two of Pharaoh's servants.
- They each had dreams, and God showed Joseph their meaning.
- Joseph's explanations came true.
- The cupbearer was released, and the baker was hanged.
- Two years later, Pharaoh had two troubling dreams.
- The cupbearer remembered what Joseph had done for him and told Pharaoh.
- So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him his dreams.
- God showed Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams.
- "For seven years, a lot of food will grow," said Joseph. "So store up food because seven years of famine will follow."
- Pharaoh was impressed by Joseph's wisdom. So he put Joseph in charge of storing up all the food!
- Apart from Pharaoh, no one in Egypt was more powerful than Joseph.
- Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food. They bowed before Joseph but did not recognise him.
- When he saw that they had changed, he told them who he was.
- The brothers were terrified.
- "You meant to harm me," Joseph said, "but God used that for good. Bring all of our family to Egypt. We will have plenty to eat!"

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did Potiphar's wife do when Joseph would not sin against God? *(She lied about Joseph.)*

Potiphar believed his wife. What happened to Joseph as a result? *(He was thrown into prison.)*

God was always with Joseph, even while he was in prison. What did God enable Joseph to do while in prison? *(God showed Joseph the meaning of dreams.)*

Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt? *(Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food.)*

How did they feel when they realised it was Joseph in front of them? *(They were terrified.)*

How did Joseph respond to his brothers? *(Joseph was kind and forgiving. He chose to help them.)*

How did God bring about good from all the bad that Joseph's brothers had caused? *(God gave Joseph the wisdom to know about the upcoming famine, what to do about it, and placed him in a position of power to store up food to help everyone.)*

How can we follow Joseph's example in our own lives? *(Answers will vary but may include showing forgiveness to others, choosing to be kind, and knowing that God will work all things for good.)*

SAY: Think about how Joseph probably felt seeing his brothers for the first time since they had sold him into slavery. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: It would have been easy for Joseph to be angry and bitter towards his brothers, but that is not how Joseph chose to respond. Instead, his response was based on God's truth: God had worked all things for good. God had given Joseph special abilities and placed him in a position of power, and Joseph used these to help others, including his brothers.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God is always in control. No matter our challenges, hardships or circumstances, we can know that God is still at work, sees our suffering, and will create good even when we cannot see it.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

You *(point away from yourself)*
intended to harm me *(point to yourself)*,
but God *(point both hands up)* **intended it all for good** *(thumbs up)*.
He *(point both hands up)* **brought me** *(point to yourself)*
to this position *(stomp your foot once)*
so I could save the lives of many people *(thumbs up)*.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Secretly select a child from the group. The other children may then ask questions that can only be answered with "yes" or "no" in order to identify the secret person. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play as time permits.

SAY: Just as in the game, Joseph's brothers did not know who he was at first. But when they realised who they were bowing in front of, they became terrified because they knew Joseph had good reason to be angry with them.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a clean, empty plastic bottle. Provide access to clean water and instruct the children to carefully fill the bottles three-quarters full. Next, add 3-4 drops of liquid soap and 3-4 drops of food coloring. *(Glitter may also be added, if available.)* Instruct the children to replace the caps on the bottles and close them as tightly as possible. Invite the children to swirl their bottles around, watching the small storm that results inside.

SAY: It is completely normal to feel emotions like this inside ourselves, too. But it is important to remember that how we respond should be guided by God and His ways, not by how we may be feeling at any given moment.

For younger children...
Begin by allowing the children to place a few drops of food colouring and liquid soap into the empty bottles. *(If glitter is available, use a funnel to allow the children to place a small amount of glitter inside as well.)* Then, have an adult fill the bottles with clean water and replace the caps before returning the bottles to the children.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by having them think silently about a time they personally struggled with anger or hurt while watching the swirling storm inside their bottles. Ask them to think about how they responded. Did their response demonstrate trust in God and His ways? Ask them to think silently about why or why not.



Character Trait: Integrity

(10 minutes)

SAY: Integrity means choosing to follow God all of the time, not just when it is easy. Joseph showed integrity when he chose kindness and generosity over bitterness and anger towards his brothers.

Encourage the children to think more about integrity by asking the following:

- **What are some ways that you can live with integrity?** *(Answers will vary but may include being honest, trustworthy, and always choosing to do what is right, even when it is not easy.)*
- **Why can living with integrity sometimes be difficult?** *(Answers will vary but may include that it can be challenging when our feelings do not match up with what is right.)*
- **How can we learn about and be encouraged to live with integrity?** *(Answers will vary but may include learning from role models whom we respect, learning from God through the Bible, and looking to Jesus as the perfect example of integrity.)*
- **Why is it important to live with integrity?** *(Answers will vary, but should include because it is how God wants us to live and provides a good example for those around us.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Each one of you are role models, too. Your brothers and sisters, friends and other people in your lives—even adults—see your actions and can learn from them.

SAY: Do your choices and actions point towards hurt, anger, and greed or do they point others to God? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to think about the importance of living with integrity the next time they are faced with a decision.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: It would have been very easy for Joseph to respond out of anger and turn his brothers away. It would have been easy for him to respond out of greed. Joseph could have chosen not to provide food for his family. But instead, Joseph chose to act with integrity. Joseph's response showed that he trusted God's plan more than his own feelings. And we can do this, too.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How grateful we are to know that You work all things for good, even when it may seem impossible to us. Allow this truth to encourage us and guide us to live lives of integrity that point others back to You.
Amen.

Notes



A Baby and a Bush

Birth of Moses and the burning bush
Exodus 1:6-2:15; 3:1-15; 4:1-17

Character Trait: Teachable

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognise that God used Moses despite his weaknesses.
- Children will identify the specific traits of someone who is teachable.

Supplies:

- *A Baby and a Bush* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper *(one for each child)*
- Markers
- Paint
- Sponges *(cut into small pieces, one piece for each child)*
- Pencils *(optional)*
- Glue *(optional)*
- Yellow, orange and red tissue paper *(optional)*
- Scissors *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they've ever had to do something difficult. *(Raise your hand as well.)* Next, ask the children to keep their hands up if they felt a little scared or worried at the time. *(Keep your hand raised as well.)*

SAY: It is completely normal to feel scared or worried when we attempt something new or difficult, but that doesn't have to stop us. God can use us no matter how scared or insecure we may feel.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **God was always with Joseph, even while he was in prison. What special ability did God give to Joseph while in prison?** *(God enabled Joseph to interpret dreams.)*
- **Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?** *(Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food.)*
- **How did they feel when they realised it was Joseph in front of them?** *(They were terrified.)*
- **How did Joseph respond to his brothers?** *(Joseph was kind and forgiving. He chose to help them.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Baby and a Bush* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Egypt was filled with Israelites.
- The new Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites would become too powerful. So he made them slaves and treated them very badly.
- Pharaoh ordered that all baby Israelite boys had to be killed.
- One woman put her baby in a basket and hid him by the river's edge. His sister watched him.
- Pharaoh's daughter was bathing by the river. She found the baby and decided to keep him. His sister offered their mother's help to care for him.
- Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses.
- Moses grew up. One day he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. Moses killed the Egyptian.
- Then he fled to Midian and was a shepherd for forty years.
- Moses was watching his sheep on Mount Horeb.
- The voice of God spoke from a burning bush. "My people are suffering, Moses. I have chosen you to free them."
- "I can't!" Moses cried. "I'll help you," God promised. "Throw down your staff."
- Moses did. It turned into a snake. When he picked it up, it was a staff again.
- "Put your hand in your cloak," God said.
- Moses did. He looked. It was covered with disease. When he did it again, it was healed.
- "Show Pharaoh that!" God said.
- "I'm not a good speaker," said Moses.
- "I'll give you the words," God said. "Your brother Aaron can help."
- So Moses went to tell Pharaoh to set the Israelites free.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why did Pharaoh want all the baby Israelite boys killed?** *(Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites would become too powerful.)*
- **Why did the Israelite woman place her baby in the basket and hide him by the river's edge?** *(She was trying to save her child's life.)*
- **Who found and named the baby?** *(Pharaoh's daughter)*
- **After Moses grew up, what did he do that caused him to flee from Egypt?** *(He killed an Egyptian after he saw the man beating an Israelite.)*
- **How did God speak to Moses?** *(From a burning bush)*
- **What did God tell Moses to do?** *(Go to Egypt and free His people, the Israelites, from slavery)*
- **How did Moses respond?** *(He said that he could not do it and that he was not a good speaker. He was worried and doubted.)*
- **When Moses explained his weaknesses, did God find someone else for the job?** *(No, God still used Moses to speak to Pharaoh despite his weaknesses.)*
- **How did God respond to Moses' worries?** *(God told Moses that He would help him. God turned Moses' staff into a snake and then back again. God caused Moses' hand to become covered with disease and then healed it.)*

SAY: God was not angry with Moses for having doubts. He was compassionate. In fact, God did not just use words to encourage Moses. God performed miracles to show him that He would help. God shows the same compassion towards all of us, too. We can be honest with God about our fears, just like Moses was. No matter how we feel, we can know that God is in control and sovereign over everything.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God saw the suffering of His people during the time of Moses and sees our suffering today, too. Just like God sent Moses to free His people from Pharaoh, God sent Jesus to free us from the punishment for sin.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Now go *(extend arm, pointing forward)*!
I *(point up with both hands)* **will be with you** *(hug your shoulders)*
as you speak *(cup hands around your mouth)*,
and I will instruct you *(open your hands like a book)*
in what to say *(move index finger outward from lips)*."

Exodus 4:12 (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Have the children sit in a circle. Give one child a secret message. Then, have that child whisper it quietly to the person sitting on their left. This process continues until the message reaches the last person. Have that child share the message aloud for everyone to hear. Then, have the first child share what the original message was aloud. Play as time permits.

SAY: Moses did not try to keep his fears and worries a secret from God and neither should we. God already knows our hearts and thoughts before we even speak them (Psalm 139:4), so we can always be honest with Him.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of paper and a marker. Instruct them to draw the trunk and branches of a bush. Then, provide each child with a small piece of sponge and paint. Demonstrate for the children how to carefully tap one end of the sponge into the paint and then push it onto their paper. Let the children continue to paint with their sponges until their burning bush artwork is complete.

For younger children...
Prepare the paper for the children before the activity by drawing on the trunk and branches of the bush for them.

For older children...
Instead of paint, challenge children to make their artwork three-dimensional. Instruct them to gather small squares of tissue paper around the end of a pencil, dip the tissue paper into glue and then carefully place it down onto their bush. Allow the children to continue this process until their burning bush is covered with tissue paper "flames."

Character Trait: Teachable

(10 minutes)

SAY: Being teachable means accepting guidance and instruction from others. Moses showed that he was teachable when he admitted his fears and weakness to God. Moses was worried that he could not do what God asked of him. Moses admitted that he was not a good speaker.

SAY: Knowing what our fears are and identifying our weaknesses are very important parts of being teachable.

Encourage the children to think more about teachability by asking the following:

- **How does being teachable help you?** *(It enables you to learn and develop new skills.)*
- **What are the traits of someone who is teachable?** *(Someone who is teachable listens well, asks questions and is respectful.)*
- **In what ways can being teachable be scary?** *(It can be scary to admit we do not know something or to risk making mistakes.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: The people in your life are not there by accident. God has a purpose for everyone, including everyone in your life.

SAY: Think about someone specific who has a skill that you would like to learn. *(Invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to ask that person to teach them this new skill.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Imagine how Moses must have felt when he heard God speaking to him from the burning bush. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: How do you think Moses felt after God told him to confront Pharaoh? *(Call on a few more volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Moses showed that he was teachable by not running away from God, and God showed compassion towards Moses by telling him and showing him how He would help him.

SAY: We can all show that we are teachable, too, by learning new skills and learning more about God and His ways. And we can see and feel God's compassion towards us by identifying all the blessings He has provided in our lives.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for being compassionate towards us.
Help us to stay teachable, so that we may grow into all that You created us to be.
Amen.

Notes



Let My People Go!

The Plagues and the Passover
Exodus 7:14–12:32

Character Trait: Responsibility

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will explain the meaning of Passover.
- Children will describe specific tasks for which they are personally responsible.
- Children will discuss how they can help someone in their life with one of their responsibilities.

Supplies:

- *Let My People Go* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Coloured construction paper *(a piece for each child)*
- White construction paper *(a piece for each child)*
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they have ever seen a gnat or a fly. *(Raise your hand also.)* Next, tell the children to cover their eyes with their hands.

SAY: Imagine that the sky all around you is so filled with gnats and flies that you cannot see!

Tell the children to uncover their eyes.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about the time this happened in Egypt—all because Pharaoh would not listen.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Who found and named baby Moses?** *(Pharaoh's daughter)*
- **After Moses grew up, what did he do that caused him to flee from Egypt?** *(He killed an Egyptian after he saw the man beating an Israelite.)*
- **How did God speak to Moses?** *(From a burning bush)*
- **What did God tell Moses to do?** *(Go to Egypt and free His people, the Israelites, from slavery)*

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Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Let My People Go* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, "The God of the Israelites says you must let His people go free. Otherwise, bad things will happen to you."
- But Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God turned the water in Egypt into blood. No one could drink it.
- Then He filled the Egyptian houses with frogs. Frogs were everywhere!
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God filled the skies of Egypt with gnats. They covered the people like dust.
- Then He struck the land of Egypt with flies.
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God killed the animals of Egypt. Horses, donkeys, camels, sheep, cows, and goats all died.
- Then He covered the Egyptian people with sores.
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- God sent hail to crush the crops of Egypt. Their barley and flax were destroyed.
- Then He sent locusts to eat what fruit remained.
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God sent darkness over the land.
- But again, Pharaoh would not listen.
- God said, "I will kill every firstborn son in Egypt, and all the firstborn of the animals."
- "My people must kill a lamb, eat it, and put its blood on their doorposts. I will see the blood and pass over their houses. Those children will not die.
- "You will call this Passover and always remember it."
- The Israelites obeyed God, but the Egyptian firstborn sons died—even Pharaoh's son.
- Finally Pharaoh listened. He let the Israelites go.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh would happen if he did not let God's people go? *(Bad things would happen to Pharaoh.)*

What kinds of things happened when Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go? *(God turned the water into blood, filled the Egyptian houses with frogs, and filled the skies with gnats and flies. God killed the animals of Egypt, covered the Egyptian people with sores, and sent hail to crush their crops. God sent locusts to eat what fruit remained. Then, God killed every firstborn son in Egypt where there was not blood from a lamb on the doorpost.)*

God told the Israelites to call, and always remember, this event, the Passover. Why? *(The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of His people's houses told Him to pass over and not kill the firstborn sons inside.)*

When did Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go? *(After his own son died)*

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SAY: God had not forgotten His people, or their suffering, for even one minute. Even while punishing Pharaoh, God made a way to protect the Israelites. He used the blood of a lamb to help identify and protect them. The lamb was a sacrifice.

SAY: A sacrifice is something that is given up (or, in this case, killed) for something more important. Many, many years later, God would provide the ultimate sacrifice to save us all: His Son, Jesus, the lamb of God, who died on the cross to pay the price for our sins.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: A lamb was sacrificed, and its blood protected every Israelite, firstborn son from death. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God. But God provided a sacrifice for us, too: His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on a cross so that we could live forever with God.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews *(point up with both hands)*, **says:**
Let my people go *(cross arms at wrists, then release)*,
so they can worship me *(lift arms up into the air)*.

Exodus 9:1b (NLT UK)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Divide the children into two teams. Have each team hold hands and form a line. Teams should be facing each other with some space between them. Select a child from one team to begin. That child calls out, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send [insert another child's name] right over." Then, that child from the other team must try to break through the other team's line. If successful, the child gets to select one person from the opposing team to join their team. If unsuccessful, the child must join the opposing team. Teams alternate calling people over until one team has all of the children and is declared the winner.

SAY: During the game, each team sent over their players when they were asked to do so. But Pharaoh did the opposite. He refused to let the Israelites go.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Tell the children to silently imagine that they were one of the Israelites that Pharaoh had just freed.

SAY: How do you think the Israelites felt? (Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)

SAY: Great job! The Israelites probably started out frustrated when Pharaoh would not listen to God's order to set His people free. But when Pharaoh finally said they could go, the Israelites likely felt relief and thankfulness. Then, they probably began to think about their new life ahead.

Provide each child with a piece of coloured construction paper. Instruct them to rip it into smaller pieces. Share that this process represents all the frustration the Israelites must have felt. Then, provide each child with a white piece of construction paper and glue. Instruct them to create a collage by arranging and gluing down the torn pieces of paper into the form of a picture. Point out that the children took their torn up paper and created something new from it. Share that God had a plan for the Israelites' new life, too.

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Character Trait: Responsibility

(10 minutes)

SAY: God made Pharaoh release His people so that they could worship Him. God wants us to release all our fears and worries so that we can worship Him, too.

SAY: Responsibility means taking ownership of or accountability for something. Pharaoh was responsible for keeping the Israelites in slavery. God held him accountable for their suffering, and so he paid the price for not letting them go.

Encourage the children to think more about responsibility by asking the following:

- **Have you been given responsibility at home or at school? What is it?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Why is it important to act responsibly?** *(Being responsible is part of having integrity. It is a commitment. Acting responsibly is important because others depend upon you.)*
- **What kinds of responsibilities would you like to have in the future? How can you work towards them?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about a specific person who cares for you *(in your family or in your community)*. What kind of responsibilities does this person have? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

How can you help this person with one of their responsibilities? Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include helping with inside chores such as cleaning, cooking, and childcare. Helping with outdoor chores may include tasks such as gardening, lawn care, and animal care.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Following God does not mean that we will never suffer or go through hardships. It means we are never forgotten and are always cared for, no matter what happens or how we feel. Through Moses, God told Pharaoh to let His people go. By remembering that God always cares for us, we can be responsible for the things God has given us and let go of the worries and things we cannot control.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for never forgetting Your people. Help us to follow through on all our responsibilities so that we may honour You with our actions.
Amen.

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Notes

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God Makes a Way

The parting of the Red Sea and the 10 Commandments
Exodus 14; 16:11-16; 17:1-7; 19-20; 34:1-9, 29-32

Character Trait: Leadership

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God provided His people with the Ten Commandments for their good.
- Children will discuss how leaders guide and encourage them.
- Children will share specific ways they can become better leaders.

Supplies:

- *God Makes a Way* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Black construction paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Red, yellow, and green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pens and/or pencils
- Ten Commandments *(from the story, posted somewhere for the children to see)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine that they are in front of a large river, lake, or sea.

SAY: Now, imagine that an army is chasing you. Where can you go? How can you get away? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Tell the children to open their eyes.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn more about God's people, how they fled Egypt, and how God helped them when they were caught between the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What kinds of things happened when Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go?** *(God turned the water into blood, filled the Egyptian houses with frogs, and filled the skies with gnats and flies. God killed the animals of Egypt, covered the Egyptian people with sores, and sent hail to crush their crops. God sent locusts to eat what fruit remained. Then, God killed every firstborn son in Egypt where there was not blood from a lamb on the doorpost.)*
- **Why did God tell the Israelites to call this event Passover?** *(The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of His people's houses told Him to pass over and not kill the firstborn sons inside.)*
- **When did Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go?** *(After his own son died)*

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Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God Makes a Way* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- After Pharaoh's son died in the tenth plague, he let the Israelites leave.
- They were near the Red Sea when Pharaoh changed his mind again and chased after them.
- When the Israelites saw Pharaoh's chariots, they were terrified.
- But God told Moses to raise his staff toward the Red Sea.
- God sent a strong wind and parted the sea!
- A dry path appeared, and the Israelites walked straight through the Red Sea!
- There was a wall of water on each side of them.
- They arrived safely on the other side.
- Pharaoh and his army followed them into the sea.
- God told Moses to stretch out his hand.
- Then the sea rolled back again, and Pharaoh and his army all drowned.
- God led His people through a wilderness.
- He fed them and gave them water.
- They camped at Mount Sinai, where God told Moses to meet Him on the mountaintop.
- Surrounded by fire and smoke, Moses climbed to the top, and God came down to meet him.
- Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets:
- Don't worship other gods.
- Don't make idols.
- Treat My name with respect.
- Treat the Sabbath day as a special day.
- Respect your parents.
- Don't murder.
- Be loyal to your husband or your wife.
- Don't steal.
- Don't lie.
- Don't envy people or what they own.
- Now the people knew how to obey God.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **How did God help the Israelites escape Pharaoh at the Red Sea?** *(God told Moses to raise his staff. Then, God sent a strong wind and parted the sea. A dry path appeared for them to walk on.)*
- **What happened to Pharaoh and his army when they tried to follow the Israelites through the sea?** *(God told Moses to stretch out his hand. Then, the sea rolled back again, and Pharaoh and his army drowned.)*
- **In what other ways did God care for His people?** *(He led the Israelites through the wilderness, fed them, and gave them water. He also gave them the Ten Commandments.)*
- **Where did God meet and give Moses the Ten Commandments?** *(Mount Sinai)*
- **What did the Ten Commandments teach God's people to do?** *(They taught the Israelites how to obey God.)*
- **In what ways were the Ten Commandments for their good?** *(Answers will vary but should include that they provided instruction and guidance to help the Israelites live well together and with God.)*

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SAY: God did not just provide His people with freedom from slavery. He provided for their need for food and water and gave them guidance, too. He guided them through the wilderness and later provided the Ten Commandments, which taught them how to love and obey God. God provided these rules to His people for their good. God did this for the Israelites many, many years ago, and He still provides guidance for us today, too, through His Word, the Bible.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received instructions on how to love and obey God. Later, God's own Son, Jesus, would also show people how to love and obey God. God is good. He always provides us with the guidance we need.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

But Moses told the people *(cup hands around your mouth)*,
"Don't be afraid *(shake head from side to side)*.
Just stand still *(stand up straight and still)*
and watch the LORD rescue you today *(cross arms at wrists and move upward to release)*.
The Egyptians you see today *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
will never be seen again *(cover your eyes with your hands)*.

Exodus 14:13 (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Have the children line up, side-by-side, in a straight line outside. Create a finish line a short distance away from the children. Explain that when you shout "Green light!" they may run as fast as they can towards the finish line. However, when you shout "Red light!" they must stop and freeze. Anyone who continues moving is "out" of the game. Continue this process until one child reaches the finish line and wins the game.

SAY: Raise your hand if you thought it was difficult to stop when "Red light!" was called.

Tell the children to put their hands down. Then, call on a few volunteers to share why this was difficult. *(Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Now, imagine just how scared and worried the Israelites must have been when the Red Sea in front of them forced them to stop!



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: God provided the Israelites with the Ten Commandments to help them know how best to live. We are God's people, too, and can use these to help guide our actions also. Some of the rules tell us what not to do. They tell us to stop! Some tell us to be careful and choose our actions wisely. Still others give us specific instructions that we should go and do.

Provide each child with a black piece of construction paper. Then, instruct them to cut large circles out of red, yellow, and green paper. Demonstrate how to glue them down onto the black paper *(so that it looks like a traffic light)*. Next, provide each child with a pen or pencil. Instruct them to write each one of the Ten Commandments inside the appropriate coloured "light." Use the chart below for reference:

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Red **Stop! Don't...**	• Don't worship other gods. • Don't make idols. • Don't murder. • Don't steal. • Don't lie. • Don't envy people or what they own.
Yellow **Be careful to...**	• Treat My name with respect. • Respect your parents. • Be loyal to your husband or your wife.
Green **Go! Do this...**	• Treat the Sabbath day as a special day.

For younger children...
The red and green circles can be cut out and labeled with the Ten Commandments in advance.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by encouraging them to write down specific ways they can respect their parents, respect God, and treat the Sabbath day special.

SAY: Traffic lights help keep everyone on the road safe. They tell drivers when to go, when to slow down, and when to stop. The Ten Commandments helped keep God's people safe, too, by teaching them how to live life God's way.

Character Trait: Leadership

(10 minutes)

SAY: Leadership means serving as an example and encouragement to others. Moses showed leadership by leading the Israelites to freedom and by sharing the Ten Commandments that God provided with them.

Encourage the children to think more about leadership by asking the following:

- **What people in your life provide an example of a good leader for you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How do they guide and encourage you?** *(Answers may vary.)*
- **Why are leaders important?** *(Answers will vary but may include because they teach, help, and inspire us.)*
- **In what ways are you a leader now?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Your choices, words, and actions are powerful. You can be a good or a poor leader for those all around you.

Think of one specific way that you can become a better leader for others in your life. *(Provide a few moments of silent thinking time. Then, invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include speaking words of love and kindness towards others, treating others with respect, and making choices that follow the example that Jesus set for us.)*

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Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: God was faithful to lead His people through the wilderness and continued to guide them by providing the Ten Commandments. Sometimes it may feel like we are wandering through the wilderness, too. We face struggles, pain, and difficult decisions, but God always provides guidance and help for us. We can learn about His ways by reading the Bible. We can seek wisdom from others, and we can talk to God in prayer.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for being faithful to provide for our needs, including our need for guidance. Help us to act with integrity so that we can be leaders that guide others to You.
Amen.

Notes

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Waters Part and Walls Fall

Reaching The Promised Land
Numbers 13-14; Joshua 2-3; 5-6

Character Trait: Courage

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God told Joshua what to do in Jericho.
- Children will identify their own fears and specific ways they can depend on God for help.

Supplies:

- *Waters Part and Walls Fall* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Empty, paper towel rolls or stiff paper and tape *(one for each child)*
- Colouring supplies
- Stickers *(optional)*
- Small pieces of paper *(optional, one for each child)*
- Pens and/or pencils *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they have ever felt afraid. *(Raise your hand also.)*

SAY: Being afraid can do a lot of things, including making us feel like we cannot do anything. Fear can make us cry. It can make us worry. It can make everything seem impossible. Today, we will learn about two men who showed courage and trusted God more than their fear.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What happened to Pharaoh and his army when they tried to follow the Israelites through the sea?** *(God told Moses to stretch out his hand. Then the sea rolled back again, and Pharaoh and his army drowned.)*
- **In what other ways did God care for His people?** *(He led the Israelites through the wilderness, fed them, and gave them water. He also gave them the Ten Commandments.)*
- **What did the Ten Commandments teach God's people to do?** *(They taught the Israelites how to obey God.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Waters Part and Walls Fall* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Moses sent twelve spies into the Promised Land.
- Ten of them said, "We will never defeat the people there."
- But Joshua and Caleb said, "With God's help, we can do it!"
- Frightened, the people believed the ten spies.
- God said, "Only your children, with Joshua and Caleb, will enter the Promised Land."
- So, after forty years in the desert, it was time!
- Joshua sent two spies into Jericho.
- They met a woman called Rahab, who hid them and helped them escape down the wall.
- They promised to spare her and her family.
- The Israelites crossed the Jordan River. The priests went first, carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
- When their feet touched the river, it stopped flowing!
- Everyone crossed on dry land.
- Jericho was next.
- The Lord told Joshua, "For six days, march once around Jericho. Then, on day seven, march around seven times. Blow trumpets! Shout! The walls will fall down."
- Joshua trusted God. He did what the Lord said, and the walls fell down!
- They took the city.
- Rahab was spared.
- God's people began to take the Promised Land.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Who did Moses send into the Promised Land?** *(Twelve spies)*
- **Ten of the spies thought it would not work. What were the names of the two spies who said they could do it with God's help?** *(Joshua and Caleb)*
- **How many years did the Israelites wait in the desert until the time was right?** *(Forty years)*
- **Who helped the two spies by hiding them and helping them escape down the wall?** *(Rahab)*
- **What happened when the priests' feet touched the Jordan river?** *(The river stopped flowing, and everyone was able to cross on dry land.)*
- **Who told Joshua what to do in Jericho?** *(God, the Lord)*

SAY: Originally, Moses sent twelve spies, but ten of them gave up even before they started. Only Joshua and Caleb believed they could do it with God's help. But waiting for the right timing, God's timing, took time—40 years! Claiming the Promised Land was not easy. In fact, it seemed impossible. But with God, nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37).

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Joshua led God's people into the Promised Land even when it seemed impossible. Our sin makes new life and a relationship with God seem impossible. But Jesus, God's Son, made a way to have a brand, new life with God for those who choose to follow Him.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

Suddenly, the walls *(hold arms out, bent at elbows)*
of Jericho collapsed *(let arms fall outward)*,
and the Israelites charged *(stretch arm forward with fist)*
straight into the town and captured it *(bring arms towards you)*.

Joshua 6:20b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Divide the children into two teams, split the playing area into two areas, and determine a location for "prison." Give each team a small flag *(or other object)* to hide somewhere in their team's area. The object of the game is to run into the other team's area, capture their flag, and make it safely back. Players can tag opposing teammates in their territory, causing them to be "out" and go to the prison location. Players in prison can only be freed by a teammate who tags and escorts them back to their playing area without getting tagged themselves. The first team to capture the flag and bring it safely back to their area wins. After the game, explain that every one of the children who played showed courage.

SAY: If you were too afraid of being taken by the other team, then you never would have played at all. That is what happened to ten of the spies that Moses originally sent to the Promised Land; they accepted defeat before they even began.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: Before the walls of Jericho fell down, Joshua trusted God by obeying Him and having the Israelites do as He said: The Israelites marched around seven times, blew trumpets, and shouted.

Pass out an empty, paper towel roll *(or a stiff piece of paper rolled and taped into a tube)*. Encourage the children to decorate the tube with coloring supplies and stickers *(optional)* to create a trumpet of their own.

For younger children...
Extend the activity for younger children by leading them around the room seven times in a march of their own.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by asking them to silently think about a specific fear of their own. Next, encourage the children to write about *(or draw a picture of)* their fear on a small piece of paper. Then, demonstrate how to carefully roll the paper up and place it inside their "trumpets."

SAY: When God's love fills our whole heart and mind, there is no more room for fear (1 John 4:18).

Character Trait: Courage

(10 minutes)

SAY: Courage means having strength even when we are afraid. Joshua and Caleb had courage when the other ten spies were afraid and doubtful.

Encourage the children to think more about courage by asking the following:

- **How can God help us to be courageous instead of afraid?** *(We can trust God. We can focus on and think more about God than on fear and worry.)*

How does choosing not to be afraid show we are trusting God? *(It shows that we believe what God says and have faith that God really is in control.)*

What are some things you can do when you feel afraid? *(Talk to God through prayer, talk to a trusted adult or friend, read God's Word)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can share God with others is by showing how our personal relationship with Him gives us strength and courage.

What is one way that you can show your God-given courage to others? *(Ask the children to turn and share with someone next to them. Then, allow a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

What does your God-given courage tell others about God? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include that God cares about us, helps us, and enables us to do things we could not do on our own.)*



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: It is completely natural to feel afraid sometimes. Everyone has fears.

SAY: Think silently to yourself about a fear that you have. *(Provide a few moments of quiet think time.)*

Now, think of one specific way you can lean on God for His help. God does not want us to carry our fears and worries alone. He wants us to go to Him for help (Psalm 55:22, 1 Peter 5:7). *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include talking to God through prayer, reading His Word, the Bible, for direction and encouragement, and seeking wise advice from trustworthy people whom God has placed in their lives.)*



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How great and powerful You are! Nothing is impossible with You. Fill our hearts and minds with Your love. Help us to lean on Your strength, power, and love when we are afraid.
Amen.

Notes



A Hairy Tale

Samson
Judges 13-16

Character Trait: Contentment

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God was faithful to keep His promise to Samson.
- Children will draw (or write about) specific things for which they are thankful.
- Children will describe different ways contentment brings honor to God.

Supplies:

- *A Hairy Tale* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A small ball *(suitable for throwing)*
- Clean craft sticks or strips of paper *(several for each child)*
- A clean paper cup *(one for each child)*
- Pens and/or pencils
- Colouring supplies
- Stickers *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they know what a promise is. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. *(Answers will vary but may include telling someone you will do something or making a commitment to someone else.)* Next, ask the children to raise their hand if they have ever made a promise. *(Raise your hand also.)* Tell the children to put their hands down.

SAY: Today, we will learn about a man named Samson who did not keep the promises he made to God.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **How many years did the Israelites wait in the desert until the time was right?** *(Forty years)*
- **Who helped the two spies by hiding them and helping them escape down the wall?** *(Rahab)*
- **What happened when the priests' feet touched the Jordan river?** *(The river stopped flowing, and everyone was able to cross on dry land.)*
- **Who told Joshua what to do in Jericho?** *(God, the Lord)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Hairy Tale* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Again, God's people disobeyed Him.
- So God let the Philistines rule over them for forty years.
- Then He chose a man named Samson to set them free.
- An angel promised Samson's mother that she would have a son.
- Samson would have to make three promises to God.
- Never drink wine.
- Never touch dead things.
- Never cut his hair.
- God made Samson very strong.
- He killed a lion, and bees made honey in its body.
- Samson touched the dead lion, breaking one of his promises to God!
- He even ate the honey.
- Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah.
- The Philistines promised her lots of money to discover why Samson was so strong.
- She asked him again and again.
- Finally, Samson told Delilah his secret.
- "If my hair is cut, my strength will go."
- So, while he slept, Delilah called for a man to cut off his hair.
- Samson's strength left him.
- When the Philistines arrived, they captured him easily.
- They blinded him.
- Then they put him in prison and set him to work, dragging a heavy grinding stone.
- Slowly, Samson's hair grew back.
- The Philistines brought Samson into their temple to thank their false God, Dagon, for defeating him.
- Samson asked God to make him strong one last time.
- Samson stood between two pillars and pushed on them.
- The temple fell down, killing all the Philistines, and Samson with them.
- Samson didn't keep his promises, but God kept His!

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What were the three promises that Samson made to God?** *(Never drink wine, never touch dead things, never cut his hair)*
- **What did God do in return?** *(God made Samson very strong.)*
- **Who did Samson tell about the secret to his strength?** *(Delilah)*
- **What did Delilah do?** *(She had Samson's hair cut off while he slept.)*
- **How was God faithful to keep His promise to Samson?** *(God made him strong again.)*
- **What happened when Samson pushed on the two pillars of the temple?** *(The temple fell down and killed Samson and the Philistines.)*

SAY: God was faithful to keep His promise to Samson, but Samson was not content. He wanted that honey so badly that he broke his promise to God. Later, Samson showed weakness by giving in and telling Delilah the secret to his strength. In the end, God was still faithful. He once again made Samson strong, but Samson ended up killing himself along with the Philistines.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God kept His promise to Samson. And we can know that God will keep His promises to us, too. This is because of Jesus, who came to save all who trust in Him.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son *(pretend to rock a baby in your arms)*,
and his hair must never be cut *(scissor fingers back and forth)*.
For he will be dedicated to God *(bring hands together with palms up and raise them)*
as a Nazirite from birth.
He will begin to rescue *(cross arms at wrists, then release)*
Israel from the Philistines."

Judges 13:5 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Give one child a ball. Explain that while you sing a song, the children are to toss the ball around to different children while standing up. The child holding the ball when you stop singing is "out" and must sit down. Play until only one child is left standing. This child is the winner. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: This game was all about timing. Each of you had a certain time to catch the ball, throw the ball, or even simply wait. Contentment is about timing, too. It is about trusting that God will provide us with what we need when we need it.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: One way to practice contentment is to think about something we are grateful for.

Provide each student with a few craft sticks or strips of colorful paper. Tell them to write or draw a small picture of something they are grateful for on each one. Next, provide each child with a clean paper cup and invite them to decorate it using coloring supplies and stickers *(optional)*. End the activity by instructing the children to place their sticks or strips of paper into their cups to take home.

SAY: Whenever you feel like complaining, you can choose contentment instead by grabbing a stick or strip of paper out of your "Contentment Cup." Then, you can think about this wonderful blessing from God and give thanks to Him instead.

For younger children...
Make this activity easier for younger children by suggesting small symbols or icons for them to draw on each stick or strip of paper instead. For example, a small stick-figure can represent a parent or caregiver to be thankful for, the outline of a house can represent their home, and a simple heart can represent God's love.

For older children...
Extend this activity for older children by challenging them to think of specific people for whom they are thankful. Then, provide them with sticks or strips of paper on which to write the names of these people and add to their cups.

Character Trait: Contentment

(10 minutes)

SAY: Being content means being happy with what God has given you and how things are with you. Samson's lack of contentment led him to break his promises to God.

Encourage the children to think more about contentment by asking the following:

- **Why is contentment important?** *(If we are never content, then we will always be striving to make things different. Lack of contentment can rob us of happiness.)*
- **How can choosing to be content honor God?** *(When we are content, it shows that we completely trust God's timing and provision/what He provides. Contentment also shows that we know God recognizes and provides for our needs.)*
- **How can you show contentment?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about all that you have: the clothing you wear, the food you eat, and the people in your life. One way to show contentment is to be thankful.

Challenge the children to give thanks to God in prayer for all that He has provided for them and to identify at least one person at home for whom they are thankful.

Encourage the children to thank the people in their lives for the care and encouragement that they provide.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God cares about us (1 Peter 5:7) and is faithful to always keep His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9, Hebrews 10:23). When we remember these two truths, it is easy to practice contentment. When we choose to trust in God completely to provide what we need when we need it, then we are free to be happy instead of wanting things we do not have.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
You are generous and faithful! We know that You keep Your promises. Help us to be content as we remember this truth.
Amen.

Notes



Wherever You Go

Ruth
Ruth 1-2, 4:9-17

Character Trait: Loyalty

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Ruth showed loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, even when it was difficult.
- Children will discuss the impact their loyalty has on others.
- Children will identify ways they observe God's loyalty in their own lives.

Supplies:

- *Wherever You Go* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- White paper *(one for each child)*
- Pieces of brown, red, and/or yellow yarn *(a few for each child)*
- Unpopped popcorn kernels *(a few kernels for each child)*
- Glue
- Coloring supplies *(optional)*
- Double-stick tape or glue dots *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children who are wearing the color blue to stand up. Next, ask the children who are not wearing the color blue to find someone who is and go stand next to them.

SAY: Some of you were stuck sitting until you found help: someone else who was wearing the color blue.

Tell the children to return to their seats.

SAY: In that quick game, the problem was simple. But sometimes problems are much more difficult and require more help. In today's lesson, we will be learning about a woman named Naomi, her daughter-in-law, Ruth, and a very special man named Boaz who helped them.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What were the three promises that Samson made to God?** *(Never drink wine, never touch dead things, never cut his hair)*
- **What did God do in return?** *(God made Samson very strong.)*
- **Who did Samson tell about the secret to his strength?** *(Delilah)*
- **What did Delilah do?** *(She had Samson's hair cut off while he slept.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Wherever You Go* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- A famine came to Israel.
- Elimelech, Naomi, and their sons went to Moab to find food.
- Elimelech died. The sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth.
- Then the sons died, too.
- The three women had no husbands.
- When the famine in Israel was over, Naomi decided to go home.
- "Stay in Moab," she said to her daughters-in-law. "It's your home."
- Orpah stayed.
- But Ruth said, "Wherever you go, I will go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God."
- Together, Ruth and Naomi went back to Israel.
- It was harvest time in Israel.
- Naomi told Ruth to gather the bits of grain left behind in a field.
- The field belonged to Boaz, Elimelech's relative.
- Boaz approached Ruth.
- "You were very kind to Naomi," Boaz said. "Leaving home must have been hard. May God bless you."
- He gave Ruth food and told his workers to watch over her.
- Ruth told Naomi what happened. Naomi smiled.
- "When someone dies, his closest relative cares for his family. That person is their kinsman-redeemer. Boaz is our kinsman-redeemer. Stay close to him!"
- So Ruth stayed close to Boaz.
- He liked her more each day.
- Boaz bought Elimelech's land and took care of Naomi and Ruth.
- Then he asked Ruth to marry him.
- Ruth had a son called Obed.
- Obed's son was Jesse, Jesse's son was David, and David became Israel's greatest king!
- So God blessed Ruth just as Boaz had prayed.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What did Ruth do differently than Orpah?** *(Orpah stayed in Moab, but Ruth went with Naomi back to Israel. Ruth was loyal to Naomi even when it was difficult.)*
- **What did Boaz see Ruth doing in his field?** *(Ruth gathered the bits of grain left behind by Boaz's workers.)*
- **How did Boaz help Ruth and Naomi?** *(He gave Ruth food, told his workers to watch over her, bought Elimelech's land, took care of Naomi and Ruth, and married Ruth.)*
- **What did Naomi tell Ruth that Boaz was to them?** *(Kinsman-redeemer)*
- **Boaz prayed that God would bless Ruth. How did Boaz's prayer come true?** *(She gave birth to a son named Obed. Then, Obed later had a son named Jesse. Later, Jesse's son, David, would become Israel's greatest king.)*

SAY: Ruth did not choose the easy path that Orpah did. It would have been much easier for Ruth to stay in her homeland, but instead she chose to remain loyal to her mother-in-law, Naomi. And later on, God provided help for them through Boaz.

SAY: Thankfully for all of us, God remained loyal to us, too. Even though we have all sinned, God sent His Son, Jesus. Boaz became Ruth and Naomi's kinsman-redeemer by rescuing them from a life of poverty. Through His death on the cross, Jesus became our Kinsman-Redeemer by rescuing us from a life without God and the punishment for our sin.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Boaz became a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth by caring for and protecting her. Jesus is the Kinsman-Redeemer for all who choose to believe in and follow Him. Jesus offers protection against the punishment we deserve for our sin and creates a way for us to know and have a relationship with God.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Wherever you *(point forward)* **live** *(bring hands together above your head)*,
I *(point to yourself)* **will live** *(bring hands together above your head)*.
Your people *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be my people *(bring palms to your chest)*,
and your God *(point both hands up)*
will be my God *(point to your heart)*."

Ruth 1:16b (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be "it." Children who are tagged by the selected child cannot move and must stand with one arm out. Children are only "unstuck" when another child passes under their arm. The game continues until all the players are stuck. The last person to be stuck is "it" for the next game. Play as time permits.

SAY: Naomi and Ruth were stuck, too. But God used Boaz to help them.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: Ruth showed her loyalty to Naomi by working hard to collect the leftover grain in Boaz's field.

Provide each child with a piece of white paper and several small pieces of brown, orange, or yellow yarn. Tell the children to glue the pieces of yarn down onto their papers from top to bottom to create a "field." Next, provide each child with a few unpopped popcorn kernels to glue along the bottom of their paper.

SAY: Ruth was only able to collect the grains that were left on the ground after the workers were done harvesting. This required a lot of work and effort from Ruth and showed the depth of her love and loyalty to Naomi.

For younger children...
This activity can be made easier for younger children by using double-stick tape or glue dots instead of glue.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by encouraging them to draw Ruth in the forefront *(up close)* of their paper. Then, ask them to draw Boaz in the background *(farther away)*, watching Ruth work.

Character Trait: Loyalty

(10 minutes)

SAY: Loyalty means being faithful, true, and trustworthy. Who was loyal to Naomi, Orpah or Ruth? *(Invite them to answer aloud in unison: Ruth.)*

Encourage the children to think more about loyalty by asking the following:

- **How does it make you feel when others are loyal to you?** *(Answers will vary but may include thankful, relieved, and happy.)*
- **How does it make you feel when others are disloyal?** *(Answers will vary but may include frustrated, angry, hurt, and sad.)*
- **Are you loyal to others? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How does your loyalty to others affect them?** *(Answers will vary but may include helping others to feel less alone and showing others that they have value and are cared for.)*
- **How can you see God's loyalty to you in your life?** *(Answers will vary but may include the various things God provides on a daily basis such as food, clothing, and shelter.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about a recent promise that you have made to someone else. Have you kept this promise? If not, how can you follow through and remain loyal to your word? *(Answers will vary.)*

If the children are unable to think of a recent promise, challenge them to think of a way that they can help someone else at home. Then, encourage them to make a promise to do so and commit to following through.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: It would have been very easy for Joseph to respond out of anger and turn his brothers away. It would have been easy for him to respond out of greed. Joseph could have chosen not to provide food for his family. But instead, Joseph chose to act with integrity. Joseph's response showed that he trusted God's plan more than his own feelings. And we can do this, too.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for blessing me with Jesus! I know that no matter what happens, I will always have my Kinsman-Redeemer looking out for me.
Amen.

Notes



A Voice in the Night

Samuel is called by God
1 Samuel 1; 2:11; 3

Character Trait: Wisdom

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that it was God who was calling Samuel.
- Children will explain the different ways we can hear God's voice.
- Children will discuss ways to respond to various tasks and chores with wisdom rather than complaining.

Supplies:

- *A Voice in the Night* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Small strips of sturdy paper or poster board cut to the size of a bookmark *(one for each child)*
- Pencils, pens and/or crayons
- A variety of coloring supplies
- Stickers *(optional)*
- A hole punch
- A small piece of ribbon *(one for each child)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they can think of a way to communicate a message to someone. Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. *(Answers will vary but may include speaking, writing a note, sending a text, or using sign language.)*

SAY: In today's lesson, we will be learning about a boy named Samuel who received a message from God!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What did Ruth do differently than Orpah?** *(Orpah stayed in Moab, but Ruth went with Naomi back to Israel.)*
- **How did Boaz help Ruth and Naomi?** *(He gave Ruth food, told his workers to watch over her, bought Elimelech's land, took care of Naomi and Ruth, and married Ruth.)*
- **What did Naomi tell Ruth that Boaz was to them?** *(Kinsman-redeemer)*
- **Who is our Kinsman-Redeemer?** *(God's Son, Jesus)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Voice in the Night* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Hannah was sad because she had no children.
- She prayed, and God gave her a son, Samuel.
- She was very grateful, so she gave Samuel to God to serve Him.
- Hannah left her little boy at the tabernacle with Eli, the priest.
- Samuel helped old, blind Eli.
- He even slept in the tabernacle, while Eli slept in a room nearby.
- One night, Samuel heard someone call his name.
- He got up and ran to Eli.
- "Here I am," he said.
- "I didn't call you," Eli grunted. "Go back to bed."
- Samuel crept back to bed.
- He heard his name again.
- Samuel ran back to Eli.
- "Here I am," he said.
- "I didn't call you," Eli sighed, sleepily. "Go back to bed."
- After Samuel heard the voice a third time, Eli said it was the Lord.
- "If He calls again," said Eli, "say, 'Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.'"
- So Samuel did.
- "Samuel," God said, "can you be My prophet and pass My words faithfully on to My people?"
- "I can," said Samuel.
- And he did, until he was an old man.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why did Hannah leave her little boy, Samuel, at the tabernacle with Eli?** *(She was very grateful, so she gave Samuel to God to serve Him.)*
- **Who did Samuel think was calling out for him?** *(Eli, the priest)*
- **Who was really calling out for Samuel?** *(God)*
- **Who figured this out?** *(Eli, the priest)*
- **What did Eli tell Samuel to do?** *(Eli said to say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.")*
- **What did God ask Samuel to do?** *(Be His prophet and pass His words faithfully to His people)*
- **How can we hear God's "voice" today?** *(Through His Word, the Bible, through the example of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit living inside of us, through the wise words of others)*

SAY: Samuel heard an audible voice, a voice that he could hear with his ears three different times! When Samuel received God's message, he chose to obey. Jesus also talked to God, the Father, and chose to obey His will—even unto death!

SAY: We may not hear a voice with our ears like Samuel did, but God is still speaking to all of us today through His Word, the Bible.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: When Samuel received instructions from God, he chose to obey them. Jesus also did what God, His Father, sent Him to do, even unto death. Today, God's followers still receive guidance from Him. We can learn how to obey God by reading His Word, the Bible.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

And the LORD *(point both hands up)*
came and called as before *(cup hands around your mouth)*,
"Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening *(cup hand around your ear)*."

1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

SAY: We will play a game called "Simon Says." You are to do any action that begins with the phrase "Simon Says." But if you complete an action that does not begin with this phrase, you are "out" of the rest of the game.

(Sample instructions can include jump in place, clap your hands, stand on one foot, and put your hands on your head.) Continue playing as time permits or until only one child is left standing.

SAY: During the game, it was tricky to always follow the instructions carefully and correctly. But obeying God's will in our daily lives can be much more difficult. That is why it is so important to "listen" for His guidance in the words of the Bible.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: During the game, you did two things. First, you heard the instructions; then you chose to either obey or ignore them. These are the same two steps that Samuel did, and it is the same two things we can do today. We receive God's instructions through the Bible. Then, we choose to obey or not.

SAY: Now, you will each make a special bookmark as a reminder to listen to God just like Samuel did.

Provide each child with a strip of sturdy paper or poster board. Instruct the children to write "**'Speak, your servant is listening'** 1 Samuel 3:10" on their bookmark. Provide a variety of coloring supplies and stickers *(optional)* for the children to decorate with. Help the children finish their bookmarks by punching a hole near the top of the bookmark and tying a ribbon to it.

For younger children...
Make the activity simpler and easier for younger children by having the holes already punched and the Scripture already written on the bookmarks prior to decorating.

For older children...
Extend the activity by challenging older children to write down the Ten Commandments *(as taught in "God Makes a Way" or found in Exodus 20:3-17)* on the other side of their bookmarks.

Character Trait: Wisdom

(10 minutes)

SAY: Wisdom is the ability to respond to what we know in the proper ways. Eli, the priest, shared his wisdom with Samuel. Eli knew it was God calling Samuel. Then, he told Samuel how to respond. Samuel showed wisdom, too, by doing just as Eli said.

Encourage the children to think more about wisdom by asking the following:

- **Can you think of a time that you showed wisdom?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What is the opposite of wisdom?** *(Answers will vary but may include knowing the right thing to do and choosing not to do it or not listening/obeying.)*
- **How can wisdom help us?** *(Answers will vary but may include by protecting us and others and helping us make good/beneficial/right decisions.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can act wisely is by choosing not to complain. When someone in authority over us, such as a parent, caregiver, or teacher, asks or tells us to do something, it is wise to obey because that person likely has a good reason. Obedience without complaining shows wisdom because it also shows respect to those above us.

Obedience is important. However, it is important to be wise about obedience, too. No one has the right to hurt or abuse you. If you are ever asked to do something that does not sound or feel right or if anyone ever asks you to keep a secret to cover up or hide a hurt, tell someone else that you trust right away.

SAY: Think of a chore or task you dislike. What are some specific examples of how you can respond wisely to it? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include completing the chore or task without complaining and to the best of their abilities.)*

Challenge the children to respond with wisdom the next time they feel the urge to complain about a specific task or chore.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Samuel showed wisdom by choosing to obey God's will. God's own Son, Jesus, showed wisdom by obeying the Father's will all the way to His death on the cross. We can show wisdom, too, by choosing to obey and follow God's guidance as provided in the Bible.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
We are grateful that You are faithful to guide and speak to all of us still today. Thank You for providing Your Word for us to follow. Help us to respond with wisdom to Your instructions and Your will.
Amen.

Notes



Stones, Slings, and Giant Things

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16-17

Character Trait: Bravery

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that God helped David defeat the giant, Goliath.
- Children will demonstrate bravery by sharing what they have learned about God with others.
- Children will explain how being brave honors God.

Supplies:

- *Stones, Slings and Giant Things* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Five, paper "stones" *(cut large enough for the children to write/draw on, one set of five for each child)*
- Small envelopes *(to hold the stones, one for each child)*
- Pencils, pens, and/or crayons
- Colouring supplies

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children if they would rather go into battle with one shield or five, small stones. Tell them to share their answers by holding up either one or five fingers. Then, tell the children to put their hands down. Call on a few volunteers to share aloud.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a young boy who did not take a shield into battle. Instead, he took only five, small stones and one sling into battle. But he had the courage to do this because he knew that he also had the one, true God on his side.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Who did Samuel think was calling out for him?** *(Eli, the priest)*
- **Who figured out it was God calling out to Samuel?** *(Eli, the priest)*
- **What did Eli tell Samuel to do?** *(Eli said to say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.")*
- **What did God ask Samuel to do?** *(Be His prophet and pass His words faithfully to His people)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Stones, Slings and Giant Things* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Israel's first king was named Saul.
- King Saul did not obey God.
- So God said to Samuel, the prophet, "Find a man named Jesse, one of his sons will be the new king."
- Samuel found Jesse in Bethlehem. He looked at seven of Jesse's sons. They looked handsome and strong.
- "Not them, God said. "I don't care about looks. I care about what's in a person's heart."
- Jesse sent for his youngest son, David, who was tending sheep in the fields.
- Samuel saw him and God said, "He is the one!"
- So David was anointed the new king.
- Some time later, Israel fought the Philistines.
- A giant Philistine soldier called Goliath challenged the Israelites to send a champion to fight him. But the Israelites were all too afraid.
- David brought food to his brothers in the army.
- He heard Goliath's challenge and was not afraid.
- "How dare he defy God's army?" asked David. "I will fight him!"
- Surprised, King Saul offered David his armor.
- "No," said David. "God helped me kill wild beasts. He will help me against Goliath, too!"
- David took five stones and a sling.
- "Am I a dog?" Goliath roared. "You send this stick of a boy to fight me!"
- "You have a spear," said David, "but I have the help of Israel's God!"
- David put a stone into the sling and threw it.
- It struck Goliath's forehead and knocked him down.
- The Israelites defeated the Philistines.
- With God's help, David was a hero!

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did God tell Samuel to do? *(Find a man named Jesse because one of his sons would be the new king)*

Samuel was looking at Jesse's seven sons. What did God tell him He cared about? *(What is in a person's heart, not physical appearance)*

What did God say when Samuel saw Jesse's youngest son, David? *("He is the one!")*

What was the giant Philistine's name? *(Goliath)*

What made David different than all the other Israelites? *(He was not afraid to fight the giant, Goliath.)*

David refused the armor that King Saul offered him. What did David take into battle instead? *(Five stones and a sling)*

Why did David refuse the armor? *(He trusted in God's power and faithfulness. God had helped David kill wild beasts, and David knew God would help him against Goliath, too.)*

How did Goliath react when David came to fight? *(He laughed and mocked David.)*

What happened when David put a stone in his sling and threw it? *(It hit Goliath's forehead and knocked him down.)*

Who helped David defeat Goliath? *(God)*

SAY: David's words and actions showed that he trusted God completely. He knew God had been faithful to help him in the past and that God would help him in battle, too. When Jesus was on earth, He showed that He trusted the Father completely. When we truly know and trust God with all our heart, He gives us the strength and courage we need to face challenges, too.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: David defeated the giant, Goliath, and saved the Israelites. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to defeat sin and death. Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in Him.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"People *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
judge by outward appearance *(smooth hands over shirt)*,
but the LORD *(point both hands up)*
looks at the heart *(bring hands together in heart shape)*."

1 Samuel 16:7b (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(10 minutes)

Secretly select a child from the group. The other children may then ask questions that can only be answered with "yes" or "no" in order to identify the secret person. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play as time permits.

SAY: Many of the questions asked were about outward appearances, which is how the secret person might look on the outside. But that does not matter to God. He sees what is really important. God looks at our hearts, who we are inside.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: David took five stones into battle, but he really only needed one because God was with him. God helped him defeat Goliath. And the same God who helped David so long ago is also with each one of us today.

SAY: David was able to be brave because of God. David remembered the time God had helped him in the past. We can be brave in the same way.

Hand out five, paper "stones" to each child. Tell them to write or draw one specific way they can know that God is with them and/or has helped them on each "stone." When all the stones are filled, provide each student with a small envelope in which to store their stones . Encourage them to keep these "stones" as a reminder that they can be brave because God is always with them, too.

For younger children...
Make the activity more accessible by providing small, simple drawings for younger children to copy onto their stones. For example, the outline of a book can represent reading God's Word for guidance, a heart can represent God's love that is always with them, an eye can represent that God is always watching over them, the outline of a house can represent all that

God blesses them with, and a stick figure can represent all the friends and family God has given them.

For older children...
Extend the activity by telling older children to write the memory verse on the outside of their envelope.
Then, remind them that God cares about what is inside us, not how we look on the outside. Explain that one of the most important ways we can care for the heart that is inside of us *(not our physical heart but our inner selves)* is by focusing on God—and everything that they wrote on their "stones."



Character Trait: Bravery

(10 minutes)

SAY: Bravery is having the courage to do something even when it is difficult. David showed bravery when he stepped up to fight Goliath when no one else would. David's complete trust in God gave him the strength to be brave.

Encourage the children to think more about bravery by asking the following:

- **What kinds of situations and challenges do you need bravery to face?** *(Answers will vary but may include trying new things, standing up for what is right, and sharing God with others.)*
- **David remembered how God had helped him in the past. This helped David be brave. What are some specific ways that you can strengthen your bravery?** *(Answers will vary but may include asking God in prayer for help, remembering specific times God has helped them in the past, and reading His Word to learn more about how God has proven faithful to help others.)*
- **How does being brave honor God?** *(It shows that we fully trust that God is capable to help, wants to help, and will follow through on His promise to do so.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Bravery is needed to do lots of things, including sharing what we learn about God's truths with others.

Challenge the children to show the craft that they completed in this lesson to someone else. Encourage them to use it to share the story of David and Goliath and how God was faithful to help David do the impossible. Give the children a few minutes to practice sharing their craft and the main part of today's Bible story in pairs.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: Being brave has nothing to do with physical strength or even our abilities. Bravery does not come from us; it comes from God. When we choose to lean on and trust in Him, God is faithful to help and equip us for any challenge we need to face.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
You are powerful and faithful. Thank You for making me brave. Help me to complete the tasks that You have planned for me to do.
Amen.

Notes



Fire From Heaven

Elijah

1 Kings 16:29-17:1; 18:1, 17-39

Character Trait: Self-Control

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall how Elijah showed the Israelites that God is the one, true God.
- Children will identify that nothing happened when Baal's prophets worshipped the false god, Baal.
- Children will share different ways they can show self-control in the future.

Supplies:

- *Fire from Heaven* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Orange, red, and yellow squares of tissue paper *(cut into small squares, several pieces for each child)*
- Black, brown, and gray squares of tissue paper *(cut into small squares, several pieces for each child, optional)*
- Glue *(poured onto paper plates, if possible)*
- Pencil *(for each child)*
- Coloring supplies *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask them to place one hand on their stomach and begin rubbing it in a circle. Next, ask them to begin patting their head with their other hand at the same time. Allow them to try this for a few moments.

SAY: These two things are not easy to do at the same time! It takes effort and practice. Today, we will learn about a man named Elijah who also did something that was difficult. He was different from everyone else by choosing to not worship a false God, and instead God helped Elijah show that only God is the one, true God!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Samuel was looking at Jesse's seven sons. What did God tell him He cared about?** *(What is in a person's heart, not physical appearance)*
- **What was the giant Philistine's name?** *(Goliath)*
- **Why did David refuse the armor that King Saul offered?** *(He trusted God's faithfulness. God had helped David kill wild beasts, and David knew God would help him against Goliath, too.)*

Who helped David defeat Goliath? *(God)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Fire from Heaven* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- David became a great king.
- Then his son Solomon reigned.
- After Solomon died, God's people had many bad kings.
- King Ahab was one of the worst.
- His wife, Jezebel, worshipped the false god, Baal.
- Jezebel persuaded Ahab and God's people to worship Baal, too.
- Because of their sins, God stopped the rain for several years.
- Then He sent His prophet, Elijah, to King Ahab.
- "You have disobeyed God and worshipped Baal," Elijah said. "Tell everyone, including the prophets of Baal, to meet me on Mount Carmel. I will prove who the true God is!"
- Everyone gathered on the mountain.
- Then Elijah said to the people, "Make up your mind! If the Lord is God, follow Him. However, if Baal proves himself today, follow him."
- "Baal's prophets and I will each kill a bull, place it on an altar, and pray. The god that sends fire to burn up the bull is the true God!"
- Baal's prophets went first.
- They prayed to Baal all morning.
- No fire came.
- "Maybe Baal is sleeping," Elijah laughed. "Shout louder!"
- So Baal's prophets shouted all afternoon.
- Still nothing happened.
- Elijah built an altar.
- He put the bull and the wood on it.
- He dug a ditch around it.
- Then he had water poured over everything until the ditch was full!
- Elijah prayed. Immediately fire fell from heaven!
- It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the water! The people bowed down and cried, "The Lord is God!"

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why did God stop the rain for several years?** *(God's people, the Israelites, were sinning and worshipping the false god, Baal.)*
- **Who did God send to King Ahab?** *(Elijah)*
- **What did Elijah say that he would do?** *(He said that he would prove who the true God is.)*
- **What happened when Baal's prophets killed a bull, placed it on an altar, and prayed to their false god, Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened after they prayed some more to Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened when Elijah killed a bull, placed it on an altar, dug a ditch around it, filled it with water, and prayed to God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven, and it burned up everything.)*
- **How did this prove that the God that Elijah worshipped is the one, true God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven. That is something only God can do.)*

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God used Elijah to show His people that He is the one true God. Elijah prayed for the miracle of fire from heaven to prove it. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to perform many miracles to show that He is God. This included healing the sick, casting out demons and even bringing people back to life!

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

If the Lord is God *(point both hands up)*,
follow him *(walk fingers across your palm)*!
But if Baal is God, then follow him *(trace a statue shape with two fingers)*!"
But the people *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
were completely silent *(place one finger against your lips)*.

1 Kings 18:21b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Begin by explaining that you will briefly retell the story. However, ask the children to listen carefully so that they can hear if you make an error. Ask them to stand up as soon as they catch an error. Call on one of the children to politely point out your error and provide the correct information.

SAY: It would have been easy for Elijah to just go along with the crowd, but he did not. Elijah continued to worship only the one, true God. Then he followed God's instructions to prove who the one, true God was.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of paper, glue, small squares of orange, red, and yellow tissue paper, and a pencil. Demonstrate how to place the eraser-end of a pencil inside the middle of a piece of tissue paper and gather the tissue paper up around the pencil. Then, dip the tissue paper into a glue *(while still wrapped around the end of the pencil)*, push the tissue paper onto the paper, and release the pencil. Instruct the children to repeat this process to create a colorful, three-dimensional flame to remind them of the fire God sent down from heaven.

For younger children...
Make this activity more accessible by allowing younger children to simply scrunch up or roll the tissue paper into "flames" and then glue them onto the paper, or coloring supplies can be used instead to simply draw the fire onto the paper.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by having them think silently about a time they personally struggled with anger or hurt while watching the swirling storm inside their bottles. Ask them to think about how they responded. Did their response demonstrate trust in God and His ways? Ask them to think silently about why or why not.

Character Trait: Self-Control

(10 minutes)

SAY: Self-control is the ability to manage our emotions, choices, and actions. God gives us free will, and God's people chose to worship a false God. But Elijah did not.

We can ask God to help us make good choices and grow in self-control. Self-control is a skill that we can become better at with time, practice, and God's help.

Encourage the children to think more about self-control by asking the following:

- **When have you shown self-control?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Is self-control something that you have, or is it a skill you can get better at?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it is a skill that is developed. Self-control is something that everyone can become better at with time, practice, and God's help.)*
- **Why is self-control important?** *(It helps us to make wise choices. Self-control helps us manage our emotions, choices, and actions, so that they do not manage us.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: It would have been easy for Elijah to worship Baal like everyone else around him, but he did not. Instead, he chose to do what was wise: He only worshipped the one, true God.

Tell the children to think about one, specific time that they disagreed with someone else. Ask them to consider how they reacted. Challenge the children to think of different ways they can practice self-control in a similar situation in the future. Then, pair each child up with a partner and ask them to briefly share their ideas with each other.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Self-control is not easy. Sometimes we feel one way when we know we should react in another way. But we can help ourselves gain better self-control by thinking about how we should wisely respond in different, difficult situations. And we can learn more about Jesus and His perfect example of self-control by reading God's Word, the Bible.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Just like Elijah, we know that You are the one, true God worthy of our honor and praise. Thank You for the perfect example of self-control in Your Son, Jesus. Help us as we strive to follow His example.
Amen.

Notes



A Roaring Rescue

Daniel and the Lions' Den
Daniel 1:1-4; 6

Character Trait: Respect

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that God sent help to Daniel in the lions' den.
- Children will describe a specific task or chore that they can do as a way to show respect to their families.

Supplies:

- *A Roaring Rescue* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Small, paper bags *(one for each child)*
- Small strips of orange and yellow paper *(several for each child)*
- Glue
- Googly eyes *(two for each child)*
- Colouring supplies

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you can think of a choice or action that honors God. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include obeying parents/caregivers or sharing something with someone in need.)*

SAY: Is choosing to do what is right always easy? Why or why not? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include risking injury or having to give up something.)*

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a man who not only chose to do the right thing and honor God but also risked his life to do so.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What happened when Baal's prophets killed a bull, placed it on an altar, and prayed to their false god, Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened after they prayed some more to Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened when Elijah killed a bull, placed it on an altar, dug a ditch around it, filled it with water, and prayed to God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven, and it burned up everything.)*
- **How did this prove that the God that Elijah worshipped is the one, true God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven. That is something only God can do.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Roaring Rescue* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- God's people disobeyed Him; so He let their enemies take them into captivity.
- They destroyed Jerusalem and carried away many of the Jews to their own country, Babylon.
- Daniel was one of the Jews in Babylon.
- He trusted God and prayed to Him three times a day.
- God blessed Daniel, and he became a powerful leader in that country.
- Some leaders were jealous of Daniel, so they made a new law.
- People could only pray to King Darius.
- Whoever disobeyed would be thrown into a lions' den.
- Darius agreed.
- Daniel still prayed to God and was arrested.
- Darius was sad; he liked Daniel.
- He realized he'd been tricked but couldn't change the law.
- Daniel was thrown to the lions.
- The lions roared and crept up to Daniel.
- Then an angel arrived!
- It was God who sent him.
- The angel shut the lions' mouths.
- Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.
- At daybreak, Darius went to see if Daniel was alive.
- "God sent an angel to save me," Daniel said.
- The king was thrilled.
- Daniel was pulled out of the den.
- Then King Darius had Daniel's enemies thrown into the den.
- The lions gobbled them up!
- King Darius told everyone in his kingdom to honor Daniel's powerful, living God.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why did God allow the enemies to capture His people?** *(They were disobeying Him.)*
- **What did Daniel faithfully do three times a day?** *(He prayed to God.)*
- **Why did some of the leaders create the new law?** *(They were jealous of Daniel's power.)*
- **What was the new law?** *(People could only pray to King Darius.)*
- **What would happen to those who broke the new law?** *(They would be thrown into a lions' den.)*
- **Did Daniel stop praying to God?** *(No)*
- **Who sent help to Daniel when he was in the lions' den?** *(God)*
- **What did God do to help him?** *(God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.)*
- **What did King Darius do when he found out that Daniel was unharmed?** *(He had Daniel pulled out of the lions' den. He had Daniel's enemies thrown into the lions' den. Then, he told everyone to honor Daniel's powerful, living God.)*

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Daniel was punished for breaking an unfair law. We all deserve punishment for breaking God's good law. Every person sins and disobeys God. Just as God sent help to Daniel, God had a plan to send help for all of us, too. Jesus died to take the punishment for sin that all of us deserve.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"My God *(point both hands up)* **sent his angel** *(stretch arms out like wings)*
to shut the lions' mouths *(clap hands once)*
so that they would not hurt me
(scrape fingers across chest and shake head),
for I have been found innocent *(place both palms over chest)* **in his sight.**
And I have not *(shake finger "no")* **wronged you, Your Majesty**
(slight bow)."

Daniel 6:22 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Choose a few children to be "sharks." The remaining children are all "fish." Have the fish line up along one side of the field opposite of the sharks. When you shout "Go," the fish are to run from one side of the field to the other without being tagged by the sharks. Fish who are tagged become sharks and must try to tag more fish. The game continues until all of the fish have been tagged.

SAY: During the game, it was difficult to remain a fish. It was much easier to be tagged and become a shark. It would have been much easier for Daniel to pray to King Darius just like everyone else, but he did not. Daniel chose to do what was right, not what was easy.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a small, brown paper bag. Demonstrate how to glue the strips of orange and yellow paper around the bottom of the bag to create the mane of a lion. Provide googly eyes and coloring supplies to help the children create their lion puppets. Show the children how to place their hand inside the paper bag puppet and make it roar.

Character Trait: Respect

(10 minutes)

SAY: Respect is showing honor to someone or something. When we respect someone, it means that we are showing that we care about that person. Daniel showed God respect when he continued to pray to Him alone.

Encourage the children to think more about respect by asking the following:

- **Why is respect important?** *(When we respect others, it shows that we are humble and know that others are in authority over us. Being respectful is one way that we can honor those in authority over us, most importantly God.)*
- **Who else should you act respectfully towards?** *(Answers will vary but may include parents/caregivers, elders, teachers, and those in authority over us.)*
- **What are some ways you can show respect towards God?** *(Answers will vary but may include praying to Him, worshipping Him, and choosing to follow His commandments and ways.)*
- **What are some ways you can show respect to others?** *(Answers will vary but may include being polite, being kind, taking turns, and choosing not to complain when asked to complete a task or chore.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can love God is by showing love and respect to others. Think of a specific task or chore at home that you can do without being asked. Then, turn to someone next to you and share your idea.

Provide a few minutes for sharing and then challenge the children to complete this task as a way of showing respect to their families.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Daniel chose to only pray to God even when it meant risking a painful death in the lions' den! Daniel was able to do this because He knew that God's law was more important than any law here on earth. He knew that only God deserved that kind of respect. We can show respect and thank Jesus for the wonderful gift of forgiveness by choosing to serve Him first in everything we say and do.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus.
Help us choose to respect You with our actions, words, and choices even when it is difficult.
Amen.

Notes



The Brave and Beautiful Queen

Esther

Esther 2-5; 7; 9:20-22

Character Trait: Boldness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God used Mordecai to encourage Queen Esther.
- Children will tell a way that they can share Jesus' love with others.
- Children will discuss specific ways that their boldness can honor God.

Supplies:

- *The Brave and Beautiful Queen* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Long pieces of construction paper *(one for each child)*
- Colouring supplies
- Scissors
- Tape and/or stapler
- Aluminum foil *(optional)*
- Stickers, sequins, plastic jewels, and glitter *(to decorate the paper crowns, optional)*
- Glue *(to decorate the paper crowns with optional supplies)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Explain that you will be describing an action, and they need to step forward if they think they can do it but step backward if it is too scary or difficult for them. *(Create your own statements or use the following: point out a friend's mistake, encourage someone during a difficult time, or help someone who is physically hurt.)*

SAY: Today, we will be learning about a Queen who had a secret and risked her own life in order to save others.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What did Daniel faithfully do three times a day?** *(He prayed to God.)*
- **What would happen to those who refused to pray only to King Darius?** *(They would be thrown into a lions' den.)*
- **Did Daniel stop praying to God?** *(No)*
- **What happened to Daniel when he was thrown into the lions' den?** *(God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Brave and Beautiful Queen* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Esther was the Queen of Persia.
- Even her husband, King Xerxes, didn't know her secret.
- Esther was Jewish.
- Esther's cousin, Mordecai, worked at the palace and looked out for her.
- Xerxes' advisor, Haman, received a great reward.
- He was very proud.
- Everyone except Mordecai bowed down to him.
- Haman was insulted.
- He vowed to kill Mordecai and all the Jews!
- Haman told Xerxes that the Jews were dangerous and should die.
- Xerxes agreed and set a day to kill them.
- Mordecai was terrified and sent a message to Queen Esther.
- "Change the king's mind," said Mordecai.
- "If I go to the him without his invitation he can have me killed," Esther replied.
- "Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment," said Mordecai.
- Esther bravely agreed to try.
- She went to the throne room.
- King Xerxes was amazed by her beauty and invited her in.
- "Can we have dinner with Haman?" she asked.
- Haman was building a big gallows in his back yard.
- He planned to hang Mordecai on it.
- Then the king's invitation arrived.
- So Haman went to the palace for dinner.
- "A man wants to kill me and my people, the Jews," Esther told Xerxes.
- "Who would do such a thing?" he asked.
- "The evil Haman!" Esther cried.
- "Haman?" Guards! Put him to death."
- So Haman was hanged on the gallows he'd built for Mordecai.
- Because of Esther, the Jews were saved!
- They celebrated with a great feast, which they observe to this day.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What was Queen Esther's secret?** *(She was Jewish.)*
- **What did Haman vow to do?** *(Haman vowed to kill Mordecai and all the Jews.)*
- **What did Haman tell King Xerxes about the Jews?** *(He said that the Jews were dangerous and should die.)*
- **Who did God use to encourage Queen Esther to go to the king?** *(Mordecai)*
- **What did Mordecai ask Queen Esther to do?** *(He asked her to change the king's mind.)*
- **Why was it dangerous for Esther to go see the king?** *(People who went to the king without an invitation could be killed.)*
- **What did Mordecai say to Queen Esther to encourage her?** *("Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment.")*
- **What happened when King Xerxes found out about Haman's evil plan?** *(The king ordered that Haman be killed on the gallows he had made to hang Mordecai on.)*

SAY: It was risky for Queen Esther to visit the king without being invited by him. But she was able to be bold after Mordecai encouraged her that God had a plan for her: a plan to help save His people. We can be thankful that God had a plan to save us, too. God sent Jesus to save us from the punishment we deserve for our sin. Jesus made a way for us to go boldly before the King of all kings.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Even though Esther was scared, God used her to save the Jewish people. God loved Esther and made her for a special plan. God loves each of us and has a plan for us, too.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Who knows *(shrug your shoulders)*
if perhaps you *(point forward)*
were made queen *(pretend to place a crown on your head)*
for just such a time as this *(point down firmly)***?"**

Esther 4:14b (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to start the game. Then, that child is to make three short statements about themselves: two statements that are true and one that is a lie. The remaining children in the group raise their hands to guess which statement is not true. The child who guesses correctly gets to go next. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: Queen Esther had a secret, too: She was Jewish. God knows all our secrets, weaknesses and fears, yet He can use us to complete His plans no matter what (Proverbs 19:21).



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of long construction paper. Demonstrate how to draw the outline of a crown and then carefully cut it out. While it is still flat, invite the children to decorate it by coloring it *(or covering it with aluminum foil, optional)*. Afterwards, use a stapler or a bit of tape to secure the two ends of the paper crown together.

For younger children...
Make this activity more accessible for younger children by having the paper crowns cut out and ready to decorate prior to the beginning of the lesson.

For older children...
Extend this activity by asking older children to write the words "Such a Time as This" somewhere on their paper crown as a personal reminder that God has a plan and purpose for their lives, too.

Character Trait: Boldness

(10 minutes)

SAY: Boldness means to have conviction or to feel strong and secure. Esther was bold when she went to see the king without an invitation.

Encourage the children to think more about boldness by asking the following:

- **Can you think of a specific time you were bold?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Can you be scared and bold at the same time? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can honor God through boldness?** *(Answers will vary but may include being bold to share the love of Jesus with others through our words, choices and actions.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think of someone you know in your life who does not know Jesus. Now, think of a way that you can share Jesus' love with this person through your actions. *(Call on a few volunteers to share their ideas aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God had a plan for Queen Esther, and He used Mordecai to help encourage her to be bold. He pointed out that God had placed her right where she was for a special purpose. God has a plan and a purpose for each of us, too, and that includes sharing His love with others.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for always having a plan, no matter how we feel.
Let this truth make us bold for You.
Amen.

Notes



The Walls Go Up

Nehemiah and Ezra

Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15-16; 8:1-3; 10:28-29; 12:27

Character Trait: Purpose

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that before Nehemiah helped the Israelites, Nehemiah asked God for help.
- Children will discuss what being a child of God means.
- Children will identify what their God-given purpose may be, including specific steps they can take towards completing it.

Supplies:

- *The Walls Go Up* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper plates *(one for each child)*
- Colouring supplies
- Stickers, sequins, small pompoms, or buttons
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Say a few words to encourage them as a group *(or individually, if possible)*. This may include sharing that you have noticed how well they have been paying attention during the lessons and/or thanking them for their thoughtful participation in the discussions.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a special man named Nehemiah whom God used for a unique purpose: to encourage the Israelites during a time of great struggle. Encouragement is support and help. God sent Nehemiah to His people to encourage and support them many years ago, and He still encourages us in many ways today.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What was Queen Esther's secret?** *(She was Jewish.)*
- **What did Haman tell King Xerxes about the Jews?** *(He said that the Jews were dangerous and should die.)*
- **Why was it dangerous for Esther to go see the king?** *(People who went to the king without an invitation could be killed.)*
- **What did Mordecai say to Queen Esther to encourage her?** *("Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment.")*
- **What happened when King Xerxes found out about Haman's evil plan?** *(The king ordered that Haman be killed on the gallows he had made to hang Mordecai on.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Walls Go Up* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia.
- Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem was in ruins and that his friends there were in trouble.
- He asked God to help them.
- God gave Nehemiah the courage to speak to King Artaxerxes.
- Nehemiah asked if he could go to Jerusalem and help them fix their walls.
- Artaxerxes agreed.
- Nehemiah left for Jerusalem.
- Nehemiah walked around Jerusalem.
- Things were even worse than he'd heard.
- "This will be a big job," he told the people, "but, with God's help, we can rebuild these walls."
- Everyone worked in families and groups fixing the gates first.
- They fixed the Sheep Gate, the Fish Gate, the Dung Gate, and the other gates.
- Then they started rebuilding the walls.
- First, their enemies laughed.
- But as the walls grew higher, those enemies prepared to attack.
- So God's people worked with a tool in one hand and a sword in the other.
- After just 52 days, the wall was finished!
- Ezra, the priest, read God's law to the people. They promised to obey God's law and praised Him for protecting them.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What was the first thing Nehemiah did after he heard that Jerusalem was in ruins and his friends were trouble? *(He asked God to help them.)*

What did Nehemiah do next? *(He asked the king if he could go to help his friends fix their walls.)*

What did Nehemiah say to encourage his friends? *("With God's help, we can rebuild these walls.")*

What did the enemies do when they saw the Israelites rebuilding the walls? *(First, they laughed. Then, they prepared to attack.)*

What did the Israelites keep in their hands as they worked? *(A tool in one hand and a sword in the other)*

What did Ezra, the priest, do after the wall was finished? *(He read God's law to the people. They promised to obey God's law and praised God for protecting them.)*

SAY: God provides us with many things, including the strength and encouragement we need. When the walls around Jerusalem were destroyed, God provided strength and encouragement to the Israelites through Nehemiah.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Nehemiah knew it would take a lot of work to rebuild the walls. But he also knew that God would help them. We can also know that God will help us when we ask Him.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"...The God of heaven *(point both hands up)*
will help *(link index fingers together)* **us succeed.**
We, his servants *(place one hand on chest and bow slightly)*,
will start rebuilding this wall *(pound fists together)*."

Nehemiah 2:20a (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Have the children stand in a circle holding hands. Then, have them spread out so that there are large spaces between them. These empty spaces are the "windows" and "doors." Select one child to begin running, weaving in and out between the children. The children in the circle randomly drop their arms down to try to touch or trap the child. If they succeed, then the child is "out." This child then chooses the next child to try to weave in and out of the windows and doors. *(This game also works well when played in smaller groups.)*

SAY: It might have been scary trying to weave in and out of the windows and doors during the game. You were probably afraid of getting trapped! The Israelites were likely scared, too. Without the protection of the city's walls around them, they were all at risk of being hurt by their enemies.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

All of us will face challenges and difficulties. The good news is that we are never alone. God provides strength, encouragement, and a purpose for each of us to fulfill.

Provide each child with a paper plate and coloring supplies. In the middle of the plate, tell the children to draw a picture of something they do now that represents one of the roles God has placed them in. Then, have the children create a border or "wall" around the edge of the plate using stickers, sequins, small pompoms, or buttons.

Encourage the children to take their project home as a reminder that God has placed them where they are for a special purpose and that He will protect and encourage them, too—just like He did for His people so long ago.

For younger children...
Make the project simpler for younger children by asking them to draw a simple picture of themselves in the middle of the plate instead.

For older children...

Encourage older children to write **"The God of heaven will help..."** Nehemiah 2:20 on the front of their project as a reminder of God's protection for His people.

Character Trait: Purpose

(10 minutes)

SAY: Purpose is a God-given role, job, or vision. Everyone has a purpose, and our purpose is from God, the One who created each of us. God's purpose for Nehemiah was to encourage the Israelites when they had a lot of hard work to do rebuilding the walls. God has a unique purpose for each of us, too.

Encourage the children to think more about purpose by asking the following:

- **What are the roles that you fulfill right now?** *(Answers will vary but may include son or daughter, student, and friend.)*
- **What kind of purpose do you think God may have planned for you? Why?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Your most important role is to be a child of God. What does that mean?** *(Answers will vary but may include knowing, loving, and learning about God and sharing the love of God with others.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Nehemiah's God-given purpose was to encourage the Israelites during a time of hardship. Close your eyes and silently think about what your God-given purpose may be. *(Provide a few moments for the children to think silently to themselves.)*

SAY: With your eyes still closed, think of some specific things you can do to work towards this purpose? *(Tell the children to open their eyes. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary. Then, provide an opportunity for the children who did not share aloud to do so with a partner. If children struggle to identify what their God-given purpose may be, encourage them to think about their own talents and abilities. Explain that God gives us strengths so that we can complete what He has planned for our lives.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: We do not have to rebuild city walls like the Israelites did, but we face challenges and obstacles daily, too. God encouraged His people by sending Nehemiah. We can count on God to strengthen and encourage us today also. When God encourages us, He provides us with the strength we need to encourage those around us.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for providing the strength and encouragement we need daily. Guide and help us as we strive to encourage others and to fulfill Your purpose for our lives.
Amen.

Notes



The First Christmas Present

Jesus is born

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25

Character Trait: Hope

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- Children will recognize that Jesus is God's only Son.
- Children will explain how Jesus came to bring us hope.

Supplies:

- *The First Christmas Gift* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A ball *(suitable for throwing)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask them to close their eyes and think of a time they spent with someone they loved. Who were they with? What did they do? How did it make them feel? Have the children open their eyes.

SAY: Gifts are not always physical things. The time we get to spend with our loved ones is one of the most precious gifts of all. Today you will be learning about how God created a way for us to know and be with Him no matter what.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What was the first thing Nehemiah did after he heard that Jerusalem was in ruins and his friends were in trouble?** *(He asked God to help them.)*
- **What did Nehemiah say to encourage his friends?** *("With God's help, we can rebuild these walls.")*
- **What did the enemies do when they saw the Israelites rebuilding the walls?** *(First, they laughed. Then, they prepared to attack.)*
- **What did the Israelites keep in their hands as they worked?** *(They kept a tool in one hand and a sword in the other.)*
- **What did Ezra, the priest, do after the wall was finished?** *(He read God's law and praised God for protecting them.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The First Christmas Gift* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- The angel, Gabriel, told Mary, "You will have a baby!"
- "How?" asked Mary. "I'm not married."
- "God's Holy Spirit will come down to you. The baby will be God's Son."
- Mary believed him.
- Mary was engaged to Joseph, but he didn't believe her story.
- So an angel visited him, too.
- "Mary's not lying. Her baby will be God's Son. You must name Him Jesus."
- Many months passed.
- Then they traveled to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown, to be counted by the government.
- After that long journey, Mary was ready to give birth.
- But all the inns in Bethlehem were full.
- So God's Son was born in a stable, wrapped in cloths, and laid on a bed of hay.
- They named Him Jesus.
- That night, an angel appeared to some shepherds in the hills near Bethlehem.
- "Good news!" the angel said. "Your Savior has been born. He's in Bethlehem, lying in a manger."
- Suddenly more angels appeared, so many of them that they filled the skies.
- "Praise God in heaven!" they all sang. "And may everyone who pleases Him receive His peace."
- When the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.
- They found the baby, their Savior, lying on a bed of hay.
- It was just as the first angel had said.
- After the shepherds had seen Jesus, they went through the town.
- They were very excited!
- They told everyone what had happened, and they praised God for what He had done!

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

The angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she would have a baby. How would she be able to have a baby without being married? *(God's Holy Spirit would give her a baby. The baby would be God's only Son.)*

The angel also visited Joseph and told him what name he must give the baby. What was the name? *(Jesus)*

What Good News did the angel bring to the shepherds? *(Your Savior has been born. He is in Bethlehem, lying in a manger.)*

Explain that a savior is someone who rescues someone else from something bad or when they are in trouble. Why did the angel tell the shepherds that their Savior had been born? *(God had sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus had come to fix our sin problem.)*

How did the shepherds know that Jesus had been born? *(The angels appeared in the sky to tell them the good news.)*

Once the shepherds had seen Jesus for themselves, what did they do? *(They went through the town. They were very excited. They told everyone what had happened and praised God for what He had done.)*

SAY: Jesus was born in a manger. But this was no ordinary birth! The angel said, "Good news! Your Savior has been born." The good news is that God has sent Jesus to be our Savior and to bring us hope. A savior is someone who saves others from danger or death.

SAY: Sin creates a problem that we cannot fix. Our relationship with God is broken beyond repair because of sin, and the payment for sin is death. Thankfully, God loved us enough to create a solution. He sent Jesus to be our Savior because He can save us from our sins.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: After Adam and Eve first disobeyed God, sin continued to spread throughout the world. Sin broke the relationship between humans and God then, and it still breaks our relationship with Him today. But God loves us so much that He created a plan to fix our sin problem. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

The Savior *(reach both hands high in the air and look up)*
—yes, the Messiah, the Lord *(point both hands up)*—
has been born *(pretend to rock a baby in your arms)*
today in Bethlehem, the city of David *(point forward)*!

Luke 2:11 (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Before the activity, place a ball somewhere visible in the room. Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: Today you will be playing a game together. When the ball is tossed to you, you are to share something you remember from today's Bible story and then toss the ball to someone else. Only the person holding the ball is allowed to speak.

Next, have everyone sit for a few seconds, silently, and then explain that there is just one problem: You do not have a ball.

While still silent, ask the children to each raise their hand if they have a solution. Next, ask them to keep their hands silently raised if they see a ball somewhere to use. Lastly, ask the children to silently point to it. Call on a child to retrieve the ball and continue with the game until each child has had the opportunity to share aloud.

SAY: Thank you for playing and for your help solving the problem of the missing ball. We can also thank God for providing the help and rescue from sin we all need: His Son, Jesus.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: Jesus' birth happened long, long ago. What kinds of media coverage would it have received had it happened in the present day?

Have the children draw or write how the good news might have been shared where they live.

SAY: While Jesus' birth happened thousands of years ago, the hope that Jesus still provides is just as present for all of us today.

Character Trait: Hope

(10 minutes)

SAY: Jesus gives us hope because only He can fix our sin problem by paying the price for it. Without the hope that Jesus provides, we would spend a lifetime and eternity without God.

Encourage the children to think more about hope by asking the following:

- **Why is the hope that Jesus brings so important?** *(It means there is a way to fix our sin problem and restore our broken relationship with God.)*
- **Why do you personally need a savior?** *(We cannot fix our sin problem ourselves. Only God can do that.)*
- **What does sending Jesus to help us say about how God feels about us?** *(God loved us enough to send His only Son, Jesus, to help us.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus is not just a nice guy who did great things. He is God's one and only Son. He is our Savior, a gift from God to help us fix the sin problem we cannot fix ourselves. Think about someone with whom you can share the gift of Jesus.

SAY: How can you share the good news of His birth with others?

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Sin is a problem we cannot fix ourselves. But thankfully, God loved us enough to save us. God sent Jesus to be our Savior. The good news on that very first Christmas was that God's gift of hope had arrived!

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for sending the gift of Your Son, Jesus. How grateful we are that You created a way to fix our sin problem. Help us share Your great gift of hope with others so that they may know You, too.
Amen.

Notes



The Beloved Son

Jesus is baptised

Matthew 3:1-3, 13-17; Luke 3:15-16; John 1:29; Malachi 3:1

Character Trait: Purity

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify Jesus as God's Son.
- Children will explain specific ways that they can live a life of purity.
- Children will share ways their own choices and actions can encourage others to live purely also.

Supplies:

- *The Beloved Son* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Construction paper *(a piece for each child)*
- Black construction paper *(for hooves and ear cutouts)*
- Cotton balls
- Scissors
- Glue
- Googley eyes *(two for each child)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Do you *(or anyone you know)* go by more than one name? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn more about Jesus, who He is, and why He is also called the Lamb of God.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What Good News did the angel bring to the shepherds?** *(Your Savior has been born. He is in Bethlehem, lying in a manger.)*
- **Why did the angel tell the shepherds that their Savior had been born?** *(God had sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus had come to fix our sin problem.)*
- **How did the shepherds know that Jesus had been born?** *(The angels appeared in the sky to tell them the good news.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Beloved Son* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- "Before God sends His special Savior," said the prophet, Malachi, "a messenger will come to prepare the way for Him."
- So John came before Jesus, preaching by the Jordan River.
- "Prepare the way for the Lord!" John said. "God is sending

someone very special to His people. Change your ways. Turn from the bad things you have done. Be baptized."
- So that's what people did!
- "Are you the promised one?" they asked.
- "No," said John. "I'm not worthy to even carry His sandals. He will do amazing things. You'll see!"
- Jesus came to John to be baptized.
- When John saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"
- "I want you to baptize Me," Jesus said.
- "No," John replied. "I need to be baptized by You!"
- "Trust Me," said Jesus. "This is the right thing to do."
- So John baptized Jesus.
- God's Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.
- "This is My Son," God said. "I love Him. He pleases Me very much!"



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What did John say as he preached by the Jordan River?** *("Prepare the way for the Lord! God is sending someone very special to His people. Change your ways. Turn from the bad things you have done. Be baptized.")*
- **What did John say when Jesus came to him?** *("Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!")*
- **Why did John first say no to Jesus?** *(John said he should be baptized by Jesus instead.)*
- **What did Jesus tell John to do?** *(Jesus told John to trust Him.)*
- **What happened when John baptized Jesus?** *(God's Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.)*
- **Who did God identify as His Son?** *(Jesus)*
- **What did God say about Jesus when He was baptized?** *("This is My Son. I love Him. He pleases Me very much!")*



God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: John told people to turn from the bad things they had done and be baptized. Baptism is a way to show the washing away of sin. It is also a way of showing that you want to follow and obey God. Jesus, who is God's Son, was also the Lamb of God. He can take our sins away completely.



Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

"Look! *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
The Lamb of God *(put hands together, palms up, and raise up)*
who takes away *(pretend to grab something)*
the sin of the world! *(make a big circle in front of you with hands)***."**

John 1:29b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

Secretly select a child from the group. The other children may then ask questions that can only be answered with "yes" or "no" in order to identify the secret person. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play as time permits.

SAY: John did not have to guess Jesus' identity. John immediately knew who Jesus was: the Lamb of God!

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

SAY: John called Jesus the "Lamb of God" because He would offer His life as a sacrifice on our behalf. This means that Jesus would willingly die to pay the price for our sins.

Provide each child with a piece of construction paper, cotton balls, and glue. Demonstrate how to glue the cotton balls to create and fill in a circle in the middle of the paper. Provide googly eyes to glue in the center of the circle to indicate the lamb's face. Then, provide black paper for the children to cut out ears and hooves to glue on and complete their lambs.

For younger children...
To make this project easier for younger children, four, small ovals can be cut out in advance for each child and glued to the center of the paper *(where the ears and hooves should be)*. Then, the children can complete the project by gluing down the cotton balls and googly eyes.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by telling them to copy the memory verse onto their project as well.

Character Trait: Purity
(10 minutes)

SAY: Purity means being completely clean and free from sin. Share that only Jesus can take our sins away because only Jesus is completely pure. Even though Jesus was tempted, He never sinned—not even once. This is why John called Jesus the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Many years ago, God's people made sacrifices to Him by killing animals such as lambs. Jesus is the "Lamb of God" because He sacrificed His life on the cross as payment for the price of our sins.

Encourage the children to think more about purity by asking the following:

- **What are some specific examples of how God helps you to live a life of purity?** *(Answers will vary but may include always being truthful, not stealing, and being trustworthy.)*
- **Why is choosing to live a life of purity important?** *(Answers will vary but may include because it is how God wants us to live and because it is a good example to others.)*
- **How does choosing purity help us?** *(Answers will vary but may include by protecting us from harm, sin, and shame.)*
- **What can we do when we make a mistake?** *(Answers will vary but may include asking God for forgiveness and seeking to make things right again if we have harmed, hurt, or wronged another person.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God wants us to live lives of purity because we are His children. We are examples to those around us who may not yet know God and His great love.

SAY: How can your choices and actions encourage others to live a pure life? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include that their choices and actions can be an example for others to follow.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Raise your hand if you remember how John reacted when Jesus came to be baptized. *(Call on a volunteer to share aloud: John said no, that he should be baptized by Jesus.)*

SAY: Raise your hand if you remember the two important words Jesus said in response. *(Invite the children to say the words aloud in unison: "Trust me.")*

SAY: We can trust God to help us live a life of purity.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for loving us so much that You gave
Your only beloved Son. Help us to honor
You by striving to be pure in all we say, think, and do.
Amen.

Notes



A Test in the Desert

Jesus is tempted
Matthew 4:1-11

Character Trait: Perseverance

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall the specific way Jesus resisted temptation.
- Children will discuss the importance of perseverance.
- Children will identify ways that perseverance honors God.

Supplies:

- *A Test in the Desert* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Poster board or cardboard *(enough to cut out a shield for each child)*
- Aluminum foil *(enough to cover one, paper shield for each child)*
- Glue or tape
- Sequins, glitter, and plastic jewels *(optional)*
- Pencils or pens

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you have ever played a game. Now, keep your hand raised if you have ever played a game, become tired, and run out of breath. *(Tell the children to put their hands down.)*

If you raised your hand, then you did not give up when you became tired. You kept going and continued playing. Not giving up and quitting, even when it becomes difficult, is a skill. The word we use to describe not giving up is "perseverance." Choosing to persevere is not always easy, as we may be tired and worn out. In today's lesson, we will learn about Jesus' perseverance and how He said no to temptation over and over again.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did John say when Jesus came to him?** *("Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!")*
- **Why did John first say no to Jesus?** *(John said he should be baptized by Jesus instead.)*
- **What happened when John baptized Jesus?** *(God's Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.)*
- **What did God say when Jesus was baptized?** *("This is My Son. I love Him. He pleases Me very much!")*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Test in the Desert* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- God's Spirit led Jesus into the desert.
- He had nothing to eat for forty days and nights.
- After that, Jesus was very hungry!
- Knowing that Jesus was hungry, Satan tempted Him.
- He pointed to a rock and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."
- Jesus answered Satan, using God's words from the Bible.
- "It's not just bread that keeps people alive," He said. "Their lives also depend on what God says."
- Next, Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple.
- "If You are the Son of God, jump off! The Scriptures say that God's angels will rescue You."
- So Jesus used God's Word to give His second answer.
- "Do not put the Lord your God to the test," He said, quoting again from the Bible.
- Finally, Satan took Jesus to a mountain, and showed Him all the world's kingdoms and wealth.
- "This can be Yours," he said, "if You bow down and worship me."
- "Go away, Satan!" Jesus commanded.
- Then He quoted God's Word one more time.
- "For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"
- As soon as Jesus said it, Satan left Him.
- Then angels came and cared for Him.
- Jesus had faced temptation and hadn't sinned, not even once.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Who led Jesus into the desert?** *(God's Spirit)*
- **How long was Jesus in the desert?** *(Forty days and nights)*
- **Who tempted Jesus?** *(Satan)*
- **How did Jesus respond to temptation?** *(He did not give in to temptation. Instead, Jesus used words from the Bible, Scripture, to defeat it.)*
- **How many times did Jesus sin?** *(None)*
- **What did Satan do when Jesus did not give in to temptation?** *(Satan left him.)*
- **Who came and cared for Jesus after He faced temptation?** *(Angels)*
- **What can we learn from Jesus' example?** *(We can also use God's Word to help us fight and win against temptation.)*
- **Do you think Jesus understands our struggle against temptation?** *(Answers will vary but should include that He does because He was tempted to sin, too.)*

SAY: When we face temptations, we can follow the example Jesus set for us: We can use words from the Bible to help encourage us and make us strong enough to say no. For example, we read in the Bible that God wants us to treat others the same way we would want them to treat us. This gives us the guidance and encouragement we need in order to make choices that are right, not necessarily easy. We can also ask Jesus to help us. He understands our feelings and our struggles because He has faced temptation, too.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus was tempted just like we are. But Jesus resisted temptation by depending on His Father, God, and His Word. We can follow Jesus' example and do the same.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

People *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
do not live by bread alone *(pretend to eat)*,
but by every word *(open your hands like a book)*
that comes from the mouth of God *(point both hands up)*.

Matthew 4:4b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Explain that you will be giving short directions for the children to follow. However, they must only obey instructions that begin with the words "Simon says..." If they obey an instruction that does not, then they are "out" and must sit down for the remainder of the game. Continue playing as time permits or until only one child is left standing. *(Sample instructions can include jump in place, clap your hands, stand on one foot, and put your hands on your head.)*

SAY: As Jesus showed us, God's Word is not only a powerful weapon against temptation. It also guides and directs us, too. Just as in the game you had to be careful when to follow the directions, we should be careful to follow God's Word and not our feelings.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a stiff piece of poster board or cardboard. Show how to carefully cut out the shape of a small shield. Then, provide each child with a piece of aluminum foil large enough to cover the front of the paper shield. Demonstrate how to fold the foil around the edges of the shield. If necessary, provide glue or tape to secure the foil to the shields. If available, provide sequins, glitter, and plastic jewels for decorating the front of the shields.

SAY: God's Word is our shield against temptation. We can use the words from the Bible to help strengthen and protect us, just like Jesus did.

For younger children...
The paper shields can be cut out in advance for younger children.

For older children...
Encourage older children to write down the references for some of their favorite verses on their shields as a reminder to use God's Word to help them in their battles against temptation.

Character Trait: Perserverance

(10 minutes)

SAY: Perseverance means not giving up. No matter how many times Satan tried, Jesus did not give in to temptation. Instead, Jesus showed perseverance.

Encourage the children to think more about perseverance by asking the following:

- **Why is perseverance important?** *(It enables us to keep going and to not give in.)*
- **Why is perseverance sometimes difficult?** *(It requires the ability to keep going and keep working even when we may be challenged, tired, or worn out.)*
- **In what areas of your life do you show perseverance?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **In what areas of your life can you improve your perseverance?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can choosing to persevere honor God?** *(Answers will vary but may include by using the gifts, talents, and abilities He has given us and trusting in God's timing, not our own.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Choosing to persevere and not give up can be tiring and can wear a person out. Angels came and cared for Jesus after He persevered against temptation.

Think of a person you know that has shown perseverance. It can be someone who does not give up when trying to learn something new. Maybe it is someone who never gives up on teaching or caring for you. Now, think of a way that you can personally encourage this person. Turn to someone sitting near you and share. *(Provide an opportunity for the children to share aloud with one another.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Resisting temptation is an ongoing battle that everyone faces. But we do not have to face it alone. We can pray to Jesus for help. We can read and use the words of the Bible to give us strength. We can talk with and seek help from other wise people around us for encouragement. God did not leave us alone and unequipped to fight temptation. With His help, we always have hope.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Your Word to guide and help us and for the example Your Son, Jesus, gave each of us to follow. Most importantly, we thank You for the hope and forgiveness Jesus provides, even when we make mistakes.
Amen.

Notes



The King and the Kingdom

The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 4:23-7:29; John 18:36-37

Character Trait: Trust

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God is worthy of our trust and will provide for our needs.
- Children will discuss that trusting God means obeying God.
- Children will recognize that they can talk to God in prayer.

Supplies:

- *The King and the Kingdom* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper
- Colouring supplies and/or stickers
- A paper crown made in advance

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Create a simple paper crown and wear it when greeting the children.

Welcome the children and bring their attention to the crown on your head. Ask them if they know who wears crowns. Call on a few volunteers to share. *(Answers will vary and may include royalty, kings, and queens.)*

SAY: Jesus is the most high King. He is God's only Son, and those who choose to follow Him are part of His kingdom, too.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Who led Jesus into the desert?** *(God's Spirit)*
- **Who tempted Jesus?** *(Satan)*
- **How did Jesus respond to temptation?** *(He did not give in to temptation. Instead, Jesus used words from the Bible, Scripture, to defeat it.)*
- **How many times did Jesus sin?** *(None)*
- **What can we learn from Jesus' example?** *(We can also use God's Word to help us fight and win against temptation.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The King and the Kingdom* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jesus traveled, teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, and crowds followed Him.
- They didn't know yet that Jesus is the King, but He taught them how to live as people of His kingdom.

- "People do good," said Jesus, "because of the good in their hearts. People do evil when evil is in their hearts. God wants to make your heart like His heart."
- "Don't worry about things like food and clothes," said Jesus. "Put God first in your life. Obey Him. Trust Him. He will make sure that you have what you need."
- Jesus taught this prayer:
- "Father God, Your name is holy.
- Reign on earth like You reign in heaven.
- Meet our needs today.
- Help us obey You.
- All power is Yours, forever!"
- Then Jesus told a story.
- "One man built his house on a rock. A big storm came. Because the house was built on a rock, it did not fall down."
- "Another man built his house on soft and shifting sand. A big storm came. Because the house was built on sand, it fell down with a crash!"
- "The things I teach you are like the rock," said Jesus. "Put My words into action, and you will be like the man who built his house on a rock."



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **Who is the King?** *(Jesus)*
- **What are some things Jesus taught?** *(God does not want us to worry. God will provide for our needs. Put God first. Trust and obey God.)*
- **In the story Jesus told, what happened to the house built on the sand?** *(It fell down with a crash.)*
- **What happened to the house built on the rock?** *(It did not fall down.)*

SAY: In the story, Jesus said that we can be like the man who built his house on the rock by putting Jesus' words into action. God wants to make our hearts like His. He makes this happen when we trust Jesus and ask Him to guide us. We can have His words in our own hearts, and then we will be able to make good choices. Jesus can change our hearts, put His words in them, and bring us into God's family when we put our trust in Him as our Savior. Then you are true royalty because you are loved and treasured by God!



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus taught people how to love God and each other. He taught us that we can trust God to take care of us. One way God cares for us is by providing a purpose for each of us. God uses people to fulfill His plans. You are part of God's bigger story, too!



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

Anyone who listens to my teaching *(cup hand around your ear)*
and follows it is wise *(point to your head)*,
like a person who builds a house *(bring fingertips together above your head)*
on solid rock *(pound one fist on the other palm)*.

Matthew 7:24 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

Have the children stand an arm's length apart from one another.

SAY: In the story, Jesus told about the two men who built their houses on very different foundations: one on rock and the other on shifting sand. All of you imagine you are houses built on the shifting sand. Listen to the words I call out and see if you can choose the right action.

Call out "wind," "rain," and "storm!" Encourage them to react to each word. *(They can move from side-to-side, swirl around, and fall to the floor.)* Next, ask the children to imagine they are houses built on solid rock. Call out the same words as before and encourage the children to react. *(They should remain stable and safe.)*

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of paper. Demonstrate how to cut it in half lengthwise in a zig-zag pattern. *(If necessary, this step can be completed in advance of the lesson.)* Next, show the children the crown you wore at the beginning of the lesson. Use this as an example for them to follow when creating and decorating their own crowns. Share that the children can take their crowns home to help remind them of how they are very important and treasured by God.

Character Trait: Trust
(10 minutes)

SAY: Jesus said that God does not want us to worry. God wants us to trust Him. He is good, and He loves us more than we can even imagine! One way we can trust God is by talking to Him. Talking to God is called prayer. You can talk to God anytime about anything.

Encourage the children to think more about trust by asking the following:

- **When is it a good time to talk to God in prayer?** *(Anytime)*
- **Why should we trust God?** *(He created, loves, and treasures each of us.)*
- **What are some specific ways we can show our trust in God?** *We can pray to Him, obey Him, and follow Jesus.)*

Connect with Others:
(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about the people in your life that you can trust. Why do you trust them? True trust means listening to, believing, and obeying, even when it may not be easy to do. Now, think about a time when you were scared or worried, but someone you trusted helped you. Think of a specific way to thank them for being trustworthy and helping you.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: God knows us better than we even know ourselves because He created us. The wonderful news is that this relationship is not one-sided! We can get to know God better, too. He wants us to learn more about Him. We can do this by reading His Word, the Bible, and by using the Bible App for Kids. We can also talk to God and ask for His help whenever we want.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our hope and help. When we are tempted to worry or when we feel afraid, help us to put our trust in You.
Amen.

Notes



Through the Roof

Jesus heals a paralysed man

Luke 5:17-26

Character Trait: Kindness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that God is able to forgive sins.
- Children will recognise that Jesus is God.
- Children will identify how God has shown kindness to them and why it is important to show kindness to others.

Supplies:

- *Through the Roof* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper
- Pens and/or pencils
- Colouring supplies

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Explain to the children that today you would like to welcome them a little differently. Share that you are very grateful to see "someone..." and insert a specific description of a child or children in the group here such as "someone wearing the colour blue" or "someone who has short, brown hair." Continue doing this until you have briefly described all the children without using any of their names. *(For efficiency, specifically use descriptions that purposefully include many children at once. For example, hair colour, hair length, and buttons on clothing can simultaneously describe many children in the group at one time.)*

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Who is the one true King?** *(Jesus)*
- **What are some things Jesus taught?** *(God does not want us to worry. God will provide for our needs. Put God first. Trust and obey God.)*
- **How can we talk to God?** *(Anytime and anywhere through prayer)*
- **How does talking with God show that we trust Him?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Through the Roof* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Full! The house was full!
- Jesus was in the house, teaching and healing, and everyone wanted to see Him.
- Some men had a friend who could not walk.
- They believed that Jesus could heal him, so they carried him to the house on a mat.
- Because the house was so full, they couldn't get in.

- So they carried their friend up the steps to the flat roof and started tearing up the tiles!
- They opened a hole in the roof.
- Everyone in the house looked up, amazed!
- Then they lowered their friend into the middle of the crowd.
- They thought Jesus would heal their friend.
- Instead, Jesus said to him, "Your sins are forgiven."
- The religious leaders were very unhappy.
- "Only God can forgive sins," they grumbled.
- "What's easier?" asked Jesus. "To forgive a man's sins or make him walk? To show you that I have God's power to forgive sins, I will heal his legs."
- "Pick up your mat and walk home," said Jesus to the man.
- And he did!
- His friends cheered, and so did everyone else.
- Now the house was filled...with praise.



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following questions:

- **What did Jesus say to the man who could not walk?** *("Your sins are forgiven.")*
- **Why were the religious leaders very unhappy?** *(They grumbled that only God can forgive sins.)*
- **What happened to the man who could not walk?** *(Jesus forgave his sins. Jesus healed him. He could walk.)*
- **Whose power did Jesus say He had?** *(God's power)*
- **How did Jesus show this?** *(By healing the man who could not walk)*

Remind the children of the special welcome they received today. Point out that you did not use their names. Instead, you described them. They knew exactly who you were welcoming because they knew what to look for in each person.

SAY: Jesus did not just say that He was God. Jesus showed that He was God. Jesus forgave sins and performed miracles *(like healing the man who could not walk)*. Jesus did things that only God can do. Faith is believing in and trusting something or someone completely. The friends who lowered the paralysed man through the roof had faith that Jesus could heal. We can have faith in Jesus' power today, too.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: While on earth, Jesus performed many miracles, including healing the sick and forgiving sin. Jesus did things that only God can do. This is how Jesus showed people that He was God.

Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

Seeing their faith *(bring hands together in heart shape)*,
Jesus *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*
said to the man *(cup hands around mouth)*,
"Young man, your sins are forgiven *(slide one hand across the other, flip and repeat)*."

Luke 5:20 (NLT)

Activity:
(10 minutes)

Have all the students stand up. Give directions to the children to sit down or remain standing, depending upon whether or not statements apply to them. Some sample statements include:

- Everyone whose name does NOT start with the letter "A", please sit down.
- If you have a brother or a sister, remain standing.
- If you are wearing anything blue, sit down.

Repeat this process with different statements several times. End the game by pointing out how much more difficult it is to demonstrate who someone is compared to just saying their name.

SAY: Jesus did not just say He had God's power. He demonstrated it, too!

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

SAY: Nothing kept the friends of the paralysed man from getting to Jesus—not a crowd of people, not even the roof on the house! Thankfully, we can now reach Jesus in a much easier way. We can talk to God using our words. This is called prayer.

Character Trait: Kindness
(10 minutes)

SAY: Kindness means showing that you care about other people. Jesus showed kindness towards others in many different ways. In the story, Jesus taught and healed so many people that everyone wanted to see Him—including the man who could not walk.

Encourage the children to think more about kindness by asking the following:

- **How have others shown kindness towards you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How has God shown kindness to you?** *(Answers will vary but might include providing them with people who love them, sending Jesus to help them, and providing them with the opportunity to learn more about God.)*
- **Why is it important to be kind to other people?** *(Everyone is created by and loved by God, and so everyone has value.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can show kindness to others?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:
(5 minutes)

SAY: One way to show kindness to others is by being faithful. This means that you are trustworthy and do the things you say you will do.

SAY: Jesus showed us that we can have faith in God by His actions.

Challenge the children to show others that they can have faith in them, too, by keeping their promises.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: God wants us to know Him and put our faith and trust in Him. God gave us the gift of Jesus. Jesus did not just help people by performing miracles, forgiving sins, and healing the sick. Jesus also helped us by showing that God is trustworthy. Jesus showed us that we can put our faith in Him because He has the power to do what He says He can do.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
We are grateful that You have the power to heal our bodies from sickness and forgive us from sin. May we become stronger in our faith as we gain more and more knowledge of You.
Amen.

Notes



Demons Destroyed

Jesus casts out evil spirits
Mark 5:1-20

Character Trait: Joyful

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that Jesus showed He is God by casting out evil spirits.
- Children will explain how God's great love is the source of our joy.
- Children will discuss two specific ways that they can share their joy with others.

Supplies:

- *Demons Destroyed* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A picture of a sad face or emoticon *(prepared before the lesson)*
- A picture of a happy face or emoticon *(prepared before the lesson)*
- Pink or red paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Adhesive bandages *(one for each child)*
- Scissors
- Pens or pencils
- Coloring supplies *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you know what an emoticon is.
(Call on a volunteer to share aloud. An emoticon is a small, simple image or picture that shows an emotion or feeling.)

Next, hold up the two examples of emoticons and ask the children to identify what emotions they represent.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a man who went from sad *(hold up the sad face)* to joyful *(hold up the happy face)* because Jesus healed him!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Who tempted Jesus?** *(Satan)*
- **How did Jesus respond to temptation?** *(He did not give in to temptation. Instead, Jesus used words from the Bible, Scripture, to defeat it.)*
- **How many times did Jesus sin?** *(None)*
- **What can we learn from Jesus' example?** *(We can also use God's Word to help us fight and win against temptation.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Demons Destroyed* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee.
- They met a man with evil spirits, who lived in a cemetery.
- He screamed constantly and cut himself with stones.
- Jesus told the spirits to leave.
- "Don't hurt us, Jesus!" the spirits cried.
- "My name is Lots," said the man. "There are lots of evil spirits in me."
- "Well, you have to leave him," said Jesus. "You have no choice."
- The evil spirits were scared.
- There was a large herd of pigs nearby.
- "Then send us into the pigs!"
- Jesus let the evil spirits enter the pigs.
- The whole herd rushed down a steep bank into the lake and drowned!
- The people who took care of the pigs told everyone in town what had happened.
- The townspeople came to the cemetery.
- They saw that Jesus had made the man well.
- Frightened, the people begged Jesus to leave.
- The man asked to go with Jesus.
- Jesus replied, "Stay here. Tell everyone what I've done."
- The man did, and everyone was amazed!

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What was the name of the man Jesus and His disciples met? *(Lots)*

Why was he called this? *(He had lots of evil spirits in him.)*

What did Jesus tell the evil spirits they had to do? *(He said they had to leave Lots.)*

Where did the evil spirits go after they left Lots' body? *(They went into a herd of pigs nearby.)*

What did the herd of pigs do after the evil spirits entered them? *(The pigs rushed down a steep bank, fell into a lake, and drowned.)*

Lots wanted to go with Jesus. But what did Jesus tell him to do instead? *(Jesus told him to stay and tell everyone what He had done.)*

How did the evil spirits feel when Jesus spoke to them? *(They were scared.)*

The evil spirits were scared and had to obey Jesus. What does this tell you about Jesus? *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus has the ultimate power and showed that He is God.)*

SAY: People were likely very afraid of Lots because he screamed constantly and cut himself with stones. But Jesus did something that only God could do: cast out evil spirits. In fact, even the evil spirits knew they had to obey Him. Afterwards, Lots was healed! He was joyful and grateful and wanted to follow Jesus. We can be joyful, too, because Jesus has provided healing for us, too. Through His death on the cross, Jesus provided a way to heal and forgive our hearts from sin.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus showed who He is by doing things that only God can do. Only God can cast out evil spirits by just the power of His word. Jesus only spoke, and the man was healed.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

A crowd soon gathered *(extend arms, then bring in to yourself)* **around Jesus,**
and they saw *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
the man who had been possessed *(cross fists tightly over chest)* **by the legion of demons.**
He was sitting there *(relax arms down, palms out)*
fully clothed and perfectly sane,
and they were all afraid *(gasp with wide eyes as if afraid)***.**

Mark 5:15 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be the "seeker." The seeker counts to 10 slowly as the remaining children hide. Then, the seeker calls out, "Ready or not, here I come!" and tries to find the children who are hiding. The last child found gets to be the seeker in the next round. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: The evil spirits could not hide from Jesus. They knew who He was, and they feared Him!

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of red or pink paper. Demonstrate how to carefully cut out a heart. Then, provide each child with two bandages and instruct them to overlap them in the center of their paper hearts to form the shape of a cross.

SAY: Jesus healed Lots by sending all the evil spirits away. Jesus heals our hearts by providing forgiveness from our sin.

For younger children...
The paper hearts can be cut out in advance of the lesson for younger children.

For older children...
Challenge older children to write down all the different names and titles for Jesus on their hearts. Help by sharing a few to get them started: God, Lamb of God, Christ, and Healer.

Character Trait: Joyful

(10 minutes)

SAY: To be joyful means to be happy. Lots became joyful after Jesus healed him by sending all the evil spirits out of him.

Encourage the children to think more about being joyful by asking the following:

- **What things bring you joy?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What kinds of things that are not physical things make you joyful?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Is being joyful a choice? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can thinking about God's great love and Jesus' act of love on the cross make you joyful?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God's love and Jesus' forgiveness can never be taken away from us. When we focus on these, we can choose to be joyful no matter what.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God's great love is ours forever, and nothing can take it away. When we think about and focus on His love, it is easy for us to become so joyful that we overflow with love towards others, too.

Think of the different people in your daily life. *(Provide a moment of quiet think time.)* What are two specific ways that you can share your joy with these people? Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Jesus proved that He is God by casting out evil spirits and healing Lots. Even the evil spirits knew Jesus and feared Him. However, like Lots, we can be joyful! When we accept Jesus' free gift of forgiveness through His death on the cross, Jesus heals us, too. Jesus can heal our hearts.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How joyful we are to know that You love each of us so very much! Help us to focus on Your love so that our joy overflows and points others to You.
Amen.

Notes



Time to Get Up

Jesus heals a girl
Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Character Trait: Mercy

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that Jesus did things only God can do—including bringing Jairus' daughter back to life.
- Children will describe ways Jesus has shown mercy to them personally.
- Children will discuss two ways they can choose to show mercy towards others.

Supplies:

- *Time to Get Up* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- 2 small flags or other objects *(for game play)*
- Small squares of felt *(one for each child)*
- Glue *(or glue dots, optional)*
- Felt cut outs, stickers, and/or small scraps of fabric
- Yarn and/or string *(optional)*
- Large, plastic, yarn needles *(optional, one for each child)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Close your eyes and be absolutely still for a moment. *(Provide a few moments of silence for them to do this.)*

Now, get up and walk and jump around the room. *(After a few moments, instruct them to sit back down.)*

In today's lesson, we will learn about how Jesus told a little girl to get up, and she walked around the room. But she was not pretending to be still, and she was not just sleeping. She had died. But Jesus brought her back to life!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did Jesus tell the evil spirits inside of Lots to do?** *(He told them that they had to leave Lots.)*
- **Where did the evil spirits go after they left Lots'?** *(They went into a herd of pigs nearby.)*
- **The evil spirits were scared and had to obey Jesus. What does this tell you about Jesus?** *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus has the ultimate power and showed that He is God.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Time to Get Up* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, fell at Jesus' feet.
- "My little girl is dying," he cried. "If you lay Your hands on her, I know that she will live."
- Pushing through the crowd, they met some men from Jairus' house.
- "Your daughter is already dead," they said.
- "Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "Believe, and your daughter will be healed."
- They arrived at Jairus' house, and found people weeping for the girl.
- "Why are you weeping?" Jesus asked. "The girl's not dead. She's only sleeping."
- The people laughed at Him.
- Jesus and three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, went into the house with Jairus and his wife.
- The little girl was lying there, just as everyone had said.
- Jesus took her hand.
- Then He said, "Stand up, little girl."
- And she did! She even walked around the room!
- Jairus and his wife were amazed!
- Jesus told them not to tell anyone what He had done.
- "Now," said Jesus, "I think this girl needs something to eat!"

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

Why did Jairus ask for Jesus' help? *(His daughter was dying.)*

What did the people in the crowd tell Jairus and Jesus? *(They said that Jairus' daughter was already dead.)*

What did Jesus tell Jairus? *(He told Jairus not to worry, to believe, and his daughter would be healed.)*

What did Jesus say to the little girl when He arrived? *("Stand up, little girl.")*

What happened after Jesus spoke to the little girl? *(She came back to life and walked around the room!)*

What does this tell you about who Jesus is? *(Answers will vary but should include that it tells us that Jesus is God because Jesus did things that only God can do—like bringing people back to life!)*

Jesus cared about Jairus, and Jesus cares about you, too. How does this make you feel? *(Answers will vary.)*

SAY: When Jesus cared about Jairus' little girl, He showed that He cared. When Jesus brought the little girl back to life, He showed that He was God! While on earth, Jesus did things that only God can do—including having power over death!

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Only God has the power to bring people back to life. Jesus showed that He is God by bringing people back to life, like Jairus' daughter.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

But when Jesus heard *(cup hand around your ear)* **what had happened, he said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid** *(float shaking hands over chest)*. **Just have faith** *(bring hands together in heart shape)*, **and she will be healed** *(from top of head, sweep hands quickly down and out)*."

Luke 8:50 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Divide the children into two teams, split the playing area into two areas, and determine a location for "prison." Give each team a small flag *(or other object)* to hide somewhere in their team's area. The object of the game is to run into the other team's area, capture their flag, and make it safely back. Players can tag opposing teammates in their territory, causing them to be "out" and go to the prison location. Players in prison can only be freed by a teammate who tags and escorts them back to their playing area without getting tagged themselves. The first team to capture the flag and bring it safely back to their area wins.

SAY: Jesus showed that He cared about Jairus by going to his home to help his little girl. Many of your teammates who stopped to get other players out of prison showed that they cared about others, too.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a small square of felt, glue, and a variety of felt cut outs, stickers, and/or small scraps of fabric. Then, invite the children to make and decorate a small blanket to take home as a reminder of the story.

SAY: Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid. We can also put our trust in Jesus and choose not to be afraid. Like Jairus, we can rest easy in Jesus, too.

For younger children...
Younger children can use glue dots to make adhering the decorations to their felt blankets easier.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by providing large, plastic, yarn needles and different colored yarns and strings. Invite the children to sew creative patterns all over their blankets.

Character Trait: Mercy

(10 minutes)

SAY: Mercy is choosing to show care and concern towards others instead of ignoring their pain. Jesus showed mercy towards Jairus by bringing his daughter back to life!

Encourage the children to think more about mercy by asking the following:

- **How does Jesus show mercy towards you?** *(Answers will vary but should include by offering forgiveness from sin, providing daily needs, hearing our prayers, and providing encouragement and guidance through God's Word, the Bible.)*
- **Has anyone else in your life shown you mercy? How?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can you show mercy towards others?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Mercy is more than simply saying that we love someone. Mercy is showing love to others.

Think about how Jesus willingly gave His own life on the cross to show mercy towards us. How does this make you feel? *(Provide a few moments of quiet think time. Then, invite a few children to share aloud.)*

One way to show our thankfulness to Jesus is by choosing to show mercy to others. What are some ways you can practice mercy the next time someone hurts or wrongs you? *(Provide a few moments of quiet think time. Then, pair the children up to share their thoughts and ideas with one another. Have a few volunteers share their answers.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Only God has the power to bring people back to life. Jesus did not just use words to explain who He is. Jesus showed who He was through His actions, too. We can show that we are children of the one true and merciful God by extending mercy to others also.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How great and full of mercy You are! Your love and concern for us are limitless. Help us to show You our gratefulness by showing mercy towards others.
Amen.

Notes



The Big Picnic

Jesus feeds 5,000
Mark 6:30-44

Character Trait: Compassion

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Jesus did what only God could do—performed a miracle to feed over 5,000 people.
- Children will identify specific ways God has shown compassion towards them personally.
- Children will describe various ways that they can personally show compassion towards someone else.

Supplies:

- *The Big Picnic* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Small paper cutouts of loaves of bread *(set of five for each child)*
- Small paper cutouts of fish *(set of two for each child)*
- Envelopes or resealable plastic bags *(one for each child)*
- Paper *(one piece for each child, optional)*
- Glue *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they have ever been hungry. Next, ask them to put their hands on their stomach if they have ever heard or felt their stomach rumble because they were so hungry. Share that in today's lesson, they will learn about a huge crowd of people who were hungry, also. Jesus performed a miracle to feed them all!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did Jesus tell Jairus?** *(He told Jairus not to worry, to believe, and his daughter would be healed.)*
- **What happened after Jesus spoke to the little girl?** *(She came back to life and walked around the room!)*
- **What does this tell you about who Jesus is?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it tells us that Jesus is God because Jesus did things that only God can do—like bringing people back to life!)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Big Picnic* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jesus had finished teaching.
- Everyone was hungry.
- "Send them away to buy food," His disciples said.
- But Jesus wanted to show the people that they could trust God.
- "Why don't you feed them?" Jesus asked.

- "It would take a year's wages to buy bread for them all!" His disciples cried.
- "How much food do you have?" asked Jesus.
- "There is a boy here," said Andrew, "who has five loaves of bread and two little fish."
- Jesus smiled. "Perfect. Tell the people to sit down on the grass."
- So the people sat down all over the mountainside.
- Jesus thanked God for the bread and the fish.
- Then He broke them into pieces for His disciples to hand out.
- Jesus' disciples passed out bread and fish to the whole crowd.
- There were five thousand men and lots of women and children, too.
- Everyone ate as much as they wanted!
- Afterwards, the disciples gathered up the leftovers.
- There were twelve baskets full, from just five loaves and two fish!
- The people knew they could trust God to care for them.



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What did Jesus' disciples suggest they do about the hungry crowd?** *(They suggested that the people be sent away to buy food.)*
- **What did Jesus want to do instead?** *(Jesus wanted to show everyone that they could trust God to care for them.)*
- **What did the boy give Jesus to use?** *(Five loaves of bread and two little fish)*
- **What did Jesus do before He broke the bread and fish into pieces?** *(He thanked God for the food.)*
- **What happened after Jesus thanked God and broke up all the food?** *(Jesus' disciples passed out food to the whole crowd. Everyone ate as much as they wanted!)*
- **How many people were in the crowd?** *(Five thousand men and lots of women and children)*
- **How does it make you feel to know that God cares about you this much, too?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Jesus' disciples only saw a problem: a crowd full of hungry people! But Jesus saw an opportunity to show everyone that God could be trusted to care and provide for them. When Jesus performed the miracle of making all of the food from so little, He also showed that God can do amazing—and big!—things with even the small things that we are willing to give to Him.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

Jesus did something great with the very small amount of food the little boy gave Him. Jesus showed the people that they could trust Him to provide for their needs, even when it seemed impossible. God also showed that He can do amazing things with even the smallest things we give Him.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

A total of 5,000 men *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)* **and their families** *(pretend to place hand on top of imaginary children's heads)* **were fed** *(pretend to eat)*.

Mark 6:44 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Begin by explaining that you will briefly retell the story. However, ask them to listen carefully so that they can catch if you make an error. Ask them to stand up as soon as they catch an error. Call on one of the children to politely point out your error and provide the correct information.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with small paper cutouts of five loaves of bread and two fish. Then, invite the children to tear the cutouts into different pieces. Next, challenge the children to put the various pieces back together again *(like a puzzle)*. Explain that no matter how small they tore up their bread and fish cutouts, it did not make more paper. It only made smaller pieces. Point out that this is not what happened when Jesus broke the loaves of bread and small fish into pieces. Instead, He performed a miracle. Jesus took the small amount of food and made more from it—enough to feed over 5,000 people and have leftovers! End the activity by providing each child with a small envelope *(or resealable plastic bag)* to place their cut-out pieces in to take home.

For younger children...
Help younger children be more successful at this activity by limiting the number of pieces into which they tear their cutouts. For example, tell them to only rip up each cutout three times. *(This will help ensure that they can be successful in piecing the cutouts back together again and will help ensure that they do not lose any of their "puzzle" pieces.)*

For older children...
Challenge older children to glue down the torn up pieces to create a mosaic of the five loaves and two fish to take home as a reminder of the story.

Character Trait: Compassion

(10 minutes)

Compassion is care and concern for the suffering of others. Jesus showed compassion on the hungry crowd by providing for their immediate need for food instead of sending them away.

Encourage the children to think more about compassion by asking the following:

- **Has anyone ever shown compassion towards you? How?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How has God shown compassion towards you?** *(Answers will vary but should include by sending Jesus, by offering a way to be forgiven, and providing guidance, encouragement, and instruction through His Word, the Bible.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can show compassion towards people in your life?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

Think about someone you know who is experiencing a hardship right now. This can be someone who is ill, trying to learn a new skill, or even just someone who needs encouragement. Think of one specific way that you can show compassion towards this person. Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

It would have been easy for that boy not to offer Jesus his five loaves of bread and two fish. It was so little food, and the crowd was so big. The crowd was so large that even Jesus' own disciples thought the only answer was to send them away! But the boy was faithful to give Jesus all that he had, and Jesus performed a miracle with it! It may be tempting as children *(and young people)* to assume that you have nothing worth giving to God. But that is not true. God can do great things with everything that we are willing to give Him, no matter what our size or age!

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

Dear God,
How grateful we are to know that You care about and will meet our needs. Help us to show our trust in You by giving You all that we have daily.
Amen.

Notes



Coming Home

A father and his two sons
Luke 15:11-32

Character Trait: Grateful

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God rejoices and celebrates when we turn to Him.
- Children will explain ways to show gratitude towards others.
- Children will discuss specific ways to express gratitude towards God.

Supplies:

- *Coming Home* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A ball *(suitable for throwing)*
- Paper *(a piece for each child)*
- Paper plates *(optional, one for each child)*
- Fingerpaint *(enough for each child)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: I am so grateful that you are here to learn more about God and His great love for you. Today, we will learn about a story that Jesus told long ago to explain just how much God loves us and how He feels when we decide to turn to Him.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did Jesus' disciples suggest they do about the hungry crowd?** *(They suggested that the people be sent away to buy food.)*
- **What did the boy give Jesus to use?** *(Five loaves of bread and two little fish)*
- **What did Jesus do before he broke the bread and fish into pieces?** *(He thanked God for the food.)*
- **What happened after Jesus thanked God and broke up all the food?** *(Jesus' disciples passed out food to the whole crowd. Everyone ate as much as they wanted!)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Coming Home* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- "Why does Jesus spend time with people who do bad things?" the religious leaders wondered.
- So Jesus told them a story about God's love.
- This is how it went...
- A man had two sons.
- The younger son asked for the money he would get when the father died.

- Heartbroken, the father gave his younger son half of his property.
- The son moved to a distant country.
- He wasted all the money.
- Then a famine came, and he had to feed pigs.
- He wished he could eat the pigs' food.
- "My father's servants do better than this," he thought. "I'll return home and admit that I have sinned against him and God. Maybe he'll make me one of his servants."
- The son went home.
- While he was still far away, his father ran to him and hugged him.
- "I'm not worthy to be your son," he told his father.
- "Bring my son my best robe!" the father told his servants. "Put a ring on his finger. Roast our fattest calf. My boy was lost, and now he's found!"
- The older son was angry when he heard about the celebration.
- "It's not fair!" he complained. "I work faithfully and get nothing. He wastes your money and gets a party!"
- "All that's mine is yours," the father replied. "Your brother was dead; now he's alive! He was lost; now he's found! So what can we do but celebrate?"



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **How did the father feel when the younger son left?** *(Heartbroken, sad)*
- **What did the younger son do with all the money?** *(He wasted all of the money.)*
- **How did the father respond when the younger son returned home?** *(The father was happy and overjoyed. He ran to him and hugged him. The father was so happy that he planned a celebration.)*
- **Why was the older brother upset with all of this?** *(The older brother complained that it was unfair. He was angry that he worked faithfully but did not receive anything.)*
- **Jesus told this story to teach others about God's love for us. What does this story tell you about God's love and how He responds when we turn to Him?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God loves us like the father loved both of his sons. When we turn away from our wrongdoings and turn to God, He rejoices and celebrates.)*

SAY: The religious leaders did not understand why Jesus spent so much time with people who sinned. So, Jesus told the story of the father and his younger son who once left but then returned. Jesus used this story to help others understand how God feels about us. We all sin and make bad choices, but God loves us so much that He is happy and rejoices when we decide to turn to Him.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Like the younger son in this story, we are all lost and dead in sin until we return to the Father who created us and loves us. God rejoices when His children choose to change their ways and follow Him.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"For this son of mine was dead *(rest one forearm on top of the other)*
and has now returned to life
(pivoting at the elbow, slowly raise the top forearm).
He was lost *(look around with hand over brow)*,
but now he is found *(hug yourself)*."
So the party began *(dance and celebrate)*.

Luke 15:24 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Give one child a ball. Explain that while you sing a song, the children are to toss the ball around to different children while standing up. The child holding the ball when you stop singing is "out" and must sit down. Play until only one child is left standing. This child is the winner. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: In the game, there was only one winner. But thankfully that is not true of God's love. Through the story that He told, Jesus explained that God's love is big enough for everyone and strong enough that there is nothing we can do to lose it.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: When did the younger son decide to go home to his father? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud: After he had lost everything and wanted to eat what he was feeding the pigs. The younger son knew that his father's servants lived much better.)*

SAY: During the famine, the younger son had nothing left and was so hungry that he wanted to eat what he was feeding the pigs!

Provide each child with a large piece of paper and a small amount of fingerpaint. Tell the children to use their fingers to draw pigs and food for them in the fingerpaint. After the children complete their paintings, set them aside somewhere to dry and provide an opportunity for the children to wash their hands.

SAY: That was a very messy activity, but look at your hands now. They are so clean that no one would ever know they were covered with paint just moments ago! This is how the father reacted to the younger son in the story. The father was so happy that his son had returned that he did not even remember how the younger son had wronged him. This is how much God loves each of us, too!

For younger children...
Pass out a small amount of fingerpaint placed on paper plates instead of paper. This will make distributing the paint easier and will help smaller hands keep the paint on the artwork. The paper plate also serves as a good reminder of this specific element of the story: The younger son was feeding the pigs when he became grateful for his father's love.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by telling them to write the word "lost" with their finger in the fingerpaint. Then, on a clean area of their artwork, tell them to dip their finger in the paint and write the word "found."

Character Trait: Grateful

(10 minutes)

SAY: To be grateful means to show thankfulness and appreciation. In the story Jesus told, the younger son who returned home was probably very thankful.

Encourage the children to think more about being grateful by asking the following:

- **What are some specific things you are grateful for?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What are you grateful to God for?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What are some ways you can show your gratefulness to others?** *(Answers will vary but may include using our words and showing kindness in return.)*
- **What are some specific ways you can show gratefulness to God?** *(Answers will vary but may include through prayer or using words, worship, and by choosing to follow and obey His ways.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Showing gratitude is one way we can express having a thankful heart. Gratitude tells others that we care and appreciate what they do for us.

Challenge the children to think of a specific way they can personally show their gratitude to someone in their life.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: One thing we can all be very grateful for is God's great love for each of us. Jesus showed this in the story He told to the religious leaders. Even though the younger son left and wasted everything he had, the father still loved and welcomed him back home with open arms. Even though we sin and make mistakes, we can know that God always has loved us and will continue loving us—no matter what!

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Your never-ending love! We are grateful for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, all that He teaches us, and the sacrifice of His life so that we may know and love You.
Amen.

Notes



The Donkey and the King

The triumphal entry

Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:16-19; Luke 19:36-40

Character Trait: Gentleness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize the ways the crowd responded to Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on a donkey.
- Children will explain how choosing to be gentle towards others honors God.
- Children will identify two specific ways to show gentleness towards others, one way with words and one way through actions.

Supplies:

- *The Donkey and the King* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Strips of green paper *(nine for each child)*
- Glue
- Green paper *(optional, one piece for each child)*
- Scissors *(optional)*
- Pens and/or pencils *(optional)*
- Adhesive dots or double-sided tape *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: How do you show that you are happy to see someone? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include smiling, waving, and using words to express excitement.)*

SAY: Today, we will learn how a whole crowd of people reacted when they saw Jesus and recognized that He was the Savior they had been waiting for!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did the younger son do with all the money?** *(He wasted all of the money.)*
- **How did the father respond when the younger son returned home?** *(The father was happy and overjoyed. He ran to him and hugged him. The father was so happy that he planned a celebration.)*
- **Jesus told this story to teach others about God's love for us. What does this story tell you about God's love and how He responds when we turn to Him?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God loves us like the father loved the younger son. When we turn away from our wrongdoings and turn to God, He rejoices and celebrates.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Donkey and the King* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- It was Passover time.
- Jerusalem was filled with people.
- When Jesus reached the Mount of Olives, a hill overlooking Jerusalem, He told two of His disciples to find a donkey.
- They found the donkey and put their cloaks on it.
- Jesus rode on the donkey, fulfilling the Bible verse that says, "Here comes your King, Jerusalem, riding on a donkey."
- Jesus rode the donkey down to Jerusalem.
- Many people remembered His miracles and joined Him.
- They put cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him to honor Him.
- They hoped that Jesus was God's promised Savior.
- So they shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"
- "The whole world is following Him," the Pharisees grumbled. "Tell them to be quiet, Jesus!"
- "Even if everyone stopped shouting," Jesus replied, "the stones would still praise Me!"

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What Bible verse did Jesus fulfill when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey?** *("Here comes your King, Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.")*
- **What did the people do when they saw Jesus riding on the donkey?** *(They remembered the miracles He did and put their cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him to honor Him.)*
- **What did the people say?** *("Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!")*
- **The Pharisees were not happy. They told Jesus to quiet the crowd of people. What did Jesus say to them?** *("Even if everyone stopped shouting, the stones would still praise Me!")*

SAY: The crowd of people showed honor to Jesus by singing, shouting, and laying palm branches and their cloaks on the road before Him. When they saw Jesus, they remembered everything He had done and recognized that He was the Savior they had been waiting for. Jesus is our Savior, and we can sing His praises, too!

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Where Jesus is, God is. Jesus brings God's power. He fulfilled promises that God had made to His people, too. This proves that Jesus is the King of Israel, the promised Savior!

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Tell *(cup hands around your mouth)* **the people of Jerusalem,**
'Look *(place hand over your brow and look around)*,
your King *(pretend to place a crown on your head)* **is coming to you.**
He is humble *(fold hands together on chest and bow your head)*,
riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt
(pretend to hold a rope with both hands).'"

Matthew 21:5 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Designate one area *(or corner of the room)* as "true" and another area *(or corner)* as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area *(or corner)* based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out *(or correct)* what was false. Use the sample statements provided below or create your own:

- **Jerusalem was empty at Passover time.** *(False)*
- **Jesus told two of His disciples to find a horse.** *(False)*
- **Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.** *(True)*
- **Jesus fulfilled the Bible verse that says, "Here comes your King, Jerusalem, riding on a donkey."** *(True)*
- **The Pharisees were happy that all the people was praising and following Jesus.** *(False)*
- **The Pharisees told Jesus to tell the people to be quiet.** *(True)*
- **Jesus said that even if the people stopped, the stones would praise Him.** *(True)*

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with nine strips of green paper and a craft stick. Demonstrate how to carefully glue the end of four strips of paper to each side of the craft stick and one strip of paper to the end to form a palm branch. *(One end of the craft stick should be completely empty, providing an area for the children to grasp when waving their palm branches.)*

For younger children...
Make this activity easier for younger children by using adhesive dots or double-sided tape to adhere the paper leaves to the craft sticks.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by allowing them to cut their own palm leaves from green paper. Then, demonstrate how to curl the edges of the leaves by partially rolling them around a pen or pencil. Lastly, tell them to write the words from the memory verse on the various leaves of their palm branch: **"Your King is coming...He is humble, riding on a donkey."**

Character Trait: Gentleness

(10 minutes)

SAY: Gentleness means being kind and tender. We can be gentle in our words and actions. Jesus was gentle and strong at the same time when He responded to the Pharisees. Jesus did not yell. He did not get angry. Instead, Jesus gently pointed out the truth: Even the stones would still praise Him!

Encourage the children to think more about gentleness by asking the following:

- **What are some specific examples of how you can be gentle with your actions?** *(Answers will vary but may include being careful when they handle or touch animals or care for younger children.)*
- **What are some specific examples of how you can be gentle with your words?** *(Answers will vary but may include choosing to use kind words and not interrupting others when speaking.)*
- **How can choosing to show gentleness towards others bring honor to God?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God loves everyone, and when we choose to show gentleness towards others, it shows that we care about others like He does.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Choosing to show gentleness in our words and actions towards others is one of the most important ways we can show that we care about them.

SAY: Think of two ways that you can show gentleness towards others, one way using your words and another through your actions. Then, turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include using words that are polite, kind and respectful, and actions that are helpful, encouraging and supportive.)*



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: The people in Jerusalem remembered all that Jesus had done. They remembered how Jesus had healed the sick, brought the dead back to life, and performed a miracle to feed a hungry crowd of over 5,000 people! When Jesus rode in on the donkey, they recognized that where Jesus is, God is, and they let their words and actions show this. We can do the same today by honoring God with our choices.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How grateful we are to know that You are our Messiah! Help us to show Your love towards others by choosing to be gentle in all we say and do.
Amen.

Notes



A Goodbye Meal

The last supper

Matthew 26:14-16; John 13:26-30; Mark 14:12-26

Character Trait: Service

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that the religious leaders wanted Jesus killed and that Judas betrayed Him.
- Children will identify that the bread and cup of communion represent the body and blood of Jesus.
- Children will share one specific way they can serve someone else.

Supplies:

- *A Goodbye Meal* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper cup *(one for each child)*
- Small, paper plate *(one for each child)*
- Colouring supplies
- Glue
- Glitter, sequins, and plastic jewels *(if available)*
- Brown construction paper *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Think of someone you care about. How do you show them you care and remember them? *(Invite a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

SAY: Today, we will learn about what Jesus taught His disciples to do in order to remember the priceless gift He gave us all.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did the people do when they saw Jesus riding on the donkey?** *(They remembered the miracles He did and put their cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him to honor Him.)*
- **What did the people say?** *("Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!")*
- **The Pharisees were not happy. They told Jesus to quiet the crowd of people. What did Jesus say to them?** *("Even if everyone stopped shouting, the stones would still praise Me!")*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Goodbye Meal* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jesus healed sick people and fed hungry people.
- He loved outcasts and taught everyone about God's Kingdom.
- But the religious leaders didn't like His teaching and were jealous of Him.

- They hated Jesus so much that they decided to have Him killed.
- They gave thirty pieces of silver to Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, to hand Jesus over to them.
- Then Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover.
- While they ate, Jesus said, sadly, "One of you will betray Me."
- Surprised, they each replied, "It's not me, Lord!"
- "It's true," said Jesus. "One of you, eating here, will betray Me."
- "Not me, Lord," said Judas.
- "You know it is," Jesus replied. "Go! Do it quickly!"
- So Judas left.
- Jesus took bread and thanked God for it.
- He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, "Remember Me when you eat this. It's My body, given for you."
- Then Jesus picked up a cup and thanked God for it.
- "Everyone drink from this cup," He said. "This is My blood, poured out so that sins may be forgiven."
- When they had finished eating, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together.
- Then they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What were Jesus and His disciples celebrating?** *(Passover)*
- **Who were jealous of Jesus and decided to have Him killed?** *(The religious leaders)*
- **Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?** *(Judas)*
- **What did Jesus say the bread was?** *(His body)*
- **What did Jesus say the cup contained?** *(His blood)*
- **What did Jesus mean by this?** *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus was using the bread and cup as symbols of what He would soon do for all of us. Jesus would soon give up His body and blood on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sins.)*
- **Today, Christians still follow Jesus' instructions to remember His sacrifice. What is this called?** *(Communion or the Eucharist)*

SAY: Jesus knew He would be betrayed by one of His own disciples. He also knew that He would give up His body and blood for all of us. He willingly did this so that our sins may be forgiven. Jesus told His disciples to remember His sacrifice by eating the bread and drinking from the cup. Today, we follow these same instructions when we take communion.

SAY: Even though Jesus knew He would suffer, He still expressed gratitude to God. Jesus knew that—no matter what—God always works things for good (Romans 8:28). Through His suffering and death, Jesus provided a way for us to be forgiven.

God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus told His disciples to remember Him when they ate the bread. He wants us to remember that He gave His body and blood on the cross. He freely died to take the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

As they were eating *(pretend to eat)*,
Jesus took some bread and blessed it *(hold hands palms up and look up)*.
Then he broke it in pieces *(pretend to break bread)*
and gave it *(pretend to pass bread out to others)* **to the disciples,**
saying, "Take it, for this is my body *(trace two fingers down the sides of your torso)*."

Mark 14:22 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Secretly select one child. Then, explain to the group that you have selected a secret person and now you challenge them to figure out who it is. Explain that they may only ask questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no" to figure out clues. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play the game as time permits.

SAY: During the game, you had to try to guess the identity of the secret person. But Jesus did not have to guess who would betray Him: Judas.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a paper cup and a small, paper plate. Provide coloring supplies and tell them to draw a loaf or piece of bread in the middle of the plate. Then, provide glue, glitter, sequins, and plastic jewels *(if available)*. Tell the children to decorate their plate and cup to take home as a reminder of Jesus' ultimate act of service for all of us.

For younger children...
Simplify the activity for younger children by only providing a paper cup to decorate and take home.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by challenging them to create their own "broken pieces of bread" by ripping small pieces out of brown construction paper and then gluing them to the plate. Have older children complete the activity by copying the memory verse onto the plate as well.

Character Trait: Service

(10 minutes)

SAY: Service is the act of helping, encouraging, or doing work for someone else. At the Passover meal, Jesus explained how He would soon complete the ultimate act of service. Jesus would give His body and blood as payment for our sins.

Encourage the children to think more about service by asking the following:

- **What acts of service can you do for those in your family?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What acts of service can you do for your community?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How has the service of others helped you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Why is service important?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it shows that we care about others and want to help.)*
- **How does choosing to serve others honor God?** *(Answers will vary but should include that serving others shows that we care about what God cares about: people.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: There are many different ways to serve others. We can help others by sharing our skills and talents. We can encourage people with our words. We can serve as examples of how to love and live God's way.

SAY: Think of one way that you can serve someone else by showing them God's love. Then, turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include sharing encouraging words such as a Bible verse, helping them with a task or chore, or being a good listener while someone else is talking.)*

Challenge the children to follow through on their ideas before the next lesson.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Service means giving of our time, energy, and talent so that we can help others. Jesus told His disciples that He would do this when He told them the bread was His body, and the cup held His blood. Jesus would soon give up His own life so that we could receive forgiveness from our sins.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Jesus' ultimate act of service. Help us always to remember how much Jesus loves us all by choosing to serve those around us.
Amen.

Notes



In the Garden

Jesus is arrested
Matthew 26:31-75; John 18:1-8

Character Trait: Humility

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that Jesus demonstrated humility by following God's plan.
- Children will identify that the opposite of humility is pride.
- Children will share one specific way they can practice humility towards others.

Supplies:

- *In the Garden* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Construction paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Pencils and/or pencils
- Colouring supplies
- Scissors
- Tape *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: How do you feel when you are tired? What does it look like? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Then, invite the children to pretend they are tired. Encourage them to close their eyes, yawn, and stretch.)*

SAY: Everyone gets tired. Our bodies need rest in order to function and feel good. Our hearts need rest, too. Talking to God in prayer is one very important way our hearts can receive the help and rest that they need.

In today's lesson, we will learn about the time Jesus' heart was troubled. He knew God's plan involved suffering, so He talked to the Father in prayer. He asked His disciples to pray with Him, but guess what they did instead? *(Stretch your arms out, yawn, and pretend to fall asleep. Then, invite the children to answer aloud: The disciples fell asleep.)*

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?** *(Judas)*
- **What did Jesus say the bread was?** *(His body)*
- **What did Jesus say the cup contained?** *(His blood)*
- **Today, Christians still follow Jesus' instructions to remember His sacrifice. What is this called?** *(Communion or the Eucharist)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *In the Garden* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- After they ate together, Jesus told His disciples, "Tonight, you will abandon Me."
- "Not me!" said Peter, boldly. "I will never leave You, Jesus."
- Jesus sighed. "Before the rooster crows to greet the morning, you will say, three times, that you don't know Me."
- "I'll die with You before I do that!" Peter said.
- When they came to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked His disciples to pray with Him.
- The disciples were tired. They fell asleep.
- Jesus prayed alone to the Father.
- Jesus knew His enemies wanted Him dead.
- He also knew that dying was God's plan for Him.
- "Show me another way," He prayed. "Otherwise, I will do what You ask."
- Suddenly, a light shone.
- There was shouting, and everyone woke up!
- An angry crowd approached, sent by the religious leaders.
- Judas kissed Jesus to show them which man to arrest.
- "I'm the one you're looking for," said Jesus.
- When He said this, they drew back and fell to the ground.
- Then they grabbed Jesus and took Him to the religious leaders.
- Most of Jesus' disciples fled, but Peter followed behind.
- He waited in a courtyard to see what would happen.
- "Weren't you with Jesus?" someone asked.
- Frightened, Peter said, "No!"
- Two other people asked the same thing.
- "You're wrong!" Peter said. "I don't even know Jesus!"
- Peter denied Jesus three times.
- When he heard the rooster crow, he wept bitterly.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

Who said they would never leave or deny knowing Jesus? *(Peter)*

What did Jesus ask His disciples to do with Him? *(Pray)*

What did the disciples do instead? *(They fell asleep.)*

Jesus knew what God's plan was for Him. What was it? *(Jesus knew that God's plan was for Him to die.)*

Who betrayed Jesus with a kiss? *(Judas)*

What did Jesus do when the angry crowd approached Him? *(He said that He was who they were looking for. Then, He allowed Himself to be taken to the religious leaders.)*

What did Jesus' disciples do after He was taken away? *(Most of them fled, but Peter followed to see what would happen.)*

How many times did Peter deny Jesus? *(Three times)*

How did Peter react when he realized what he had done? *(He wept.)*

SAY: Jesus did not want to suffer and die. That is why He prayed to the Father. But above everything else, Jesus wanted to obey the Father's plan for His life. So, even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, He willingly went with the angry crowd who arrested Him.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God's way may not always be easy, but it is always right. The pain Jesus felt was very hard. He even asked God to show Him another way. But Jesus was willing to obey God no matter what. We benefit from Jesus' obedience to God. By trusting Him, we can receive the free gift of forgiveness that He offers. We can also learn from Jesus' example to be obedient to God always.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"My Father *(praying hands, looking up)***!**
If it is possible, let this cup of suffering
(draw tears down face with your finger)
be taken away from me *(pretend to push something away)***.**
Yet I want your *(point up)* **will to be done,**
not mine *(place hands on chest, and shake head)***."**

Matthew 26:39b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(10 minutes)

Designate one area *(or corner of the room)* as "true" and another area *(or corner)* as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area *(or corner)* based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out *(or correct)* what was false. Use the statements below or create your own:

- **Jesus' disciples stayed awake and prayed with Him.** *(False)*
- **Jesus knew His enemies wanted Him dead.** *(True)*
- **Jesus knew that dying was God's plan for Him.** *(True)*
- **Jesus ran away when the angry crowd came for Him.** *(False)*
- **Judas betrayed Jesus with a hug.** *(False)*
- **Judas denied knowing Jesus.** *(False)*

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: When Jesus' heart was troubled, He went to the Father in prayer. Jesus did this as an example for us. When we talk to God in prayer, our hearts can find rest.

Provide each child with a piece of construction paper and instruct them to fold it in half like a card. Demonstrate how to lay your hand on the folded paper, so that the little finger is along the fold, and then trace the outline of your hand. Tell the children to complete this step. Then, demonstrate how to carefully cut the hand out while the paper is still folded. Provide scissors and tell the children to complete this step. *(When completed successfully, the result should be two hands that are still connected and can be opened and closed as if pressed together in prayer.)* Lastly, provide writing and/or coloring supplies and invite the children to write about or draw some pictures of things that they would like to talk to God about on the inside of the hands.

For younger children...
The folded hands can be cut out in advance of the activity, or the children can simply cut out two hands and then tape them together side-by-side.

For older children...
Make the activity more challenging for older children by encouraging them to write a portion of the memory verse on the outside of their paper praying hands. The words "I want your will to be done," can be written on the outside of one hand. Then, the words "not mine." Remind the children that God is always in control, not us.
So, just like Jesus did, we can pray to and trust in the Father's plan.

Character Trait: Humility

(10 minutes)

SAY: Humility means putting others first. It is the opposite of pride. Humility means not thinking too highly of ourselves. Jesus showed humility by submitting to the Father's plan. Jesus allowed the guards to arrest Him and take Him away.

Encourage the children to think more about humility by asking the following:

- **Why is practicing humility important?** *(Answers will vary but should include that practicing humility helps us to remember to be grateful, to not think or feel that we are more important than others, and to remember that God is in control, not us.)*
- **What are some specific ways that you can practice humility in your relationship with God?** *(Answers will vary but may include asking God for forgiveness, choosing to be baptized, and asking for His help and guidance.)*
- **What is the opposite of humility?** *(Pride)*
- **What are some specific ways that you can practice humility in your daily life?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Thank you for being humble during the activity. Being teachable and following instructions are both ways to show humility instead of pride. Turn to someone next to you and share one specific way you can practice humility towards others in your life. *(Allow a few minutes for the children to turn and share with a partner.*
Call on a few volunteers to share their answers.)

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Practicing humility is not always easy, but it is always right. Jesus' humility even unto death brought all of us the great blessing of forgiveness from our sins. Our response to His gracious gift can be humble, too. We can express our gratitude to God by choosing to practice humility towards God and those around us.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for practicing humility and obedience to the Father's plan. Help me to practice humility in my daily walk with You and towards others.
Amen.

Notes



It is Finished!

The cross
John 18:28-19:42; Luke 23:34-35

Character Trait: Thankfulness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that the crowd of people wanted Jesus killed.
- Children will describe specific things and people they are thankful for.
- Children will explain specific ways they can show thankfulness for Jesus.

Supplies:

- *It is Finished* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A ball *(suitable for throwing)*
- Waxed paper *(one small piece for each child)*
- Glue
- Masking tape
- Small pieces of different colored tissue paper *(several for each child)*
- Scissors
- Pens and/or pencils *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children and explain how thankful you are that they have come to learn more about God and His Word, the Bible.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will be talking about thankfulness. To begin, I will toss a ball to one of you. Please catch the ball, share one thing that you are thankful for, and then toss the ball to someone who has not shared yet. *(Continue until each child has had the opportunity to briefly share.)*

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did Jesus ask His disciples to do with Him?** *(Pray)*
- **What did the disciples do instead?** *(They fell asleep.)*
- **Jesus knew what God's plan was for Him. What was it?** *(Jesus knew that God's plan was for Him to die.)*
- **Who betrayed Jesus with a kiss?** *(Judas)*
- **How many times did Peter deny Jesus?** *(Three times)*
- **How did Peter react when he realized what he had done?** *(He wept.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *It is Finished* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- The religious leaders told the governor, Pilate, that Jesus was dangerous and wanted to be king.
- Pilate asked Jesus, "Is this true?"
- "I am King," Jesus answered, "but not of this world."
- "Jesus is innocent," said Pilate. "There's no reason to kill Him. I will set Him free."
- But the crowd shouted, "Kill Him!"
- So Pilate had his soldiers whip Jesus.
- They forced a thorny crown on His head.
- Then they laid a wooden cross on His back and led Him up a hill.
- There on that hill, the Roman soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, hands and feet.
- Then they raised it high.
- Jesus hung there between two criminals.
- Around noon, the sky turned dark.
- Jesus' friends wept.
- The religious leaders laughed and said, "You saved other people. Why can't You save Yourself?"
- "Forgive them, Father," said Jesus.
- When the time came for Jesus to die, He closed His eyes and said, "It is finished."
- He had completed what He had come to do because of His great love.
- One of Jesus' followers, a man named Joseph, put Jesus' body in a brand new tomb.
- He rolled a huge stone in front of it.
- A long sad Friday was over.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did Jesus say when Pilate asked Him if He wanted to be king? *(I am king but not of this world.)*

What did Pilate say about Jesus? *("Jesus is innocent. There's no reason to kill Him.")*

Who wanted Jesus killed? *(The crowd)*

What was Jesus nailed onto? *(A cross)*

What was the last thing Jesus said on the cross? *("It is finished.")*

SAY: In the last lesson, we learned how Jesus showed that He had all of God's power. Jesus could have saved Himself. Jesus did not have to die on the cross. The nails in His hands and feet did not keep Him there. It was His great love for each and every one of us that kept Him there. Jesus willingly died on the cross out of love for all of us.

Even Pilate said: "Jesus is innocent. There's no reason to kill Him." Though Jesus did not deserve it, He died willingly to pay the price for our sins.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Because we all sin, we all deserve death. Jesus willingly died on a cross as a sacrifice to pay the price we owed for our sins. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. He did not do anything to deserve death Himself. He died in our place because He loves us so much. Jesus died to fix the sin problem that we could not fix ourselves.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

When Jesus *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*
had tasted it *(make sipping sound)*,
he said, "It is finished!" *(hold arms straight out on either side)*
Then he bowed his head *(bow your head)* **and gave up his spirit** *(hands from chest to reaching high)*.

John 19:30 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Line the children up shoulder-to-shoulder along a wall or in a line. Create a finish line no more than ten child-size steps ahead of them. Explain that the children will be told true or false statements about the lesson. Once they hear each statement, the children must hold up one hand if they think it is true and two hands if they think it is false. Those who are correct move one giant step forward. Those who are not correct stay put. The goal is to reach the finish line. The following are some examples of true/false statements to use for the game:

- **Jesus is king but not of this world.** *(True)*
- **Jesus deserved to die.** *(False)*
- **Pilate wanted Jesus killed.** *(False)*
- **Jesus died on a Friday.** *(True)*
- **Jesus carried His own cross up a hill.** *(True)*
- **Jesus' last words on the cross were "Forgive them, Father."** *(False)*
- **Jesus closed His eyes and said, "It is finished" before He died.** *(True)*

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a small piece of waxed paper and masking tape. Demonstrate how to place the masking tape on top of the waxed paper to create the outline of a cross. Next, provide the children with glue and several small pieces of different, colored tissue paper. Demonstrate how to carefully glue down the pieces of tissue paper inside the outline of the cross. Complete the activity by having the children cut out their crosses, cutting along the outline of the tape. Encourage the children to hold up their crosses to a light source or a window to see the stained glass effect.

For younger children...
The waxed paper cross can be cut out in advance for younger children.

For older children...
Extend the activity by encouraging older children to write the memory verse on the masking tape along the edge of their cross projects.

SAY: When Jesus died on the cross, He created something beautiful out of what was broken. He made a way for us to be forgiven from our sins and be right with God again.

Your projects look the most beautiful when you hold them up to the light. The same is true for all of us with Jesus. Jesus is our light (John 8:12), and we are designed to need Him, too.

Character Trait: Thankfulness

(10 minutes)

SAY: Thankfulness means to be glad for or about something. It means to be grateful. We can all be thankful for Jesus' great love and willingness to pay the price for our sins.

Encourage the children to think more about thankfulness by asking the following:

- **What are some things or people you are thankful for?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Why are you thankful for these things or people?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Why should we be thankful for Jesus?** *(Jesus loved us enough to die for us.)*
- **What are some specific ways we can show our thankfulness to others?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What are some specific ways we can show our thankfulness for Jesus?** *(We can choose to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We can say thank you to Him through prayer.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Thankfulness is not just a feeling you have. It is something you can show through your actions, choices, and words. Think about a specific person in your life that you are thankful for. How has this person helped you? How can you show or communicate your thankfulness to them? *(Call on a few volunteers to share their ideas aloud; then provide an opportunity for those who did not share to turn and do so with someone near them. Some examples might include completing a chore or task before being asked at home, making a "Thank You" card to give to someone else, or spending extra time with someone they love and are grateful for.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Jesus had done nothing wrong, but He willingly died on the cross. He could have saved Himself, but Jesus loved us enough to die in our place. That shows us just how great Jesus' love is!

God is just and fair. He cannot ignore sin. Sin creates a debt that must be paid in order to right the wrong. Our sins create a debt that we could never repay, but thankfully, Jesus paid this debt for us by dying on the cross in our place. Jesus' death on the cross was part of God's plan to fix our sin problem. That is a lot to be thankful for!

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How thankful we are for how much You love us. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay the debt for our sins. Jesus showed us what real love looks like. Help us to put Jesus' words and love into our own thoughts, words, and actions.
Amen.

Notes



A Happy Sunday

The empty tomb

Mark 16:1-4; Matthew 28:5-8; John 20:3-10; Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

Character Trait: Forgiveness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that forgiveness from sin is possible because of what Jesus did.
- Children will share different ways to communicate forgiveness.
- Children will express how choosing to forgive helps heal a hurting heart.

Supplies:

- *A Happy Sunday* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A heavy object *(such as a large chair or desk)*
- Paper
- Pens and/or pencils

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Explain that today you would like them to lift something very heavy. Allow a few volunteers to try. Explain that the object is too heavy for one person to lift.

SAY: This is what sin does to each of us: It creates a problem too big for any of us to fix on our own.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Did Jesus deserve to die on the cross?** *(No. Jesus was innocent. There was no reason to kill Him. He had never sinned.)*
- **Why did Jesus willingly die on the cross?** *(He loved us so much. Jesus wanted to complete God's plan to fix our sin problem.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Happy Sunday* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Sunday morning, some women went to put burial spices on Jesus' body.
- They knew a big stone was covering the tomb's entrance and wondered how they would move it.
- When they arrived, the stone had already been moved, Jesus' body was gone, and there were angels in the tomb!
- "Jesus is alive!" the angels said. "Go tell His disciples."
- The women told the disciples, and Peter and John ran to Jesus' tomb to see for themselves.
- All they found were Jesus' burial cloths.
- They went back home, confused.
- Later, the disciples were gathered together in a room.
- They were talking about what had happened, when Jesus appeared to them.
- They were terrified.

- They thought He was a ghost.
- "Don't worry," said Jesus. "See My hands and feet. It's Me! Touch Me! Go on! You can't touch a ghost. And ghosts don't eat either, but I'm feeling really hungry."
- So He ate some fish.
- Then He taught them.
- "The Scriptures are clear," He said. "The Messiah was supposed to suffer and die, and then be raised from the dead."
- "Now tell the world what you have seen. Let everyone know that their sins can be forgiven if they turn to God! It's possible because of what I have done."



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Who were the first people to discover that Jesus' tomb was empty?** *(Some women)*
- **On what day of the week did the women go to Jesus' tomb?** *(Sunday)*
- **What did the angels say to the women when they arrived?** *("Jesus is alive! Go tell His disciples.")*
- **What did Jesus say was now possible because of what He had done?** *("Everyone's sins can be forgiven if they turn to God and trust in Me.")*
- **What else did Jesus tell the disciples to do?** *("Tell the world what you have seen.")*

SAY: Sin leads to death. But when Jesus died, He was completing the plan God had all along. Jesus fixed our sin problem. Jesus sacrificed Himself for our sins and rose from the grave. He is stronger than sin or death! Instead of punishment, we can now have complete forgiveness from God and live with Him forever. Jesus loves each of us enough to give us the greatest gift He could give. And He allows each of us to choose to accept this free gift or not.

We can accept Jesus' free gift by choosing to repent. To repent means to choose to say "no" to sin and "yes" to God. When we repent, we confess our sin, accept Jesus' free gift, and put our trust in God. When we accept Jesus' free gift of forgiveness, we are also choosing to put our trust in God and depend on Him.



God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus physically died on the cross but rose from the dead three days later, proving He had defeated death. By dying in our place, Jesus paid the price for our sins. When Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated sin and death! Forgiveness from sin is a free gift that anyone can receive when they place their faith *(trust)* in God.



Memory Verse:
(10 minutes)

"The time *(pretend to tap a wristwatch)*
promised by God *(point both hands up)*
has come *(beckon with hand)* **at last! ...**
The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins *(sweep arms out in front of you)*
and believe *(bring hands together in heart shape)* **the Good News!"**

Mark 1:15 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:
(15 minutes)

SAY: Imagine all the different emotions the women who first found Jesus' empty tomb must have felt. First, they might have been very sad as they walked to the tomb to place burial spices on His body. As they walked, they might have worried about how they would move the big, heavy stone guarding the tomb's entrance. Imagine how surprised they were when they saw the stone moved, Jesus' body gone, and angels in the tomb instead! How joyful they must have been after hearing the good news that Jesus was alive again. And finally, how incredibly eager they must have been to reach the disciples to tell them the news.

Have the children line up in a straight line in a corner of the room. Together, slowly walk around the room, stopping at various points to act out the different emotions the women must have felt at each of these different points in the story. *(These emotions include sad, worried, surprised, joyful, eager, or excited.)*

SAY: The women at Jesus' tomb must have experienced a lot of different emotions! So do we. Feelings and emotions are a normal part of being human.

Show me with your face how you feel when someone hurts or wrongs you. *(Provide an opportunity for the children to make sad, facial expressions. Invite them to look around at one another, too.)*

When someone hurts us, we have a choice: We can hold on to the hurt and keep hurting, or we can let go of the hurt by choosing to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean allowing someone to continue hurting us. In fact, forgiveness is not about other people's actions. It is about our attitude. Choosing to forgive means choosing love over more hurt. We can ask God to help us forgive.

Ask the children to turn to someone next to them and share words that communicate forgiveness.

Response Activity:
(10 minutes)

Explain that this activity can be kept private. Have the children draw a large heart in the middle of a sheet of paper. Ask them to write down or draw something they have said or done that they feel ashamed of. When finished, invite the children to crumple it up and throw it away. Then, give them a new piece of paper. Have them draw another large heart in the middle of the paper. Ask them to write down or draw something that they would like God's help with. Explain that this can be a personal problem, a goal for the future, or a challenge they are currently facing.

SAY: When we accept Jesus' forgiveness, we may never really forget our sins. But we can let go of the shame because Jesus already paid the price we owed. With God, we can have a new life,and we never have to do life alone!

Character Trait: Forgiveness
(10 minutes)

SAY: Forgiveness means to not hold something against someone. Silently think about a time when you hurt someone else. How did you feel afterward? Did the other person forgive you? How did it feel to accept the forgiveness? Now, imagine how wonderful it feels to experience the gift of complete forgiveness that Jesus offers.

Encourage the children to think more about purpose by asking the following:

- **Why should we choose to forgive someone who has hurt us?** *(God can help change our hearts and heal our hurts. He can help us not to be bitter even though we may continue to hurt.)*

- **How can we show forgiveness to others when they hurt or wrong us?** *(Answers will vary but may include choosing to act kindly, not seeking revenge, and not allowing our hearts to grow bitter.)*
- **How did Jesus pay our debt so that we could have forgiveness from sin?** *(He willingly died on the cross for us even though He did not deserve it.)*
- **How can we know that Jesus paid our debt in full?** *(Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus said, "Let everyone know that their sins can be forgiven if they turn to God! It's possible because of what I have done.")*
- **Is Jesus' forgiveness from sins available to you? How can you know?** *(Yes, because Jesus said "everyone" can be forgiven if they turn to God.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Choosing to forgive someone does not mean forgetting what they did or letting them continue to cause hurt. Forgiveness does not just help the person who caused the hurt. It helps heal our hearts, too.

SAY: Think about someone who has hurt you recently. Silently think about a specific way that you can show forgiveness to this person. *(Provide a few moments of quiet think time.)* Now, think about how choosing to forgive can help you also. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud; then, provide an opportunity for those who have not shared to turn and do so with someone near them.)*

SAY: Forgiveness means making the decision to let go of the hurt. This does not mean that we forget the pain. Instead, it means focusing on our healing rather than our continued hurting. If we are too busy seeking revenge or trying to get even, then we cannot take care of our hurting hearts. When we choose to forgive, we also show humility. Only God has the right to judge and punish others. We should not seek revenge because God will do this for us (Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 32:35, Hebrews 10:30).



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Sin breaks our relationship with God, but Jesus' love and power is stronger! When Jesus came back to life, He proved that He had overcome sin forever!

Ask the children if any of them would like to receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness. *(Lead the children who express interest in the short prayer of salvation below.)*



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross to pay the price for my sins. I want to accept Your free gift of forgiveness. I want to love, follow, trust, and obey You.
Amen.

Notes



Into the Clouds

Jesus returns to heaven
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:4-12

Character Trait: Generosity

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Jesus returned to heaven.
- Children will draw or write their personal response to Jesus' promise to return one day.
- Children will discuss examples of God's generosity.
- Children will share specific ways that they can share the Good News with others.

Supplies:

- *Into the Clouds* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper
- Glue
- Cotton balls
- Colouring supplies

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: It has been wonderful to learn more about God and His Word, the Bible, together. Turn to someone near you and briefly share what your favorite activity or lesson has been. *(Provide a few moments for sharing.)* It is natural to want to share good news with other people.

In today's lesson, we will learn about Jesus' return to heaven and the instructions He gave His disciples to share the Good News about Him.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did the women discover when they visited Jesus' tomb?** *(Jesus was not there. He had risen from the dead.)*
- **What did Jesus' disciples think they saw when Jesus appeared to them?** *(A ghost)*
- **What did Jesus say was now possible because of what He had done?** *(Everyone's sins can be forgiven if they turn to God.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Into the Clouds* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- It was time for Jesus to go to heaven.
- He led His disciples to the top of a mountain near Jerusalem.
- "Here's what I want you to do," He said.
- "Wait in Jerusalem until you receive the promised Holy Spirit. Then tell everyone about Me. Go from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and then to the rest of the world!"

- "Make many disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them everything you learned from Me. I will always be with you."
- When He had said this, Jesus rose into the sky.
- Up He went until He disappeared into a cloud.
- His disciples watched Him.
- They stood there, staring into the sky.
- Two men, dressed in white, appeared.
- "Jesus has gone to heaven," they explained. "He will come back in the same way!"
- So the disciples obeyed Jesus and went to Jerusalem.



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Where did Jesus lead His disciples?** *(To the top of a mountain near Jerusalem)*
- **What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?** *(Wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit. Tell everyone in the whole world about Him. Make many disciples. Baptize people and teach them everything they learned from Jesus.)*
- **Where did Jesus go?** *(He went to heaven.)*
- **What was the last thing Jesus said before He left?** *(I will always be with you.)*
- **How did Jesus return to heaven?** *(He rose up into the sky and disappeared into a cloud.)*
- **After Jesus left, who appeared to the disciples?** *(Two angels dressed in white)*
- **What did the two angels tell the disciples?** *(Jesus will come back the same way!)*

SAY: When Jesus returned to heaven, He told us He would always be with us. Jesus left us with two gifts: His Holy Spirit to help us and the promise that He would someday return to earth again.

God's Holy Spirit lives inside the hearts of those who choose to accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness. This does not mean that something comes to live inside your physical heart. It means that God's Spirit becomes part of you and starts to change your thoughts and feelings to be more like His. The Holy Spirit is our helper and guide when we make the decision to listen to, learn from, and obey Him.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: After Jesus completed His work on the cross, He returned to heaven. He sent His Holy Spirit to help us so that we would not be alone until He returns again. While we wait for Jesus' return, it is important to share with others the Good News of the forgiveness that Jesus offers.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

Jesus *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*
has been taken from you into heaven *(lift arms up slowly)*,
but someday he *(point up)*
will return from heaven *(slowly bring arms down to the ground)*
in the same way you saw *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
him go!

Acts 1:11b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Choose two corners of the room as locations where the children are to go as they answer the questions "true" or "false." Then, share a question about the story and have them move to the corner they think is the right answer. Have one corner of the room designated for true statements and another corner designated for false statements. Upon hearing the statement: "Jesus took an airplane to return to heaven," have children move to one of the two corners, according to whether they believe the statement is true or false. Some statements for the story include:

- **No one saw Jesus return to heaven.** *(False. The disciples watched Jesus leave.)*
- **Jesus said to tell everyone about Him.** *(True)*
- **Jesus will return to earth again one day.** *(True)*
- **Jesus left His disciples and us all alone.** *(False. Jesus sent God's Holy Spirit to help us.)*
- **Jesus will return the same way that He left.** *(True)*

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: As Jesus' disciples watched Him leave, two angels appeared and said that Jesus will come back in the same way!

Give each child a piece of paper and have them fold it in half *(like a card)*. Next, invite them to color the outside of the folded paper like the sky. Provide cotton balls and glue for the children to create clouds. Then, ask the children to unfold the paper and draw or write about how this promise makes them feel.

Character Trait: Generosity

(10 minutes)

SAY: Generosity means giving freely to others. It means sharing what we have with other people. We can share physical things like food and clothing, and we can also share things that are not material such as our time, skills, and talents.

Encourage the children to think more about generosity by asking the following:

- **Think of a time someone was generous towards you. What did they share with you, and how did it make you feel?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Think of a specific time you showed generosity. What did you share and with whom?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What are some ways God has been generous with us?** *(He loved us enough to give His one and only Son, Jesus. He made a way to save us from our sins. He sent His Holy Spirit to be our helper and guide.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus showed the ultimate generosity by giving His life as payment for our sins. This means that He took the punishment that we deserve. His love was so great that we can now have freedom and blessings in God!

Now, Jesus wants us to be generous by sharing this wonderful news, so that others can also accept His free gift. Do your friends and family know about Jesus and how they can accept His forgiveness? What are some specific ways that you can share His Good News with them? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include telling others about the difference Jesus has made in their own lives and sharing what they have learned about God's Word with others.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Jesus is no longer physically here on earth, but He did not abandon us. He loves each and every one of us too much to leave us all alone. When Jesus left this earth, He sent God's Holy Spirit to help and guide everyone who believes in Him. We also have God's Word, the Bible. It can help us learn more about God, His Big Story for us all, and how to follow Jesus' example. The Bible is not just a book. It is a collection of many true stories that work together to tell God's bigger, greater story: His love for us all!

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Your generosity cannot be measured. Your love for us knows no end. We are thankful to be part of Your great story. Help us to share the Good News with others so that they can come to know You, too.
Amen.

Notes



God's Wonderful Gift

The Holy Spirit comes
Acts 2:1-47

Character Trait: Unity

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Jesus was faithful to keep His promise to His followers by sending the Holy Spirit.
- Children will repeat what Peter told the people to do: Turn away from evil and believe in Jesus Christ.
- Children will identify specific things they can do that show that they are in unity with Jesus.

Supplies:

- *God's Wonderful Gift* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A ball *(suitable for throwing)*
- Red, orange, and yellow construction and/or tissue paper
- Scissors
- Stapler with staples
- Masking tape *(optional)*
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Think of a gift you received in the past. Do you remember who gave it to you? What made that gift special? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Sometimes the most special gifts are those that are not even physical things. We can give and receive the gifts of time, talents, and encouraging words.

In today's lesson, we will learn about when Jesus sent the most precious gift of all to His followers: God's Holy Spirit.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?** *(Wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit. Tell everyone in the whole world about Him. Make many disciples. Baptize people and teach them everything they learned from Jesus.)*
- **How did Jesus return to heaven?** *(He rose up into the sky and disappeared into a cloud.)*
- **What did the two angels tell the disciples?** *(Jesus will come back the same way!)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God's Wonderful Gift* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost.
- Jesus' followers were there, too.
- They gathered together, waiting for the gift Jesus had promised them.
- In the middle of the festival, God's gift arrived.
- It began with a sound, a sound like a howling wind that filled the house where they were waiting.
- Next, something that looked like fire settled on each one of them.
- Then God's Holy Spirit filled everyone in the room, and He gave them power to speak different languages!
- Jews from other parts of the world heard them and were amazed.
- "These people are speaking our languages," they said, "and proclaiming the wonderful things God has done!"
- "This is God's gift," Peter explained. "It was promised long ago. It comes to us through Jesus, the Messiah. You crucified Him, but God brought Him back to life."
- "What should we do?" the people asked, sadly.
- "Turn away from evil," said Peter. "Believe in Jesus Christ. He will forgive your sins and give you His Holy Spirit."
- On that day, three thousand people were baptized.
- They were just the first of many people who would come to trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

Why were the Jewish people in Jerusalem?
(They were there for the Feast of Pentecost.)

What were Jesus' followers waiting for?
(The gift that Jesus promised them)

What was the gift? *(God's Holy Spirit)*

Was Jesus faithful to His followers? Why or why not?
(Yes, because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit just like He promised.)

What did the Holy Spirit enable them to do?
(He gave them the power to speak in different languages!)

What did Peter say when the people asked what they should do?
(Peter told them to turn away from evil and believe in Jesus Christ.)

How many people were baptized that day? *(Three thousand)*

SAY: Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave His followers alone! Jesus promised to send a gift to help them. Jesus' followers were faithful to wait for it, and Jesus was faithful to send it: God's Holy Spirit!

Jesus has not left us alone today, either! God's Holy Spirit lives inside every person who believes in and puts their trust in Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:16, Galatians 4:6).

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent His Holy Spirit to help His followers spread the good news about Jesus. Today, people are still hearing this good news through the words and actions of His followers and through God's Word, the Bible.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

And everyone present *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)* **was filled** *(slowly move hands from your sides upwards)* **with the Holy Spirit and began speaking** *(move index finger outward from lips)* **in other languages,**
as the Holy Spirit gave them *(extend hands forward, palms up)* **this ability.**

Acts 2:4 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Give one child a ball. Explain that while you sing a song, the children are to toss the ball around to different children while standing up. The child holding the ball when you stop singing is "out" and must sit down. Play until only one child is left standing. This child is the winner. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: During the game, the ball could only be caught, held, and tossed by one person at a time. But this is not true of God's wonderful gift! At Pentecost, all of Jesus' followers received the Holy Spirit, and even today, we can all receive Him, too!

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: Think back to the story. God's Holy Spirit enabled Jesus' followers to speak in different languages! What did the people hear Jesus' followers saying? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include that they proclaimed all the wonderful things that God had done, Jesus is the Messiah, that He was crucified, died, and buried, but God brought Him back to life!)*

SAY: When the Holy Spirit arrived, it looked like fire had settled on each of Jesus' followers. God's Holy Spirit is still here with us today, too. He lives inside the heart of every person who chooses to trust in Jesus. With God's Holy Spirit, we are never alone. He helps us, guides us, and comforts us.

Provide red, orange, and yellow construction and/or tissue paper. Demonstrate how to cut strips of varying shapes, sizes, and colors; then gather them together at the bottom. Using one staple, show how to secure all of the strips together. Tell the children to complete the activity. Walk around the room while the children work to provide help, guidance, and encouragement. At the end of the activity, invite the children to gently wave their paper fires to make the flames move.

For younger children...
Various strips of paper can be cut out in advance for younger children to use for this project. Additionally, a small piece of masking tape can be wrapped around the bottom of the paper fire in order to protect small hands from the staple.

For older children...
Explain to older children that God's Holy Spirit can enable them to share Jesus with others, too. Long ago, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers the ability to speak in different languages. Challenge the children to consider the different ways the Holy Spirit enables each of them to share Jesus today. Encourage them to write these down on their paper flames.

Character Trait: Unity

(10 minutes)

SAY: Unity means being the same or having the same goal. The followers of Jesus shared unity in love and devotion to Him.

Encourage the children to think more about unity by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of unity?** *(Answers will vary but should include division and disagreement.)*
- **Why is unity important?** *(Answers will vary but should include because it shows that we all have the same goals, beliefs, and values.)*
- **How can you have unity with your family and friends?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can you have unity with other believers?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Unity is so important that Jesus prayed to the Father that we would experience unity with Him (John 17:23). Unity between all of Jesus' followers—way back then and still today—is an important witness to who Jesus is and what He did for us.

What are some specific things you can do that show that you are in unity with Jesus? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include making choices and living lives that follow the example that Jesus set for us. Then, invite the children who did not share aloud to turn to someone next to them to share.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: While on earth, Jesus taught people how to live God's way. After He returned to heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help continue this work. The work of God's Holy Spirit in our lives helps bring unity among all those who trust in Jesus. This was true so long ago at Pentecost, and it is still true for all of us today.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.
Help us to accept His guidance in our lives so that
we may all experience unity with You.
Amen.

Notes



No Silver, No Gold

A man who can't walk is healed
Acts 3:1-4:4

Character Trait: Confidence

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Peter healed the lame man through the power of Jesus' name.
- Children will recognize that true confidence comes from God, not ourselves.
- Children will share ways their actions can communicate the power and love of Jesus to those around them.

Supplies:

- *No Silver, No Gold* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Craft sticks *(five for each child)*
- Glue
- Glitter
- Sequins
- Aluminum foil *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

First, briefly greet the children as normal. Then, continue to welcome them, but this time do so while looking down at the ground and avoiding eye contact. Allow your shoulders to drop and do not smile. Then, welcome them again, using the same words as before, but while smiling, make eye contact and stand tall.

SAY: Raise your hand if you can tell me what the difference was between those two welcomes? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include that the first greeting lacked confidence compared to the second greeting that did not.)*

SAY: Today, we will be learning about how Peter showed his confidence in Jesus' power by healing a man who could not walk!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What were Jesus' followers waiting for?** *(The gift that Jesus promised them)*
- **What was the gift?** *(God's Holy Spirit)*
- **What did the Holy Spirit enable them to do?** *(He gave them the power to speak in different languages!)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *No Silver, No Gold* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Peter and John went to the temple.
- A man was there, at the Beautiful Gate, who had never been able to walk.
- He was begging people for money.

- "Can I have some money?" he asked Peter and John.
- The two disciples looked right at the man.
- They had no money, but they had something better to give him.
- "Look at us!" said Peter.
- The man expected money.
- "I don't have any silver or gold," said Peter, "but I have something else that I will happily give you."
- "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth," said Peter, "walk!"
- Peter took the man's hand, and the man's feet and ankles grew strong.
- The man got up and walked!
- He went with Peter and John into the temple courts.
- Before long, he wasn't just walking; he was jumping around and praising God!
- The people had seen him at the gate.
- They knew that he had been lame from birth.
- Yet, here he was, walking and leaping and thanking God!
- Everyone was amazed!
- Peter told the people about the one whose power had healed the man.
- He told them about Jesus.
- When he was done, many of them decided to follow Jesus, too!



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What was the lame man begging for at the gate?** *(He was begging for money.)*
- **What did Peter give him instead?** *(Peter healed him in the name of Jesus.)*
- **Was this better than money? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it was better and more valuable because the power/healing of Jesus is priceless.)*
- **What did the man do after going into the temple courts with Peter and John?** *(He jumped around and praised God!)*
- **How did people react to seeing the lame man healed and praising God?** *(They were amazed. Many of them decided to follow Jesus.)*

SAY: Peter was right. He did not have any money to give, but he had something much more valuable: Jesus! Peter healed the man who was lame from birth through the power of Jesus. He is more valuable than anything else we could ever have or experience. That is why it is so important to share Jesus with others, so that they can come to know and love Him, too.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Peter healed a man through the power of Jesus' name. But the crippled man was not the only person who was helped. When they found out who had healed the man, many people decided to follow Jesus too. Today, Jesus' followers can still call upon the name of Jesus for help.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you

(show empty hands and shake head).

But I'll give you *(extend hands forward, palms up)* **what I have.**

In the name of Jesus Christ

(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)

the Nazarene,

get up (move hands from floor upward) and walk! *(walk in place)*"

Acts 3:6 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be "it." Children who are tagged by the selected child cannot move and must stand with one arm out. Children are only "unstuck" when another child passes under their arm. The game continues until all the players are stuck. The last person to be stuck is "it" for the next game. Play as time permits.

SAY: During the game, many of you were tagged and became stuck. You were not able to move until someone else helped you. The lame man who begged at the gate was stuck, too. He was seeking money, but Peter gave him something much more valuable: healing through the power of Jesus!

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: The lame man had been begging outside the Beautiful Gate for quite some time, long enough for many people to see him there and know that he could not walk. But it was also there that he meet Peter, who introduced him to Jesus.

Provide each child with 5 clean, craft sticks. Demonstrate how to carefully glue three of the sticks horizontally to two sticks placed vertically, one at each end, to form a small gate. Next, provide glue, glitter, and sequins for the children to decorate their gates.

For younger children...
The craft sticks may be glued into gates before the lesson for younger children.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by providing small strips of aluminum foil to wrap their craft sticks with prior to gluing them together to form a gate.

Character Trait: Confidence

(10 minutes)

SAY: Confidence is knowing that someone or something is trustworthy and dependable. Peter showed confidence in the power of Jesus when he healed the man who could not walk in His name.

Encourage the children to think more about confidence by asking the following:

- **What does confidence look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include being brave, bold, and feeling certain.)*
- **What does confidence in God look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include being certain that He is trustworthy, all-powerful, and always in control.)*
- **How can being confident in God help us walk in His ways?** *(Answers will vary but should include that confidence in God helps strengthen our personal faith. When we are confident in God, then we have a stable foundation and focus.)*

★ **Does our confidence come from God or from ourselves?** *(Answers will vary but should include that confidence comes from God. He has graciously given us everything we need in order to trust in and rely on Him. Even though we make mistakes, He never does.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Close your eyes. Now, silently imagine you are in the temple courts with Peter, John, and the man who could not walk since birth. Imagine you had seen him before, sitting outside the gate asking for money, as people—maybe even you—walked by. But now, you see him walking, jumping, and praising God! Now, open your eyes.

SAY: Actions can often speak much louder than words—including the actions of the once lame, but now healed, man! Silently think of how your actions can communicate Jesus' power and love to those around you. *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus enables us to show His love, forgiveness and care towards others through the various ways we interact with them. We can choose words that are respectful, not hateful. We can be generous towards others by giving of our time and resources. We can spread joy by choosing to focus on all that Jesus has done for us rather than focusing on our doubts and worries. Call on a few volunteers to share aloud and then provide an opportunity for the other children to turn and share with someone next to them.)*



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Confidence can start small. It is okay to have doubts. We can ask God to help us overcome them, and as we learn more about God in His Word, our confidence in Him can grow stronger and stronger.

When we are confident in God, we are better able to share Jesus with others through both our words and actions.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for the priceless gift of Your love.
Please help us to become more confident in Your grace and goodness, so that we may find ways to confidently share Your love with others.
Amen.

Notes



From Enemy to Friend

Paul meets Jesus
Acts 9:1-19

Character Trait: Righteousness

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Saul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers before he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.
- Children will identify examples of righteous living.
- Children will discuss how righteous living is evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Supplies:

- *From Enemy to Friend* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Construction paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Colouring supplies
- Glue *(optional)*
- Sand *(optional)*
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you have ever cut your hair. Raise your hand if you have ever changed your clothes. Raise your hand if you have ever worn a hat or a pair of shoes. *(Tell the children to put their hands down.)*

All of these are examples of how we can change ourselves from the outside. In today's lesson, we will learn about how Jesus changed a man named Saul from the inside.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did Peter give the lame man instead of money?** *(Peter healed him in the name of Jesus.)*
- **What did the man do after going into the temple courts with Peter and John?** *(He jumped around and praised God!)*
- **How did people react to seeing the lame man healed and praising God?** *(They were amazed. Many of them decided to follow Jesus.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *From Enemy to Friend* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Saul was a religious man; a Pharisee.
- He thought that anyone who believed in Jesus was spreading a lie and should be put in prison, and even put to death.
- Saul was going to Damascus to arrest Jesus' followers.
- Suddenly, a bright light surrounded him.
- He fell down.

- A voice said, “Saul, why are you so cruel to Me?”
- “Who are You, Lord?” Saul asked.
- The voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you want to harm. Go to Damascus. There you will learn what you must do.”
- Saul got up, but he was blind.
- His friends led him to a house in Damascus.
- Saul waited there for three days.
- He had nothing to eat or drink.
- Meanwhile, Jesus appeared in a vision to Ananias, one of His followers in Damascus.
- Jesus told him to go visit Saul and pray for him so he could see again.
- “But Saul wants to arrest Your followers,” Ananias said, trembling.
- “I know,” said Jesus, “but I want to use Saul to tell people all over the world about Me.”
- Ananias went to pray for Saul.
- “Jesus sent me,” he said, “so that you may see and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
- Saul could see again!
- Then he was baptized.
- Jesus changed Saul from a man who hurt his followers to a church leader who told everyone about Jesus!
- So he changed his name, as well, to Paul.



Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **How did Saul (Paul) feel about Jesus’ followers before he met Jesus?** *(Saul thought they were spreading a lie, should be put in prison, and even killed.)*
- **What happened to Saul (Paul) after Jesus spoke to him?** *(He became blind.)*
- **Who did Jesus ask to go pray for Saul?** *(Ananias)*
- **How did Ananias feel about this?** *(Ananias was scared. He trembled because he knew that Saul wanted to arrest all of Jesus’ followers.)*
- **Did Ananias obey Jesus?** *(Yes, Ananias went to Saul and prayed for him.)*
- **How did Saul change after Ananias prayed for him?** *(Saul regained his sight, was baptized, began telling others about Jesus, and changed his name to Paul.)*

SAY: Paul did not change on his own. Jesus changed Paul’s heart. Likewise, we cannot change on our own. Only Jesus can truly change us from the inside out.



God’s Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Ananias trembled when Jesus told him to go pray for Saul. He knew that Saul wanted to arrest Jesus’ followers. But Ananias still obeyed God, and Jesus changed Saul from a man who arrested and even killed Christians to a man who helped spread the good news about Jesus.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

But the Lord *(point both hands up)* **said, "Go** *(extend arm, pointing forward)*,
for Saul *(touch top of head)* **is my chosen instrument**
to take my message *(cup hands around your mouth)*
to the Gentiles *(open one hand palm up)* **and to kings** *(open the other hand palm up)*,
as well as to the people *(with palms up lace fingers together and wiggle them)* **of Israel."**

Acts 9:15 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be the "seeker." The seeker counts to 10 slowly as the remaining children hide. Then, the seeker calls out, "Ready or not, here I come!" and tries to find the children who are hiding. The last child found gets to be the seeker in the next round. Play as time permits.

SAY: During the game, you hid from each other, but none of us can hide from God. Not even Saul's hate could hide him from God's plan for his life!

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of construction paper and coloring supplies. Demonstrate how to draw a path or road from one side of the paper to the other. Then, tell them to draw four, small pictures along the path to retell the story: 1) Angry Saul going to Damascus, 2) Saul down on the ground, surrounded by bright light, 3) Ananias praying for Saul, and 4) Paul teaching others about Jesus.

SAY: Jesus healed Paul's eyes immediately after Ananias prayed for him and changed his heart in that moment, too. Paul went from someone who persecuted Christians to someone who followed Jesus. Likewise, we are immediately forgiven for our sins the moment we choose to trust in Jesus, but He makes us more like Him through a process. Our entire lives are journeys to learn more and become more like Jesus!

For younger children...
Small, story illustrations can be created, photocopied, and cut out in advance for younger children to glue down in story order. Then, the children can simply color the illustrations.

For older children...
Provide a small amount of clean sand for older children to glue along their paths. Then, tell the children to write down the memory verse along the bottom of their artwork as a reminder of God's plan for Paul's life and as a personal reminder that God has a special plan for their lives, too.

Character Trait: Righteousness

(10 minutes)

SAY: Righteousness means completely right or just. It is when someone loves and obeys perfectly. Only God is perfect, so only God is righteous. We can only be made righteous by believing in Jesus Christ and his death on the cross for our sins. Ananias was a righteous man. He obeyed Jesus and prayed for Saul instead of giving in to his fear.

Encourage the children to think more about righteousness by asking the following:

- **What does righteous behavior look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include behaviors that are pleasing to God.)*
- **Why is living a righteous life important?** *(Answers will vary but should include because it shows that our hearts are being changed to be more like Jesus.)*
- **Can we be righteous?** *(Answers will vary but should include that we can only be made righteous through Jesus. Our forgiveness from sin through His death on the cross makes us righteous in God's sight.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Living a righteous life shows that Jesus is working inside of us. God makes us righteous the moment we put our trust and faith in Jesus Christ. The more we learn about God's Word and listen to the Holy Spirit, the better able we are to make choices that reflect Jesus' holy and righteous ways, not ours.

Turn to someone next to you and share one example of righteous living. *(Provide a few moments for sharing. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include treating others with respect, being truthful, and loving God.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Paul did not change on his own. It was Jesus who changed Paul's heart, and Jesus still changes hearts and lives today.

None of us are righteous on our own. All of us sin, but thankfully we have hope and help! Through Jesus' death on the cross, we can be forgiven. Through Jesus' teachings and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, we can live righteous lives that can lead others to Him, too.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for life-changing love.
Please work in our hearts so that we can be transformed and live righteous lives that point others back to You.
Amen.

Notes



Everybody's Welcome!

Peter's vision and Cornelius
Acts 10

Character Trait: Acceptance

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God communicated that He accepts everyone.
- Children will explain why acceptance is important.
- Children will identify a specific way that they can practice acceptance towards others.

Supplies:

- *Everybody's Welcome!* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Small pieces of felt *(one for each child)*
- Various animal stickers *(several for each child)*
- Yarn *(optional)*
- Plastic yarn needles *(optional)*
- Washi or other decorative tapes *(optional)*
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: I am so glad that each and every one of you are here today to learn more about God's Word. Take a moment to turn, smile, and welcome the people sitting around you. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this.)*

In today's lesson, we will learn how God welcomes everyone to come to Him and how He sent Jesus to help people of all nations.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **How did Saul (Paul) feel about Jesus' followers before he met Jesus?**
  (Saul thought they were spreading a lies, should be put in prison, and even killed.)
- **What happened to Saul (Paul) after Jesus spoke to him?**
  (He became blind.)
- **How did Saul change after Ananias prayed for him?**
  (Saul regained his sight, was baptized, began telling others about Jesus, and changed his name to Paul.)

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Everybody's Welcome!* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army.
- He lived in a place called Caesarea.
- He and his family respected God.
- They weren't Jewish. They were Gentiles.

- Cornelius had a vision.
- An angel told him, "God hears your prayers and knows that you help the poor. Send men to Joppa to bring Peter here."
- So Cornelius did.
- In Joppa the next day, Peter was on the roof praying.
- In a vision, a huge sheet came from heaven.
- It was filled with animals.
- A voice said, "Kill something, Peter! Eat!"
- There were animals that Jews weren't allowed to eat.
- "I can't eat them," Peter replied.
- "If I say they're all right to eat," the voice replied, "then they're all right."
- That's when Cornelius' messengers arrived.
- So Peter and some others went with them to Caesarea.
- Cornelius' house was filled with his friends and family, eager to hear Peter speak.
- "God showed me, in a vision, that He accepts people from every nation. God sent Jesus to everyone. He is Lord of all. He healed the sick and freed the oppressed."
- "He was crucified, and then raised from the dead. Everyone who believes in Him will be forgiven of their sins."
- The Holy Spirit came upon them, just like Pentecost.
- Peter baptized them.



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What did the angel tell Cornelius?** *(The angel told him that God heard his prayers and knows that he helped the poor. The angel also told Cornelius to send men to Joppa to bring Peter to him.)*
- **What happened in Peter's vision?** *(A huge sheet came down from heaven that was filled with animals. Then, a voice told him to kill something and eat it.)*
- **What did God show through Peter's vision?** *(God showed that He accepts everyone, people from every nation. God sent Jesus to help everyone who will trust in Him.)*
- **What happened after Peter shared his vision with everyone gathered at Cornelius' house?** *(The Holy Spirit came upon them, just like Pentecost, and then Peter baptized them.)*
- **How does it make you feel to know that God sent Jesus to help people from every nation, not just a select few?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Peter shared with others what God had shown him. How can you follow Peter's example in your own life?** *(Answers will vary but may include sharing with others what they have learned about God through His Word and what God has done in their own lives.)*

SAY: Peter was a Jewish man, but Cornelius was not. Back then, anyone who was not Jewish was called a Gentile. God loves and welcomes anyone to come to Him, and He sent Jesus to help everyone who chooses to trust in Him. God used Peter's vision to share this message with everyone!

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Just as Peter told Cornelius and his friends, God's love is not just for a select few. God sent His gift of the Holy Spirit to Jews and Gentiles alike. God's love and the forgiveness that Jesus offers is available to everyone who chooses to believe in Him. God welcomes everyone!

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

He *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*
is the one all the prophets
testified about *(cup hands around your mouth)*,
saying that everyone who believes *(bring hands together in heart shape)*
in him
will have their sins forgiven *(slide one hand across the other, flip and repeat)*
through his *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)* **name.**

Acts 10:43 (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(10 minutes)

Begin by explaining that you will briefly retell the story. However, ask the children to listen carefully so that they can catch if you make an error. Ask them to stand up as soon as they catch an error. Call on one of the children to politely point out your error and provide the correct information.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: God gave Peter a vision, a picture in his mind's eye, to communicate a very important message: God welcomes everyone to come to Him!

Provide each child with a small piece of felt to represent the huge sheet that Peter saw come down from heaven. Then, provide a variety of different animal stickers for the children to place on the felt. Encourage the children to take their craft home and use it tell their family and friends about today's story, including how God's love is great enough for everyone.

For younger children...
To finish their craft, provide younger children with various, different decorative tapes. Then, invite them to decorate the edge of their felt pieces.

For older children...
Make the activity more challenging for older children by providing yarn and plastic yarn needles. Then, encourage the children to stitch a decorative border around the edge of their felt pieces.

Character Trait: Acceptance

(10 minutes)

SAY: Acceptance is the ability to love and respect others as they are. In a vision, God showed Peter that He welcomes all people. God loves everyone, and we should try to do the same.

Encourage the children to think more about acceptance by asking the following:

- **What does acceptance look like?** *(Answers will vary but may include being kind, using polite words, and being welcoming towards others.)*
- **What does acceptance feel like?** *(Answers will vary but may include feeling welcomed and included.)*
- **Why is practicing acceptance towards others important?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God accepts all people, so we should also.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: What is one specific way that you can practice acceptance towards others who may be different from you? Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Jesus was born on earth as a Jewish man, and all of His disciples were Jewish, too. But God's love is so great that it is for all people. God sent Jesus to help everyone who is willing to put their trust in Him.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for welcoming and accepting everyone.
Help us to show this same love and acceptance towards others, too.
Amen.

Notes



Journeys for Jesus

Paul's journey and trials
Acts 13-14; 16; 20-21; 25; 27-28

Character Trait: Commitment

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that Paul knew what Jesus wanted him to do: Tell the Gentiles about Him.
- Children will explain specific ways that God shows His commitment to us.
- Children will discuss ways that they can demonstrate their commitment to God through how they treat others.

Supplies:

- *Journeys for Jesus* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- 2 Flags *(or other small objects)*
- A paper plate *(one for each child)*
- A craft stick *(one for each child)*
- Small, triangular piece of felt, fabric, or paper *(one for each child)*
- Glue, stapler, or tape
- Writing supplies *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you have ever gone on a journey or a trip *(Tell the children to put their hands down.)*

In today's lesson, we will learn about Paul's journeys to teach others about Jesus, including one journey that did not end where or the way he expected!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What happened in Peter's vision?** *(A huge sheet came down from heaven that was filled with animals. Then, a voice told him to kill something and eat it.)*
- **What did God show through Peter's vision?** *(God showed that He accepts everyone, people from every nation. God sent Jesus to help everyone who will trust in Him.)*
- **How does it make you feel to know that God sent Jesus to help people from every nation, not just a select few?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Journeys for Jesus* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Paul believed that God wanted him to tell Gentiles about Jesus.
- So he made three trips through Syria, Turkey, and Greece.

- Many people believed in Jesus, and many churches were started.
- Years later, Paul returned to Jerusalem.
- Some people were upset by his teaching and attacked him.
- He was unfairly arrested.
- Since Paul was a Roman citizen, he asked for his trial to be in Rome.
- Paul was put on a boat headed for Rome.
- The trip was slow.
- "Let's wait in Crete until the stormy season is over," Paul suggested.
- The captain sailed ahead anyway.
- There was a huge storm; everyone thought they would die.
- An angel told Paul that they would all be saved, and he would get to Rome.
- Paul told the others.
- Someone spotted land.
- The sailors planned to abandon ship and let the others die.
- Paul warned: "You will survive only if everyone stays aboard."
- The boat crashed on an island called Malta.
- The soldiers were afraid of being punished if the prisoners escaped.
- So they decided to kill them.
- But their commander liked Paul, so he ordered his men to let them live.
- They staggered ashore.
- Just as Paul had said, everyone was alive!
- The ruler of Malta let them stay with him.
- His father was sick.
- When Paul prayed for him, God healed him.
- They boarded another ship and went to Rome, where Paul was chained in a house.
- While there, he wrote letters to teach the new churches around the world.
- His letters are now included in the Bible!



Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did Paul believe God wanted him to do?
(Tell the Gentiles about Jesus.)

Did everyone like Paul's teachings?
(No. Some people were very upset.)

What happened to Paul as a result?
(Paul was attacked and unfairly arrested.)

Why was Paul put on a boat headed to Rome? *(Paul was a Roman citizen, and he asked that his trial be in Rome.)*

When the storm came, the captain thought everyone would die. But what did an angel tell Paul?
(Everyone would survive, and he would get to Rome.)

After the boat crashed on the island, what did Paul do for the ruler of Malta? *(Paul prayed for his father, and God healed him.)*

Where did Paul write letters to teach the new churches all over the world? *(Paul wrote these letters while chained inside a house. He was under arrest.)*

SAY: Knowing God does not mean that we will not suffer. God loves

all of us and has a plan to use even our challenges and hurts to accomplish good things. Even while Paul was chained up and under arrest, he was busy completing God's purpose for his life: He was writing many of the letters that we read today inside the Bible!



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God used Paul's time in prison to inspire Paul to write some of the books of the Bible. God can use the hard times we go through in our lives today to fulfill His plan for us.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

For the next two years *(raise two fingers)*,
Paul lived in Rome *(bring fingertips together above your head*)
at his own expense.
He welcomed *(smile and wave)* **all who visited him,**
boldly proclaiming *(cup hands around your mouth)*
the Kingdom of God *(point both hands up)*
and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*.
And no one *(shake head)* **tried to stop him** *(stretch arm forward with hand out)*.

Acts 28:30-31 (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(10 minutes)

Divide the children into two teams, split the playing area into two areas, and determine a location for "prison." Give each team a small flag *(or other object)* to hide somewhere in their team's area. The object of the game is to run into the other team's area, capture their flag, and make it safely back. Players can tag opposing teammates in their territory, causing them to be "out" and go to the prison location. Players in prison can only be freed by a teammate who tags and escorts them back to their playing area without getting tagged themselves. The first team to capture the flag and bring it safely back to their area wins.

SAY: During the game, many of you risked being tagged and placed in prison in order to capture the flag. You knew that the end goal was more important. Paul knew this while he suffered, too. No matter what happened to him, Paul still worked towards what God wanted him to do: Tell Gentiles about Jesus.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a paper plate, a craft stick, and a small, triangular shape of felt, fabric or paper. Demonstrate how to fold the paper plate in half and carefully cut a small slit in the middle of the plate along the fold. Attach the triangular shape of felt, fabric, or paper to the top of the craft stick to create a small flag. Then, push the other end of the craft stick into the slit of the paper plate to create a small ship. Show the children how to partially unfold the paper plate, so that it will gently rock back and forth on a hard surface.

For younger children...
Simplify this activity for younger children by having the paper plates folded and the slits precut before the lesson.

For older children...
Encourage older children to write the following verse somewhere on their paper plate boat as a personal reminder: **Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.** Matthew 7:24 (NLT)



Character Trait: Commitment

(10 minutes)

SAY: Commitment is dedication or being loyal to someone or something. Paul showed commitment to Jesus by traveling and teaching others about Him, even being arrested because of His commitment to doing so.

Encourage the children to think more about commitment by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of commitment?** *(Answers will vary but should include breaking promises, not being trustworthy, and not keeping our word.)*
- **Why is commitment important?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it shows that we have integrity and will follow through on what we say we will do.)*
- **What are some specific ways God shows His commitment to us?** *(Answers will vary but may include by providing for our daily needs, by answering prayer, by providing us with purpose, and by sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins.)*
- **Why is a personal commitment to God important?** *(Answers will vary but may include because it demonstrates a strong faith and trust in God. It is easy to question God's commitment to us when we experience hardship and suffering. But a commitment to God shows that our faith in Him is not changed or influenced by our circumstances.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: We show commitment through the choices we make and our actions. We can also show our commitment to God through how we treat others. Think of a way that you can honor God by following through on a commitment you have made to someone else. Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Long before Paul was teaching people about Jesus, Jesus was teaching how to live God's way. Jesus shared a story about a wise man who built his house on rock and a foolish man who built his house on sand (Matthew 7:24-27). When the storm came, the wise man was safe, but the foolish man was not. His house collapsed because it was not built on a firm foundation.

What we put our faith and trust in becomes our foundation. If we build our lives trusting in Jesus and make choices based on God's ways, then we can be sure that we will be safe no matter what kind of suffering or pain comes our way.

Paul was attacked and arrested, and he went through a storm at sea. Yet all the while, he knew he was safe because he knew God was with him. God is with each of us today, too (Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm 46:1). If we choose to place our faith in God instead of our shifting and changing circumstances, then we can know that we are safe, too—no matter what.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for showing Your commitment to all of us by sending Jesus. Help us to show our commitment to You by sharing You with others through all that we do.
Amen.

Notes



A Forever Promise

The new heaven and new earth
Revelation 1:17-18; 21:1-7

Character Trait: Peace

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall John's vision of God's new creation.
- Children will discuss ways they can accept the gift of peace that Jesus provides.
- Children will share ways they can choose to practice and encourage peace in their personal relationships.

Supplies:

- *A Forever Promise* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Colouring supplies
- Pens and/or pencils

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you have ever felt sad. Raise your hand if you have ever been sick or in pain. Raise your hand if you have ever felt hurt inside your heart. *(Tell the children to put their hands down.)*

Today, we will learn about a very special promise that God has made to everyone who loves and follows Him. This promise will put an end to all the pain, hurt, and suffering we experience today.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Did everyone like Paul's teachings?** *(No. Some people were very upset.)*
- **Why was Paul put on a boat headed to Rome?** *(Paul was a Roman citizen, and he asked that his trial be in Rome.)*
- **When the storm came, the captain thought everyone would die. But what did an angel tell Paul?** *(Everyone would survive, and he would get to Rome.)*
- **Where did Paul write letters to teach the new churches all over the world?** *(Paul wrote these letters while chained inside a house. He was under arrest.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Forever Promise* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- John was a disciple of Jesus.
- One day, Jesus came to him in a vision, shining like the sun.
- "Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "I died. Now I live forever!"
- Then John saw a new heaven and a new earth, God's promised new creation.
- The first heaven and the first earth were gone and the sea with them!
- Next, John saw God's Holy City, the new Jerusalem.
- It was coming down from heaven.
- It was beautiful, like a bride on her wedding day ready to meet her husband!
- Then John heard a loud voice coming from the throne of God saying, "From now on, God will make His home among His people, and they will all live together."
- "In this new heaven and new earth, there won't be any tears because no one will be in pain, and no one will die. Those things are gone, forever!"
- Then the voice from the throne said, "I am the Beginning and the End. If you are thirsty, come to Me, and I will give you the water of life."
- "My new world is for My children, those who are faithful to Me. I'm making all things new. It's true. You can count on it."

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Who was John?** *(He was a disciple of Jesus.)*
- **How did Jesus come to John?** *(In a vision)*
- **What did John see in the vision?** *(A new heaven and earth and a new Jerusalem)*
- **What did God say about His people in the vision?** *(God said that He would make His home with them, and they would live with Him.)*
- **What did God say would be gone forever in the new heaven and earth?** *(God said there would be no more tears, pain, or death.)*
- **Who did God promise this new heaven and earth to?** *(To His children, those who are faithful to Him)*

SAY: God shared this vision and message with John, one of Jesus' disciples. But this message and promise is for all of God's people, including all of us today. No matter what our lives are like here on earth, when we put our trust in Jesus we can look forward to a future, filled with hope and no more hurting, with God, forever!

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: The end of God's Big Story is really a beginning—a new beginning with Jesus in a brand, new heaven and earth made by God. When we turn away from our sin and trust in Jesus, this future promise and new beginning becomes true for us, too.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"To all *(extend hands out in a broad sweeping gesture)*
who are thirsty *(pretend to drink)*
I will give freely *(extend your hands forward, palms up)*
from the springs of the water *(make a wave motion with your hands)*
of life *(make a circular motion over your heart)***."**

Revelation 21:6b (NLT Anglicised)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to start the game. Then, that child is to make three, short statements about themselves: two statements that are true and one that is a lie. The remaining children in the group raise their hands to guess which statement is not true. The child who guesses correctly gets to go next. Play as time permits.

SAY: During the game, it was difficult to figure out which statements were true and which statements were false. But thankfully, God never lies (Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2). We can trust what He says and know that He will always keep His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9, 2 Timothy 2:13).

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: God gave John a vision of what the new heaven, the new earth, and the new Jerusalem would look like in the future. It was beautiful! What do you think these places will look like?

Provide each child with a piece of paper. Demonstrate how to fold it into quarters, then unfold it so that there are four, equal sections. Tell the children to draw four, different pictures, one inside each section on their paper: 1) The new heaven, 2) the new earth, 3) the new city of Jerusalem and 4) a picture of what they will look like when they are there.

For younger children...
This activity can be made easier for younger children by having the paper prefolded *(or lines drawn to divide the paper)* into four sections and/or prelabeled with "new heaven," "new earth," "new Jerusalem," and "you in the future with God."

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by having them journal briefly about how this promise makes them feel on the back of their project.

Character Trait: Peace

(10 minutes)

SAY: Peace is quiet, rest, and security. True peace comes only from Jesus Christ. We can feel real peace when we choose to trust in God and His promises.

Encourage the children to think more about peace by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of peace?** *(Answers will vary but should include unrest, disturbance, and disharmony.)*
- **How can God's promise of the coming new heaven and earth help us experience peace in our lives today?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God's promise provides us with something to look forward to with certainty when we may suffer or hurt in our present lives.)*
- **Peace is something we can experience, but it is also a gift that Jesus offers each one of us. What are some ways that we can accept the gift of peace that Jesus provides?** *(Answers will vary but may include talking to Him through prayer, choosing to remember and act on His teachings, and focusing on God's love and many promises.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Our peace with God should overflow and enable us to live at peace with others, too. What are some ways that you can choose to practice and encourage peace in your personal relationships with family and friends? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud; then provide an opportunity for those who did not share to do so with those around them.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God knows that we live in a world that is broken and hurting because of sin. He understands our suffering (Psalm 56:8, Hebrews 4:15). But through Jesus, God has provided a way for our hearts to be healed and hope for a future with Him in a brand, new heaven and earth where pain, death, and suffering will never exist!

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for the promise of eternal life with You in the new heaven and earth to come. Thank You for the peace Jesus provides in our lives today. As Your children, help us to live peacefully with others in all that we say and do.
Amen.

Notes



God's Good News

Be Part of the Story

Character Trait: Love

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that sin broke God's perfect world, but God sent Jesus into the world to help us.
- Children will identify ways that God has shown His love for us.
- Children will discuss ways they can choose to love others that show they know God.

Supplies:

- *God's Good News* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A paper plate *(one for each child)*
- A cross *(cut out of paper, one for each child)*
- Photocopied cutouts of the world *(one for each child, optional)*
- Colouring supplies
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you love to hear stories. Raise your hand if you have ever heard a family member or a friend tell a story about you. *(Tell the children to put their hands down.)*

Today, we will learn more about God's big story; this is the story of His great love for each of us and how we can be a part of it!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did John see in the vision God gave him?** *(A new heaven and earth and a new Jerusalem)*
- **What did God say would be gone forever in the new heaven and earth?** *(God said there would be no more tears, pain, or death.)*
- **Who did God promise this new heaven and earth to?** *(To His children, those who are faithful to Him)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God's Good News* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- In the beginning, God made everything!
- He made it perfect.
- He made us, too, in His image.
- He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.
- Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God.
- That sin brought death into the world and broke our relationship with God.
- It also broke God's perfect world.

- Sin spread throughout the whole world.
- Everyone sins, and the result of sin is death.
- But sin couldn't stop God from loving us. He had a plan!
- Because of His love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world.
- Sin broke our relationship with God, but Jesus came to fix it!
- Jesus healed sick people and performed many other miracles!
- He welcomed lonely people.
- He taught people about God's love.
- His perfect life shows us what love looks like.
- Even though Jesus never sinned, He died on a cross for our sins because He loves us.
- By doing this, He was carrying out God's plan to fix our relationship with Him.
- Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin and death!
- He spent time with His followers, teaching them.
- Then He returned to Heaven.
- Now Jesus lives forever!
- Jesus did not leave us alone.
- He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside everyone who trusts Him.
- The Spirit gives us power to live the way God created us to live.
- One day, when Jesus returns, God will make everything perfect again.
- He will make a New Heaven and a New Earth.
- Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him, forever!
- God loves you.
- He created you one-of-a-kind!
- Trusting and following Jesus fixes our broken relationship with God!
- Are you ready to be a part of God's story?

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **In the beginning, how did God make everything?** *(Perfect)*
- **What broke God's perfect world and our relationship with Him?** *(Sin)*
- **What is the result of sin?** *(Death)*
- **Who did God send into the world to help us?** *(Jesus)*
- **What did Jesus do? How did Jesus save us?** *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus taught people how to live God's way, He performed miracles, He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins, and He came back to life.)*
- **Where is Jesus now?** *(Jesus returned to heaven and is there now.)*
- **Did Jesus leave us all alone?** *(No. He sent the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.)*
- **Who will live in the new heaven and the new earth with Jesus forever in the future?** *(Everyone who trusts in Jesus)*
- **Can you be certain that you will be there with Jesus in the future? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary. After this question, ask the children if any of them would like to receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness now. Then, lead the children who express interest in a short prayer of salvation (such as the one provided at the end of lesson #33, A Happy Sunday.)*

SAY: Today, we still live in a very broken and hurting world. Trusting in Jesus does not mean we will not experience the effects of sin all around us. However, we have the hope of eternal life in God's brand, new creation and enjoy having a personal relationship with Him now. This began when we put our trust and faith in Jesus and turned from our sins. Our relationship will grow through prayer, learning about Him and His teachings in the Bible, and following Jesus' example of how we should live according to His will.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He sent God's Holy Spirit to be with us and help us live the way God wants us to. We also have God's Word, the Bible. We can read it to learn more about God's Big Story, His love, and His plan for our lives.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

For this is how God *(point both hands up)*
loved the world *(cross arms over your chest)*:
He gave his one and only Son *(hold one finger up and move forward)*,
so that everyone *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
who believes *(bring hands together in heart shape)* **in him**
will not perish *(hang head)*
but have eternal life *(raise hands up toward heaven)*.

John 3:16 (NLT Anglicised)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Designate one area *(or corner of the room)* as "true" and another area *(or corner)* as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area *(or corner)* based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out *(or correct)* what was false. Use the statements below or make up your own:

- **In the beginning, the world was already filled with sin and hurt.** *(False)*
- **Even though we sin, God still loves us.** *(True)*
- **God did not have a plan to fix what sin has broken.** *(False)*
- **Jesus cares about us.** *(True)*
- **Jesus broke the power of sin and death by dying on the cross and then coming back to life three days later.** *(True)*
- **The hurt and hardships we experience today are forever.** *(False)*
- **Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever in the future!** *(True)*



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a large paper plate and coloring supplies. Tell them to draw a picture of the world in the middle of the plate. Next, provide each child with a cross cut out of brown paper. Instruct them to glue the cross on top of their drawing.

For younger children...
Simplify this activity for younger children by providing a photocopied cutout of the world to glue to their plates and color.

For older children...
Extend this activity for older children by instructing them to write the memory verse along the outer edge of their plate.

Character Trait: Love

(10 minutes)

SAY: God's Word, the Bible, tells us about God's big story. It is the story of God's great love for us all.

Encourage the children to think more about love by asking the following:

- **What is love? What does it look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include being patient, kind, considerate, committed, and humble. Love means putting the needs and desires of others before our own.)*
- **What is the opposite of love? What does it look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include hate, violence, pride, selfishness, and greed.)*
- **What are some ways that God has shown His love for us?** *(Answers will vary but should include by creating us in His image, desiring to have a relationship with us, and by sending Jesus into the world to help us.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: The Bible tells us that **"anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love"** (1 John 4:8 NLT). What are some ways we can choose to love others that show we know God? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud; then provide an opportunity for those who did not share to do so with those around them.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God's Word, the Bible, is another wonderful gift He has provided for all of us! The Bible is a record of God's big story. It tells of His love for each of us, how Jesus gave His life to take the punishment for our sins, and shares the promise of a wonderful, new creation still to come! When we choose to place our trust in Jesus, we become part of God's big story, too.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for the promise of a wonderful future forever with You.
Thank You for the presence of Your Holy Spirit inside of me today.
Help me to remember all that You have already done and the all that You will do in the future.
Amen.

Notes